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**2016-2021-ЖЫЛДАРЫ БОРБОРДУК ЕВРОПАДАН КЫРГЫЗСТАНГА  
ТУРИСТТИК АГЫМ ТУУРАЛУУ**

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**О ТУРИСТСКИХ ПОТОКАХ ИЗ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ ЕВРОПЫ  
В КЫРГЫЗСТАН В 2016-2021 ГОДАХ**

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**ABOUT THE TOURIST FLOW FROM CENTRAL EUROPE  
TO KYRGYZSTAN IN 2016-2021**

УДК: 379.85

*Жүргүзүлгөн изилдөө Борбордук Европанын айрым өлкөлөрүнөн Кыргызстанга 2016-2021-жылдардагы туристтик агымдын көлөмүндөгү өзгөрүүлөрдү талдоого, анализдөөгө багытталган. Талдоо жана анализдөө үчүн Австрия, Чехия, Польша жана Швейцария тандалып алынган жана алар аймактан бөлүнүп алынган, атайын өкүлү деп эсептесек болот. Жаратылышы кооз жана баалуулуктарына бай Кыргызстан, активдүү туризмдин ар кандай формаларын практикалоого, башкача айтканда иш жүзүнө ашырууга мүмкүндүк берет. Бирок, анын Борбордук Азияда жайгашкандыгы бул өлкөгө кызыккан потенциалдуу туристтерге оңой жетүүгө мүмкүнчүлүк бербейт, көптөгөн тоскоолдуктар бар. Туризмдеги өзгөрүүлөрдү талдоодо Европандан туризмди өнүктүрүүгө эң чоң тоскоолдук Кыргызстандан аралыктын алыстыгы жана туристтик жеткиликтүүлүк экенин көрсөттү. Өзүнчө өлкөлөрдүн туристтер ортосундагы кирешелериндеги айырмачылыктар бул өлкөлөрдүн трафигинин көлөмүнө таасирин тийгизген жок.*

**Негизги сөздөр:** Борбордук Европа, туризм, туристтик кыймыл, анализ, туристтердин динамикасы, Кыргызстан, туристтик дестинация.

*Проведенное исследование направлено на анализ изменений в объеме туристического потока из отдельных стран Центральной Европы в Кыргызстан в 2016-2021 годах. Австрия, Чехия, Польша и Швейцария были выбраны для анализа, и их можно считать специально представленными, изолированными от региона. Кыргызстан, богатый природными красотами и ценностями, позволяет практиковать, то есть практиковать различные формы активного туризма. Однако его расположение в Центральной Азии не позволяет легко добраться потенциальным туристам, интересующимся этой страной, с множеством препятствий. Анализ изменений в туризме показал, что самым большим препятствием для развития туризма из Европы является удаленность от Кыргызстана и туристическая доступность. Различия в доходах между туристами отдельных стран не повлияли на объем трафика этих стран.*

**Ключевые слова:** Центральная Европа, туризм, туристическое движение, анализ, динамика туристов, Кыргызстан, туристическая дестинация.

*The undertaken research is aimed at analyzing changes in the volume of tourist traffic from selected Central European countries*

*to Kyrgyzstan in 2016-2021. Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Switzerland were selected for the analysis, which were considered representative for the region. Kyrgyzstan, rich in natural values, allows you to practice various forms of active tourism. However, its location in Central Asia does not make it easy for potential tourists interested in this country to reach. The analysis of changes in tourism showed that the biggest obstacle to the development of tourism from Europe is the physical distance and tourist accessibility. And differences in income between tourists from selected countries did not affect the volume of traffic from these countries.*

**Key words:** Central Europe, tourism, tourist movement, analysis, tourist dynamics, Kyrgyzstan, tourist destination.

Today, tourism is one of the most important sectors of the Kyrgyz economy. After the covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in tourism from abroad for two years. This was facilitated by the easing of restrictions on travel by air transport and an increase in the level of security outside the areas covered by military conflicts. Despite this, in 2022, the level of tourist flow still has not returned to the level of 2019. According to the UN WTO Tourism Development Analysis (2022), the number of international tourist traffic improved from -66% in January 2022 (compared to 2019) to -60% in February and -56% in March. More and more countries where tourism is profitable have relaxed travel restrictions, and the interference associated with covid-19 has decreased. Despite strong growth in the 1st quarter of 2022, international tourism remained 61% lower than in 2019. By region, Europe (+280%) received almost four times more international air traffic than in Q1 2021, while in the Americas (+117%) the number of arrivals more than doubled. However, the number of arrivals was still 43% and 46% lower than in 2019, respectively. The Middle East (+132%) and Africa (+96%) also recorded significant growth in Q1 2022 compared to 2021, but they remained 59% and 61% lower than in 2019, respectively. The Asia-Pacific region recorded an increase of 64%, but amounted to -93% compared to 2019. Against the background of these changes, the study of changes in the foreign tourist

flow at the regional and national level in the case of Kyrgyzstan is very interesting. In Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan is considered an island of democracy and where nature and the way of life of the population are still preserved in a primitive state.

In addition to the obvious tourist flow from neighboring countries and the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an analysis of arrivals to Kyrgyzstan from individual countries of Central Europe and its environs was carried out. By Central Europe we mean a belt of countries extending to the west of the borders of Germany, Austria and Italy and to the east of the borders of Russia (without the Kaliningrad region), Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (the St. Petersburg-Odessa line). Each country is distinguished by its geographical location, economy, history, political system or culture. Combining them together indicates the existence of a separate, specific spatial geographical location, clearly different from neighboring countries. From a political point of view, based on the historical background and the range of individual religious denominations, the center of Central Europe, a kind of core area covering the countries remaining in the sphere of influence of the former USSR in 1945-1989, are the current territories of Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. The border zone includes Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, western Belarus,

the Kaliningrad Region, western Ukraine, Romania, Vojvodina in Serbia, Slovenia, eastern Austria and east Germany, the former German Democratic Republic (the Elbe Line). This area is bordered by the regions of Western Europe, Scandinavia, Russia and the Balkan countries. The analysis selected countries with a similar distance to the target country, but differing in income and purchasing power of the population. For the Central European region, Austria and Switzerland, as well as the Czech Republic and Poland, were chosen as representatives of the region. At the same time, these countries do not have strong economic and political relations and interests with the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Kyrgyz Republic is mountainous, relatively small with about 199,800 km<sup>2</sup>, landlocked, in Central Asia with a population of 7 million people (2022). In Kyrgyzstan, you can see a variety of natural conditions and resources, which include biologically valuable fauna and flora, biosphere zones, lakes, mountains, rivers and glaciers (Schofield & Maccarrone-Eaglen, 2011). The peculiar nature and terrain allow you to engage in various types of active tourism, such as mountaineering, trekking, rock climbing, skiing, caving, horse riding and rafting (Turdumambetov, 2014). Natural potential determines the possibility of developing the country's tourism sector and creating new jobs in the service sector (Janish, 2017).

Table 1

Dynamics of tourist traffic in Kyrgyzstan in 2016-2021

Region / country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Kyrgyzstan (K.)	4 147,4	4 666,5	7 057,1	8 635,7	2 245,0	3 371,9
CIS (K.)	3 909,8	4 408,6	6 771,0	8 331,3	2 183,9	3 229,8
CIS / Total	94,27%	94,47%	95,95%	96,48%	97,28%	95,79%
Non CIS (K.)	237,6	257,9	286,1	304,4	61,1	142,1
Non CIS / Total	5,73%	5,53%	4,05%	3,52%	2,72%	4,21%

Source: Tourism in Kyrgyzstan 2017-2022 <http://www.stat.kg/ru/publications/sbornik-turizm-v-kyrgyzstane/>

In 2016-2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021 Kyrgyzstan recorded a constant, high increase in the number of tourists crossing the border (table 1). However, the majority of tourists come mainly from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Their share constantly exceeded 94% of the total tourist flow. The largest number of tourists, or, perhaps more precisely, people crossing the country's borders, came from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. However, if we subtract Uzbek citizens crossing the border arriving in Kyrgyzstan in search of work from the values given (Najibullah and Akimbek-uulu, 2021), we can conclude that the increase over the analyzed period is small or a decrease in the volume of tourist flow can be observed. In 2019, citizens of Uzbekistan accounted for as much as 56% of all people crossing the border of Kyrgyzstan.

Against the background of an increase in the number of people crossing the border from 4 million to more than

8.5 million, only 240,000 come from outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, which is only 3.5% to 5.7% of the total number of people who arrived in the country (table 1). However, taking into account the mass economic migration of Uzbeks to Kyrgyzstan (Najibullah and Akimbek-uulu, 2021) allows us to determine the exact values. If we subtract the citizens of Uzbekistan from the number of tourists, then their percentage can be doubled in some approximation.

Arrivals of people from countries outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, with the exception of Russia and Kazakhstan, can largely be considered tourist. Apart from Russia and Kazakhstan, tourists come mainly from European countries. The dynamics of changes in this case is definitely lower, although there is a slight upward trend. In 2016-2019, the number of people from these countries crossing the border increased from 238,000 to 304,000, which means an increase of almost 28%. An

obvious decline occurred in 2020, when restrictions related to the covid-19 pandemic were introduced in Europe and around the world. At this time, the tourist flow in

many directions almost stopped. In 2021 alone, the number of arrivals increased to 142,000, which is only 47% compared to 2019 (table 2).

Table 2

Dynamics of foreign tourist traffic from selected Central European countries, outside the Commonwealth of Independent States, in Kyrgyzstan in 2016-2021

Contry / region kraj	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Non CIS	237,6	257,9	286,1	304,4	61,1	142,1
Austria (K.)	1,5	1,6	2,3	0,2	0	0
share of Austrii	0,63%	0,62%	0,80%	0,07%	0,00%	0,00%
Czech Rep. (K.)	2	2,1	2,2	0,1	0,8	0,8
share of Czech Rep.	0,84%	0,81%	0,77%	0,03%	1,31%	0,56%
Poland (K.)	3,4	4,5	4,6	0,2	1,4	1,4
share of Poland	1,43%	1,74%	1,61%	0,07%	2,29%	0,99%
Switzerland (K.)	2,7	2,9	3,3	3,2	0,3	1,2
share of Switzerland	1,14%	1,12%	1,15%	1,05%	0,49%	0,84%

Source: Tourism in Kyrgyzstan 2017-2022 <http://www.stat.kg/ru/publications/sbornik-turizm-v-kyrgyzstane/>

Analyzing the data (table 2), we can conclude that among the analyzed countries, during this period, with the exception of 2019, Poland ranked first in terms of the number of people coming to Kyrgyzstan. Switzerland is in second place, followed by the Czech Republic and finally Austria. The dynamics of traffic changes from Poland showed steady growth in 2016-2018, and after a decline in 2019, stabilization in the next two years. In the case of Austria, we are seeing an increase and then a decrease in the number of arrivals over the same period. In the first three of the analyzed years, in the case of the Czech Republic, we are dealing with a slight increase, characteristic of the time of the pandemic, a decrease and a return of traffic, but still below the level of a thousand people. The same trend of changing dynamics can be traced in the case of Switzerland, but at a higher level than in the case of the Czech Republic.

Summing up, it should be emphasized that all traffic from the four selected Central European countries accounts for a small proportion, at the level of 3-5%, in the number of people crossing the border of Kyrgyzstan. As the analysis shows, neither the level of the economy in individual countries nor the size of disposable income affect the volume of traffic. Which in practice means a small interest of tourists from the surveyed countries in

Kyrgyzstan. However, the reasons for the lack of interest cannot be determined without further study of the subject.

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