

## Strategic Foresight at the World Economic Forum

# Scenarios for the South Caucasus and Central Asia

The regional economic integration of Central Asia and the South Caucasus is at a turning point. Many different visions exist for bringing the region's economies closer together, from a Eurasian Union to a New Silk Road. Yet few discussions have focused on identifying the drivers justifying these visions and exploring their potential future evolutions.

**Through its Strategic Foresight practice, the World Economic Forum provides a unique, neutral platform and a powerful process to lead a strategic dialogue among regional stakeholders on the possible future pathways for the region's economic integration.**

### Objectives

The Scenarios for the South Caucasus and Central Asia project provides a framework for constructive and open discussions among key stakeholders.

Through the Forum's multistakeholder scenario planning methodology, the interactions are aimed at developing:

- **New and systemic insights:** In addition to producing scenarios for the region's future economic integration, this project will also explore its systemic drivers and obstacles.
- **A new and strengthened community of interest:** Because the value of this project lies in its process, enhancing dialogue among the region's stakeholders will be crucial to its success.

The Forum has extensive experience in this regard and will continue to build on it.

- **Policy and strategy impact:** This process will support decision-makers across the region in determining their own policies and strategies for the economic future of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

### Approach and Outputs

The project involves a series of virtual and in-person interviews, workshops, high-level sessions at World Economic Forum events, as well as the publication of an intermediary product and a final report summarizing the discussions.

To complement and support this process, the project team will organize a number of surveys to provide quantitative data and gain the perspectives of a wider set of stakeholders; this will be reflected in the discussions throughout the project as well as in the final report.

The project builds on a dedicated 18-month process with key milestones linked to the different steps of the scenario planning methodology. The milestones coincide with the Forum's main regional and global events.

#### Step 1: Perspectives and Analysis

Exploration and analysis of:

- Stakeholder **visions**
- **Opportunities** and **challenges**
- **Drivers** and outcomes

#### Step 2: Scenario Narratives

Creation of scenarios based on:

- Identification of **critical uncertainties**
- Discussion of **challenging futures**
- Stakeholder and expert **dialogue**

#### Step 3: Synthesis and Implications

Delivery of policy and strategy impact:

- Synthesis of major **insights**
- Public and private **launch**
- Targeted discussion of **implications**

## Stakeholder Engagement

The Forum has set up an **external advisory/expert group**, which will provide guidance on the scope and direction of the project. It is composed of key Forum and external stakeholders of the South Caucasian and Central Asian economy (including, among others, representatives from the public and private sector, the media, civil society and academia) and will particularly involve relevant members of the Forum's Global Agenda Councils. The inputs of the external advisory/expert group will play an important part in shaping the scenario report. However, the Forum has full editorial control over the final product.

A broad range of **other participants** will be involved throughout the process via interviews and workshops, some of which will be held at the Forum's regional events and its Annual Meetings in Davos-Klosters.

The World Economic Forum has brought together a **highly qualified internal team** to run and support the scenario process, composed of experienced scenario planners and regional managers.

## Events

**World Economic Forum Strategic Dialogue on the future of the South Caucasus and Central Asia**, Baku, Azerbaijan, 7-8 April 2013

**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions**, Dalian, People's Republic of China, 11-13 September 2013

**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2014**, Davos-Klosters, 22-25 January 2014

**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions**, Tianjin, People's Republic of China, 10 - 12 September 2014

**World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015**, Davos-Klosters, 21-24 January 2015

## Publications and Online Materials

- The Scenarios for the South Caucasus and Central Asia report, to be launched in fall 2014
- A short video clip introducing the project's findings
- Digital media strategy to promote outcomes of the process

## Getting Involved

For more information on the project and to get involved, please contact:

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