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Quantitative analysis of main vectors of uzbek-french cooperation

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граждан. Поэтому, в годы независимости, эти вопросы находились в центре внимания государственной политики.

Все последние преобразования в области просвещения и религиозной толерантности в стране служат развитию общественного сознания, росту жизни, морали, межкультурной гармонии, уважения, чистоты отношений между различными группами индивидов с разным происхождением и, в конечном итоге, повышению патриотизма у граждан нашей страны.

Необходимо, чтобы каждая семья, в ее своеобразии и разнообразии, поднималась до высоких общественных идеалов, интересов и требований в гражданском, правовом, нравственном, эстетическом толерантном отношении через воспитания молодежи в духе толерантного мышления, чтобы семья во многом чувствовала себя частью общества, гражданской ячейкой, участвующей в активном обновлении жизни.

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Quantitative analysis of main vectors of uzbek-french cooperation

Abstract. *The article is devoted to the quantitative analysis, i.e. learning statistical data using computational techniques of the main dimensions of the cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Fifth Republic of France. The author chose unusual for social sciences quantitative method to clarify the modern conditions and both progressive and regressive development dynamics, perspectives of Uzbek-French relations to enlighten areas need to be developed, to realize the hidden potential of bilateral cooperation and to answer to one of the main questions – is France the necessary partner for Uzbekistan or the bilateral relations between two countries have a symbolic status due to their regional importance. Analysis of the quantitative indicators will show the real state of Uzbek-French cooperation better than other methods of scientific research.*

In the article there is given introductory part about state and modern conditions of Uzbek-French relations, clarified the main aim, functions and analysis methods of the research, as well as complex analysis of political, economic and socio-cultural and educational vectors of bilateral partnership. The author identifies two frames for analysis. First one is the examination of the interests of the parts in multilateral dialogue and cooperation. The second frame is the finding the dynamics of multi dimensional bilateral relations, where the qualitative changes in Uzbek-French relations are disclosed by using quantitative-comparative methods. The research results lead to the conclusion, that in the near future terms, socio-economic issues will take the place of socio-humanitarian ones in the cooperation between Uzbekistan and France, and the partnership will continue to develop in bilateral frame rather than multilateral or regional one.

Keywords and expressions: *Uzbekistan, France, Central Asia, leading powers, Europe, bilateral cooperation, multilateral partnership, strategic interests, quantitative methods.*



Аннотация. Мақола Ўзбекистон Республикаси ва Франция Бешинчи Республикаси ўртасидаги ҳамкорликнинг асосий йўналишларининг миқдорий таҳлиliga, яъни ҳисоблаш усуллари ёрдамида статистик маълумотларни ўрганишга бағишланган. Ўзбек-француз муносабатларининг ҳозирги ҳолати, ривожланишининг прогрессив ва регрессив динамикаси ҳамда истиқболларини аниқлаш, икки томонлама ҳамкорликнинг яширин салоҳиятини рўёбга чиқаришга хизмат қилувчи соҳаларни аниқлаш ва асосий саволларнинг бирига – Франция Ўзбекистон учун зарур ҳамкорми ёхуд икки мамлакат ўртасидаги муносабатлар уларнинг минтақавий аҳамиятга эга бўлганлиги сабабли рамзий мақомга эгами – ушбу масалага жавоб бериш мақсадида муаллиф томонидан ижтимоий фанлар учун ноанъанавий миқдорий таҳлил усули танланди. Зеро, миқдорий маълумотларни таҳлил қилиш ўзбек-француз ҳамкорлигининг ҳақиқий ҳолатини бошиқа илмий тадқиқот усулларида кўра яхшироқ очиб беради.

Мақоланинг кириш қисмида Ўзбекистон-Франция муносабатларининг бугунги ҳолати ва уларга таъсир этувчи замонавий шарт-шароитлар, тадқиқотнинг асосий мақсади, вазифалари ва усуллари, шунингдек, асосий қисмда эса, ҳамкорликнинг сиёсий, иқтисодий ва ижтимоий-маданий йўналишлари комплекс ўрганиб чиқилган. Муаллиф миқдорий таҳлил учун иккита форматни танлаган. Биринчиси кўп томонлама мулоқот ва ҳамкорликда томонларнинг манфаатларини таҳлил қилиш. Иккинчи формат – кўп векторли икки томонлама муносабатлар, бунда ўзбек-француз муносабатларидаги сифат ўзгаришлар миқдорий-қиёсий усуллар ёрдамида аниқланади. Тадқиқот натижалари яқин келажакда Ўзбекистон ва Франция ўртасидаги ҳамкорликда ижтимоий-иқтисодий масалалар ижтимоий-гуманитар масалаларнинг ўрнини эгаллаши ва биринчи ўринга чиқиши ҳамда ўзаро шерикчилик кўп томонлама ёки минтақавий форматдаги ҳамкорликка қараганда икки томонлама муносабатлар асосида ривожланиши тўғрисидаги хулосага олиб келади.

Таянч сўз ва иборалар: Ўзбекистон, Франция, Марказий Осиё, етакчи давлатлар, Европа, икки томонлама ҳамкорлик, кўп томонлама ҳамкорлик, стратегик манфаатлар, таҳлилнинг миқдорий усуллари.

Аннотация. Статья посвящена количественному анализу, то есть изучению статистических данных с использованием вычислительных методов, основных направлений сотрудничества между Республикой Узбекистан и Пятой Республикой Франция. Автор выбрал нетрадиционный для социальных наук количественный метод, чтобы прояснить современные условия и как прогрессивную, так и регрессивную динамику развития, перспективы узбекско-французских отношений, выявить области, которые необходимо развивать для реализации скрытого потенциала двустороннего сотрудничества и ответить на один из главных вопросов – является ли Франция необходимым партнером для Узбекистана, или двусторонние отношения между двумя странами имеют символический статус в силу их региональной значимости. Анализ количественных данных покажет реальное состояние узбекско-французского сотрудничества лучше, чем другие методы научного исследования.

В статье дается вводная часть о состоянии и современных условиях узбекско-французских отношений, уточняются основная цель, функции и методы анализа исследования, а также комплексный анализ политических, экономических и социально-культурных и образовательных векторов двустороннего партнерства.



Автор выделяет два формата для анализа. Первый – это изучение интересов государств в многостороннем диалоге и сотрудничестве. Второй формат – нахождение динамики многовекторных двусторонних отношений, где качественные изменения в узбекско-французских отношениях раскрываются с помощью количественно-сравнительных методов. Результаты исследования позволяют сделать вывод, о том, что в ближайшем будущем в сотрудничестве между Узбекистаном и Францией социально-экономические вопросы займут место социально-гуманитарных и выйдут в первый план, и партнерство будет продолжаться развиваться с основным упором на двусторонние отношения, чем на многосторонние или региональные.

Опорные слова и выражения: *Узбекистан, Франция, Центральная Азия, ведущие державы, Европа, двустороннее сотрудничество, многостороннее партнерство, стратегические интересы, количественные методы анализа.*

Introduction. France is one of the locomotives of European integration, permanent member of UN Security Council, country with rich historical-cultural heritage, socio-political traditions and innovations. It is the world's seventh largest economy¹ and the second largest economy by purchasing power parity (PPP) in European Union². France is to be considered as one of the first States which established very rapidly formal diplomatic relations with all former soviet countries of Central Asia and, nowadays it provides reasonable economic, technical and grant assistance to them under “Emerging Countries Fund” (Réserve Pays Emergents, RPE), which supports development projects in fast developing countries. In general meaning, there are not any major conflicts or fundamental problems between France and Central Asian States, including Uzbekistan and nothing prevents to build an active cooperation.

France is an important partner for Uzbekistan. For instance, among the countries of European Union, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev made the first official state visit to France on October 8–9, 2018. During his vited the President of Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev noted “Uzbekistan attaches to the development of cooperation with France as a reliable and long-term partner”³. Cooperation between Uzbekistan and France is defined not only by about twenty-seven years of partnership on basis of mutual understanding but from ancient times. Commercial and cultural relations between nations of nowadays Uzbekistan and France had been established in an epoch of

¹ International monetary fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2018, Report for Selected Countries and Subjects, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2018/02/weodata/index.aspx>

² France Economic Outlook, February 29, 2019, <https://www.focus-economics.com/countries/france>

³ Urozov A. Uzbekistan - Fransiya: na puti rasshireniya i ukrepleniya dolgosrochnogo vzaimovigodnogo partnerstva [Uzbekistan-France: on the path of expanding and strengthening long-term mutually beneficial partnership]. Available at: <http://www.uza.uz/ru/politics/uzbekistan-frantsiy-a-na-puti-rasshirengsaiya-i-uk-repleniya-dolg-10-10-2018>. (accessed 27.02.2019)



Great Silk Road, and were especially developed during the reign of Amir Temur and Temurids in Central Asia. In the 14th century, when the Ottoman Empire smashed the united coalition of European Crusaders near Nikopolis, Amir Temur formed a unique alliance with the emperor of Byzantium, the Venetians, the Genoese and the French against the aggression of Sultan Bayezid of Lightning. In this context, representatives of European countries and Amir Temur organized about twenty diplomatic meetings¹. After the victory of Amir Temur's troops over Sultan Bayezid in July 1402, the French king Charles VI celebrated in his palace in Paris the envoy of Amir Temur Archbishop Sultania John III. In the message of Amir Temur to Charles VI, it was noted that the world "thrives thanks to the activities of merchants" and that the different religions of Muslims and Christians do not in the least promote cooperation and trade between the people of Turan and France².

The main aim and functions of the article. In the context of global actions of France in the world arena, and more active and fruitful economic relations of Uzbekistan with such countries as the Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, the USA, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Japan, the role of Uzbek-French cooperation may not seem so predominant and relevant not only for France, but also for Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, in fact it is not. What is the state and dynamics of Uzbek-French relations, what perspectives awaits both partners, is France the needed partner for Uzbekistan, what areas need to be addressed to realize the hidden and untapped potential, to answer all these questions, we need to first analyze the quantitative indicators of partnership of Uzbekistan with the French Fifth Republic. So, we are now turning to the main question of article, to the quantitative analysis of Uzbek-French cooperation's aspects. Foremost, what is notable that despite the importance of France for Uzbekistan, in our and in French national scientific communities the state of bilateral cooperation has not been analyzed complexly and conceptually on the basis of quantitative methods of research. The main attention of many scholars is mostly paid to the questions of political systems of France and Uzbekistan, their similarities and differences, historical context of cooperation, cultural interconnection. So, in this view, this article is one of the first steps to open a modern state Uzbek-French partnership in political, economic, cultural-humanitarian and educational dimensions.

The article is aimed to disclose the dynamics of Uzbek-French cooperation by using quantitative-comparative methods of analysis. To obtain this goal the research has the following functions/tasks:

- learning the motives – national interest of both sides in cooperating;
- examining the background, state and perspectives of the Uzbek-French partnership in political vector in bilateral and multilateral frames by analyzing quantitative indicators;

¹ Istoriya mejdunarodnix otnosheniy Respubliki Uzbekistan [History of international relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan]. Pod redaksiyey Farmonova R.F. Tashkent, UMED, 2017 (In Russian). - P.98

² Amir Temur jahon tarixida [Amir Temur in world's history]. Ma'sul muharrir Qosimov R.S. - Toshkent: "Sharq", 2006 (In Uzbek).- P.140



- clarifying the full image of economic partnership between Uzbekistan and France by studying bilateral trade indexes, intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements, comparing the the direct French investment to Uzbekistan;
- analyzing the state of Uzbek-French ties in cultural-humanitarian and educational dimensions;
- summing up the contemporary condition and modeling in general way the perspectives of multi dimensional cooperation between Uzbekistan and France.

Methods of analysis. *Quantitative method of analysis* – the main method of the research. It emphasizes objective measurement and the statistical, mathematical or numerical analysis. This method may us two submethods: (1) analyzing data collected through polls, questionnaires, and surveys or (2) by manipulating pre-existing statistical data using computational techniques. The article is based on the second submethod.

Comparative method of analysis analyzes objects in comparing their new state with the old one or compares the state of one object with another, with which a comparison may be appropriate. May be used in both qualitative and quantitative researches.

System analysis is a scinetific method of knowledge, which is a sequence of actions to establish structural links between variables or permanent elements of the studied system.

Historical and chronological method involves the reproduction of phenomena in their chronological development with their inherent features.

Method of “predicting (modeling) the perspectives” or trend analysis is used in the conclusion part of the article. It is a method based on historical data and observations, in collecting and comparing the facts, an ongoing change. The point of trend analysis is to identify the trend early, while it is still likely to continue in the future.

The results of research. *Political vector.* In international relations, France and Uzbekistan have analogous or close views to global issues, notably in international and regional security problems. But, in general Uzbek-French cooperation in political dimension is much more about the political dialogue between the different State bodies both republics. The dynamics (see diagram no.1) of official meetings in high rank (heads of States) and interdepartmental level from 1993 to 2018 shows that the most fruitful period for official visits and sure for political dialogue in bilateral frame was in 90s (1993–1997), and this situation may be explained by the need of elaborating framework and rules for bilateral cooperation between the countries. The highest index of the frequency of official visits in one year is 6 (in 2003), which has a medium significance in quatnitative-comparative frames.

Economic vector of partnership has unfully tapped potential and opportunities. About 30 French companies function in Uzbekistan through their representative offices and since the 1999 this number is not significantly changed.



Uzbekistan receives grants of France for research, social-economic development projects from the Foundation for Research and Assistance to the Private Sector (FASEP), the Reserve Market Emerging Countries (RPE) and the French Development Agency (AFD). But in the projects realized by French grants the social sector prevails than economic one. In classic indicators of Uzbek-French economic cooperation one may observe slow, but dynamics and progressive and regressive. E.g. a significant decrease in the indicators of commodity turnover may be mentioned – 354 mln. US dollars in 2011 mln. US dollars, 287 mln. US dollars in 2014 and 251,6 mln US dollars in 2017. But goods turnover between two States increases, and year by year the balance of trade in goods positively changes towards Uzbekistan. However, France lost its positions in Uzbek market (see the table no.1).

The comparative analysis of the bilateral agreements and direct French investment dimensions in two periodical overview, 1993–2016 and 2017–2018, lead to conclude that social and humanitarian sphere that was the main issue in bilateral agreements and French investment, is nowadays step by step replaced by economic and industrial projects, for example developing the cooperation in space exploring. But, the social orientation of Uzbek-French partnership is still predominant (see the diagrams 2 and 3).

Cultural – humanitarian vector is based on 27 years cooperation traditions. The main directions of the Uzbek-French partnership are science, studying cultural and historical heritage and education programs. Since nowadays, 10 agreements from 45 total bilateral agreements between Uzbekistan and France are about science, education and cultural cooperation (see the diagrams no. 2 and 3). But France is not the biggest investor to Uzbek education system. Since nowadays, the main efforts of French government was paid to the preservation and development of French language status in Uzbekistan. However, the amount of Uzbek citizens studied in France is very little even for the standards of Uzbekistan (see diagram no.6), and it brings us to the thought that in contest with such languages as Korean, Japanese and Chinese, and even with German, French loses its positions, because in practice, mostly the people who know French go to study to France. In addition, education in France, where higher education is gratis, is not necessarily promoted among the youth of Uzbekistan. Only the efforts of the cultural and educational mission of the French Embassy in Uzbekistan, the increase of participation of the private sector and the realization of the signed agreements about the cooperation in education sector between the heads of two States during the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.Mirziyoyev may change the situation.

Re-thinking the national interests of Uzbekistan and France in cooperating. Before analyzing the quantitative indicators of Uzbek-French cooperation, it would be reasonable to define the motives of such kind of partnership. First of all, a few words concerning to the interests of France in Uzbekistan. On the whole, after the end of bipolar system, Central Asia was completely new direction



in foreign policy of France. For instance, the French government initially announced an ambitious program to develop links with the region of Central Asia. Central Asia was to be considered as an important region for the issues of qualitative modifications of France's role and status in international arena. At the same time, according to many political scholars and analysts in the field of foreign policy, in the initial stage of regional policy formation, and the perspectives too, France was not consistent in its actions, which adversely affected the results of politics and undermined the position of Paris in the region. Plans for the development of relations within the regional context with all the Central Asian countries were revised downwards and, starting in 1993, a course was formed towards strengthening relations with the most promising from an economic point of view and the most important countries in the region in political terms: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan¹. France has strategic and economic interests in Uzbekistan, our resource potential, transcontinental transport communications, geopolitical location is very beneficial for this country.

Interests of Uzbekistan are more diverse and multi-vector than the French ones in Uzbekistan. We are interested in cooperation with France on the basis of some political, economic-financial, commercial and social (mostly issues of modernization) motifs. The cooperation in fields of regional security (for example, in issue of Afghanistan and in frames of International organisations, strengthening contacts with European Union), tourism, education, in spheres of innovations, technologies are also very important for our Republic.

Political vector. France recognized Uzbekistan's independence on January 3, 1992. The Embassy of France in Uzbekistan has been operating since June, 1992. Embassy of Uzbekistan in France – since March 1995. The first official state visit of Islam Karimov, the first President of Uzbekistan, to France was held in October, 1993. This state visit contributed to the reachment of a new qualitative level in bilateral partnership. In April 1994, French President Francois Mitterrand paid an official state visit to Uzbekistan. In 1996, the first president of Uzbekistan visited France and, together with French President Jacques Chirac, he took part in celebrations marking the 660th anniversary of Amir Temur under the auspices of UNESCO.

Since nowadays, there were 4 official visits of head of States: in 1993 and 1996 Islam Karimov, in 2018 Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited France, in 1994 the Francois Mitterrand was with State visit in Uzbekistan. Nowadays, the contacts and meetings of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and France have permanent character and they organize regular political consultations to summarize obtained results, solve together obstacles which did not permit to reveal completely all potential of bilateral relations and determine future directions of partnership. So far, 10 rounds of political consultations have taken place. More

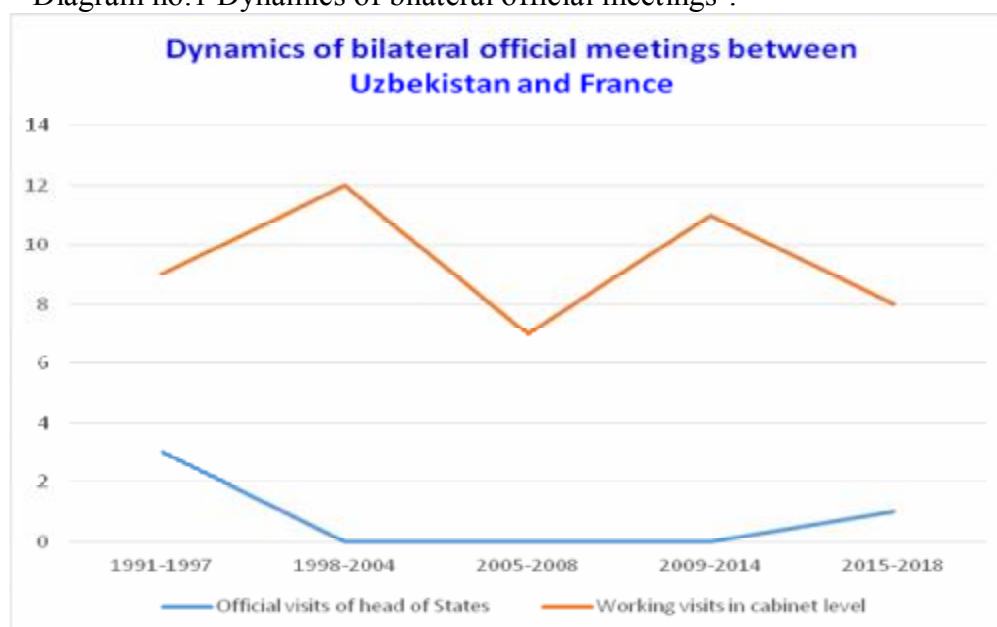
¹ Yun S.M. Sravnitelniy analiz politiki Germanii, Velikobritanii i Fransii v Sentralnoy Azii [Comparative analysis of the politics of Germany, Great Britain and France]. Sravnitel'naya politika, 2011, no.4 (In Russian), P.104



than 35 documents were signed between the two countries that form the basis of interstate relations, including 23 interstate and intergovernmental documents, 12 interdepartmental agreements¹.

Inter-parliamentary ties are also consistently developing. Since June 2010, the Uzbekistan-France friendship group has been functioning in the Legislative Chamber of our country. In turn, the France-Uzbekistan inter-parliamentary friendship group was set up in the French National Assembly. A significant contribution to the expansion and strengthening of inter-parliamentary relations is made by mutual visits of delegations, which help to maintain close and mutually beneficial contacts between representatives of the legislative power of the parties.

Diagram no.1 Dynamics of bilateral official meetings²:



According to this diagram the most fruitful period for official visits in bilateral frame was from 1993 to 1997. The period of 2005 to 2008 is with the most low indexes. This is due to the temporary cooling of relations between the EU countries and Uzbekistan and the global financial crisis. Since 2008, the regular dialogue between France and Uzbekistan has resumed at the governmental level

¹ Urozov A. Uzbekistan - Fransiya: na puti rasshireniya i ukrepleniya dolgosrochnogo vzaimovigodnogo partnerstva [Uzbekistan-France: on the path of expanding and strengthening long-term mutually beneficial partnership]. Available at: [http://www.uza.uz/ru/politics/uzbekistan-frantsiy a-na-puti-rasshirensaiya-i-uk repleniya-dolg-10-10-2018](http://www.uza.uz/ru/politics/uzbekistan-frantsiy-a-na-puti-rasshirensaiya-i-uk-repleniya-dolg-10-10-2018). (accessed 27.02.2019)

² The diagram was designed based on analysis of official sites of Press-service of the President of Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan and France, and using the information of French Embassy in Tashkent (<http://www.press-service.uz/ru/search/?q=Франция+визит&s=поиск>; [http://www.mfa.uz/ru/cooperation/ countries/58/](http://www.mfa.uz/ru/cooperation/countries/58/); [https://mfa.uz /ru/?search/?q=Франция](https://mfa.uz/ru/?search/?q=Франция); <https://ouzbekistan.fr/ru/узбекистан-франция-2/>; [https://uz.ambafrance.org / Istoriya](https://uz.ambafrance.org/);))



in order to restore trust. As can be seen from the diagram, but not to the level of starting indicators. Perhaps the activity of mutual visits in the 90s is due to the recent independence of Uzbekistan and the need to develop a framework and conditions for cooperation between the countries.

In world policy, France has similar or close views to international problems with Uzbekistan. They interact closely to find a solution to different international tasks and issues. For example, Uzbekistan is very important partner of France in international organizations, such as United Nations. France always emphasizes the regionally significant and very important role of Uzbekistan. In 1990s taking into account the strengthening of the radical Taliban regime in Afghanistan and the exacerbation of the military-political situation in Central Asia, France recognized the special importance of Uzbekistan in terms of regional security. Since that time, bilateral military ties began to develop, relations between internal affairs agencies strengthened. For example, the President of France E. Macron during a meeting with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev in the Elysée Palace noted that “wise policies and large-scale reforms implemented in Uzbekistan contribute not only to improving the well-being of the population, but also peace and sustainable development in Central Asia”¹.

It should be emphasized that, in contrast to the partnership of Uzbekistan with Germany, Japan, the United States or South Korea with which there is a “Central Asia +” relationship format, cooperation with France is not so developed in the Central Asian regional context, but not vice versa. France is important for Uzbekistan in the European Union. It pays more attention to the real problems of the countries of the region and using for this purpose especially the institutions of the European Union. France, together with Germany, has been the coordinator of the European Union Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia since 2008². This means that France also, like Germany, uses the EU platform for the development of regional cooperation with the Central Asian countries.

At regional level, France mainly operates within the framework of the EU strategy for Central Asia, which focuses on “security and stability” and determines them as the EU’s strategic interests in Central Asia. The further sections of the document Strategy point to particular areas for engagement that would contribute to the strategic goals. These are seven priority areas³:

1. Human rights, rule of law, good governance and democratization,

¹ Urozov A. Uzbekistan - Fransiya: na puti rasshireniya i ukrepleniya dolgosrochnogo vzaimovigodnogo partnerstva [Uzbekistan-France: on the path of expanding and strengthening long-term mutually beneficial partnership]. Available at: <http://www.uza.uz/ru/politics/uzbekistan-frantsiy-a-na-puti-rasshirengsaiya-i-uk-repleniya-dolg-10-10-2018>. (accessed 27.02.2019)

² Yun S.M. Sravnitelnyy analiz politiki Germanii, Velikobritanii I Fransii v Sentralnoy Azii [Comparative analysis of the politics of Germany, Great Britain and France]. Sravnitel'naya politika, 2011, no.4 (In Russian), P.106

³ Juraev Sh. Comparing the EU and Russia engagements in Central Asia. Dans L' Europe en Formation 2014, no.4. № 374. - P.81



2. Youth and education,
3. Promotion of economic development, trade and investment,
4. Strengthening energy and transport links,
5. Environmental sustainability and water,
6. Combating common threats and challenges, and
7. Inter-cultural dialogue.

The ready-made platform and the long-developed mechanisms and procedures of the EU help France not to spend most of its time on developing the conditions and procedures for cooperation, it is also reasonable to spend its national finances and to attract actual problems in Central Asia and other EU countries, especially developing ones.

Economic vector. The economic sphere is one of the developed sectors of Uzbek-French relations, with not fully revealed potential and opportunities. About 30 French companies operate in Uzbekistan through their representative offices. Since 1996, an investment protection agreement has been in effect between the two countries and in 2003 an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and tax evasion entered into force. An intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation between France and Uzbekistan has been established. The seventh meeting of this commission was held on July 20, 2018 in Paris. Uzbekistan has the right to receive grants for research from the Foundation for Research and Assistance to the Private Sector (FASEP), as well as from the Reserve Market Emerging Countries (RPE). France provided Uzbekistan with a preferential loan under the RPE in the amount of 15 million Euros for the reconstruction of pumping stations in Navoi and Uchkar, the implementation of which began in 2015. The French Development Agency (AFD) opened a representative office in Uzbekistan and signed in December 2016 the first financing agreement for a project on waste management in Samarkand¹. But in terms of business cooperation, France lags far behind Russia, China, South Korea or Germany and the United States. This is clearly seen in the dynamics of the development of the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and France. 2011, the trade turnover between the countries amounted to \$ 354 million. In 2014, the trade turnover of the Republic of Uzbekistan and France amounted to 287 million dollars, in 2016 \$ – 257.5 million and in 2017 mutual trade turnover amounted to 251.6 million. Here we can observe not an increase, but a significant decrease in the indicators of commodity turnover, which was not even large by the standards of Uzbekistan from the beginning. An interesting situation could be mentioned in goods trade indexes dynamics²:

¹ Relations bilatérales, site officielle du Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/ouzbekistan/la-france-et-l-ouzbekistan>

² O'zbekiston Respublikasi Markaziy banki. O'zbekiston Respublikasining to'lov balansi, xalqaro investitsion pozitsiyasi va tashqi qarzi (2018 yil uchun) [Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Balance of payments, international investment position and external debt of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018]. - Tashkent.: 2019, P. 73-81.



Table no.1 The share of France in goods trade's geographic structure of Uzbekistan (2016–2018)

mln. US \$

	2016				2017				2018			
	exp	%	imp	%	exp	%	imp	%	exp	%	imp	%
Total	8 444	100	11 483	100	9 922	100	12 935	100	10 646	100	18 901	100
France	93	1,1	102	0,9	123	1,2	81	0,6	164	1,5	103	0,5

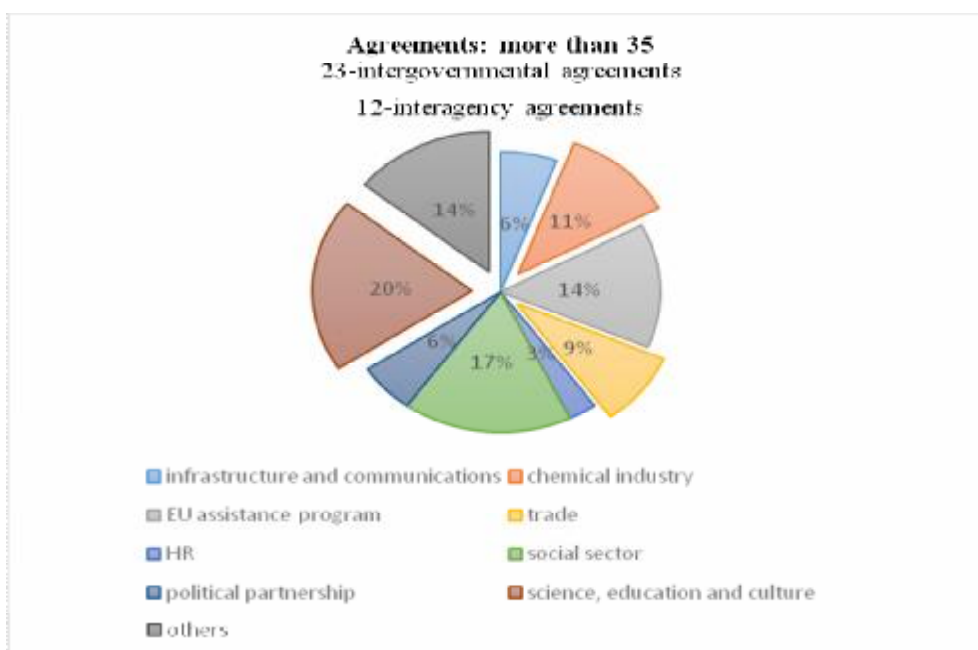
In the period from 2016 to 2018, indicators of import and export in foreign trade in goods of Uzbekistan are growing dynamically, and their ratio in favor of increasing the share of imports, since the jump in the amount of imports is 7,418 million US dollars, and the difference in exports of 2016 and 2018 plus 2 202 million dollars. The share of France in the geographical structure of exports of goods in Uzbekistan is constantly growing, but imports from France as a percentage from 2016 to 2018 decrease from the total indicators of Uzbekistan's imports decrease in arithmetic progress, and the amount fluctuates. This table shows that in 2016–2018 the goods turnover between Uzbekistan and France is growing, especially quantitatively, than in percentages, and the positive balance of trade in goods is changing towards Uzbekistan, and the country gradually, though with small steps, enters the real market of France. France, on the contrary, is losing its position in the market of Uzbekistan at the background of growing imports in Uzbekistan.

In addition, here is given an overview of agreements between Uzbekistan and France from 1993 to 2016¹, regarding to which we may observe that the main aspects of Uzbek-French cooperation is economic one. In the period taken, about 35 documents were signed between the two countries, including 23 interstate and intergovernmental documents, 12 interdepartmental agreements. The main share of agreements comes to cooperation in science, education and culture – 7 agreements, financing of socially significant programs and facilities (civil society development, healthcare, etc.) – 6 agreements, EU development assistance program - 5 agreements, chemical industry-4 agreements. As can be seen in the diagram №2, in the development of bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and France, the main place was taken by social and humanitarian issues, rather than direct investment or economic projects. But in the same way, relations between France and Uzbekistan could retain their importance namely by the originality and social orientation of the areas of cooperation, despite the low indexes in economic and trade relations.

¹ The diagram is elaborated on basis of official information and model of searching on the following resources: Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France : www.diplomatie.gouv.fr; Press-service of the President of Republic of Uzbekistan <http://www.press-service.uz/>; the Ministry of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan <http://www.mfa.uz/ru/cooperation/countries/58/>; Japan-French relations www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/ouzbekistan/la-france-et-l-ouzbekistan; Electron Bulletins of Government portal of Uzbekistan (from 2012 to 2015)



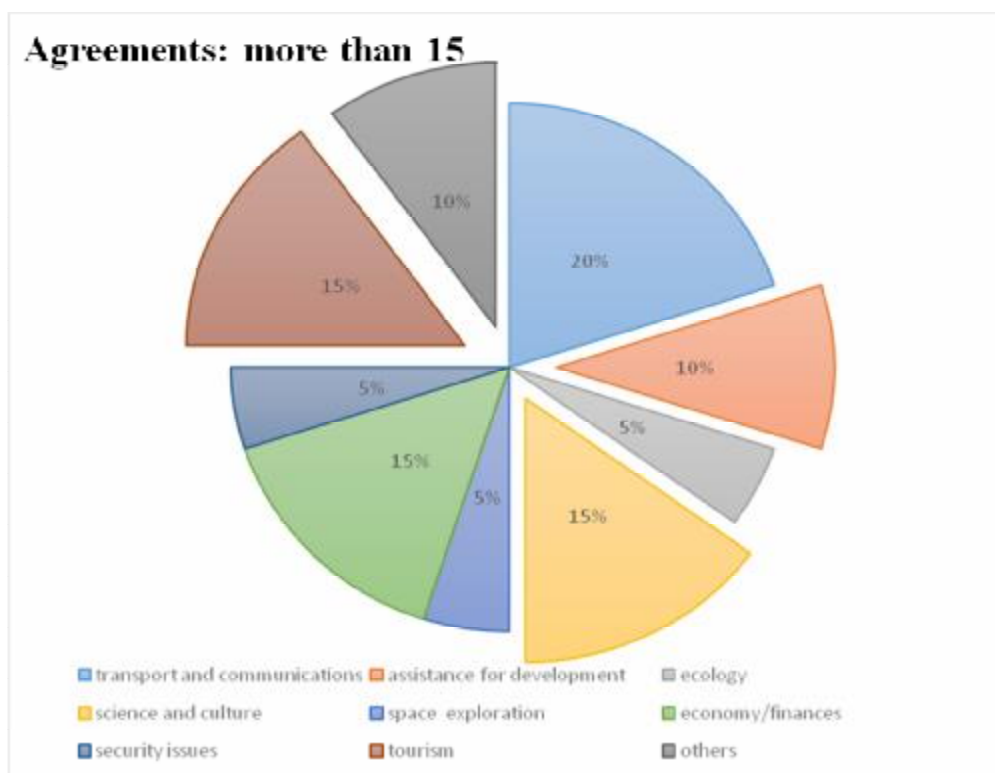
Diagram no. 2 Quantitative analysis of agreements between Uzbekistan and France (1993-2016)



Concerning the analysis of bilateral agreements signed in the period 2017–2018, here the main part is made up of documents signed during the visit of President of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev to France in October 2018, following which were signed 10 bilateral documents and were reached agreements on investment projects worth 5 billion Euros: intergovernmental agreements on international passenger and freight transport by road, on cooperation in the field of tourism, an agreement of intent with the French a Development Agency on the implementation of the Cooperation Program for 2018–2020 etc. The Program of Cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs for 2019–2020, documents between the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Ecology and Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France on cooperation in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development, the Ministries of the Interior, Ministries of culture, between the Foundation for the Development of Culture and Art under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Louvre Museum were also signed and adopted.



Diagram no. 3 Quantitative analysis of agreements between Uzbekistan and France (2017-2018)



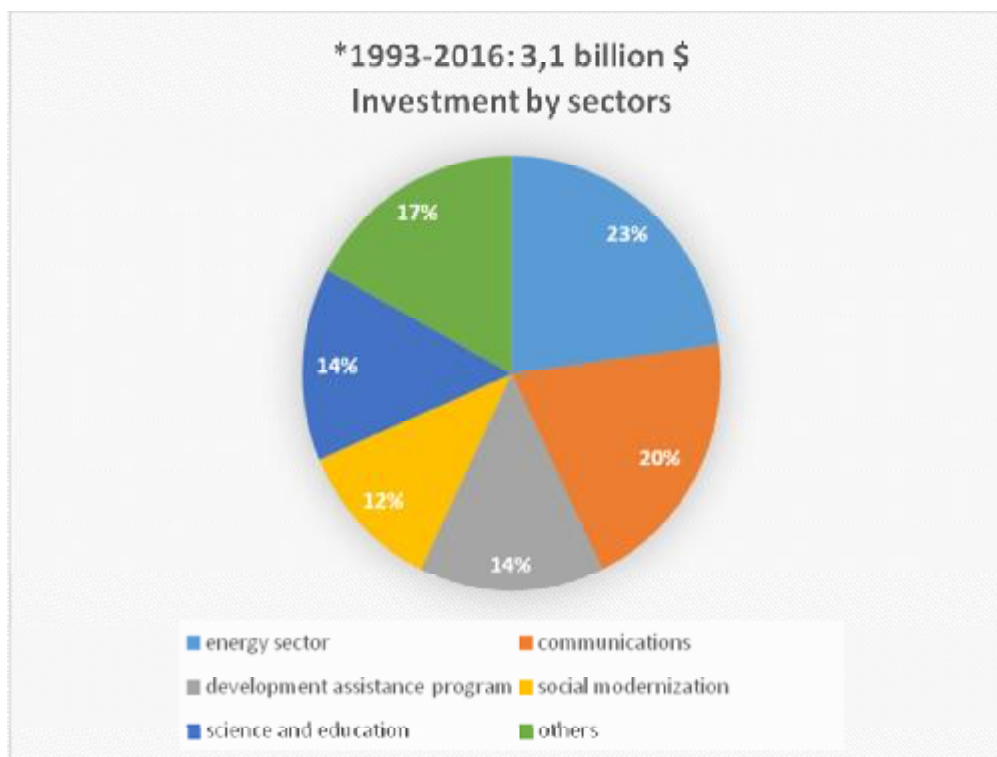
An important and innovative part of the signed agreements is a document on cooperation in the field of space. According to the agreements, Thales Alenia Space – one of the leading international space and defense companies in Europe with an annual turnover of about US \$ 18.5 billion will create an industrial base for the space industry in Uzbekistan, and this with the involvement and training of local personnel. Analyzing the components of the sphere of mutual cooperation, we can conclude that for Uzbekistan the emergence of new areas of cooperation with France is not of quantitative, but of qualitative importance, especially in the areas of transport, art and technology development in the field of space.

Some words about investment vector of economic cooperation. In following two graphics¹ are given the dynamics in this field.

¹ The graphics were elaborated on basis of official information and model of searching of the following resources: Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/>; Press-service of the President of Republic of Uzbekistan <http://www.press-service.uz/>; the Ministry of foreign affairs of Uzbekistan <http://www.mfa.uz/ru/cooperation/countries/58/>; French-Uzbek relations <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/ouzbekistan/la-france-et-l-ouzbekistan/>; Electron



Diagram no. 4 Dynamics of direct French investment (1993-2016)

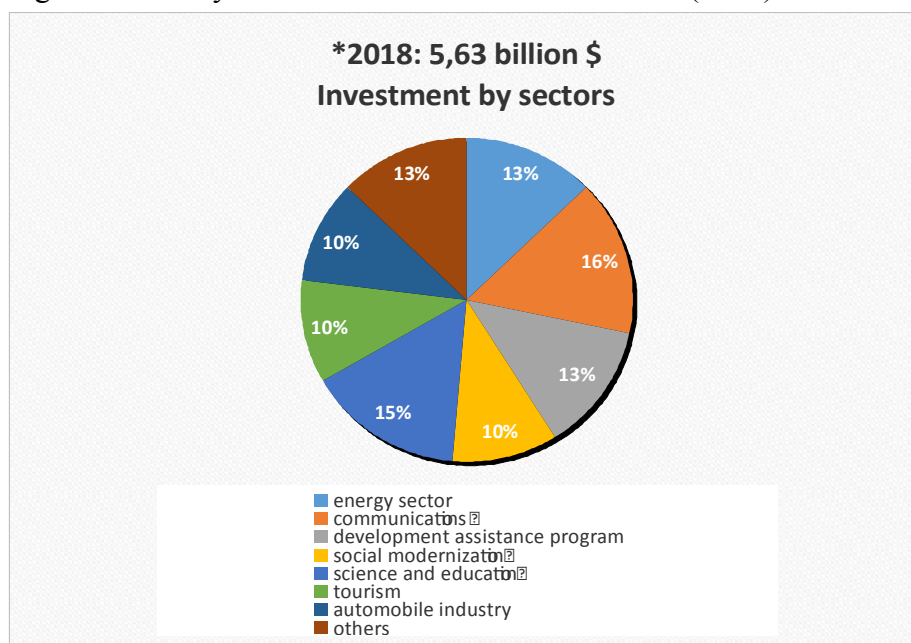


As we can see the volume of direct French investment to Uzbekistan in period of 1993–2016 was 3,1 billion US dollars and the main dimension of investment was energy sector and communications. However, the difference in investment volume among the spheres is not so big, and it may be explained by a small amount of direct French investment for 23 years of cooperation. But after the official visit of Shavkat Mirziyoyev to France in 2018 the situation is planned to be changed. First of all, bilateral and national frame was chosen is preferable one, secondly, the volume of direct French investment raised for more than 62% in one year: e.g. a cooperation program for the implementation of infrastructure projects worth about 600 million Euros has been signed with the French Development Agency; projects with such French companies as Airbus, Total, Vinci, Orano, Total Eren, Veolia, Fevs Stein, Bouygues, Rangis and many others are also scheduled for implementation.

Bulletins of Government portal of Uzbekistan (from 2012 to 2015); the base of the official treatments of France :Traités bilatéraux http://bas.edoc.diplomatie.gouv.fr/Traites/pays_TRAITES_bilateral.php?pays=Ouzbekistan



Diagram no. 5 Dynamics of direct French investment (2018)



But there are also a number of problems in the field of economic cooperation. France is one of the largest grantors in the world. However, the economic ties of Uzbekistan and France are repelled by the geographical remoteness of these countries. In this regard, from a geographical point of view for Europe, Central Asia is still a periphery that does not have convenient logistics routes and short sea roads. For France, Uzbekistan is important on energy issues, but in this area, its main partners from the post-Soviet countries are Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. Until 2018, France mainly cooperated with Uzbekistan in separate EU projects. However, after the signing of a number of bilateral agreements between the heads of state in 2018, it is expected that economic relations will develop, at least in the field of transportation and space technology. But for this, Uzbekistan needs to continue the system approach in the future to improve the country's image and address the issues of protecting investment security in Uzbekistan.

Cultural vector. Cooperation in cultural and humanitarian spheres is also intensively developing. The organization of bilateral cultural events with participation of Uzbek and French masters became a regular tradition. In October 1993, Uzbekistan joined UNESCO, whose headquarters are in Paris. Since then, there has been close cooperation between Uzbekistan and UNESCO in the field of education, science and culture. Since October 4, 2018, there is a “visa-free” system for French citizens for a period of 30 days. The history and culture of Uzbekistan are of great interest in the world, including in French scientific circles. Taking into account the huge interest in the historical and cultural heritage of our country, an exhibition on the history of Uzbekistan in the Louvre is planned to be held in 2021.



In addition, France is supporting five major projects in the field of archaeological excavations and restoration of cultural heritage (Timurid paving of the White Palace (Ak-Saray) in Shahrissabz, which was solemnly opened in 2014). In 2015, the Alliance Francais branch opened in Tashkent.

As for bilateral technical cooperation, it is mainly aimed at promoting legal and institutional development, in particular, at strengthening the institutions of civil society.

Uzbekistan also pays special attention to the support and propaganda of Uzbek culture in France by supporting associations of compatriots in France. For example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in France, as well as other relevant structures of the country, as the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers, maintains constant contact with the Association of Compatriots Meros in Paris, which was established in 2018 in Paris. In near future, on the basis of this association, it is planned to open free Uzbek language courses for children of Uzbek compatriots in France, also for those who wish, and also a library, for which the government of Uzbekistan transferred over 500 books in Uzbek language written by more than 100 Uzbek authors¹. As it is known, the ethnic diaspora and minorities are the main actors of public and informal diplomacy, and in this context the Uzbek community abroad is a carrier of national culture, values, language, a kind of conductor of humanitarian ties between Uzbekistan and the countries of the world.

Vector of education. A special agreement about cooperation in education between France and Uzbekistan is not signed since nowadays, this sector is developing very effectively in the frames of interdepartmental agreements of educational institutions – universities, research institutes, academies etc and ministries.

In Uzbekistan, the French language is one of the classically popular languages, notably it chosen as one of the 3 main foreign languages (English, German and French) in entry exams list to State higher education establishments. The modern condition of the Francophony in Uzbekistan is also stable: in Tashkent the Center of the French Language and Culture functions since 2015; the governments of both countries have been reached agreements on opening branches of leading French universities in Uzbekistan, where Uzbek students will study in such areas as economics, engineering, agriculture, tourism and fashion etc; more than 24% of Uzbek students, who study abroad, acquire their knowledge in European Union, including France, which is the first destination for Uzbek young people². Nowadays, prestigious French Universities such as Toulouse University, Paris-Sorbonne III, SciencesPo, University of Strasbourg cooperate

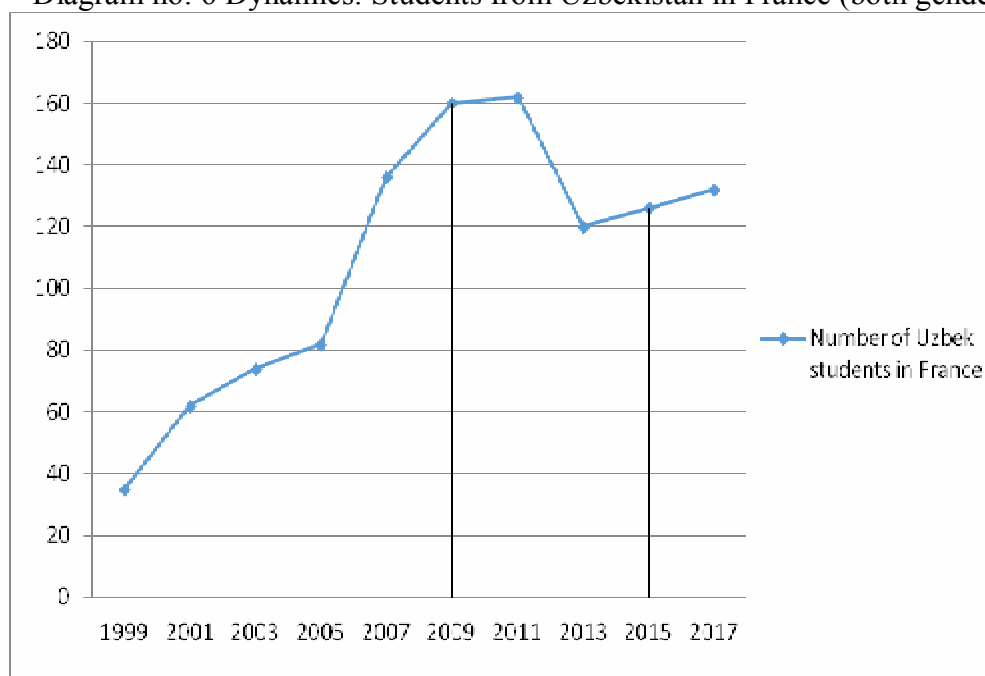
¹ Sootechesvenniki vo Fransii aktivno prodvigayut imidj strani [Compatriots in France are actively promoting the country's image]. Available at: <https://ouzbekistan.fr/ru/соотечественники-во-франции-активно/>. (accessed 24.03.2019)

² International academic platform. World's academic mobility report 2017. Available at: www.students.flatworldknowledge.com/student_textbook/reports/2017_01/region/EU.html. (accessed 17.03.2019)



actively with Tashkent Juridical University, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, regional Universities of Samarkand, Jizzakh, Ferghana, Karshi etc. Uzbek and French universities have a good tradition of regular exchanging of professors, staff and students. For example, in October 2012, the French National School of Administration signed a cooperation protocol with the Academy of Public Administration of Uzbekistan, and in March 2013, it hosted a delegation of the Academy on a welcoming visit. But the state of academic mobility and exchanges between two parts are not so close and high as for example with South Korea, Japan, China or Germany.

Diagram no. 6 Dynamics: Students from Uzbekistan in France (both genders)



Changes in the number of students from Uzbekistan in France are characterized with little dynamics since 2000 and fluctuate in the number 130 per year in average¹. The highest rate falls in 2009–2011 when 160 Uzbek students studied in French universities. Today, this indicator varies in the range 125–135. Analysis of this diagram brings us to the suggestion, that at first, the number of Uzbek students in France is very little, at second, education in France, where higher study is free, is not widely promoted among the youth of Uzbekistan. Keeping in mind that mostly students who know French language go to study France, it can be assumed that in competition with such oriental languages as Korean, Japanese and Chinese, and even with German, French loses its positions.

¹ UNESCO institute for statistics. Statistics of the foreign students in France. Asia: Students from Uzbekistan, both sexes (number). Available at: <https://knoema.ru/UNESCOISD2018/unesco-institute-for-statistics-data?tsld=1524160/> (accessed 01.04.2019)



The situation can be only improved by the efforts of the cultural and educational mission of the French Embassy in Uzbekistan and the increased participation of the private sector in the provision of academic legal services according to the education in France for students from Uzbekistan.

For instance, France is not the biggest investor to Uzbekistan educative system. But, bearing in mind the free education in the universities of France and the latest agreements between the heads of state, it can be assumed that in the near future the participation of French universities in the national education system of Uzbekistan will increase significantly. For Uzbekistan, the French system of education is important for its originality and social orientation in contrast to the Anglo-Saxon model, and also with high quality, especially in such areas as humanities, art and fashion, high technology, energy, medicine, and political science. Participation of France in educational projects and processes in Uzbekistan will allow our country to diversify the academic services market and enhance its academic image for foreign students, especially from neighboring countries.

Conclusion. The interaction of France with Uzbekistan is really loaded and multiple, and analyzing all specter of Uzbek-French relations in one article is not possible. The fact is that potential of development of partnership relations with one of the economic leaders, increases year by year, by virtue of which Uzbekistan strengthens and modernizes its social sector and economy. As conclusion, we could note that partnership of France and Uzbekistan is based on mutual understanding and respect, on centuries-old traditions of cooperation and disposes unfully discovered potential.

Both States despite the geographical distance, a different way of the economy and life in general, are somehow similar. They are seeking to strengthen their position in the region and are active in foreign policy. At the present stage, cooperation between Uzbekistan and France develops more smoothly, with some nuances, but constructively more qualitative than quantitative, not very dynamically in the last 10 years, but covers more and more new areas such as cooperation in space, automobile industry, telecommunications, higher education. Even the last visit of Shavkat Mirziyoyev to France in October 2018, which defined new vectors of cooperation such as energy sector, science, healthcare, modernization of transport infrastructure, launching and processing of sources of raw and mineral resources, automobile industry, oil and gas, chemical industry, telecommunications and etc., indicates the importance of progressive development of bilateral relations for both states. If at the beginning of cooperation, France has given more attention in bilateral cooperation to the development of political institutions in Uzbekistan, then over time, especially in recent years, it also highlights economic interests. The dynamics of the main vectors of cooperation between Uzbekistan and France suggests that in the near future socio-economic issues will take the place of socio-political ones.