

**OSCE** ACADEMY  
in Bishkek

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022**



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



On behalf of the OSCE Academy Board of Trustees, I welcome this opportunity to present to you the 2022 Annual Report and share with you some of the accomplishments over the past year. This report presents achievements, and initiatives of the OSCE Academy related to the support and development of the academic community.

The institution first opened its doors in 2002 and our growth since then has been remarkable. Close to 600 students have graduated by 2022 and these alumni have made significant contributions to their local communities and the wider OSCE region. In 2022, the OSCE Academy launched its first Bachelor of Arts Programme in Economics and started to prepare the launch of a new Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**

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

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with specialization in Human Rights and Sustainability. I extend my warmest thanks and gratitude to the members of our Board of Trustees, faculty and staff members of the OSCE Academy who have all made our success possible.

Although we are living through the most challenging times related to economic instabilities as well as the de-

velopments in Afghanistan and the wider OSCE region, the OSCE Academy's network is committed to realizing a promising future. In 2022, we have stepped up our fundraising efforts and increased our academic and financial offerings to our students, staff and faculty members. Our joint efforts prove that we are able to face difficulties and help efficiently the ones in need. We strive to make the OSCE Academy a full-fledged institution and I remain grateful for the guidance of the Board of Trustees, the dedication and commitments of the OSCE Academy's faculty and staff members, the generosity of its donors, and the enthusiasm of its students and alumni. Our joint efforts prove that we are able to face difficulties and help efficiently the ones in need.

As the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to congratulate the entire team of OSCE Academy, its staff and faculty members for their commitment and joint work allowing the Academy to continue its strategic initiatives and conducting its research and academic activities on a high level.

As we look into 2023, I am confident that the OSCE Academy is in a strong position to contribute to keeping its students, faculty and staff engaged and safe while continuing to deliver on its Mission.

This Annual Report tells some of the stories of life at the OSCE Academy and presents some of the initiatives implemented in 2022. I invite you to enjoy the read about the Academy's accomplishments which are highlighted on the following pages.

Warmest regards!

## 2002-2022



# 594

## GRADUATES

MA Programme in  
Politics & Security

MA Programme in  
Economic Governance  
& Development

HUMAN RIGHTS  
TECHNICAL & ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY  
STUDIES FOR PROJECTS

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS

CONFLICT SENSITIVE DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

JOURNALISM

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

POLICY PAPER WRITING

MEDIA & GOVERNANCE

conducted  
more than

# 80

## PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

conducted more than

# 40

## CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS SUMMER SCHOOLS



POST-COMMUNISM EDUCATION ENERGY TRANSITION HUMAN SECURITY & PEACE

REGIONAL SECURITY ISSUES SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION GLOBAL SECURITY ISSUES

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM MEMORY & TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE OSCE & CENTRAL ASIA

COVID 19 GENDER ISSUES CLIMATE CHANGE MEDIA & GOVERNANCE

# 120

## published OVER PUBLICATIONS REPORTS





■ Policy Briefs ■ Publications by Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellows ■ Research Papers ■ SalamaAlum ■ Academy Paper Series

■ Special Collection ■ Academy Yearbook ■ OSCE Academy / Springer Open Access Series ■ AGRUMIG Project



# OVER 140

## HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS GUEST LECTURERS



20osce ACADEMY  
in Bishkek  
*years of enlightenment*



**Dr. Indira Satarkulova**

Acting Director of the OSCE Academy

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Valued Readers,

On behalf of our distinguished community of students, faculty, alumni network, researchers and staff, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for the year ending 31 December 2022. Through the rich content of our Report enriched with photos, statistics, stories, we hope you discover, learn, enjoy and share how we empowered **Excellent Learning through Experience and Development**, continued achieving **Academic Excellence**, demonstrated **Scholarly Impact**, sustained **Regional and Global Engagement** with existing and new partners in support of our efforts to strengthen a truly regional academic and educational centre.

In 2022 the OSCE Academy persisted recovering from a global crisis, caused by the pandemic, and fulfilling its broad social responsibilities through an in-person activity environment, inspired dynamic research and training, drove multi-university partnerships. The Academy's strong position in the regional educational system was retained and confirmed.

On 4 February the Academy congratulated 40 students for the successful completion of their studies in hybrid format. In June the Master's Programme of the OSCE Academy in Economic Governance and Development, in addition to its successful accreditation for the next five years, was awarded in the category of Academic Integrity and Academic Freedom at "The Way to Excellence". In August 76 participants including 46 newly enrolled students have successfully completed the intensive courses of the Academy's preparatory Summer School. September 2022 marked a special milestone for the Academy as over one-hundred graduates came together to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. In the same month we welcomed

our first cohort of students of our newly launched BA Programme in Economics and started planning to launch the Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences with specialization in Human Rights and Sustainability – a joint initiative with the Global Campus of Human Rights and the PhD Programme in the field of Security Studies. All reasonable efforts have been made to host all students at the Academy, where their energy and excitement enrich our vibrant campus life. However, as the world reached the new stages of major transformations, negatively affecting many travel and visa opportunities, regrettably, newly enrolled students from Afghanistan were forced to temporarily become online learners. We hope that this issue, preventing students from reaching the Academy's campus, will be settled advantageously soon.

In 2022 the Academy continued its effective efforts to produce high-quality academic and scholarly texts. We published 11 new Policy Briefs, 1 Academy paper, 2 Springer Open Access Books titled: “Glocal Governance: How to Govern in the Anthropocene?” and “Securitization and Democracy in Eurasia: Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region”.

We conducted trainings on Peace and Conflict and on Climate Change and Conflict for the participants from the Central Asian region and from countries beyond it. In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and the Europe-Central Asia Monitoring, we held a workshop titled “Energy Transition and Central Asia”. In partnership with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation we hosted a conference on “Adaptation and Transformation in Central Asia”. Throughout the year we launched books and projects, our faculty as well as the Academy's post-doc and associated researchers have given national and international public talks and presentations, enhancing our growing scope of fostering research.

We expanded our cooperation with Central Asian partners and formed new links with: the European Neighborhood Council, Belgium; Centralasiengruppen, Sweden; University of Trento, Italy; the Concordia Forum, the United Kingdom; Civil Initiatives Support Center, Kazakh-

stan. OSCE Academy proudly received Jean Monnet Module grant to implement its project on European Climate Policy; conducted joint projects in cooperation with the OSCE OCEEA/TNTD in the field of enhancing youth crime and drug use prevention through education and with the OSCE/RFOM in the field of safety of female journalists online. We strengthened our capacity to operate at an international level, improve management and learning skills via increased staff and students' mobility opportunities in cooperation with the University of Tartu, Estonia and the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki.

All our developments and achievements would not be possible without continued trust and contributions from our donors. Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, and the United States, who pledged funding to cover the Academy's related extra-budgetary costs. The immense support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, provided via the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, was contributed via its long-term partnership programme that encompasses all activities at the Academy. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic continued its generous in-kind support to the Academy by providing the institute's facilities free of charge. Finally, with the contribution from the Unified Budget, the OSCE via its Programme Office in Bishkek, provided stable and reliable funding allowing proper planning and essential coverage of the Academy's administrative functioning needs.

We are exceedingly grateful for the generosity of our donors and partners that joined together for the good of many. As we convey our sincere gratitude, looking forward to the year ahead, we renew our appeal to donors for further enhanced support that is commensurate with escalating educational needs to make the world a better place through innovative approaches to capitalize on growth opportunities for young leaders to receive excellent education; to deliver advanced research; expand regional and international collaborations and partnerships and to scale new heights in policy exchange.

Yours sincerely.

## MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022 the Board of Trustees held two regular meetings. On 28 March the Board of Trustees received a comprehensive overview of the Master's programmes, professional trainings, research and publications, new international partnerships, alumni relations and finances. The Members of the Board voted on the amendments to the Academy's Charter as well as endorsed the newly drafted Development Strategy. On 28 November the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy held its second

regular meeting in 2022 and learned about the Academy's programmatic updates, the continued internships conducted by the MA students, research and publication developments, professional trainings, new cooperation growth, development on educational initiatives to establish the third Master's and PhD Programmes and the related Academy's Advisory Council as well as budget implementation status.

## GRADUATE EDUCATION





While the most significant impacts of Covid-19 began to wane, 2022 was another year in which the OSCE Academy managed a safe and measured return to face-to-face education process. Bringing the faculty and the students' cohort 2021-2023 back to the Academy for in-person instruction went hand in hand with the recruitment of students for the academic year 2022-23, the accreditation process of the MA Programme in Economic Governance & Development and the licensing process for newly developed BA in Economics Programme.

Bishkek-based permanent faculty members including Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr (DAAD Associate Professor), Dr. Elena Zhirukhina, Dr. Viktoria Akchurina, and Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva continued to serve an effective and fruitful cooperation between the students and faculty during 2022. Teaching Fellows and Lecturers Dr. Nurgul Ukueva, Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy, Dr Baktybek Urmanbetov, Dr Rahat Sabyrbekov were accompanied with newly joined the Academy's teaching staff Dr. Daria Vorobyeva, Dr Chiara Pierobon, Dr Kiyalbek Akmoldoev, and Dr Nurgul Tilenbaeva. Dr. Kuat Akizhanov and Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov were involved to teach several disciplines through the cooperation agreement with the Higher School of Economics of M. Narikbayev KAZGUU University.

In 2022, leading academics from the OSCE Academy's partner institutions continued to provide a great opportunity for the students to develop knowledge on particular subjects. Thus, Dr. Indra Overland, Dr. Helge Blakkisrud, and Dr. Roman Vakulchuk from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI); Dr. Clara Portela from the University of Valencia, Spain; Dr. Pal Dunay from the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies; Dr. Barbara Christophe from the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Germany; Dr. Yana Leksyutina via the Gorchakov Fund, the Russian Federation; Dr. Daniela Irrera from the University of Catania, Italy; Dr. Tim Epken-

hans from the University of Freiburg, Germany; and Dr. Gordana Pesakovic from Webster University, USA conducted intensive practice-oriented modules during the winter and spring semesters.

In the fall semester students of cohort 2022-2023 were able to benefit from multiple meetings with high-level professionals and experts in the framework of the Contemporary Security Issues course taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina. Mr. Giorgi Beridze, Project Coordinator at Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA) project, Mr. Maris Domins, Regional Manager of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia, Mr. Odhran McCarthy, Programme Officer at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Ambassador Alexey Rogov, Head of OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), Mr. Nicholas Mazik, Head of the Human Dimension Department, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB) familiarized students with the areas of their activities and share the best expertise in person or virtually.

Dedicated to provide high quality of teaching and student-oriented instruction, the Academy's faculty thereby made a significant contribution to the educational process. The faculty's effort to provide high quality of teaching were regarded by students and an average score of evaluation results remained at the previous year's level reaching 4.60 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best.

The OSCE Academy continued to provide learning experiences outside the curriculum and build the students' skills and self-awareness as graduates. Thus, Paolo Bernasconi, the Director for Human Resources at the OSCE in Vienna delivered a presentation to the MA students on the Recruitment Process in International Organizations; Mr. Nikola Maric, HR Officer and Bermet Bektenova, HR/Payroll Associate from the OSCE Pro-

gramme Office in Bishkek conducted a CV Writing and Interview Training. Ms. Susana Borge, teacher of negotiations in conflict zones for the Operations of Peace and Humanitarian Action (OPAH) delivered a lecture to the students on conflicts and negotiations.

In February 2022, during the graduation ceremony held in hybrid format, 39 students received their diplomas and awards. Gavkharkhon Mamadzhanova from Tajikistan and Zhibek Zhorokulova from Kyrgyzstan - stu-

dents of the MA Programmes in Economic Governance & Development and in Politics & Security (Central Asia) respectively, were recognized for academic achievements as top GPA students. Ryan Michael Schweitzer from the U.S. presented the results of his research in the MA Thesis “Civil Society Development Through Chaikhana (Teahouses): Ferghana Valley” and Erzhan Zhyrgalbek uulu from Kyrgyzstan who wrote a thesis on the ‘Impact of Education on Household Saving Behavior in Kyrgyzstan’, received the “Best Thesis” awards.



In this past year, the MA Programme in Economic Governance & Development received its five-year accreditation from the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education “EdNet”. The accreditation process, which included evaluation of previous five years’ work of students, faculty and staff, confirmed the programme’s quality. Moreover, during the event organized by the Agency in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and aimed to identify best practices in higher education, the MA Programme was awarded in the category of “Academic Integrity and Academic Freedom”.

In 2022 the OSCE Academy launched its new programme - Bachelor of Arts in Economics, designed to provide students with a competitive knowledge in the areas of economics, international development studies, and good governance. Licensed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Bachelor of Arts in Economics programme is aimed to give students a good starting point to continue their education or build a professional career. Disciplines offered in the curriculum allows students to understand on how the world economy works and to help them in developing critical and analytical skills essential for understanding economics.



Since 2019 the OSCE Academy started enrolling exchange students from partner universities for one semester. In 2022 the OSCE Academy welcomed Pelle Paulus Smits, an exchange student from the European School of Political and Social Sciences Université Catholique de Lille, France, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2019. Pelle joined the group of MA students of Politics and Security of the Academy for the Spring semester.

*“I am enjoying every second of my stay in Kyrgyzstan! I love to be at the OSCE Academy, surrounded by amazing fellow students, to attend classes I could never have opted for back in France, like ‘Central Asia & the Middle East’, which makes this semester abroad exceptionally worthwhile. Apart from the lively atmosphere of Bishkek, I have had the opportunity to go horseback riding, take a swim in lake Issyk-Kul, hike in Ala-Archa, and visit neighboring Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The combination of traveling and studying at the OSCE Academy allows me to widen my understanding of this beautiful region.”*

## INTERNSHIPS 2022

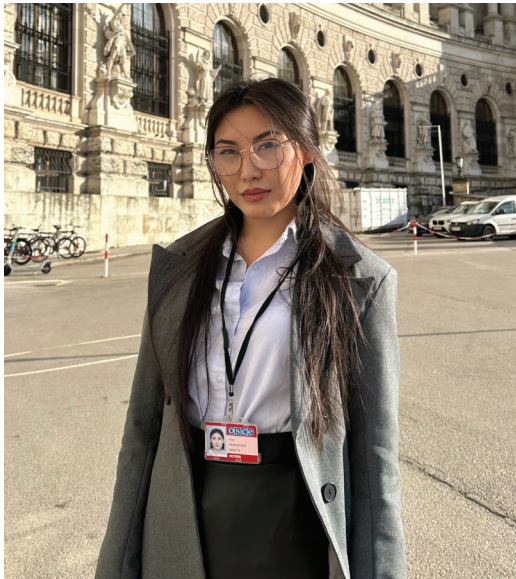
In accordance with the academic regulations of the MA Programme in Politics and Security (Central Asia) and MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development, students are obliged to conduct internship during the Fall semester of the programme. Internship is an important part of practical education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

Winter and spring semesters were followed by the MA thesis research period and internships. MA Programme students in Politics and Security (Central Asia) and in Economic Governance and Development completed their internships in an ‘acceptable for receiving organization’ mode. Online, hybrid and offline internships were organized at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, Norway, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland, the CRISP in Berlin, Germany, the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in Germany, the Caucasus International University (CIU) in Tbilisi, Georgia, the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkey, the Gorchakov Fund in Moscow, Russia, the University of Catania in Catania, Italy.

Regional internship organizations include the Ministry of Defense of Tehran, Iran, the Mawlana University in Kabul, Afghanistan, Webster University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Public Fund «Novyi Ritm» in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the Office of Civil Freedoms in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the Kazakh-German University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Turkmen American Scholars Association in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the Porsesh Research and Studies Organization (PRSO) in Kabul, Afghanistan and other organizations.

In 2022, 76% of all international internships were conducted offline, 20% online and 4% in hybrid format.

Students completed internships and worked on particular issues in the field of political science, security, international relations, economics, development and applied academic competencies both within and out of the Central Asian region.



*“My journey at the Academy was intense but very productive. We covered courses like international trade arrangements, energy security and sustainable development, which remain relevant to resolving current global issues, as well as research-related courses that help to pursue an academic career. The internship at the Secretariat allowed me to engage in the activities of the OSCE linking me with professionals in political, economic and human rights fields. Being part of the activities that help to implement projects in different countries and establish diplomatic relations is one of the most exciting experiences in my life. The Academy gives you an opportunity to obtain skills and network for a future career in international organizations, government, or research fields and provides you with a good network of specialists, mentors, and like-minded people.”*

- **Aliia Asangazieva,**  
**MA Programme in Economic Governance  
and Development 2021-2023**

## International student internships for 2021-2023



- OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria (hybrid) **1**
- Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (offline) **4**
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Switzerland (online) **1**
- CRISP, Berlin, Germany (offline) **1**
- Caucasus International University (CIU), Georgia (offline/hybrid) **2**
- University of Catania, Italy (online) **2**
- Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey (online) **1**
- Gorchakov Fund, Russia (offline) **1**
- Kazakh-German University, Kazakhstan (offline) **1**
- Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI), Germany (offline) **1**

## Regional student internships for 2021-2023



# ADMISSION PROCESS 2022

Although there was uncertainty related to the effect of Covid-19, the economic and geopolitical situation in the region and in the world as a whole, the Academy had a successful year of recruiting students to its MA programmes. Comparing 1 178 applications received in the previous year, the number of applicants for both the MA in Economic Governance & Development and the MA in Politics & Security Programmes in 2022 reached the mark of 2775, the 53 best of whom were selected for the MA programmes.

During the admission period the OSCE Academy conducted the entrance examinations for 210 applicants for both MA Programmes. Most of the candidates have been invited for tests in Nur-Sultan, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. The rest of the applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia, and other OSCE-participating states have been examined online.

Having considered the successful experience of online interviews during the pandemic, all admission interviews have been conducted in an online format. Overall, 105 candidates have been interviewed in the period from 16 to 20 May 2022, 46 for the MA EGD, and 59 for the MA PS.

## Admission 2022-2024 Application Statistics

### MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

<b>1 778</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>1 605</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>
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

### MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

<b>997</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>32</b>
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 2022-2026 Application Statistics

### BA Programme in Economics

<b>1 707</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1 531</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
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



In August 2022 the OSCE Academy organized its already traditional Summer School by offering preparatory courses followed by outdoor classes and the closing ceremony at Issyk-Kul. Along with 46 accepted students to the MA programmes, 30 young graduates from Central Asian countries and Mongolia participated in the Summer School for developing a necessary skill-set to enter into one of the Academy's programmes or other international graduate course. During the Summer School participants had an opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills on Mathematics for Economists, Academic Writing and Honesty, and the Introduction to Research Methods in Social Sciences. Courses were taught by the OSCE Academy's permanent faculty and recruited lecturers.

## Summer School Participants, 2022



# MA PROGRAMME IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



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



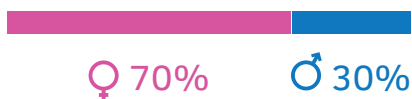
## Graduated students, class 2021-2023 (as of December 2022)

# 10

Students have graduated from the programme:

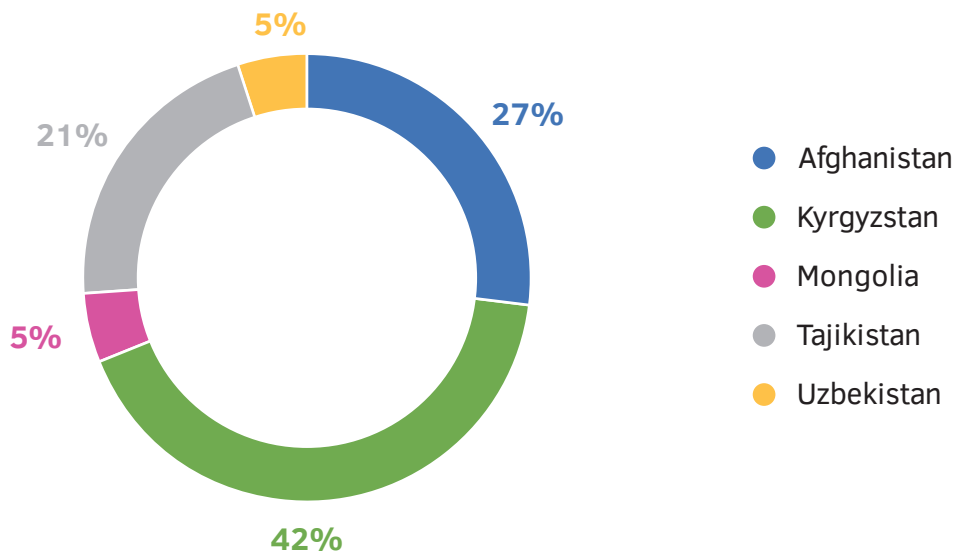
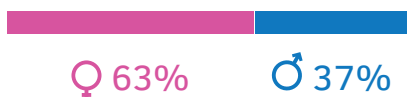


Gender balance



## Enrolled students by country, class of 2022-2024

Gender balance out of 19 enrolled students



## Curriculum

In the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, the curriculum offered 8 full term, 9 modular and 6 elective courses in total.

### Winter semester 2022

#### Full-term

- Microeconomics
- Econometrics
- Research Methods and Design

#### Modular

- Energy Politics
- Good Governance in Central Asia
- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources

#### Elective

- Mixed Methods to Understand Economic and Other Human Behavior
- Project Management
- Russian Language

### Spring semester 2022

#### Full-term

- International Development
- International Financial System

#### Modular

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

#### Elective

- International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings
- MA Thesis Seminar

### Fall semester 2022

#### Full-term

- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Academic Writing

#### Modular

- The OSCE
- International and Regional Trade Arrangements
- Industrial Policy

#### Elective

- Statistics

## Faculty

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

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

**Ms. Dina Biba** (Kyrgyzstan), United States Agency for International Development, Kyrgyzstan  
**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. Bedelbai Mamadiyev** (Kyrgyzstan), Regional Institute of Central Asia (RICA), Kyrgyzstan  
**Dr. Gulzhamal Issaeva** (Kazakhstan), Kazakh-German University (DKU)  
**Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA  
**Dr. Baktybek Urmanbetov** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA  
**Dr. Kuat Akizhanov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics, KazGUU University  
**Ms. Sophie Buss** (Germany), OSCE Academy.

## MA PROGRAMME IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



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

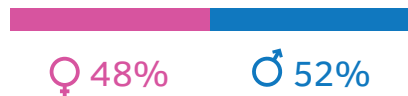
## Graduated students, class 2021-2023 (as of December 2022)

# 23

Students have graduated from the programme:

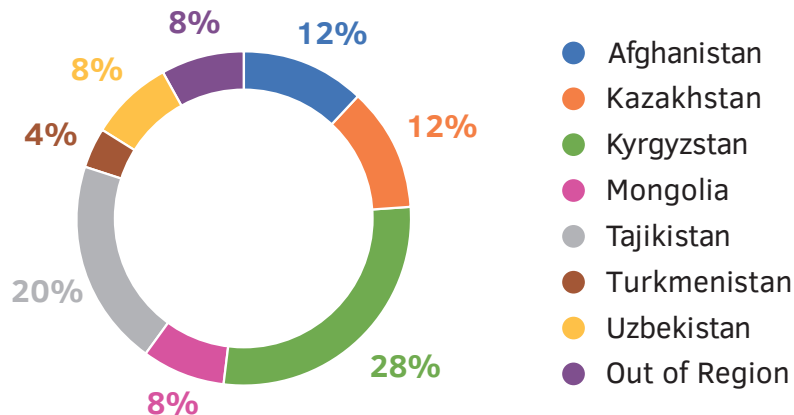
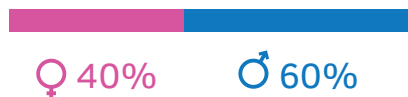


Gender balance



## Enrolled students by country, class of 2022-2024

Gender balance out of 25 enrolled students



*“It has been a pleasure and honor working with our students, bright and insightful, and discussing with them the nuances of complex security landscapes in Central Asia. I believe the Academy provides an excellent combination of teaching, research (in the form of MA thesis), networking and capacity building (in the form of guest lectures and internships) that could help our students build remarkable careers in the future.”*

- **Dr. Elena Zhirukhina**  
**Senior Lecturer, OSCE**  
**Academy in Bishkek**

## Curriculum

In the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years, the curriculum offered 13 full term, 4 modular and 9 elective courses in total.

### Winter semester 2022

#### Full-term

- History of Political Thought
- International Political Economy
- Quantitative Methods in IR
- Research Methods
- Contemporary Security Issues
- German language / Russian language

#### Elective courses

- Energy Politics
- Nation, State and Nationalism

### Spring semester 2022

#### Full-term

- MA Thesis Seminar

#### Modular

- Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods
- Political Islam
- Political Violence and Terrorism

#### Elective courses

- Central Asia and the Middle East
- Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking
- International Cyber Security
- Central Asia and China
- Central Asia and the USA
- Central Asia and Russia

### Fall semester 2022

#### Full-term

- International Relations
- History of Political Thought
- Governance, Democracy and Public Policy
- Quantitative Methods in IR
- International Political Economy
- German Language

#### Modular

- The OSCE

#### Elective courses

- Academic Writing

## Faculty

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

**Dr. Elena Zhirukhina** (Russia), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Viktoria Akchurina** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr Aijan Sharshenova**, OSCE Academy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Dr Baurzhan Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics KazGUU University

**Ms. Rashid Gabdulhakov** (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy

**Ms. Sophie Buss** (Germany), OSCE Academy

**Ms. Liza Janz** (Germany), DAAD-OSCE Academy

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS PROGRAMME**

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

### **Curriculum**

In the fall semester of the academic year 2022-23, the curriculum offered 9 courses in total.

- Introduction to Economics
- Microeconomics
- Calculus
- Political Economy
- Informational Technologies
- English language
- Russian language
- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Manasology



*“As a lecturer at the OSCE Academy, I have had the pleasure and unique opportunity of working with bright students eager to learn, engage in discussions, and challenge common wisdom. It has been a fulfilling experience to facilitate their growth and development in the field of economics. I have learnt a lot from the students.”*

- **Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov,**  
**Teaching Fellow**

## **Faculty, 2022-2023 academic year**

Faculty members of the programme are from different countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan – and 80% of them have PhD degrees.

**Dr. Nurbek Madmarov** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Bakhtiar Igamberdiev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Mr. Aidyn Ali** (United Kingdom), OSCE Academy

**Mr. Javlon Juraev** (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy

**Ms Irina Hudolei** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

**Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics, KazGUU University

**Dr. Mukaram Toktogulova** (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Kyrgyzstan



## RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT

During 2022, the OSCE Academy continued hosting Postdoctoral and Associate Research Fellows on a regular basis and two short-term Research Fellows, producing various publications and implementing joint research projects. Trainings, workshops, conferences, book launches and public lectures were regularly held in hybrid and online formats, engaging local and international participants. Overall, the Academy successfully produced various research papers and reports, policy briefs as well as several books authored by the Academy's faculty and researchers.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

### CERTIFICATE TRAINING: “PEACE AND CONFLICT”

From **16 to 20 May 2022**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in partnership with CRISP conducted a certificate training on “Peace and Conflict” for junior and mid-level professionals from civil society, NGOs, and governmental organizations. CRISP is an organization, based in Berlin, Germany that specializes in organizing training seminars in the fields of conflict transformation, civic education, and citizen participation.

The training provided 26 participants from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Russia with a comprehensive introduction to concepts, tools, and methods in the field of conflict transformation. During the course, participants explored the key terms, concepts and tools of conflict analysis. In the second part of the training, the conflict simulation game KODORI was implemented, dealing with proto-typical challenges of a post-war situation. Participants had a chance to play a role of key stakeholders and negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement.



The whole training course was interactive, giving space for reflection as well as an exchange of experiences between the participants. The training course was led by Mr. Oliver Wiechmann, an international consultant, trainer, and project manager at CRISP and Mr. Ulugbek Nurumbetov, local trainer of CRISP and founder and director of the Institute for Peace and Development.

### CERTIFICATE TRAINING: “CLIMATE CHANGE & CONFLICT”

From **4 to 7 October 2022**, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in cooperation with CRISP, organized a certificate training on “Climate Change and Conflict”. Among the participants of the training were 22 researchers, activists, experts, and junior and mid-level professionals from civil society, NGOs, and governmental organizations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan. The training course was led by Mr. Oliver Wiechmann, an international consultant, trainer, and project manager at CRISP and Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Post-Doctoral Fellow and Lecturer at the OSCE Academy.



The course aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive insight into the impact of climate change on the Central Asian region with a focus on (societal) conflict lines. During the course, participants learned to identify and analyze potential conflicts arising from the impact of climate change in the context of their countries and the region as a whole. The methodological approach of the training included a simulation game giving a chance to participants to engage in decision-making processes in the planning and execution of adaptation and mitigation measures in affected areas.

## SHORT-TERM COURSE: “INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN POLITICS”

From **28 November** to **2 December 2022**, the OSCE Academy organized a short-term course “Introduction to East Asian Politics”. The 5-day course was aimed at providing eight Bishkek-based university students with basic knowledge of East Asian history, political transformation, political economy, conflicts and territorial disputes. Each day of the course consisted of one lecture, expert analysis seminar, team debate and analytical essay writing session, designed to prepare students who are interested to pursue a future career in research. The course focused on four East Asian entities: the People’s Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China (Taiwan). The lecturer of the training was Mr. Temur Umarov, a Research Associate at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and a Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International



Peace. This course was organized within the framework of the research project of the OSCE Academy titled as “Analyzing Chinese Influence on Central Asia,” supported by the National Endowment for Democracy.

# CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

## EXPERTS TALK: “ENERGY TRANSIT IN CENTRAL ASIA”



On **17 January 2022** the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a workshop on “Energy Transition and Central Asia” in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and the Europe-Central Asia Monitoring (EUCAM). The workshop was conducted in a hybrid format, where participants had a chance to join the event both in-person and online. The workshop was opened by Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy, who highlighted the impact of climate change and energy transition in the region. He noted that the OSCE Academy and NUPI plans to co-publish an edited volume on this topic. The event was moderated by Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, Senior Researcher, NUPI.

Dr. Roman Vakulchuk briefly talked about the CADGAT project (Central Asia Data-Gathering and Analysis Team Research Project) and presented a new CADGAT report on “Energy Transition in Central Asia: Trends and Risks”. Dr. Vakulchuk provided an overview of fossil fuel trends in Central Asia from 2010 to 2020 and the role of external partners in the energy transition, as well as

elaborated on the production, consumption, import and export of coal, natural gas, and oil in Central Asia. Dr. Indra Overland, Research Professor, Head of the Center for Energy Research, NUPI, discussed a paper on “Central Asia is a Missing Link in Analyses of Critical Materials for the Global Energy Transition.” He reviewed the mineral resource base of the Central Asian countries and assessed current and potential contributions to the global supply chain. Dr. Overland highlighted that Central Asia is likely to become a new hotspot for mineral extraction and a major global supplier of selected critical materials for clean energy technologies. Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Post-Doc Researcher, OSCE Academy, presented his article “Why Choose to Cycle in a Low-Income Country?”, where he indicated the main reasons for cycling to become an important policy goal in many countries and shared his findings on the opinion of the local community about cycling. The workshop was followed by comments and discussion from the discussant Mr. Jos Boonstra, EUCAM Coordinator, Centre for European Security Studies (CESS), and the subsequent Q&A session.

## 4th INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE: “ADAPTATION AND TRANSFORMATION IN CENTRAL ASIA”

On **24-25 September 2022**, the OSCE Academy and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation organized the 4th Interdisciplinary Conference on “Adaptation and Transformation in Central Asia,” initiated and moderated by Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy. The conference brought together distinguished international and regional scholars, practitioners, and civil society activists to discuss how civil society, policymakers,



and businesses have dealt with the paradigm shifts whilst adapting to institutional reforms and political shifts over the past decades.

The first session on the topic “Civil and Political Adaptation in Central Asia” was opened by keynote speaker Dr. Wolfgang Merkel, Professor from the Social Science Research Center (WZB), Berlin, elaborating on the Trajectories of Post-Soviet Regime Change. Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva, Associate Professor of Law and Coordinator of

the Human Rights Program, American University of Central Asia, delivered another keynote speech on “Legal and Political Transformation” and opened the second panel session. The second session focused on the topic of “Rule of Law and Internationalization in Central Asia.” The third session started with a keynote speech on “Laboratories and Experiments of International Law in the post-Soviet Space” delivered by Dr. Cindy Wittke, Leader of the Political Science Research Group, Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg. In the fourth session on “Climate, Business, and Social Adaptation”, Anna Kirilenko, Ecological Movement “BIOM” gave a keynote lecture on Climate Adaptation in Central Asia.

## BOOK LAUNCH: “RUSSIA AND DEVELOPMENT: CAPITALISM, CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE STATE” (RUSSIAN EDITION), BY MR. CHARLES BUXTON

On **18 November 2022**, the OSCE Academy hosted the launch of the Russian edition of the book “Russia and Development: Capitalism, Civil Society and the State” by Mr. Charles Buxton, a civil society development researcher, activist and consultant. Mr. Buxton welcomed the participants of the event and shared his experience of working in the non-governmental sector in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Following the introduction, Mr. Buxton presented the book on Russia and Development, focusing on political and social mobilization, and examining development in Russia within the framework of the development of local governmental and civil society organizations. Mr. Buxton briefed on each chapter from the history of CSOs to the present or fourth stage of civil society in Russia and Central Asia. He also provided case studies on CSOs and the results of their work in the Ural and Siberia and talked about Tajik migrants in Russia and NGOs supporting their families in Tajikistan. The author noted that the Russian edition brings the analysis closer to current events via a consideration of how the current international conflicts might affect development in this region.



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- 1<sup>st</sup> Periphery: excluded and marginalized groups in cities and towns
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Periphery: nations and regions in the Russian Federation's outer fringes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Periphery: Russia's "cousins" in the other ex-Soviet republics

## BOOK LAUNCH: “INCOMPLETE STATE-BUILDING IN CENTRAL ASIA: THE STATE AS SOCIAL PRACTICE”, BY DR. VIKTORIA AKCHURINA



On **25 November 2022**, Dr. Viktoria Akchurina, Senior Lecturer at the OSCE Academy, presented her newly published book “Incomplete State-Building in Central Asia: the State as Social Practice” at the OSCE Academy. Ms. Aigoul Abdoubaetova, Head of the Research and Training Unit, delivered a welcoming speech congratulating Dr. Akchurina on publishing the book.

Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Post-Doc Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, Dr. Filippo Costa Buranelli, Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor)

at the University of St Andrews, and Dr. Azamat Temirkulov, Political Scientist from Kyrgyzstan, joined the event to discuss the transformation of the state and incomplete state-building, and make comments on the book.

The book is about the transformation of the state and an incomplete state-building in central Eurasia, focusing on Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. The author analyzes the social history of resistance, violence, border and water management in disputed borderlands of the Fergana Valley in order to understand why the three states ended up as so-called “weak states” in the 2000s and onwards. It helps conceptualize and understand social and political order beyond the “failed state” paradigm.

# JOINT INITIATIVES

## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: “HOW TO PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND?”

On **26 April 2022**, the OSCE Academy hosted an international workshop on “How to promote Clean Energy Access in Rural Areas in Central Asia and Beyond?”. The event gathered experts from industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to discuss important aspects of (off-grid) clean energy access in Central Asia. The workshop was moderated by Dr. Emil Juraev.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy, highlighted that the OSCE focuses on Climate Change issues and has been implementing a number of activities to raise awareness and assess and address potential security risks stemming from climate change in the OSCE region, including Central Asia. Dr. Wolters stressed that the OSCE Academy increases research on these topics in Central Asian countries and works with its long-term partner the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in this direction.

During the workshop, Sebastian Schiek, co-founder of SPCE Hub, Berlin, briefly introduced the “Liv-



ing Lab” non-profit organization, its goals, and activities in Central Asia. Furthermore, participants talked about energy-related challenges, clean energy, and clean energy projects in the region. They discussed technology, business models, regulations, and state-business relations in the process of implementing the project in the field of energy. In particular, experts elaborated on the advantages and disadvantages of off-grid energy technology; different approaches to off-grid energy projects from the

perspectives of private and social economies; regulation, taxes, and administrative support. Moreover, participants reviewed previous projects to prioritize the needs and capacities of local communities, as users, consumers, and prosumers.

The workshop was jointly implemented and funded by the SPCE Hub, an organization based in Germany in cooperation with the School of Intersectoral Governance at DHBW University, Germany.

## ROUND TABLE: “PERCEPTIONS OF CHINA IN CENTRAL ASIA: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES”

On **30 June 2022**, the OSCE Academy and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) organized a joint round table on the topic “Perceptions of China in Central Asia: problems and perspectives” in a hybrid format. Experts discussed how debt trap affects co-operation between China and the countries of Central Asia, what China is doing to improve its image in the region and how effective its soft power is.

The event comprised of two parts followed by Q&A from the online and offline audience. In the first session Mr. Raffaello Pantucci, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore, Senior Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), United Kingdom, delivered a keynote speech on how China responded to recent developments in Eurasia and how China is going forward across this region. Specifically, the speaker covered the Chinese reaction to instabilities in Central Asia and the fall of Kabul to the Taliban last year. The second part of the event was devoted to a panel discussion on “Perceptions of Chi-



na in Central Asia: problems and perspectives.” Temur Umarov, Research Consultant, Carnegie Moscow Center, Research Fellow, OSCE Academy in Bishkek; Aizat Shailoobek, Senior Research Assistant, OSCE Academy in Bishkek; and Nargiza Muratalieva, IWPR, CABAR.asia analytical reports editor, Kyrgyzstan, shared their insights on China’s presence in Central Asia, Sinophobia in Kyrgyzstan, and China’s soft power in Kyrgyzstan.

## TRAINING: “CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA”



On **12 July 2022**, the OSCE Academy hosted a one-day training course on Climate Change and Security in Central Asia organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) and the Berlin-based think tank Adelphi in partnership with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the OSCE Academy.

Throughout the training it was stressed that climate change is one of the most pressing issues of the 21st century with implications for sustainable development, prosperity, security, and stability in the OSCE region and beyond. Raising awareness and harnessing youth potential is key to tackling it.



The participants were provided with in-depth knowledge of the potential security risks posed by climate change and had the opportunity to develop approaches to solve related problems in a dynamic and interactive environment.

This training was organized within the framework of the OSCE extra-budgetary project “Strengthening Responses to Security Risks from Climate Change in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia” funded by Andorra, Austria, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the United States.

## **WORKSHOP: “ACTIVE MOBILITY LAB BISHKEK”**



On **24 August 2022** the OSCE Academy hosted a workshop “Active Mobility Lab Bishkek,” co-organized by FES Kyrgyzstan and SPCE Hub. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the pilot project “Bishkek Mobility Lab” with the policy-makers and academics (Hochschule Karlsruhe – University of Applied Science, Intersectoral School of Governance BW, and the Kyrgyz State Technical University) and the representatives of the mayor’s office, the police and the road service, as well as civil society. The project aims to create discussions on the topics related to sustainable solutions to urban challenges in Bishkek. A goal-oriented city intervention and a report will be developed by the end of this project with the intervention methodology and the final report to be developed by the participants together with the Living Lab experts from Germany.

## **OSCE PROJECT ON “ENHANCING YOUTH CRIME AND DRUG USE PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION ON LEGALITY AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ADDRESSING THREATS OF ORGANIZED CRIME AND CORRUPTION”**

Throughout 2022 the OSCE Academy continued to be an Implementing Partner for the “Enhancing youth crime and drug use prevention through education on legality and awareness campaigns addressing threats of organized crime and corruption” project of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNDT) and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA). The project aims to prevent transnational organized crime, corruption and drug use, by complementing criminal justice efforts and promoting respect for the rule of law through education.

On **24-25 January 2022** a two-day needs-assessment workshop was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The aim of this workshop was to identify the areas where teachers, professors, and civil society representatives required



further training in the field of youth crime and drug use prevention and ways to adequately educate youth on the threats of organized crime, corruption, and drug use. The goal of this workshop was to determine very concrete and detailed capacity needs to better tailor further trainings based on the UNODC Education4Justice and Global Programme on Prevention Materials among 34 participants from government, civil society, higher education institutions and secondary schools.

On **1 March 2022** Needs-Assessment Workshop on strengthening youth crime and drug use prevention was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. This event introduced and provided an overview of the project. During this first need assessment workshop UNODC experts introduced the UNODC Education-4Justice and Global Programme on Prevention materials. Practitioners from government, higher education institutions, secondary schools, and civil society, were asked to present an overview of their current youth crime prevention initiatives, challenges, best practices, needs and how these topics are covered within their curricula. Similar workshops were held on **9 March** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and on **17 March** in Nursultan, Kazakhstan.



The event was followed by two-day workshops aimed at identifying areas where teachers, professors and civil society representatives require further training in the field of youth crime prevention and on how to adequately educate youth on the threats of organized crime, corruption and drug use on **29-30 March 2022** in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on **4-5 April 2022** in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on **11-12 April 2022** in Astana, Kazakhstan.

On **29 April 2022**, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen the cooperation in youth crime and drug use prevention. The MoU states that the OSCE and Kyrgyzstan will work together to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, corruption and drug use. These efforts are meant to complement criminal justice efforts, fostering a culture of lawfulness and integrity among youth through education. It is based on a thorough OSCE needs-assessment among multiple stakeholders in Kyrgyzstan, including government representatives, schools, universities and civil society. The MoU will also form the framework for assistance and cooperation between the OSCE and Kyrgyzstan, to develop trainings for educators and social media awareness campaigns for youth on the topics of organized crime, corruption and drugs.

During the Second Phase of the project from **3 to 7 October 2022** a series of interviews were made to further support the development of secondary school and university curricula on prevention of crime, corruption, drug use and cyber-crime, to identify, inter alia, thematic and target age group priorities and scope of desired curricula, as well as key thematic messages to be communicated via the awareness raising campaigns. Technical



Interviews were conducted by the Project Management team together with the Expert group in close co-operation with the Working Group represented by focal points from relevant ministries: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Culture and the General Prosecutor's Office. Following the Technical Interviews, the Expert group developed a preliminary structure of school and university curricula based on the received inputs from the relevant focal points.

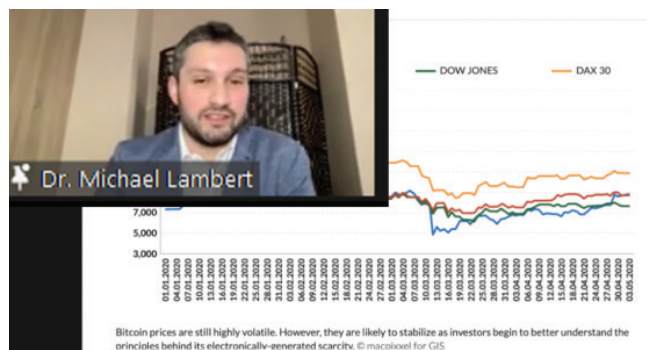
On **3 November 2022** the First Intergovernmental Meeting was held. The purpose of this meeting of the Working Group was to provide a platform for the designated government project coordinators, as well as representatives of civil society to discuss and seek their input and feedback on the proposed structure of: i) school and university teaching aids on youth crime prevention, and ii) a youth information campaign on crime prevention. Altogether there were 25 participants.

On **8 December 2022** the Second Intergovernmental Meeting was held. This meeting was a logical continuation of the First Meeting of the Working Group and aimed to organize a platform for the appointed state project focal points through the respective ministries as well as representatives of civil society, to: i) present the results of the First Meeting of the Working Group; and ii) discuss the revised structure and plans for interactive lessons for school (grades 5-11) and university curricula on the topic of youth crime prevention, as well as a youth information campaign on crime prevention. Altogether there were 25 participants.

Feedback from Working Group members was considered and used as a guide for the development of full school and university curricula and a media campaign that will be submitted in 2023.

## PUBLIC TALKS

### PUBLIC LECTURE: “RETHINKING THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CRYPTOCURRENCIES AND CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA”, BY DR. MICHAEL LAMBERT

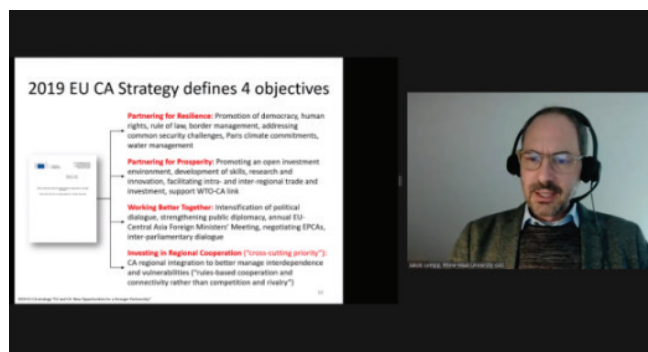


On **18 January 2022** Dr. Michael Lambert, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a Public Lecture titled “Rethinking the Interaction between

Cryptocurrencies and Citizen Empowerment in Central Asia”. In the first part of the lecture, Dr. Lambert provided brief information on Cryptocurrency and indicated the strengths and weaknesses of Cryptocurrencies in the context of Central Asian countries. He outlined the main matters in the region related to using counterfeit money, remittances from the diaspora, inflation, and privacy; as well as provided an analysis of the potential of cryptocurrencies to be a reliable answer to the matters. In conclusion, Dr. Lambert highlighted that digital currency and blockchain like any other technology useful and powerful to citizens when the platforms to use them are trustworthy. The lecture was followed by Q&A session, where participants had an opportunity to ask questions they were interested in.

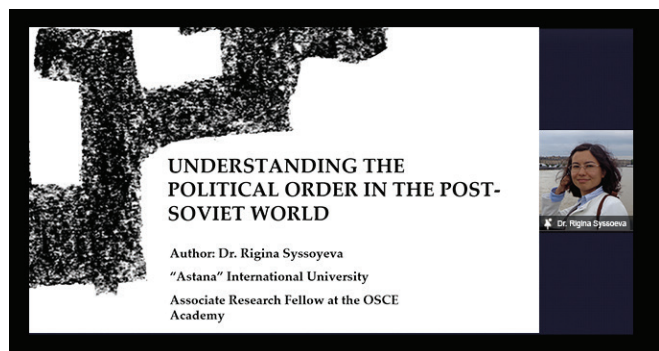
### PUBLIC LECTURE: “EU - CENTRAL ASIA RELATIONS” BY DR. JAKOB LEMPP

On **1 February 2022** Prof. Dr. Jakob Lempp, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, and Professor at the Rhein-Waal University of Applied Sciences, delivered a Public Lecture on “EU - Central Asia Relations”. In his presentation, Dr. Lempp talked about EU actions towards Central Asia. In particular, Dr. Lempp indicated policy areas like energy, security, environmental issues, human rights and the rule of law and many others. He provided an overview of the main objectives and goals of the EU strategy on Central Asia, adopted in June 2019, as well as instruments and tools to implement the strategy. Furthermore, he elaborated on some projects, actors within the EU involved and identified key challenges in the relationship between the EU and the Central Asian states. In conclusion, Dr.



Lempp provided recommendations for policy-makers and other stakeholders related to European Central Asia policy and answered the questions of participants.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “UNDERSTANDING THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE POST-SOVIET REGION”, BY DR. RIGINA SYSSOEVA

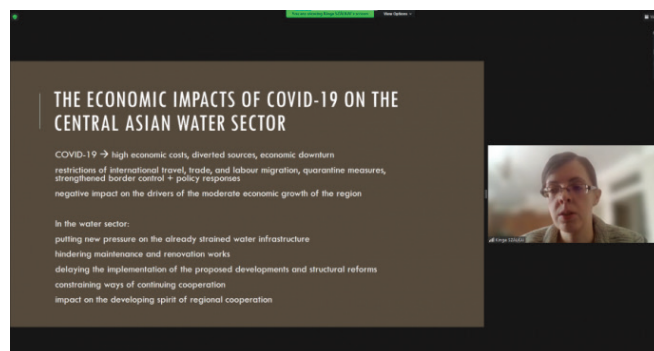


On **15 February 2022** Dr. Rigina Syssoeva, from Astana International University and an Associate Research

Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a Public Lecture on “Understanding the International Order of the Post-Soviet Region”. Dr. Syssoeva presented the “Non-hegemonic cooperation” model, developed by the American political scientist Robert Keohane and elaborated that Keohane’s model can be applied to the post-Soviet region. She outlined key players that promote their own rules of cooperation in the post-Soviet space and use regimes and institutions to strengthen their positions in the region. In particular, Dr. Syssoeva talked about five system-building players and explained each of them: the Russian Federation, the European Union, the USA, China and Turkey. In conclusion, Dr. Syssoeva provided recommendations and answered the questions of participants.

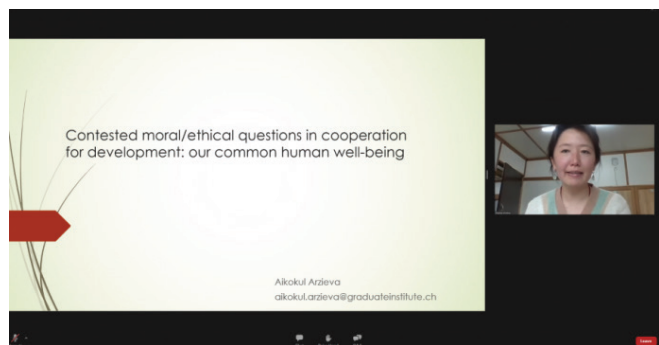
## PUBLIC LECTURE: “IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE CENTRAL ASIAN WATER SECTOR”, BY DR. KINGA SZÁLKAI

On **15 March 2022**, Dr. Kinga Szálkai, Associate Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and International Relations, Budapest Metropolitan University, and Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a Public Lecture on “Central Asian Water Cooperation after COVID-19: Could the Pandemic Challenge the Achievements of the Recent ‘Water Thaw’?” Dr. Kinga Szálkai discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the recent positive turn in the dynamics of regional water issues in Central Asia. In the first part of the lecture, Dr. Szálkai examined the effects of the pandemic on the economic, social, and political variables influencing water-related issues. The analysis of these intervening variables shows how the adverse impact of the pandemic on different areas has the potential to influence regional water cooperation negatively. Furthermore, Dr. Szálkai focused on recent events and developments related to regional cooperation. Regional cooperation makes another important intervening variable to test the connection between the impact of the pandemic



and regional water cooperation because the likelihood of the development of water cooperation is higher when regional cooperation functions well in general. In particular, Dr. Szálkai analyzed the functioning of regional cooperation in two extremely sensitive cases of interstate water-related tensions during the pandemic, namely the Sardoba dam catastrophe in 2020 and the Kyrgyz-Tajik conflict in 2021.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “MORAL QUESTIONS IN COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT” BY DR. AIKOKUL ARZIEVA



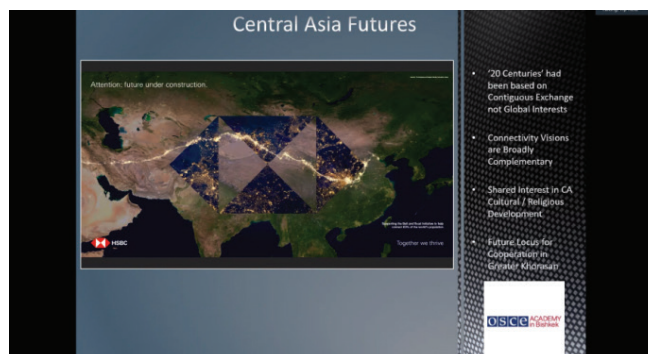
On **29 March** the OSCE Academy hosted a Public Lecture titled “Contested Moral/Ethical Questions in Cooperation for Development: Our common well-being” by Dr. Aikokul Arzieva, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and Research Specialist at the Royal Academy in Bhutan.

Dr. Arzieva provided a literature review and identified two main thought designs in the field of development: critical historical and ‘shared agency’ models. She ex-

plained that in the critical historical school of thought, “development” is used to understand uneven human relationships within a polarized view of the world population, conventionally framed as “western”/“modern”/“developed” versus “traditional”/“local”/“to be developing”/“indigenous.” People who fall under these dichotomous frameworks often get treated as homogenous and their relationship is reduced to “power” relations and contextualized within colonial history. While the ‘shared agency’ model focuses on the field of development, processes, negotiations and professionals. Dr. Arzieva suggested that “developing” populations are not homogenous but rather heterogeneous, and so, their “agency” cannot be limited to “development agents”. She raised a question how heterogeneous social agents experience and make sense of “development” in their own terms in Kyrgyzstan. She shared the results of her study, which included opinions of people from different regions and occupations in Kyrgyzstan, to understand their experience and perception of transformations, brought by the open market, and the work of development agencies in their daily lives.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “CHINA-IRAN STRATEGIC COOPERATION: BY MR. PHILIP REID

On **5 April 2022**, Philip Reid, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and Research Fellow at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, delivered a Public Lecture titled “China-Iran Strategic Cooperation: Context and Central Asian Vectors.” Philip Reid provided a wide overview of China-Iran relations chronology ranging from ancient times to the current cooperation policy. Thus, he reviewed the most significant developments in the relations between the two countries including the Iran-Iraq War and China, Taiwan Crisis, Sanctions in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Chinese Mediation in Nuclear Talks, the 2021 Agreement, etc. Furthermore, Philip Reid identified four key areas for the future development of cooperation between the two powers in Central Asia:



connectivity and infrastructure solutions; Xinjiang; cultural/religious developments; and Tajikistan.

## GUEST LECTURE TO MA STUDENTS: “THAILAND’S FOREIGN POLICY: AN OVERVIEW”



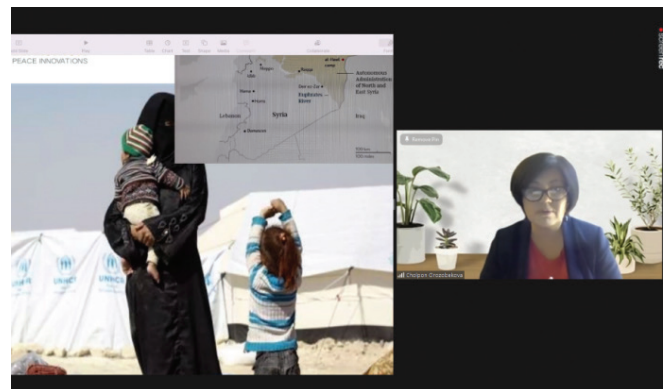
On **13 May 2022**, Dr. Paradorn Rangsimaporn, a Minister-Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Thai Embassy in Nur-Sultan, covering Thai rela-

tions with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and an Independent Researcher, visited the OSCE Academy and delivered a guest lecture to the MA students. The visit started with a meeting of Dr. Rangsimaporn with Academy Director Dr. Alexander Wolters, discussing the Academy’s activities and the potential collaboration with Thai universities and institutions. Following the meeting, Dr. Rangsimaporn presented an overview of Thailand’s foreign policy and his research project on Exploring Greater Engagement between Central Asia and Southeast Asia to the Academy’s students. Students with a great interest listened to a presentation, drawing a parallel between Thailand and Central Asian countries and actively engaged in discussion during the Q&A session.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE APPROACH TO FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS”, BY MS. CHOLPON OROZBEKOVA

On **14 June 2022**, Ms. Cholpon Orozobekova, Director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations and an Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “A Transitional Justice Approach to Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Challenges and Limits of Prosecuting former ISIS Fighters and their Associates.”

Ms. Cholpon Orozobekova briefed the participants on the current situation of ISIS fighters and their associates who were captured by the Kurdish forces in Northeast Syria and have been held in several prisons near Hasaka. She outlined the main factors and policy challenges of the prosecution process of fighters. Furthermore, the lecturer reviewed considered options to bring them to justice and suggested a transitional justice approach as the only law-compliant solution to try foreign fighters. Ms. Orozobekova also gave brief infor-



mation about the programmes within the countries of Central Asia to repatriate their citizens, and highlighted the accelerated efforts of the UN and the OSCE in dealing with ISIS fighters and their associates.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “SOURCES, MECHANISMS, AND IMPACTS OF COVID-19 DIS/MISINFORMATION ON LABOUR MIGRANTS FROM UZBEKISTAN”, BY DR. RASHID GABDULHAKOV

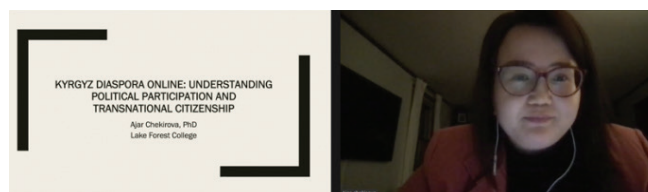


On **28 June 2022**, Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Media and Journalism Studies at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “‘I saw it on the internet!’ Sources, Mechanisms, and Impacts of COVID-19 Dis/misinformation on Labour Migrants from Uzbekistan.” First, Dr. Gabdulhakov briefed the participants on the methodology part of his study and offered an overview of Melissa Wall, Madeline Otis Campbell, and Dana Janbek’s theoretical conceptualization of ‘information precarity’ and applied it to the

case of Uzbek labour migrants to Russia. Dr. Gabdulhakov provided a comparison of migrants and refugees and indicated similarities between the two groups such as leaving home to work in another country as the only path to survival, as well as facing xenophobic and nationalist biases in a host country. Furthermore, Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov presented his findings on the online social milieu of Uzbek labour migrants from Uzbekistan to Russia as potential sources of misleading information related to COVID-19. He suggested some examples of issues Uzbek labour migrants had to face because of misleading information on social media. He provided an overview of the content analysis of discussions and posts shared on thematic groups across social media platforms such as Odnoklassniki, VKontakte, Facebook, and Telegram. He identified five COVID-19-related narrative clusters: ‘the remedy,’ ‘practical information,’ ‘the news,’ ‘asking for help,’ and ‘conspiracies and religion,’ and elaborated on each of the narratives. Dr. Gabdulhakov concluded that COVID-19-related information spread among social media groups appears to have been dangerously misleading.

## PUBLIC LECTURE: “DIASPORA ONLINE, TRANSNATIONALISM AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION” BY DR. AJAR CHEKIROVA

On **27 September 2022**, Dr. Ajar Chekirova, Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “Kyrgyz Diaspora Online: Understanding New Forms of Transnationalism, Citizenship, and Political Participation.” Dr. Chekirova defined the terms “Diaspora,” “political participation,” and “transnational citizenship.” Furthermore, the researcher shared her findings on the differences in political engagement among migrants from different host regions (including Russia, the US, the EU, and countries in the Middle East) across Social Media platforms. Dr. Chekirova analyzed textual data from Kyrgyz migrants’ virtual communities and groups on Facebook, VK, Odnoklassniki, and the websites over the May 2020 – October 2021 timeframe. According to the study, during



a socioeconomic crisis in the homeland, the online activity of migrants increases rapidly. During the pandemic, the October 2020 revolution, and Kyrgyz-Tajik border conflict migrants were involved in intense transnational cross-channel political engagement that went beyond simple comments, “likes” and “shares” and spilled over to the real world.



## PUBLIC LECTURE: “IRAN’S PROSPECTS IN CHINESE-INDIAN NEXUS IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS”, BY MR. NIMA KHORRAMI

Iran’s Aspirations and Prospects in the Emerging Chinese-Indian Nexus in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Lecturer: Nima Khorrami  
OSCE Academy in Bishkek



On **15 November 2022**, Nima Khorrami, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “Iran’s Aspirations and Prospects in the Emerging Chinese-Indian Nexus in Central Asia and the Caucasus.” The lecturer elaborated on Iran’s interests, attempts and patterns of deeper engagement in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Mr. Nima in-

dicated two points of Iran’s engagements with CA/C. “First, Tehran’s interactions with these regions have been periodical, with ebbs and flows, which is indicative of a lack of coherent strategy. Second, whenever Tehran does engage CA/C, its actions reveal a wide array of intertwined commercial and strategic issues.” Furthermore, Nima Khorrami explained what Iran could gain from deeper engagement in CA/C, as well as Iran’s anti-Americanism ideology, and Iran’s ties with China and India. Nima Khorrami concluded the lecture with the notion that Iran’s anti-Americanism ideology prevents it from increasing connectivity with China and India via CA/C. “Tehran thus faces a choice: revise the role of anti-Americanism in its identity as a state, or risk continuing marginalization from a space that by any reasonable geopolitical calculation should be financially and politically profitable for it.”

# RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

In 2022, the OSCE Academy continued implementing its Associate and Postdoctoral, and short-term Research Fellowships.

## POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

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

### Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (in partnership with NUPI)



Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov received his PhD from the School of Economics and Business at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He obtained his Master's degree from the University of Birmingham, the United Kingdom. Rahat serves as an author for the Inter-governmental Platform for Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Assessment Report. In 2022 Rahat has won Jean Monnet Module grant for his project "European Climate Policy" (EUCP) and became the first JMM grant holder in Kyrgyzstan. He has been accepted for a Fellowship at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. Dr. Sabyrbekov will be a Fellow from September 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Rahat's research interests include environmental economics, ecosystem services, natural capital, and natural resource management.

## PUBLICATIONS



Indra Overland, Rahat Sabyrbekov,  
**Know your opponent: Which countries might fight the European carbon border adjustment mechanism?**, Energy Policy, Volume 169, 2022, 113175, ISSN 0301-4215



Bozhil Kondev, James Dixon,  
Zhaoqi Zhou, Rahat Sabyrbekov,  
Kanat Sultanaliev, Stephanie A. Hirmer,  
**Putting the foot down: Accelerating EV uptake in Kyrgyzstan**, Transport Policy, Volume 131, 2023, pp 87-96, ISSN 0967-070X



Vakulchuk, R., Isataeva, A.,  
Kolodzinskaia, G., Øverland, I.,  
& Sabyrbekov, R. (2022).  
**Fossil Fuels in Central Asia:  
Trends and Energy Transition Risks**

## Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova (in partnership with NUPI)



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

### PUBLICATIONS

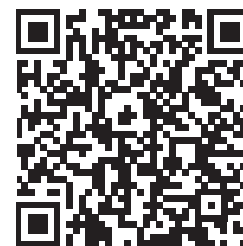
- Sulaimanova, B. (2022). **The Impact of Job-Education Mismatch on Earnings: Empirical Evidence from Kyrgyzstan with Focus on Generation and Gender Difference.** OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Research paper #11.
- Roland-Holst, D., Karymshakov, K., & Sulaimanova, B. (2022). **ICT, Online Search Behavior, and Remittances: Evidence from the Kyrgyz Republic.** ADBI Working Paper Series No. 1348.
- Aseinov, D., Sulaimanova, B., Karymshakov, K., & Azhgaliyeva, D. (2022). **What Determines the Adaptation of Enterprises to COVID-19 in CAREC Member Countries: Empirical Evidence from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia.** ADBI Working Paper Series No. 1299.

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



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

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



### PUBLICATIONS

- Sharshenova, A. (2022). **Academic Life in Central Asia during Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Collaborations.** Shaping Asia Network's Working Paper Series, issue no.1.
- Sharshenova, A. (2022). **Summary Report on the 4th Interdisciplinary Conference on "Adaptation and Transformation in Central Asia.** OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Academy Papers #12.
- Sharshenova, A. (2022). **Academic Life in Central Asia during Covid-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Collaborations.** European Neighborhood Council's Analysis publication series.
- Sharshenova, A. (2022). **Memory sites of post-Soviet nostalgia in contemporary Bishkek.** Cabar Asia.

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



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

## PUBLICATIONS

- Dzhuraev Sh. (2022). **The EU's Central Asia policy: no chance for change?** Central Asian Survey, 41:4, 639-653, DOI: 10.1080/02634937.2022.2054951
- Dzhuraev Sh. (2022). **Kyrgyzstan and the Changing Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Caucasus.** CACI Analyst.

## ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

In 2022, 8 new fellows joined the Academy's Associate Research Fellowship. The Fellowship was launched in 2017 and aims to support PhD Candidates and/or Post-Doctoral researchers in conducting their research projects and provide institutional affiliation to independent researchers. The length of the fellowship is from six to twelve months and is open for Bishkek-based and non-Bishkek residents.



### EUGENIA PESCI, 2022

**Research topic: Activating the unemployed? Employment support policies in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**

Eugenia Pesci is a doctoral researcher at the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki. She is a Marie Curie early-stage Researcher in the Horizon 2020-funded International Training Network "Markets". Her research focuses on the development of labour market and employment policies in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. She is interested in analysing how global active labour market policies are translated and adapted in the context of highly informalised labour markets, by investigating how the notion of unemployment is being constructed through the activation framework in social policy. She is particularly interested in the perspective of the local bureaucracies and in understanding how they translate the policies into practices at the street-level. Methodologically, her study relies on in-depth interviews with a wide range of local and international stakeholders, participant observation, and analysis of official legislation, policies, programmes, and reports. She holds a Master in East European Studies from the University of Bologna, Italy.



### **ANNA JORDANOVA, 2022**

**Research topic: The behavior of the Central Asian elites on the international level: the unique factors and local conditions determining their policies and politics**

Anna Jordanova is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague. Her doctoral research focuses on regional and international cooperation across Central Asia and its extended neighborhood. Currently, she focuses on new trajectories of the respective Central Asian state foreign politics, especially following the renewed Russian aggression against Ukraine, including its political and economic consequences. The fellowship at the OSCE Academy is coordinated and co-funded by the Bourse&Bazaar foundation as a part of a larger research of current cooperation trends of Central Asian states with partners beyond the traditional Russia-China scheme.



### **INTIGAM MAMEDOV, 2022**

**Research topic: Maximizing benefits from transport and logistics potential of the Caspian region**

Intigam Mamedov is an independent political analyst focusing on international relations, and a former Vice-Dean and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, Lomonosov Moscow State University. His Ph.D. dissertation was devoted to the energy policy of the Caspian littoral states. His current research interests include the environmental dimension of Caspian regional politics, transport and logistic projects in Eurasia and non-western concepts of world order.



### **JAMES MICHAEL WILSON, 2022**

**Research topic: OSCE Peacekeeping: The unused instrument of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's peace toolbox [Working Title]**

James Michael Wilson is a current candidate in the Professional Doctorate in Policing, Crime and Security (DPCS) programme at the University of West London, United Kingdom. His research qualitatively examines the reasoning of why OSCE has never deployed a fully fledged peacekeeping mission, despite the fact that 'peacekeeping' has been in its toolbox since the early 1990's, during which time the organisation has continually responded to rapidly developing and ever-increasingly complex crises. James holds numerous academic and professional qualifications, and has received First Class Bachelor of Arts (BA) Honours degree in Security Consultancy from Buckinghamshire New University, master's degrees and postgraduate diplomas with distinction, including a Master of Science (MSc) degree in Security Sector Management from Cranfield University at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, as well as numerous awards for academic and research excellence. An experienced Chartered Manager (CMgr) and Humanitarian (CHum), James has worked with a variety of international organisations, including the OSCE, UN, NATO, EU, and the OPCW. Within the OSCE, James was the Political Officer for the OSCE Mission in Kosovo from May 2014 to October 2016; he served as a Monitoring Officer from January 2018 to May 2022 with the OSCE Special Moni-

toring Mission to Ukraine; and for over ten years to date, James undertakes election observation missions with ODIHR across the OSCE region.

James has diverse deployed field experience, including political affairs and communications in Kosovo; Ebola response management in Sierra Leone; conflict monitoring, humanitarian affairs, and human security reporting in Ukraine; over twenty election operations with civil society, the EU, and OSCE ODIHR, including in Ukraine, Kosovo, Turkey, and North Macedonia; humanitarian safety and security management for civil society in the refugee crisis in Greece and the Mediterranean; communications and reporting for the UNDP in Viet Nam; and humanitarian public information and communications for the IOM in Romania.



### **EVA SEIWERT, 2022**

**Research topic: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and China's vision of international relations in the 21st century**

Dr Eva Seiwert is a Research Associate at the Institute of Political Science at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. She holds a PhD in International Relations from Freie Universität Berlin with a thesis on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and China's strategy of shaping international norms, which she is currently revising for book publication. Eva completed an MSc in East Asian Relations from the University of Edinburgh and a BA in Chinese Studies from the Universität Leipzig. She was a Visiting Scholar at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and has spent numerous study and research stays abroad, including at Shanghai Jiaotong University, Renmin University Beijing, Lanzhou University, and the United Nations Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges.

Eva is Associate Editor at 9DASHLINE, an independent and non-partisan online platform that publishes expert op-eds and commentaries about politics across the Indo-Pacific. Her comments on international affairs have appeared on various platforms, including The Diplomat, Global Policy, South China Morning Post, the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and the Bertelsmann Foundation's BTI Blog.



### **JOHN IRGENGIORO, 2022**

**Research topic: Competing for Hearts and Minds in Today's Multipolar World Order: a Comparative Analysis of the Soft Power of Russia, China, and the European Union in Central Asia and Mongolia.**

John Irgengioro is a PhD fellow at the Ghent Institute for International and European studies at Ghent University, Belgium. His research investigates the dynamics of soft power attraction as projected by the major foreign actors of Russia, China, and the European Union among youth and young adults in Central Asia and Mongolia. Methodologically, his research utilizes document analyses, online surveys, focus groups, and elite interviews. He previously holds an MA degree in Political Science from Brock University, Canada.



### **JASMIN DALL'AGNOLA, 2022**

#### **Research topic: The Implications of the COVID-19 Crisis for Smart City Technologies in Central Asia**

Dr. Jasmin Dall'Agnola holds a PhD in Politics and International Relations from Oxford Brookes University and a Master in Political Science and Slavic Linguistics from the University of Zurich. Her research interest centers on the relationship between gender, governance and technology in post-Soviet Central Asia. Her postdoc project has been awarded a prestigious two-year, full-time Postdoc.Mobility Fellowship from the Swiss National Science Foundation, to explore the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on smart city technologies in Central Asia. Central Asian governments are known for using smart city innovations to assist in waste management and policing urban centers. However, there is little research to date assessing the extent to which the COVID-19 crisis is fuelling the spread of smart city technologies across Central Asian cities. Nor are there any studies into the wider Central Asian public's attitudes toward them. Jasmin's postdoc project is designed to fill these voids. Methodologically, her study will evaluate survey data, focus group interviews, along with a visual exploration of smart city installations in the Central Asian cities of Almaty, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent.



### **CHOLPON OROZBEKOVA, 2022**

#### **Research Title: State Policies Toward Former ISIS Fighters: Repatriation of Family Members and Bringing Male Fighters to Justice**

Cholpon Orozobekova is a conflict analyst and terrorism expert based in Geneva, Switzerland. She has been researching religious extremism and state policies toward ISIS fighters since 2018. Her book "Global Jihadism and International Peace" was published by Rowman/Hamilton Books in 2022. Cholpon lectures as a guest-speaker at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Member of the European Expert Network on Terrorism. Currently, Cholpon is director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations, a research institute based in Geneva. She holds an Executive Master in International Negotiations and Policy Making from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva, Master of Advanced Studies in International and European Security from the University of Geneva jointly with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and an MA in International Relations/Political Science from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in Geneva. Cholpon worked as a Central Asia Analyst in international media and her analyses were published by the Diplomat Magazine, Jamestown Foundation, Asia Times, IWPR and RFE/RL. Her research focuses on the State Policies Toward Former ISIS Fighters: Repatriation of Family Members and Bringing Male Fighters to Justice.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In 2022 the OSCE Academy continued its short term Research Fellowship programme which aims to offer young researchers the possibility to carry out research for up to 10 months in a variety of disciplines related to the OSCE Academy's scope of work. The following two fellows were selected competitively to conduct their research projects.



**MS. ALIYA ASSUBAYEVA**

**Research topic: Water Security Decision-Making Under Uncertainty in Central Asia**

Dr Aliya Assubayeva recently graduated from the Public Policy doctoral programme at Nazarbayev University (NU). Her research interests include water security, transboundary cooperation, policy change, water policy, and sustainable development. She is an author of several research articles, including a bibliometric analysis of the water security concept, experts' perceptions of water security challenges, and more. Her background is interdisciplinary, as she possesses a BA in Water Resources Management from Kazakh National Agrarian University, M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the Humboldt University of Berlin, and now a PhD in Public Policy from NU. In 2021, she received a Teaching Excellence Award at NU. She was also a member of the Research Council at NU.



**MR. PENGSHAN PAN**

**Research topic: Does Opium Fuel Insurgent Groups? Evidence from Afghanistan**

Pengshan Pan is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. His research field is international political economy and development. His research focuses specifically on foreign direct investment in labour markets and domestic politics in Central and South Asia. He broadly studies the interlinkages between foreign direct investment, the environment and conflict. He is also interested in topics such as labour, foreign aid, industrial policy in post-communist countries, and China's development model in Central and South Asia.

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In addition, the OSCE Academy launched 4 fellowships for junior researchers within the framework of the projects "Pilot Project for Central Asian Center for China Affairs", funded by the Foundation for Open Societies and "Analyzing Chinese Influence in Central Asia" project: Analyzing Chinese Influence in Central Asia" and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. The following three Junior Research Fellows were recruited for a 10-month period to be trained to engage in the critical investigation of the role of the PRC in the region:





**MR. TEMUR UMAROV, RESEARCH FELLOW (FOSI) AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (NED)**

Mr. Temur Umarov is a fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His research is focused on the domestic and foreign policies of the Central Asian republics, as well as trilateral relations between Central Asia, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. A native of Uzbekistan, Umarov possesses degrees in China Studies and International Relations from the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). He holds a Master's degree in World Economics from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. He is also an alumnus of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center's Young Ambassadors and the Carnegie Endowment's Central Asian Futures programmes.



**MS. ADINA MASALBEKOVA (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, NED)**

Adina Masalbekova's research interests include China-Central Asia relations; Socio-political development in post-Communist Central Asia; Religious fundamentalism. Adina holds a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics (Chinese language) from Bishkek State University and a Master's degree in Political Theory from East China Normal University in Shanghai. Previously, she was a Research Assistant at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Australian National University. At the OSCE Academy, Adina's research focuses on evaluating impacts of China's cultural diplomacy via higher education in Kyrgyzstan, through the perspective of employment, understanding of current Chinese politics and contribution to political careers.



**DR. BERIKBOL DUKEYEV (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, NED)**

Dr. Berikbol Dukeyev's research interests include intersections of politics, society, and security. Berikbol obtained his Ph.D. in 2022 from the Australian National University (ANU) and completed his thesis on "The Politics of Memory and History Production of the Soviet Past in post-1991 Kazakhstan." He is the author of the peer-reviewed article "Kazakhstan in World War II: Authors and Publishers of Post-1991 History Textbooks," published by Central Asian Affairs, and an analytical online article "Do Kazakhstanis care about their kin in Xinjiang?" published by Open Democracy. He is a graduate of MA in Politics and Security (Central Asia) from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and of BA in Political Science from Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Previously, he was a Sessional Academic at ANU, Central Asia Fellow at George Washington University, and Research Fellow at the Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the OSCE Academy, Berikbol's research focuses on the representation of China in Kazakh society through examining history textbooks, higher education outputs, and knowledge of history scholars in Kazakhstan.



**MR. MUKHAMMADSODIK DONAEV (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, NED)**

Mukhammadsodik Donaev is a PhD candidate at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. His research interests include Central Asian media space, Media Imperialism and the Influence of Foreign Media in Shaping Public Opinion. Mukhammadsodik holds a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Uzbekistan State University of World Languages and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Zhejiang University. Previously, he was a reporter for an Uzbek media, member of "Zakovat Intellectual Club" and Associate Leader of "Union of Youth" in Tashkent. At the OSCE Academy, Mukhammadsodik's research focuses on examining Uzbekistan-China relations through the lenses of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, commercial cooperation and media engagement.

# PUBLICATIONS

In 2022, the OSCE Academy continued to publish its in house publications including Policy Brief Series, Research Paper Series and Academy Paper Series. The Academy continued its cooperation with Springer Open Access publisher and launched its third edited volume on “Securitization and Democracy in Eurasia: Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region” and a monograph “Glocal Governance How to Govern in the Anthropocene?”, edited and authored by the Academy’s Professor, Dr. Anja Mihr. Additionally, the Academy’s Faculty Members and Post-Doctoral Research Fellows published a number of academic articles in various internationally recognized peer reviewed journals.

## OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS



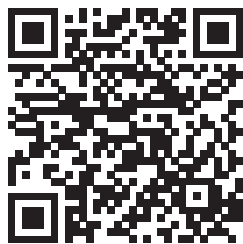
**Policy Brief No. 78: “Key Challenges for Effective European Union Action towards Central Asia”**, Jakob Lempp, Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, and Jan Niklas Rolf, Postdoctoral Researcher at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PolicyBrief78.pdf>

**Policy Brief No. 79: “OSCE and OIC Responses to the Crisis in Xinjiang”**, Joseph Hammond, Research Affiliate of the University of London Royal Holloway, available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PolicyBrief79.pdf>

**Policy Brief No. 80: “Transitional Justice Approach to Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Challenges and Limits of Prosecuting former ISIS Fighters”**, Cholpon Orozobekova, Director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations, available at: <https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PolicyBrief80.pdf>

**Policy Brief No. 81: “Community Resilience in Kyrgyzstan’s Former Uranium Monotowns: Local Voices and Visions”**, Zarina Adambussinova, Postdoctoral Fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation, and Chiara Pierobon, co-editor, at the OSCE Academy, available at: <https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/81.pdf>

**Policy Brief No. 82: “Towards a Digital Transformation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Kyrgyzstan?”**, Elisabeth Miltz, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy and Nurzada Kupueva, Researcher, available at: [https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy\\_brief\\_82.pdf](https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_82.pdf)



## SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS



### **Securitization and Democracy in Eurasia: Studies on Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region**

**Anja Mihr**

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



### **Glocal Governance: How to Govern in the Anthropocene?**

**Anja Mihr**

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



## ACADEMY PAPER SERIES



### **Academy Paper No. 12: "4th Interdisciplinary Conference on Adaptation and Transformation in Central Asia"**

**Aijan Sharshenova,  
Postdoctoral  
Research Fellow  
of the OSCE Academy**

## RESEARCH PAPERS



Research Paper No.6: **“A Belt and Road Decade? Charting the Diachronic and Exegetic Boundaries of China’s Connectivity Discourse”**, Philip Reid, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



Research Paper No.7: **“Kyrgyz Diaspora Online: Understanding Political Participation and Transnational Citizenship”**, Ajar Chekirova, Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



Research Paper No.8: **“Central Asian Water Cooperation after COVID-19: Could the Impact of the Pandemic Challenge the Achievements of the Recent ‘Water Thaw’?”**, Kinga Szalkai, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



Research Paper No.9: **“I Saw It on the Internet!” COVID-19 Narratives across Online Milieux of Uzbek Labour Migrants in Russia”**, Rashid Gabdulhakov, Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



Research Paper No.10: **“Iran’s Aspirations and Prospects in the Emerging Chinese-Indian Nexus in Central Asia and the Caucasus”**, Nima Khorrami, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



Research Paper No.11: **“The Impact of Job-Education Mismatch on Earnings: Empirical Evidence from Kyrgyzstan with Focus on Generation and Gender Difference”**, Burulcha Sulaimanova, Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- Akchurina, V. (2022). **The European Union, Russia and the Post-Soviet Space Shared Neighbourhood, Battleground or Transit Zone on the New Silk Road?** Routledge.
- Akchurina, V. (2022). **Incomplete State-Building in Central Asia: The State as Social Practice.** Palgrave Macmillan.
- Zhirukhina, E. (2022), **Central Asia’s Security Provider and Peacekeeper? Assessing Russia’s Role After the US Withdrawal from Afghanistan and Beyond.** In *Securitization and Democracy in Eurasia: Transformation and Development in the OSCE Region*, pp. 95-108. Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Doolotkeldieva, A. and M. Reeves. (2022), **Escalating Conflict on the Kyrgyz-Tajik Border: Whither the Regional Security Order?** The Diplomat.
- Doolotkeldieva, A. (2022), **Kyrgyzstan’s Revolutionary President Japarov, 2 Years On.** The Diplomat.
- Doolotkeldieva, A. (2022), **Russian Draft Dodgers Find a Mixed Reception in Central Asia.** Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Doolotkeldieva, A. (2022), **Why Russia and China Aren’t Intervening in Central Asia.** Foreign Policy.

# RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

## EU HORIZON 2020 “AGRUMIG”

Since 2019 the OSCE Academy is implementing the AGRUMIG project (‘Leaving something behind’ - Migration governance and agricultural & rural change in ‘home’ communities: comparative experience from Europe, Asia, and Africa) within the Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Framework Programme of the EU. AGRUMIG aims to engage in a comparative analysis of migration governance of seven countries to analyze the economic, institutional, cultural, and agroecological factors of migration. It will go on to identify the range of government interventions that can harness migration to stimulate sustainable and gender-equitable growth in agriculture and reduce the distress associated with migration. Partners of the AGRUMIG project in Kyrgyzstan include the University of Central Asia (UCA) and Polis Asia. The Academy plays a key role in involving stakeholders in migration-related policy dialogues and disseminating research results. In 2022, after one year of extension due to the pandemic, the project was successfully finalized.

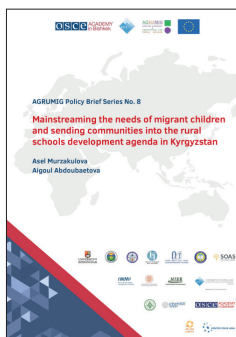


On **2 September, 2022** in cooperation with Polis Asia and the University of Central Asia, the OSCE Academy organized a policy dialogue within the Framework of its AGRUMIG Project (“Leaving something behind” – Migration governance and agricultural and rural change in “home” communities: Comparative experience from Europe, Asia, and Africa), funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020. The event was attended by over 40 representatives of civil society, government, international organizations and the AGRUMIG international team members, who visited Kyrgyzstan for a biannual project meeting.

On **16 November 2022**, the OSCE Academy’s Expert Consultant for the AGRUMIG project, funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the EU, Ms. Tatiana Zlobina presented her final action plan recommendations for migration governance in Kyrgyzstan, for the webinar “Migration Governance Action Plans”, organized by the project consortium.

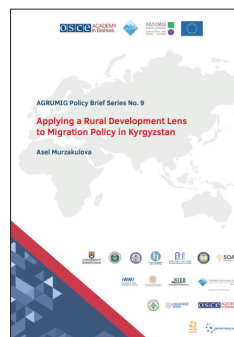
On **6-7 December, 2022**, the OSCE Academy participated in the final closing meeting of the AGRUMIG project, (“Leaving something behind” – Migration governance and agricultural and rural change in “home” communities: Comparative experience from Europe, Asia, and Africa), funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020. The final project meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium. Ms. Aigoul Abdoubaetova, head of the Research and Training Unit participated in the meeting online and presented “Action plan on migration governance policy in Kyrgyzstan”, which was developed within the framework of this project. The final meeting was attended by all project partners and various international policy stakeholders.

## PUBLICATIONS



### **Mainstreaming the needs of migrant children and sending communities into the rural schools development agenda in Kyrgyzstan**

**Dr Asel Murzakulova,  
Senior Research Fellow of the UCA  
and Aigoul Abdoubaetova,  
Head of the Research and Training Unit  
at the OSCE Academy**



### **Applying a Rural Development Lens to Migration Policy in Kyrgyzstan**

**Dr Asel Murzakulova,  
Senior Research Fellow of the UCA**



**Blog: "Migration Governance in Kyrgyzstan: uncertainties and perspectives for the agricultural sector and rural development".  
November 14, 2022, by Abdoubaetova, A.**

## SAFETY OF FEMALE JOURNALISTS ONLINE (SOFJO) IN CENTRAL ASIA



The OSCE Academy was an Implementing Partner for the “Safety of Female Journalists Online (SOFJO) in Central Asia” project run by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM). Within the framework of this project, the OSCE Academy conducted the study among women journalists in the countries of Central Asia. The aim of the study was to increase knowledge about the consequences of online harassment and attacks against women journalists, as well as to support key stakeholders in the development of policies, procedures and measures to improve the online safety of women journalists.

The preliminary results were presented at the workshop on 22 July 2022. During this workshop Paloma Madrigal, Project Officer, OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, introduced the SOFJO Project and underlined that the project aims to develop policies, procedures, and measures to build a safe space for

women journalists online. Dr. Elira Turdubaeva, Project Manager, OSCE Academy, provided the preliminary results of the study, that was conducted in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Female journalists from the countries mentioned participated in the event and shared their own experiences of being attacked online, as well as offered recommendations for developing new approaches to combat discrimination against women journalists on social media.

The participants of the workshop also had an opportunity to meet online Dr. Julie Posetti, Deputy Vice President, Global Research, and listen to a presentation about the global trends and international experience. Dr. Posetti also greatly contributed to the research by designing the survey’s questions and together with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, adapting them to the Central Asian context.



# LIBRARY



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

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

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

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

## OUR ALUMNI

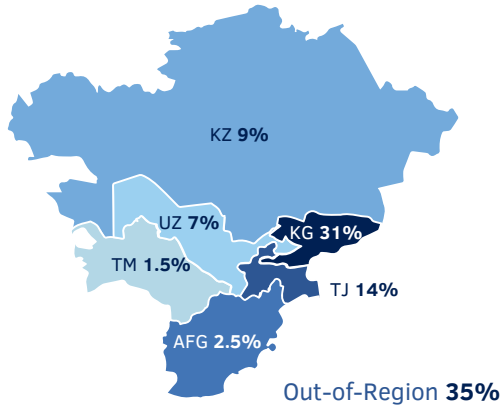


The year of 2022 was marked by several important events and initiatives for the Alumni Community. The 5th Alumni Reunion, the largest event of the last three years, the launch of the International Junior Professional Programme, continuation of implementation of already well-established exclusive initiatives, created a great number of opportunities for our graduates. We gladly share the overview of all activities in this Report whereas details can be found in our annual Alumni Journal SalamAlum.

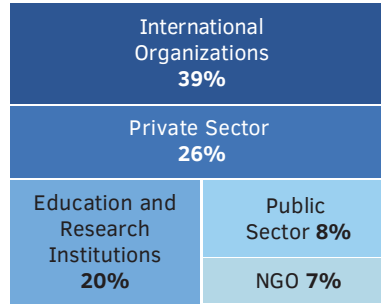
In the beginning of 2023 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network welcomed 25 newly graduated members to its ranks, totaling the overall number of our alumni to 619 (321 females and 298 males).

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

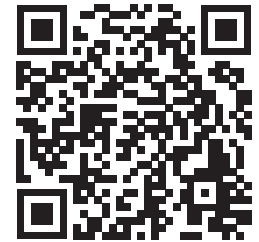
## Geography



## Employment by Sectors



SalamAlum  
Issue 12/2022



## Employment



Our latest Survey<sup>1</sup> revealed that 73% per cent of the Alumni, originally come from Central Asian countries and Mongolia, live and work in the wider Central Asia region.

30 per cent of employed alumni hold senior positions, such as Directors, CEOs, Heads of departments, Managers and Officers working for the Central Asian governments, international organizations, education institutions and NGOs. 23 alumni who chose an academic path, are currently doing their PhD.

<sup>1</sup> The Alumni Survey 2023 held in March 2023 and includes the information about 573 alumni.

# ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

## 5th ALUMNI REUNION DEDICATED TO THE 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF THE OSCE ACADEMY



On **3-4 September** we celebrated our 20th Anniversary and welcomed back over 100 graduates of the MA Programmes to the 5th Alumni Reunion. Along with the alumni, current students, lecturers, staff, representatives of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Diplomatic Corps based in Bishkek, and heads of several universities and partner institutions attended various activities conducted within the Celebration and the Alumni Reunion.

Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy; Amb. Alexey Rogov, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, Mr. Rasul Abazbek uulu, Deputy Minis-

ter of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic; Ms. Tuula Yrjölä, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat; Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, Senior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), opened the event.

Dr. Wolters expressed his gratitude to the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Government, and the many donors, especially NUPI and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, the Director of the Academy provided an overview of the activities of the OSCE Academy over the past 20 years and plans to

expand its MA Programmes, as well as the establishment of a new PhD Programme.

Following the opening speeches, the former management of the OSCE Academy discussed the development of the Academy throughout the years in a panel session “OSCE Academy: 20 years of Enlightenment”. Dr. Tim Erkenhans, Dr. Maxim Ryabkov, Dr. Pal Dunay, and Ms. Violetta Yan shared the main challenges the Academy faced and the results it achieved during their leadership.

The opening part of the event also included a panel discussion on “Central Asia and 30 years of Change: Towards new Norms and Values” by experts from Central Asian countries. Prof. Dr. Alisher Faizullaev, Independent Scholar and Author, Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva, Associate Professor of Law at AUCA, Mr. Daniyar Kosnazarov, Head of Marketing and Communications at KPMG in Central Asia, and Dr. Diana Digol, Political Officer UNOCT Uzbekistan, delivered a review of 30 years of Independence of the Central Asian countries.

The next session was dedicated to the success stories of graduates of the OSCE Academy. Anahita Say-

midinova '2012, Freelance Researcher and Journalist, Tajikistan; Aaron Joshua Pinto '2017, Government of Ontario's Trade and Investment Representative, Canada; Galina Khegay '2016, PhD Student, London School of Economics and Political Science, Uzbekistan; Rustam Muhamedov '2019, Independent Researcher, Turkmenistan, and Ivana Vuchkova '2016, Programme Coordinator, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Skopje Office, North Macedonia conveyed inspiring stories of realizing their accomplishments and the role of the OSCE Academy in this journey.

A formal reception concluded the first day of the Reunion dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Academy.

During the second day of the Alumni Reunion graduates, students and the staff of the OSCE Academy traveled to the mountains for teambuilding activities and networking. During the teambuilding activities at eco-resort Kara-Bulak, graduates had a chance to connect with each other, extend their network and thus enhancing the relevance of the Academy's Alumni Network.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL “HUMAN SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SECURITIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS”**

On **25 July** the six-day International Summer School on “Human Security in Central Asia: Sustainable Development, Securitization and Human Rights,” organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek with support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice was launched at the picturesque Issyk-Kul lake, Kyrgyzstan. The participants of the school were 20 graduates and students of the OSCE Academy coming from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, who were thriving to improve their knowledge in human security and human rights in the Central Asian region.



## ALUMNI CHAPTER MEETINGS IN ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN AND IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

In spring 2022 the Academy visited and brought together our graduates in two cities of the region, Astana and Tashkent. The Academy decided to combine organizing useful and pleasant round table meetings led by experts' talks along with dinners for graduates. On 4 April we held the first alumni chapter meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan. The round table was attended by a special guest, Kamila Kovyazina, a Sociology Researcher with 10-year experience of working for a number of research institutes in Kazakhstan. The meeting has also brought together alumni with the Academy staff members: Nazira Abakirova and Azhar Kaltarbekova. During the meeting, graduates from different years, as well as in different academic and professional careers had a chance to learn more about each other and reminisce about the good old days at the Academy.



On 5 April, an Alumni Chapter meeting was held for alumni residing in Tashkent. Alumni had an opportunity to meet Dr. John Jinkner, Director of Operations, and Dr. Thomas Kleiner, Director of International Relations, from Webster University in Tashkent – the Academy's Partner in Uzbekistan. Dr. Jinkner and Dr. Kleiner shared their professional backgrounds with graduates, at the same time providing hints on how to achieve the goals and succeed, as well as the importance of cooperation and dialogue. During meeting with the Professors also discussed with alumni the prospects for the development of the Central Asian region and the importance of higher education in this process. The meeting was followed by a networking dinner, where graduates of different years and the Academy's staff members, Victoria Orazova and Jazgul Bolotkyzy had a chance to get to know each other and the invited guests and discuss ideas for future collaboration.



## AFGHAN ALUMNI SUPPORT

Following the August 2021 events in Afghanistan, the OSCE Academy started searching for opportunities to support its students and alumni from Afghanistan. Several of our partner institutions have established special fellowships to support Afghan scholars. The Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and the George Eckert Institute in Leibniz were able to support three alumni, who now continue building their academic careers in a safe environment:

### Rajab Taieb

Research Associate and PhD student at GEI

*“I joined the Leibniz Institute for Educational Media | Georg Eckert Institute (GEI) in June 2022 as a Research Associate and a PhD student. I work in a research project on gender discourse in Afghanistan. The specific concentration of the project is on school textbooks and novels published between 2001 and 2021. The project is an attempt to understand how gender is constructed in these two types of media and what are the swayable limits in the gender discourse in Afghanistan.”*



### Abdul Rahman Yasa

Student fellow at Ruhr Universität Bochum

*“I cannot think of how I have ended up in Germany, but the experience was excellent as I was directly hosted by the Global Campus of Human Rights at Ruhr Universität Bochum (RUB). Wonderful was the scholarship provided me with great opportunity to not only well-integrate into the society, but also learn a new language and make new friends. Important of all, I joined and took classes in international humanitarian actions provided by the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict of RUB in Germany where I built a network with amazing like-minded folks. Further was the chance to attend advocacy programs, including the UN Human Rights Council's 51st session where I managed to advocate for the fundamental rights of millions of Afghans being violated in Afghanistan. Of course, these all would not have been possible without sincere support of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the Global Campus of Human Rights and RUB. I would also like to express my appreciation to Victoria Orazova from the OSCE Academy for her kind messages and support.”*



## TRAININGS FOR ALUMNI

### Development Policy in Practice Workshop at the OSCE Academy

On **3-5 June** the “Development Policy in Practice: Major Global Trends and their Relevance for Central Asia” workshop has been organized for students and graduates of the OSCE Academy and AUCA. The event was initiated and led by David Rinnert, Development Counsellor, British Embassy Bishkek / Regional Deputy Development Director. The workshop covered the latest global evidence and practice across key issues in international development, including Governance, Economic Development, Peace Building, and Climate Change. Participants had an opportunity to discuss the “why”, “what” and “how” of development policy in practice with a Trainer, bringing both academic and practical experience, as well as to reflect on how global trends are applied in programmes and policy in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia more broadly. Thus, the workshop equipped students and graduates with insights into how the global thinking on development policy and programming is evolving, what this means for Kyrgyzstan and the wider region, and how we can bring about change through designing and implementing effective policies and programmes.



### Alumni and Students Share their Knowledge in Good Governance and Security Sector Reform



On **29-30 October**, the OSCE Academy hosted a workshop on “Good Governance and Security Sector Reform in Central Asia,” with the participation of 20 students and alumni of the OSCE Academy from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The workshop was organized and led within the framework of the Extra-Budgetary Project “Support, capacity-building and awareness-raising for Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) within the OSCE: Phase II” of the OSCE Secretariat Conflict Prevention Centre’s Operations Service and with the support of the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development, and the

OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The workshop was opened by Dr. Indira Satarkulova, Deputy Director of the Academy.

Over two days, together with five experts - Professor Laura Cleary, Director of Oakwood International Security, Fallckolm Cuenca, Senior Desk officer at the FBA, Fanny Wessner, Desk Officer for Security Sector Reform at FBA, Jovan Pavlovic, from the Security Cooperation Department of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, and Francesco Mapelli, Project Assistant within the SSG/R Team of the OSCE CPC - participants explored the topic of Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R), delved into the ways the OSCE promotes effective security sector governance in line with OSCE principles and commitments, and examined security sector governance in Central Asia.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Every year the OSCE Academy compiles its sources with marvelous success stories of its graduates. This time Aaron Joshua Pinto, alumnus of 2017 of the MA Programme in Politics and Security from Canada, shares his success career story. Aaron was able to pave a successful path in the public sector.

*“My name is Aaron Pinto from Canada – a 2017 graduate of the Politics and Security programme of the OSCE Academy. Now, yes, me – a random, if not the only Canadian, who decided to study thousands of miles away from the comforts of home at the OSCE Academy here in Central Asia. I am a person primarily driven by curiosity, who decided to take a chance on this region.*

*[...] I’ve been appointed a Canadian diplomat being able to serve my country as the Government of Ontario’s official Trade and Investment Representative in New York and the Northeastern United States. I practice commercial diplomacy every day; advising and assisting businesses to set up shop in Canada, support Canadian companies develop business networks in the US, and encourage the commercialization of cross-border research and development.*

*[...] The convening power of the Academy – to bring select people together, and push them collectively even further to be able to think differently about the world – because the world needs different thinking – this is the true power of this institution.”*

Please, read the full story of Aaron in our ‘Salam Alum’ Annual Alumni Magazine available at:



As we keep receiving more and more outstanding news of our alumni's accomplishments, we would like to share more stories below:



### **Alexandra Taskaeva**

Further, our newest graduate, Alexandra Taskaeva, Politics and Security '2021, will talk about how, after graduating from the Academy, she continued to work in leading organizations around the world and worked her way up to a job in Kuwait she is passionate about:

*“Without the OSCE Academy, I don't think I would have had the skills and knowledge to be successful as this experience is directly connected to the achievements I have got now. I think everything goes back to where that foundation came from that shaped me into who I am now. Also, I am thankful for the people I have met there as some of them taught me to be strong and never give up and others taught me to be kind and sympathetic toward others. I had the chance to help some of my classmates with job opportunities and pieces of advice when I had the chance to. In addition, some of my classmates helped me a lot in different aspects. I want to wish all the students to be helpful to each other and never give up. Consider all the opportunities that are provided to you as you never know where you are going to end up after your graduation. Good luck and enjoy the OSCE Academy!”*



### **Ivana Vuchkova**

And now our alumna from North Macedonia, Ivana Vuchkova, Politics and Security '2016, who has immense experience working in international developmental organizations, will speak about the importance of the OSCE Academy and the OSCE as a whole:

*“We see the OSCE Academy not only as a unique educational project of the OSCE, but as a catalyst of change in achieving sustainable development and ensuring lasting peace and security that should follow suit in many other OSCE regions.*

*Our message is one: keep the OSCE alive! Cheers to 20 years OSCE Academy and to many more years to come!”*

Please, read the full stories of Alexandra and Ivana in our 'Salam Alum' Annual Alumni Magazine available at:



# ALUMNI INITIATIVES

In this part we want to share the stories of two of our alumni who have contributed so much to the development and well-being of others:



## **Zarlasht Sarmast** **Alumna of 2021, MA Programme in Politics and Security**

Being a young woman from Afghanistan herself, Zarlasht did a great job helping students from Afghanistan during the political regime change events in Afghanistan last year. Now Zarlasht is still doing her volunteering activities, working for the psycho-emotional well-being of students from Afghanistan, setting up two student clubs:

*“During the 2021 evacuations of AUCA, AUAF and OSCE students, I was one of the key members in the evacuation process. I was in touch with every single student in Afghanistan making sure they have all the required documents they needed to leave Afghanistan and make it safely to Bishkek. This is while I was working a full-time job as a coordinator for the Open Society University Network and had to write my MA thesis which I also managed to successfully submit.”*



## **Shamsuddin Amin** **Alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security**

Shamsuddin Amin is alumnus of 2020, MA Programme in Politics and Security. Shamsuddin developed an impeccable agricultural and farming project that helped many of his fellow countrymen:

*“I served as regional project manager with the Future Generations Afghanistan in Eastern Afghanistan. In there, I championed for and successfully received funding for projects that aimed to economically uplift and empower women, refugees, and farming communities in rural Laghman and Kunar provinces.”*

Please, read the full stories of Zarlasht and Shamsuddin at the Academy's website:



*...To conclude, from May through the end of August 2021, we were able to establish, register and unionize 18 farmer's unions and 18 women economic empowerment groups under these unions that integrated 4,600 households across Laghman and Kunar Provinces, with all its members having been formally registered with the government, their biometrics taken and have received initial trainings on unions, microbusiness management, market linkage and pre-harvest agriculture technical trainings. The project's initial phase ended in May 2022, and having assessed its success, the project was renewed with additional funding of over USD 500,000 to be implemented across four other districts in the two provinces.”*

# ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

## JUNIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS PROGRAMME

In support of the professional integration of alumni in the public service, starting from 2010 the OSCE Academy has run a Junior Public Officers' (JPO) Programme. The JPO Programme provides an opportunity to the OSCE Academy's graduates from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to intern at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and other State Agencies of the country of their respective citizenship. In 2022, based on positive experience, the Academy extended agreements with partner state agencies in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

**In 2022 overall three alumni conducted their internships at State Agencies of Kyrgyzstan:**

- Investment Promotion and Protection Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic **1**
- Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic **2**



**Kunduz Tashmatova**, alumna of 2020 (Kyrgyzstan):

*“The JPO programme was no doubt an excellent opportunity for me to strengthen my professional background in public service and administration and a great platform to apply in practice the knowledge of economic governance and development I received at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. In particular, while interning at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic, I learned how macroeconomic analysis is conducted at the national level. Moreover, the knowledge of WTO law acquired during the IRTA course was especially helpful in drafting Lists of Commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic to the draft Agreement on Free Trade in Services, Establishment, Operation and Investment of the CIS member States. Moreover, I could build professional networks with the Ministry’s representatives, where my internship supervisor Mr. N. Shamshiev, an Honored Economist of the Kyrgyz Republic, advised me to continue my professional career at the Ministry. Overall, the JPO programme enabled me to think globally about my future professional career and identify its next direction for growth.”*



**Zhumagul Akunova**, alumna of 2021 (Kyrgyzstan):

*“It is my first time to work in a governmental organization. I do consider JPO as one of the most interesting cases for governmental organization experience. First, it is about the tight deadlines for the completion of duties, another is a lot of tasks from the various specters of the economy. I was assigned to the Sector of evaluation activities under the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic. However, I was also involved in the activities of Financial Market and Exchange Platforms Sector. This involved me in the activities of the two sectors of the economy. The most interesting experience for me was to promote the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic in order to implement the provisions of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On Auditing Activities”. This activity helped me to fully understand how legislation is adopted in the Kyrgyz Republic and the full chain of the process. Another thing is the familiarity of this process showed me to work with official documentation.”*

*I do appreciate this opportunity to be involved in the Regulator’s work. Such an opportunity gave me full understanding of the governmental organization. Besides of that I got to know many nice people, who helped me to enhance my professionalism.”*



**Daniar Ashirov**, alumnus of 2021 (Kyrgyzstan):

*“Overall, the Junior Officer Program was beneficial to me not only professionally, but also personally, as I was able to improve my “soft” and “hard” skills. For example, it was a great experience to understand the system and the workings of government institutions. In addition, writing analytical papers gave me the opportunity to use the theoretical knowledge of economics in practice. After all, there are business projects, and an accurate assessment of the effectiveness of these business projects in the region is required. It was possible to learn evaluating projects from a different approach.*

*By carrying out different tasks, it was possible to learn absolutely new things. I am sure that I will try to use in my career all the experience that I got during the JPO. The first element I would like to highlight is the knowledge of writing formal letters. At the beginning it was difficult, and it took a long time. However, I was able to master writing formal documents. I am well aware that writing official letters is always necessary. I hope that I will use it in my next jobs. Other important things are preparing analytical papers and writing protocols. I think that analytical writing and preparing meeting protocols are known to be necessary in every workplace.”*

## **JUNIOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**

“Teach for Central Asia” aims to target regional universities and send Academy graduates to teach selected disciplines (relevant to the Academy’s curriculum, e.g. Academic Writing, International Relations, Economics etc.). The programme is intended to further grow and foster the Academy’s intellectual input into the region, and empower the Academy’s alumni network by giving the opportunity to become the agents of change in their communities.

Four OSCE Academy alumni have successfully completed the JTF Programme in Fall 2022. Some of them shared their experience:



**Aliaskar Adylov** is alumnus of 2018, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kyrgyzstan. Aliaskar is teaching the ‘Green Economy’ course at the International University of Kyrgyzstan.

*“I am grateful to the OSCE Academy for the opportunity to not only try teaching for the first time but also to test the course under development with actual students who can also provide valuable feedback to further improve the course.”*



**Tumentsetseg Yadamsuren** is alumna of 2021, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Mongolia. Tumentsetseg is teaching the 'Principles of Macroeconomics' course at the International University of Ulaanbaatar.

*"Our OSCE Academy offers its alumni a variety of supports, which is a benefit not seen often in Mongolia, or offered by other foreign institutes. With the aid of the JTF programme, I believe we could inform and encourage our students more about the possibility of studying abroad and explore further opportunities, especially those who are eager to pursue and expand their academic career but not able due to financial troubles."*



**Diydor Berdiklichev** is alumnus of 2021, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Uzbekistan. Diydor is teaching the 'Introduction to Econometrics' course at Tashkent State University of Economics.

*"Teaching is challenging, but rewarding. Einstein said, "If you can't explain it simply, you do not understand it well enough." Teaching econometrics made me learn more and sometimes eventually understand certain concepts deeper while preparing for the class. Moreover, being in the classroom not as a student is really hard work, for which I want to express my gratitude to all my teachers, especially professors of the OSCE AiB."*

## INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER PROGRAMME

In 2022 the OSCE Academy launched its International Junior Professional Officer Programme for alumni who wish to build up their career in International Organizations. Under the IJPO graduates can undergo a three-month internship at the OSCE (Secretariat or one of the Field Missions) or find their own placement at an international organization/institution worldwide. This year, the programme supported graduates from Afghanistan due to the recent political events that happened in the country. Thus, the Academy selected five graduates to sponsor their internships: Fardin Jamal (Politics and Security '21), Masiam Amiry (Economic Governance and Development '21), Fatima Framarz (Politics and Security '19) Abdul Matin Hakimyar (Politics and Security '21), and Amrullah Haleemi (Economic Governance and Development '21). Below you can read some of the IJPO impressions of our alumni:



**Fardin Jamal** completed his internship at CRISP – the Crisis Simulation for Peace e. V, Berlin, Germany.

*"The internship has been advantageous to me in every intellectual, professional, and academic dimension. I obtained a deeper grasp of a wide range of themes that are all relevant and significant to the modern day, as well as real-life challenges connected to climate change, human rights, democracy, and peace in diverse civilizations around the world."*



**Maisam Amiry** completed his internship at BK Dairy Farms, Islambad, Pakistan

*“I was able to learn a lot while participating in the IJPO program, not only from the job I performed but also from my supervisor’s instructions and expertise. I would advise my fellow OSCE alums to look for employment with an international organization; even if it is a very small job, you will gain a lot of knowledge from it. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the OSCE Academy for giving its graduates this chance.”*



**Fatima Framarz** completed her internship at the University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

*“The experience I have been receiving during this programme will enrich my capacity to contribute as an academic researcher in the future as I work in a friendly and flexible environment under the supervision of highly experienced academics, learn new research skills, and get connected to academics and scholars. I owe all this to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.”*

## ALUMNI TRAVEL GRANT

The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with the support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. This year three OSCE Academy alumni received Alumni Travel Grants to fulfil their academic and professional accomplishments.



**Gulnoza Akhmedova** is alumna of 2019, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan.

*“I am grateful to the OSCE Academy for providing such opportunities to its Alumni through the travel grant. This year I was able to participate in the CAPPS program (Central Asian Program on Pedagogies of Solidarity) on “Families and traditions in transition” organized jointly by the American University in Central Asia and Boston University between August 8 and 21, 2022.”*



**Kodir Kuliev** is alumnus of 2014, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Uzbekistan.

*“Providing someone an opportunity for career growth is an honored, generous, and applauding deed. I once again received such an opportunity from the OSCE Academy. I was privileged to secure the OSCE Academy Travel Grant to do professional training in Business, Human Rights, and Anti-Corruption at my other alma mater - the UN-backed International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA).”*



**Diydor Berdiklichev** is alumnus of 2021, MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Uzbekistan.

*“Economics is driven by data. Today data is everywhere, but acquiring, analyzing and understanding them to solve socio-economic issues is not an easy task. I attended an online course from MIT Micromasters in Data Economics Development Program in “Data Analysis for Social Scientists” with the help of an Alumni Travel Grant by OSCE AiB.”*

## ONE-YEAR-STAY AT NUPI FELLOWSHIP

In 2022 two more alumni had a chance to participate in the fellowship offered by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI): **Tinatin Osmonova**, alumna of 2020 of the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development and **Ismoil Sadullozoda**, alumnus of 2020 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 continue to study/carry out research by deepening their practical and academic experience. Here Tinatin and Ismoil shortly describe their experience at NUPI.



**Tinatin Osmonova:** *“The Fellowship at NUPI is considered as a one-year add-on to the MA from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. It appears, however, that few OSCE students and alumni are informed about the fabulous opportunities this fellowship grants. As opposed to the education process at the Academy which logically is focused more on theoretical and descriptive knowledge, the NUPI fellowship is almost entirely oriented on the acquisition of practical skills such as digital literacy, problem-solving, and critical thinking that many employers would ask about at job interviews. In addition, working at NUPI presents a wonderful opportunity to dive into a multi-cultural*

*work environment, that too in Scandinavia, an experience that will look good not only on paper but also in daily life interactions. And, finally, the lucrative opportunity to get published in leading peer-reviewed journals is a wonderful start-up for one’s academic career with the potential of admission to the world’s leading universities--if one plays one’s cards right. All in all, life in Norway itself is a very pleasant experience, it is reinforced by close contact with top-notch scholars at NUPI and other organizations in Oslo. Without a degree of hesitation, we recommend applying for the NUPI Fellowship for anyone authentically interested in the post-modern world of research and academia.”*

**Ismoil Sadullozoda:** *“NUPI proved a fascinating opportunity to be part of the genuine research process and enhance academic skills and knowledge by participating in workshops, conferences, and seminars where influential scholars and politicians are invited regularly. I participated in several international NUPI conferences with heads of state, politicians, and leading experts in academia. Working with first-class researchers and learning from the assistance in substantial research work gives an important experience crucial for future career both in academia and industry.”*



## 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. *In 2022 Sergey Marinin, alumnus of 2014, was accepted to enhance his knowledge in security studies.*



*“GCSP is giving me more understanding of how intricate various international and European security domains are. We are immersed in a constant debate about the current global trends and looking into the future, too, having access to top security professionals in Geneva and beyond. The nature of the course is intense yet very practically oriented, so we, as graduates, could go out in the world and change it on our levels of reach. I suggest those who are now considering applying to this programme gain more practical experience first to be ready to benefit the most from the curriculum and the networking the GCSP provides.*”

*I am forever thankful to the OSCE Academy for all the constant support it has given me over the eight years since I graduated. Having been its student and a staff member, and a beneficiary of all the fantastic opportunities the Academy provides us, I am indebted to the institution’s management and extremely grateful to the donors, NUPI and the OSCE participating states, for sustaining this forward-thinking institution of higher learning.”*

## THE CENTRAL ASIA-AZERBAIJAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (CAAFP)

In 2021 The George Washington University – Elliott School of International Affairs’ Central Asia Program (CAP) opened its Central Asia and Azerbaijan Fellowship to alumni from the OSCE Academy, as part of a new partnership between CAP and the Academy. The Central Asia-Azerbaijan Fellowship Program (CAAFP) is intended for young professionals – scholars, government officials, public policy experts, and social activists – who seek to enhance their research and analytical skills and become public policy leaders. The fellowship is available to individuals from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. Last year, eight



of our alumni participated in a tailor-made programme that has been adapted to the pandemic conditions. They follow a weekly online class, Theories of Social Sciences applied to Central Asian Studies, that present the main social science theories applied to today's Central Asia. As the most successful fellow, Albina Yun, received an opportunity to spend one month at the George Washington University – Elliott School of International Affairs starting in June 2022. Albina is alumna of 2015, MA Programme in Politics and Security from Uzbekistan.

*“Within the two months the CAP fellowship provided me with a unique opportunity to interact and learn from the most well-known scholars, and most importantly to network with local Central Asian researchers and activists. In addition, through the fellowship, I seized the opportunity for publishing and wrote for three different platforms – Voices on Central Asia, Central Asian Analytical Network, and the CAP online series. Furthermore, via the CAP, with the financial support of the OSCE Academy, I received the privilege to visit the George Washington University in Washington, DC, USA.”*

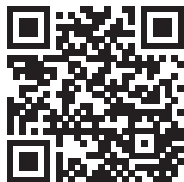
## PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

In 2022 a number of the OSCE Academy activities and projects have been implemented jointly with the Academy's Partners. This part of the Report will introduce new Partnerships that were established throughout 2022 and those that have been prolonged, to be able to continue fruitful collaboration. To support its graduates and provide them with the opportunities to undergo the internships and fellowships, the OSCE Academy renewed the Agreements with the **International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the National Agency for Investments under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic**. For internships of enrolled Masters' students several new placements became available under the signed Memoranda of Cooperation with Centralasiengrupperna in Sweden and the European Neighbourhood Council in Belgium.

Among the new Partners there are four Universities: **Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University** in Kyrgyzstan, **Ibn Hal-dun University** in Turkey, **University of Trento** in Italy, and **Suleyman Demirel University** in Kazakhstan. These partnerships would allow to implement expert's exchanges, organization of joint academic and research initiatives as well as apply to for Erasmus+ mobilities. Two more Memoranda of Cooperation were signed with the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC) in Kyrgyzstan and the Civil Initiative Support Centre in Kazakhstan to promote joint activities related to the capacity building and trainings and dialogue.

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

<http://osce-academy.net/en/international/partners/>





Since 2019 the OSCE Academy is engaged in Erasmus+ KA1 (Learning Mobility for Individuals) and in the 2022-2023 call the Academy established new partnerships and was included in several applications.

Mobility applications:

- Charles University, Czech Republic
- Ibn Haldun University, Turkiye
- University of Salzburg, Austria
- University of Siena, Italy
- Vrije University in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Turkiye

Erasmus Mundus Programmes:

- CAGHAN - Central Asia - Governance, History, Anthropology and Neighborhoods and the end result would be an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters on Central (Eur) Asian Studies

Erasmus University Alliance (as an Associate Partner)

- European university alliance “European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies”

This year the OSCE Academy welcomed its 3rd Erasmus + exchange student Juho Kääriäinen. MA student in Contemporary Asian and Middle East Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia:



*“I spent several memorable months at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and in Kyrgyzstan in general during the summer of 2022. Both the country and the academy staff treated me very kindly. Kyrgyzstan is becoming the place to learn Russian language, ride horses and to study a more secular form of Islam. I wish to extend special gratitude for the academy staff, who spared no effort in helping foreign students out and made themselves available for academic discussions outside office hours. During my time in the country, I forged relationships with the local staff and academia. I hope these relationships will last for a long time.”*

## **JEAN MONNET MODULE “EUROPEAN CLIMATE POLICY”**

One more milestone of this year is the Jean Monnet Module grant received for a three-year project on European Climate Policy to be run by Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, and supported by Dr. Clara Portela, Visiting Faculty from the University of Valencia in Spain. The project aims to develop a module on European Climate Politics at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. It brings advanced European expertise to Central Asia, where the impact of climate change is significant and where national governments have initiated joint regional action to address it. The aim of the newly developed module is to advance European regional climate policy expertise to inform local stakeholders and policy-making. It will do this through the core course, divided into two parts, and with a series of activities aimed at the wider policy community. The project will foster dialogue between different stakeholders through workshops, including policymakers, NGOs, and academia. This knowledge-sharing will support the improvement of regional climate policies, the development of new educational programs, research initiatives and the raising of public awareness. The project will use the long-standing network of the OSCE Academy within Central Asia and beyond. This is the first Jean Monnet Module grant received in Kyrgyzstan!

## NOTABLE VISITORS AND GUEST LECTURERS



On 7 March 2022, **Mr. Maris Domins**, Colonel, Regional Manager of the Border Management Programme in Central Asia, Phase 10 (BOMCA10), delivered the lecture 'Effective border and migration management as important aspect for public safety and regional development in Central Asia' at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. This lecture was a part of the course 'Contemporary Security Issues' taught by Dr Elena Zhirukhina within the MA Programme in Politics and Security.



On 14 March 2022, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek e-hosted the guest lecture by **Mr. Odhran McCarthy**, Programme Officer at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) titled 'Threats, opportunities and challenges of AI counter terrorism.' This lecture was a part of the course 'Contemporary Security Issues' taught by Dr Elena Zhirukhina within the MA Programme in Politics and Security.



On 23 March 2022, the OSCE Academy hosted the lecture 'Challenges to preventing and countering VERLT in Central Asia and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek's relevant projects and activities' delivered by **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), and **Mr. Nicholas Mazik**, Head of the Human Dimension Department. This lecture was a part of the course 'Contemporary Security Issues' taught by Dr Elena Zhirukhina within the MA Programme in Politics and Security.



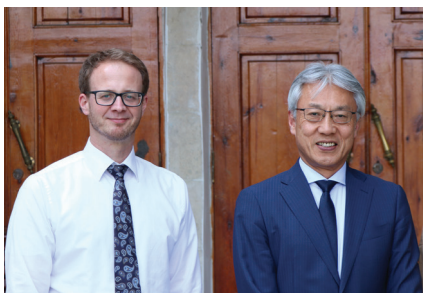
On 5 April 2022, the OSCE Academy organized an Alumni Chapter meeting for alumni residing in Tashkent. Alumni had an opportunity to meet **Dr. John Jinkner**, Director of Operations, and **Dr. Thomas Kleiner**, Director of International Relations, from Webster University in Tashkent - the Academy's Partner in Uzbekistan. Dr. Jinkner and Dr. Kleiner shared with graduates their professional backgrounds, at the same time providing hints on how to achieve the goals and succeed, as well as the importance of cooperation and dialogue.



On 8 April 2022, the OSCE Academy welcomed a Delegation from the Riga Graduate School of Law (RGSL), Latvia, a partner institution of the OSCE Academy. The Director of RGSL, **Ieva Rācenāja**; Head of the International Department, **Krišs Ēlerts**; International Project Manager, **Paula Šimkuse**; and the Second Secretary of the Latvian Embassy in Nur-Sultan, **Renars Vilde**, met the OSCE Academy Management to discuss the plans and the areas for cooperation, and to conduct a mini-reunion of its graduates at the OSCE Academy.



On 11 April 2022, a Delegation from the Swedish Parliament and representatives of the UNDP visited the OSCE Academy for an introductory visit within the framework of their working trip to Kyrgyzstan. The Delegation consisted of Ms. Margareta Cederfeldt, Moderate Party, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and OSCE PA President; Ms. Gudrun Brunegård, Christian Democratic Party, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Party ODA Policy Spokesperson; Ms. Janine Alm Ericson, Green Party, Former State Secretary of International Development Cooperation, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Ms. Yasmine Posio, Left Party, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Henrik Fredborg Larsen, Head of UNDP Nordic Liaison Office; Ms. Caroline Åberg, Head of Office, UNDP Sweden Office; Mr. Albert Askeljung, Policy Specialist, UNDP Sweden Office; Ms. Monica Rijal, Deputy Resident representative; and Ms. Erkina Urazbaeva, Team Leader.



On 21 April 2022, the OSCE Academy welcomed the Ambassador of Japan to the Kyrgyz Republic, **H.E. Shigeki Maeda**. Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy, introduced into the activities and projects of the Academy and shortly presented plans for the future to expand educational and research programmes.



On 22 April 2022, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **Pia Kauma**, Vice-President of the Assembly at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA), Special Representative on Central Asia Engagement for an introductory visit and a meeting with MA students. Ms. Kauma was accompanied by **Farimah Daftary**, Senior Advisor, and **Manuchekhr Salokhudinov**, Programme Officer.



On 28 April 2022, **Ms. Tina Debenham** from the Division Southern Caucasus and Central Asia of the German Federal Foreign Office; **Mr. David Westenfelder**, Permanent Representative at the German Embassy in Bishkek; and **Laura Kunkel**, Press and Cultural Attaché at the German Embassy in Bishkek, visited the OSCE Academy.



On 13 May 2022, **Dr. Paradorn Rangsimaporn**, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Royal Thai Embassy in Nur-Sultan, covering Thai relations with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and an Independent Researcher, visited the OSCE Academy and delivered a guest lecture to the MA students.



On 20 May 2022, **Ms. Ziming Rao**, Adjunct Professor at Webster University in Tashkent and an expert in accounting and finance, visited the OSCE Academy and delivered a guest lecture to students of the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme. During the lecture, titled “The Nuts and Bolts of Business Plan: a USAID Project to assist SMEs in the Issyk-kul Region,” Ms. Rao explained why the business plan is important and how the structure and content of a good business plan should look.

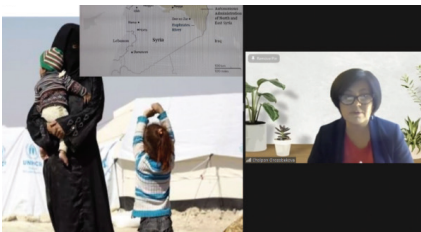


On 23 May 2022, the Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, headed by **Ms. Marja Liivala**, Director-General; and accompanied by **Ms. Sirpa Oksanen**, Director; **Mr. Anssi Leino**, Counsellor; **Mr. Matti Väänänen**, Senior Adviser; and **H.E. Mrs. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist**, Ambassador of Finland to the Kyrgyz Republic visited the OSCE Academy within their official trip to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.





On 10 June 2022, **Paolo Bernasconi**, the Director for Human Resources at the OSCE in Vienna, visited the OSCE Academy and delivered a presentation to MA students of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek on the Recruitment Process in International Organizations. Students learned tips for completing the recruitment process, planning applications, hints for the cover letter, and best practices in conducting competency-based interviews. They also had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss job and internship opportunities at the UN and the OSCE.



On 14 June 2022, **Ms. Cholpon Orozobekova**, Director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations and an Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “A Transitional Justice Approach to Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Challenges and Limits of Prosecuting former ISIS Fighters and their Associates.”



On 19 July 2022, the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), **Ambassador Igli Hasani**, Economic Advisor **Ms. Eni Gjergji**, and Project Manager **Mr. Ulukbek Abdubaliev** paid a visit to the OSCE Academy to meet the Academy’s Management.



On 19 July 2022, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome a high-level OSCE delegation headed by **Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä**, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC)/Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat; **Catherine Fearon**, CPC Deputy Director for Policy Support Service; **Michał Grodzki**, Deputy Director of the Eastern Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the Programme Office in Bishkek; **Ambassador John MacGregor**, Head of the Centre in Ashgabat; **Ambassador Volker Frobarth**, Head of the Programme Office in Nur-Sultan; **Tea Jaliashvili**, Deputy Head of the Programme Office in Dushanbe; **Hans-Ullrich Ihm**, Senior Project Officer of the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, and **Kristin Hoeltge**, CPC Senior Policy Support Officer, as part of the working visit to Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the 2022 Regional Meeting of the Heads of OSCE Field Operations in Central Asia.



On 19 September 2022, **Ms. Kyoko Vrboski**, Chairperson of the Japan Central Asia Friendship Association (JACAFA), and **Dr. Saso A. Vrboski**, Senior Vice President and Project Funding Coordinator, JACAFA, visited the OSCE Academy. Dr. Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy, received the distinguished guests and briefed them on the activities of the OSCE Academy.



On 12 October 2022, **Dr. Nout van Woudenberg**, Deputy Head of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kazakhstan, accompanied by **Irina Buchinskaya**, Political, Human Rights and Projects Officer, and **Amina Kussainova**, Political Affairs Officer, visited the OSCE Academy for the second time to learn about the latest developments at the Academy and in the region in general.



On 21 October 2022, a delegation from Webster University in Tashkent visited the OSCE Academy. **Dr. John Jinkner**, Director of Operations, together with Faculty Members **Dr. Michael Rossi** and **Mr. Ramziddin Artikov**, met the Academy's Director, Dr. Alexander Wolters and the Head of its International Office, Victoria Orazova.



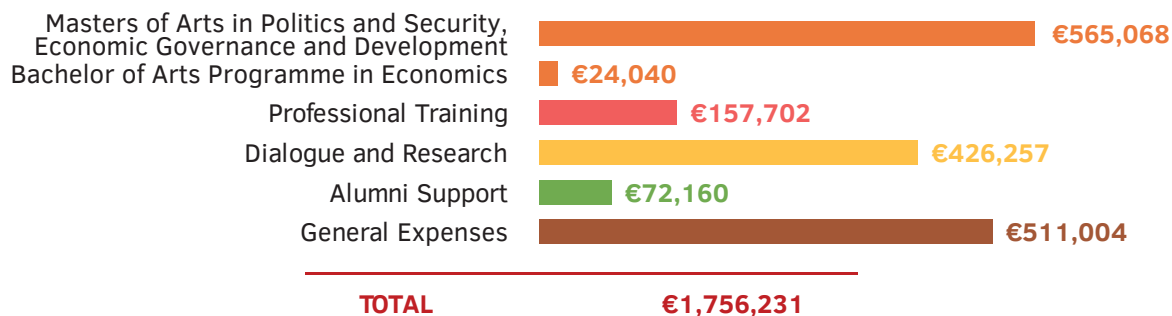
On 11 November 2022, the OSCE Academy was honored to host the Permanent Representatives of France, Germany, the UK, and the US to the OSCE, accompanied by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. The director of the Academy, Dr. Alexander Wolters, welcomed French **Ambassador Christine Fages**, German **Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam**, UK **Ambassador Neil Bush**, United States **Ambassador Michael Carpenter**, and **Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, and briefly introduced them into the MA Programmes, the BA Programme in Economics, as well as the research and publication efforts of the Academy.



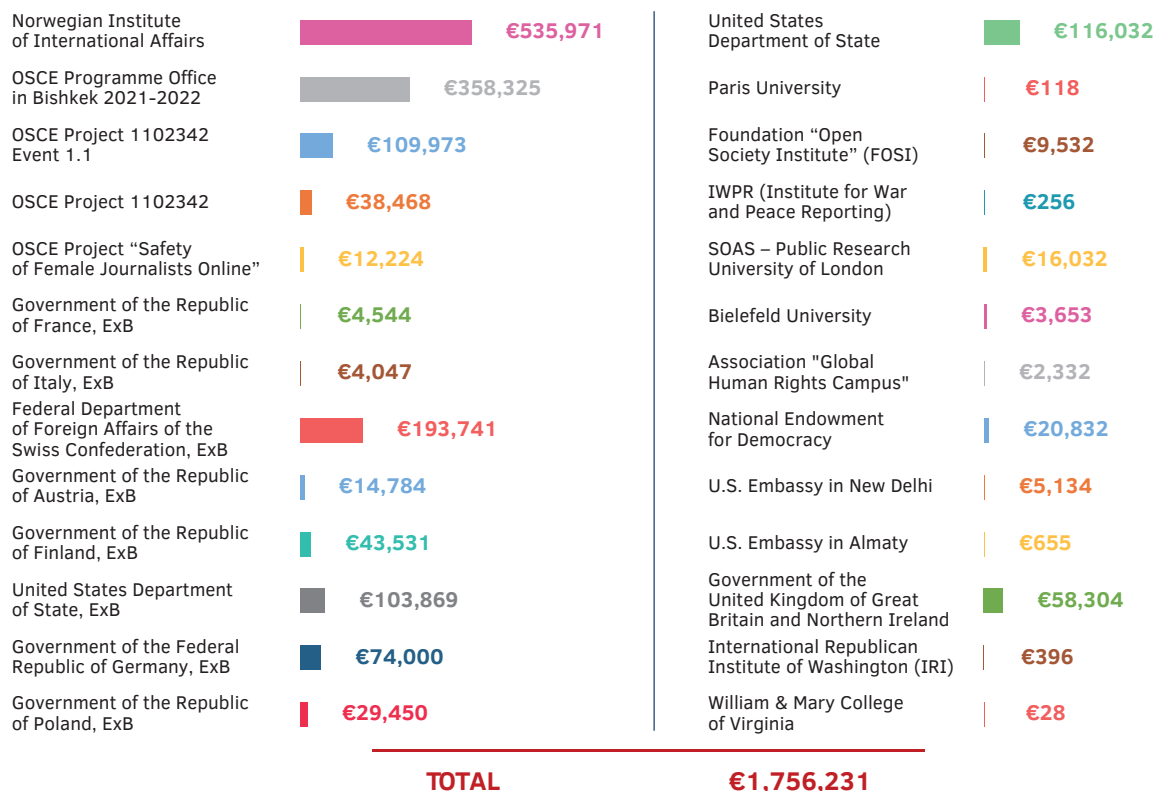
On 3 December 2022, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **Mr. Tomas Niklasson**, EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan, **H.E. Ambassador Marilyn Josefson**, Head of EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, accompanied by **Mr. René Hansen**, Senior Political Advisor of the Special Envoy and **Mr. Raimonds Vingris**, Head of the Political, Press and Information section of the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan.

# FINANCES

## Expenditures by Area of Activities



## Expenditures by Source of Funding





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

