



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Esteemed Members of the OSCE Academy Community,

With great enthusiasm and profound pride, I warmly welcome you to explore the rich mosaic of achievements presented in our 2024 Annual Report. This report is more than a collection of milestones—it is a testament to the OSCE Academy's unwavering dedication to academic excellence, pioneering research, and the promotion of OSCE principles and values across Central Asia and beyond.

Since its founding in 2002, the OSCE Academy has grown into a dynamic hub of learning and innovation. With a thriving network set to surpass 700 alumni after the graduation of the MA classes of 2023-

25, our graduates serve as catalysts for positive change, shaping communities and driving progress across the OSCE region. Their successes are a reflection of the transformative power of our educational programmes, reinforcing our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders and scholars.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the host State of Kyrgyzstan, our esteemed Board of Trustees, all of our academic partners, as well as to the dedicated faculty and staff whose tireless efforts and steadfast dedication continue to propel the Academy forward. Despite global uncertainties and regional challenges, the resilience of our community remains an unwavering source of inspiration. Through strategic fundraising initiatives and expanded academic and financial support, we have strengthened our resolve to foster inclusivity, empower talent, and enhance our institution's impact.

As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I take immense pride in celebrating the collective achievements of the OSCE Academy team. Their dedication has been instrumental in advancing our strategic goals and reinforcing our reputation for excellence in research and education. Looking ahead to 2025, I am confident that we will continue to elevate our mission while prioritizing the well-being, engagement, and success of our students, faculty, and staff.

Within these pages, you will find a vivid portrait of life at the OSCE Academy—an inspiring journey of perseverance, discovery, and transformation. I invite you to immerse yourself in our story, celebrate our accomplishments, and share in our vision to promote peace and security in Central Asia and beyond.

With warmest regards,

Ambassador Alexey Rogov

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Readers,

It is my honour and pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for 2024. Life is never boring at the OSCE Academy. However, 2024 could be identified as the most eventful in many years. It is suffice to mention the changes in the management as illustration. During the year, three colleagues made an effort to manage the Academy. It started with Acting Director, Dr. Indira Satarkulova who was in that function since the departure of Dr. Alexander Wolters in December 2022, and stayed in office as Acting Director until the end of January 2024. Between February and the end of June 2024, Dr. Kate Walker was the Director of the Academy. Finally, I started to work as Interim Director in July with a mandate until the end of the year that was later extended by two months. These changes were complemented by the departure of Deputy Director Dr. Satarkulova in the end of 2024 after more than eight years working for the OSCE Academy, including overall 20 months as Acting Director in two periods of time. The Academy will never forget about her contribution.



However, the OSCE Academy is not about staff and management. It is first and foremost about the students and their studies complemented by some other activities. It is the most important that the three MA programmes, and the Economics BA continued in good order. The 2022-4 cohort of MA in Politics and Security and in Economic Governance and Development graduated 23 and 13 students, respectively. In 2024, overall 53 students joined the three MA programmes, and the 2024-8 BA class in Economics started with 17 students. The international accreditation of the MAHRS programme started in the autumn of 2024 and was successfully completed by the EdNet accreditation agency in the beginning of 2025.

In 2024 excellent news arrived at the OSCE Academy: The Academy has been ranked as the top higher education institution of Kyrgyzstan by the Center for Assessment of Education and Teaching Methods (CAETM), based on the results of the competition for admission (based on the overall score of the main test). It tells us that the work of more than two decades of many, the good news spread by our graduates, the insistence on professional and moral standards, have brought fruits. It also means that we will have to work hard to maintain the high standards and hope for similarly high recognition. However, we should remain modest as there are other higher education institutions in Kyrgyzstan that also do their best. Still, hopefully staying in the league of being one of the most demanded higher educational institutions is already a great honor and achievement.

The many changes resulted in a bit less publications by the OSCE Academy while our colleagues continued to contribute to the academic community. It is a particular honor to mention that the DAAD associate professor of the OSCE Academy, Dr. Sebastian Mayer published together with his colleague, Professor Jakob Lempp an edited

monograph “The EU as an Actor in Central Asia: External Impacts, Regional Responses” in the series, Palgrave Studies in European Union Politics, including a chapter by our colleague, Dr. Almakan Orozobekova.

In the last months of 2024, the OSCE Academy published five Policy Briefs (no-s 93-97) on topics of lasting relevance for the region. We are very glad that many junior authors offer their contributions to the Academy, including some of our excellent graduates. What the OSCE Academy offers in turn is a thorough and interactive editorial process that may further improve the manuscripts, and then a publication that is available both electronically and in hard copy. It is reassuring to find many references to our Policy Briefs and other publications in the academic and policy world.

During 2024, the OSCE Academy signed 12 new bilateral memoranda and agreements with universities, national institutions, and international bodies. This entailed the State Intellectual Property Service of Kyrgyzstan, the Anti-Corruption Business Council under the President of Kyrgyzstan, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), UN Women in Kyrgyzstan, KIMEP University in Almaty, the Maqсут Narikbayev University also in Kazakhstan, the Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University) and Sustainability Nexus Solutions, both in Uzbekistan, Yerevan State University in Armenia, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute in China, the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University in Thailand, EURAC Research in Italy and The Hague Research Institute for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia, The Netherlands. The Erasmus+ based cooperation was renewed with the University of Salzburg whereas a new agreement was concluded with the University of Valencia.

The OSCE Academy could always count on the close attention and support of the Board of Trustees of the Academy, and its chairman, Ambassador Alexey Rogov. The OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek under the leadership of the ambassador, works very closely with the Academy. I can’t say that we work together on a daily basis as it is often on an hourly basis or even more frequently, depending upon the needs. The open doors of the Programme Office is essential and highly appreciated. This is a very intensive working relationship that serves the best interest of the OSCE Academy.

The OSCE Academy cannot exist without the financial support of the organization, the extra-budgetary (ExB) contributions of many participating states, and some others. We are very grateful for the support from the OSCE Unified Budget, the ExB of Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States. The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) has been a long-term, major supporter of the OSCE Academy. With the long-term framework, renewed for 2024-7, it greatly contributes to the stability of the work of the Academy with an emphasis of research and alumni affairs. The Global Campus of Human Rights is an essential and lasting contributor to the MA programme in Human Rights and Sustainability and thus another main factor of its stability and prospects. We are extremely grateful for all the support and hope we can widen the group of donors.

I hope when you read the annual report you notice the efforts and the achievements and you share the view that the Academy is a very valuable and unique programme and implementing partner of the OSCE.

I wish you have the attention to the Annual Report and in light of it find a way to support the work that is so dear to us: To promote development by bringing the young generation of intellectuals together for the benefit of the broader region.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pal Dunay,

Interim Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

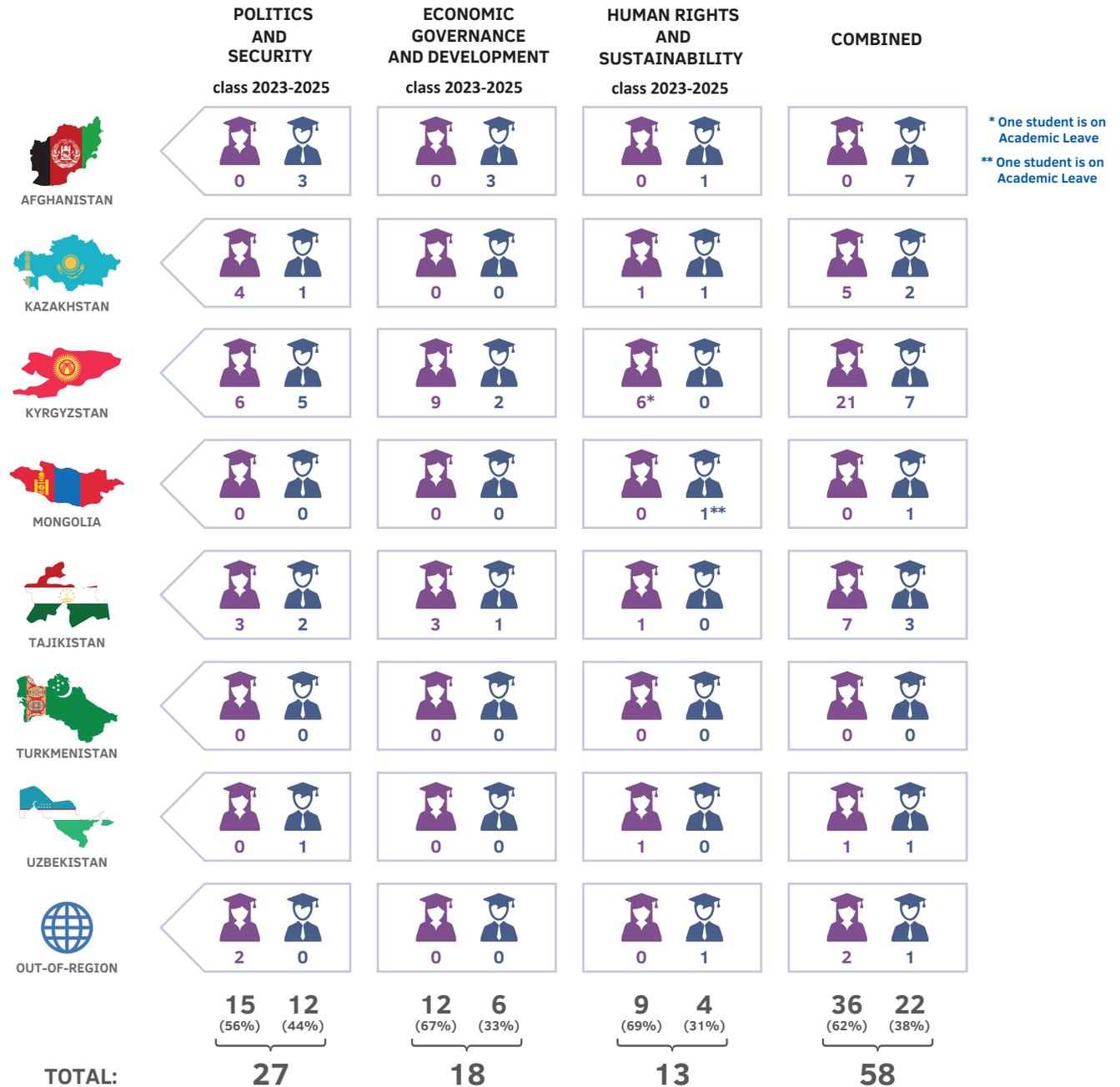


Graduation Ceremony of Class of 2022-2024

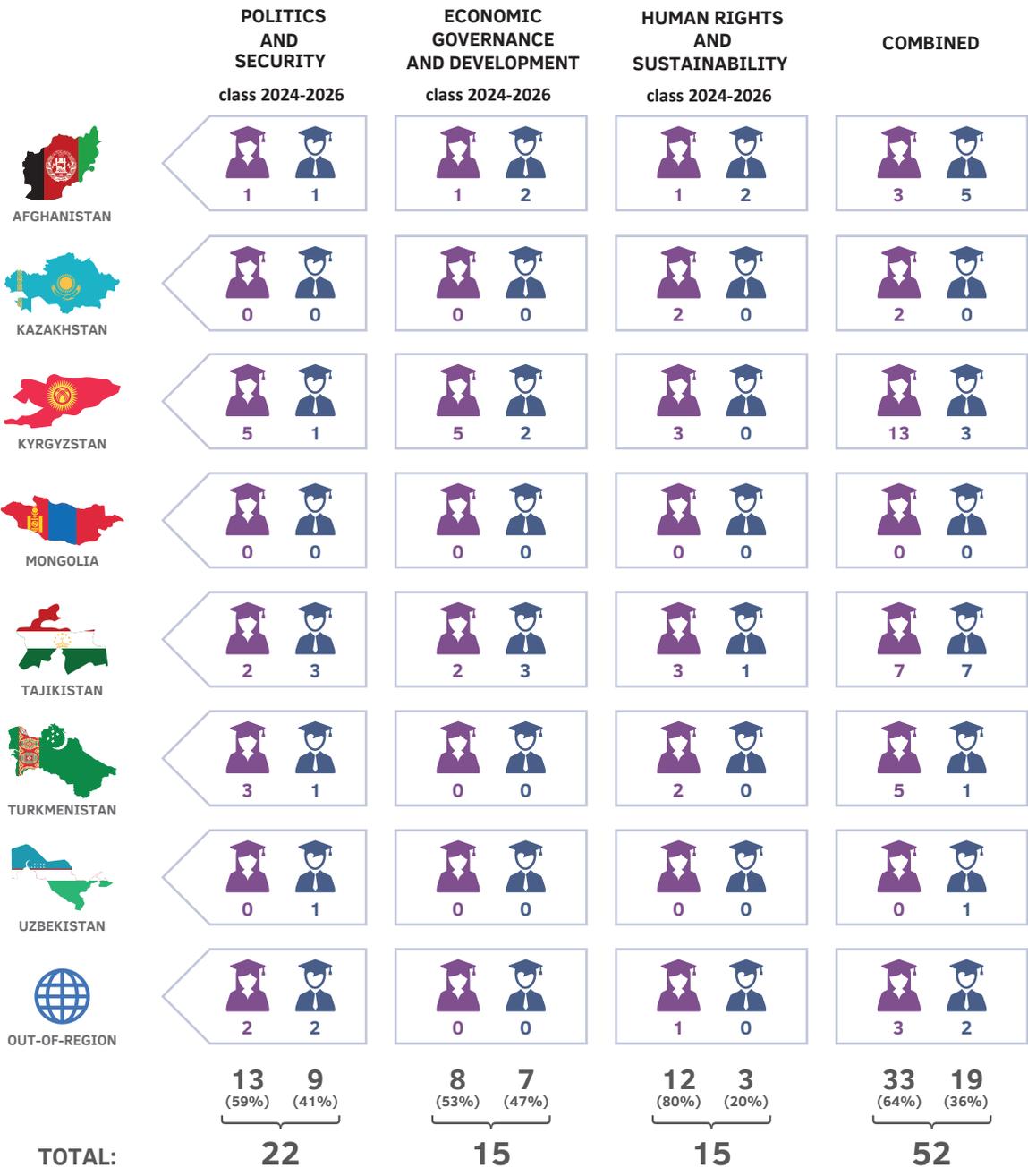
In 2024, the OSCE Academy remained committed to providing high-quality education. Throughout the year, its focus was on maintaining academic excellence, strengthening students' research capabilities, and facilitating valuable professional experiences and networking through international internships and mobility. The commitment and dedication of the faculty played a vital role in fostering students' academic and professional development, enhancing the programmes' effectiveness and sustainability, and promoting student engagement. In addition to the Academy's permanent faculty in Bishkek, renowned scholars from partner institutions contributed to students' learning by delivering intensive, practice-based modules in specialized disciplines.

The OSCE Academy's three programmes - MA in Economic Governance & Development, MA in Politics & Security (Central Asia), and MA in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Human Rights and Sustainability - continue to cultivate an environment where students develop critical thinking skills, build professional networks, and prepare for meaningful contributions to governance, civil society, and international cooperation.

Students of the MA Programmes



Students of the MA Programmes



MA Programme in Politics and Security



The MA in Politics & Security (Central Asia) focuses on international relations and security studies, equipping students with the analytical and strategic thinking skills.

In 2024, 19 highly qualified lecturers with PhD degrees contributed to the programme. Their strong academic backgrounds and research experience demonstrate the Academy's dedication to high-quality education, providing students with in-depth knowledge, critical analytical skills, and a comprehensive understanding of regional and global security issues.

Faculty. Winter 2024, Spring 2024 and Fall 2024

- Dr. Sebastian Mayer (Germany), OSCE Academy – DAAD
- Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqсут Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), Crossroads Central Asia, independent non-profit research institute
- Dr. Clara Portela (Spain), University of Valencia, Spain
- Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Barbara Christoph (Germany), Georg-Eckert-Institute, Germany
- Dr. Daniela Iterra (Spain), University of Catania, Italy
- Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia
- Dr. Aijan Sharshenova (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Rouslan Jalil (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Helge Blakkisrud (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov (Netherlands), University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Dr. Yana Leksytina (Russia), Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia
- Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, OSCE Academy
- Dr. Baktybek Urmambetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Mary Bernadette Conde (Philippines), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), OSCE Academy

Female – 7 (37 %), Male – 12 (63%)

In Winter 2024, Spring 2024, and Fall 2024, the curriculum included a total of 24 full-term, modular, and elective courses.

Winter 2024

- Central Asian Politics and Security
- International Political Economy
- Contemporary Security Issues
- MA Thesis Seminar
- Governance, Democracy and Public Policy
- European Politics
- Introduction into qualitative research methods
- Energy Politics

Spring 2024

- Political Violence and Terrorism
- Project Management
- Central Asia and Russia
- The Rise of AI and Big Tech: Implications for Global Politics and Security

- Political Islam
- Central Asia and the USA
- Nation, State and Nationalism
- International Cyber Security
- Central Asia and China
- European Climate Policy

Fall 2024

- International Relations
- History of Political Thought
- Research Methods
- Quantitative Methods in IR
- The OSCE
- Academic Writing and Honesty

MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development



The MA in Economic Governance & Development programme provides students with a deep understanding of economic policies, financial systems, and governance structures. The programme is delivered by a highly qualified and experienced faculty with extensive academic backgrounds and professional expertise. Visiting professors and experts contribute to specialized courses and practice-oriented modules through cooperation agreements with partner institutions. Additionally, guest lecturers bring valuable real-world perspectives, ensuring that students gain a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of global economic challenges and policy solutions.

In 2024, the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme received comprehensive academic support, with 73% of the lecturers holding PhD degrees, enhanced by valuable insights from experts and practitioners.

Faculty. Winter 2024, Spring 2024 and Fall 2024

- Dr. Nurgul Tilenbaeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Ms. Aylai Mukhtarbek kyzy (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev (Kyrgyzstan), Ala-Too International University
- Dr. Kuat Akizhanov (Kazakhstan), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, China

- Dr. Roman Vakulchuk (Kazakhstan), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. John D. Jinkner (USA), Webster University in Tashkent
- Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiyev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia
- Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Alisher Mirzabaev (Uzbekistan), International Rice Research Institute, Philippines
- Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov (Netherlands), University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Mr. Aibek Ashirov (Kyrgyzstan), World Bank
- Dr. Nurbek Jenish (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Lukasz Gruszczynski (Poland), Kozminski University, Poland
- Ms. Dina Biba (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Mr. Murod Khusanov (Uzbekistan)
- Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), OSCE Academy

Female – 3 (16 %), Male – 16 (84%)



“Teaching this cohort of students has been an absolute joy. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and kindness made every class truly special and meaningful. With the skills they have gained at the OSCE Academy and the exceptional qualities they embody, I am confident that these graduates will make a lasting impact in their communities.” – Dr. Nurgul Tilenbaeva, Lecturer, MA in Economic Governance and Development

In Winter 2024, Spring 2024, and Fall 2024, the curriculum included a total of 25 full-term, modular, and elective courses.

Winter 2024

- Econometrics
- Introduction to Stata
- Research Methods and Design
- Industrial Policy
- International Financial System
- Economics of Sustainable Development
- Business Simulation for Politics and Governance
- International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings
- Energy Politics
- Economics and Regulation of the Energy Sector

Spring 2024

- International Development
- Integrated Water Resources Management

- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources
- Project Management
- Good Governance in Central Asia
- MA Thesis Seminar
- Data Science
- Python

Fall 2024

- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Statistics
- Economic Governance and Regulation
- International and Regional Trade Arrangements
- The OSCE
- Academic Writing and Honesty

MA Programme in Human Rights and Sustainability



The Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS) is a programme designed for young scholars and professionals aiming to study International Human Rights Law, Good Governance, and Sustainability Principles, Norms, and Standards, with a focus on the Central Asian region. It is structured as a transdisciplinary MA programme, bridging international law, social sciences, and humanities.

The programme offers students a comprehensive understanding of human rights frameworks and sustainable development. It is delivered by a highly qualified and experienced faculty and consists of two terms at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, followed by a third term at a partner university. The curriculum is enriched by visiting professors and experts, who contribute with specialized courses and practice-oriented modules through partnerships with leading institutions. Additionally, guest lecturers provide real-world insights, ensuring that students develop a practical and up-to-date understanding of global human rights challenges and sustainable development solutions.

In 2024, the MAHRS programme received comprehensive academic support, with 87% of lecturers holding PhD degrees, further enriched by insights from experts and practitioners.

Faculty. Fall 2024

- Dr. Manfred Nowak (Italy), Global Campus of Human Rights
- Dr. Sergey Sayapin (Kazakhstan), Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics, and Strategic Research
- Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Sebastian Mayer (Germany), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Christelle Genoud (Switzerland), King's College London
- Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev (Kyrgyzstan), Ala-Too International University
- Dr. Kemel Toktomushev (Kyrgyzstan), University of Central Asia
- Dr. Lucia Leontiev (Germany), Berlin Potsdam Research Group
- Dr. Claudio Pala (Italy), Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA), European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM), Ukraine

- Dr. Vincent Della Sala (Italy), University of Trento
- Dr. Daniela Irrera (Italy), University of Catania
- Dr. Gerard Masdeu (Ireland), Munster Technological University
- Dr. Francisco Romero (Spain), Institute for Comparative Federalism
- Dr. Leonardo Bandarra (Germany), University of Duisburg-Essen
- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqсут Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Svetlana Chetaikina (Italy), University of Padua
- Dr. Felipe Gomez Isa (Spain), University of Deusto
- Dr. Ariadna Petri (Germany), Center for Conflict Studies, Philipps-Universität Marburg
- Mrs. Dilfuza Kurolova (Uzbekistan), International Commission of Jurists
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmitz (Germany), Maqсут Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Sima Samar (USA), Fletcher School, Tufts University

Female – 9 (41 %), Male – 13 (59%)

In Winter 2024 and Fall 2024, the curriculum included a total of 25 full-term, modular, and elective courses.

Winter 2024

- Regionalism
- Political Regime Theory
- Sustainability and Civil Society in Central Asia
- Mixed Methods I: Quantitative, Qualitative and Triangulation
- Mixed Methods II: Qualitative, Case Studies and Verification Research Methods
- Research Design and Qualitative Methods
- Applied Research and Teaching Methods
- Minority and Indigenous Rights
- Theory and Practice of System Transformation
- Democratization/Democratic Institution Building
- Rule of Law and Protection of Fundamental Human Rights in the European Union
- Conflict Prevention
- International Human Rights Law
- MA Thesis Proposal

Fall 2024

- International Human Rights Law and Sustainable Development Goals-Introduction
- International Human Rights Law in Central Asia
- Concepts and Policies of International Relations

tions

- Good Governance in Central Asia
- International Human Rights Law: United Nations Treaty Law
- Concepts and Policies of International Human Rights Regimes
- Concepts and Policies of Sustainability
- Political Regime Theory in International Relations, with a special focus on Central Asia
- International Human Rights Law
- Migration Law
- Human Rights Fact-Finding

Mobility Term – Fall 2024

The mobility term is spent in the following partner universities:

- American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan
- Kazakhstan University of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP), Kazakhstan
- University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan
- Yerevan State University, Armenia
- Karaganda Buketov University, Kazakhstan

BA Programme in Economics



Three cohorts of undergraduate students from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan play a vital role in shaping the OSCE Academy's diverse and dynamic academic community alongside its graduate students. In 2024, four new students from Afghanistan (three female and one male) enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme, seizing the opportunity to further their education at the OSCE Academy.

The BA in Economics Programme is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in economic theory, practical skills, and policy analysis. It fosters academic excellence, promotes cross-cultural collaboration, and cultivates an inclusive and cooperative learning environment, reinforcing the Academy's commitment to high-quality education and regional engagement.

Faculty. Spring 2024 and Fall 2024

In 2024, most of the faculty members of the Bachelor of Arts in Economics programme were composed of lecturers from the partner universities of the OSCE Academy, supported by contributions from scholars from the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. This composition enriched the learning environment and provided students with a broad range of perspectives and experiences.

64% of the faculty members holding a PhD degree played a key role in ensuring that students received high-quality instruction from experts in the field of economics. The faculty consisted of both female and male instructors, fostering a balanced and inclusive academic environment.

- Dr. Mukaram Toktogulova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Bakhtiar Igamberdiev (Kyrgyzstan), United World International School
- Dr. Mirgul Nizaeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Mr. Javlon Juraev (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Urmat Ryskulov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Ms. Begimai Abdraeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Vladimir Zbarski (Kyrgyzstan), Academy of Physical Education and Sports
- Dr. Ulanbek Moldokmatov (Kyrgyzstan), Kyrgyz State Technical University
- Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Ms. Lidiya Chikalova (Armenia), University of Central Asia
- Ms. Bermet Suiutbekova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia

BA in Economics Programme students



- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqsut Narikbayev University
- Dr. Saltanat Imanova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Dr. Baktybek Urmambetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia
- Mr. Aydin Ali (United Kingdom), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- Dr. Tatyana Shevchenko (Kyrgyzstan), Academy of PE and Sports
- Ms. Kanayim Kydyralieva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia

- Dr. Esentur Ivagov (Kyrgyzstan), International University of Central Asia
- Dr. Zharkyn Turusbekova (Kyrgyzstan), School-Gymnasium №64
- Ms. Aida Zhusupbek kyzy (Kyrgyzstan), British Study Community Language School

Female 11 (50%) and Male 11 (50%)

Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme Curriculum, Class 2022-2026,

Spring 2024

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- History of Kyrgyzstan
- Statistics II
- Macroeconomics II
- Geography of Kyrgyzstan
- Economic Analysis
- Accounting II
- PE and Sports

Fall 2024

- Money and Banking
- Econometrics II
- National Economy
- Taxes and Taxation
- Data Science
- Project Management
- Social Entrepreneurship

Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme Curriculum, Class 2023-2027

Spring 2024

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Philosophy
- Law for Economists
- Calculus
- ICT
- Ecology
- Math for Economists

- Macroeconomics I
- PE and Sports

Fall 2024

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Microeconomics II
- Global Economy
- Finance
- Accounting I
- Statistics I
- Management
- Business Communication
- PE and Sports

Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme Curriculum, Class 2024-2028

Fall 2024

- Introduction to Economics
- Academic English
- ICT
- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Linear Algebra
- Manasology
- Microeconomics I
- Philosophy
- Russian language
- PE and Sports

Summer School Programme



In August 2024, the OSCE Academy conducted its annual Summer School, which featured preparatory courses, outdoor sessions, and a closing ceremony held at Issyk-Kul. This year, the Summer School welcomed 67 participants from the five Central Asian states, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Denmark, Mongolia, and Russia. Newly enrolled students in the OSCE Academy's MA Programmes in Politics & Security and Economic Governance & Development, along with recent graduates from other universities, had the opportunity to see how the knowledge and skills acquired during the Summer School could support their academic studies and future careers.

The Summer School offered a range of courses designed to help participants build the essential skills for entering one of the OSCE Academy's MA programmes or pursuing other international graduate studies. These courses included "Mathematics for Economists," "Academic Writing and Honesty," and "Introduction to Research Methods in Social Sciences," and were taught by both the OSCE Academy's permanent faculty and visiting lecturers.



"The Summer School is a great invention as it helps students who will continue their journey in one of two MA programmes start their studies and hence provides more time for their preparation. It also helps with building a community that is gaining familiarity with the local culture and hence can easier integrate in the Kyrgyz society for the next 18 months. Last but not least, it is also an advantage that students who have not made up their mind to apply for an MA programme of the Academy gain familiarity with it and can take a better-informed decision. We are very grateful to our donors and colleagues who have made the Summer School possible with their effort, hard work, and contributions". - Dr. Pal Dunay, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy

Summer School participants' statistics 2024

			Σ
 AFGHANISTAN	2	3	5
 KAZAKHSTAN	4	3	7
 KYRGYZSTAN	16	4	20
 MONGOLIA	2	0	2
 TAJIKISTAN	8	11	19
 TURKMENISTAN	5	1	6
 UZBEKISTAN	2	2	4
 OUT-OF-REGION	2	2	4
	41	26	67

Admission Process 2024

In 2024, the Academy successfully recruited students for 2024-2025 cohorts of MA programmes and 2024-2028 cohort of BA in Economics. The number of applications for the three MA programmes reached 1,727. A total of 272 candidates were shortlisted and invited to the entrance examinations. Most of the candidates were invited to take the exams in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. Online tests were conducted for applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia, and those from outside the Central Asian region.

The practice of online interviews continued, with 119 applicants interviewed - 46 for the MA in Politics and Security (Central Asia), 34 for the MA in Economic Governance and Development, and 39 for the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability. In total, 67 candidates were selected for the Academy's MA programmes.

Admission to the Bachelor's Programme in Economics took place simultaneously with the MA programmes, with 20 students enrolled out of 614 applicants. The selection of applicants was based on the results of the entrance examinations held in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. Online examinations were offered to applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Turkmenistan.

Admission 2024-2026 application statistics

MA in Economic Governance & Development

545	123	413	2	7	22
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries	From Afghanistan	From Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Students admitted to the programme

MA in Politics & Security

721	137	564	2	18	25
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries	From Afghanistan	From Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Students admitted to the programme

MA in Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS)

461	129	305	2	25	20
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries	From Afghanistan	From Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Students admitted to the programme

BA in Economics

614	200	402	11	1	20
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries	From Afghanistan	From Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Students admitted to the programme

Internships 2024



MA Students interning at the OSCE Secretariat with Ms. Helga Schmidt, OSCE Secretary General

Students of the MA in Economic Governance & Development, MA in Politics & Security (Central Asia), and MA in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Human Rights and Sustainability completed their mandatory internships as part of their academic curriculum. The internship is an essential component of the practical education offered by the Academy. Through these internships, students gain valuable insights, professional skills, and networking opportunities, which are essential for their professional growth, while also contributing to a positive impact on the region.



“I was accepted as an intern at the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) with technical and financial support from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) for September-October 2024 in Oslo, Norway. My main goal was to prepare the first internal policy about human rights to a healthy and sustainable environment for the NHC and conduct deep research on a new concept of environmental human rights. Thanks to the NHC and NUPI staff for a warm hosting and responsible careful attitude to all interns - it was the greatest experience in my life,” - shared Danil Tsoy, MA in Politics and Security programme.

In 2024 internships were organized at the Academy’s partner organizations and institutions - including the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria; the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) in The Hague, Netherlands; the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, Norway; the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, Norway; the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland; the Crisis Simulation for Peace e. V. (CRISP) in Berlin, Germany; the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in Braunschweig, Germany; the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in Moscow, Russia; the European Neighborhood Council (ENC) in Brussels, Belgium; the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany; the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland; the IBN Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkiye; the Caucasus International University (CIU) in Tbilisi, Georgia; the University of Coimbra in Portugal; Eurac Research in Bolzano, Italy and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR) in Warsaw, Poland.

“The OSCE Academy offers an incredible opportunity for students [MAHRS] to intern during the summer in various international organizations, opening doors to invaluable experiences and connections. This summer I had the privilege of joining the Human Rights Department at ODIHR, where I engaged in diverse and impactful work. From conducting research on countering terrorism and prison conditions in Europe to mapping civil society organizations in Central Asia. Every task deepened my understanding of human rights issues. I also had the chance to assist in organizing events, take part in critical discussions, trainings, and contribute to translation and feedback processes”- shared Uulzhan Bekturova about her internship at OSCE/ODIHR in Warsaw.



Regional internship organizations include the University of Central Asia (UCA) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Public Fund “Child Rights Defenders’ League” Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the Regional Institute of Central Asia (RICA) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Peace Nexus Foundation in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; NGO “Peace Initiatives”, Batken, Kyrgyzstan; UN Women in Kyrgyzstan; EU Central Asia Action Programme, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the Government Department of Population Employment, Dushanbe, Tajikistan; the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED), Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and others.

Throughout their internships, 52 students engaged in projects related to water management and climate, gender equality, peace and security, international relations, national minority rights, economics and development, and applied academic competencies. These experiences allowed them to gain practical skills and insights both within and beyond the Central Asian region.

Internship statistics for the academic year 2023-2025

	Σ				Σ		
OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria	5	4	1	European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany	2	1	1
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) in The Hague, Netherlands	1	0	1	Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in Braunschweig, Germany	1	1	0
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR) in Warsaw, Poland	2	2	0	Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki (AI) in Helsinki, Finland	1	1	0
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, Norway	3	3	0	Eurac Research in Bolzano, Italy	2	2	0
Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, Norway	1	0	1	University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal	1	0	1
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland	1	1	0	Caucasus International University (CIU) in Tbilisi, Georgia	1	1	0
Crisis Simulation for Peace e. V. (CRISP) in Berlin, Germany	1	0	1	IBN Haldun University in Istanbul, Turkiye	2	1	1
Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in Moscow, Russia	1	1	0	INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS	26	19	7
European Neighbourhood Council (ENC) in Brussels, Belgium	1	1	0	REGIONAL INTERNSHIPS (AROUND CENTRAL ASIA)	26	18	8

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

In 2024, the OSCE Academy continued to host Postdoctoral and Associate Research Fellows, and made significant strides in producing a variety of publications. The Academy also advanced multiple research projects. Regularly organized events such as trainings, workshops, conferences, book launches, and public lectures were held in hybrid and online formats attracting both local and international participants. Additionally, the Academy published policy briefs and other academic publications.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS



Certificate Trainings: “Peace and Conflict” and “Disinformation and Cybersecurity”

In 2024, the OSCE Academy organized two professional training seminars: “Peace and Conflict” **from 13 to 17 November**, and “Disinformation and Cybersecurity” **from 20 to 23 November**. These trainings were tailored for

young and mid-career professionals from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, representing various sectors, including international organizations, development and non-governmental sectors, government bodies, academic institutions, and civil society.

Both seminars were led by Ms. Kateryna Pavlova, Chief Operating Officer and Trainer at Crisis Simulation for Peace (CRISP), based in Berlin, Germany. CRISP specializes in conflict transformation, civic education, and citizen participation. The sessions also featured assistant trainers: Mr. Ulugbek Nurumbetov, Director of the Institute for Peace and Development, and Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Media and Journalism Studies at the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

The “Peace and Conflict” seminar equipped participants with key concepts and tools for conflict analysis. A highlight of this seminar was the interactive conflict simulation game KODORI, where participants role-played as stakeholders and worked to negotiate a peace agreement. Meanwhile, the “Disinformation and Cybersecurity” seminar delved into the complex dynamics between digital media, public perception, and conflict. It provided participants with essential tools to combat disinformation, improve media literacy, and bolster cybersecurity practices. This training fostered collaboration among professionals dedicated to addressing these critical digital-age challenges.

A total of 17 participants (5 men, 12 women) attended the “Peace and Conflict” training session while 15 participants (6 men, 9 women) joined the training on “Disinformation and Cybersecurity.”

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Workshop on Eurasia in a Geopolitical Globalized World

From **25 to 27 July**, the OSCE Academy hosted the workshop “Eurasia in a Geopolitical Globalized World,” led by Prof. Vincenzo Della Sala, Professor of Political Science at the University of Trento and Director of its Jean Monnet Centre. Over the course of three days, 20 young professionals (11 women and 9 men) from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan engaged in discussions on the international order amidst the tension between globalization and geopolitics. They explored key challenges where this tension is most evident, including climate change, energy security, food and water resources, and border management. The workshop examined the policy implications of these issues and possible future scenarios. This workshop was part of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Geopolitics in Eurasia (University of Trento) and was funded by the European Union.



Security Conference 2024

On **16 and 17 December**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in collaboration with the University of Siena (Italy)

organized its Security Conference 2024, a hybrid event focused on three key pillars of global stability: Food Security, Energy Security, and Cybersecurity. Supported by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), the conference convened experts, researchers, and distinguished guests to discuss the challenges and explore innovative solutions to pressing global issues.

The first day of the conference commenced with a plenary session featuring keynote speaker - Professor Matteo Gerlini, a representative for technology transfer from the University of Siena, Italy. His presentation, titled “Nuclear Security between Nuclear Revival and Hybrid Wars,” served as a thematic introduction to the first panel session on energy.



A session “Drops of the Future” was conducted as part of the conference. This part of the programme was to inform about the OSCE’s role in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus (WEF) and its links with regional and international security. The session was moderated by Ms. Letizia Zuliani and Ms. Raquel Moya Martinez from the OSCE Secretariat and provided an overview of the joint vision for a sustainable WEF nexus in Central Asia, and collaborative efforts in developing a future-oriented vision.

The second day continued with panels themed “Cybersecurity” and “Food Security.” The cybersecurity session

focused on protecting the digital infrastructure, emerging threats, and strategies to enhance cybersecurity. The final session on Food Security covered topics such as sustainable agriculture, food supply chains, climate change and policies to ensure food security in the face of global challenges.

The conference gathered 22 international and regional speakers and 44 participants who attended the conference in person, while 39 joined online. Among the 44 in-person participants, 27 were women and 17 were men.

Book Launch Event



On **20 September**, the OSCE Academy hosted the launch of the book *“The EU as an Actor in Central Asia: External Impacts, Regional Responses”* as part of its Alumni Conference. The event was led by the editors, Dr. Sebastian Mayer and Dr. Jakob Lempp, and featured contributions from the EU Delegation in Kyrgyzstan, OSCE Academy students, and online participants.

The book that was released in November 2024 by Palgrave Macmillan explores the EU’s role in Central Asia, focusing on decision-making, preferences, and the drivers behind its policies. It includes chapters on democratization, water cooperation, security provision, and EU actions toward the region. The following contributors –

Dr. Aliya Assubayeva, Post Doc Fellow in the SDGnexus Network, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, Dr. Vera Axyonova, Marie Curie REWIRE Fellow, University of Vienna, Austria, and Tika Tsertsvadze, Senior Policy Analyst at the Open Society Foundations – presented their chapters online.

Key discussions centered on the EU’s effectiveness in Central Asia, particularly its balancing act between promoting liberal-democratic values and pursuing material interests. The Q&A session explored the challenges posed by the EU’s distance from the region, which limits its normative influence, as well as the complexities of EU institutional relationships.

JOINT INITIATIVES

Training “Young Women 4 Peace Initiative for Central Asia”



From **16-19 April**, the OSCE Academy conducted training sessions as part of the Young Women for Peace Initiative for Central Asia, a two-year programme aimed at empowering young women and increasing their involvement in peace and security. Funded by the European Union and organized by the OSCE Gender Issues Programme, the initiative brought together 18 young women from Central Asia and Afghanistan for a comprehensive capacity-building programme.

The four-day training focused on enhancing peace-building skills, deepening understanding of OSCE initiatives, fostering cross-border networking, assessing mentorship needs, sharing best practices in gender and peacebuilding leadership, and building essential networking skills. The initiative is part of the OSCE’s Networking Platform for Women Leaders and is implemented under the multi-year “WIN for Women and Men” project to strengthen security through gender equality.

Public Lecture on “Active Labour Market Policies in the Kyrgyz Republic”



On **4 June**, the OSCE Academy hosted a public lecture on “Active Labour Market Policies in the Kyrgyz Republic” by Eugenia Pesci, an Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and Doctoral Researcher at the University of Helsinki. Ms. Pesci, co-author of a policy brief with Kairatbek Dzhambagulov, discussed improving Kyrgyzstan’s labour market policies to enhance both employability and job quality.

She explained the concepts of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs), their role in increasing employment and inclusivity, and the Public Employment Service (PES)’s role in their implementation. The lecture reviewed current labour market measures, identified challenges, and explored opportunities for further progress. Pesci concluded by highlighting the need for ongoing adaptation of ALMPs to meet the changing demands of the Kyrgyz labour market.

Training “Central Asian Voices: Increasing Open Data Accessibility”

On **21 October**, the Central Asian Barometer (CAB), in collaboration with the OSCE Academy, hosted a training session on “Central Asian Voices: Increasing Open Data Accessibility.” The event was led by Ms. Kasiet Ysmanova, Director of CAB. Ms. Ysmanova presented best practices for conducting surveys, evaluating data reliability, and



The training was part of the “Central Asian Voices: Enhancing Open Data Accessibility” project, supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, aiming to make CAB’s data accessible to a broader audience.

Global Campus (GC) International Student Conference



Between **17 and 20 June**, the Global Campus International Student Conference titled “Just Transition: Conditions for Change in the Global Order” was launched at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Opened by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, MAHRS Academic Director and Dr. Kate Walker, Director of the OSCE Academy, the event brought together students and faculty from 26 countries. Prof. Manfred Nowak, GC Secretary General highlighted the role of the Global Campus network. Mr. Melis Mamadaliev, Director of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, and H.E. Ambassador Alexey Rogov, Head of the OSCE POiB emphasized the conference’s significance. Prof. Sania Toktogazieva, Professor of International and Constitutional Law at the American University of Central Asia, delivered a keynote speech on “Fundamental and Constitutional Rights in Central Asia”. The conference brought together 25 students and more than 20 faculty members and programme coordinators from the eight GC regional Master’s programmes in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, including South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, the Arab world, Central Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. Participants presented research on political transitions, human rights, and global change.

On the occasion of this conference, the Global Campus Central Asia/OSCE Academy welcomed its Central Asian partners of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme (MAHRS) from Kazakhstan (KIMEP, Karaganda Buketov University), Kyrgyzstan (American University of Central Asia) and Uzbekistan (The University of World Economy and Diplomacy). They gathered in Bishkek to get acquainted with each other and the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) Network members, within the framework of the GC Governing Bodies Meeting, held on 21-22 June. In addition to the meeting, representatives of the partner universities participated in a workshop “Using the Arts to Enhance Human Rights Teaching and Learning” led by Dr. Kate Walker, Director of the OSCE Academy, and also used the occasion to discuss the upcoming student mobilities.

Workshop on “Regionalism and Regionalization in the Context of Global Transformation



From **1 to 3 July**, the OSCE Academy organized a workshop on “Regionalism and Regionalization in the Context of Global Transformation” for MA and BA students of the American University of Central Asia and the OSCE Academy, led by Dr. Sebastian Mayer, DAAD Associate Professor at the Academy. This workshop familiarized students with the multifaceted concepts of “regionalism” and “regionalization”, as well as related terms such as “cooperation”, “integration”, and “community”. The

course also examined the limits of regionalism and regionalization and concluded with considering the links between regional and global governance, particularly regarding the role of regional institutions.

OSCE Academy Takes Part in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign

On **5 December**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, in collaboration with the Central Asian Alliance to End Gender-Based Violence (CA Alliance) and UN Women, held an event for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.



The event featured Dr. Pal Dunay, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy; Ms. Dildora Khamidova, Head of the UN Women Sub-Office in Kyrgyzstan; and Ms. Dina Amrisheva, Interim Head of the UN Women Country Office in Kazakhstan. Dr. Dunay emphasized addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Central Asia, while Ms. Khamidova discussed regional collaboration and youth engagement. Ms. Amrisheva highlighted the Central Asian Alliance’s focus on collective action. Following these remarks, Ms. Svetlana Dzardanova presented “Shame Must Change Sides,” emphasizing the media’s role in changing public attitudes towards GBV. UN Women then showcased a teaser for the documentary “Gorgona,” addressing sexual violence in Kazakhstan and the HeForShe campaign video to inspire action against harmful norms.

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OSCE Academy Celebrates Human Rights Day



On **10 December**, the OSCE Academy, supported by Right Livelihood, held a workshop celebrating the 76th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Dr. Pal Dunay, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy, emphasized the ongoing challenges in ensuring human rights for all, highlighting that while many enjoy these rights, billions are still deprived of them. H.E. Antje Grawe, UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan, reiterated the essential link between human rights and lasting peace.

The first panel, titled “Celebrating Human Rights 76 Years after the Adoption of the UDHR,” featured presentations from Ambassador Alexey Rogov on the OSCE’s role in promoting human rights, Mr. Hans Farnhammer on EU projects in the region, and Dr. Anja Mihr on global human rights challenges, particularly in Central Asia. Ms. Karygach Nurmanbetova concluded the panel with insights into child rights activities in Kyrgyzstan.

During the coffee break, participants engaged in networking before the second panel, moderated by Dr. Dunay, showcased presentations from MAHRS students. Topics included “Autonomous Weapons and Global Governance,” “Good Governance in Afghanistan and Tajikistan,” “Challenges of Universalism in Human Rights,” and “Access to Free Education in Tajikistan.” Each presentation demonstrated the students’ commitment to human rights advocacy and the depth of their knowledge.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The OSCE Academy continued implementing its Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The Postdoctoral Research Scholarship programme is implemented in partnership with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI).



Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov

Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov received his PhD from the School of Economics and Business at the 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. Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov was awarded a fellowship at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, where he continued his research. Dr. Sabyrbekov’s research interests include environmental economics, ecosystem services, natural capital, and natural resource management. In 2024, he published the following work together with Dr. Indra Overland from NUPI

“Small and large friends of the EU’s carbon border adjustment mechanism: Which non-EU countries are likely to support it?”, Rahat Sabyrbekov, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, OSCE Academy and Indra Overland, Head of the Research Group on climate and energy, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.



ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In 2024, the Academy hosted seven Associate Research Fellows, five of whom continued their fellowship from 2023 and two researchers who joined the Fellowship programme in 2024. 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 up to twelve months and is open for Bishkek-based and non-Bishkek residents. The new Associate Research Fellows are:

Research topic: Memory and Morality of Conflict: Volunteer in Arms in, out, and across Post-socialist Eurasia.



Dr. Matteo Benussi

Dr. Matteo Benussi is a social and cultural anthropologist based at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, specializing in religion, ethics, politics, and space-making in Eurasia. Prior to returning to his Alma Mater in Venice, he completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge and pursued postdoctoral training as a Marie Curie Global Fellow at UC Berkeley. Dr. Matteo has conducted research on Islamic piety movements and halal living in Tatarstan, the legacies of the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, post-Soviet heritage politics, as well as the intertwinings of matter, faith, and infrastructure. He is currently exploring topics of war, poetry, time, justice, and political theology/ontology amid Eurasia's geopolitical convulsions.

Research topic: Ontological Security, Collective Memory, and Narratives: Rethinking Russia's Role in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

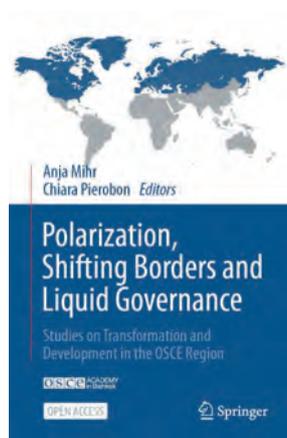


Leonardo Zanatta

Leonardo Zanatta is a PhD candidate in International Relations and Security Studies and a teaching assistant at Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary. His doctoral research focuses on Russia's role in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, particularly in the interplay between security, historical narratives, and emotions. He investigates how this dynamic has influenced the Kremlin's security practices in the conflict and the current status of Russian-Armenian relations. He also holds a B.A. in International and Diplomatic Affairs and an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe from Bologna University.

PUBLICATIONS

SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS



Polarization, Shifting Borders and Liquid Governance: Studies on Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region Anja Mihr, Chiara Pierobon

This open-access book explores the security dynamics amid the polarization, shifting borders, and liquid governance that define the Zeitenwende era in Europe's eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia. Presenting various case studies, the volume unveils the intricate web of border dynamics and practices, including the nuanced interplay of border disputes within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) member states. The contributions shed new light on how contested borders and liquid modes of governance have impacted the engagement of international organizations such as the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the OSCE in security crises and conflict prevention. Delving deeper, a special part dissects the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict



and examines European and international responses. By analyzing the stances of diverse European countries, their neighborhood, and international organizations, this section uncovers commonalities and disparities in their approaches to the Ukrainian crisis.

OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS



Policy Brief No.93: “Driving change: Ensuring fair treatment for Central Asian truck drivers in the EU”, Giulio Benedetti, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy.
Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_93.pdf



Policy Brief No.94: “From Bazaars to Barriers: The impact of governance on the spread of COVID-19 in Central Asia during the pandemic”, Vincenzo Alfano, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy.

Available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB94.pdf>



Policy Brief No.95: “Cooperatives and Peacebuilding: Addressing Agrarian Conflicts in the Fergana Valley through a Cooperativist Perspective”, Rui Samarcos Lora and Ainoura Sagynbaeva, Independent Researchers.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_95.pdf



Policy Brief No.96: “Female Entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan”, Alberica Camerani, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_96.pdf

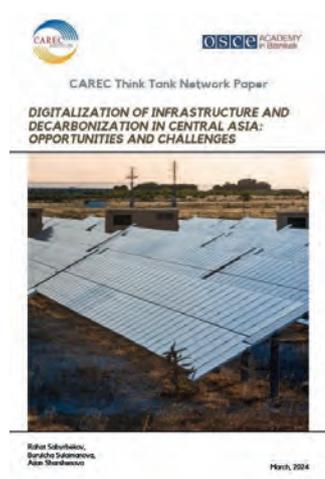


Policy Brief No.97: Social Negligence at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site: Victims of Independent Kazakhstan, Nikita Durnev and Aigerim Mussabalinova, Independent Researchers.

Available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_97.pdf



RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS



CAREC Institute’s Research Grant on Digitalization of Infrastructure and Decarbonization in Central Asia

Dr. Rakhat Sabyrbekov, Dr. Aizhan Sharshenova, and Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova presented a research report on the findings of a year-long study titled “Infrastructure Digitalization and Decarbonization in Central Asia: Opportunities and Challenges,” which includes policy recommendations for the governments of Central Asia.

Available at: <https://www.carecinstitute.org/publications/new-report-highlights-opportunities-and-challenges-of-digitalization-of-infrastructure-and-decarbonization-in-central-asia/>



This research paper investigates the opportunities and challenges of infrastructure digitalization and the promotion of decarbonization in Central Asia. Policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders can use these insights to advance digitalization and decarbonization efforts in Central Asia. The study focuses on identifying the current situation, as well as plans for digital infrastructure that support decarbonization efforts; analysing the enabling environment, including legal frameworks and regulations; assessing the skills and capacity of local actors; examining the impact of digitalization on reducing GHG emissions; and exploring the challenges and barriers through expert surveys.

This publication was also translated to Kyrgyz language and available at: <https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/reportkyrg.pdf>



LIBRARY



The OSCE Academy Library is an important information resource that supports educational programmes and scientific research. The collection includes materials in key areas such as political science, economics, and law, with a particular focus on international relations, security, human rights, economic governance, comparative politics, and political theory. The collection is regularly updated and curated to meet the needs of faculty, students, and researchers.

Each year, the Academy Library subscribes to leading databases, including EBSCO (online journals), JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, and EBSCO eBook Academic Subscription Collection, providing access to academic journals,

articles, e-books, and other scholarly materials.

Additionally, the Academy Library provides free access to electronic resources through EIFL, including databases such as Oxford Journals Collection, Cambridge Journals Online, OECD, De Gruyter eJournal, MSP, Royal Society eJournals, and SAGE eJournals.

To support research and improve accessibility to materials, the Academy Library also offers a digital repository for master's theses. This repository, based on DSpace software, allows students to create and share their digital portfolios, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and strengthening scientific communication within the Academy.

OUR ALUMNI

We are excited to share the key achievements of the Academy's Alumni Network throughout 2024. One of the highlights was the Annual Alumni Conference, which united scholars and enthusiasts around the theme of Economic Development of Central Asia. The Conference featured three stimulating panels on Anti-Corruption, Green Economy, and Digital Economy. Aligned with our passion for continuous growth and learning, the Academy, with support from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and in partnership with the Global Campus of Human Rights



in Venice, successfully organized this year's Alumni Summer School 'Women, Girls, and Children's Rights in Central Asia'.

In 2024 we had a chance to announce a special distinction: for the first time, the titles of Alumnus of the Year and Alumna of the Year were awarded to two individuals — Dilfuza Kurolova, alumna of 2015, MA

Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan, and Abdulvahhobi Muminjoniyon, alumnus of 2019, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Tajikistan. Both Dilfuza and Abdulvahhobi have shown unwavering commitment to promoting positive change and advancing the development of their communities. Dilfuza Kurolova has been a passionate advocate for human rights and civil society in Uzbekistan, tirelessly working to defend women's rights and ensure greater freedoms for all. Meanwhile, Abdulvahhobi has

played a key role in fostering cultural ties between Central Asian nationals who live and work in Vienna, Austria, contributing to the strengthening of regional cooperation.

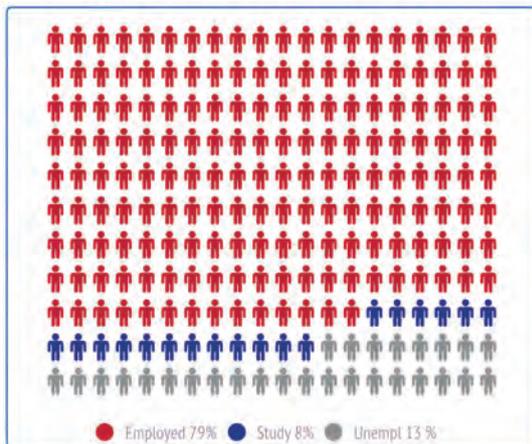
We proudly share full success stories of our graduates and the overview of all other activities in our annual Alumni Journal SalamAlum https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1735035307_64123300.pdf



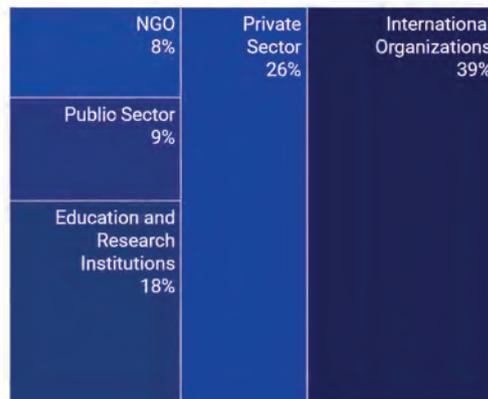
By 2024 the overall number of graduates is 655 (340 females and 315 males). We hold a yearly Alumni Survey to track the career progress of our graduates, strengthen connections within our network, enhance the quality of our efforts to engage alumni in collaborative initiatives, and customize our projects to meet their professional and academic needs. Additionally, the survey helps expand the Academy's support and contributions to the growth and empowerment of the Alumni Network.

The 2024 Alumni Survey revealed that 74% of the Alumni, those who originally come from Central Asian countries and Mongolia, live and work in the wider Central Asia region. This represents 66% of the total alumni population.

Employment



Employment by Sectors



36% 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. 32 alumni who chose an academic path, are currently doing their PhD.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the OSCE Academy launched a number of initiatives designed to enhance communication and collaboration within its distinguished alumni community:



Alumni/Student Summer School on Women, Girls, and Children's Rights in Central Asia

On 10 June, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, with support of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and Right Livelihood, launched its Alumni/Student Summer School at the picturesque lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, focused on “Women, Girls, and Children’s Rights in Central Asia.” The Summer School brought together graduates of the Academy’s MA programmes, as well as students of the MA Programme in Human Rights and Sustainability from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan aiming to expand their expertise in human rights. The Summer School

covered a wide range of topics, including the UN Treaty-based System, gender rights and migration, the historical context of women’s and children’s rights in Central Asia, and innovative methods for fostering these rights through artworks and critical thinking.

Alumni Training: OSCE-DCAF Summer School: Human Security and Climate Change

From 1 to 5 July, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) jointly with the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) and the OSCE Academy conducted a Summer School on Human Security and Climate Change. Academy graduates from Central Asia, Mongolia and Afghanistan learned about the principles of a well-governed security sector, including a specific focus on the security implications stemming from climate change in Central Asia as a risk-multiplier for instability in the region. Together with the OSCE and DCAF experts, participants touched upon the holistic nature of Security Sector Governance/Reforms (SSG/R) and addressed matters of human security, with a specific focus on the nexus between climate, environment, and security in high mountain areas, as well as how to address related issues through a gender-equality lens. This year the School was held in the Chunkurchak Gorge and included a field trip to the Ala-Archa Gorge to gain first-hand experience on the concrete consequences of climate change and environmental degradation.





Annual Alumni Conference “Economic Development of Central Asia: Anti-Corruption, Green Economy and Digital Economy”

On 20–21 September, the OSCE Academy conducted its annual Alumni Conference on the theme of “Economic Development of Central Asia” featuring three panels: Anti-Corruption, Green Economy and Digital Economy. During two days, participants discussed regional corruption issues and anti-corruption policies, sustainable economic practices, environmental stewardship, and addressed the way digitalization shapes and impacts the economy of Central Asia. A complementary part

of the conference was the book launch “The EU as an Actor in Central Asia: External Impacts, Regional Responses” co-edited by Prof. Sebastian Mayer and Prof. Jakob Lempp.

Alumni Chapter Meetings



Alumni Chapter Meetings in Astana and Dushanbe

On **03 April** and **07 April**, Alumni Chapter Meetings were held in Astana, Kazakhstan, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, respectively. The gatherings were joined by Dr. Kate Walker, Director of the OSCE Academy, and Dr. Anja Mihr, MAHRS Academic Supervisor, and served as platforms for alumni from different graduating years to network and exchange ideas. They also discussed the latest developments at the OSCE Academy, recent updates, and the notable achievements of alumni.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Each year, we are excited to see the exceptional accomplishments of our alumni, which highlight their commitment to academic excellence and career success. In this annual report, we are pleased to present two inspiring stories of our graduates who have made significant contributions in their respective fields.



Shamima Oshurbekova (PS'16) has made remarkable achievements in her academic and professional journey, dedicating herself to the empowerment of refugee and migrant voices, with a particular focus on women. Throughout her career, Shamima has been recognized for her leadership, resilience, and commitment to social change, earning prestigious honours such as the Civil Society Leadership Award (CSLA). Today, she continues to make a significant impact as a key advocate for refugees at the Ismaili Cultural Association in Paris, where she works to enforce the voices and rights of displaced communities.

Lasha Kantelashvili (PS'18) has built an impressive academic and professional path in the field of political science. After completing his studies at the OSCE Academy, he went on to pursue a PhD in Political Science at Caucasus International University, further deepening his expertise in the realm of foreign policy and international relations. Lasha's academic journey has been shaped by his strong foundation in the politics of foreign policy within the framework of the OSCE, and his work continues to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on global security and diplomacy.



Please read the full stories in our 'Salam Alum' Annual Alumni Magazine available at: https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1735035307_64123300.pdf

ALUMNI INITIATIVES

We are proud to highlight the remarkable contributions of our alumni who continue to make a positive impact on the OSCE Academy. Their dedication to advancing the Academy's mission and supporting future generations is truly inspiring. Our alumnus, Javlon Juraev (EGD'17), taught Economics to undergraduate students for two years, earning consistently positive feedback and leaving a lasting, favorable impression. Begimai Abdraeva (EGD'15) taught an Accounting class at the OSCE Academy, she embodies the spirit of giving back, showing that the Academy's impact extends far beyond graduation day. Her journey reflects the values of learning, mentorship, and the profound impact of education in shaping both personal and professional futures. Lastly, we are thrilled to highlight the initiative of Assel Mussagaliyeva-Tang (PS'05), who is now the Founder of EDUTech Future, an early-stage bootstrapping edtech startup in Singapore. Assel has established a full scholarship for aspiring students and alumni of the OSCE Academy to undergo courses at EDUTech Future. One such beneficiary is Akylai Otkulbek kyzy, a recent graduate of our MA Programme in Politics and Security. With Assel's support, Akylai has started her journey into data analytics through the Break into Tech APAC programme.



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ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Junior Public Officers (JPO) 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 Programme. This Programme provides an opportunity to the OSCE Academy's graduates from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to intern at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Investments Agency under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Personal Data Protection Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In 2024 overall two alumni conducted their internships in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan:

Nurzhan Baetova (EGD'24): National Investments Agency under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic; Tokzhan Atenbekova (PS'24): Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Junior Teaching Fellowship (JTF) Programme

"Teach for Central Asia" 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



Nursultan Abdilov together with his students

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.

One OSCE Academy alumnus has successfully completed the JTF Programme in Fall 2024:

Nursultan Abdilov (PS'17): 'Introduction to Academic Writing' course at the Kyrgyz State University I. Arabaev, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan:

"The programme offers a valuable opportunity for alumni to share their expertise with state university students, who are the future leaders and agents of change. I chose to teach a writing course because I believe that strong writing skills are essential for future professionals."

One-Year Fellowship at NUPI



In 2024 two more alumni had a chance to continue their fellowships offered by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI): Gavkharkhon Mama-dzhanova (EGD'21), and Dastan Bekmuratov (PS'23). Gavkharkhon and Dastan's fellowships have been extended for one more academic year due to their excellent academic performance. 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.



MAS at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Every year one of the graduates of the OSCE Academy received a European Scholarship for Central Asia to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Global Studies Institute (GSI) of the University of Geneva. In 2024 Aizhamal Dzhanibekova (PS'24) was accepted to enhance her knowledge in security studies.

"As I sit in the heart of International Geneva, surrounded by the bustling activity of over 36 international organizations and 400 NGOs, 2400 conferences held yearly I can't help but feel a sense of awe and excitement. I'm currently enrolled in the Leadership in International Security executive master's programme at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in partnership with the University of Geneva, and it's been nothing short of transformative. The programme is a melting pot of experience and wisdom. My classmates and I collectively bring over 400 years of security expertise to the table. Some have been in the field for more than three decades, while others, like myself, are



building on a solid foundation of about 15 years. This diversity of experience creates a rich learning environment where we're not just taught – we learn from each other-” shares Aizhamal.

Alumni Grant



The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with the support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. In 2024, Mr. Davron Ishnazarov and Mr. Nurlan Kabydkhak were awarded the Alumni Travel Grant in recognition of their academic and professional achievements.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

Throughout 2024, the OSCE Academy continued to expand its network of strategic partnerships by signing 12 new bilateral Memoranda and Agreements with a diverse range of universities, national institutions, and international organizations. These Agreements represent a significant step toward fostering regional and global collaboration in key areas such as education, governance, human rights, and sustainable development.

Among the newly signed Agreements were those with the **State Intellectual Property Service of Kyrgyzstan** and the **Anti-Corruption Business Council under the President of Kyrgyzstan**, both of which aim to strengthen the effort of the host state by the means of capacity-building and joint research activities. Additionally, the OSCE Academy partnered with **UN Women in Kyrgyzstan** to further gender equality and women's empowerment through an academic and policy dialogue, as well as students' internships.

The academic landscape was also enriched through partnerships with renowned regional universities, including **KIMEP University in Almaty** and **Maqsut Narikbayev University in Astana**, enhancing research and academic exchanges. The Academy also signed a Memorandum with the **Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies (Green University)**, **Sustainability Nexus Solutions in Uzbekistan**, and renewed the Memorandum with the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**, which will promote joint research and capacity-building efforts in environmental sustainability and climate change.

Internationally, the OSCE Academy strengthened its ties with **Yerevan State University in Armenia**, the **Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University in Thailand**, which together with KIMEP University in Almaty, form a network of partner universities of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS) Programme, and are part of the Global Campus of Human Rights network. Another international bilateral partnership was established with the **Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute** in China with the aim to foster knowledge-sharing and research in economic governance, climate change issues, green economy and gender-related issues.

In Europe, the Academy signed Memoranda with **EURAC Research** in Italy and **The Hague Research Institute**

for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia in The Netherlands, which will facilitate joint research projects and the exchange of academic expertise. Additionally, the Erasmus+ cooperation with the **University of Salzburg in Austria** was renewed, and a new Inter-Institutional Agreement was concluded with the **University of Valencia in Spain**, further expanding the Academy's international academic partnerships.

These Agreements represent a key component of the OSCE Academy's ongoing commitment to advancing academic excellence, regional cooperation, and global partnerships, while contributing to the development of policy, governance, and sustainable practices in Central Asia and beyond.

Students and Staff Exchange



Ms. Daphne Guilleraut

In 2024, the OSCE Academy hosted two students as part of its ongoing bilateral cooperation initiatives. Ms. Daphne Guilleraut, an exchange student from the Bachelor Programme at the European School of Political and Social Sciences (ESPOL), University of Lille in France, spent one semester at the OSCE Academy, studying with 2nd-year BA students in Economics. This exchange provided Daphne with valuable academic exposure and fostered deeper collaboration between the OSCE Academy and the University of Lille.



Mr. François Deguine

Additionally, the OSCE Academy welcomed Mr. François Deguine, a Master's student from Sciences Po, the Institute of Political Studies in Toulouse, for a four-month research internship, which began in mid-March. During his internship, François contributed to the work of the Research and Training Department, gaining practical experience and insight into the Academy's research environment. Moreover, François participated in a range of public events organized during his research stay, further enriching his academic and professional development. These exchanges highlight the OSCE Academy's dedication to fostering international academic partnerships and providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful research and learning experiences.

ERASMUS+

Faculty and Staff Mobilities

Throughout 2024, a number of Erasmus+ mobilities were organized with several Partner Universities. From 18 to 22 March, Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev, a Lecturer at the OSCE Academy, participated in the Erasmus+ International Staff Week at Philipps University of Marburg in Germany. This experience allowed Dr. Akmoldoev to deepen his expertise in Sustainable Development, contributing to the ongoing academic collaboration between the OSCE Academy and **Philipps University of Marburg**.



“I’ve had the privilege of participating in the Erasmus+ International Staff Training Week at Philipps University Marburg, focusing on “The Role of Higher Education Institutions in Fostering Sustainability Transformation.” It has been an enriching journey filled with insightful discussions, collaborative workshops, and meaningful connections with professionals from around the globe who share a passion for sustainability. Throughout the week, we explored innovative strategies, best practices, and real-world initiatives aimed at driving sustainability transformation within higher education institutions. From sustainable campus operations to integrating sustainability into curricula, every aspect was thoughtfully examined, sparking ideas and igniting a sense of urgency to act. The experience has not only broadened my perspective but has also reignited my commitment to making a positive impact on our planet through education”- shared Dr. Akmoldiev.

From 8 to 12 April representatives from the OSCE Academy took part in the inaugural in-person meeting of the Central Asia: Governance, History, Anthropology & Neighborhoods (CAGHAN) team. Dr. Indira Satarkulova, Deputy Director, and Cholpon Osmonalieva, Head of the Education Department, collaborated with the CAGHAN Coordinator, Dr. Jeroen Van den Bosch, alongside representatives from the hosting partner universities—Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Humboldt University in Germany, and the International University of Kyrgyzstan. This meeting served as the kick-off for the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures project, establishing a foundation for future collaborative efforts on regional governance and history.



In October, the OSCE Academy held an in-person meeting with the Central Asia: Governance, History, Anthropology & Neighborhoods (CAGHAN) team. The meeting was led by Dr. Jeroen Van den Bosch and Joanna Barszcz, representatives of the partnering Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Dr. Pal Dunay, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy, Dr. Indira Satarkulova, Deputy Director, and Mrs. Cholpon Osmonalieva, Head of the Education Department took part in the meeting on behalf of the Academy, a local coordinator of the CAGHAN programme, along with representatives of the International University of Kyrgyzstan that hosted the first day of the meeting on 7th of October. Participants discussed key topics such as the roles of local coordinators, the potential use of facilities at the International University of Kyrgyzstan, organizing exchange programmes with partner universities in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan during the fourth semester of the planned study programme. The team also addressed the formal division of labor among universities, joint diploma requirements, budget distribution, and student services.

CAGHAN – is a planned Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters on Central (Eur)Asian Studies. A 2-year Master programme (Area Studies) aimed at providing in-depth knowledge and skills to future specialists on this “region” (both in its narrow and broader understanding). Beside instruction on three of the region’s titular languages (but also offering Russian), courses are to be drawn from a multidisciplinary programme, encompassing History, Political Science, as well as Sociology and Anthropology, supported by their relevant methodologies.



In July, Dr. Emil Dzhuraev, a Lecturer at the OSCE Academy, participated in the Erasmus+ Mobility for Teaching Staff at Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. During his mobility, Dr. Dzhuraev attended a specialized Teachers’ Training on European Integration and International Relations, further enriching his academic capabilities.

Between 9 and 13 September, the OSCE Academy strengthened its ties with the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) in Romania via the Erasmus+ Staff for Training Mobility programme. During this visit, OSCE Academy representatives, including Ms. Nargiz Kulmyrzaeva, Finance Manager, Mr. Ulan Dzhenaiev, Finance Specialist, and Ms. Aiganysh Niyazalieva, Office Manager, met with key faculty members, such as Prof. Mihail

Cercel, Dean of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, and Dr. Ana-Maria Costea, Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator at SNSPA. These discussions were integral parts in strengthening the partnership between the two institutions.

Additionally, from 16 to 20 September Prof. Lukasz Gruszczynski, a Visiting Lecturer from Kozminski University in Poland and participant in the Erasmus+ Staff for Teaching Mobility programme, conducted a seminar titled “Embark on an Academic Journey: Exploring PhD Opportunities in the European Union” for MA students at the OSCE Academy. This seminar provided valuable insights for students considering advanced academic careers in Europe.

Students Mobilities

In addition to faculty and staff mobilities, two master’s students participated in the Erasmus+ mobility programme in 2024. Ms. Ramziya Mirbozkhonova, a student in the MA Programme in Politics and Security, spent her spring semester at the National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA) in Romania, gaining international exposure and academic experience. Furthermore, Ms. Hadisa Giyoeva, a student of the Economic Governance and Development Programme, completed an internship at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland, through the Erasmus+ Traineeship Programme, from September to October 2024.

“Studying at SNSPA, I engaged in highly informative lectures and interactive seminars with experienced lecturers. Each with specific approaches made the learning experience more insightful and the enthusiasm of



my fellow colleagues was another aspect to make the study experience more enriching. Although there were challenges due to the differences in the procedures and communication systems, I received valuable assistance from the programme coordinator, professors and my fellow students. As I took different courses with different groups of students, I met many new people and made friends who made my general experience easier and more interesting. Living in Bucharest, I immersed myself in its fascinating features, starting from the mixture of historical and modern architecture and diversity of the people. It was interesting to have a glance in Eastern European way of life and communicate with people from different cultural backgrounds and get used to the sound of a language which sounded strange in the first days. Thanks to the Erasmus Student Network in Bucharest, we got the most authentic guidelines about life in Bucharest.

This was an amazing experience and surely, for the future mobility students I have a handful of recommendations to get the best out of it.” - Ms. Ramziya Mirbozkhonova

These mobility initiatives represent the OSCE Academy’s continued commitment to fostering international collaboration, enhancing academic quality, and providing students and staff with opportunities to develop skills and expertise on the global stage.

Jean Monnet Module – European Climate Policy

The year of 2024 was the second of a three-year Jean Monnet Module project, coordinated by Dr. Rahat Sabrybekov, Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy. In July Dr. Sabrybekov taught his module on European Climate Policy to MA students of the Academy.



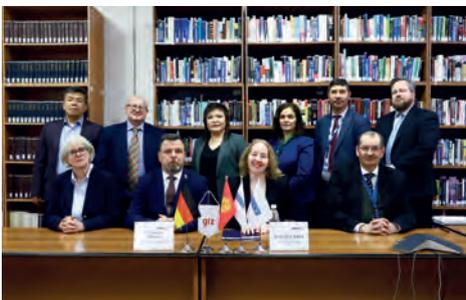
On 10 July, a roundtable on “Central Asia’s Readiness for Climate Change: Science and Policy” was organized as part of the project. Attendees included representatives from the Kyrgyz government, NGOs, and Central Asian universities. Dr. Pal Dunay, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy, welcomed participants, and Mr. Stefano Corrado, Project Manager at the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, noted the EU’s initiatives in climate policy. Dr. Rahat Sabrybekov outlined the event’s objectives. During the first part of the round table Ambassador Willy Kempel, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe; Ms. Aida Duishenbieva, Chief Specialist of the Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources,

Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic; Ms. Begim Zhanuzakova, Coordinator of the Climate Change Programme, Unison Group; Dr. Rysbek Satylkanov, Institute of Water Problems and Energy, Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic; and Dr. Rahat Sabrybekov discussed the impact of climate change, national strategies, and action plans from Central Asian countries, as well as recent research on the issue in the region. The second part of the roundtable covered the practical projects and applied research. Dr. Paul Bertheau, Reiner Lemoine Institute, Germany; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suat Beylur, Director and Zhengizkhan Zhanaltay, Deputy Director, respectively of the Eurasian Research Institute in Kazakhstan; Dr. Iulii Didovets, Project Lead, Potsdam Institute for Climate Research, Germany covered the green hydrogen generation potential, renewable energy in Kazakhstan, and climate change’s regional impact. Mr. Talant Sultanov, Policy Advocacy Advisor, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership; Co-Founder, Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter presented his project on low-cost weather stations in the mountainous areas of Kyrgyzstan, the challenges and opportunities they have.

NOTABLE VISITORS and GUEST LECTURERS



From 29 to 31 January, students discussed “Women in Organised Crime in Central Asia and Beyond” together with **Ms. Mara Garavini Seisselberg**, Criminal Justice Adviser at the OSCE Secretariat, **Mr. Stan Gilmour**, an expert at the OSCE, **Ms. Merima Abdic**, Associate Project Officer at the OSCE Secretariat, **Ms. Cholpon Tabaldieva** from the Ministry of Interior of Kyrgyzstan, **Mr. Christopher Ursulaerck** from Kurve Kriegen, Germany, **Ms. Felia Allum**, an expert at the OSCE.



On 8 February, a delegation from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH - **Mr. Torsten Brezina**, Cluster Coordinator in Central Asia, **Ms. Caroline Milov**, GIZ Project Manager, **Mr. Alexandr Nikolayenko**, Regional Project Manager, and **Mr. Urmat Tabaldiev**, National Project Manager, and the delegation from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB) - **H.E. Alexey Rogov**, Head of the POiB, **Ms. Ekaterine Nakashidze**, Deputy Head of the POiB, **Mr. Dmitry Prudtskikh**, Acting Head of the Economic and Environmental Department, and **Mr. Colin McCullough**, Senior Planning and Co-ordination Officer, met at the OSCE Academy to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation to continue their well-established partnership now within the framework of a new Green Central Asia Initiative of the German Federal Government.



On 7 March, the OSCE Academy hosted a discussion on “Women, Peace and Security in Central Asia: The Role of Education,” organized with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB). **Dr. Kate Walker**, OSCE Academy Director, opened the event, while **Ms. Ekaterine Nakashidze**, Deputy Head of OSCE POiB, provided insights into the OSCE’s education initiatives. Speakers included **H.E. Marilyn Josefson**, EU Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan; **Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran**, UN Women Country Representative; and **Ms. Aigerim Toktogulova**, National Project Officer (WIN) at the OSCE POiB. They joined students in discussing the role of education in women’s empowerment and regional security.



On 19 April, Representatives of the Russian Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna – **Mr. Maxim Buyakevich**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OSCE, **Mr. Vasilii Tsyganov**, Deputy Director, Department of European Cooperation, MFA RF, and **Mr. Georgii Akaemov**, Third Secretary, Department of European Cooperation, MFA RF, accompanied by a representative of the Russian Embassy in Bishkek, visited the Academy for a working meeting with OSCE Academy Director, Dr. Kate Walker.



On 13 May, the OSCE Academy hosted representatives from the Permanent Missions of Finland, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States to the OSCE. **Mr. Nicolas Plattner** (Switzerland), **Mr. Riku Rantanen** (Finland), **Ms. Nora Stai** (Norway), and **Mr. Kent Mullen** from the U.S. Mission to the OSCE. The delegation toured the Academy, observed a Project Management lecture by Dr. Waleed Gumaa, Director of Master Programmes at the Riga Graduate School of Law, and engaged with students.



On 5 June, **Ms. Liz Zentos**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Bishkek, and **Ms. Rachel Smith**, Chief of Political and Economic Affairs, delivered a guest lecture to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security. The lecture was part of the Central Asia and the USA modular course, taught by **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Co-founder and President of Crossroads Central Asia, and a Visiting Lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.



On 24 June, the OSCE Academy welcomed **H.E. Toomas Tirs**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, for an introductory visit. Ambassador Tirs met the management, faculty members, researchers, and MA students of the OSCE Academy to discuss research activities, educational programmes and professional trainings.



On 27 June, the OSCE Academy welcomed **H.E. Dr. Ian Borg**, OSCE Chair-in-Office, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta, who visited the Academy as part of his official visit to Kyrgyzstan. The Minister was accompanied by **Mr. Michael Cluett**, Head of Policy & Planning, OSCE Chairpersonship; **Mr. Manuel Zarb**, Head of Regional and Thematic Issues, OSCE Chairpersonship, Central Asia Desk; **Ms. Lillian Langford**, Head of the Central Asia Desk, OSCE CPC; **Mr. Neville Aquilina**, Director-General for Global Issues; and **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. During his visit, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office had a meeting with the management of the OSCE Academy to learn about the Academy's developments and plans.



On 3 July, students of the MA in Economic Governance and Development met with **Mr. Hugh Riddell**, the World Bank Country Manager for the Kyrgyz Republic, to discuss the World Bank's ongoing projects in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Riddell shared his extensive experience working in crisis countries such as Afghanistan, Somalia, and Malawi. The discussion centered on the tailor-made nature of World Bank projects, with a focus on energy, water management, and agriculture. This guest lecture was part of the module "Good Governance in Central Asia," taught by **Mr. Aibek Ashirov**.



From 2 to 4 July, the OSCE Academy had the honor of welcoming **Col. Thomas Ahammer**, Defence Attaché of Austria for Armenia and Kazakhstan, for a series of guest lectures. On 2 July, he joined the Summer School on Human Security and Climate Change to discuss the security aspects of climate change. On 3 July, Col. Ahammer delivered a guest lecture to the Academy's MA students on "Climate Change and Defence" as part of the European Climate Policy module, taught by **Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov** within his Jean Monnet Module project. On 4 July, he presented a public lecture on "The Role of Military Diplomacy Globally: The Austrian Perspective," focusing on Austria's neutrality and its role in EU security and defence policy. The visit was supported by the Austrian Government.



On 7 August, Ambassador **Prof. Akylbek Kylychev**, Rector of the Diplomatic Academy of the Kyrgyz Republic, and **Mr. Nurlanbek Bal-tabaev** visited the OSCE Academy to meet Interim Director Dr. Pal Dunay. They discussed recent developments and shared common challenges, agreeing to renew their Memorandum of Cooperation from November 2014. Both institutions aim to enhance collaboration in training, research, and information sharing.



On 18 September, the OSCE Academy had the honour to welcome **H. E. Ambassador Thomas Greminger**, Chairman of the Board of the PeaceNexus Foundation and Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), accompanied by **Mr. Kanatbek Abdiev**, Programme Officer for Central Asia. Ambassador Greminger underlined the importance of the work the OSCE Academy is doing and expressed his interest to develop further cooperation between the Academy and the GCSP, as well as consider collaboration with PeaceNexus.



On 19 September, the OSCE Academy hosted a guest lecture by Dr. **Maximilian Burger-Scheidlin**, Executive Director of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Austria. The lecture titled “Competitiveness in Challenging Business Environments: Key Impediments - Short-termism & Corruption? How to Invigorate a Business Environment to Benefit All?” addressed the pressing challenges businesses face globally, particularly in environments plagued by instability and corruption.



On 19 September, the OSCE Academy hosted a guest lecture by **Dr. Alexander Diener**, Professor of Geography at the University of Kansas, on the topic “Central Asia’s Borders: Levels of Diplomacy and Para-Diplomacy.” The lecture shed light on the multifaceted nature of borders in the Central Asian region, exploring how states and non-state actors influence border dynamics and regional stability.



On 27 September, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Mr. Abay Aidyn**, Programme Manager, Center for Analytics and Research MIND and **Ms. Natalia Bachinskaia**, Director of Development at Chapter Zero from MIND, Applied Think Tank at Maqsut Narikbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan. Key points of the meeting were funding possibilities of research in the national and corporate/commercial sector to enhance Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), exchange of research experts and students' involvement into the SDG research project development and startups.



On 30 September, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek held a guest lecture on “Preventing Youth Engagement in Crime,” focusing on youth crime prevention in Central Asia. The first session, led by **Mr. Ulukbek Abdubaliev**, addressed the OSCE's strategies for promoting lawful behavior among youth. The second session featured **Mr. Christopher Ursuleack** from Germany, who shared insights on the effective “Kurve Kriegen” initiative, highlighting collaborative crime prevention efforts.



On 3 October, the OSCE Academy had the honour to welcome **H. E. Kaha Imnadze**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Central Asia, the Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), accompanied by **Mr. Mirlan Mamyrov**, Programme Officer, Representative of the UNRCCA in the Kyrgyz Republic. H.E. Imnadze shared the information about the regional activities his office works on, and in particular highlighted two initiatives – Women, Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security - as possible areas for collaboration with the OSCE Academy. The opportunities were discussed to enhance cooperation between UNRCCA and the OSCE Academy.



On 15 October, BA Economics sophomores and juniors attended an expert talk at the OSCE Academy as part of the Global and National Economy course on the topic “Digitalization in Kyrgyzstan: Economic Prospects and Security Issues.” The event featured regional experts in the digitalization field: **Dr. Nuriia Kutnaeva**, Minister of Digital Development of Kyrgyzstan, who is also an OSCE Academy Alumna of 2005 and Alumna of the Year 2023 and **Dr. Zhyldyz Tegizbekova**, Professor of Law and Head of the Law Department at Alatoo International University. Minister Kutnaeva provided an insightful overview of the ongoing digitalization process in Kyrgyzstan, highlighting its role in modernizing key sectors and driving economic growth. Dr. Tegizbekova addressed the complex challenges of personal data protection, emphasizing the need for stronger legal frameworks to safeguard citizens’ privacy amid the growing reliance on digital platforms.



On 15 October, **Mr. Cosimo Lamberti Fossati**, Project Manager from the EU Delegation in the Kyrgyz Republic, and **Ms. Adinai Kurmanbekova**, Intern at the EU Delegation, visited the OSCE Academy to discuss the possibilities to collaborate. During the meeting the parties discussed the student internships within the EU Projects in Kyrgyzstan, guest lectures to the Academy’s students by EU Delegation experts, as well possibilities of cooperation in future EU-funded projects in case of successful applications.



On 18 October, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Mr. Jacob Riemer**, Second Executive Director Austausch, a German NGO, and **Ms. Irina Bukharkina**, Director of Programmes of Austausch. During the meeting, both parties have also discussed the possible ways of collaboration, including joint implementation of research-related and capacity-building activities.



On 24 October, **Mr. Kabir Jurazoda**, Director of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute, and **Ms. Aidana Bedibekova**, CAREC Regional Officer in Kyrgyzstan, visited the OSCE Academy. Special attention was given to capacity-building trainings, research activities as well as dialogue events at the meeting. The Kyrgyz Republic will be chairing the CAREC Institute in 2025. The OSCE Academy will be one of the main local partners of CAREC, supporting the implementation of a number of planned activities. As a first step, the Parties agreed to develop the Action plan for 2025.



On 31 October, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Mr. Noufal Abboud**, a Director of the Nordic Centre for Conflict Transformation (NCCT) in Sweden and **Dr. Cholpon Orozobekova**, Director of the Bulan Institute in Switzerland. Mr. Abboud delivered a guest lecture on the topic “Security Challenges in the Middle East and North Africa; Threat of Terrorism and Regional Policies to Prevent and Counter It” to MA students of the Politics and Security Programme. The lecture was part of the framework of the Re-orient project, which the Bulan Institute joined and funded by the NCCT to facilitate the exchange between Morocco and Kyrgyzstan on good practices of prevention of extremism, rehabilitation and reintegration of former extremists and returnees.



On 13 November, the MA Students in the Politics and Security Programme had a guest lecture with **Mr. Andrea Salvoni**, Senior Advisor to the OSCE Secretary General and **Ms. Assel Murat**, Assistant Project Officer on Youth and Security and graduate of the OSCE Academy, who presented about the work of the OSCE Secretariat and youth perspectives and projects. The presentation shed light on the internal workings of the OSCE. It also extended to the commitment of the OSCE to integrating youth perspectives within security and peacebuilding frameworks that align with United Nations Security Council Resolutions.



On 19 November, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Dr. Kadisha Dairova**, Vice President for Student Affairs and International Cooperation at Nazarbayev University, and **Ms. Aliya Kaimoldinova**, Director of the Department of Internationalization at Nazarbayev University, accompanied by **Mr. Kazybek Zhussipakhmetov**, First Secretary at the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Kyrgyz Republic. This meeting marked the first opportunity for the educational institutions to formally discuss potential partnership in research and academic areas. Collaboration among individual scholars has taken place among faculty members and researchers of both institutions for several years.



On 21 November, representatives of Kunaev University, Kazakhstan - **Prof. Erkinbek Rakimbaev**, from the Law Department, and **Dr. Elvira Omurchiyeva**, Vice-Rector for Innovative Development and International Relations, visited the OSCE Academy to discuss potential collaboration. During the meeting, participants identified the areas for potential collaboration, such as lecturers' and experts' exchange, students' mobility, and research collaboration.



On 2 December, BA students attended a guest lecture with **Mr. Nuradil Alymkulov**, Senior Backend Developer at Consensus, on the topic "A Gentle Introduction to Cryptocurrency: From Blockchain to Cryptocurrency, From Web2 to Web3". Students had the opportunity to delve deeper into the technical aspects of the cryptocurrency market, gaining insights into blockchain technology, transaction mechanisms, and the principles of decentralized finance.

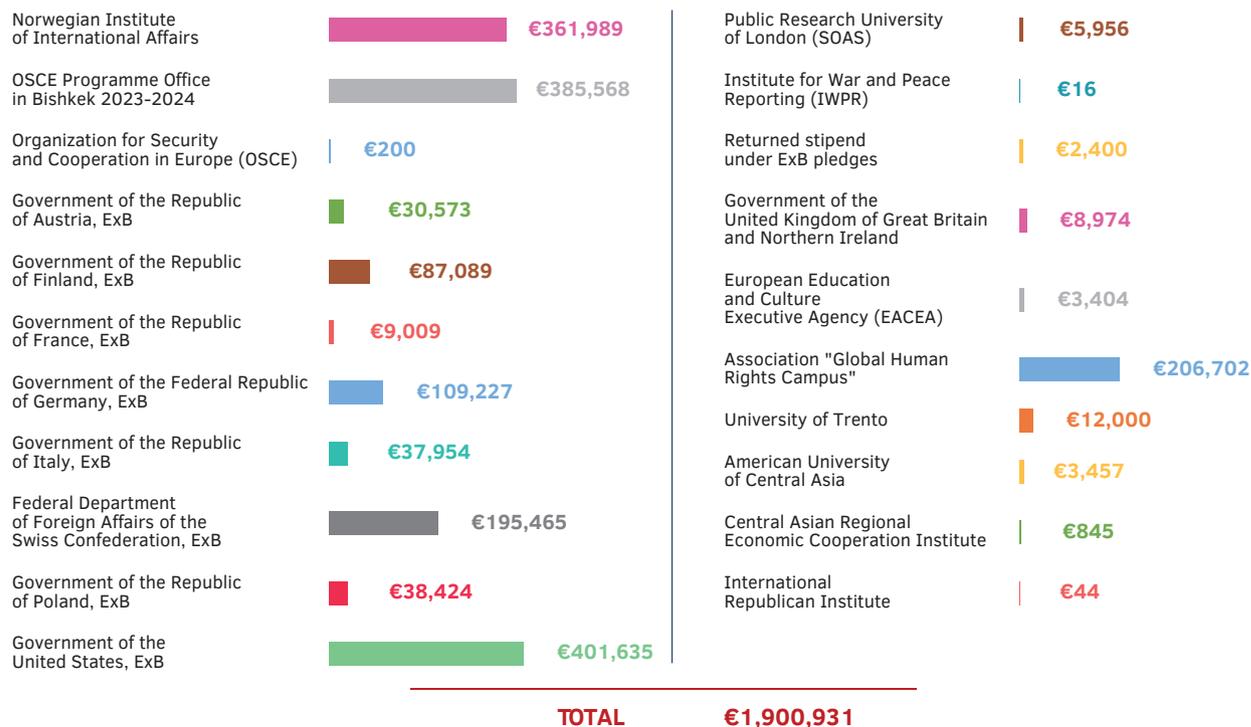
The guest lecture formed part of the Money and Banking and Accounting course, led by Ms. Begimai Abdraeva, who is also an OSCE Academy Alumna of 2015.

FINANCES

Expenditures by Area of Activities



Expenditures by Source of Funding



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

