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CADGAT

Central Asia Data Gathering and Analysis Team

Radio in Central Asia

Central Asia Regional Data Review

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In 2009, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the OSCE Academy established the Central Asia Data-Gathering and Analysis Team (CADGAT). The purpose of CADGAT is to produce new cross-regional data on Central Asia that can be freely used by researchers, journalists, NGOs and government employees inside and outside the region. The project is managed by Kristin Fjaestad and Indra Overland at NUPI. Comments and questions can be sent to: cadgat@nupi.no. The datasets can be found at: <http://osce-academy.net/en/research/cadgat/>

The following datasets have been published previously:

1. Hydroelectric dams and conflict in Central Asia
2. Narcotics trade and related issues in Central Asia
3. Language use and language policy in Central Asia
4. The transport sector in Central Asia
5. Road transportation in Central Asia
6. Gender and politics in Central Asia
7. Political relations in Central Asia
8. Trade policies and major export items in Central Asia
9. Intra-regional trade in Central Asia
10. Trade barriers and tariffs in Central Asia
11. Holidays in Central Asia. Part I: Laws and official holidays
12. Holidays in Central Asia. Part II: Professional and working holidays
13. Media in Central Asia: Print Media
14. Media in Central Asia: TV

CADGAT has also produced a database on 'Elites in Central Asia', which can be found at the same website.

Data collection and outline of report

Data collection for the CADGAT media reports was carried out in August–December 2013, so the figures presented here reflect the situation at that point in time. This report is intended as an overview that can be updated later. Sources of information are listed in footnotes, with access dates.

Background of report

The development of mass media in the Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan since independence differs considerably. All five countries have non-state media; and international organizations conduct workshops, trainings and various events. The media have high influence on local society. This data review presents some aspects of media and related topics in the Central Asian region.

Key findings

- The top radio stations are privately financed, except in Turkmenistan, where all radio stations are state-owned.
- Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have the highest amount of broadcasting in Russian. In Kyrgyzstan, there is a near equal amount that is broadcasted in Kyrgyz and Russian; this has remained stable since independence.
- In Turkmenistan, all national radio channels broadcast in Turkmen. In Tajikistan, a clear majority broadcast in Tajik. This has also remained stable since independence. Overall, there seems to be few changes as regards radio broadcasting language for all five countries over the years compared here.

1. Radio stations (in absolute figures)

	Total no. of radio stations	State-owned	Private	Internat. funding	Commercial	Broadcast in national language	In Russian	In other languages	With national coverage	With regional coverage	Foreign radio stations available ¹
Kazakhstan	58 ²	8	50	0	0	1	N/A	0	7 ³	51 ⁴	0
Kyrgyzstan ⁵	35	3	30	2	0	23	22	4	4	31	11
Tajikistan	19	7	5 ⁶	3	12	15	2	2	8	11	4
Turkmenistan ⁷	4	4	0	0	0		0	1	4	0	1 ⁸
Uzbekistan ⁹	36	5	31	2	25	36	12	13 ¹⁰	2	34	30

¹ Not registered in Kyrgyzstan, but available for listening.

² Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. List of National Radio Channels as of 1 November 2014. Available from: <http://info-con.mid.gov.kz/ru/pages/reestr-otechestvennyh-radiokanalov-po-sostoyaniyu-na-1-noyabrya-2014-g>

³ Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. List of National Radio Channels as of 1 November 2014. Available from: <http://info-con.mid.gov.kz/ru/pages/reestr-otechestvennyh-radiokanalov-po-sostoyaniyu-na-1-noyabrya-2014-g>

⁴ Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. List of National Radio Channels as of 1 November 2014. Available from: <http://info-con.mid.gov.kz/ru/pages/reestr-otechestvennyh-radiokanalov-po-sostoyaniyu-na-1-noyabrya-2014-g>

⁵ Data reflect combined information drawn from Journalists Public Foundation, 'Katalog SMI v Kyrgyzstane' (ed. Marat Tokoev), 2013, and M-Vector, 2013. 'Povedenie i vospriyatie media auditorii v 2012 g', p, 14, available at http://m-vector.com/upload/news/media_report_3th_wave/ru/Section_A_Radio_ru.pdf.

Some columns include the same radio channels (such as foreign and private etc.).

⁶ Large stations (including regional) with potential audience of more than 100,000.

⁷ <http://medeniyyet.gov.tm/index.php/ru/2013-06-02-17-51-37/144-информация-о-кинематографии-и-телерадиовещании-нашей-страны>, accessed 8 October 2013.

⁸ Radio 'Azathabar'

⁹ Estimated on the basis of the report www.regnum.ru 'Госагентство по печати: В Узбекистане действуют более шестисот независимых СМИ,' <http://www.regnum.ru/news/polit/1339362.html>, last visited 13 October 2013.

¹⁰ Kazakh, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Tatar, English, German, French.

2. Top five radio programmes

Table 2.1 Kazakhstan

The only available source is TNS Central Asia, with weekly ratings of the most popular TV and radio programmes. There is no information available on a monthly basis. The table is based on the rating of the most popular radio programmes for four weeks in September 2013 (2–8 September; 9–15 September; 16–22 September; 23–29 September). TNS Central Asia does not indicate number of listeners, only programme ratings.¹¹

Name of station	Name of programme	Type of programme	Coverage	Ownership/ source of financing
#1 Radio retro	<i>Poslednie isvestiya na radio</i> (Latest News on Radio)	News	National ¹²	Private
#2 Radio retro	News in brief	News	National	Private
#3 Radio retro	News in brief	News	National	Private
#4 Radio retro	<i>Fiskultprivet</i> (Hello everyone)	Entertainment	National	Private
#5 Autoradio	<i>Vigodniy Shopping v Merey</i>	Entertainment	National	Private

¹¹ TNS Central Asia, Top Weekly Radio Programmes, http://www.tns-global.kz/ru/research/radio_index_l1.php, accessed 20 September 2013.

¹² Radio Retro is available in 28 cities of Kazakhstan. See <http://www.retrofm.kz/index.php?go=Content&id=224>, accessed 16 January 2014.

Table 2.2. Kyrgyzstan

	Name of radio station	Type of programme	Number of listeners (daily)	Coverage	Ownership/source of financing
#1	Kyrgyzstan Obondoru	Music	981 000	National	Private
#2	Evropa Plus	Music	541 000	National	Private
#3	Retro FM	Music	333 000	National	Private
#4	EI FM	Music, news	261,000	Regional	Private
#5	Birinchi Radio	News	247,000	National	State

Table 2.3 Tajikistan¹³

	Name of radio station	Type of programme	Number of listeners	Coverage	Ownership/source of financing
#1	Akhbor	News	1–1.5 mill.	National	State
#2	Subkhi Vatan	Morning talk show	1 million	National	Private
#3	Reporter	Analysis/news	1 million	National	Private
#4	Molodezhniy kanal	Music	500 000	Dushanbe, DRS ¹⁴	Private
#5	Maximum	Music/entertainment	500 000	Dushanbe, DRS	Private

¹³ As there were no reliable sources, the country researcher conducted interviews for information on the most popular radio programs. Information on the coverage comes from the radio channels' websites. Radio Vatan - <http://vatan.tj/>; Radio Khovar - <http://www.khovar.tj/>; Radio Asia Plus - <http://asiaplusradio.tj/>.

¹⁴ Districts of Republican Subordination.

Table 2.4 Turkmenistan¹⁵

	Name of radio station	Type of programme	Coverage	Ownership/source of financing
#1	Watan radio ('Motherland')	News	National	Government
#2	Owaz radio ('Melody')	Music	National	Government
#3	Miras ('Heritage')	Culture	National	Government
#4	Azathabar ('Freedom news')	Turkmenistan news	Foreign	Radio Free Europe'
#5	Çar tarapdan ('From four sides')	Youth news	National	Government

Table 2.5 Uzbekistan¹⁶

	Name of radio station	Type of programme	Number of listeners	Coverage	Ownership/source of financing
#1	Radio Grand	Music, news	364 200	National	Private
#2	Uzbegin Taronasi ('My English Melody')	Music, news	229 200	National	OOO" Taronas", Private firm "Uzbegin Holding"
#3	Hamroh ('Companion')	Music, news	188 800	National	Private
#4	Eho Doliniy (Valley echo)	Music, news	141 700	National	NGO "Vodiy Jamoatchilik Telereadiokompaniyasi"
#5	Terra	Music, news	134 800	National	Terra Group

¹⁵ <http://medeniyyet.gov.tm/index.php/ru/2013-06-02-17-51-37/144-информация-о-кинематографии-и-телерадиовещании-нашей-страны>, accessed 8 October 2013.

¹⁶ Ruslan Kuzmenko, 'Рейтинг радиостанций Ташкента,' <http://pr.uz/chastnoe-mnenie/6476>, accessed 17 October 2013.

3. Radio stations according to categories (September/October 2013)

Country	Spoken (no music)	Music only	Commercial	Non-commercial	Multi-theme radio (music/news/reports)	Culture	Youth
KAZ ¹⁷	0	10	0	0	48	0	0
KYR ¹⁸	8	11	1	0	12	2	1
TAJ ¹⁹	3	5	0	0	11	0	0
TUR ²⁰	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
UZB ²¹	11	55	10	25	0	0	0

4. Media and language

4.1 Kazakhstan

According to the Art.18 of the 1997 Law on Languages,²² 'The Republic of Kazakhstan shall provide for the functioning of the official state language²³ as well as other languages in publications and the media. The time of broadcast on state language in TV and radio programmes shall not be less than the total volume of programmes broadcast in other languages.

According to the Law on Mass Media (Art.3 item 3; replaced in 2012 with the adoption of the Law on Broadcasting), the Law on Languages (Art. 18) and the Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting (Art. 10) all broadcasters are to offer 50% of their content in Kazakh and 50% in Russian. A significant proportion is to be generated locally, and only 20% re-broadcast content is allowed. Devoting less airtime to broadcasting television and radio programming in the state language than

¹⁷ Ministry of Investment and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. List of National Radio Channels as of 1 November 2014. Available from: <http://info-con.mid.gov.kz/ru/pages/reestr-otechestvennyh-radiokanalov-po-sostoyaniyu-na-1-noyabrya-2014-g>

¹⁸ Data reflect combined information drawn from Journalists Public Foundation, 'Katalog SMI v Kyrgyzstane' (ed. Marat Tokoev), 2013, and M-Vector, 2013. 'Povedenie i vospriyatie media auditorii v 2012 g', p, 14, available at http://m-vector.com/upload/news/media_report_3th_wave/ru/Section_A_Radio_ru.pdf.

¹⁹ Author's estimates.

²⁰ <http://medeniyet.gov.tm/index.php/ru/2013-06-02-17-51-37/144-информация-о-кинематографии-и-телерадиовещании-нашей-страны>, accessed 8 October 2013.

²¹ <http://worldradiomap.com/tm/ashgabat>, accessed 9 October 2013.

²² Author's estimates.

²³ The law on Languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 11 July 1997, #151-I.

²⁴ In Kazakhstan, the state language is Kazakh. Russian language has official status.

to programmes in other languages is punishable by fines, although this regulation is not always strictly observed.²⁴

Table 4.2 Kyrgyzstan, radio stations and languages²⁵

	National	Russian	English	Uzbek	Turkish
1991	6	2	0	0	0
1995	14	11	0	0	0
2000	18	18	0	1	1
2005	18	20	0	1	2
2010	21	20	0	1	2
2013	23	22	0	2	2

Table 4.3 Tajikistan, radio stations and languages

	National	Russian	English	Uzbek
1991	4	3	n/a	n/a
1995	7	2	n/a	n/a
2000	15	3	n/a	n/a
2005	13	3	n/a	n/a
2010	15	2	n/a	1
2013	16	2	n/a	1

²⁴ Open Society Foundations, 2013. *Mapping Digital Media: Kazakhstan. Country Report*, p.24 <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/mapping-digital-media-kazakhstan>, accessed 14 April 2014.

²⁵ Sources include Journalists Public Foundation, 'Katalog SMI v Kyrgyzstane' (ed. Marat Tokoev), 2013, and estimates of interviewed experts. Please note that radio channels that air in more than one language are counted in each of relevant columns.

Table 4.4 Turkmenistan, radio stations and languages²⁶

	National	Russian	Multi: Turkmen, English, Russian
2005	3	0	1
2010	4	0	1
2013 ²⁷	4	0	1

Table 4.5 Uzbekistan, radio stations and languages²⁸

	National	Russian	English	Other (Kazakh, Tajik, Tatar, Bashkir and others)
1991	4	3	1	1
1995 ²⁹	4	3	1	1
2000 ³⁰	12	10	5	5
2005 ³¹	13	10	5	5
2010 ³²	36	12	9	8
2013 ³³	35	12	9	8 ³⁴

²⁶ http://turkmenistan.usembassy.gov/radio_stations.html, accessed 5 April 2014.

²⁷ <http://medeniyet.gov.tm/index.php/en/2012-12-14-02-12-59/145-information-about-television,-radio-and-film-industry-of-the-country>, accessed 5 April 2014.

²⁸ Radio stations in Uzbekistan broadcast mostly in Uzbek, but a significant number are multilingual, broadcasting in various other languages in addition to Uzbek.

²⁹ Data from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/uzbek/Uzbek-03.htm>, accessed 18 October 2013.

³⁰ Information from <http://www.pressreference.com/Uz-Z/Uzbekistan.html>, accessed 18 October 2013.

³¹ Data from <http://www.gphe.org/countries/Uzbekistan/info.php>, accessed 18 October 2013.

³² 'В Узбекистане за последние 10 лет число печатных СМИ увеличилось в два раза'

<http://www.regnum.ru/news/1364779.html>, accessed 18 October 2013,

³³ Data from www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2013/uzbekistan, accessed 18 October 2013.

³⁴ Kazakh, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Tatar, English, German, French, Italian.