

ECO Research Projects
by Directorate (Ongoing and Under Review)
(to be confirmed by Directorates, as of 07 May 2025)

Agriculture & Industry

Project Title	Objective	Status
ECO Center of Excellence for Efficient Water Utilization for Agriculture (ECO-CEEWUA)	Enhance water use efficiency in agriculture across member states	Ongoing
ECO Nanotechnology Network	Promote nanotechnology research and collaboration in the region	Ongoing
ECO Agricultural Biotechnology Network	Facilitate cooperation in agricultural biotechnology	Ongoing

Energy, Minerals & Environment

Project Title	Objective	Status
ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO)	Support clean and renewable energy innovation and capacity-building	Ongoing
ECO Regional Electricity Market (ECO-REM)	Create an integrated electricity market among ECO member states	Ongoing
Assessment and Revision of ECO Environmental Cooperation and Climate Plan	Update strategies to combat climate change and biodiversity loss	Ongoing

Human Resources & Sustainable Development

Project Title	Objective	Status
Regional Capacity on Intra-trade of Pharmaceuticals (RCIP)	Enhance pharmaceutical trade capabilities in the region	Ongoing
Landslide Hazard Zonation Map for ECO Member States	Identify and map landslide-prone areas	Ongoing
Feasibility Study on Disaster Risk Information Management System	Develop disaster risk information system	Ongoing

Economic Research & Statistics

Project Title	Objective	Status
Study on Trade and Economic Potential of Kazakhstan	Analyze Kazakhstan's economic opportunities in the ECO region	Ongoing
Operationalization of the ECO Research Center in Baku	Establish a regional economic research center	Ongoing

ECO Economic Journal (EEJ)	Publish scholarly economic research	Ongoing
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Trade & Investment

Project Title	Objective	Status
Guide and Action Plan for SEZ/FTZ Network in ECO Region	Promote investment via a network of special zones	Under Review
Joint Investment Roadmap for Sovereign Wealth and Development Funds	Mobilize joint investment resources for regional development	Under Review

Transport & Communications

Project Title	Objective	Status
Development of Economic Corridor Kazakhstan–Turkmenistan–Iran Railway	Transform corridor into economic trade route	Under Consideration Concept Paper, Terms of Reference (ToR), draft Contract and Internal Memo to SG and two alternative Consultant Candidates are ready, however SG hasn't signed the Contract yet. Reasons are unknown to TC.
Operational assessment of the North-South International Transport Corridor (NSITC), including on the eastern route of Russia – Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Iran – India.	As negotiated with the potential Consultants this can be supportive for the KTI Economic Corridor Study.	Under Consideration Concept Paper, Terms of Reference (ToR), draft Contract and Internal Memo to SG and two alternative Consultant Candidates are ready, however SG hasn't signed the Contract yet. Reasons are unknown to TC.
Digital Modelling of Construction and Modelling Railways (Digital Railway Twin/Simulator)	To save 10% costs for railways construction and modelling using pre-works calculation.	Under Consideration Concept Paper, Terms of Reference (ToR), draft Contract are ready, however SG hasn't signed the Contract yet. Reasons are unknown to TC.
Study on Electronic Information Exchange Among Railways and Customs of ECO Member States.	As a global logistical challenge a successful synchronizing railway cargo and customs is one of UNESCAP priorities. Last three years ECO is trying to embark on the same research, however the task is	Under Consideration In other words, upon signing Contracts with both Consultants ECO Secretariat will demonstrate its willingness and efforts to meet tasks and aims

	<p>challenging: countries use different systems. 7 out of 10 ECO MS use 1520-mm based OSJD-adopted system of railway information exchange (for instance, each part of a wagon, its type, characteristics of the goods inside, and etc. have been already commonly codified and being used), while customs information exchange is less grouped. On the other hand, having Iran, Pakistan and Turkiye plans to develop their railway infrastructure including digitalizing paperwork with customs data synchronization, as well as sizeable potential Chinese cargo – this Study project ought to be done in line with recommendations of UNESCAP and leading best practices.</p>	<p>put forward by ECO MS vide decisions of Summits, Ministerial Meetings, RPCs and CPRs. So at the next CPR meeting the issue of the NV could be reported as under good consideration and progress on 3 out of 4 initiated projects.</p>
ECO Fiber Optic Network	<p>Establish regional digital connectivity infrastructure. Two ECO general Webinars on advanced algorithms saving costs for big data transmission have been conducted in 2023 and 2024. It is suggested to test on the newly line to be constructed along the KTI railroad. One online Technical Meeting with participation of national Telecom transition operators of IRI, KAZ, and TKM have been done in 2025. Next Technical Meeting to be arranged soon.</p>	<p>Under Consideration Concept Paper, Terms of Reference (ToR), draft Contract and Internal Memo to SG and are ready, however SG hasn't signed the Contract yet. Reasons are unknown to TC.</p>
ECO Gate – Common Gateway System	<p>Link dry ports and seaports to international markets</p>	<p>Under Consideration Completed, however the Report was not accepted by the MS (MinTransport KAZ) as lacking focus on seaports especially Caspian but on general corridors description. The MS opinion has been forwarded to IsDB as the</p>

		co-sponsor of the Study. Upon TC receives the IsDB answer the ECO Secretariat's internal meeting is needed.
Direct Charter Flights among ECO Capitals and Tourist Cities	Boost intra-regional tourism through air connectivity	Under Consideration This is not a Study (Research Project) yet. It was just a request from Azerbaijan at last RPC supported by other MS, but still there is no a Concept Paper of it.
Establish ECO Digital Initiatives Center under Astana Hub/ KAZ ICT Ministry	This is just a talking idea based on invitation of Head of Kazakh Delegation (MDDAI Vice Minister K.Tuleushin) at the 3 rd MM ICT in Tehran in 2023 to invite IT specialists for internship programs/scholarships via AstanaHub to Silicon Valley.	Under Consideration Lots of ICT issues are lagged behind in ECO MS and the Secretariat agenda.

Cross-sectional/ PM general leadership

with active participation of T&I, T&C, A&I and IR

Project Title	Objective	Status
ECO-IOFS Study on supporting Food Security in a way of testing wheat flour supply from KAZ to PAK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To implement MOU signed with IOFS, March 2025; 2. To follow-up discussions with the federal Ministry of National Food Security of Pakistan, April 2025; 3. To contribute to ECO-KAZ 2025 Chairmanship under "Advancing Regional Transport Connectivity and Sustainable Development" motto. 	Under Consideration Internal meeting under DSG S.Nurberdiev to be conducted soon to clarify the idea.