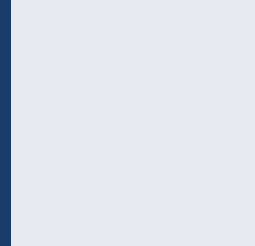
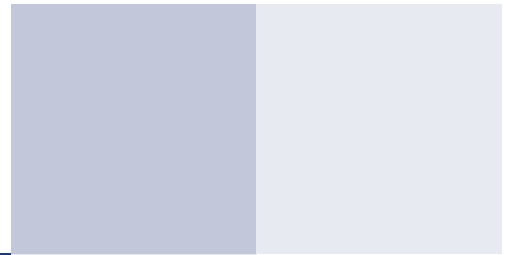


2020

ANNUAL REPORT





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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2020 Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The following report is a great opportunity for you to have a thorough summary of the main accomplishments and developments of the OSCE Academy, its students and alumni in 2020.

2020 has been a year like no other, a year in which the world had to adapt to COVID-19. The OSCE Academy is no exception in this regard. Despite the consequences of COVID-19, the Academy has done an excellent job in implementing its activities. Moreover, the Academy students have proven to be resilient and adapted well to distance learning. In 2020, the Academy welcomed 52 new students, who have started their exciting journeys at one of Central Asia's most prestigious institutes for higher education. Likewise, the Academy bid farewell to its 34 newest graduates. I am confident that these young professionals with a wealth of expertise and experience in politics, security, good governance and development, will take leading roles and drive change both in their local societies and in the world. 2020 could not have prepared them better for what is to come.



Ambassador Pierre von Arx

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

2020 has also been a year in which the Academy established over a dozen new partnership agreements. In addition, the Academy further strengthened its ties with existing partners. Such partnerships enable Academy students to broaden their horizons; make the Academy more attractive for exchange students and high-quality faculty; and enhance the visibility of the Academy in general, which in turn generates research and policy-dialogue initiatives of a higher quality.

Another unique feature of the Academy is its alumni network. Currently, the Academy has 554 alumni. The alumni network, established in 2010, has given a lot to the Academy students, graduates and has become a tool of growing importance to the Academy itself. The network provides a stable and useful platform for support, exchange of ideas, growth, and reflection. This network is a proven platform for professional network exchange, but also a community of likeminded people, friends, and a place to seek support. It is in a year like 2020 that a strong community like the alumni network demonstrated its usefulness. I highly encourage you to

have a look at the OSCE Academy website where Alumni success stories are posted on a regular basis, to see the impact the Academy has on the younger generations in Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the wider OSCE region.

The OSCE Academy's outstanding work over the years would not be possible without the continuous support of the partners and donors. I would like to thank the OSCE community and its participating States, the donor community, the academic community, as well as the members of the Academy's Board of Trustees, for their continuous strategic, political and financial support. Likewise, I would like to encourage partners and donors to continue to engage with the Academy in further shaping its path towards becoming a full-fledged institute for higher education and research. This Annual Report provides a good indicator of the Academy's progress and the growing impact it continues to make on Central Asia and the wider OSCE region.

I wish you an interesting read of the 2020 Annual Report.



Dr. Alexander Wolters

Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Readers,

With great pleasure I present to you the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for 2020. It comes almost without saying that the global pandemic produced many challenges which had a substantial impact on the Academy's work. I am very happy to say that we have managed to adapt to the changing context and were able to continue our activities, if even in new formats and regimes. I hope that you will enjoy reading about our work and our achievements in times of lockdown and distance-learning, and about our efforts to further enhance the Academy's reputation as a regionally-embedded institute for higher learning and excellence in research!

The pandemic did not stop us to search for new partners and to initiate collaboration with colleagues from the wider OSCE area. We are very excited about our cooperation with institutions in the region such as the Judicial General Council of Mongolia, the Central Asia Barometer in Kyrgyzstan, and the Higher School of Economics of the M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University in Kazakhstan, with whom we aim to conduct trainings and produce joint research. Our Memoranda of Understanding with the Kozminski University in Poland, the Higher School of Economics in St. Petersburg, Russia, and with the Observatory on Central Asia and the Caspian Region in Italy will serve us further to engage into academic exchange with new partners further afar. Special attention we have paid to Erasmus+ partnerships and we are proud to have received funding for student and staff exchange together with the University of Freiburg and the University of Marburg, Germany, and to have signed agreements to produce joint applications for Erasmus+ actions with

the Cyril And Methodius University in Skopje, and the South East European University in North Macedonia.

In 2020 the Academy has made serious efforts to increase its academic and scholarly output. In addition to 13 newly published policy briefs we produced two special issues on selected topics, our Academic Yearbook for 2020 in Russian language, and several conference reports, available both in English and Russian languages. With our collective volume on Transformation and Development we have begun a new collaboration with Springer that has allowed the Academy and its affiliated scholars to reach out to wider audiences and to increase its impact on current discussions about Security and Development in the region. 2020 saw the further strengthening of this partnership with Springer and the prospective development of similar volumes in the following years.

Our publication output reflects our renewed engagement with research. We are very proud to host two postdoc researchers who have received funding via a special programme set up by the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany, as well as two more postdocs supported by the Academy's long-term partner, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). The Academy has continued to engage into joint policy analysis endeavors within the Horizon-2020 funded project AGRUMIG and became partner to the Life with Corona Survey Project that aims to gather data on people's coping strategies with the pandemic. Despite the pandemic we continued to invite for conferences and we are happy that many followed our invitation and joined us for our "Value Transformation in Central Asia", and the "Covid-19 Crisis and its Impact on Post-Soviet Central Asia" conferences, held both in Fall last year. Many more initiatives, be they conferences, workshops, or summer schools, were organized throughout the year and I invite you to learn more about them in our Report.

In September 2020 the Academy invited 52 students from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as from Russia and the United States, to enroll online in its two MA programmes and to study in the following 16 months such

diverse subjects as Politics, Security Studies, Political Theory, Econometrics, Economic Governance, Development Studies, or Project Development. Both students and faculty members, as well as the staff of the Academy put in extra efforts to make distance-learning formats work with often very different conditions at place to access and participate in online classes and lectures. By the end of 2020 first preparations were made to allow for the return to traditional formats of teaching at some point in the beginning of the next year. The students of the Academic Year 2020-2021 received an extension to complete their programmes in January 2021 and more than 30 professionals from Central Asia submitted their thesis works at the end of the year. Beyond doubt their studies and their work for internships and thesis projects was of a different challenge and we are very proud to see our students having coped so well and producing excellent study results.

The Academy and its many projects and activities in 2020 were made possible due to the generous contributions from Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United States, amounting to full coverage of related Extra-budgetary costs of the Academy. NUPI, with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, contributed via a new four-year partnership programme that encompasses all activities at the Academy and had its scholars engage into online-teaching for modules and receiving our students for online internships. Finally, with the contribution from the Unified Budget, the OSCE via its Programme Office in Bishkek provided with the essential support to the Academy and its functioning as an organization.

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

For now we hope you will enjoy our Annual Report for 2020!

ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In July and December 2020, the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy held its regular meetings. Both meetings served to inform the members of the Board about the successful adaptation of the Academy's programmes to the conditions of lock-down and distance-learning and to report on new achievements and plans for the future. Next to discussions about the necessary contingency planning in light of the pandemic, special attention was paid to the development of a new Extrabudgetary project that has been scheduled to come into force in the beginning of 2021 and which foresees the support to increased academic capacity building as one of the many innovations in future development plans of the Academy. Others include the development of a Bachelor programme in Economics and the launch of a PhD programme in 2023.

The Board was much satisfied to see the institute's financial support base widening and new funding from third parties, for example the Volkswagen Foundation, being received.

To further improve its visibility as a recognized Higher Education Institution (HEI) in 2020 the Academy contacted the International Association of Universities with the request to be included in the World Higher Education Database (IAU WHED) portal. Following the submission of required information, in July the Academy was included in IUA WHED portal. *In collaboration with UNESCO, the IAU WHED Portal provides authoritative information on higher education systems, credentials in 196 countries and territories and over 19,900 officially accredited or recognized HEIs. The IAU WHED Portal has been THE reference tool since 1950 for national higher education authorities, government agen-*



Participants of the Board of Trustees online meeting, 9 December 2020

*cies and national academic bodies.*¹ The Academy's Global WHED ID is **IAU-027134**.

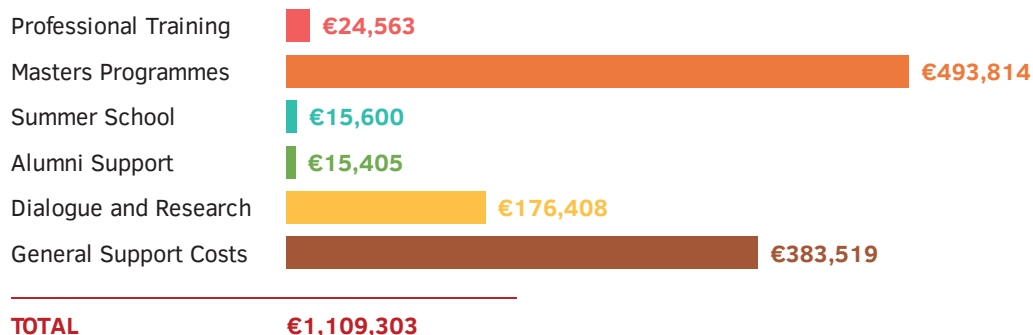
The Academy continued to build up its administrative capacity: The Graduate Education Department received further support with a new assistant taking over responsibility for the integration of distance learning activities, while responsibilities inside the financial department and the HR unit were further structured. The hiring of trainees to support in various tasks allowed the Academy to continued developing despite the obstacles put in its way by the pandemic at various moments in 2020. The result is our current capacity to seize opportunities and to collaborate with partners far and close by and to initiate new academic projects to further transform the Academy into a research-based graduate institute.

¹ <https://www.whed.net/home.php>

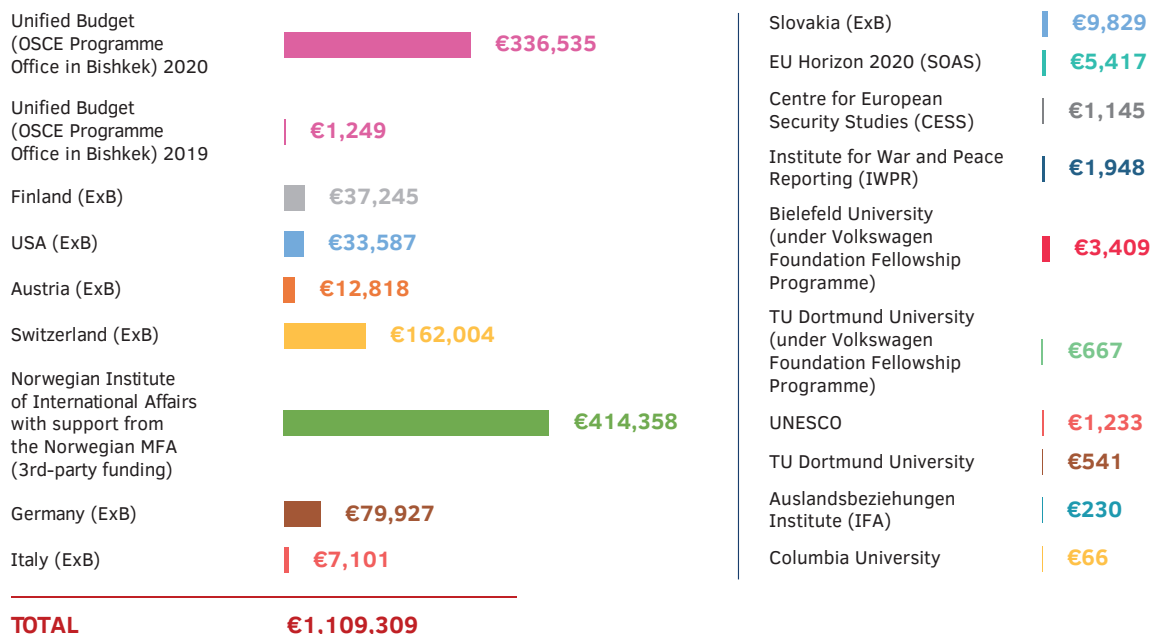
FINANCES

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

Expenditures by Area of Activities



Expenditures by Source of Funding



GRADUATE EDUCATION



In 2020 the OSCE Academy's MA Programmes in Politics & Security and in Economic Governance & Development keep providing an exceptional opportunity to pursue graduate education of international standards without the necessity to leave the region. The MA Programmes were challenged by the COVID-19 restrictions the most, as the need to shift to the distant mode was urgent. Within the shortest period of time the Academy team, lecturers and students had to adapt to a new format, in order to ensure an uninterrupted continuation of the education process. Although the academic year 2019-2020 had to be extended by one month and as due to the limitations caused by the pandemic not all students managed to complete their MA Theses, a cohort of 34 graduates received their diplomas in January 2021 at the first ever Graduation Ceremony held in a hybrid format. Moreover, in September 2020 the MA Programmes in Politics & Security and

in Economic Governance & Development virtually welcomed 52² newly enrolled students from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United States, and Uzbekistan.

With all the limitations brought by the COVID-19 crises, compelling the Academy to continue the education process online, there is also a positive outcome, as students were able to benefit from multiple meetings with high-level professionals and experts, who were able to join the course and modules virtually. Thus, during the OSCE Module coordinated by Dr. Diana Digol, Deputy Head of the Programme Office in Nur Sultan, students of the Economic Governance & Development Programme had a chance to meet and listen to high level officials of the OSCE, representatives of the Secretariat, OSCE Institutions, and Field Missions and learned about the activities across three OSCE dimensions. At the same time stu-

² As of September 2020.

dents of the Politics and Security group met experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), U.S. State Department's International Narcotics and Law (INL) enforcement affairs, Winrock International, and an International expert on Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons within the module "Migration and Human Trafficking" taught by Dr. Daniel Leitch.

The Academy maintains a very high standard of teaching secured by professors who are affiliated with the Academy in various ways and by various means. Core Faculty team included the full-time Senior Lecturers Dr. Nazgul Zhenish, Dr. Emil Dzhuraev, DAAD Associate Professor Dr. Anja Mihr, as well Teaching Fellows: Dr. Nurgul Ukueva, Dr. David Karas, Dr. Farhad Kerimov, Dr. David Grant, Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva, and Dr. Mary Bernadette Conde. Visiting Professors, still by far the larger share of the overall faculty employed by the Academy, are hired through a competitive, merit-based selection process, or, are increasingly invited to teach specific subjects at the Academy within the well-established partner-institutions, such as the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), the American University of Central Asia (AUCA), as well as newly formed partnership agreements (Memoranda of Cooperation, e.g. Kozminski University in Poland or the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ GmbH) in Kyrgyzstan). The latter contributes to increasing sustainability in the further development of the curriculum and the programme structure.



"Working at the OSCE Academy as teaching fellow is a vibrant learning experience. Interacting with students and faculty members from different backgrounds, experimenting simulations and working groups, supervising final dissertations, designing and monitoring internship activities made me grow intellectually, improve my teaching style and enrich my personal and scholarly profile. The need to move all activities online, because of the pandemic, obviously affected personal exchanges and networking but did not interrupt this wonderful journey, which, I hope will continue for long."

- **Dr. Daniella Irrera, Visiting Professor under the partnership with the University of Catania, Italy**

INTERNSHIPS 2019-2020

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

Completed in July, winter and spring semesters were followed by the MA Thesis research period and internships. In 2020 we had international internships with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo. In addition to already well-established international internship opportunities, two students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security (Central Asia) conducted their internships at the University of Catania, Italy. Despite the challenges caused by the unprecedented situation with COVID-19 around the globe, 11 international internship opportunities were conducted online.

During the internship period students became acquainted with practical activities in relevant fields and considered them in light of their theoretical knowledge obtained from the academic process. Students completed hybrid internships and worked on particular issues in the field of political science, security and international relations, and applied academic competencies within the region of Central Asia and Afghanistan. Regional internship organizations include the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) in Afghanistan, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Kyrgyzstan and other organizations.



“The online internship at NUPI was a truly interesting and significantly rewarding experience. I was assigned to the Russia, Asia and International Trade Research Group (RAIT) where I learned not only to work with inspiring researchers but also together adapting to the challenges of online working. My internship supervisor was also my MA thesis supervisor, who taught me valuable experience in research and analysis and who introduced me to many other researchers with different levels of experience. It is a pity that we could not be present in the institute, but the academic environment and the flexibility of schedule and tasks at NUPI allowed me to enjoy the virtual work with this institution. Moreover, the people with whom I made acquaintance in the virtual environment during the internship will remain crucial throughout my career for which I am sincerely grateful”

- **Ismoil Sadullozoda, MA Programme
in Politics and Security 2019-2020**

Student internships



- OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria (online) **4**
- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (online) **5**
- University of Catania (online) **2**
- Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR)
Central Asia Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (hybrid) **2**
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (hybrid) **1**
- Regional Institute of Central Asia (RICA) in Bishkek,
Kyrgyzstan (hybrid) **2**
- Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan (hybrid) **1**
- Ministry of Education and Science of Kyrgyzstan (hybrid) **1**
- Institute for Fiscal Studies under the Ministry of Finance
of Uzbekistan (hybrid) **1**

ADMISSION PROCESS 2020

The selection process for the Academic Year 2020-2021 followed the international standards in testing, requiring English proficiency and with a primary focus on professional experience. From 1,616 candidates, 92 matched international standards and therefore were invited to interviews, having been considered top candidates of high caliber. Owing to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the interviews usually held by the admission commission members visiting the capitals of countries beneficiaries of the Academy's Programmes, were replaced by video interviews (via Zoom). These were organized for 34 applicants for the Master's in Economic Governance and Development (MA EGD) and 58 applicants for the Master's in Policy and Security (MA PS) in the period from 29 May to 2 June 2020. As a result, 23 out of 911 and 30 out of 705 candidates were enrolled to the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme and the MA in Politics and Security Programme respectively.

Admission statistics for the academic year of 2020-2021

MA Programme in Politics and Security

705	220	460	5	20	30
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, TJ, TURK, UZB)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Number of students admitted to the programme

Admission statistics for the academic year of 2020-2021

MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

911	177	724	2	8	23
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, TJ, TURK, UZB)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Number of students admitted to the programme

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

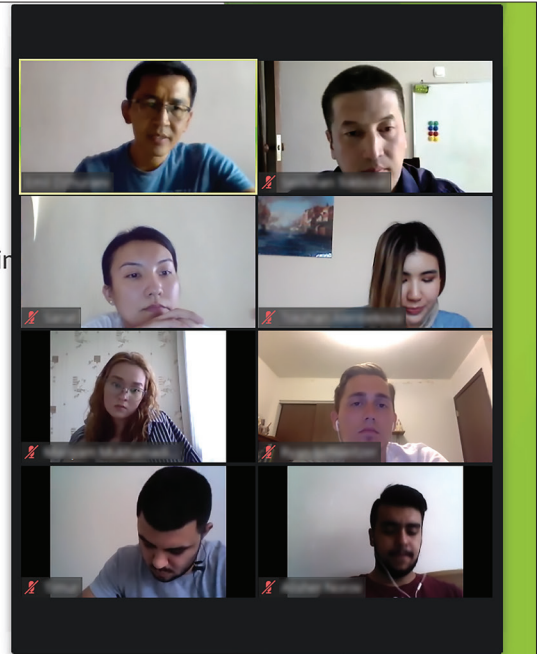
Why do social research?

Brainstorm: What might be possible, plausible reasons in engaging an activity?

Improve social life?

Resolve persisting social problems?

Prevent social problems?



From 3 till 28 August 2020 the OSCE Academy conducted its Preparatory Summer School for newly enrolled MA students in online format. The participants were 52 MA students from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the USA. Since 2018 this Summer School provides students with an opportunity to improve their knowledge and acquire the necessary skills for further studies within the MA Programmes in Politics & Security and Economic Governance & Development. In particular, this Summer School was designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills on Mathematics for Economists, the Theory of Probability and Statistics, Academic Writing and Honesty, and the Introduction to Research Methods in Social Sciences. The courses were organized and conducted by Academy faculty and invited guest lecturers.

MA PROGRAMME IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



The Master of Arts in Politics and Security continued to provide students from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and further abroad graduate education of international standards in the fields of political science, international relations, security, democratization and human rights, as well as sustainable development. Following the positive experience of Erasmus+ academic student exchange launched in 2019, in January 2020 the Programme welcomed two exchange students from the European School of Political and Social Sciences Université Catholique de Lille within the framework of the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2019. Eliza Belas and Philippine Marie Raphanaud attended classes offered by the Academy and explored the culture and nature of Kyrgyzstan.

Graduated students in 2020

19 Students have graduated from the programme:

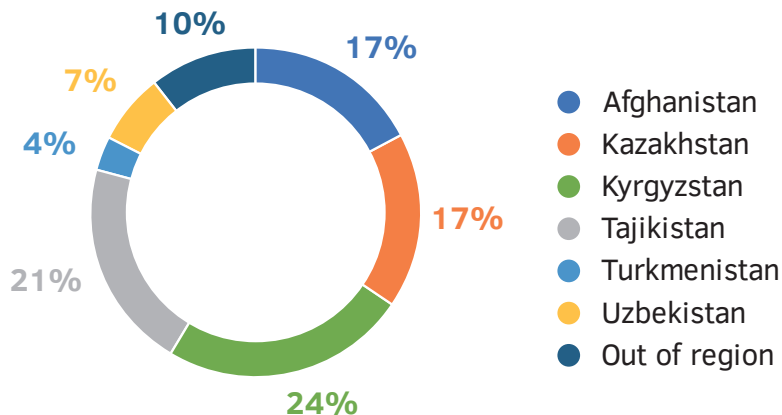


Gender balance



Enrolled students by country

Gender balance out of 29 enrolled students



“Although COVID-19 did not allow me to experience life in Bishkek to the fullest, my exchange in Kyrgyzstan was everything I wanted it to be and more. I cherish every minute I spent immersing myself in its beautiful culture and feeling welcomed by its people. I can’t thank the OSCE Academy enough for giving me the opportunity to learn, grow and share my passion for politics in such an international and stimulating environment. My former colleagues, as well as the whole staff and the beautiful atmosphere pervading the school, will always have a place in my heart.”

- **Elisa Belaz, Exchange Student**
European School of Political and Social Sciences Université Catholique de Lille, France

Curriculum

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the curriculum offered 13 full term, 6 modular and 10 elective courses in total.

Fall semester

Full-term

- Political Institutions and Processes
- International Relations
- History of Political Thought
- Quantitative Methods in IR
- German Language
- Russian Language

Modular

- The OSCE

Elective

- Human Rights and International Law
- Political Violence and Terrorism
- European Politics

Winter semester

Full-term

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

Modular

- Central Asia and the USA
- Conflict Management

Elective

- Good Governance in International Comparison

Spring semester

Full-term

- MA Thesis Seminar
- Analyzing social discourse. Introduction into qualitative research methods

Modular

- Political Islam
- Central Asia and Russia
- Central Asia and China

Elective

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

Faculty, 2019-2020 academic year

Dr. Emilbek Dzshuraev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

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

Dr. David Karas (Hungary), OSCE Academy

Dr. Kemel Toktomushev (Kyrgyzstan), University of Central Asia (UCA), Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Rouslan Jalil (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr. Farhad Kerimov (Turkmenistan), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan

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

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

Dr. Daniela Irrera (Italy), University of Catania, Italy

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

Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany

Dr. Mary Bernadette Conde (Philippines), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Augustin Nicolescou (France), Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding, Austria

Dr. Barbara Christoph (Germany), The Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Germany

Dr. Gregory Winger (United States of America), University of Cincinnati, Political Science Department, United States of America

Dr. Azamat Sakiev (Kyrgyzstan), West Chester University, United States of America

Dr. Tim Epkenhans (Germany), University of Freiburg, Germany

Dr. Yana Leksyutina (Russian Federation), Saint Petersburg State University, Russia

Dr. Daniel Leitch (United States of America), University of Wisconsin-Platteville, United States of America

Mr. Felix Beck (Germany), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Kyrgyzstan

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

Dr. Helge Blakkisrud (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Norway

MA PROGRAMME IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



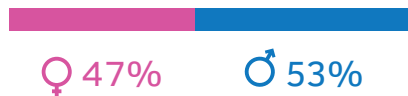
The Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development was developed to meet the demand for a high-quality graduate education in economics, governance, and development in the region. The Programme continues to graduate students that successfully find their ways not only in international organizations,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

Graduated students in 2020

15 Students have graduated from the programme:

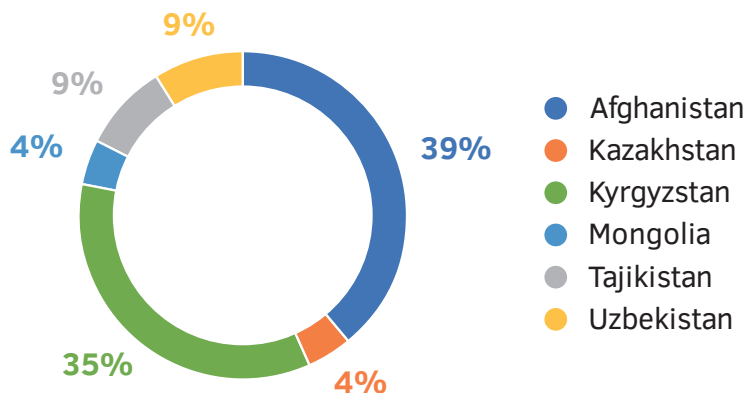
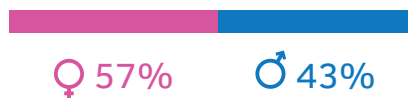


Gender balance



Enrolled students by country

Gender balance out of 23 enrolled students



“The first semester at the OSCE Academy felt like a demo-version of an exciting video game because in the online format we could not fully experience and enjoy the learning process without personal interaction and physical presence. Although online format gave us the opportunity to meet and talk to international experts from different fields working at the OSCE and other organizations.”

- **Erzhan Zhyrgalbek uulu**
MA Programme in
Economic Governance
and Development
2020-2021

Curriculum

In the 2019-2020 academic year, the curriculum offered 7 full term, 9 modular and 10 elective courses in total.

Fall semester

Full-term

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Academic Writing

Modular

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

Elective courses

- Statistics
- Introduction to Stata
- Border Management and Transport Routs

Winter semester

Full-term

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

Modular

- Good Governance in Central Asia
- Industrial Policy

Elective courses

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

Spring semester

Full-term

- International Development

Modular

- International Financial System
- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources
- Integrated Water Management
- Economics and Regulation of the Energy Sector

Elective courses

- Energy Politics
- Economic Effects of Migration
- MA Thesis Seminar

Faculty, 2019-2020 academic year

Dr. Nazgul Zhenish (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

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

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

Dr. Serguey Khovansky (Russian Federation), OSCE Academy

Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

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

Dr. David Grant (United Kingdom), European School in Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan

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

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

Dr. Jo Thori Lind (Norway), University of Oslo, Norway

Mr. Yuri Fenopetov (Austria), OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Ms. Dina Biba (Kyrgyzstan), United States Agency for International Development, Kyrgyzstan

Mr. Jonathon Hornbrook (United Kingdom), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Gordana Pesakovic (United States of America), Webster University, Uzbekistan

Dr. Philipp Schroeder (Germany), University of Freiburg, Germany

Dr. Damir Esenaliev (Kyrgyzstan), International Security and Development Center, Berlin, Germany

Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Latvia

Dr. Mary Bernadette Conde (Philippines), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan

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

Dr. Gulzhamal Issaeva (Kazakhstan), Kazakh-German University (DKU)

RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT

Due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, all the OSCE Academy's training and event-related operations were also shifted to an online mode. The Academy successfully conducted several training seminars, public lectures, conferences, and other events online via the Zoom platform. Although the pandemic created serious logistical issues to organize events in Bishkek, it has positively affected other areas. First, much attention was diverted to research and publications of the Academy. As a result, the Academy's publications were significantly boosted compared to many years combined in the past. Second, due to online mode, the Academy's online public talks, conferences, and workshops were attended by higher numbers of participants, especially from overseas. This helped to increase the Academy's international visibility.

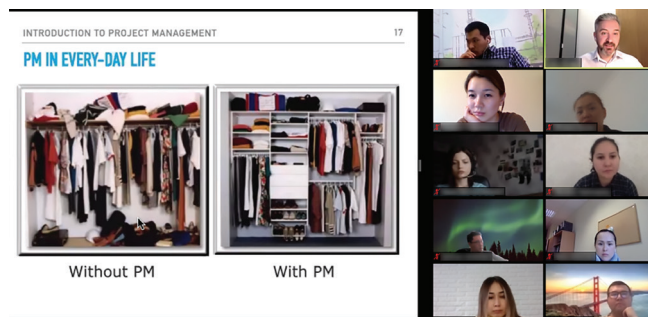
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

In the second half of 2020, the Academy successfully organized several online professional trainings for young and mid-career professionals, experts, and researchers from Central Asia and beyond to increase their capacity and establish a regional network.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING, 23 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2020

The training was conducted by Mr. Ivars Rungis, Chairman of the Board in Latvian National Project Management Association (LNPMA) and a trainer with more than 20 years of experience in the field of project management. This was an intensive 10-day online training for participants, who wish to develop their careers with International Organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations, etc., and need to improve their theoretical knowledge of Project Management. Sixteen participants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan had a chance to review all aspects of Project Management, reinforced with practical exercises and real-life examples. Within the training, participants were divided into groups and were tasked to address a real work situation and try to implement a project that has overrun the deadlines and budget.

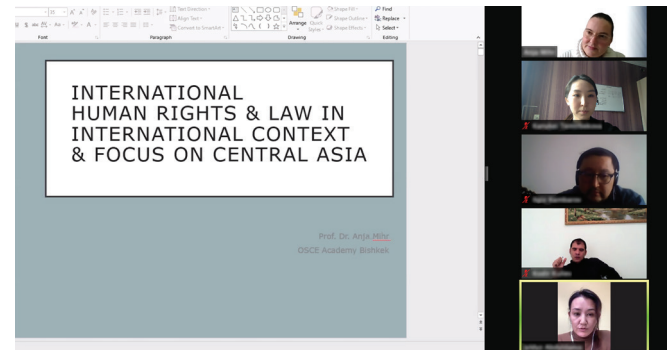
In addition, 5 participants received a grant to pass the official IPMA-D Level Certification by the Latvian



National Project Management Association. The Certification exam was held remotely on 3 December 2020, at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. All 5 participants passed the exam and received their certifications from the Latvian National Project Management Association.

CERTIFICATE TRAINING ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS REGIMES AND LAW, 7 – 11 DECEMBER 2020

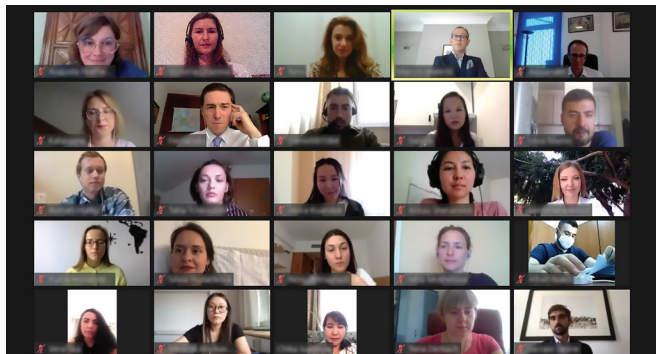
Online Certificate Training Seminar on International Human Rights Regimes and Law in Central Asia was led by Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the Academy, and a Human Rights expert with vast academic and practical experience in the field. Overall, 16 participants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan received an opportunity to be introduced to the genesis, concepts, standards, laws, agreements, and treaties of today's international human rights law and regimes. The Training focused on global UN and regional Human Rights instruments (treaties and declarations) as well as mechanisms (committees, commissions, and courts) and in particular how the UN human rights regime interplays with regional organizations and actors. Participants also benefited from the guest lectures delivered by Gabriel Toggenburg, Policy Coordinator, Fundamental Rights Agency, European Union, Vienna, Austria; Hugh Wil-



liamson, Director, Europe & Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch, Berlin, Germany; Syinat Sultanalieva, Researcher, Europe and Central Asia Division, Human Rights Watch, Bishkek Office, Kyrgyzstan, and Graziella Pavone, Human Rights Officer, OSCE/ ODIHR, Warsaw, Poland.

JOINT INITIATIVES

THIRD ECPR-ODIHR SUMMER SCHOOL ON POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY, 17-23 AUGUST 2020



The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) launched a week-long Summer School on Political Parties and Democracy. This third edition of the summer school was organized in collaboration with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, and the

Research Centre for the Study of Parties and Democracy - (REPRESENT) - of the University of Nottingham. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the third summer school was held online. It brought together 21 researchers, practitioners, and civil society leaders in the field of political parties and democracy from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. The intensive seven-day schedule was meant to improve participants' knowledge on political parties, party systems, democracy and elections. As such, participants attended lectures and seminars led by prominent scholars and practitioners in the field, as well as presented and discussed their research projects. Participants representing academia learned more about the requirements and criteria of international academic publishing. Additionally, practitioners received insights into the main academic findings regarding party politics and democracy promotion.

SCHOOL OF YOUNG ANALYSTS CABAR.ASIA, 21 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2020



The third School for Young Analytics Cabar.asia was organized by the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR CA) in partnership with the OSCE Academy. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the School was held online. This School was conducted with the financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a part of the project “Giving Voice, Driving Change – From the Borderland to the Steppes”, jointly implemented by IWPR and the OSCE Academy since 2018. The project is implemented following the Memorandum of Cooperation and Collaboration between the two institutions signed on 22 February 2018.

The programme was designed for young researchers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in order to improve their skills in developing analytical publications on relevant topics and issues in Central Asian states. 30 participants had a chance to listen to trainers, practitioners and experts from Europe, the CIS and Central Asia, discussing the specific features and standards of analytical articles; including types of analytical materials; methodology of analytical

material writing; structure, composition, visual tools of an analytical article; data processing and analysis; and strategies for promoting an analytical article.

Despite the fact that this year the School was held online, participants had a chance to participate in practical work, listen to and discuss current issues with the practicing political analysts, practitioners in public administration, international relations, economy and media.

DEBATING PERSPECTIVES 2030 ROADSHOW, 13 NOVEMBER 2020

The OSCE Academy, with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, hosted the OSCE's "Debating Perspectives 2030 Roadshow" event in Central Asia. The event brought together 38 young women and men from the region, including members of the alumni of the OSCE Academy, to discuss their ideas and visions for a safer future.

The Roadshow focused on the findings of the "Engaging Youth for a Safer Future" discussion paper, which was produced by the OSCE Perspectives 2030 Core Group of Experts (CGE) in 2019. This Core Group was comprised of 22 young women and men, who reflect the geographical diversity of the OSCE area, and came from a wide range of professional backgrounds including academia, civil society, policy-making, and the media.

This was the second "Debating Perspectives 2030 Roadshow" event, following the launching event in



Albania on 30 October 2020. The Office of the OSCE Secretary General and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung promoted it. More events are to be organized in the coming months across the OSCE region. Conclusions from the discussions will be published in a policy paper with recommendations.

CONFERENCES

2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL ASIA (ICCA) 2020, 2-3 OCTOBER 2020



In the beginning of October, international experts discussed contemporary issues at the 2nd International Conference on Central Asia (ICCA) 2020 titled “Between Europe and Asia: Emerging Central Asia and its

Multi-Faceted Role in the Era of Connectivity,” co-organized by the OSCE Academy and the Silk Road Analytical and Research Center of Ala-Too University. Experts from India, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Spain, Thailand, UK, and Uzbekistan presented and discussed their works on EU-Central Asian relations; Sino-Slavic vis-à-vis European Equations; EU’s Experience in Central Asia, Other Players in Europe-Asia Relations, and Central Asian Perspective during the five panels chaired by Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy and Prof. Halim Nezhoglu, Head, Department of International Relations, Ala-Too International University, Dr. Kashif Hasan Khan, Director, Silk Road Research Center, and Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Ala-Too International University.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON “VALUE TRANSFORMATION IN CENTRAL ASIA”, 16-17 OCTOBER 2020



In mid-October, the OSCE Academy and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation co-organized an Interdisciplinary Conference on “Value Transformation in Central Asia.” Regional and international experts discussed to what extent institutional changes and shifts from autocratic to democratic systems have been accompanied by a shift of democratic and human rights values and how so-called ‘traditional values’ in post-soviet Central Asia contradict or complement modern emancipatory norms. The Keynote Speakers included Dr. Anna Lührmann, Associate Professor and Deputy Director, V-Dem Institute, University of Gothenburg, Sweden on “Value Transformation and Democratization in Global Perspective”; Dr. Saodat Olimova, Sociologist, Director

SHARQ (ORIENS) Research Center, Dushanbe, Tajikistan on “Value Transformation in Central Asia”; Prof. Christian Haerpfer, President of World Value Survey, University of Vienna, Austria, and Dr. Ksenyia Kizilova, Secretary of the World Value Survey, Vienna, Austria, who presented the global and regional perspective on value transformation and democratization, and the World Value Survey results for 2020 on Central Asia. The conference gathered 12 inter-

national speakers and more than 60 participants. Among them were experts from the Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Central Asian Barometer, KIMEP University, University of Tartu, TALAP Research Center, the Center of Sociological Research “Zerkalo,” and the OSCE Academy. They talked about the experiences and Realpolitik in Central Asia as well as provided an overview of the value transformation in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

“Value Transformation in Central Asia” on YouTube



JOINT ALUMNI AND RESEARCHERS CONFERENCE ON “THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON POST-SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA,” 18-20 NOVEMBER 2020

In November the OSCE Academy in Bishkek held its biennial Alumni Conference themed ‘The COVID-19 Crisis and its Impact on Post-Soviet Central Asia’. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was conducted in a virtual format and was merged with the joint research project of the OSCE Academy and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). The conference presented three panels: ‘COVID-19 and Human Rights’, ‘COVID-19 and Migration’, and ‘COVID-19 and Foreign Policy of Central Asia’.

The Keynote Speaker of the event was Dr. Ekaterina Schulmann, Associate Professor, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences (MSES) and Associate Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House. She presented on the shift of global values caused by COVID-19. The keynote speech was followed by a panel on COVID-19 and Human Rights, covering gender-based and domestic violence, the impact of the pandemic on police officers, and the education quality in the region. The second day commenced with another panel-themed ‘COVID-19 and



Migration’. The speakers discussed the labor migration in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan during the crisis. The final day of the conference was devoted to the discussion of foreign policy in Central Asia. Participants also had a chance to listen to a presentation on “Social Impact of COVID-19 Worldwide and in Kyrgyzstan: Findings from the Life with Corona Study” by Dr. Damir Esenaliev, Senior Researcher, Leibniz-Institut für Gemüse- und Zierpflanzenbau (IGZ) and the International Security and Development Centre (ISDC) and on “Central Asian Public Opinion on COVID-19 Pandemic” delivered by Kasiet Ysmanova, Communications Manager and Researcher at Central Asia Barometer.

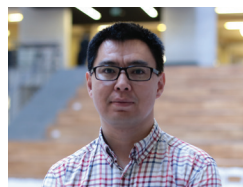
The recording of all three Panels is available on the *Academy’s YouTube Channel*



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

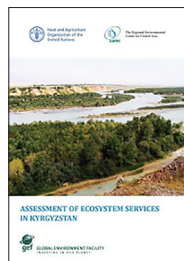
In 2020 the OSCE Academy devoted more attention and funding to build its research capacity and publication outputs. The Academy launched a new Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov and Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda were selected as Postdoctoral Fellows. In addition, two of the Academy's Associate Research Fellows Dr. Aijan Sharshenova and Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev received prestigious Post-Doctoral research grants from the Volkswagen Foundation. These grants are implemented through the University of Bielefeld and the University of Dortmund, Germany, respectively. The contracts with these German universities have been signed and in spring 2020, both Post-Doctoral Fellows have officially started their three-year fellowships.

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS



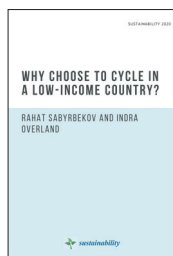
DR. RAHAT SABYRBEKOV has a Ph.D. from the School of Economics and Business at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Birmingham, the United Kingdom. Dr. Sabyrbekov serves as an author for the Intergovernmental Platform for Ecosystem Services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

Publications and Activities within the Fellowship



“Assessment of Ecosystem Services in Kyrgyzstan”,

for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, 2020.



“Why to Choose to Recycle in a Low-Income Country?”,

Sustainability 2020, 12 (18), 7775, co-authored with Indra Overland, Senior Research Fellow and Coordinator, Centre for Energy Research, NUPI.



On 29 October 2020, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy was a speaker at the conference **“Energy Transition in Central Asia: Why and How?”** organized by the Kazakh-German University, Kazakhstan. In connection with this global demand for energy resources, this talk discussed the needs and challenges to transform energy systems, particularly in Central Asia, how a transformation of energy supply systems could be financed and

what is the role and challenges in creating a united electric power market in Central Asia.

On 24 June 2020, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov and Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda participated in an international online discussion on the **“Implications of COVID-19 on Climate Change”**. The main questions targeted the pandemic’s impact on climate change and how economies will be able to catch up and grow without affecting the environment. Dr. Sabyrbekov talked about the trajectories of economies after the lockdown and the possible ways governments can re-examine the impact of COVID-19 on their respective countries. Dr. Huda moderated the event. The event was jointly organized by the OSCE Academy and CABAR.asia, a project of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) in Central Asia.

On 13 November 2020, the OSCE Academy, with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, hosted the OSCE’s **“Debat-ing Perspectives 2030 Roadshow”** event in Central Asia. The event brought together 38 young women and men from the region,

including the alumni of the OSCE Academy, to discuss their ideas and visions for a safer future. Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov participated as one of the moderators on the panel “Environment and Energy”. This panel explored the challenges posed by climate change on people’s lives, energy security, the future of renewable energy in the OSCE region.

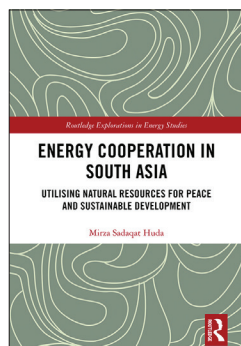
On 30 November – 4 December 2020, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov participated in **“National Transfer Accounts”** training and got certified. The goal of the NTA project is to improve understanding of how population growth and changing population age structure influence economic growth, gender and generational equity, public finances, and other important features of the macro-economy. Research teams in more than 60 countries are constructing accounts that measure how people at each age produce, consume, and share resources, and save for the future. These accounts are designed to complement the UN System of National Accounts, population data, and other important economic and demographic indicators.

The recording of online discussion on the *“Implications of COVID-19 on Climate Change”* can be accessed via the following QR-code:



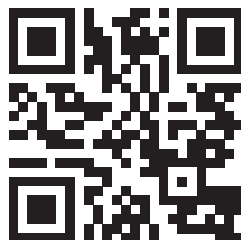
DR. MIRZA SADAQAT HUDA has a Ph.D. from the Sustainable Minerals Institute of the University of Queensland and his Master’s and Bachelor’s from Macquarie University and the University of Canberra, respectively. Dr. Huda’s research focuses on the Belt and Road Initiative, the politics of renewable energy in Asia, and global climate governance. He has undertaken policy-relevant research on natural resource governance and conflict resolution at the University of Queensland, Nanyang Technological University, and Griffith University. Dr. Huda’s analysis has been published in Energy Policy, Geoforum, Water International, and Energy Research and Social Science. He has contributed op-eds to the Policy Forum, the East Asia Forum, and the Australian Institute of International Affairs. Dr. Huda is the author of ‘Energy Cooperation in South Asia: Utilizing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development’, published by Routledge in April 2020.

Publications and Activities within the Fellowship

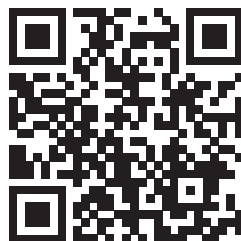


Energy Cooperation in South Asia, Utilizing Natural Resources for Peace and Sustainable Development”,

Routledge, April 22, 2020.



The recording of the Panel on “Energy Cooperation in South Asia” is available on YouTube



On 24 June 2020, Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda and Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov participated in an international online discussion on the **“Implications of COVID-19 on Climate Change”** (See previous page).

On 3 July 2020, Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda was a Panelist at the discussion on **“Energy Cooperation in South Asia”** organized by the Energy Studies Institute and the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. Dr. Huda examined the various challenges to energy cooperation in South Asia as well as evaluated how these political challenges determine regional interactions on energy securitization, environmental cooperation, and human rights. Experts also discussed the possible areas of energy cooperation among the South Asian countries, which has the potential to increase integration and peacebuilding.

On 27 August 2020, Dr. Mirza Sadaqat Huda delivered a lecture on “Energy Cooperation in South Asia” in an online conference on **“Reshaping Visions for Energy Security in the Indo-Pacific”** organized by the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), Washington. This series of discussions examined efforts rising from the United States, Japan, and other countries to address policymaking, technical, financial, legal, environmental, and energy market development questions.

On 16-17 October 2020, Post-Doctoral Fellows **Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov** and **Dr. Mirza Saqat Huda** participated in the **“Renpower in Central Asia”** conference organized by Euroconvention Global. The conference aimed to give an insight into Central Asia’s renewables industry commitment to a greener and sustainable environment gathering more than 250 participants from the countries of Central Asia and the whole world. Government representatives and energy authorities, investors, developers, financiers, bankers, technology and solution providers to the renewable sector joined in the frame of two days and created the largest for 2020 round table to evaluate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis over the sector and the action plans for its quick return to stable growth.



DR. AIJAN SHARSHENOVA holds a Ph.D. in Politics and a Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Leeds, the UK, and a Master's Degree in the EU and Central Asian Studies from the Institut für Europäische Politik and the Centre international de Formation européenne. Before joining the OSCE Academy, Dr. Sharshenova has worked at the UN and UNDP country offices in Bahrain. She also worked at the International Peace Institute's office in Bahrain and development projects in Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Sharshenova's research specialization is democracy promotion and democratization, post-Soviet authoritarianism, and international development. Her regional expertise is post-Soviet Eurasia. Recently, Dr. Sharshenova published her book 'The European Union's Democracy Promotion in Central Asia'. Within the framework of the Volkswagen Foundation, Dr. Sharshenova conducts her research on "Russia's Soft Power in Kyrgyzstan: A Study of Russian Influence in Central Asia".

Activities within the Fellowship

On 15 October 2020, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova participated in an online Eurasia Lab workshop "**How the COVID-19 Pandemic Affects my Work as a Researcher in/on Eurasia – and What to do About it**", organized by the Institut für Europäische Politik, Germany. The event was one of three workshops in which the "Eurasia Lab & Fellowship Program" is dedicated to connecting researchers working in and on Eurasia. This workshop highlighted a special role of the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information in a time of increasing crises and political conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia. The workshop outcomes were published in a guide for researchers by Eurasia Lab.

On 6-7 December 2020, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova was a guest speaker and made a presentation on civil society in the Kyrgyz Republic at the Central Asia Days, organized by Central Asia Solidarity Groups, Malmo, Sweden.

DR. SHAIRBEK DZHURAEV received his Ph.D. in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews. He previously served as Deputy Director at OSCE Academy in Bishkek and a Dean of Academic Development at the American University of Central Asia. Dr. Dzhuraev taught courses in Central Asian Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, and International Relations at various times at the American University of Central Asia, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, and the European University at St Petersburg. His research interests include a wide range of political and policy issues in Central Asia, with a particular focus on foreign policy, political institutions, and regime dynamics in the region. Dr. Dzhuraev holds an MSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics. As a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation, Dr. Dzhuraev conducts research on "Politics of Foreign Policy Change in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan."

Workshop brief and guidelines to conducting research during the COVID-19 pandemic

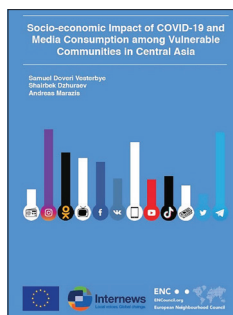


Publications and Activities within the Fellowship



“The EU and Central Asia: The Nuances of an ‘Aided’ Partnership” in Managing Security Threats along the EU’s Eastern Flanks,

co-authored by Karolina Kluczevska, University of Paris 13 Villetaneuse, France, edited by Rick Fawn, Publisher Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2020.

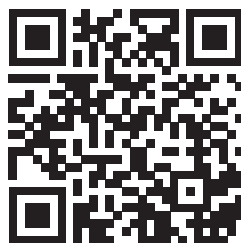


“Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Media Consumption among Vulnerable Communities in Central Asia”,

2020, co-authored by Samuel Doveri Vesterbye, ENC Managing Director, Andreas Marazis, ENC Head of Research for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

On 29 May 2020, Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev delivered a talk on **“The Impact of Coronavirus on Central Asia’s Development”** at IWPR-Chatham House. This event explored in detail how the region’s development may be affected. The speakers covered issues of external debt, humanitarian aid distribution, effects on regional cooperation, and relations with Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union. The event was held in partnership with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR).

The Impact of Coronavirus on Central Asia’s Development



On 28 October 2020, Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev delivered a talk at a round table on **“Mass upheaval in Belarus and Kyrgyzstan, the war in Nagorno-Karabakh and Ukraine: Isolated Conflicts or an Emergent Pattern in Post-Soviet Space?”** organized by Uni of Wisconsin-Madison. Experts from the Eurasian region addressed politics and conflict in post-Soviet countries in a panel presentation.

On 3 December 2020, Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev delivered a talk on Kyrgyz politics at the Youth Academy, implemented by the Institute for Youth Development (IRM) together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the project “My Choice – My Future”.

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

As another way of increasing the Academy's research potential and publication outputs, the Academy continued to implement its Associate Research Fellowship (ARF) programme throughout the entire year. First launched in 2017, the Fellowship aims to support independent researchers, MA students, Ph.D. candidates and/or Post-Doctoral researchers in conducting their research projects and provide institutional affiliation. Applications for ARF are accepted on a rolling basis, and the fellowship is free of charge. The Academy provides the ARFs opportunity to publish and publicize their research projects, conduct public talks, apply for research grants, and access library and other research-related networks and support. In 2020, 5 new ARFs joined the Academy, making the total number of ARFs reach 14. Additionally, 4 ARFs delivered public talks and 7 of them published their policy briefs.

New Associate Research Fellows in 2020



MARC JEANESBOZ is a Ph.D. candidate in Contemporary History at the Université de Montréal, where he has also taught and served as a teaching assistant. He is interested in the socio-economic evolution in the Post-Soviet space as it relates to theories of modernization. For his B.Sc and M.Sc, he majored in international studies with a focus on security and non-proliferation. His Ph.D. thesis explores the history of the former Central Asian Soviet republics during the 1990s. More specifically, it looks into the effect of reforms on culture, economy as well as science and technology. In a larger sense, these developments are considered against the background of each republic's foreign policy and security.



BARBARA ROGGEVEEN is a Ph.D. candidate in Russian and East European Studies at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research explores a prominent yet under-researched attempt by Russian foreign policy actors to redefine the spatial contours of Russia's post-Soviet zone of influence - one that not only includes the post-Soviet states in Central Asia but increasingly extends eastward to China, India, and the Korean peninsula. Prior to her Ph.D. research, Barbara graduated with distinction from the University of Oxford with an MPhil in Russian and East European Studies. She also completed a Bachelor of Laws at the Vrije University and a Bachelor in Slavic Languages and Cultures at the University of Amsterdam. Barbara has held various research positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Atlantic Council in Washington DC, and the University of Amsterdam. Her research interests include conservative ideologies in Russian politics, Russian foreign policy approaches towards the Eurasian region, and the discursive construction of post-Soviet identities.



DR. MICHAEL LAMBERT is a historian of intelligence services focusing on the CIA activities in Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. Michael received a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in History of Europe and International Relations from Sorbonne University in collaboration with the INSEAD, Europe Campus (2016). Prior to that, he completed the Master of Research (M. Res.) programme at Sorbonne with a thesis on 'Russia's attitude to Estonian accession to NATO and the European Union'. He is the author and co-author of politico-military and intelligence reports on European (EU-Russia) and Chinese affairs in states with limited diplomatic recognition (Abkhazia, Transnistria, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Chechnya).



DR. ELISABETH MILITZ is a feminist, cultural and political geographer based at the University of Bern. She received her Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Zurich in 2017. Her dissertation developed the concept of affective nationalism, based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork, living and working experiences in Azerbaijan between 2007 and 2014. Interested in the doings of emotions and affects in enabling and shaping nationalisms and sexuality politics. Her current research examines digital spaces of sexualities and sexuality education in Kyrgyzstan where she has been conducting fieldwork since 2017. In light of growing right-wing populism and traditionalism and thus an increase of misogyny, homo- and transphobia across the world and also in Kyrgyzstan, she studies the innovative and multiple ways in which people who are marginalized on the grounds of their sexual practices, identities, and experiences appropriate digital spaces of social media for knowledge production and peer support. Apart from conducting small data research on Instagram with Russian-language content, Elisabeth conducts qualitative interviews and focus group discussions in Bishkek and Osh. Elisabeth's work on affective nationalism, political geographies, and feminist methodologies has been published as a book in 2019 and in numerous scientific journals such as Political Geography, Gender, Place and Culture, and Area.



DR. NARGIZA MURATALIEVA is an Associate Professor, she holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University with a dissertation devoted to "Regional Policy of Russia and China in Central Asia and the SCO as a factor of interaction." Author of the monograph "Russia and China in Central Asia", she published over 50 articles. She currently works at the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) as an editor of CABAR.asia analytical materials. Her broad research interest includes areas of security, political processes in Central Asia, and international organizations.

PUBLIC TALKS BY RESEARCH FELLOWS

Geopolitics in Times of Information Confrontation, 3 February 2020

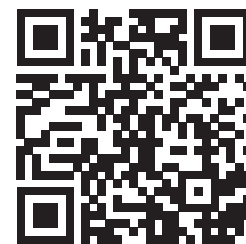


Ms. Lidia Chikalova delivered a public lecture on **“Geopolitics in Times of Information Confrontation. The Middle Eastern Case. Series 1: Information Confrontation between Russia and the USA in Times of Syrian Conflict.”** She discussed the literature review of the information confrontation phenomenon, its definition, and stages during the Syrian conflict. Furthermore, Lidia offered a critical overview of the coverage of the conflict by the USA and Russia by analyzing the most relevant media sources of the USA and Russia and their publications, as well as laws and information doctrines from the two countries for the period from 2011 to 2020. Lidia reviewed and compared the strategies of managing information confrontation. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion, where students and experts asked questions on Syrians’ position in this conflict, as well as the role of Turkey and the current policy of the USA and Russia towards Syria.

Towards the Implementation of the 2019 European Union’s Strategy for Central Asia, 28 April 2020 (online)



The first online public lecture titled “Towards the Implementation of the 2019 European Union’s Strategy for Central Asia” was delivered by Ana-Maria Anghelescu, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest, Romania, who was also the first Erasmus+ exchange student at the OSCE Academy. The online mode of the lecture allowed to gather more than 60 interested participants from different countries. Ms. Anghelescu provided an overview of the EU’s external relations and development of the EU’s relations with Central Asia starting from 1991 till the present. Also, the presentation was devoted to the EU strategies; in particular, Ms. Anghelescu talked about the 2007 EU – Central Asia Strategy (EUSCA) and offered an evaluation of its implementation.

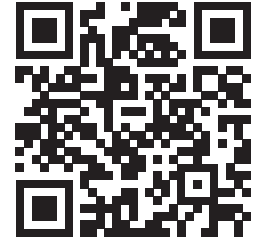


Presentation of the Global Peace Index 2020 and Case Study of the Women, Peace and Security, 26 August 2020 (online)

Dr. Ana Belen Perianes’ virtual talk aimed to present the Global Peace Index (GPI) 2020 outputs, produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP). The GPI ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness and presents comprehensive data-driven analysis to-date on trends in peace, its economic value, and how to develop peaceful societies. This presentation included an analysis of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on peace, including Positive Peace. It examined how the impact of the pandemic, in particular its economic consequences, will increase the risk of severe deteriorations in Positive Peace over the next



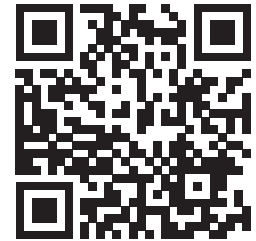
few years and also which countries are best placed to recover from the shock. The second part of the presentation was about the case study of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in its 20th Anniversary, as gender equality and peace are very closely linked. The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda has not led yet to significant results in its 20-year long existence. Moreover, it is particularly being affected by the implications of the COVID-19 outbreak because this pandemic is exacerbating gender inequality in conflict-affected settings, post-conflict, and humanitarian crises contexts. In conclusion, Dr. Perianes underlined that to achieve gender equality and the Women, Peace, and Security goals, it is essential to increase women's social, political, and economic empowerment at all levels of the decision-making processes through the engagement of the whole of society and especially, the involvement of local communities.



Context of China's Pursuits in Central Asia", 1 December 2020 (online)



On 1 December 2020 Ms. Niva Yau Tsz Yan, former Junior Fellow and Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered an online talk: **"Context of China's Pursuits in Central Asia"**. Her talk touched upon the Chinese Imaginaries of Central Asia, Central Asian Studies in China, and its implications for Central Asia. The event gathered more than 60 people across the Central Asian region and Europe.



PUBLICATIONS

During the pandemic year, the Academy was able to significantly boost both the quantity and quality of the Academy's in-house publications as well as diversify their formats. For instance, in 2020 the Academy continued to publish its policy brief series with a revised new format much more frequently than in previous years. Additionally, the Academy introduced a Special Issue collection, which focuses on specific topics. In 2020 two special issues were launched: one on "Migration in Kyrgyzstan" in Kyrgyz and Russian, and another on "Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia: Ambitions, Risks, and Realities" in English. The Academy continued to publish its Yearbook and Academy paper series. Furthermore, Dr. Anja Mihr, Professor of the OSCE Academy published the second edition of an edited volume "Transformation and Development", via Springer Open Access. In the coming years, the Academy will continue issuing these publications series and plans to revive its "Research Paper" Series already by the end of 2021.

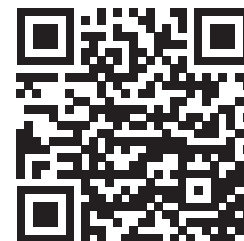
"Transformation and Development: Studies in the OSCE Member States",

Edited by Dr. Anja Mihr, Springer Open, 2020

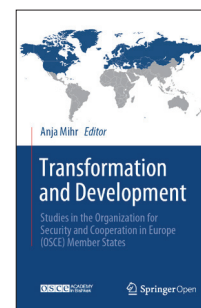
This compilation of different articles by authors from across the region is dedicated to looking at the political, economic, and regional transformation processes and developments that are shaped by international and regional policies, social movements as well as influenced by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The region ranges from North America to Europe, Central Asia, and China. Recent economic and security policies as well as democratization processes cut through the OSCE Region and are equally challenging the post-Soviet countries as well as Europe and North America in several different ways. Most OSCE participating States face economic difficulties, suffer from weak formal institutions and defective democratic structures, or are still in the challenging early consolidation process of state and regime building.

Academy Yearbook 2020 (in Russian)

This Yearbook presents the ten most recent works, written between 2018-2020, on a wide range of regional issues of current importance. The Yearbook contains articles analyzing contemporary security issues in the region that arise as a result of both internal and external factors, a number of recent developments in the political arena of the region, in particular concerning groups remaining outside the decision-making process. Also, the authors discuss a number of cross-regional topics, ranging from international assistance to energy policy, in light of the New EU Strategy on Central Asia.



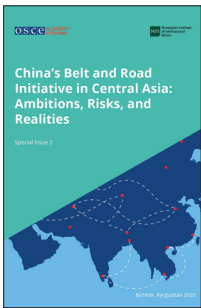
<http://osce-academy.net/en/research/publication/>





Special Collection #1: Migration in Kyrgyzstan (in Kyrgyz and Russian)

This issue presents five analytical papers on the topic of migration in Kyrgyzstan. This theme was chosen in line with the AGRUMIG project goals (“Leaving something behind” - Migration Governance and agricultural change and rural change in “home” communities: comparative experiences from Europe, Asia, and Africa). This project is funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme and focuses on migration and agricultural research and community change. In this collection, the authors explore some aspects of the migration process in Kyrgyzstan, especially in relation to migrant women and children’s rights.



Special Collection #2: China’s Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia: Ambitions, Risks, and Realities

In this issue, five analytical papers look into the growing role and significance of China in Central Asia and its grandiose Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While the study of China’s BRI has gained a lot of attention in the scholarly community in different parts of the world, research on the role and potential impact of the BRI on the Central Asian region remains scarce. This collection aims to contribute to this existing literature on BRI studies.



OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS

In 2020, the Academy published 13 policy briefs. They explore a wide range of cross-regional topics. The authors of the policy briefs include a wide range of local and international researchers, most of whom work with the Academy in one capacity or another: professors, associated researchers, alumni, students, and researchers from the region and beyond. The briefs can be accessed via the link: <http://osce-academy.net/en/research/publication/policy-briefs/>

Policy Brief #53, “Turkmen Natural Gas in the European Energy Security Discourse: Perceptions, Realities, Outlook”, by Tamás Kozma, Academy’s Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #54, “How Serious is the ISIS Threat to Tajikistan?”, by Khamza Sharifzoda, Graduate Student in Russian and Eurasian Studies at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, Washington, USA

Policy Brief #55, “Potential Democratizing Effects of Central Asian Anti-Chinese Sentiments”, by Nurseit Niyazbekov, Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at KIMEP University in Almaty, Kazakhstan



Policy Brief #56, “Preventing Violent Extremism in Kyrgyzstan: The Role of the International Donor Community”, by Chiara Pierobon, Academy’s Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #57, “Empowerment of Female Deputies in Local Councils as Decision-Makers”, by Zhibek Zhorokulova, OSCE Academy Graduate Student

Policy Brief #58, “Drawing Lessons from Past Cooperation between EU and Central Asia for the Implementation of the 2019 Strategy” by Ana-Maria Anghelescu, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #59, “The Crime-Terror-Insurgency Nexus Security Threat: The Impact on Central Asia” by Daniela Irrera, Visiting Lecturer, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #60, “Regulating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the Large-Scale Mining Sector in Kyrgyzstan” by Asel Doolotkeldieva, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #61, “Exploring Driving Factors towards Greater Engagement between Central Asia and Southeast Asia” by Paradorn Rangsimaporn, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #62, “Walking Alone, Walking Together? OSCE-EU Relations in Central Asia”, Sebastian Mayer, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #63, “Comparative Analysis of Digital Development in Central Asian Countries”, by Dmitry Erokhin, Research Assistant, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Policy Brief #64, “The Right Time for the Right Change in Afghanistan”, by Rajab Taieb, OSCE Academy Graduate Student

Policy Brief #65, “India’s Relations with China after Galwan”, by Srdjan Uljevic, Associate Research Fellow, OSCE Academy

Policy Brief #66, “China’s Pursuit of Power in Central Asia”, by Ms. Niva Yau, Junior Researcher, OSCE Academy

Academy Paper Series

The Academy Paper Series summarizes conferences, workshops, and seminars organized by the Academy with the purpose to reflect on the main issues raised and discussed during the events. The reports are published on the Academy’s website in English or Russian language depending on the language of the event. In 2020, two reports were published.



Summary Report of the international conference **Value Transformation in Central Asia** held on 16-17 October 2020.



Summary Report of the international conference on **the COVID-19 Crisis and Its Impact on Post-Soviet Central Asia** held on 18-20 November 2020.

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

AGRUMIG project, Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union



Background of the AGRUMIG project: ‘Leaving something behind’ – Migration governance and agricultural & rural change in ‘home’ communities: comparative experience from Europe, Asia, and Africa (AGRUMIG) project is conducted within the Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the EU and proposes an integrated approach to migration governance to address the two-way relationship between labor mobility and changes in agriculture and the rural sector. Migration creates challenges for rural ‘sending’ communities in low- and middle-income countries, yet it can also be transformative. AGRUMIG aims to engage in a comparative analysis of seven countries to analyze the economic, institutional, cultural, and agroecological factors which shape these relationships. It will go on to identify the range of government interventions that can harness migration to stimulate sustainable and gender-equitable growth in agriculture and reduce the distress associated with migration.

The OSCE Academy is implementing the AGRUMIG project in partnership with the University of Central Asia (UCA) and Polis Asia in Kyrgyzstan and a number of international partners. The Academy plays a key role in involving stakeholders in migration-related policy dialogues and disseminating research results, conducted by the UCA.

The 2020 year was a challenging year for the AGRUMIG’s highly internationalized structure and teamwork. Fieldwork activities and policy dialogues were halted throughout the year due to travel restrictions and lockdowns. However, the consortium continued to work online, and produced a joint working paper, analyzing and assessing COVID-19’s early effects on migration policy in participating countries.

Policy Brief (working paper): **“Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Early Experience of Migration Challenges under the COVID-19 Pandemic”** was published by the AGRUMIG consortium members.

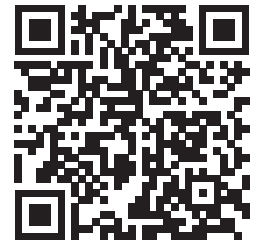
The global migration context has changed dramatically since the beginning of 2020. Both within and between countries there has been a substantial curtailment in movement. As a result of multiple lockdowns, economic activity has severely declined and labor markets have grounded to a halt. In mid-2020, the specter of mass unemployment in industrialized economies loomed on the horizon. For migrant hosting and origin countries – some are substantially part of both – this poses a set of complex development challenges.

Life with Corona Survey

The OSCE Academy is an international partner of the Life with Corona project. Life with Corona is a citizen science project that will collect real-time data on the social and economic consequences of COVID-19 across the globe. It intends to capture the voices of affected citizens around the world, in order to build global knowledge based on how people are dealing with this exceptional situation. The research will assist in providing evidence that policy makers desperately need in order to develop informed policy responses. In the end of June this partnership was institutionalized by signing the Network Membership Agreements. On 1 October 2020, the second round of the Life with Corona global survey was launched, alongside a report (https://lifewithcorona.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/REPORT_NEW-1.pdf) covering key findings from six months of data collection including:

- Young adults actively performing many behaviours to counter the pandemic.
- Stress in families during the pandemic falls disproportionately on women.
- Older people worry less during the pandemic, despite being at greater health risk.
- Support for the government's counter-measures drops after the first peak of COVID-related deaths in a country.
- Overall, people think a vaccine should be made available globally. Only in the USA do more people think their county should have special access to it.
- Younger people are more willing to pay to stop the spread of the disease than older people.

These findings come from the analysis of nearly 12,000 responses from more than 130 countries.



LIBRARY



The Library serves as the information centre of the OSCE Academy and plays a crucial role in supporting the educational process as well as ongoing research activities at the Academy. The Library contains a specialized collection of books in political sciences and economics and development, with focus on International Relations, Conflict and Security Studies, Economic Governance, Human Rights, Development Studies, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory. Additionally, the library regularly receives publications from the OSCE and other related partner institutions. Additions to the Library's stock are made in line with the needs provided in the curricula of the Academy's programmes, and requests made by the faculty, students, and permanent and visiting researchers. The Academy's collection counts more than 4300 books and annual subscriptions to Jstor and EBSCO da-

tabases and Taylor and Francis online journals. In 2020 the collection has been replenished by 109 more books.

Our Library is a part of the Kyrgyzstan Library Information Consortium and thanks to its membership in the Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL), we have free access to seven more databases:

1. Oxford Journals Collection
2. Cambridge Journals Online
3. Edward Elgar
4. IMF eLibrary
5. OECD
6. SAGE Journals.



Our Library collection and its cataloguing system also attracts students and researchers from our partner institutions. In January we welcomed 9 MA students from the Kazakh-German University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, for a short research stay within the framework of cooperation between the OSCE Academy and the Kazakh-German University.

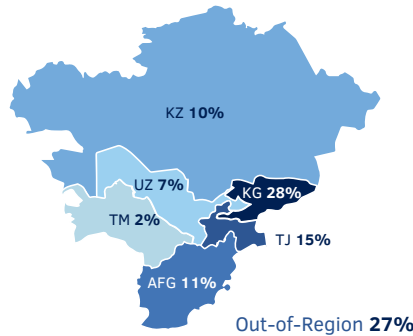
OUR ALUMNI

2020 was a turbulent year for the OSCE Academy Alumni Network as well. We faced multiple challenges all because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All programmatic activities had to be transferred to on-line mode, discovering different modalities to keep our community strong. We managed to fulfil most of our commitments within our multiple alumni initiatives. In 2020 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network welcomed 34 newly graduated members to its ranks, totaling the overall number of our alumni to 554 (287 females and 267 males).

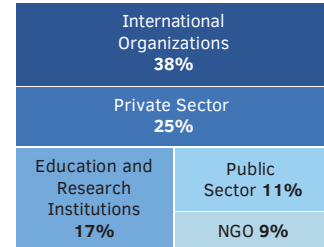
We conduct annual Alumni Survey to study the employment track of our alumni, as well as to maintain connections within our network, further improve the quality of our work to engage our graduates in various collaborative initiatives and tailor our projects to their professional and academic needs and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

Our latest Survey³ revealed that 73 percent of the Alumni live and work in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

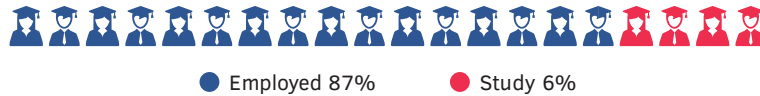
Geography



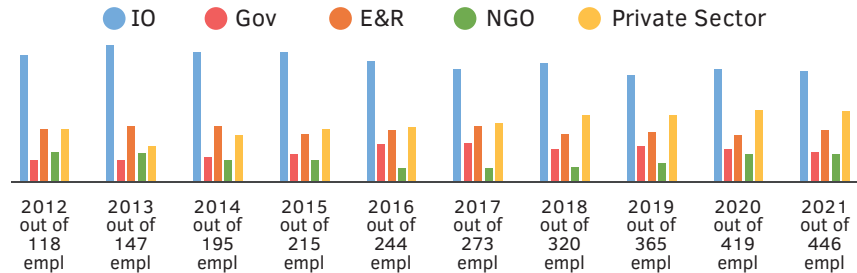
Employment by Sectors



Employment



Sectors of Employment 2012-2021



36 percent 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.

³ The Alumni Survey 2021 was carried out in March 2021 and contains the information about 513 alumni.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Virtual Alumni Conference “The COVID-19 Crisis and its Impact on Post-Soviet Central Asia”

On 18-20 November, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (OSCE AiB) held its biennial Alumni Conference themed ‘The COVID-19 Crisis and its Impact on Post-Soviet Central Asia’. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the conference was conducted in virtual format and was merged with the joint expert project of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). More information about the conference on page 27.

Alumni Initiatives and Workshops

This year it was decided not to hold our annual Chapter Meetings due to the massive lockdowns all across Central Asia. Instead, we conducted several professional workshops as a substitution and convened online to learn about digital transformations and how they influence our work and life. We also talked about the art of storytelling and its importance for delivering our stories to the target audiences. Finally, our alumni learned how to prepare job applications for an international organization and received advice on how to better prepare for a successful job interview with the OSCE or UN.

Alumna Shares Her Professional Experience and How to Use Design Thinking, 24 April 2020



Alumna Assel Mussagaliyeva, alumna of 2005, conducted a short interactive online lecture on how to use Design thinking for developing one’s career. She shared some of her insights on how to better navigate the working journey, how to plan job hunting as well as why it is important to find one’s calling and transform one’s job into passion.

Alumni Learn the Basics of Art of Storytelling for Researchers

On 15 June the OSCE Academy organized its first alumni online practical workshop titled “The Art of Storytelling for Researchers”. It was conceived as part of our annual Alumni Survey, where our alumni shared their desired topics or practical skills they would like to enhance or use for their professional development. The workshop’s trainer shared her expertise on how to create moving and engaging stories based on the research or any other professional background. She also gave practical tasks and feedback to our alumni.



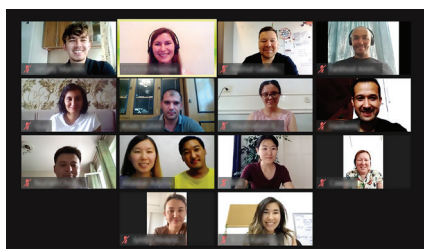
Online Recruitment Bootcamp by OSCE Recruiters, 24 June 2020



On June 24 the OSCE Academy had its second virtual alumni workshop on “Preparing an Application and Preparing for Interviews with International Organizations” led by the OSCE Recruitment team headed by Mr. Gustavo Araujo and other colleagues from OSCE’s Talent Acquisition Team. The trainers explained how to understand the job description and complete activities to better adapt future applications based on applicants’ backgrounds and interests.

The OSCE Academy is grateful to the OSCE Recruitment Team for its support of Academy activities targeted at students and alumni.

Interactive Workshop on Digital Tools and Challenges, 24 July 2020



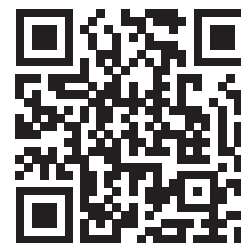
In July the OSCE Academy had its third alumni interactive workshop on Digital Tools and Challenges Amid the Global Pandemic led by the OSCE AiB alumnus of 2013, Politics and Security Programme, Mr. Rashid Gabdulhakov. The workshop aimed to broaden theoretical perspectives and practical approaches of participants while empowering and encouraging them to generate new strategic knowledge on the subject matter. The alumni discussed issues of privacy and surveillance, assessed the so-called ‘digital twins’, explored state-citizen and citizen-to-citizen relations amid current global transformations.

Virtual Plov Cook-off Brings Together Alumni from All Over the World, 5 October 2020



Final dishes by alumni cooked at the Cook-off

The first virtual networking event called “OSCE Academy Plov Cook-off” was initiated by two of our alumni Rashid Gabdulhakov and Farkhod Aminjonov. Both culinary experts instructed other alumni on how to cook two variations of the most famous Central Asian dish - Oshi Sofi and Namangan plov. Thirteen alumni from across the globe gathered together and had productive and joyful two hours of networking and cultural, and political debates. The online cook-off culminated in the culinary artworks parade made by the participants.



See plov master class and debates on *YouTube*

Public Lecture: “Increase Your Income and Profits Through Non-Corruption,” 17 November 2020



The recorded lecture is
available on *YouTube*

In November the OSCE Academy had the privilege to host a Public Lecture themed “Increase Your Income and Profits – Through Non-Corruption” by Dr. Maximilian Burger-Scheidlin, Executive Director of ICC Austria - International Chamber of Commerce, and Kodir Kuliev, an alumnus of the Academy’s MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development and Adjunct Professor of International Studies & Ethics at Webster University in Tashkent.

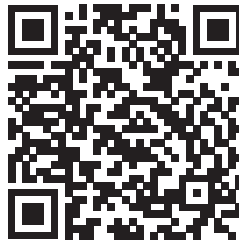
The Guest Speakers explained the value of clean business based on numerous real-life examples. Nowadays, most corrupt persons fear that without corruption they will be losing money and business opportunities. Without corruption, they believe, they may be poor (again), thus strongly resisting efforts for change, for non-corrupt actions. The experts discussed different ways to run the economy and showed that without corruption, enterprises can increase their profit. The lecture also covered the mathematics and mind-set of corrupt agents in both public and private sectors, what influences people to undertake corruption, premier and back-up tools one should be looking for to minimize corruption and the ways to limit the threat of corruption in an organization and society.

ALUMNI AND COVID-19

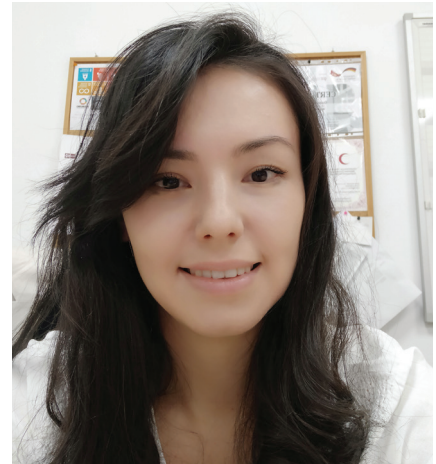
In light of the rapid growth of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Kyrgyzstan, the Academy did not stay out of fighting against the pandemic's negative impact and on 30 July made its collective contribution. The OSCE Academy staff members and alumni came together to support medical personnel in the Issyk-Kul region. The Academy team delivered 140 protective suits, nitrile gloves, shoe leggings, face masks N95, several pulse oximeters, and medicine to the Issyk-Kul district hospital in Cholpon-Ata city. We are thankful to our alumni for supporting this initiative.



Sabrinisso Valdosh, alumna of 2017, is a winner of the 'Best MA Thesis' award during her studies at the Academy, who co-initiated a grass-root project to save hundreds of lives in remote areas of Tajikistan, namely Rasht, GBAO and Khatlon. As a result of collaboration with the Community Initiative Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for matching funding, their project raised £100000! Please, read the full story on our website:



Guzal Abdirazakova, alumna of 2013, is one of the founding members of the "Fight against COVID-19" charity team in Kyrgyzstan, who mobilized more than 300 people locally to raise funds for the needs of a rural hospital in Shamaldu-Sai, Jalalabad province. Together with her team Guzal attracted international support and replaced a broken Soviet-type X-ray machine with a new modern mobile X-ray machine, provided oxygen generators, installed a disinfection tunnel, purchased laryngoscope, protective equipment, medicine, etc. Guzal received an Appreciation letter from the hospital and the local community of Shamaldu-Sai for her great contribution to fighting COVID-19.



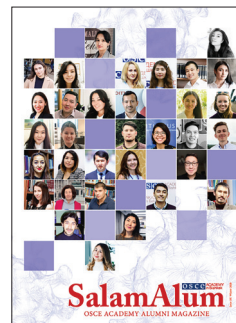
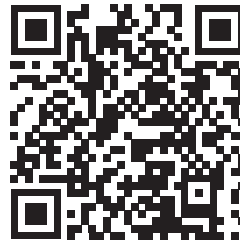
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Every year the OSCE Academy Alumni Network selects one graduate to receive the title of the Alumna/ us of the Year. The Award honours the Academy's most outstanding alumni. We wholeheartedly congratulate Mingul Seitkazieva, alumni of 2007 of the MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan, for receiving most votes and receiving the award this year. We wish her more successful endeavours in the future and are happy to publish her story here.

"I am very honoured to be named the Alumna of the Year 2020 award. I cannot thank enough the OSCE Academy Alumni for nominating and supporting me! That means a lot to me."

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



SalamAlum
OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

The OSCE Academy collects success stories of its alumni and together with the Alumni Network activities publishes them in the annual Alumni Magazine SalamAlum. In 2020, the Academy published its 10th issue.

ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

Junior Public Officers Programme

In support of the professional integration of alumni in the public service, starting from 2010 the OSCE Academy has run a Junior Public Officers (JPO) Programme. The JPO Programme provides an opportunity to the OSCE Academy's graduates from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan to intern at the ministries of foreign affairs and other state agencies of the country of their respective citizenship. The OSCE Academy has agreements with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Agency for Investment Promotion and Protection as well as the Ministry of Economy of Kyrgyzstan.

In 2020 overall six alumni conducted their internships in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. By

In 2020 overall six alumni conducted their internships in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan:



the end of 2020 in total 42 alumni completed the JPO Programme.

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan **11**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic **9**
- Investment Promotion and Protection Agency **7**
- Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic **1**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan **4**
- Institute of Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan **10**

Mir Ahmad Daimirian, alumnus of 2019 (Afghanistan):

“The JPO has been an experience for me to know the MFA better, and networking with some employees whom I had known before, thereby allowing me to restore my relations with them. At the same time, I was exposed to the nature of work being done in several entities of the MFA.”



Fatima Framarz, alumna of 2019 (Afghanistan):

“Learning about the norms of working in the public sector is the most important factor which will contribute to the development of my future career. As far as I would like to work with state institutions or the public sector more broadly I learned how to manage my professional behaviour as a governmental official. Moreover, profiling, writing official letters, and the way of communicating in official diplomatic language are other experiences that will be an asset to contribute to my future career.”



Assel Murat, alumna of 2019 (Kazakhstan):

“I received experience and knowledge in my future career endeavors as in state-based entities, NGOs or IOs. In addition to this, I can use my sharpened skill to work in short deadlines and find solutions / alternatives to a problem in a limited time.”



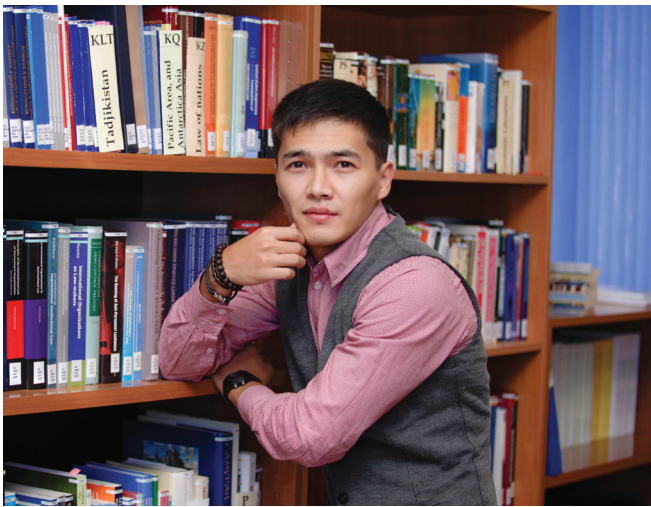
Zhalgas Bolat, alumnus of 2019 (Kazakhstan):

“The following programme utilized my strongest traits as well as helped me to sharpen my knowledge and skills. I particularly note that the given assignments and tasks were well balanced between being analytically and practically oriented. I aspire to pursue a career in the diplomatic service of my country and within the structures of the MFA. As such, I am confident that the experience and knowledge that I have gained during this programme will contribute to the pursuit of this meaningful career.”



Mirlan Otorbaev, alumnus of 2019 (Kyrgyzstan):

“The experience that I gained will help me in more efficient working with government officials, and understanding the dynamics of governmental departments. At the same time, it broadened my overview in such aspects as public-private cooperation, information exchange, and procedural assistance for private enterprises in addressing bureaucratic matters.”



Talgat Ilimbek uulu, alumnus of 2014 (Kyrgyzstan):

“I received invaluable experience by working with public officers. I feel that I acquired a good grasp of how decision-making works in governmental organizations which certainly will benefit me.”

Alumni Travel Grant

The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), offers alumni grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. This year two alumni received Alumni Grant to attend a conference and a traineeship.



Jafar Usmanov, alumnus of 2005 (Tajikistan), received the grant to present at the 14th General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) that brought together more than 2,200 scholars speaking at 72 sections, four round-tables and hours of discussions and exchange. The event took place on 24-28 August 2020.



Cholpon Aitakhunova, alumna of 2012 (Kyrgyzstan), received a grant to participate in the Project Management training course from the Codify Academy in Kyrgyzstan - in preparation for international PMP, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, September-November 2020.

One-Year-Stay at NUPI Fellowship

In 2020 two more alumni had a chance to participate in the fellowship offered by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI): Aidai Isataeva, alumna of 2018 of the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development, and Galina Kolodzinskaia, alumna of 2017 of the MA Programme in Politics and Security. 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.



Aidai Isataeva:

“Coming to NUPI was one of the quickest decisions I have ever made, and it is certainly the right one! It is such a pleasure and greatly motivating to be part of a world-known think-tank and work with top-notch researchers. Every day I am engaged in substantial research work and gain valuable insights that certainly contributes to my future professional career.”



Galina Kolodzinskaia:

“My decision to apply for the NUPI fellowship was closely linked with my interest in research related to the advancement of the Religion and Security Index. I was eager to expand my knowledge of quantitative methods and learn about similar research from leading European scholars for my future PhD project. Thus, NUPI became an ideal platform for me to receive such a first-hand experience. The atmosphere of profound academic focus and intellectual pursuit at NUPI remained unaffected by the pandemic. Although the majority of the events are now held online, we are still able to enjoy a plethora of very intellectually-rewarding discussions and workshops.”

Master of Advanced Studies in International and European Security



The OSCE Academy alumni along with graduates of other universities from Central Asia each year compete to be selected and enrolled to the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in International and European Security. The MAS programme is open for recent university graduates as well as practitioners with professional experience in a security policy-related field to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Global Studies Institute (GSI) of the University of Geneva. **Raushan Bolotalieva**, alumna of 2011, was granted this opportunity for the academic year 2020-2021.

“I truly believe that this is a unique opportunity for Central Asians to join the international community of security experts to be able to think critically but at the same time constructively and to build leadership mindset.”

Research Fellowship at the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat regularly engages eight or nine graduate students of political science, law and international relations from universities in OSCE participating states as Research Fellows. Starting from 2017, one Research Fellow position a year is granted to an OSCE Academy graduate (under the MoU signed on 10 August 2016 and prolonged on 8 November 2019). In 2020 **Anastasia Griadasova**, alumna of 2016, received this opportunity and shares her impressions of the programme:

“I consider my time working at the OSCE PA as a very special turning point and I look forward to new experiences ahead. Indeed, it has been an eye-opening year of transformation and enlightenment for me.”

PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

Partnerships open up global opportunities for students and staff of educational institutions around the world. The OSCE Academy is not an exception and throughout 2020 we worked on expanding our partnership network to ensure academic collaborations and to develop further our research capacities. In 2020, the cooperation with the existing partners was strengthened further and new partnership agreements have been signed with the following regional and international institutions and organizations:

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Activities implemented in 2020

Kozminski University, Poland

06 February 2020



KOZMINSKI UNIVERSITY

Dr. Lukasz Gruszczynski, Associate Professor at Kozminski University, taught a module on International and Regional Trade Arrangements to MA students of the Economic Governance and Development.

Kozminski University offered funding for one Erasmus+ grant for administrative staff mobility for summer 2021.

Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey

13 February 2020



In Spring 2020 METU sent a student exchange form that partner institutions had to fill up, but due to the pandemic the students' exchange was not possible and had to be postponed.

**Higher School of Economics (HSE)
in Saint Petersburg, Russia**
02 April 2020



The Academy agreed to host one MA student of the Comparative Politics in Eurasia Programme for an online research internship in January-February 2021.

**Higher School of Economics
of M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University,
Kazakhstan**
06 May 2020



The two institutions started discussing the possibility of students' exchange, once the COVID crisis allows the implementation, as well as faculty exchange (distance learning) in the first half of 2021.

**Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ GmbH) in Kyrgyzstan**
18 May 2020



GIZ experts taught the module on Sustainable Development to students of the Economic Government and Development group.

GIZ accepted a student of the Academy for a two-month internship.

**Observatory on Central Asia
and Caspian, Italy**
12 June 2020



The Academy was included into the Application of the project “Central Asia Monitor (CAMON): Analisi e Monitoraggio Stampa sulle dinamiche di sicurezza, politico-economiche e socio-culturali dell’Heartland,” under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation 2020 Call for contributions to study projects and research in the field of foreign policy and the promotion and development of international relations. The funding was not received.

Judicial General Council of Mongolia
08 July 2020



The Judicial General Council of Mongolia is interested in joint organization of training on human rights and international law to be taught by the OSCE Academy experts.

**University of Central Asia (UCA),
Kyrgyzstan**
22 September 2020



Dr. Kemel Toktomushev, Assistant Professor and Senior Research Fellow at UCA, taught the Comparative Security Issues course to students of the Politics and Security group.

The Academy agreed to accept 2 BA students of the UCA Naryn campus for a three-month summer internship.

**Central Asian Barometer (CAB),
Kyrgyzstan**
25 September 2020



The Academy provided CAB a platform to present research results on “Central Asian Public Opinion on Covid-19 Pandemic” as well as included CAB in research grant proposals.

**Latvian National Project Management
Association (LNPMA), Latvia**
14 October 2020



From 23 November to 3 December 2020 the first Project Management training was conducted at the Academy, led by Mr. Ivars Rungis, Chairman of the Board of LNPMA. Additionally, 5 training participants underwent the official IPMA-D Level Certification by the LNPMA.

**Steinbeis Institute for International
Business Studies, Germany**
09 October 2020



Dr. Dirk Linowski, Director of Steinbeis Institute for International Business Studies, taught Macroeconomics course to MA students of the Economic Governance and Development 2020-2021 class.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP GRANT CONTRACTS

Activities implemented in 2020

**Bielefeld University,
(under Volkswagen Foundation
Fellowship Programme), Germany**

04 March 2020



The Academy and Bielefeld University signed an Agreement within the framework of Volkswagen Foundation (the “Funder”) for funding the Fellowship Programme on „Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on the Political System, the Economy and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus” for Dr. Aijan Sharshenova.

**TU Dortmund University
(under Volkswagen Foundation
Fellowship Programme), Germany**

30 June 2020



The OSCE Academy and Dortmund University signed an Agreement within the framework of Volkswagen Foundation (the “Funder”) that awarded a grant for the project “Postdoctoral Fellowship “Negotiating strategic partnerships: domestic roots of foreign policies in post-soviet Eurasia”” as project funding to the Primary Recipient for Research Fellow Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev

Activities implemented in 2020

University of Freiburg, Germany (Funding received)



The Academy was included in ERASMUS+ KA1 application 2020 and received funding for 4 Teaching Staff (two from each side) for 2 years, to develop a course/module/summer school on Central Asia and Islam. Additionally, funding was received for Student mobilities.

Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany (Funding received)



The Academy was included in ERASMUS+ KA1 application 2020 and received funding for 1 Teaching Staff mobility, 1 Staff for training mobility, and 1 Student mobility.

SS. Cyril And Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia



The Academy and SS. Cyril and Methodius University signed Inter-Institutional Agreements for future Erasmus+ applications.

**South East European University
(SEEU), North Macedonia**

The Academy and SEEU signed Inter-Institutional Agreements for future Erasmus+ applications.



NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

Activities implemented in 2020

**Life with Corona Survey,
Germany**
23 June 2020



**LIFE
WITH
CORONA**

The Academy is an international partner of the Life with Corona Project and throughout the second half of 2020 we supported the dissemination of the research findings on weekly basis, the Report publication of the Report, and the launch of the second round of the Survey.

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



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

