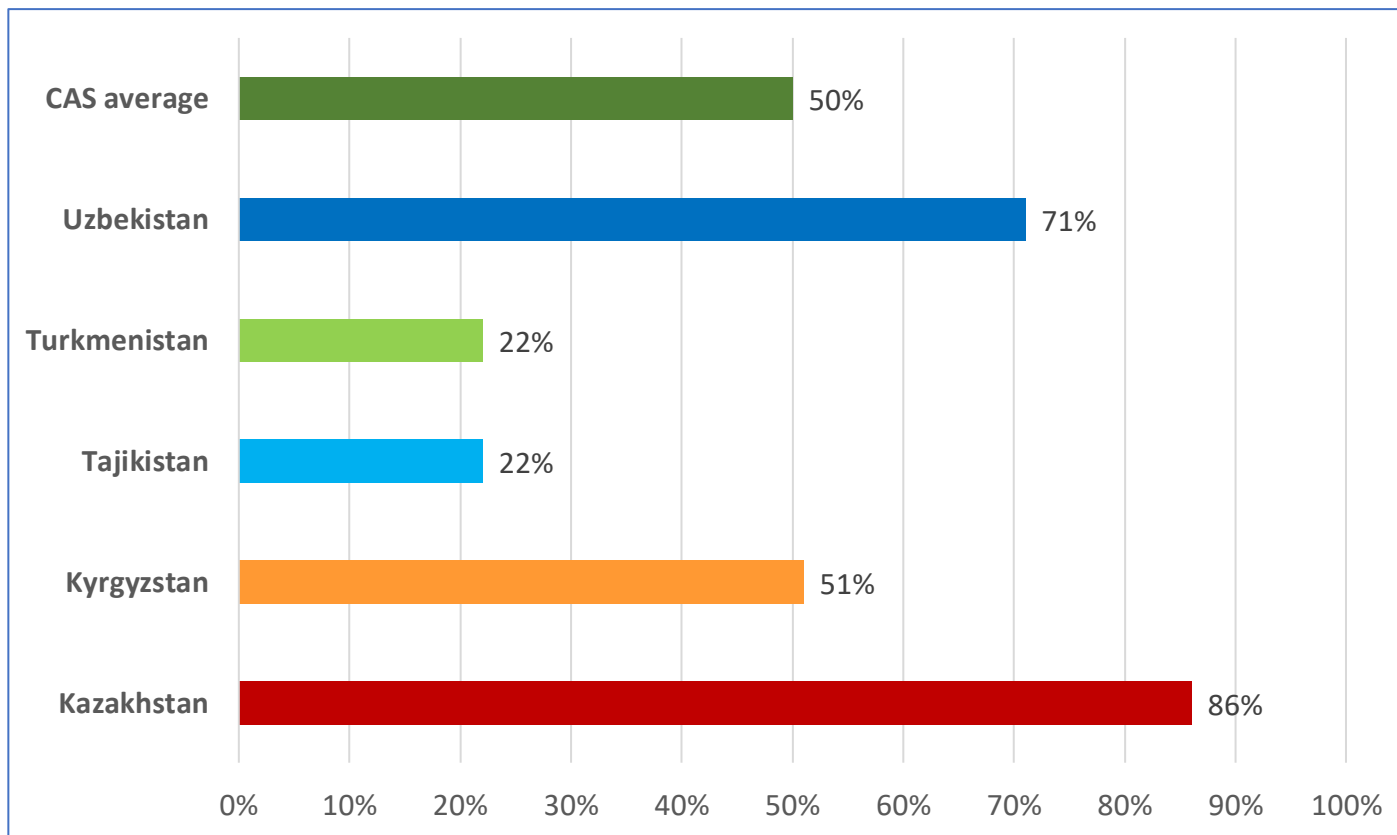


**REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY IN CENTRAL ASIA:
DIGITALIZATION OF TRADE AND BENEFITS
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Farrukh Khakimov
Head of Department,
Development Strategy Center, Uzbekistan

Internet penetration rate (%) in Central Asian States



Source: "The UN E-Government Survey 2022"

Digital Readiness of Central Asian States

Ranking of Central Asian countries by price and affordability of Internet
According to the Internet Accessibility Index for 2022

Rating	Country	Internet download speed (Mbps)	Cost per month (\$)	Affordability (%)	Cost for 1 GB Mobile Data (\$)	Score	Change
55	Kazakhstan	2.4	10.8	1.5	0.8	83.5	-12
113	Uzbekistan	1.8	18.3	7.7	1.3	75.3	-1
116	Kyrgyzstan	2.5	19.9	9.5	0.6	74.1	-6
134	Tajikistan	0.5	25.1	28.5	3.5	67.7	-3
156	Turkmenistan	0.4	189.2	31.4	17.5	54.4	5

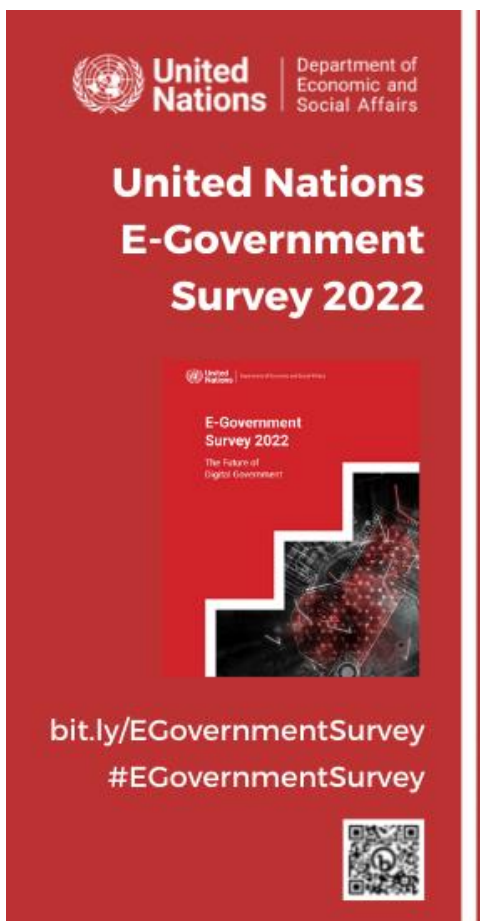
Central Asian States in International Indexes on Digitalization

International Indexes (Rankings)	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan	CAS Average
E-Government Development Index/193	28	81	129	137	69	89
E-Participation Index/193	15	79	135	180	55	93
2022 - SDG/193	65	48	78	99	77	73
2021- Digital Readiness Index/146	54	81	111	0	76	81
2022- Global Innovation Index/132	83	94	104	0	82	91
2022- Internet Accessibility Index/164	55	116	134	156	113	115
2022-Networked Readiness Index/131	58	95	111	0	0	88
2020- Global Cybersecurity Index/182	31	92	138	144	70	95
2022-GovTech Maturity Index/198	A	B	C	D	A	B

**a regional leader is marked with orange background.*

E-Government in CAREC countries

Ranking of CAREC countries according to the EGDI-2022



United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

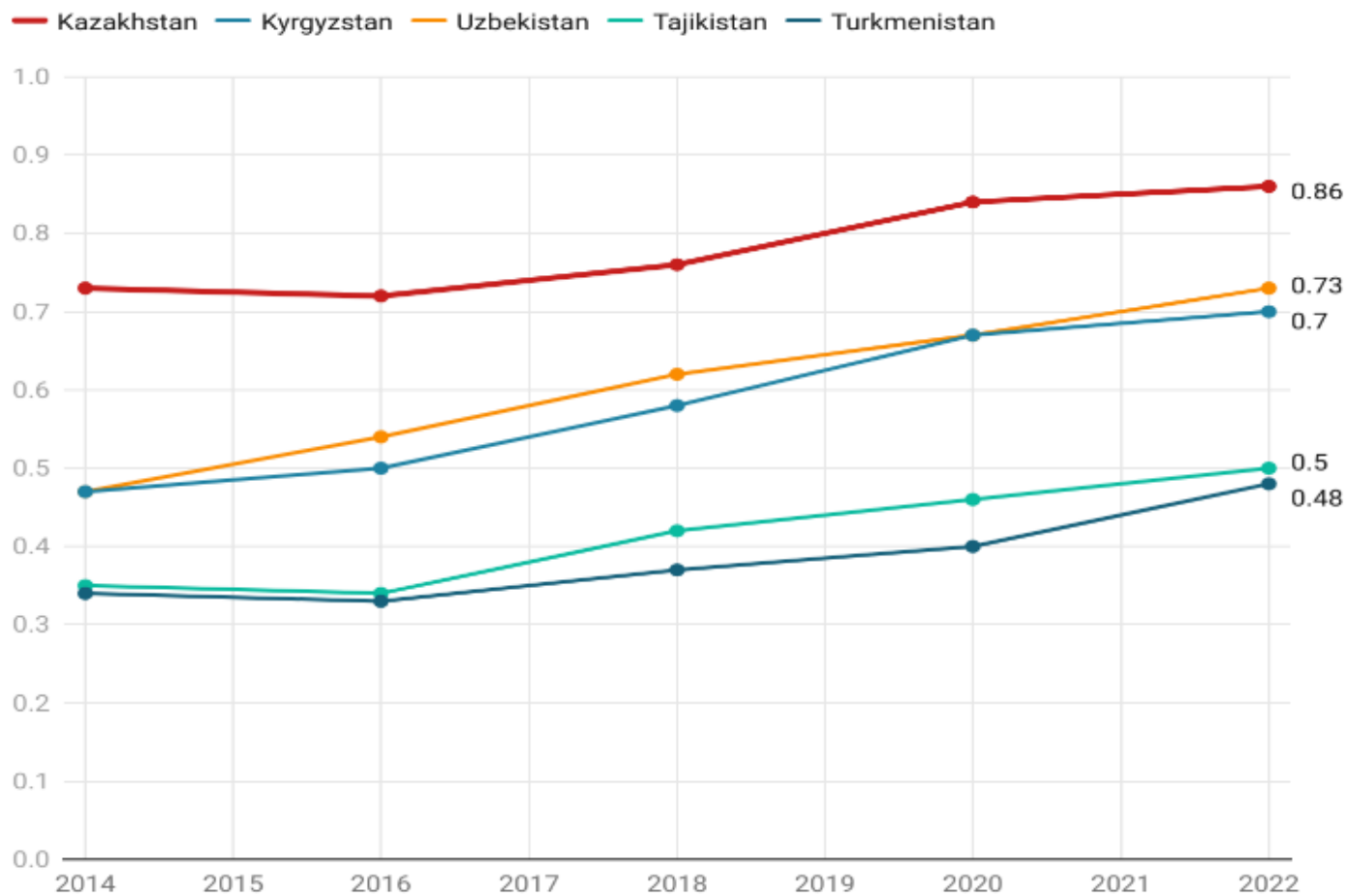
**United Nations
E-Government
Survey 2022**

E-Government
Survey 2022
The Future of
Digital Government

bit.ly/EGovernmentSurvey
#EGovernmentSurvey

Rank	Country	EGDI Level	EGDI -2022	E-Participation Index	Online Service Index	Telecommunication Infrastructure Index	Human Capital Index
28	Kazakhstan	Very High	0.86	0.80	0.93	0.75	0.90
43	China	Very High	0.81	0.86	0.88	0.80	0.74
60	Georgia	Very High	0.75	0.53	0.61	0.74	0.89
69	Uzbekistan	High	0.72	0.61	0.74	0.65	0.77
74	Mongolia	High	0.72	0.60	0.62	0.69	0.83
81	Kyrgyzstan	High	0.69	0.50	0.61	0.66	0.81
83	Azerbaijan	High	0.69	0.38	0.61	0.67	0.79
129	Tajikistan	High	0.50	0.25	0.39	0.37	0.73
137	Turkmenistan	Middle	0.48	0.10	0.29	0.35	0.78
150	Pakistan	Middle	0.42	0.36	0.56	0.31	0.39
184	Afghanistan	Middle	0.27	0.19	0.27	0.18	0.34
CAS Average			0.65	0.45	0.59	0.56	0.80
CAREC Average			0.63	0.51	0.65	0.61	0.79
World Average			0.61	0.44	0.55	0.57	0.70

E-Government Initiatives in Central Asian States



Source: Compiled by author based on data from "The UN E-Government Survey" for 2014-2022 • Created with Datawrapper

Level of digitalization of government in Central Asia. WB GovTech Maturity Index, 2022

No	Country	GTMI- 2022
1	Kazakhstan	A
2	Uzbekistan	A
3	Kyrgyzstan	B
4	Tajikistan	C
5	Turkmenistan	D



GTMI Group description	
A	GovTech leader countries that use advanced digital solutions and demonstrate good practices in all four GovTech focus areas
B	Countries with a significant focus on GovTech
C	Countries with some focus on GovTech
D	Countries with minimal focus on GovTech

National Digitalization Strategies of Central Asian States

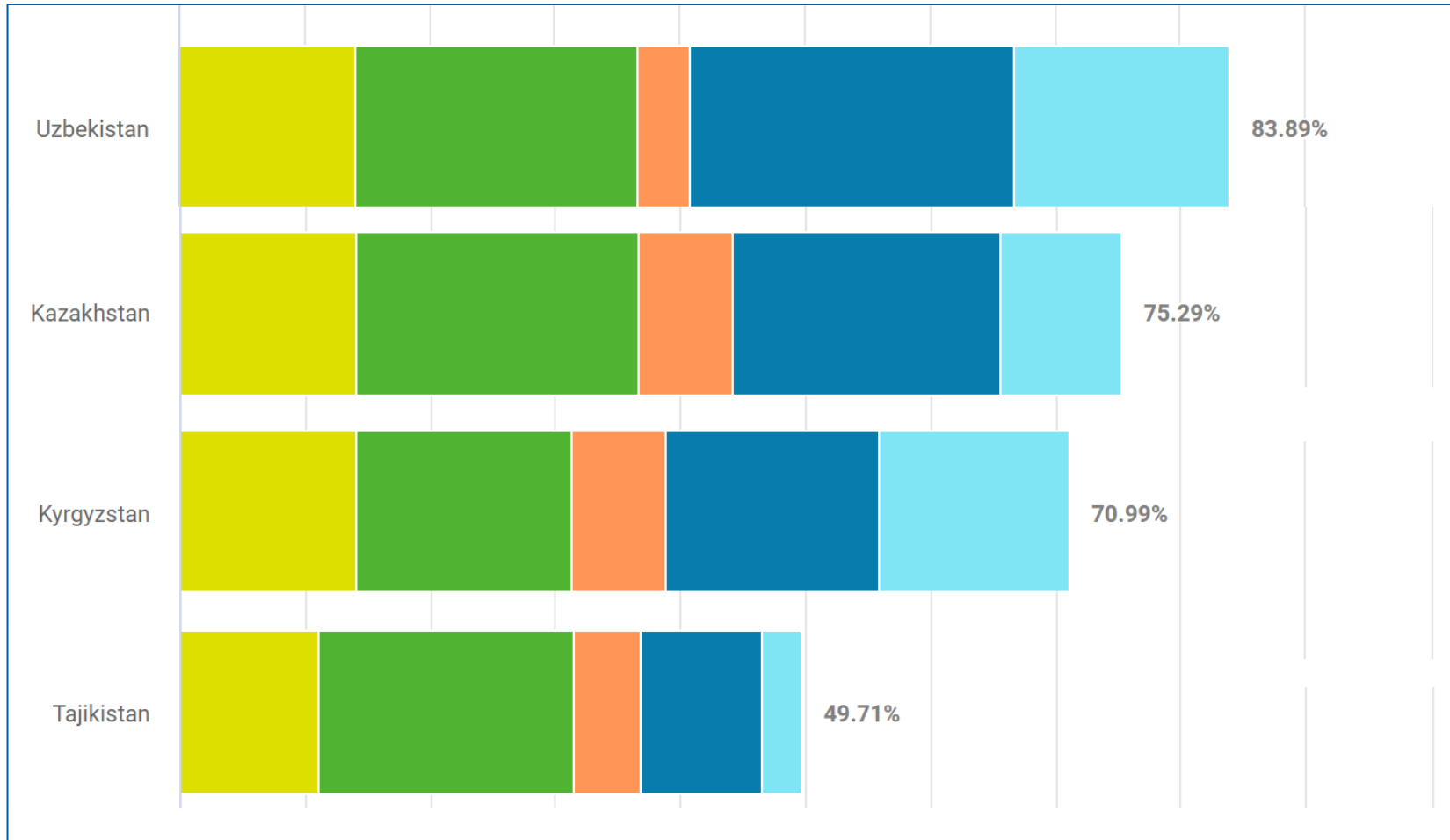


Tajikistan
Concept of the Digital
Economy-2030

Turkmenistan
Concept for the
Development of the
Digital Economy
in 2019-2025

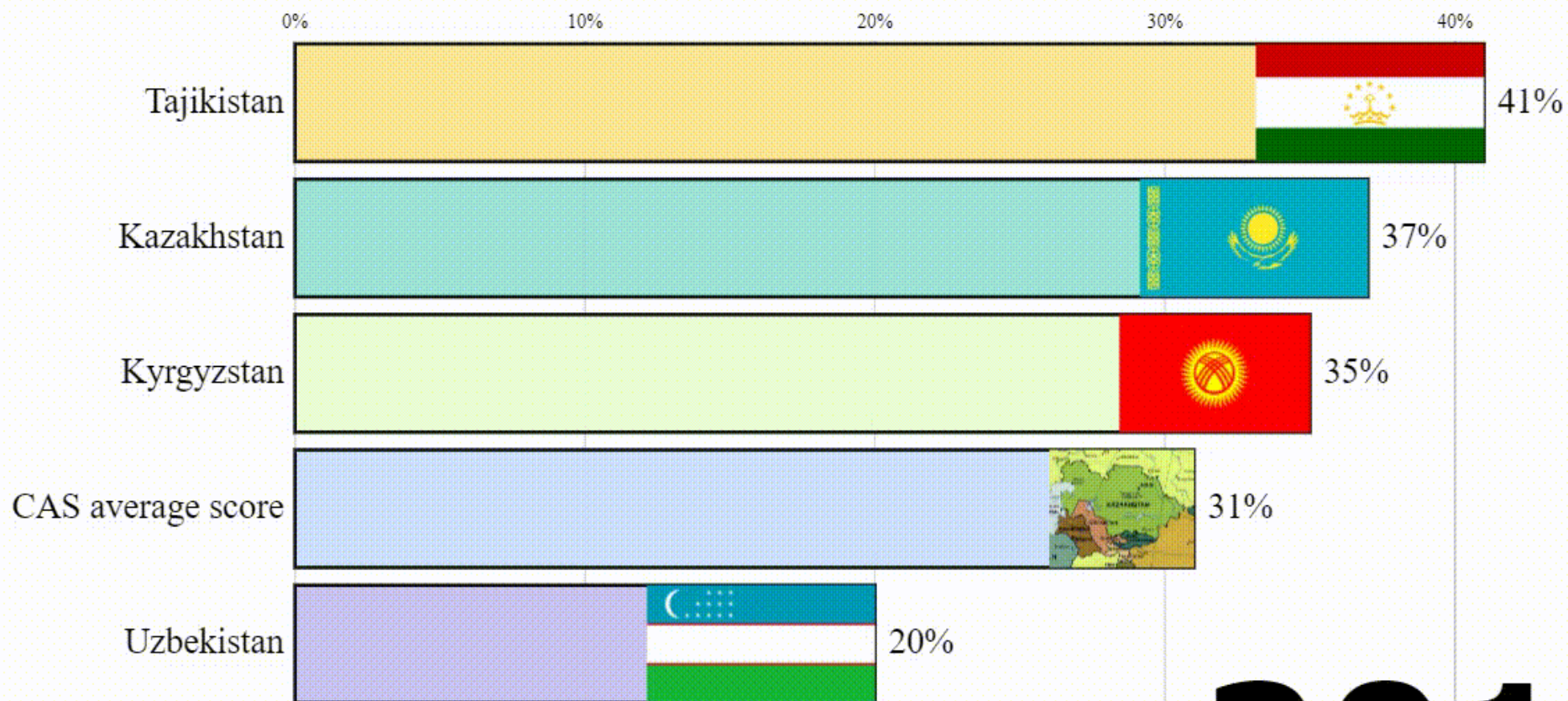
Digital Readiness of Central Asian States for Cross-Border Paperless Trade

Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Central Asian States in 2023



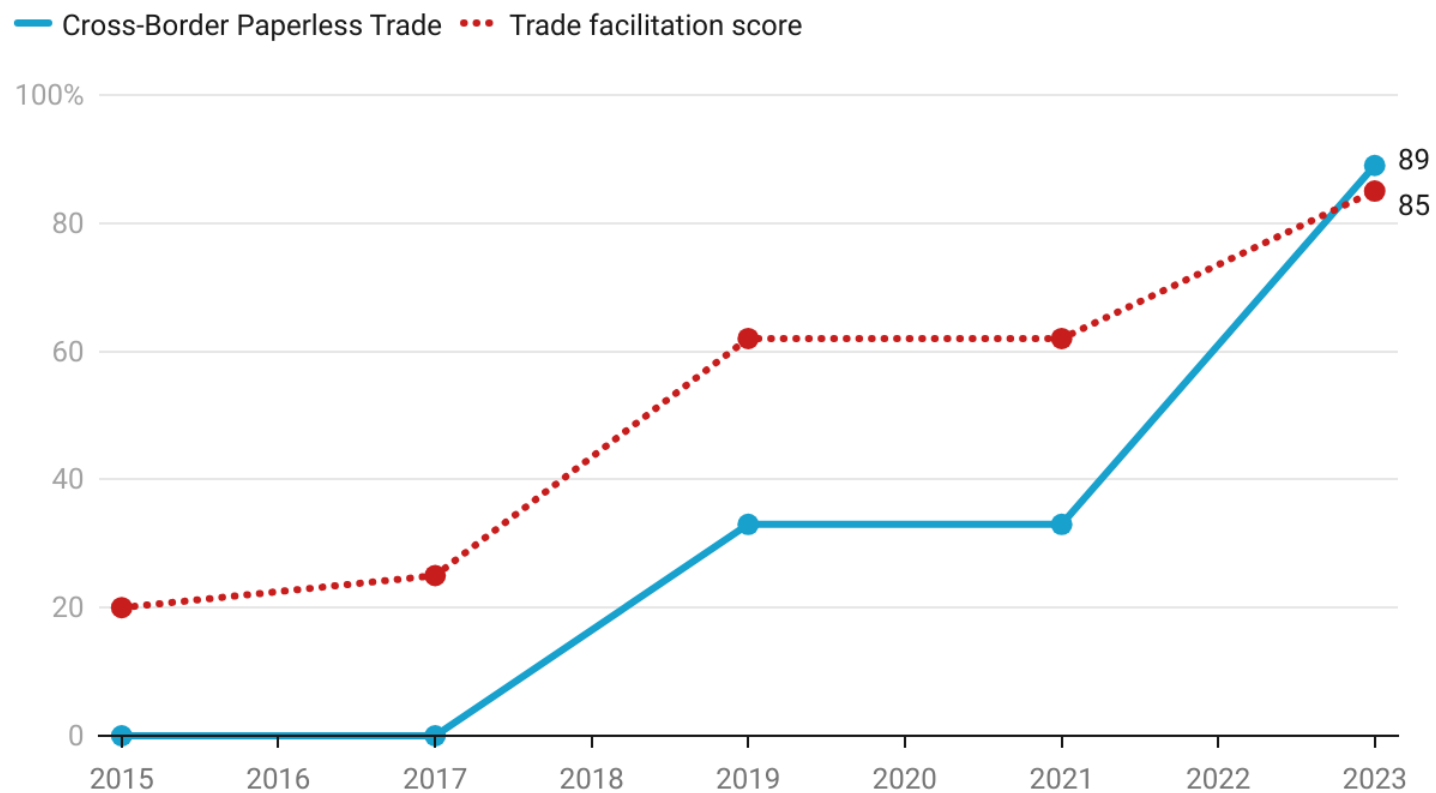
- Transparency
- Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation
- Cross-Border Paperless Trade
- Formalities
- Paperless Trade

Digital Readiness of Central Asian States for Cross-Border Paperless Trade



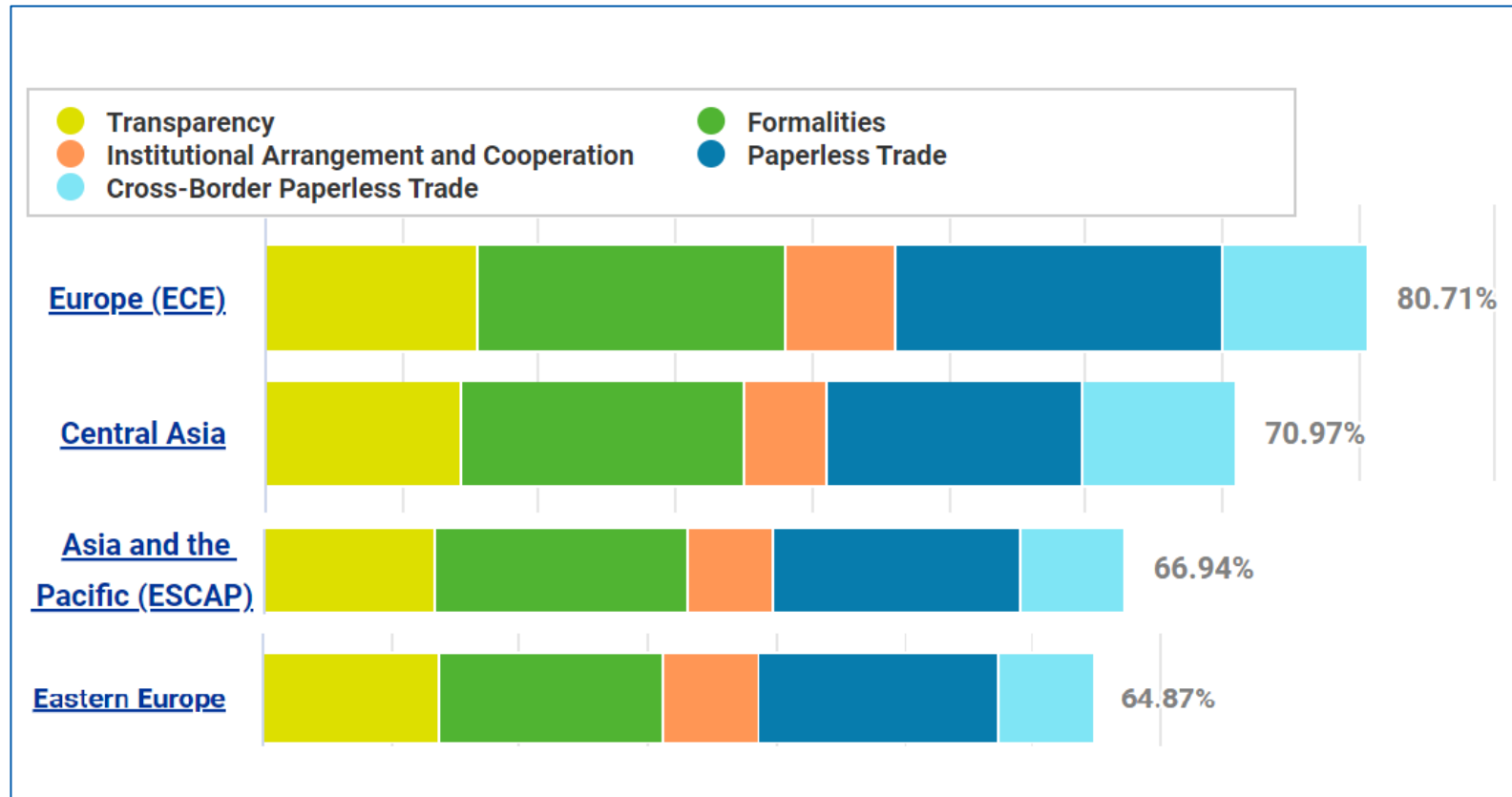
2015

Cross-border paperless trade dynamics in Uzbekistan during 2015-2023



Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2015-2023 • Created with Datawrapper

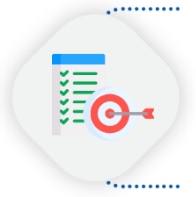
Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade in Central Asia and other regions in 2023



Source: United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2023. Available at <https://www.untfsurvey.org>



- CAS have been **applying** ambitious **national programs** and **strategies** on digitalization and digital economy;
- CAS have significantly enhanced their **digital capacity** in various areas. In particular, **Kazakhstan** on various indicators of **digitalization** possesses **leading positions** compared to other CAS and CAREC member states;
- CAS apply different **trading regimes** and have different trade relations;
- **ICT** and **digital solutions** in trade relation are not used **systematically** and must be supplemented with parallel manual processes;
- **digitalization** can help reduce **trade barriers** and facilitate cross-border trade, which can promote **regional economic integration** and cooperation in the region;
- Improved **trade relations** and **connectivity** in **Central Asia** matter entire **CAREC** region.



Narrowing the **digital divide** at national and regional levels should be priority for policy-makers and other stakeholders in CAS.



Bilateral and multilateral cooperation between CAS and with international partners are needed to decrease the digital divide at regional level. **Attract more international partners** and donors to ICT sector of the region.



Privacy and data protection in the national legislative frameworks of CAS should be reflected and guaranteed.

Enhancing affordability of and access to ICT, improving **quality and cost of the Internet**



Providing and promoting digitalized (paperless) import and export procedures in **trade-related** services and **intra-regional trade** in Central Asia. **Digital Agenda for Central Asia** should be developed which could serve as a regional **digital integration** platform.





DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

Thank you for your attention!

