

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

OSCE ACADEMY
in Bishkek



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of the OSCE Academy Board of Trustees, I am pleased to introduce the 2021 Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. This report is the culmination and celebration of so many achievements for the OSCE Academy during what has been another challenging year. It serves to outline the initiatives that the OSCE Academy accomplished over this past year, fostering innovative and adaptive learning techniques.

Amid all of the uncertainties, the OSCE Academy achieved milestone after milestone, developing new initiatives for students and strengthening its ties with regional and international academic partners. Today, the OSCE Academy is recognized both nationally and internationally for the quality of the educational programmes delivered to the students and the research conducted by the faculty. 2021 has also been a year in which the Academy established over a dozen new agreements for partnership and co-operation.

In 2021, the OSCE Academy welcomed 23 new students, and I have no doubt that they will be drawn to the unique approach to education at the OSCE Academy focused on student success and the future of the



Ambassador Alexey Rogov

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy,
Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

Central Asian region and the wider OSCE area. I would like to sincerely thank all students for choosing the OSCE Academy and trusting us to offer education and professional training that will move them along their path to successful careers.

Likewise, the Academy bid farewell to its 40 newest graduates. Today, the Alumni community of almost 600 graduates holds the Academy proudly up and provides a stable and useful platform for support, exchange of ideas and professional growth. In this annual report, you will find more details on the successes of the OSCE Academy's graduates in fulfilling their passions and pursuing their professional goals.

Throughout the difficult times, student welfare has remained the top priority for the OSCE Academy's Board of Trustees. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts and continuous support of the OSCE community and its participating States, the donor community, the academic partners, as well as the members of the Academy's Board of Trustees, the students of the Academy contin-

ued to engage with their studies and were able to either progress or graduate at the end of the academic year.

As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I would like to congratulate the entire team of the OSCE Academy, its staff and faculty members, for their dedication, hard work and significant contributions to another very successful year. In 2021, the OSCE Academy had many significant achievements of which to be proud and that revolved around improved professional opportunities and career options for students who have undertaken their studies at the OSCE Academy.

As we look into 2022, whatever it may hold, I have confidence that the OSCE Academy is in a strong position to contribute to keeping its students, faculty and staff engaged and safe while continuing to deliver on its Mission.

The following pages of this report contain summary of the major highlights of a very challenging but nonetheless productive year.

Warmest regards and enjoy the read!



Dr. Alexander Wolters

Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for 2021. This year we managed to come out from under the global pandemic and its multiple constraints put upon education and research. With the new Fall semester beginning in September our students were invited back into our premises, and visitors from close by and further afar were welcomed to participate in our conferences, workshops and trainings. While the pandemic was kept at bay (yet not overcome) the political developments in the wider region of Central Asia called for more efforts to create a truly regional academic and educational centre. I am proud that we have increased our outreach to partners in the region and I am happy about the growing exchange among students and joint collaborations with old and new colleagues. I hope that you will enjoy reading about our work and our achievements during the past year and about the Academy's development as a truly regional graduate institute of higher education and advanced research!

In 2021 we increased our outreach to Central Asian partners and formed links with the Webster University in Tashkent, with the Economic Research Institute in Nur-Sultan, and the National Institute for Strategic Studies in Bishkek. We also extended our cooperation with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting and begun collaboration with the EU-funded Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA) project, both located in Kyrgyzstan. We forged partnerships with colleagues and institutes further afar, for example with the Centre for European Security Studies in Groningen, The Netherlands, the Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V. in Berlin, Germany, and the Central Asia Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington Uni-

versity, the United States. We implemented projects with the SPCE Hub in Berlin, with AIDDATA at Williams & Mary, the United States, and with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, Germany.

In 2021 the Academy continued its efforts to produce high-quality academic and scholarly texts. We published 13 new Policy Briefs, 4 Academy Papers (Conference Reports), as well as a Special Issue on the Covid-19 Pandemic and its impact on Central Asia. Our new issue of the Analytical Yearbook (in Russian) was published in late 2021, while the second edited volume of our Springer Open Access Series with the title “Between Peace and Conflict in the East and the West” came out in August. As part of our collaboration within the AGRUMIG project we published two policy papers on the topic of migration. Last but not least, our faculty and researchers have been very successful in 2021 and published several articles in peer-reviewed journals while also participating in multiple events dedicated to the inquiry into the dynamics of transformation and change in the wider region of Central Asia.

Throughout the year we organized conferences, workshops, launched books and projects, and invited to take part in our summer schools and to attend multiple guest lectures. Our third annual Transformation in Central Asia conference took place in September with a focus on global transformation and thereby on the interplay between global norms and local processes of adaptation. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation which also supported the launch of the Academy’s first Central Asia Forecasting report, the result of an expert survey to project developments in the wider region. This project was implemented in cooperation with the SPCE hub and with many affiliated and external experts from various disciplines who all share an interest in Central Asia. In November we hosted the launch of the European Handbook of Central Asian Studies, published with the support of the Institut Français d’Etudes sur l’Asie Centrale. Our faculty as well as the Academy’s postdoc and associated researchers gave public talks at various points in 2021 in online and hybrid format, presenting their work and testifying to the growing scope of research conducted at our institute.

In January 2021 the Academy organized a hybrid graduation ceremony and, together with many supporters and partners, congratulated 34 students of the class of 2019-2020 for the successful completion of their programmes and awarded them with their certificates. In September 2021 the Academy invited 24 students from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as from Belarus, to enroll in its two MA programmes and to study in the following 18 months such diverse subjects as Econometrics, Economic Governance, Development Studies, Politics, Security Studies, Political Theory, or Project Development. Although many more had applied, eventually and due to the challenging situation in the wider region of Central Asia in 2021, only a limited number of applicants were able to travel to Bishkek to study at the Academy. The students of the Academic Year 2020-2021, like the year before, received an extension to complete their programmes in January 2022 and more than 40 professionals from Central Asia submitted their thesis works at the end of the year.

In 2021 many OSCE participating States supported the Academy’s various projects and activities with their generous contributions. Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States, pledged funding to fully cover the related Extra-budgetary costs of the Academy. NUPI, with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contributed via its long-term partnership programme that encompasses all activities at the Academy. The government of the Kyrgyz Republic continued its generous support to the Academy and provided the institute’s facilities free of charge. Finally, with the contribution from the Unified Budget, the OSCE via its Programme Office in Bishkek provided with the essential support to the OSCE Academy and its administrative functioning.

We are profoundly grateful for this support that we have been given in such challenging times! We will increase our efforts to conduct advanced research and provide excellent education, to expand our collaborations and partnerships, and to engage in policy exchange to serve the wider region of Central Asia and the whole of the OSCE area.

For now we hope you will enjoy our Annual Report for 2021!

ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In June 2021, the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy held its regular meeting. The meeting served to inform the members of the Board about the continuous adaptation of the Academy's programmes to the conditions of distance- and hybrid learning formats and to report on new projects and programmatic plans for the next year. Special attention was paid to the commencement of the new extrabudgetary project and its integral plans to establish a Bachelor in Economics in 2022 and a PhD in the field of Security Studies in 2023. A second Board of Trustees meeting was held on extraordinary terms in October 2021, in response to the Academy's management's request to inform the trustees about the challenges related to the fall of Kabul to the Taliban forces. Topics of discussions of this

meeting were the questions of visas and travel options for Afghan students as well as the development of future Calls for Applications to the Academy's Master programmes.

The Academy continued to build up its organizational capacity: The Research and Training Department received further support with a new specialist taking over responsibility for the organization of academic events, while responsibilities inside the International Office were expanded further with the help of a second assistant working on Public Relations. The hiring of trainees to support in various tasks allowed the Academy to continue developing its programmatic activities and taking on new projects.

GRADUATE EDUCATION



Protecting the safety of the students and faculty members remained one of the key priorities during 2021 and the OSCE Academy has continued to offer hybrid mode teaching and learning activities throughout the year. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, the MA Programmes in Politics & Security and in Economic Governance & Development have focused on providing a full educational experience to pursue graduate education of international standards. By the beginning of the spring semester most of the students arrived in Bishkek to continue their study in a hybrid format with access to the OSCE Academy's facilities. Thus, the 2020-2021 student cohorts started a safe and gradual return from the online to the face-to-face education process through participating classes for the selected courses. The programmes maintained most of its Bishkek-based permanent faculty members including Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr (DAAD Associate Professor), Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva, Teaching Fellows Dr. David Karas, Dr. Nurgul Ukueva, and Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy. In 2021 the OSCE Academy welcomed new faculty members Dr. Elena Zhirukhina, and Dr. Viktoria Akchurina. Prior to joining the OSCE Academy Dr. Elena Zhirukhina had been a Marie Curie Fellow at the University of St. Andrews, and Dr. Viktoria Akchurina worked for EXOP-Consulting in Germany.

During the winter and spring semesters students had the opportunity to be taught by leading academics from the OSCE Academy's partner institutions: Dr. Indra Overland, Dr. Helge Blakkisrud, and Dr. Roman Vakulchuk from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI); Dr. Barbara Christophe from the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Germany; Dr. Yana Leksyutina via the Gorchakov Fund, the Russian Federation; Dr. Daniela Irrera from the University of Catania, Italy; Dr. Tim Epkenhans from the University of Freiburg, Germany; and Dr. Gordana Pesakovic from Webster University, USA. Thus, despite the challenges of Covid-19 students were able to benefit

from multiple meetings with high-level professionals and experts who conducted the modules virtually. The faculty's effort to maintain high quality of teaching and student-oriented instruction during online and hybrid mode were regarded by students and an average score of evaluations results reached 4.60 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best.

In February 2022, during the Graduation ceremony held in a hybrid format, 39 students received their diplomas and awards. Gavkharkhon Mamadzhanova from Tajikistan and Zhibek Zhorokulova from Kyrgyzstan - students of the MA Programmes in Economic Governance & Development and in Politics & Security (Central Asia) respectively, were recognized for academic achievements as top GPA students. Ryan Michael Schweitzer from the U.S. presented the results of his research in the MA Thesis "Civil Society Development Through Chaikhana (Teahouses): Ferghana Valley" and Erzhan Zhyrgalbek uulu from Kyrgyzstan who wrote a thesis on the 'Impact of Education on Household Saving Behavior in Kyrgyzstan', received the "Best Thesis" awards.

While a cohort of students 2020-2021 completed their study in hybrid format, most of the newly enrolled students started the academic year in a classroom in compliance with hygiene requirements and physical distancing. Covid-19 restrictions and regional developments in the wider Central Asian region during 2021 have had an impact on the number of students enrolled for 2021-2023. Not all the invited students were able to come to Bishkek due to family reasons, visa and travel limitations, leaving 21 students at the beginning of academic year for the two MA programmes, instead of 25-30 students initially planned for each programme. Although a smaller number of students in the groups, the OSCE Academy maintained a high standard of teaching, and the transition to the in-person teaching format starting from the fall semester have served to effective

and fruitful cooperation between the students and faculty. Thus, our visiting professors, Dr. Clara Portela from the University of Valencia, Spain and Dr. Pal Dunay from the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, as well as Bishkek-based faculty members conducted their courses and modules in face-to-face format.

In 2021 the MA Programme in Economic Governance & Development refilled by new faculty member Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Associate Professor of the Higher School of Economics of KAZGUU University, Kazakhstan who joined the OSCE Academy in the framework of newly established academic partnership, as well as Ms. Lisa Janz who was appointed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to teach German language for students of the MA Programme in the Politics & Security (Central Asia)



Since 2019 the OSCE Academy is engaged in Erasmus+ KA 1 (Learning Mobility for Individuals). This year the OSCE Academy was glad to receive funding for projects and mobilities with two more universities in Germany: Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg and Philipps-Universität Marburg, and welcome its 2nd Erasmus+ exchange student from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (NUPSPA) who arrived in Bishkek in May 2021.

“I have been eager to begin my study mobility at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek shortly after my admission to the PhD programme, since my research is focused on Central Asia. But the pandemic delayed my departure until May 2021. Indeed, I expected to face multiple challenges in undertaking my Erasmus mobility, primarily due to the risks related to the pandemic, but also due to what I feared as language barriers given my beginner skills in Russian. Yet, as soon as I arrived, I met very friendly people, open, and always happy to help. Besides the academic activity and the courses which I will follow during the next three months at the OSCE Academy, being in Kyrgyzstan is a valuable opportunity. I strongly believe that Kyrgyzstan can offer an enriching experience from multiple points of view. Being able to visit places with a rich historical heritage, such as the Ala-Too square, getting to know Kyrgyz culture from close, and having the chance to see the outstanding mountains here can be a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am looking forward to the next experiences in Kyrgyzstan.”

- **David Onel,**
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration,
Romania

INTERNSHIPS 2020-2021

In accordance with the academic regulations of the MA Programme in Politics and Security (Central Asia) and the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development, students are obliged to conduct internship during the Fall semester of the programme. Internship is an important part of practical education and a prerequisite for successful studies of students in the view of future professional activities.

Winter and spring semesters were followed by the MA thesis research period and internships. Due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2021, students completed their internships in an 'acceptable for receiving organization' mode. Online, hybrid and offline internships were organized at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, the Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki, and the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in Germany. In 2021 three students had an opportunity to conduct their internships at the OSCE Academy's new partner institutions - at the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey and the Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V. (CRISP) in Germany. Regional internship organizations include the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ - Kyrgyzstan), the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung - Kazakhstan), the Central Asia Barometer in Kyrgyzstan, the Regional Institute of Central Asia and other organizations.



“OSCE Academy opened new doors for me: doors of expanded network and most importantly, career opportunities. Thanks to my internship, I had a chance to work at the OSCE Secretariat for 4 more months, which was insightful and educational.”

- **Gavkharkhon Mamadzhanova,**
MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development 2020-2021

International student internships for 2020-2021



- OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria (hybrid) **5**
- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (offline) **4**
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Switzerland (online) **2**
- CRISP, Berlin, Germany (offline) **1**
- European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg, Germany (offline) **1**
- University of Catania, Italy (online) **2**
- Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey (online) **2**
- Gorchakov Fund, Russia (offline) **1**

Regional student internships for 2020-2021



ADMISSION PROCESS 2021

In spite of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on travel and study, the number of applications to the OSCE Academy's MA programmes in 2021 decreased by more than 400 compared with 2020, reaching 1 178 for both the MA in Economic Governance & Development and the MA in Politics & Security Programmes.

The OSCE Academy taking the necessary steps to ensure effective and transparent admission process to follow the international standards in testing. Thus, in conjunction and with support from the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, field-based admission tests were organized. An invaluable assistance was provided by the colleagues from the American University of Afghanistan who had made conducting the admission tests in Kabul possible.

From 1178 candidates, 65 matched international standards and therefore were invited to interviews, having been considered the top candidates of high caliber. Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the video interviews (via Zoom) for 21 applicants for the Master's in Economic Governance and Development (MA EGD) and 44 applicants for the Master's in Policy and Security (MA PS) were organized in the period from 21 to 27 May 2021. As a result, 12 out of 613 and 19 out of 565 candidates were enrolled to the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme and the MA in Politics and Security Programme respectively.

Admission statistics for the academic year of 2021-2023

MA Programme in Politics and Security

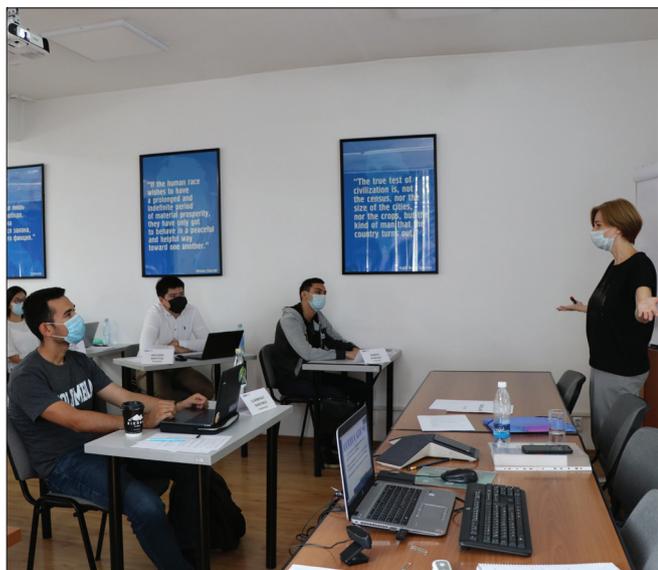
565	219	338	2	6	19
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, TJ, TURK, UZB)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Number of students admitted to the programme

Admission statistics for the academic year of 2021-2023

MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

613	143	464	2	4	12
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, TJ, TURK, UZB)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Number of students admitted to the programme

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME



Since 2018 the OSCE Academy in Bishkek organizes its Preparatory Summer School Programme for newly accepted Master students to the Politics & Security and Economic Governance & Development Programmes, and for senior students and recent university graduates, selected via a special call.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Summer School in 2021 was organized in hybrid format for 58 participants from Afghanistan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. During the Programme the participants had an opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills on Mathematics for Economists, the Theory of Probability and Statistics, Academic Writing and Honesty, and the Introduction to Research Methods in Social Sciences. Courses were taught by the OSCE Academy's permanent faculty and recruited lecturers.

Summer School Participants, 2021

EGD



PS

2/2		2/0		2/1		3/2	
1/0		0/1		0/1		1/1	
10/5		2/0		3/8		3/4	
1/0		1/0		1/1		0/0	

MA PROGRAMME IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



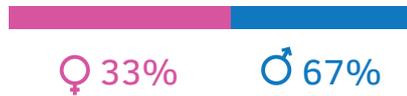
The Master of Arts in Politics and Security continued to provide students from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and further abroad graduate education of international standards in the fields of political science, international relations, security, democratization and human rights, sustainable development.

Graduated students, class 2020–2021

21 Students have graduated from the programme:

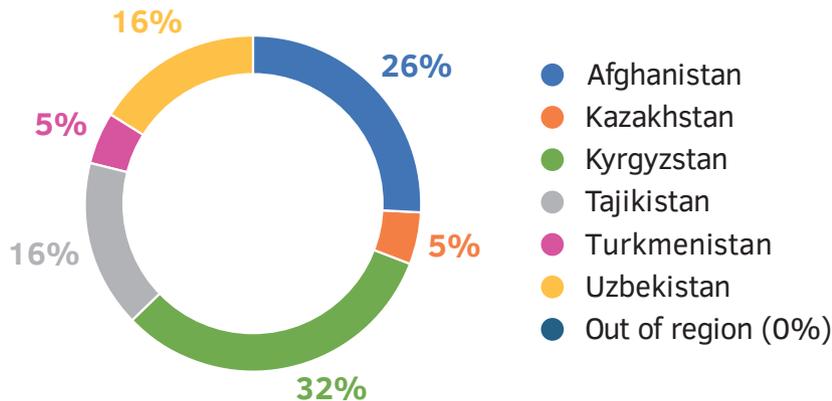
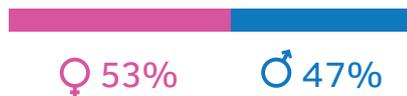


Gender balance



Enrolled students by country

Gender balance out of 19 enrolled students



“The Academy provides its students with the unique opportunity to discuss critical and oftentimes culturally sensitive political, security and socio-economic topics, simultaneously offering a safe and intellectually challenging environment. Students acquaint themselves with the perspectives of their counterparts from other countries, while being frequently posed together before various tasks, assignments and conundrums, provided to them by teachers and guest speakers. At the same time, the open-minded approach of the teaching staff, combined with the focus on profound self-development, provides an atmosphere for effortlessly creating life-long friendships between students who engage in their studies together.”

- **Dr. Daria Vorobyeva,**
Teaching Fellow

Curriculum

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the curriculum offered 17 full term, 7 modular and 7 elective courses in total.

Fall semester

Full-term

- International Relations
- Central Asian Politics and Security
- Research Methods in Social Science
- Human Rights and International Law
- Governance, Democracy and Public Policy
- German Language
- Russian Language

Modular

- The OSCE
- European Politics

Winter semester

Full-term

- Research Methods
- International Political Economy
- Quantitative Methods in IR
- Central Asian Politics and Security
- Contemporary Security Issues
- MA Thesis Seminar
- German language
- Russian language

Elective

- Political Violence and Terrorism

Spring semester

Full-term

- MA Thesis Seminar
- Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

Modular

- Political Islam
- Central Asia and Russia
- Central Asia and the USA
- Central Asia and China
- Conflict Management

Elective

- Nation, State and Nationalism
- Central Asia and the Middle East
- Migration and Human Trafficking
- Sustainable Development
- International Cyber Security
- Energy Politics

Faculty, 2020-2021 academic year

Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy

Dr. David Karas (Hungary), OSCE Academy

Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Baktybek Urmambetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Irina Hudolei (Kyrgyzstan), Kyrgyz National University named after J. Balasagyn, Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Clara Portela (Spain), University of Valencia, Spain

Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany
Mr. Augustin Nicolescou (France), Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding, Austria
Dr. Barbara Christoph (Germany), The Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Germany
Dr. Tim Epkenhans (Germany), University of Freiburg, Germany
Dr. Yana Leksyutina (Russian Federation), Saint Petersburg State University, Russia
Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway
Dr. Helge Blakkisrud (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway
Dr. Elena Zhirukhina (Russia), OSCE Academy
Dr. Viktoria Akchurina (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
Ms. Rashid Gabdulhakov (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy
Dr. Nargiza Muratalieva (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
Ms. Sophie Buss (Germany), OSCE Academy
Ms. Liza Janz (Germany), DAAD-OSCE Academy

MA PROGRAMME IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



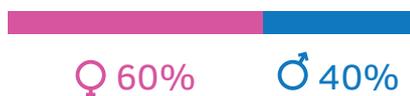
The Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development was developed to meet the demand for a high-quality graduate education in economics, governance, and development in the region. The Programme continues to graduate students that successfully find their ways not only in international organizations, but also in the public and nonprofit sector, in education and research.

Graduated students, class 2020–2021

19 Students have graduated from the programme:

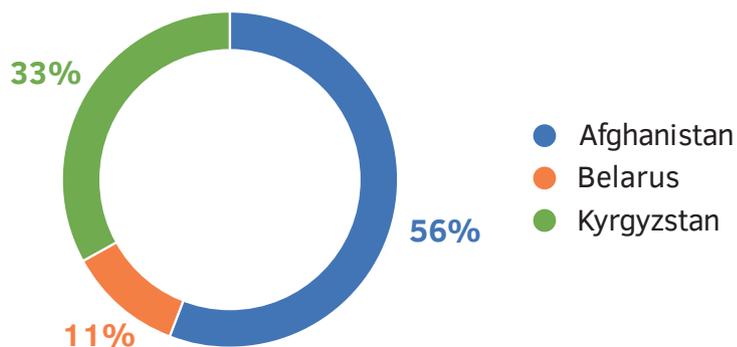
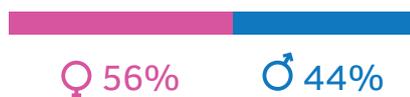


Gender balance



Enrolled students by country

Gender balance out of 9 enrolled students



“Teaching outstanding students of the OSCE Academy is a privilege. I approach them as colleagues rather than students. Academy’s students are:

- *mature, natural learners,*
- *have a passion for learning,*
- *with an ability to absorb knowledge and handle with time restricted tasks,*
- *critical thinkers who can work independently and in groups.”*

- **Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiev**
Lecturer, Regional
Institute of Central Asia
(RICA), Kyrgyzstan

Curriculum

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the curriculum offered 8 full term, 8 modular and 10 elective courses in total.

Fall semester

Full-term

- Macroeconomics
- Economic Governance and Regulation
- Academic Writing

Modular

- The OSCE
- International and Regional Trade Arrangements
- Economics of Sustainable Development

Elective courses

- Statistics
- Intro to Stata
- Cross-cultural Communication

Winter semester

Full-term

- Econometrics
- Research Methods and Design
- Economic Governance and Regulation

Modular

- Good Governance in Central Asia

Elective courses

- Mixed Methods to Understand Economic and Other Human Behavior
- International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings
- Project Management

Spring semester

Full-term

- International Development
- International Financial System

Modular

- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources
- Integrated Water Management
- Economics and Regulation of the Energy Sector
- Industrial Policy

Elective courses

- Economic Effects of Migration
- Energy Politics
- MA Thesis Seminar
- International Economic Indices and Economy Ranking

Faculty, 2020-2021 academic year

Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy

Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Lukasz Gruszczynski (Poland), Kozminski University, Poland

Dr. Nurgul Ukueva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway

Dr. Roman Vakulchuk (Kazakhstan), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway

Ms. Dina Biba (Kyrgyzstan), United States Agency for International Development, Kyrgyzstan,
Dr. Gordana Pesakovic (United States of America), Webster University, Uzbekistan
Dr. Philipp Schroeder (Germany), University of Freiburg, Germany
Dr. Damir Esenaliev (Kyrgyzstan), International Security and Development Center, Berlin, Germany
Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia
Dr. Dirk Linowsky (Germany), OSCE Academy
Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiev (Kyrgyzstan), Regional Institute of Central Asia (RICA), Kyrgyzstan
Dr. Gulzhamal Issaeva (Kazakhstan), Kazakh-German University (DKU)
Dr. Ishak Demir (Turkey) International Business School, University of Lincoln, USA
Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany
Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
Dr. Baktybek Urmanbetov (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
Dr. Kuat Akizhanov (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics KazGUU University
Ms. Julia Johannsen (Germany), OSCE Academy

RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT

During 2021, the OSCE Academy continued to adapt its activities to the new realities caused by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Trainings, workshops, and conferences were adjusted to current circumstances and were held in hybrid format, which allowed to engage more people from both the Central Asian region and outside, including Europe and the Americas. Overall, the Academy was successful in implementing joint initiatives, producing various thematical research projects, policy briefs, and reports.

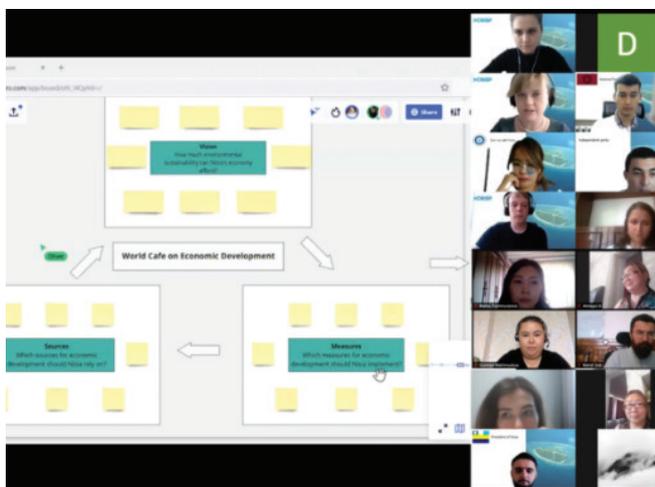
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

WORKSHOP ON EMPLOYMENT IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: FROM JOB-HUNTING TO SETTLING IN A NEW JOB

On **18 February 2021**, the OSCE Academy hosted an online workshop for current MA students and recent alumni, who are looking to launch a career in international development. The workshop was initiated by the Academy's Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Aijan Sharshenova. The key purpose of this workshop was to increase awareness and understanding of the requirements set by the employers working in international development, and to facilit



TRAINING ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN CENTRAL ASIA & SIMULATION GAME NISIA



On **2-6 August 2021**, 13 young people from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan participated in the Certificate Training on Climate Change in Central Asia: Impact and Policy Options and the Simulation Game NISIA - Climate-Induced Crises. The training was organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and CRISP, an organization based in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Sabyrbekov, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow and trainer from the OSCE Academy introduced participants to the impact of climate change on Central Asia, analyzing the climate policies of the region's governments and the state-of-the-art research drawing upon academic literature and policy documents. Trainer from CRISP Mr. Oliver Wiechmann and Ms. Kateryna Petrova conducted a two-day simulation game Nisia

which deals with the complex challenges that developing states are confronted with as consequences of climate change. It is set on the fictional island state of Nisia, which is already facing severe problems such as a poor economic development, poverty and rapid urbanization. Slowly changing patterns in the climate as well as acute impacts of extreme weather make the situation even more challenging and while affecting many of the existing difficulties they are likely to create new ones. The simulation game therefore embedded the topic of climate induced problems in the wider debate of challenges, which developing states are facing today.

CERTIFICATE TRAINING: PEACE AND CONFLICT

On **4-9 October 2021**, 19 participants from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia participated in the Certificate Training Programme on Peace and Conflict, organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in partnership with CRISP. Trainers from CRISP Mr. Oliver Wiechmann and Mr. Ulugbek Nurumbetov provided participants with a comprehensive introduction to concepts, tools and methods in the field of conflict transformation, and focused on building competences for working in conflict transformation or in conflict-sensitive environments.

In addition to its modular structure focusing on the terminology, conflict analysis, peace project design and examples of peace projects, it was complement-



ed by interactive and dialogue format simulation game, where participants practiced their negotiation skills.

CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS



On **12 October 2021**, the Research and Training Unit conducted a hybrid workshop on Cross-Cultural Communications for Associate, Postdoctoral, and Research Fellows, and staff at the OSCE Academy. This training provided knowledge on the topic of cross-cultural communication, covering various skills and techniques. Participants learned about the basics of cross-cultural communication and discussed different concepts of culture. The training was conducted by Ms. Julia Johannsen, who studied Intercultural Management at the Turkish-German University in Istanbul and the University of Passau. Ms. Johannsen is a certified intercultural trainer and lecturer.

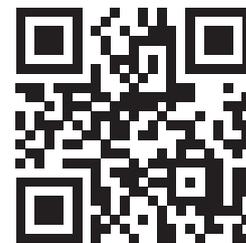
JOINT INITIATIVES

THE “PERSPECTIVES 20-30 ONLINE ACADEMY”: THE OSCE AMPLIFIES YOUTH VOICES FOR A SAFER FUTURE



In 2021 the Office of the OSCE Secretary General, in partnership with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace

in Europe co-organized “Perspectives 20-30 Online Academy.” In March, thirty-two young professionals and students from 29 OSCE participating States began the nine-month Online Academy. The programme offered youth a unique opportunity to actively contribute to the OSCE security debate while gaining practical and diplomatic skills. Through interactive webinars, participants learned about OSCE history and its work, as well as developed their skills in writing, political analysis and interview techniques. The programme also allowed to enhance their skills in public speaking, messaging and persuasion. Finally, participants developed a joint research projects on contemporary security issues and published six papers that are available at: <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/507008>



TRAINING BY EU-FUNDED PROJECT LEICA



From 25 till 29 October the EU-funded project LEICA conducted a training on negotiation techniques for 18 officers of the Kyrgyz Security Services, the Ministry of Interior and Penitentiary Service (under the Ministry of Justice), hosted by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The training focused on establishing a dialogue with

the person who is threatening his life or that of others, using psychological techniques to influence their behaviour, and in the end to surrender peacefully. This activity aimed to reinforce contacts and exchange experiences between officers of law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan and European Union member States. In this case the Hostage Negotiation training experts arrived from France and Poland.

From 29 November till 3 December the OSCE Academy hosted LEICA's training on Tactical Medicine, which is an area of emergency medicine focusing on prehospital emergency care to support high-risk law enforcement operations. The training was organized for officials from security services, police, emergency management services and penitentiary services of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The trainees got familiarized with basic

principles of managing major incidents, safely operating the rooms with potential hazards, evaluating and managing the casualties by the modern trauma algorithms and basics of CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) threats. EU experts from Estonia, the Netherlands and Slovakia provided theoretical and practical training, sharing best experience and practice to their Central Asian counterparts to contribute rising awareness on tactical medicine in response of terrorist attacks or other criminal activities, causing massive health damage and casualties. More specifically, sharing best practices on modern concepts of preventive as well as acute medical care; Principles of TECC (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care) and MARCH (Massive hemorrhage, Airway, Respiratory, Circulation, and Hypothermia) algorithm; Management of cases with massive health injury; Familiarization with techniques, procedures, equipment, ethical considerations, first response and medical aid on various types of injuries caused by CBRN materials and/or incidents causing massive casualties; Pre-mission planning; Clinical protocols and their implementation tailored to the tactical environment; SOPs of preventive as well as acute medicine.

The project LEICA is funded by the European Union and is implemented by the French CIVIPOL and Slovak ISEMI Consortium. INTERPOL is the official supporting partner of the project.

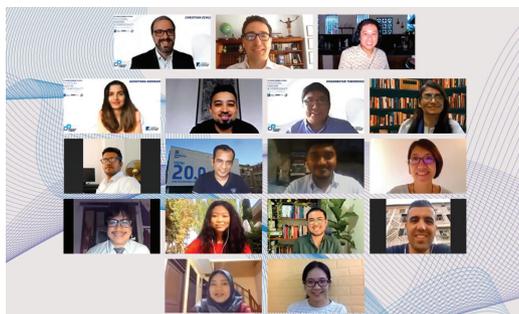
STRENGTHENING YOUTH CRIME AND DRUG USE PREVENTION THROUGH OSCE-ORGANIZED WORKSHOP

On **9 December**, the Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in co-operation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek organized a national workshop on strengthening youth crime and drug use prevention in Bishkek. The workshop was held in the framework of the new OSCE-wide and cross-dimensional project “Enhancing youth crime and drug use prevention through education on legality and awareness campaigns addressing threats of organized crime and corruption”. The project aims to prevent transnational organized crime, corruption and drug use, by complementing criminal justice efforts and promoting respect for the rule of law through education. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss youth initiatives on crime prevention, as well as main challenges and best practices among practitioners from government, civil society, higher education institutions and secondary schools. During the workshop, experts introduced the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Education4Justice and Global Programme on Prevention materials, which provide teachers, professors and civil society representatives with guidance on how to educate youth on the dangers of organized crime, corruption and drug use. This workshop



was followed by an exercise at the beginning of January 2022, which will identify the needs of teachers, professors and civil society representatives to educate youth on preventing organized crime, corruption and drug use. Training-of-Trainers courses will be developed based on this assessment, using materials from the UNODC Education4Justice and Global Programme on Prevention. In 2022 the project will continue in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. This extra-budgetary cross-dimensional project is funded by Germany.

FIRST SUMMER AND WINTER ASIAN SCHOOLS ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY



From **1-9 September 2021** and **26 November & 2-10 December 2021** in cooperation with REPRESENT, the University of Nottingham Malaysia, and the OSCE Academy, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Political Dialogue Asia conducted the 1st Asian Summer and Winter Schools on Political Parties and Democracy in 2021. The Schools were held for young MA/PhD researchers and practitioners to learn and discuss the most current and exciting topics (e.g. populism, new technologies,

corruption, etc.). Among other aspect, the Schools provided an instruction and discussion on a wider range of analytical perspectives in the study of political parties, party systems, elections and democracy, developed a multinational forum for both junior scholars and practitioners to critically discuss their research projects and the development of the subfield, stimulated international collaboration in the field of parties, party systems, elections and democracy and to encourage PhD/MA researchers and practitioners to take part in such collaboration.



THE FOURTH CABAR.asia SCHOOL OF ANALYTICS



From **15 till 20 November 2021** the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR CA), with information support of the OSCE Academy, organized the Fourth School of Analytics. IWPR CA alumni of the previous Schools, and a new generation of analysts gathered in Almaty. Twenty-one participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan learned how to write analytical materials for CABAR.asia, how to conduct research, how to lobby, and why populism and hate speech are dangerous. This School of Analytics was conducted as part of the Amplify, Verify, Engage: Information for Democratisation and Good

Governance in Eurasia project implemented with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is implemented following the Memorandum of Cooperation and Collaboration between the two institutions signed on 22 February 2018.



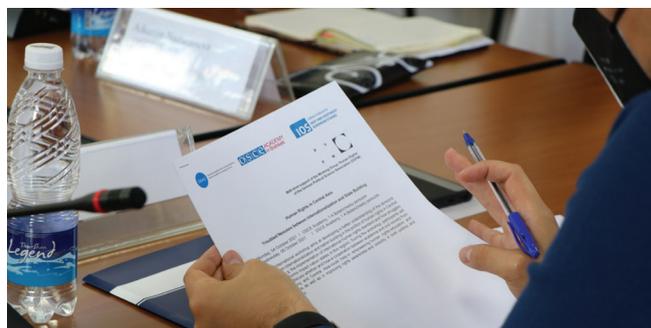
HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA: BETWEEN INTERNATIONALIZATION AND NATION BUILDING

This joint project between the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg (Germany) and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) aimed to develop a better understanding of the impact of international human rights standards on internationalization and nation-building in Central Asia. The core objectives of this joint project were 1) to build a network of academics and young scholars from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; 2) to develop – jointly with civil society organizations and academics – educational and training material (in print and electronical) that contribute to human rights empowerment in Central Asia. As a result of this collaboration, two international workshops and a conference were organized at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

1. International Workshop for Young Academics on Human Rights in Central Asia

Between **4-6 October 2021**, the OSCE Academy hosted the International Workshop for Young Academics and Scholars on “Human Rights in Central Asia: Troubled Nexuses between Internationalization, State Building and Civil Society” within the joint project with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast Studies (IOS) in Regensburg, Germany, organized by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy and Dr. Cindy Wittke from IOS and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Seven young researchers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan discussed research gaps and challenges in international law, social science research



and the humanities to increase human rights education efforts and practice, as well as in improving rights awareness and visibility in both politics and society.

2. Workshop for Civil Society Activists & Practitioners on Human Rights Empowerment



On **6-8 October 2021**, the OSCE Academy hosted the International Workshop: “Human Rights in Central Asia: Troubled Nexuses between Internationalization and State Building” within the joint project with the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast Studies (IOS) in Regensburg (Germany), with support of the Working Group ‘Human Rights’ of the German Political Science Association (DVPW). This is a second workshop of this project organized by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy and Dr. Cindy

Wittke from IOS and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

During three days, 12 civil society activists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan dis-

cussed whether and how a cooperation between academia and civil society from Germany and Central Asia could help in empowering human rights education and practice, as well as in improving rights awareness and visibility in both politics and society.

3. Joint Conference for Scholars and Civil Society Activists and Practitioners

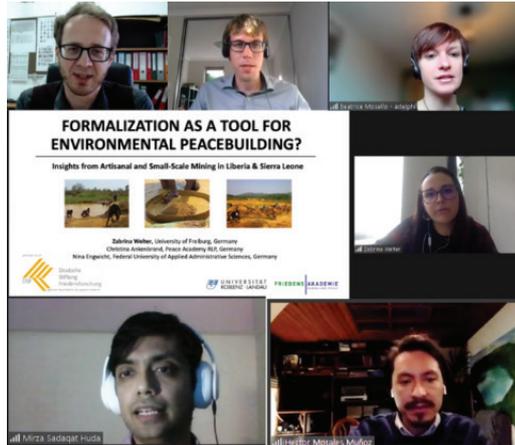
On **6 October 2021**, a Joint Conference for Scholars and Civil Society Activists and Practitioners focusing on Research and Teaching Human Rights was held at the OSCE Academy. During this conference participants of both workshops had an opportunity to discuss “Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: Keeping you safe and free online?” with Dr. Joanna Kulesza, Professor of International Law and Internet Governance, University of Lodz, Poland.



CONFERENCES

LAUNCH OF PUBLICATION: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SPECIAL ISSUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING

The recording of the event is available on the OSCE Academy's YouTube Channel

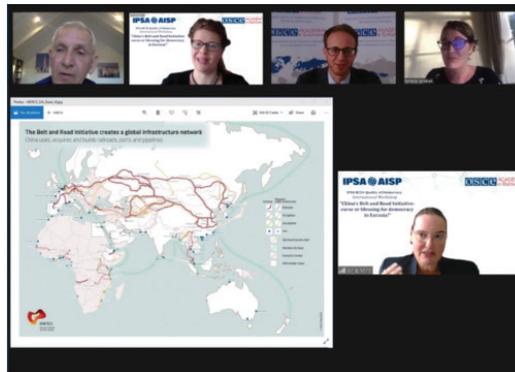


On 15 February 2021 the OSCE Academy hosted an online event to discuss a new special issue on Environmental Peacebuilding

in International Affairs <https://academic.oup.com/ia/issue/97/1>. In this issue the authors advance the theories, methodologies and policy implications of this rapidly developing field. This event was initiated by Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda, Academy's Post-doctoral Research Fellow and author of the following article in the issue: "An Ecological Response to Ethno-Nationalistic Populism: Grassroots Environmental Peacebuilding in South Asia." The discussion featured presentations by contributors who shared new insights on environmental peacebuilding in the context of Liberia and Sierra Leone, Columbia, South Asia, and Central Asia and more. The session was moderated by one of the editors of the special issue, Dr. Tobias Ide of Murdoch University.

IPSA RC34 QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY WORKSHOP "CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: CURSE OR BLESSING FOR DEMOCRACY IN EURASIA?"

"China's Belt and Road Initiative: Curse or Blessing for Democracy in Eurasia?" on YouTube



On 12 March 2021, the OSCE Academy, jointly with the International Political Science Association RC 34 launched a 3-day online-workshop: "China's Belt and Road Initiative: curse or blessing for democracy in Eurasia?". The workshop was organized and moderated by Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and Dr. Brigitte Weiffen, Senior Lecturer at The Open University in the United Kingdom. The Workshop was opened with a Keynote Lecture on the Future

Impact of BRI in Eurasia by Richard Pomfret, Professor of Economics from the University of Adelaide in Australia. The second day of the event was opened by a Keynote Lecture of Heike Holbig, Professor at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in East Asia, Department of Political Sciences, University of Frankfurt, Germany. Prof. Holbig spoke on “Official visions of democracy in Xi Jinping’s China”. During the three days, 15 speakers presented their works on BRI and political and economic transformation; BRI’s impact

on Regime Change in wider Asia, Africa, and Europe. The online conference was closed by a Keynote Lecture on “Varieties of Authoritarianism in Eurasia” by Edward Schatz, Professor from the University of Toronto, Canada. The workshop brought together experts from Albania, Austria, China, the Czech Republic, Germany, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. The recording of the event is available on the YouTube channel of the OSCE Academy.

THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON CENTRAL ASIA

On **9 September 2021**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a conference titled “The Covid-19 Crisis and Its Impact on Central Asia” organized in partnership with the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS). The event was opened by Dr. Alexander Wolters, OSCE Academy Director, and Dr. Flemming Splidsboel Hansen, Senior Researcher at DIIS. The conference aimed at discussing precarities that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to Central Asia and contained presentations of 7 policy papers, which were published as part of the OSCE Academy’s Special Issue Series. These pa-



The COVID-19 Crisis and Its Impact on Central Asia, Special Issue 3



pers look at effects of emergency lockdowns in the early months of the pandemic as well as the longer-term impact of COVID-19 on Central Asia.

GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION IN CENTRAL ASIA



On **25-26 September 2021**, the OSCE Academy together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kyrgyzstan held its third annual “Transformation in Central Asia” conference titled ‘Glocal Transformation in Central Asia.’ The event was moderated by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy and opened by Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of OSCE Academy and Philipp Jahn, Resident Representative of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kyrgyzstan. This year the focus of the conference was on ‘Glocal Transformation,’ namely how global norms, such as human rights, good governance, trade, health or environmental standards and

The recording of the event is available on the Academy's YouTube channel



goals, impact domestic and local politics in Central Asian states – and beyond. Experts and researchers from Central Asia and Europe discussed the impact of the global norms on how citizens express their need for change or support, and at the same time how governments respond to economic, social and political challenges. Sessions were opened by three Key-note speeches: Dr. Joern Graevingholt, German Development Institute, Germany, talking about the global constellations and state fragility; Dr. Sebastian Schiek, Senior Researcher, Lecturer at the Free University (FU) Berlin, addressing Sustainability Partnerships across Central Eurasia and Europe, Germany, presenting the findings from and reflections on Central Asia Forecasting; and Uuriintuya Batsaikhan, Economist, Independent Researcher, Brussels, Belgium, discussing economic transition or transformation in Central Asia.

DAAD - RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 'FROM THE GLOBAL TO THE LOCAL'



On **2 October 2021**, the OSCE Academy hosted the second day of the DAAD – Research Symposium “From the Global to the Local” funded by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), initiated and organized by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD-Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy. This two-day symposium started on the 2nd of October and gathered representatives of NGOs, international development organizations as well as of a number of universities of Kyrgyzstan. The first day of the event was opened by Katja Thevs, Director of the DAAD Information Centre and David Westenfelder, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kyrgyzstan. Following the official opening, experts from German, Kazakh and Kyrgyz universities discussed Challenges of Research of System Transformation in the region as well as other related issues. During this meeting experts discussed several relevant topics on Research on Geopolitics and Challenges of Legal Research in the Post-Soviet Space.

EXPERT ROUND TABLE “WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS? PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND NORM ENTREPRENEURS IN CENTRAL ASIA”

On **26 November 2021**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted the expert round table “Winning hearts and minds? Public diplomacy and norm entrepreneurs in Central Asia” organized in partnership with the Volkswagen Foundation and Bielefeld University (Germany) and initiated by Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Postdoctoral fellow, OSCE Academy and Dr. Chiara Pierobon, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy and Senior Researcher, Bielefeld University, Germany.



This expert roundtable brought together qualified speakers, researchers, policy stakeholders and all interested parties to discuss foreign public diplomacy actors and norm entrepreneurs in Central Asia. The key purpose of this workshop was to increase awareness and understanding of soft power and public diplomacy and to facilitate a policy-relevant discussion on how and why external powers choose to have their norm entrepreneurs in Central Asia.

The recording of the event is available on the Academy's YouTube channel



REPORT LAUNCH: CORRIDORS OF POWER: HOW CHINA CREATES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND NETWORK TIES TO EXERT INFLUENCE ALONG THE SILK ROAD

On **14 December 2021**, the OSCE Academy hosted the launch event and panel discussion “Corridors of Power: How China Creates Economic, Social, and Network Ties to Exert Influence in South and Central Asia,” organized jointly with AidData, a research lab at William&Mary (a US-based university). This event featured a presentation and panel discussion related to an extensive new study on Chinese public diplomacy efforts in the region, ranging from financing and education to culture and social media. Participants got an in-depth look at how Beijing has used a broad and diverse toolkit to cultivate economic and



soft power influence in South and Central Asia over the last two decades.

Corridors of Power: How China Creates Economic, Social, and Network Ties to Exert Influence in South and Central Asia



AUTHORS' WORKSHOP ON THE FORTHCOMING BOOK “CLIMATE CHANGE AND DECARBONIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA”

On **16 December 2021**, the OSCE Academy and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs held an Authors' Workshop on the forthcoming book “Climate Change and Decarbonization in Central Asia”, edited by Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Dr. Roman Vakulchuk and Dr. Indra Overland.

This event was held in hybrid format and provided an opportunity for the authors to discuss the detailed outlines of the chapters, which will be finalized and published by Springer as an Open Access book in 2022. The book will cover a broad range of related issues including climate change impact on security, energy, politics, gender, mining and many others.



The event was opened by the Academy's Director, Dr. Alexander Wolters and the co-editors Professor Indra Overland, Research Professor and Head of Center for Energy Research, NUPI, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Post-Doc Researcher, OSCE Academy and Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, Senior Researcher, NUPI. During the three sessions co-editors and authors presented their works in progress on impact of climate change in Central Asia, society and climate change, as well as future policies and opportunities.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2021, the OSCE Academy continued implementing its Associate Research, Postdoctoral Research and short-term Research Fellowships.

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Postdoctoral Research Scholarship programme is implemented in partnership with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Volkswagen Foundation via the University of Bielefeld.

Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (in partnership with the NUPI)



Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov received his PhD from the School of Economics and Business at Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Birmingham, the United Kingdom. Rahat serves as an author for the Intergovernmental Platform for Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Assessment Report. Rahat's research interests include environmental economics, ecosystem services, natural capital, and natural resource management.

PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2021



“Resource Extraction, Environmental Concerns and Social License to Operate in Kyrgyzstan.”



Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov gave an interview for a newspaper titled “Billions in the pipe. How much does smog cost to Bishkek.”

On **7 October 2021**, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov delivered a presentation about the “**Economic Cost of Air Pollution in Kyrgyzstan**” at the Webinar “**Tackling Air Pollution for Improved Health and a Greener Future**” organized by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and the American University of Central Asia.

Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda (in partnership with the NUPI)



Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. His research focuses on the Belt and Road Initiative, the politics of renewable energy in Asia and global climate governance. He has undertaken policy relevant research on natural resource governance and conflict resolution at the University of Queensland, Nanyang Technological University and Griffith University. Dr Huda's analysis has been published in Energy Policy, Geoforum, Water International and Energy Research and Social Science. He earned his PhD from the Sustainable Minerals Institute of the University of Queensland and his Master's and Bachelor's from Macquarie University and the University of Canberra, respectively.

PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2021



“An ecological response to ethno-nationalistic populism: grassroots environmental peacebuilding in South Asia,” International Affairs, Oxford University Press.



“The Governance of the TAPI Pipeline Political, Social, and Environmental Challenges,” The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR).

Dr. Aijan Sharshenova (in partnership with the Volkswagen Foundation)



Dr. Aijan Sharshenova is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Dr. Sharshenova holds a PhD in Politics awarded at the University of Leeds, UK. Prior to joining the OSCE Academy, Dr. Sharshenova has worked at the UN and UNDP country offices in the Middle East, and taught courses in International Politics and Academic Writing. Dr. Sharshenova’s research interests include public diplomacy, the EU and Russian policies towards Central Asia, and international development. Recently, Dr. Sharshenova published her book ‘The European Union’s Democracy Promotion in Central Asia’ available on Amazon.

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*The European Union’s
Democracy Promotion in
Central Asia*



PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2021



“Mapping Russia’s influence in the Kyrgyz Republic,” OSCE Academy in Bishkek.



“Kyrgyzstan elects a potential strongman: Implications for the future of Kyrgyz democracy and international partners,”
Foreign Policy Centre UK



“On the importance of professional diplomatic service in the Kyrgyz Republic (О важности профессиональной дипломатической службы в Кыргызской Республике),” Center for Political and Legal Studies.

On **1 March 2021**, Dr. Ajain Sharshenova gave a talk at the virtual event organized by the Foreign Policy Centre to discuss the findings of an upcoming Foreign Policy Centre publication entitled **Retreating Rights: Examining the Pressure on Human Rights in Kyrgyzstan**.

On **14 July 2021**, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova participated in the Online Summer School **“Russia in Covid times”** as a guest instructor. The school was organised by Gent University’s Russia Platform and aimed to assess broader political and societal factors in Russia and its relation to the international system through the prism of the Covid global pandemic. Dr. Sharshenova delivered an interactive session on Russian Covid response in Europe and Eurasia to a group of Bachelor and Master’s students from various European and Russian universities.



Dr. Aijan Sharshenova featured at the European Neighbourhood Council’s **In-Depth Podcast** series. Based on her policy paper, Dr. Sharshenova discussed how Russia intentionally and unintentionally influences Kyrgyz politics, economy, society, and culture, and how Kyrgyzstan could make the most of its long-standing relations with the Russian Federation.



On **24 September 2021**, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova discussed the book **“Surviving Everyday Life: Securityscapes of Threatened People in Kyrgyzstan,”** with the co-discussant Arzuu Sheranova, Corvinus University of Budapest, and the authors Aksana Ismailbekova, ZMO, Nina Bagdasarova, AUCA, Shavkat Atakhanov, Kyrgyz Uzbek University, and Asel Myrzabekova, AUCA. The discussion was part of the Central Asia Research Review series organized by the Kurultai Cafe.

On **14 - 16 September 2021**, Dr. Chiara Pierobon, Associate Research Fellow, and Dr. Aijan Sharshenova presented a co-authored paper on Russian and German public diplomacy efforts in the Kyrgyz Republic titled **“Winning hearts and minds of Kyrgyz people: German and Russian public diplomacy in action”** at the annual convention of the German Political Science Association (DVPW).

On **6 December 2021**, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova discussed the recent parliamentary election in Kyrgyzstan at the online panel **“The vicious cycle of electoral volatility in Kyrgyzstan”**. The panel was organised by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and featured Bruce Pannier, RFE/RL, former Ambassador Kadyr Toktogulov, and Dr. Aijan Sharshenova.

On **8 December 2021**, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova and Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva, Senior Lecturer, along with Dr. Erica Marat of the National Defense University, appeared at an online panel hosted by the Caspian Policy Centre. The **“Bishkek at the Ballot Box: An analysis of the Kyrgyz parliamentary election”** discussion focused on the implications of the events of the Kyrgyz elections and the consequences not only on Kyrgyz society but on the broader surrounding region. The event was moderated by Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Centre.

Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev (in partnership with the Volkswagen Foundation)



Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev received his PhD in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He previously served as Deputy Director at OSCE Academy in Bishkek and as a Dean of Academic Development at American University of Central Asia. Dr. Dzhuraev taught courses in Central Asian politics, Foreign Policy Analysis and International Relations at various times at the American University of Central Asia, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the European University at St Petersburg. His research interests include a wide range of political and policy issues in Central Asia, with particular focus on foreign policy, political institutions and regime dynamics in the region. He holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics (2005).

PUBLICATIONS IN 2021



“The Corona Pandemic in Central Asia. In: Mihr A. (eds.), *Between Peace and Conflict in the East and the West*,” Springer.



“Neuer Präsident, altes Präsidialsystem? Kirgistan am Scheideweg zwischen Reformmöglichkeiten und weiterer Instabilität.”
Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 145,
Länder-Analysen.

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

In 2021, 8 new fellows joined the Academy’s Associate Research Fellowship. The Fellowship was launched in 2017 and aims to support PhD Candidates and/or Post-Doctoral researchers in conducting their research projects and provide institutional affiliation to independent researchers. The length of the fellowship is from six to twelve months and is open for Bishkek-based and non-Bishkek residents.



MS. KATHERINE CROFTS-GIBBONS, 2021

Research Title: Listening to the Streets? The Response of Post-Soviet Central Asian Governments to Street Protest

Ms. Katherine Crofts-Gibbons is a doctoral candidate at King’s College London’s Russia Institute, where her research investigates the response of post-Soviet Central Asian Governments to protest, and asks why nondemocratic governments sometimes offer concessions to protestors. Prior to joining the Russia Institute, she completed an MPhil in Russian and East European Studies and a BA honors in History and Politics at the University of Oxford, and worked as a research analyst in the private sector.



DR. JAKOB LEMPP, 2021

Research Title: The EU and Central Asia

Prof. Dr. Jakob Lempp has been a professor at the Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, Germany since April 2012, and from 2015 to 2019, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Society and Economics. His main research focus is on the study of political systems in Europe and Central Asia. He studied Political Science, Communication Science, and Philosophy at the University of Technology Dresden and completed a Diploma in European Studies at the University of Finland. He worked as a managing assistant and research assistant at the Institute of Political Science of the TU Dresden and completed his PhD on the evolution of the Council of the European Union. He then worked as a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group GmbH in Munich.



MS. BARBARA MEIER, 2021

Research Title: Everyday Geopolitics: Transnational Identifications and Aspirations of University Graduates in Bishkek and Osh

Ms. Barbara Meier is a PhD-candidate in Social Geography at the University of Jena (Germany). Holding a scholarship of the Federal State of Thuringia, she investigates quotidian contexts of geopolitics in the post-Soviet space. In her doctoral research, Barbara examines the global orientation of university graduates in Bishkek and Osh, with a special focus on educational decisions and consumption of popular culture, combining participatory research approaches and ethnographical fieldwork. Fields of her interest are critical geopolitics, post-colonialist, and feminist theoretical approaches, visual methodologies, political architecture, and their intersections. Besides, Barbara has working experience in international higher education exchange.



MS. ZANE ŠIME, 2021

Research Topic: The Role of Environment and Climate in Reshaping Comprehensive Security

Zane Šime is a policy analyst focusing on the EU macro-regional governance, regionalism in Europe and its neighborhood, EU science diplomacy towards the Southern Neighbourhood. As a Top 40 under 40 EU - India / UK - India Young Leader 2020, Zane explores the EU-India educational diplomacy in a broader context of the Asia-Europe Meeting. Zane has obtained professional experience as an international civil servant at the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and a national civil servant in Latvia. She is a graduate of KU Leuven and the University of Latvia. Zane has completed a research internship at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies. She is a member of the Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies, the Latvian Political Science Association, and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists.



MS. REBECCA WAGNER, 2021

Research Topic: Elections in Times of Shrinking Civic Spaces

Rebecca Wagner is a doctoral researcher at the Peace Research Institute (PRIF) in Frankfurt where she conducts research on resilience, international democracy support, civil society and elections. Before joining PRIF, Rebecca gained more than seven years' experience of international human rights and democracy support work, including participating in OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions and serving as a civic observer. Rebecca Wagner is member of the research network External Democracy Promotion (EDP). She volunteers for an NGO that organizes election observation missions for young people in Europe. Rebecca graduated from Leiden University, the Netherlands, and the University of Konstanz, Germany. She did her Erasmus year in Istanbul/Turkey.



MR. NIMA KHORRAMI, 2021

Research Topic: Persian Hub, Central Asian Networks: Iran's Evolving Regional Strategy in the Context of Its Relations with China and India; Growing Turkish Presence in Central Asia - Caucasus: What Role for NATO?

Nima Khorrami is a Research Associate at The Arctic Institute. His areas of interest and expertise lie at the intersection of geopolitics, infrastructure, and technology. Nima has experience working in PR, policy research and advocacy, and marketing in Europe and the Middle East, and frequently writes both analytical and opinion pieces for a number of publications. Over the course of his fellowship at the AiB, Nima will lead two separate research projects on Iran and Turkey. With regard to the former, his research seeks to unpack Iran's importance in China and India's strategies towards Central Asia and how Tehran uses - could use - China's BRI and India's Connect Central Asia initiatives to advance its interests. In his other project, he will investigate the implications of Turkey's growing influence in Central Asia and the Caucasus for NATO's regional posturing in the context of NATO's recently released 2030 Vision dossier.



DR. KINGA SZÁLKAI, 2021

Research Topic: Resetting Water Relations in Central Asia: The Perspectives of Uzbekistan's Cooperative Foreign Policy Turn (*available via QR-code*)

Dr. Kinga Szálkai is an Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. Previously, she worked at the Antall József Knowledge Centre as a research fellow, at Central European University as a research assistant, and held several positions at Corvinus Society for Foreign Affairs and Culture. She has also lectured at various universities of Central Europe, including Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where she is currently a visiting professor. She earned her PhD degree in International Relations and Security Studies from the Corvinus University of Budapest. Her main research focuses on water as a security challenge in Central Asia. Her research areas also include large dams as tools of identity construction in the Soviet Union and in the post-Soviet region, theories and practice of water security, and women in Soviet Central Asia.





DR. ERIKS VARPAHOVSKIS, 2021

Research Topic: Patterns and State Strategies of Transnational Higher Education Institutions in Central Asia

Eriks Varpahovskis is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of International Regional Studies at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (Russia), where he works on a set of public diplomacy-related research projects including exploration of the country image impact on the behavior of international students in South Korea, transnational higher education institutions' functions as instruments of public diplomacy and others. Eriks received a Ph.D. in Political Science from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (South Korea) while being sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Korea in 2015-2019. His other research activities can be found on his Academia's page.

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWS FIELD VISITS TO THE OSCE ACADEMY AND KYRGYZSTAN

- Mr. Marc Jeandesboaz PhD candidate, Department of History, Université de Montréal, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy visited Bishkek to conduct his field research. His research focuses on the Post-Soviet Central Asia and the Crossroads between Modernization and Modernities.
- Ms. Barbara Meyer, PhD candidate at the University of Jena, Institute of Geography and Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy visited Kyrgyzstan to conduct her field research. Her research focuses on Everyday Geopolitics: Transnational Identifications and Aspirations of University Graduates in Bishkek and Osh.
- Ms. Rebecca Wagner, doctoral researcher at the Peace Research Institute (PRIF) in Frankfurt, Associate Research Fellow, visited Bishkek to conduct her fieldwork in Bishkek. Her research topic is on Elections in Times of Shrinking Civic Spaces.
- Dr. Jakob Lempp, from the Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, Germany and Associate Research Fellow, visited Bishkek to conduct his fieldwork. His main research focus is on the study of political systems in Europe and Central Asia.

PUBLIC TALKS ORGANIZED BY ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

The Role of the Environment and Climate in Reshaping Comprehensive Security



On **28 July 2021**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted an online lecture: **“The Role of the Environment and Climate in Reshaping Comprehensive Security”** by Ms. Zane Šime, Associate research fellow at the OSCE Academy, and policy analyst, focusing on the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension. Zane Šime presented her recent research that touches upon the role of the OSCE in the domains of mixed migration flows and environment captured by the UNU-CRIS Working Paper “Mediterranean Lasa-



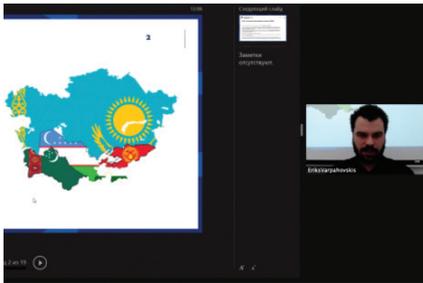
gne of Migration Governance: What is the Way Forward for the Regions in Governing the Euromestic Sphere? An EU-Centric Perspective” and the OSCE Academy Policy Brief “The Role of Environment and Climate in Reshaping Comprehensive Security”. The recording of the lecture is available on Academy’s YouTube channel.

Elections in Times of Shrinking Civic Spaces

On **2 December 2021**, Ms. Rebecca Wagner, Associate Research Fellow of the Academy conducted a workshop on “**Elections in Times of Shrinking Civic Spaces**” for MA Students at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Her presentation focused on shrinking civic spaces (SCS), which are debated in the context of democratic backsliding and the third wave of autocratization, are a symptom for challenging international democracy aid and the liberal world order as such. The workshop presented a recent research project on the dynamics of SCS in the context of contentious elections when vulnerable governments restrict their political opponents – civil society and opposition parties alike.



Patterns and State Strategies of Transnational Higher Education Institutions in Central Asia



On **8 December 2021**, Dr. Eriks Varpahovskis, the OSCE Academy’s Associate Research Fellow, and Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Higher School of Economics (HSE University) presented his policy brief titled as “Patterns and State Strategies of Transnational Higher Education Institutions in Central Asia.” In Central Asian states, among more than 350 higher education institutions, 67 have foreign affiliation and are at least partially managed by foreign organizations and citizens. In the first part of the presentation, Eriks elaborated on the conceptualization of the major term used to define these types of institutions: transnational higher education institutions (TNHEIs) and covered the historical development of higher education

in Central Asia and factors that urged five Central Asian republics to implant TNHEIs. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Varpahovskis provided a list of country-oriented recommendations for all five Central Asian states.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In 2021 the OSCE Academy launched its short term Research Fellowship programme which aims to offer young researchers the possibility to carry out research for up to 10 months in a variety of disciplines related to the OSCE Academy's scope of work. The following three fellows were selected competitively to conduct their research projects.



DR. AJAR CHEKIROVA

Research topic: “Kyrgyz Diaspora Online: Understanding New Forms of Transnationalism, Citizenship, and Political Participation”

Dr. Ajar Chekirova is an Assistant Professor at Lake Forest College. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Chekirova's research interests include migration and citizenship, informal institutions, political communication and behavior. Her research has been previously sponsored by the Open Society Foundation, University of Illinois, George Washington University, and the University of San Francisco. Dr. Chekirova holds an MA degree in International Affairs from Ohio University, where she was a Fulbright Fellow. She earned her Bachelor's degree in law from Beijing University in China.



DR. BURULCHA SULAIMANOVA

Research topic: “The Impact of Job-Education Mismatch on the Earnings: Empirical Evidence from Generation and Gender Difference”

Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova is an Assistant Professor at the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan). She specializes in the fields of labor economics and applied economic analysis in Central Asian countries. In particular, her research interests include education-job mismatch issues in Kyrgyzstan's labor market, gender aspects of labor migration, infrastructure development, and its impact on Central Asian economies. She has been engaged in various types of projects as a researcher, project leader, and consultant. One of her recent projects has been on “The impact of infrastructure on trade in Central Asia”, which was supported by the Asian Development Bank Institute. Dr. Sulaimanova holds a Ph.D. and an MSc degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Anadolu University, Turkey.



DR. RASHID GABDULHAKOV

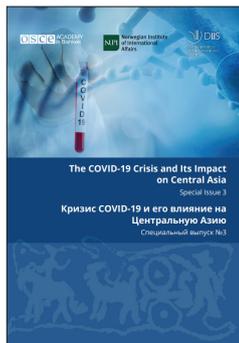
Research topic: “I saw it on the internet!” Sources, Mechanisms, and Impacts of COVID-19 Dis/misinformation on Labour Migrants from Uzbekistan

Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov is a Lecturer in the Department of Media and Communication of Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. His research focuses on digital vigilantism – citizen-led justice manifested online – as well as social media surveillance, affordances, and governance. Rashid has written a number of articles on these and other topics and co-edited an open-access book on Vigilant Audiences. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Whitworth University, USA; a Master of Arts degree in Politics and Security from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; and a Master of Advanced Studies degree in International and European Security from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2021, the OSCE Academy continued to publish its in house publications including its Policy Brief Series, a Special Issue, Yearbook and Academy Paper Series. The Academy continued its cooperation with Springer Open Access publisher and launched its second edited volume on Transformation and Development, edited by the Academy's Professor Dr. Anja Mihr. Additionally, The Academy's Faculty Members and Post-Doctoral Research fellows published number of academic articles in various internationally recognized peer reviewed journals.

SPECIAL ISSUE ON COVID-19



The present collection of case studies about various aspects of the impact of the pandemic in Central Asia is a first attempt to discuss further implications of COVID-19 in the region. Covering developments in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, the authors shed light on the scope of challenges the governments of the respective countries are facing and how their actions mitigated, or, in some cases, exacerbated the situation. The special collection of policy briefs are available in English and Russian language. It comprises from the following policy briefs:

- Savia Hasanova, How the Government Contributed to an Infodemic during the COVID-19 Crisis: The Case of Kyrgyzstan;
- Bekchoro Aliaskarov, Fear of COVID-19 and Its Impact on Police Officers During the Pandemic in Kyrgyzstan;
- Pia De Gouvello, Volunteering during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Opportunities for Civic and Political Engagement of the Post-Soviet Generation;
- Hanna Siarova and Loes van der Graaf, The Digital Challenge: Distance Education in Central Asia during COVID-19;
- Doriyush Soliev and Sherzod Shamiev, Labour Migration in the Shadow of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Case Study of Tajikistan;
- Gulnoz Akhmedova, Ignored Victims of Pandemic: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Uzbekistan.
- Niva Yau Tsz Yan, China's Aid Diplomacy in Uzbekistan: Insights into Issues and the Future.

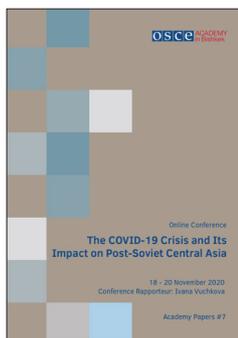
YEARBOOK 2021



This yearbook is comprised of 18 contributions that have been organized into five sections. In the first two sections, ‘Hegemony, or the Lack Thereof?’ and ‘Looking for Friends’, our authors attempt to understand the evolving power dynamics of Central Asia, and the region’s quest for connections further afield, respectively. In the third and fourth sections, ‘The Challenge of Climate Change’ and ‘Learning, Working, Communicating’, the authors explore several of the challenges and opportunities that Central Asia is currently facing, ranging from the environment’s impact on labour migration to the scale, depth and quality of digitalisation across the region. Finally, in the fifth section, ‘China in the OSCE’s Backyard’, our authors explore the implications of the ongoing emergence of the People’s Republic of China for India, Pakistan and, somewhat indirectly, the United States of America.



ACADEMY PAPER SERIES



Summary Report #8: “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: Curse or Blessing for Democracy in Eurasia?” by Niva Yau, Researcher, OSCE Academy in Bishkek

Summary Report #9: “The Covid-19 Crisis and Its Impact on Central Asia,” by Ivana Vuchkova, OSCE Academy Alumna and Programme Coordinator at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Skopje Office, North Macedonia

Summary Report #10: “Digital Transformations in Central Asia,” by Rustam Muhamedov, independent researcher, OSCE Academy alumni.



OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS



Policy Brief #67, “The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Its Implications for Security Cooperation in the Region,” by Dirk Linowski, Chair of Asset Management at Steinbeis University, Berlin, and Stefan Lukas, Lecturer, University of Jena.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_67.pdf.

Policy Brief #68, “The Understanding International Order of the Post-Soviet Region,” by Rigina Syssoeva, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_RS_68.pdf.

Policy Brief #69, “Mapping Russia’s Influence in the Kyrgyz Republic,” by Aijan Sharshenova, Academy’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_69-compressed.pdf.

Policy Brief #70, “The Impact of Climate Change Induced and Environmental Challenges on Migration Dynamics in Rural Kyrgyzstan,” by Lira Sagynbekova, Research Fellow, UCA.

Available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/70.pdf>.

Policy Brief #71, “The American Analysis of Military and Security Development in the Wakhan Corridor,” by Michael E. Lambert, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/71_PB.pdf.

Policy Brief #72, “The Role of Environment and Climate in Reshaping Comprehensive Security,” by Zane Sime, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_72.pdf.

Policy Brief #73, “China-Iran Strategic Cooperation: Context and Central Asian Vectors,” by Phillip Reid, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/3.pdf>.

Policy Brief #74, “Resetting Water Relations in Central Asia: The Perspectives of Uzbekistan’s Cooperative Foreign Policy Turn,” by Kinga Szálkai, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/20210723_PB.pdf.

Policy Brief #75, “Transnational Higher Education Institutions in Central Asia: Challenges, Opportunities, Strategies,” by Eriks Varpahovskis, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/7_final_correct_link.pdf.

Policy Brief #76, “1991-2021: the relationship between Turkey and Turkmenistan at the 30-year test,” by Davide Cancarini, Independent Journalist, Italy.

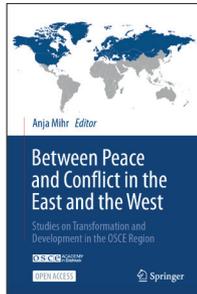
Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_75.pdf.

Policy Brief #77, “Artificial Intelligence-based SMS Voting in Afghanistan,” Wasal Naser Faqiryar, Graduate Student, OSCE Academy and Cofounder of Rumi Organization for Research, Afghanistan.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/77_PolicyBrief.pdf.



Between Peace and Conflict in the East and the West: Studies on Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region, Edited by Anja Mihr



'Between Peace and Conflict in the East and the West' is the title of the second edition of the OSCE Academy's edited compilation of the discussion of events and developments in the remarkable years 2020–2021. In light of the global pandemic and dramatic political shifts, from North America all the way across the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region to Central Asia, this compilation has gathered a number of timely contributions describing and analyzing paradigm shifts in the struggles for power and conflict resolution during the global lockdown.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva,
"Populism à la Kyrgyz: Sadyr Japarov, Nationalism, and Anti-Elite Sentiment in Kyrgyzstan,"
Illiberalism Studies Program.



Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva,
"The 2020 Violent Change in Government in Kyrgyzstan Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic: Three Distinct Stories in One," Springer.



Dr. Viktoria Akchurina,
"Kyrgyzstan and Intermingling of Elites: From a State of Enlightenment to a Shadow State," Springer.



Dr. Elena Zhirukhina,
"An Integration Model for the North Caucasus: Culture and Discourse,"
RUSI.



Dr. Elena Zhirukhina
"Identifying an Integration Model for the North Caucasus," RUSI.



Dr. Elena Zhirukhina,
"The Afghan Crisis: A Chance to Strengthen Russia's Security Influence in Central Asia," ISPI.

Joint Publications with the Central Asia Program, George Washington University



The OSCE Academy funded proofreading and editing of the following papers, published in Russian at Central Asia Programme, George Washington University.

- Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva, **"Power and Space in Social Mobilizations: Preliminary Thoughts on the Protests Leading to the Fall 2020 Change of Power in Kyrgyzstan."**
- Ms. Bermet Borubaeva, **"Kyrgyzstan 2020: Worker Protests and Labor Rights."**
- Ms. Nurgul Esenamanova, **"Social Groups Supporting S. Japarov's Policy."**
- Ms. Alexandra Filatova, **"Social Movements as a Reflection of Polarization in the Kyrgyz Society. The example of the October events."**

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

EU HORIZON 2020 “AGRUMIG”

Since 2019 the OSCE Academy is implementing the AGRUMIG project (Leaving something behind’ - Migration governance and agricultural & rural change in ‘home’ communities: comparative experience from Europe, Asia, and Africa) within the Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the EU. AGRUMIG aims to engage in a comparative analysis of migration governance of seven countries to analyze the economic, institutional, cultural, and agroecological factors of migration. It will go on to identify the range of government interventions that can harness migration to stimulate sustainable and gender-equitable growth in agriculture and reduce the distress associated with migration. Partners of the AGRUMIG project in Kyrgyzstan include the University of Central Asia (UCA) and Polis Asia. The Academy plays a key role in involving stakeholders in migration-related policy dialogues and disseminating research results.

Round Table: The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Migration and Migration Governance in Kyrgyzstan



On **14 April 2021**, within the framework of AGRUMIG project, the OSCE Academy held an online round table: **“The impact of COVID -19 Pandemic on Migration and Migration Governance in Kyrgyzstan.”** This event aimed to discuss the consequences and implications of the pandemic on labor migrants and migration governance in Kyrgyzstan. Experts presented and discussed the impact of Covid-19 on transnational, rural, and gendered migration in Central Asia.

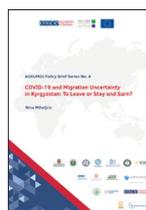


Additionally, the OSCE Academy published two policy briefs on migration:



The Precarity of Transnational Migration and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Addressing Female Return Migration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

By Ms. Nodira Kholmatova, Researcher, OSCE Academy in Bishkek



COVID-19 and Migration Uncertainty in Kyrgyzstan: To Leave or Stay and Earn?

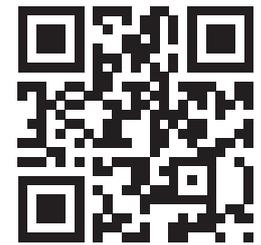
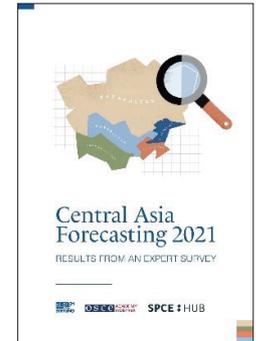
By Ms. Nina Miholjic, Researcher, OSCE Academy in Bishkek.



Forecasting Central Asia 2021 – Results from an Expert Survey 2021

In 2021 the OSCE Academy in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the SPCE Hub implemented a pilot “Forecasting Central Asia” study. The project aimed at surveying experts, practitioners, and the general population on upcoming trends in Central Asia and Central Asia’s expectations from Europe. The results of the study were summarized in a policy report and were presented to the interested public through a hybrid event at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek on 2 November 2021.

The study results stimulated the debate on the region, fostered understanding of the common challenges and opportunities, and encouraged data-driven policymaking.



LIBRARY



The Library serves as the Information Centre of the OSCE Academy and plays a crucial role in supporting the educational process as well as ongoing research activities at the Academy. The Library contains a specialized collection of books in political science and economics and development, with a focus on International Relations, Conflict and Security Studies, Economic Governance, Human Rights, Development Studies, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory.

Additionally, the library regularly receives publications from the OSCE and other related partner institutions. Additions to the Library's stock are made in line with the needs provided in the curricula of the Academy's programmes, and requests made by faculty, students, and permanent and visiting researchers.

The OSCE Academy annually subscribes to the EBSCO, JSTOR, T&F databases. As a member of the Kyrgyz Library and Information Consortium (KLIC) in EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries), the OSCE Academy Library has free access to electronic resources: Oxford Journals Collection, Cambridge Journals Online, IMF Electronic Library, SAGE Journals, OECD, Mathematical Sciences Publishing House, De Gruyter eJournal, OpenEdition Freemium for journals.

The OSCE Academy Library provides a digital master's theses repository based on the DSpace open source software that allows students to create their own digital portfolios.

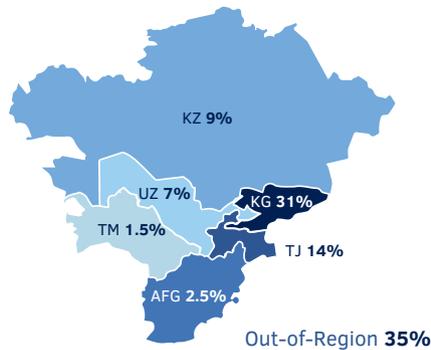
OUR ALUMNI



2021 brought more positive improvements in terms of alumni event formats and mobility. Despite some pandemic challenges, we were fortunate to host most of the events and activities in offline and hybrid formats. We managed to fulfil most of our commitments within our multiple alumni initiatives. In 2021 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network welcomed 40 newly graduated members to its ranks, totaling the overall number of our alumni to 594 (305 females and 289 males).

We conduct an annual Alumni Survey to study the employment track of our alumni, as well as to maintain connections within our network, further improve the quality of our work to engage our graduates in various collaborative initiatives and tailor our projects to their professional and academic needs and expand the Academy's assistance and input into growing and empowering the Alumni Network.

Geography



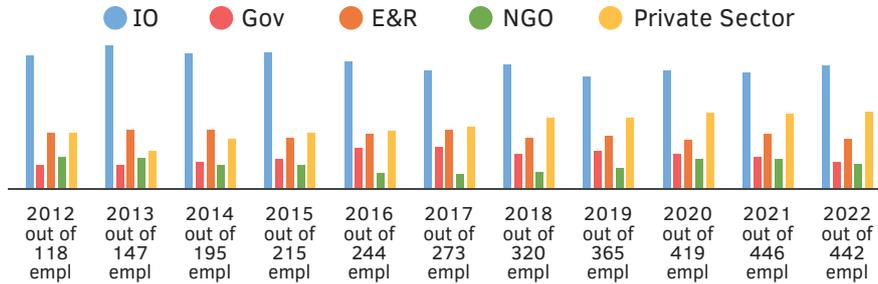
Employment by Sectors



Employment



Sectors of Employment 2012-2022



Our latest Survey¹ revealed that 65 per cent of the Alumni live and work in the wider Central Asia region. Such a decrease is a result of the August 2021 development in Afghanistan, which forced many Afghan alumni to flee. This also affected the general Employment statistics: 31 per cent of employed alumni hold senior positions, such as Directors, CEOs, Heads of departments, Managers and Officers working for the Central Asian governments, international organizations, education institutions and NGOs. 20 alumni who chose an academic path, are currently doing their Ph.D.

¹ The Alumni Survey 2022 was carried out in March 2022 and contains the information about 553 alumni.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Annual Alumni Conference “Digital Transformations in Central Asia: Current State and New Perspectives”



In mid-October the OSCE Academy Alumni Network organized an offline Alumni Conference on “Digital Transformations in Central Asia: Current State and New Perspectives”. The participants of the conference, more than 30 alumni, were welcomed by Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy, and Ambassador Alexey Rogov, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. The alumni came from Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, as well as from the countries outside the region, including Finland, the UK, the Netherlands, and Estonia.

The event was opened by honorable guests from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) Dr. Vladimir Morozov, Vice-Rector for Human Resources, Associate Professor, and Prof. Elina Sidorenko, Director of the Center for Digital Economy and Financial Innovation. Dr. Morozov spoke about international cooperation in higher education, including MGIMO’s experience, and outlined the plans for collaboration between the OSCE Academy and MGIMO. Professor Sidorenko delivered a keynote speech on “Development of Law in the Context of Digital Transformation.”

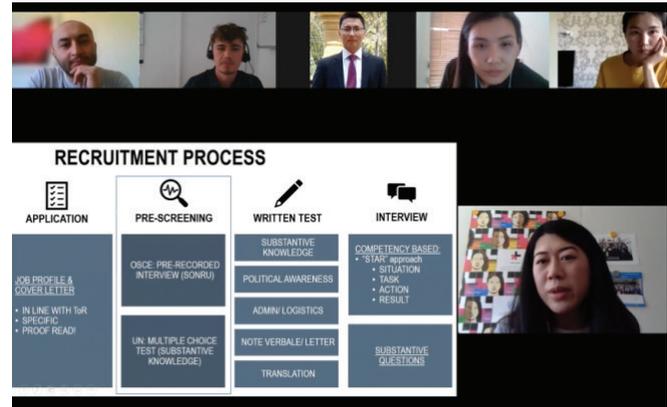
The conference continued with three panels covering digitalization in the state, in the economy and in human rights and values. Moderators of the panels are experts in this field in Kyrgyzstan: Dr. Nuria Kutnaeva, Director of the State Agency for Personal Data Protection under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, Dr. Zhyldyz Tegizbekova, Associate Professor, AlaToo International University, Kyrgyzstan; Teaching Professor, KAZGUU University, Kazakhstan, Talant Sultanov, Chair and Co-Founder, Kyrgyz Internet Society, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Alumni Initiatives and Workshops

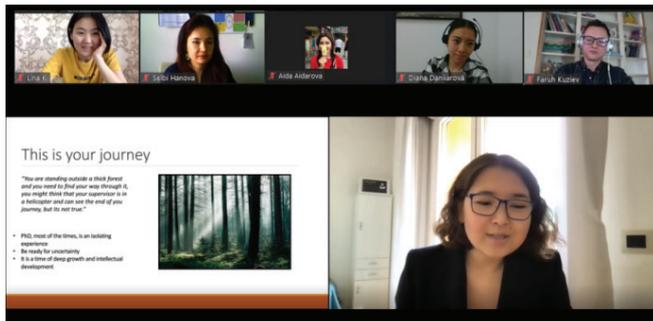
From year to year the Academy works to improve its Alumni Networking activities and considers its graduate’s feedbacks. Unfortunately, due to pandemic restrictions, we had to find a new way to organize networking events. Thus, in 2021, we have successfully tried new formats of alumni meetings and held two online and two offline Alumni chapter meetings in different parts of Central Asia. The first two virtual meetings were conducted by our alumnus of 2014 and former Alumni Affairs assistant, Sergey Marinin. Then we had a chance to hold two offline meetings in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan by our Senior Lecturers, Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva and Dr. Viktoria Akchurina, and a Graduate Education Department representative, Nazira Abakirova.

Experienced Alumni Share Their Expertise within Alumni Generations Exchange Workshop

On 29 April we held our first virtual workshop organized as part of the Alumni Generations Exchange series titled 'How to Pursue a Career with International Organizations: Practical Strategies'. The e-event gathered more than 30 alumni and current students from all over Central Asia and beyond. The session featured 4 accomplished alumni who currently hold positions at various UN bodies in Europe and the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. The Speakers shared their experiences of how to get a job with International Organizations detailing the most effective strategies, provided a comprehensive overview of the main stages during the employment process, and answered the audience's questions which were plenty. The workshop is intended to further support recent alumni and current students in equipping them with practical and effective approaches to employment, and connect different OSCE AiB alumni cohorts by facilitating intergenerational dialogue and exchange.



'I wish I'd known this when I was a student': OSCE Academy's Alumni learn how to pursue a Doctoral Degree'



On 6 May we had our second online workshop within the Alumni Generations Exchange series. This time, four alumni who are in different stages of pursuing their PhDs talked about their experiences of how to 'survive and thrive' the PhD studentship. The event gathered more than 30 alumni and students from across the Central Asian region and other OSCE participating States. The speakers touched upon the multitude of problems starting from the successful application tips to balancing the life/work/relationship, how to problematize the research proposal better and

create an organic and genuine research question, how to establish a smooth rapport with the potential and current supervisor and how not to lose interest in the research topic. Individual presentations followed by a Q&A session, where alumni and students could ask their questions and share their impressions from the workshop. The workshop is intended to further support recent alumni and current students in equipping them with practical and effective approaches to tackle the academic world in pursuing a PhD degree, and connect different alumni cohorts by facilitating intergenerational dialogue and exchange.

Alumni Chapter Meetings in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan and in Tashkent, Uzbekistan



At the end of the year, in November and December, the Academy was fortunate enough to hold offline meetings with alumni in Nur-Sultan and Tashkent. In November, the Academy gathered alumni in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, for a meeting with Professor Asel Doolotkeldieva. In December, the alumni met with Professor Viktoriya Akchurina and Nazira Abakirova in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During the meetings, alumni had the opportunity to discuss important regional issues, learn more about various topics from each other, and reminisce about the good old days at the Academy.

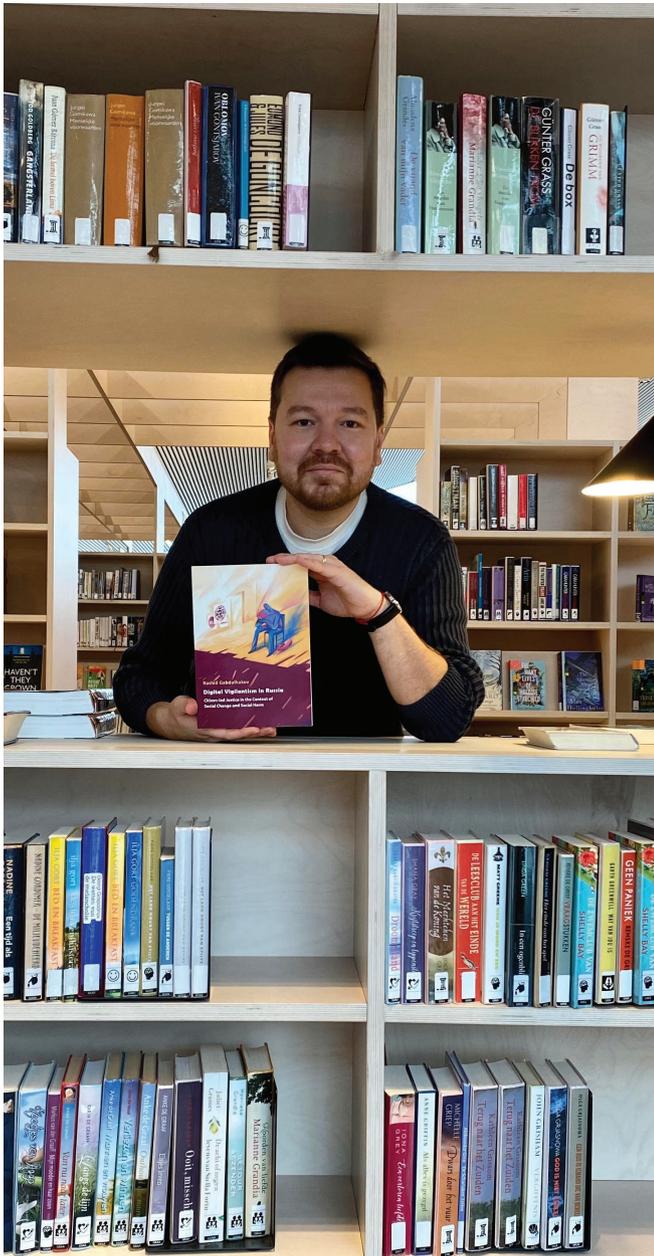
Project Management Training for Alumni

From 13 till 17 December the OSCE Academy conducted a Project Management training (advance level) for alumni, led by Mr. Peteris Rimss, from the Latvian National Project Management Association (LNPMA) and a Trainer with more than 15 years of experience in the field. This was an intensive 5-day training for graduates of the OSCE Academy, who already have some experience in Project management either in International Organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations, or other institutions, and needed to advance their knowledge of Project Management for further professional growth. Twelve alumni from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan had a chance to review all aspects of Project Management reinforced with practical exercises and real examples. Within the training, participants were divided into groups, were tasked to address the real situation and try to implement a project that has overrun the deadlines and budget. In the end, the groups presented all the results to the trainer, who played the role of the owner, evaluated the project and provided a feedback to each team. All participants have successfully passed the test and received the Certificates of Completion.



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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Every year the OSCE Academy Alumni Network selects one graduate to receive the title of the Alumna/us of the Year. The Award honors the Academy's most outstanding alumni. We wholeheartedly congratulate Rashid Gabdulhakov, alumnaus of 2013 of the MA Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan, for receiving most votes and receiving the award in 2021.

"The OSCE Academy has a very special place in my heart. Of course, I met Natasha [ed: Rashid's wife Natasha is also alumna of the OSCE Academy] here, I made some life-long friends and gained so much knowledge. Sometimes I sound like a broken record, but I do not get tired of repeating that the OSCE Academy is the best and most effective project of the Organization. The reason I say this, is that it offers a unique forum for people to come together, learn and coproduce knowledge. I am also endlessly happy about the fact that I stay connected with the new generations of the Academy's students. As soon as I started my PhD project in the Netherlands, I contacted the Academy's administration and proposed to introduce a cybersecurity module as something that is crucial, yet often neglected in security studies. It has been a true blessing to be able to teach this course and inspire students to look beyond the traditional and 'hard' security in the ever-evolving world. One important point to add here is that any institution is nothing without the great people that faithfully and tirelessly work towards its success. In this regard, the strong alumni network of the Academy is a major success factor."

Please, read the full story of Rashid in our 'Salam Alum' Annual Alumni Magazine available at:



ALUMNI INITIATIVES

Every year as we read the news from the lives of our academy graduates, we marvel at the extent of their accomplishments. In this part we want to share the stories of three of our beautiful alumnae who have contributed so much to the development and well-being of their homeland and other countries in need.

Helping the State and Ordinary Citizens through Digitalization

Nuria Kutnaeva is alumna of 2005, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan. Director of the State Agency for Personal Data Protection under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. Nuria introduced the electronic interoperability system “Tunduk” in the Kyrgyz Republic.

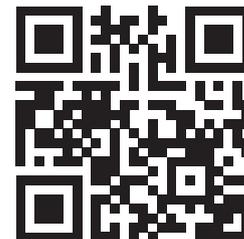


“After graduating from the OSCE Academy and then several years later after defending my PhD thesis at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University on the topic of security, I was invited to work in the secretariat of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic in the direction of preventing corruption in government agencies.”

Working directly with ordinary public servants and high officials of state agencies, and analyzing legislation I had the opportunity to study deeper the reasons of corruption in public agencies. It turned out that corruption risks are connected not only with small salaries of civil servants, but also with corruption mechanisms already laid down in the legislation. Furthermore, since there was weak automation in state agencies, it was easy to forge paper documents, signing everything retroactively. Or another example: in order to get paper documents, citizens are forced to go to different agencies, where everything depends on the goodwill of an official. It was painful to see how our citizens – pensioners, the poor, young mothers or entrepreneurs – are forced to go through all the circles of hell, obtaining paper documents!

When I was invited to help implementing such a digital state platform, which connects the information systems of government agencies with each other, I agreed beyond a shadow of a doubt. In 2018 we started from scratch the state enterprise “Center for Electronic Interaction ‘Tunduk’”, under the Ministry for Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, where I worked as the director (2018-2021). We introduced the interoperability system “Tunduk” to combat corruption, make people’s life easier and improve the efficiency of public administration in Kyrgyzstan.”

Please, read the full story of Nuria available at the Academy’s website:



Educated Youth – Bright Future of the Country

Alimana Zhanmukanova is alumna of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kazakhstan. Alimana initiated the project Discussion School RISE to study and discuss essential issues of Kazakhstan.



“Discussion School RISE - platform that united 24 young people from the North Kazakhstan region to study, discuss, and debate crucial issues of the Kazakhstani society. Lectures of distinguished experts and practitioners contributed to the participants’ better comprehension of the covered topics and encouraged them to immerse into new ways of thinking and problem-solving. Every participant was challenged to reflect his/her own vision and solutions to the central topics of the school through collaboration with other participants

and extensive discussions while working in teams under the supervision of curators. At the end of each day four teams were brought to competitive debating to exercise public speaking and critical thinking, while also gaining deeper understanding of the topics. Along that, participants’ experience at the school was enriched by providing soft skills on social projects drafting, implementation and fundraising, to the facilitation of long-lasting impact by encouraging them to take the initiative to contribute to the betterment of their communities. This year’s school covered the following topics - Disinformation, Feminism, Human Rights and Mental Health”

Providing a Chance for Better Future

Anahita Saymidinova is alumna of 2012, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Tajikistan. Anahita helped to rescue 167 people from Afghanistan via the Tajik-Afghan border while Taliban forces took control of Afghanistan’s capital city Kabul in summer 2021.



“On 30 August 2021 I got a phone call from the Israeli humanitarian NGO, the IsraAID. Yotam Polizer, the CEO asked me to support their secret evacuation operation from Afghanistan. They had a list of more than hundred vulnerable people mostly women and girls and their families. But the situation was intense as these people were at risk. We had to act immediately. And I joined them without any doubts.

On 2 September, with a lot of behind-the-scenes talks with high-level officials of Tajikistan, we managed to open the border and to rescue 41 people mostly girls and a 4 months old baby. Most of them were cyclists from Afghanistan. I welcomed them at the bridge. One of these girls was so young and so scared. When she cried, I hugged and told her: “now this nightmare is over”. We travelled to Abu Dhabi and they were placed at the special so-called Humanitarian City. When their papers are ready, they will travel to Canada as a final destination. We had harder time with the second group. The Taliban didn’t allow them to cross the Tajik-Afghan border. However, we managed to order an airplane from Mazari Sharif to Dushanbe. Policewomen, female judges, journalist and activists were among the 125 people. The government of Albania has agreed to receive them before they will go to the US or Canada.

I feel sorry for all these people who experienced such a huge trauma. It will have a long-term effect on their lives. But this successful rescue mission makes me happy because we gave them new hope to find a safe homeland.”

ALUMNI NETWORKING

Alumni in the Eurasia Lab and Fellowship Program at the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP)

It's great to see our graduates in a friendly team, but it's even better when they work together to develop exciting projects. In 2021 our graduates came up together and participated in the Eurasia Lab and Fellowship Program at the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) within several research projects:



Sergey Marinin, alumnus of 2014 from Kazakhstan, **Muslimbek Buriev**, alumnus of 2017 from Tajikistan, and **Azizjon Berdykulov**, alumnus of 2013 from Tajikistan, worked on a research project on Civil Society and the Covid-19 Governance Crisis in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



Svetlana Dzardanova, alumna of 2009 from Turkmenistan, and **Niginakhon Uralova**, alumna of 2018 from Uzbekistan, came together to work on the project Pandemics of COVID-19 and gender-based violence in Central Asia.



Rustam Mukhamedov, alumnus of 2019 from Turkmenistan, focused on the expanding Turkmen online activism, namely its strategies, capabilities, organizational and institutional evolution, and potential for laying the foundation for prospective democratic transformation in Turkmenistan.

ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Junior Public Officers Programme

In support of the professional integration of alumni in the public service, starting from 2010 the OSCE Academy has run a Junior Public Officers' (JPO) Programme. The JPO Programme provides an opportunity to the OSCE Academy's graduates from Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan to intern at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other State Agencies of the country of their respective citizenship.

In 2021 overall five alumni conducted their internships at State Agencies of Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan:

- Investment Promotion and Protection Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic **1**
- Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic **2**
- Institute of Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan **2**



Akai Omurbek uulu, alumnus of 2020 (Kyrgyzstan):

“One of the main contributions of the JPO Programme is that it helped me sneak a glance into the inner workings of the governmental machine – sort of a “black box” for outsiders which too often become either an object of ridicule or a coveted starting ground for someone’s career. I’ve experienced the formal and informal aspects of how this machine actually operates.”



Siam Mohammad Tamim, alumnus of 2020 (Afghanistan):

“The experiences which I have gained through the JPO program will help me to start my professional career in the public sector of Afghanistan specifically in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is one of the top ministries of Afghanistan, therefore, having experience of working in the Ministry is considered significant and valuable.”



Almagul Ishenbek kyzy, alumna of 2019 (Kyrgyzstan):

“...I think that my efforts during the internship at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic have already brought the first results. I was accepted for the OSCE-UNODA Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme during it... I really enjoyed working in the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic.”



Taieb Rajab, alumnus of 2020 (Afghanistan):

“During those three months, I learned about the structure of the Foreign Ministry, its missions abroad, and the role the Ministry plays in Afghanistan’s politics, especially its foreign policy. The lectures and seminars held at the IOD were other opportunities that I had the privilege to attend and learn about Afghanistan’s bilateral economic and political relations with its neighbors, regional countries and its strategic allies.”



Zhannat Kozhomgeldieva, alumna of 2020 (Kyrgyzstan):

“As for me, it was very important to get experience in the public sector. Taking part in the official meetings and conferences I have met many people, leaders, colleagues that have shared their experience with me. Moreover, I got to know the idea of how the governmental structure works, how ministries communicate with each other and what steps need to be completed in order to solve different problems.”

Junior Teaching Fellowship Programme

Capitalizing on the successful experience with the Junior Public Officers Programme and utilizing various best practices the OSCE Academy has launched in 2021 a new alumni-supporting initiative - Junior Teaching Fellowship (JTF) - “Teach for Central Asia” that aims to target regional universities and send Academy graduates to teach selected disciplines (relevant to the Academy’s curriculum, e.g. Academic Writing, International Relations, Economics etc.). The programme is intended to further grow and foster the Academy’s intellectual input into the region, and empower the Academy’s alumni network by giving the opportunity to become the agents of change in their communities.

The following alumni have successfully completed the JTF Programme in Fall 2021:



Gulbadam Madanbekova is alumna of 2018, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan. Gulbadam taught an ‘Academic Writing and Critical Reading’ course at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

“For me this programme has proven that while I share my knowledge with others, I hone my own skills. I am happy to be useful for other young people to build their confidence in writing and make them believe in their abilities to write and achieve new endeavors. Indeed, sharing is caring.”



Chyngyz Israilov is alumnus of 2017, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan. Chyngyz taught ‘Contemporary Conflicts and their Resolution’ course at Osh State University.

“From September to November I delivered lectures covering such topics as theory of conflict studies, approaches to understanding the notions of social conflicts, peace and violence. Along with lectures, my students performed workshop sessions by submitting thematic presentations and brief essays.”



Lidiya Chikalova is class of 2016, MA in Politics and Security. Lidiya taught ‘Academic Writing in English’ at Bishkek Humanities University.

“JTF is an innovative approach for state universities to benefit from seasoned experts from various fields; one of such universities was Bishkek Humanities University, European Civilisations Faculty where I taught an Academic Writing class to third-year students, who are interested in boosting analytical writing skills.”

Internationals Internships

The COVID-19 pandemic has not bypassed the internship opportunities for our alumni in 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions, internship opportunities for 2020 graduates have been limited. It was decided to reallocate funds for student internships to 2021. The Academy announced International Internship Programme only for 2020 graduates of both MA Programmes. Thus, the Academy selected five graduates to sponsor their internships:

Nosirkhon Qodirov is alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Tajikistan. Nosirkhon completed his internship at the Department of International Relations, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.

Alimana Zhanmukanova is alumna of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kazakhstan. Alimana had her internship with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Tinatin Osmonova is alumna of 2020, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Kyrgyzstan. Tinatin completed her internship at the LEYA Lab for Natural Language Processing.

Ismoil Sadullozoda is alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Tajikistan. Ismoil had his internship at the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg, Germany.

Shokirjon Shokirov is alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Tajikistan. Shokirjon completed his internship at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP).

Alumni Travel Grant

The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. In 2021 two alumni received Alumni Travel Grants to attend MIT Micromasters in Statistics and Data Science Programme and to develop and present a research project at the Alumni Conference 2021.

Tinatin Osmonova, alumna of 2020 (Kyrgyzstan), received the grant to attend MIT Micromasters in Statistics and Data Science Programme, where Tinatin learned new data analysis techniques and advanced her knowledge in probability theory and fundamentals of statistics.

Natalia Zakharchenko, alumna of 2012 (Kyrgyzstan), received a grant to develop and present a research project at the Alumni Conference 2021. The provided opportunity helped Natalia to open prospects to deepen the research with new data and materials, including through the follow-up and analysis of recent legislative initiatives and amendments.

One-Year-Stay at NUPI Fellowship

In 2021 two more alumni had a chance to continue their fellowships offered by the Norwegian institute of International Affairs (NUPI): **Galina Kolodzinskaia**, alumna of 2017 of the MA Programme in Politics and Security and **Aidai Isataeva**, alumna of 2018 of the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development. Galina and Aidai's fellowships have been extended for one more academic year due to their excellent academic performance and also due to pandemic restrictions. This Fellowship is exclusively targeted at the alumni of the OSCE Academy. This stay is an add-on to the MA degree from the OSCE Academy, and the purpose is to further prepare the two successful applicants for work in international affairs or continued study/research by deepening their practical and academic experience. Here Galina and Aidai shortly describe their second-year experience at NUPI.



“As opposed to the education process at the Academy which logically is focused more on theoretical and descriptive knowledge, the NUPI fellowship is almost entirely oriented on the acquisition of practical skills such as digital literacy, problem-solving, and critical thinking that many employers would ask about at job interviews. In addition, working at NUPI presents a wonderful opportunity to dive into a multi-cultural work environment, that too in Scandinavia, an experience that will look good not only on paper but also in daily life interactions. And, finally, the lucrative opportunity to get published in leading peer-reviewed journals is a wonderful start-up for one’s academic career with the potential of admission to the world’s leading universities--if one plays one’s cards right.”

Master of Advanced Studies in International and European Security

The OSCE Academy alumni along with graduates of other universities from Central Asia each year compete to be selected and enrolled to the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International and European Security. The MAS programme is open for recent university graduates as well as practitioners with professional experience in a security policy-related field to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Global Studies Institute (GSI) of the University of Geneva. **Aikerim Motukeeva**, alumna of 2015, was granted this opportunity for the academic year 2021-2022.



“The programme consists of both theoretical aspects of lecture material and thesis writing; and a practical component during which the participants have an opportunity to put the learnt theories and concepts to practice within the framework of project work. It is remarkable that the whole programme is tailored in such a way as to make it easier for the participants to take away the practical aspects that could be immediately implemented in their work places once they return to their respective organizations.”

“Apart from the invaluable knowledge, the course presents a great opportunity to network with a wide range of professionals, including GCSP staff, visiting experts, faculty of the University of Geneva and, of course, other participants in the course. It is an excellent opportunity to further your knowledge, gain new skills, and also form new friendships.”

Research Fellowship at the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat regularly engages eight or nine graduate students of political science, law and international relations from universities in OSCE countries as Research Fellows. Starting from 2017, one position of a Research Fellow every year is granted to an OSCE Academy graduate (under the MoU signed on 10 August 2016). In 2021 our alumnus, **Emomali Mirzoev** '20, had the privilege to start his fellowship at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat:



“As soon as I arrived, I found interesting assignments to work on. A big part of it is attending OSCE meetings, such as the weekly Permanent Council, informal working group meetings, bilaterals and some ad-hoc events in the three dimensions of the OSCE.”

The Central Asia-Azerbaijan Fellowship Program (CAAFP)

The George Washington University – Elliott School of International Affairs’ Central Asia Program (CAP) opened its Central Asia and Azerbaijan Fellowship to alumni from the OSCE Academy, as part of a new partnership between CAP and the Academy. The theme selected for the fall 2021 fellowship was: “Societal Engagement with Cultural, Educational, Environmental, and Gender-Related Issues.”

The Central Asia-Azerbaijan Fellowship Program (CAAFP) is intended for young professionals – scholars, government officials, public policy experts, and social activists – who seek to enhance their research and analytical skills and become public policy leaders. The fellowship is available to individuals from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

The following alumni have successfully completed the Programme online in Fall 2021:

Niginakhon Uralova is alumna of 2018, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan.

Waris Ahmad Faizi is alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Afghanistan.

Albina Yun is alumna of 2015, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan.

Tansaya Khajikhan is alumna of 2020, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Mongolia.

Aizhan Erisheva is alumna of 2018, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Kyrgyzstan.

Kasiet Ysmanova is alumna of 2017, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan.

Javeed Ahwar is alumnus of 2011, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Afghanistan.

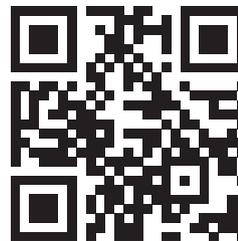
Andrei Shvarev is alumnus of 2021, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Russia.

Albina Yun was selected to receive the grant from the OSCE Academy to come to GWU for one month to continue working on her research in 2022.



SalamAlum
OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

The OSCE Academy collects success stories of its alumni and together with the Alumni Network activities publishes them in the annual Alumni Magazine SalamAlum.



PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

In 2021 the OSCE Academy successfully implemented several projects in cooperation with Partner Institutions and Universities, as well as established in a number of new partnerships for future collaboration:

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Activities implemented in 2021

SPCE Hub/IPGT Berlin, Germany,
04 February 2021

SPCE HUB

Sustainability Partnerships across
Central Eurasia and Europe

“Central Asia Forecasting 2021- Results from an Expert Survey” study, jointly implemented by the OSCE Academy, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), the SPCE Hub and aimed to help strengthen EU–Central Asia relations.

**Public Foundation “Books for
Development”, Kyrgyzstan,**
15 February 2021

The OSCE Academy supports the publication of the book *“Россия и Развитие: Капитализм, Гражданское Общество и Государство”* (“*Russia and Development: Capitalism, Civil Society and the State*”) written by Charles Buxton to be published in 2022.

**CRISP Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V.,
Germany,**
06 May 2021

>CRISP

- Joint Certificate Training in Peace and Conflict participants from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Mongolia.
 - Certificate Training on Climate Change in Central Asia: Impact and Policy Options and the Simulation Game NISIA
 - Climate-Induced Crises for participants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
-

Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, Germany,
22 September 2021



The joint project between the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg (Germany) and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) aimed to develop a better understanding of the impact of international human rights standards on internationalization and nation-building in Central Asia. For this purpose, the workshops with representatives from CSOs and Academia focused on human rights and human rights policies in the process of transformation, state-building, and nation-building in states of Central Asia.

EU-funded project Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA), Kyrgyzstan,
29 September 2021



The OSCE Academy hosted two trainings:

- on Tactical Medicine, which is an area of emergency medicine focusing on prehospital emergency care to support high-risk law enforcement operations
- on negotiation techniques, focused on establishing a dialogue with the person who is threatening his life or that of others, using psychological techniques to influence their behaviour, and in the end to surrender peacefully.

Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy, UK,
08 October 2021



The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in collaboration with the OSCE Academy, REPRESENT and the UoN-Malaysia conducted online Asian Winter and Summer Schools on Political Parties and Democracy.

**“William & Mary in Williamsburg,
VA, US” (AIDDATA)**
14 December 2021



Joint Launch Event and Panel Discussion “Corridors of Power: How China Creates Economic, Social, and Network Ties to Exert Influence in South and Central Asia.” This event featured a presentation and panel discussion related to an extensive new study on Chinese public diplomacy efforts in the region, ranging from financing and education to culture and social media.

**Central Asia Program (CAP)
at the Elliott School of International
Affairs, USA,**
13 December 2021



**THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**
WASHINGTON, DC

The GWU – Elliott School of International Affairs’ CAP opened its Central Asia and Azerbaijan Fellowship for alumni of the OSCE Academy, as part of a new partnership between CAP and the Academy. The theme selected for the fall 2021 fellowship was: “Societal Engagement with Cultural, Educational, Environmental, and Gender-Related Issues.”

**Institute for War and Peace Reporting
(IWPR), Kyrgyzstan,**
prolonged on 08 February 2021



In 2021 the OSCE Academy continued providing information support to IWPR CABAR.asia School of Analytics, have been working to form a new pool of young experts and journalists-analysts capable of providing high-quality analytics for government authorities and the general public.

**European Centre for Minority Issues
(ECMI), Germany,**
prolonged on 10 February 2021



ECMI annually accepts the Academy’s students and recent graduates for two-month internships.

OXUS Society, USA,
05 March 2021



**Centre for European Security
Studies, The Netherlands,**
26 March 2021



**National Institute for Strategic
Studies, Kyrgyzstan,**
31 May 2021



The OSCE Academy institutionalized partnerships to carry out joint research projects, organize conferences, seminars and/or trainings, implement experts exchange and other joint academic activities.

**Economic Research Institute,
Kazakhstan,**
03 June 2021



Webster University in Tashkent,
26 August 2021



Budget received in 2021

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany



- Academic mobilities for Teaching Staff to work on Project “Central Asia and Islam”
- Student Mobilities

Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany



- Academic short-term mobility for Staff
- Student mobility from the Academy to Philipps-Universität Marburg

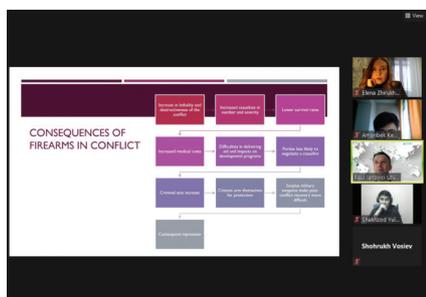
List of all current Partner Institutions
is available on our website:



NOTABLE VISITORS AND GUEST LECTURERS



Representatives of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - **Dr. Nout van Woudenberg**, Deputy head of Mission, and **Irina Buchinskaya**, Political, Human Rights & Project Officer in Kazakhstan paid an introductory visit to the OSCE Academy and met Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy on 4 February 2021.



Paul Ianovici, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer at the Global Firearms Programme and Education for Justice initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered a Guest Lecture on 'The consequences of the illicit acquisition, manufacture, trafficking and criminal use of firearms' in an online format to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security within the course 'Contemporary Security Issues' taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 5 March 2021.



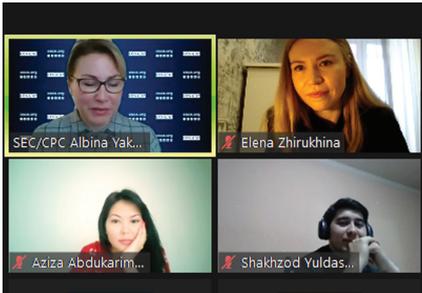
Dr. Chiara Pierobon, Postdoctoral Researcher at Bielefeld University (Germany) and Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered an online Guest Lecture "Music, Identity and Cognitive Praxis in Radical Movements: Why Culture Matters" within the Political Violence and Terrorism module taught by Dr. Daniella Irrera from the University of Catania, on 18 March 2021.



Irakli Beridze, Head of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNI-CRI), delivered an online lecture on Global Perspective on the AI enabled Crime and Crime Prevention to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security within the course 'Contemporary Security Issues' taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 26 March 2021.



H.E. Charles Garrett, British Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, visited the OSCE Academy to deliver a guest lecture on “Integrated Review of the UK Foreign Policy” to MA students of both Programmes on 1 April 2021.



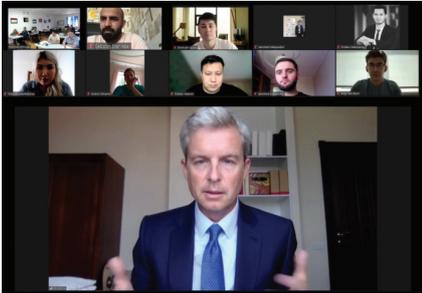
Albina Yakubova, Project Officer at the Conflict Prevention Centre of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), e-visited the OSCE Academy in Bishkek to deliver an online lecture on the role of the OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) in addressing cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security within the framework of the course ‘Contemporary Security Issues’ taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 2 April 2021.



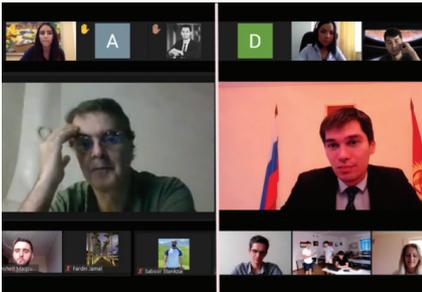
H.E. Ann Linde, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, accompanied by **H.E. Christian Kamill**, Ambassador of Sweden to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, **Petra Lärke**, Head of the Task Force for Swedish Chair of the OSCE, **Ambassador Pierre von Arx**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and **Kristin Höltge**, Head, Central Asia Desk at the OSCE Secretariat, Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), visited the Academy within her official trip to Kyrgyzstan on 13 April 2021.



Dumitru Lipcanu, UN Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) Deputy Representative for Central Asia, accompanied by **Olesya Stepanenko**, Senior Programme Assistant, paid an introductory visit to the OSCE Academy on 15 June 2021.



Kristian G Moore, Political and Economic Affairs Counselor, U.S. Embassy Bishkek, delivered a Guest Lecture in an online format to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security, within the framework of the module on Central Asia and the USA, taught by Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev, on 18 June 2021.



Artem Romanov, Head of the Foreign Policy Group of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Kyrgyz Republic, and **Dr. Pierre Chabal**, Professor, Le Havre University, presented an online lecture to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security within the framework of the module on Central Asia and Russia, taught by Dr. Nargiza Muratalieva on 25 June 2021.



Dr. Willy Kempel, Ambassador of Austria to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, accompanied by **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, and **Clemens Machal**, Commercial Counsellor of the Austrian Embassy in Kazakhstan, visited the OSCE Academy to meet Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the Academy and Dr. Indira Sartkulova, Deputy Director on 11 August 2021.



Delegation of The Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Eastern Germany, which consisted of academics, researchers, journalists, and directors of memorial sites in Germany dealing with the communist past, visited the OSCE Academy as part of their Study Trip to Kyrgyzstan on 15 October 2021.



Dr. Marat Murzabekov, Monitoring & Evaluation consultant for the UNDP offices in Lebanon and Niger, gave a guest lecture to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security on 16 October 2021.



Dr. Melissa Skye Kerr Chiovenda, a professor at Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, delivered a guest lecture to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security on 21 October 2021.



Cholpon Orozobekova, Director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations based in Geneva delivered a Guest Lecture on 'State Policies Toward ISIS Fighters and Their Associates: Repatriation and Rehabilitation in Central Asia' to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security on 1 November 2021.



Andrew Matwick, Canada-based international consultant to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Special Projects and Innovation Branch (SPIB) delivered an online lecture 'From Intelligence Operations to International Organizations: Nurturing Relationships that Enable Global Security Cooperation' to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security, within the framework of the course 'International Relations' taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 3 November 2021.



H.E. Jorge Urbiola Lopez de Montenegro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Spain to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, paid an introductory visit to the OSCE Academy during his working trip to Kyrgyzstan on 4 November 2021.



Dr. Alasdair Gordon-Gibson, who has worked for over twenty years with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement planning and managing humanitarian programmes in emergency relief and economic security presented the topic of 'Humanitarian Diplomacy: complicity or compromise?' within the framework of the course 'International Relations' to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 15 November 2021.



Dr. Neil Melvin, Director of International Security Studies at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) delivered a Guest Lecture on 'The UK as a security actor post-Brexit - Global Britain agenda' to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security, within the framework of the course 'International Relations' taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina on 17 November 2021.



H.E. Matteo Mecacci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), accompanied by **Fabrizio Nava**, Head of the Office of the Director, ODIHR, and **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, paid an introductory visit 29 November 2021.



Farah Karimi, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Youth Engagement, accompanied by **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **Jantijn Anema**, Advisor, Parliament of Netherlands, and **Manuchekhr Salokhudinov**, Programme Officer, OSCE PA International Secretariat visited the OSCE Academy and delivered a guest-lecture to current MA students on 30 November 2021.

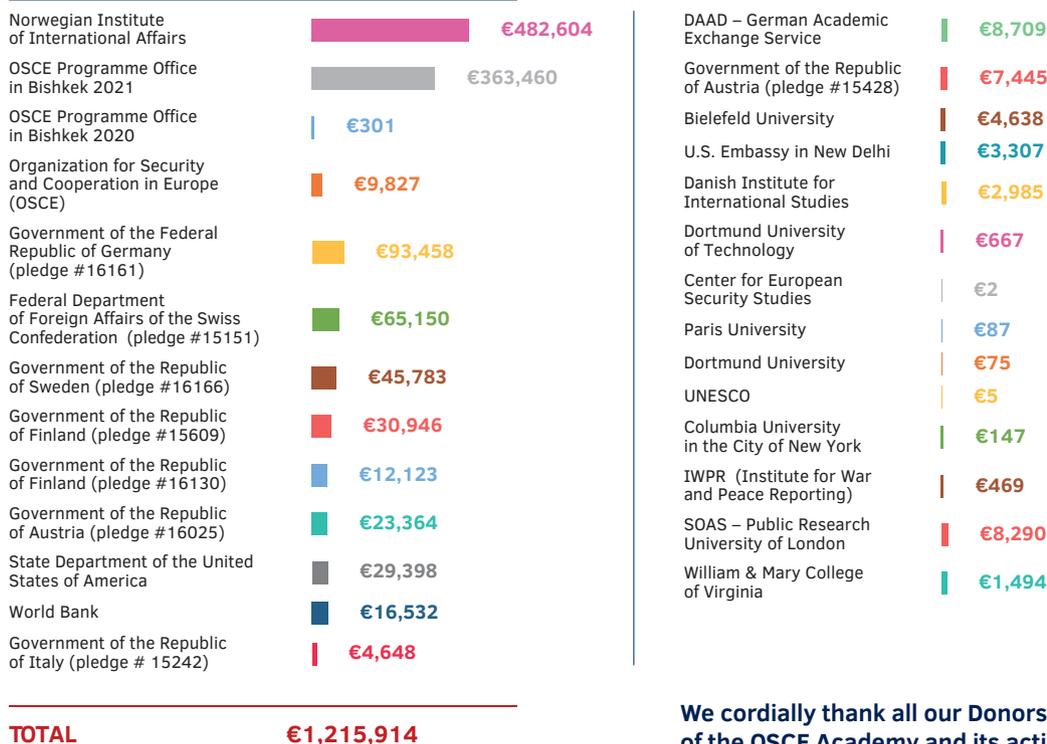
FINANCES

In line with continued efforts to increase the transparency and accountability of the Academy's financial operations we are providing the following differentiated overview of our budget and expenses.

Expenditures by Area of Activities



Expenditures by Source of Funding



We cordially thank all our Donors for their support of the OSCE Academy and its activities in 2021!

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The report is also available on the OSCE Academy's website at:
<http://osce-academy.net/en/about/annualreports/>

