The purpose of this paper is to analyse the mechanisms for the preparation and approval of national strategies for the development of Kyrgyzstan. This article also explores the relationship between the nature of the country’s political system and its development policy. The methodology centres on the analysis of legal acts that regulate procedures for the preparation and approval of national strategic documents, as well as official documents produced by the political system. The authors also examine the procedural aspects of the development strategies formulated by President Askar Akayev, Kurmanbek Bakiyev and Almazbek Atambayev. The main thesis of this paper states that, during more than 20 years of independence, Kyrgyzstan has not developed any legal procedures for the development of national strategic documents. As a result, local institutions have not been able to participate in the elaboration of draft strategies, and therefore the adopted strategies have not taken into account the real aspirations and needs of local communities. The centralized process of preparing strategies has been characterized by a high frequency of structural and personnel changes within national councils and in the adopted development strategies themselves.