



# The Current State of Work with the Kazakh Diaspora Abroad: Main Trends



# Kazakhstan, as an independent and successfully developing country, implements its diaspora policy and is interested in building relations with the Kazakh diaspora abroad.

The Kazakh diaspora is heterogeneous and diverse, it has been forming for many centuries, and in each historical period has had different political, religious and economic reasons for its formation and development.

Meanwhile, the characteristic feature of the Kazakh diaspora is the successful functioning in the host country due to the excellent ability to adapt, genetically inherent in the nomadic way of life, which Kazakhs and their ancestors have led for thousands of years, and also the possibility of successful residence in countries with a multi-ethnic, multicultural and multi-confessional structure.

Kazakhstan's diaspora policy aims to:

- regulating issues in the field of repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs to Kazakhstan
- support for compatriots living abroad.

According to experts, **over 5 million ethnic Kazakhs living in neighboring and distant foreign countries, which comprises almost 30 percent of resident 19 million people in Kazakhstan, reside in 43 countries.** First of all, there are ethnic Kazakhs living along the border of Kazakhstan and five countries: China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan. Large groups also live in Mongolia, Turkey and Iran.

According to a preliminary estimate of the Otandastar Foundation, 1.5 million more ethnic Kazakhs want to return to Kazakhstan from abroad. And this gives new impetus to the development and improvement of diaspora policy.

One of the features of the Kazakh diaspora abroad is the hybrid identity of its representatives, which makes possible cross-country interaction at a more qualitative deep level.

As a result of implementation of the policy on repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs, **1 million 84.7 thousand ethnic Kazakhs** have returned to the country since 1991.

According to data of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection as of October 1 of 2021, **14 358 people** have returned to their historical homeland and received the status of "kandas" since the beginning of the year.

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January-September 2021

**14 358 people**



## DIASPORA SUPPORT PROJECTS

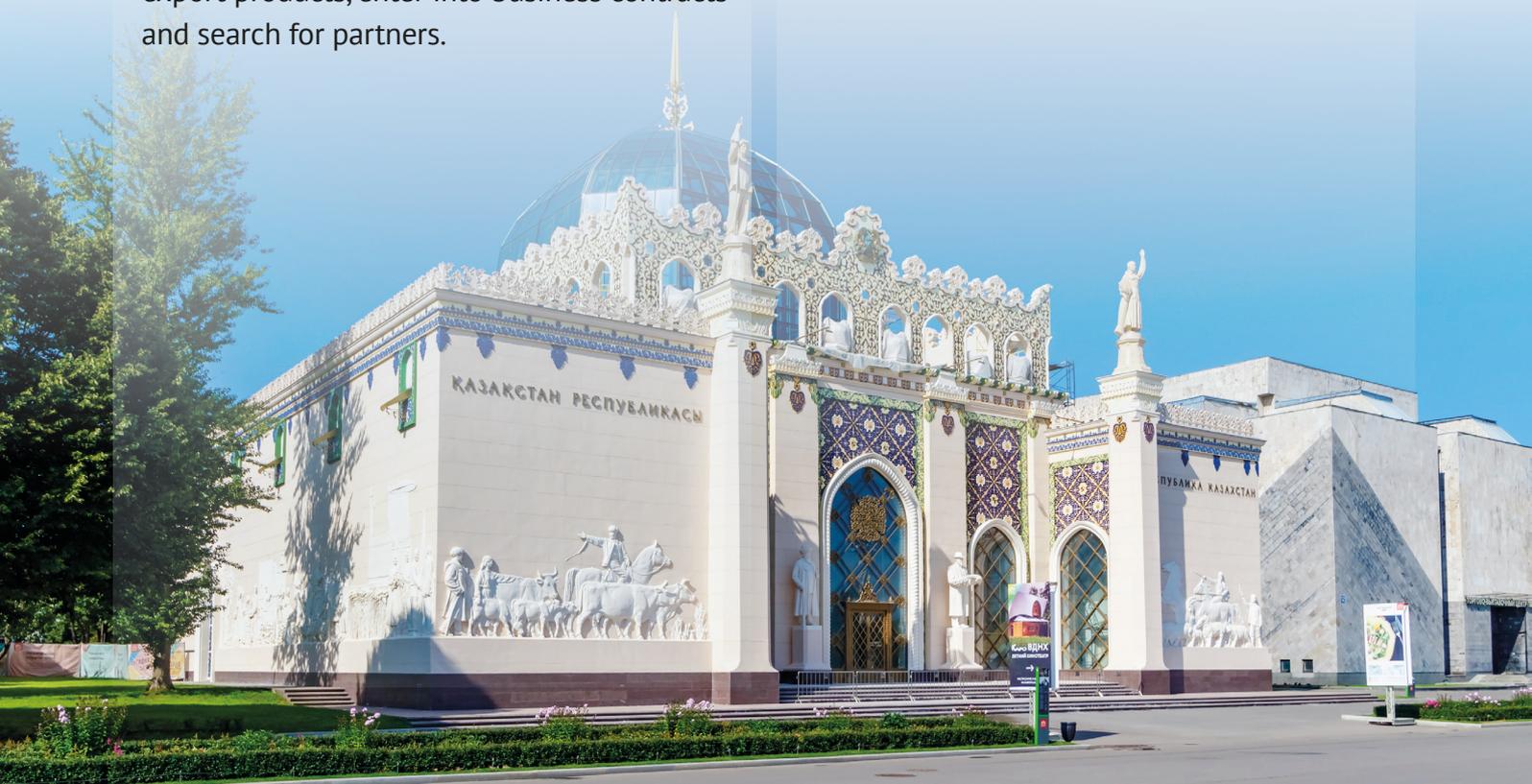
### ➤ Project “The Kazakh Cultural and Business House (Qazaq House)”

«Qazaq House» is a non-political, non-commercial and public project - acts to expand, develop and strengthen cultural, humanitarian and business relations between individuals and legal entities of the Republic of Kazakhstan and foreign countries. The Kazakh Cultural and Business House (Qazaq House) on the basis of local public associations abroad includes the Cultural Center “Abay” and the Business House “Atameken”, which will provide ethnic Kazakhs the opportunity not only to study Kazakh culture, traditions and language, but also to establish business contacts with Kazakh entrepreneurs, and conduct business.

They will become a kind of conductors of Kazakh culture and language, national brands, and will also assist in the promotion of Kazakh export products, enter into business contracts and search for partners.

### ➤ Project “Turakty Auyly”

The project will be launched in 2020. The project is a set of measures to ensure sustainable development of rural settlements by stimulating entrepreneurial activity and supporting business initiatives of repatriates living there. The project envisages singling out repatriates into a separate category of business entities for targeted support of their entrepreneurial activity in rural areas. Currently, work is being done to identify priority areas, improve the regulatory framework and mechanisms for implementing existing programs, which in general will create a legal basis for the requirement of financial institutions to provide appropriate support to repatriates



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### ➤ Project “Training and production center “Bereke”



The program is aimed at creating a network of industrial zones in regional centers, single-industry towns and cities of national importance for the implementation of production activities of repatriates with the provision of a guaranteed market for the products produced. Thus, this project can contribute to the successful growth of new enterprises and increase their production volumes.

### ➤ Otandastar. Bolashakka bagdar

Otandastar. Bolashakka bagdar is a registration platform of the International Round Table. “Otandastar. Bolashakka bagdar”. In general, the project potential of the Fund covers such areas as culture, education and business. Various musical and creative contests and concerts with the participation of Kazakh artists abroad are implemented within the cultural projects. The idea of creating a library «Otandastar» on the basis of the National Academic Library in Nur-Sultan, which will feature both domestic printed publications and foreign literature about the Kazakh diaspora and works of our compatriots in a digital version, is under consideration.

The issue of Kazakhstan’s use of diaspora potential in activating bilateral economic, trade, financial relations, as well as the effectiveness of government mechanisms and measures for building cooperation and rapprochement of relations with the Kazakh diaspora remains open.

In this direction, part of the program of the NJSC «Otandastar Fund» to establish and strengthen ties with the Kazakh diasporas is **to hold business forums with compatriots living abroad**. Thus, during 2019 business forums were organized in 8 countries (FRG, USA, UK, Sweden, PRC, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Russia).

In general, the migration sentiments of the diaspora are not pronounced, but there is a desire to link the future of children with Kazakhstan. The main conditions for relocation are of a material nature: employment, financial assistance, housing, etc. At the same time there is a positive attitude towards repatriation.