

CADGAT

Central Asia Data Gathering and Analysis Team

**Radio in Central Asia**

Central Asia Regional Data Review

No. 15   
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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.

## Radio stations (in absolute figures)

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

## 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]](#footnote-11)

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

**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** | El FM | Music, news | 261,000 | Regional | Private |
| **#5** | Birinchi Radio | News | 247,000 | National | State |

**Table 2.3 Tajikistan[[13]](#footnote-13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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]](#footnote-14) | Private |
| **#5** | Maximum | Music/entertain-ment | 500 000 | Dushanbe, DRS | Private |

**Table 2.4 Turkmenistan[[15]](#footnote-15)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 Uzbekistan[[16]](#footnote-16)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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** | Uzbegim Taronasi (‘My English Melody’) | Music, news | 229 200 | National | OOO” Tarona”, Private firm “Uzbegim 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 |

# 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]](#footnote-17) | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| KYR[[18]](#footnote-18) | 8 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| TAJ[[19]](#footnote-19) | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| TUR[[20]](#footnote-20) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| UZB[[21]](#footnote-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]](#footnote-22) ‘The Republic of Kazakhstan shall provide for the functioning of the official state language[[23]](#footnote-23) 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 to programmes in other languages is punishable by fines, although this regulation is not always strictly observed.[[24]](#footnote-24)

**Table 4.2 Kyrgyzstan, radio stations and languages[[25]](#footnote-25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 |

**Table 4.4 Turkmenistan, radio stations and languages [[26]](#footnote-26)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **National** | **Russian** | **Multi: Turkmen, English, Russian** |
| **2005** | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| **2010** | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| **2013[[27]](#footnote-27)** | 4 | 0 | 1 |

**Table 4.5 Uzbekistan, radio stations and languages [[28]](#footnote-28)**

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

1. Not registered in Kyrgyzstan, but available for listening. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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.). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Large stations (including regional) with potential audience of more than 100,000. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <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. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Radio ‘Azathabar’ [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. # Estimated on the basis of the report [www.regnum.ru](http://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.

   [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Kazakh, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Tatar, English, German, French. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. TNS Central Asia, Top Weekly Radio Programmes, <http://www.tns-global.kz/ru/research/radio_index_l1.php>, accessed 20 September 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
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/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Districts of Republican Subordination. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <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. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. ### Ruslan Kuzmenko, ‘Рейтинг радиостанций Ташкента,’ <http://pr.uz/chastnoe-mnenie/6476>, accessed 17 October 2013.

    [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
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 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
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>. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Author’s estimates. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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.

    <http://worldradiomap.com/tm/ashgabat> , accessed 9 October 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Author’s estimates. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. The law on Languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 11 July 1997, #151-I. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. In Kazakhstan, the state language is Kazakh. Russian language has official status. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. <http://turkmenistan.usembassy.gov/radio_stations.html>, accessed 5 April 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Radio stations in Uzbekistan broadcast mostly in Uzbek, but a significant number are multilingual, broadcasting in various other languages in addition to Uzbek. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Data from <http://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/uzbek/Uzbek-03.htm>, accessed 18 October 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Information from <http://www.pressreference.com/Uz-Z/Uzbekistan.html>, accessed 18 October 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Data from <http://www.gphe.org/countries/Uzbekistan/info.php>, accessed 18 October 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
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, [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Data from [www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2013/uzbekistan](http://www.freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2013/uzbekistan), accessed 18 October 2013. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Kazakh, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Tatar, English, German, French, Italian. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)