

osce ACADEMY
in Bishkek

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2023



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*Visit of the
President of the
Federal Republic
of Germany
H.E. Frank-Walter
Steinmeier*



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Esteemed Members
of the OSCE Academy Community,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend to you a warm welcome as we unveil the vibrant tapestry of achievements showcased in our 2023 Annual Report. This report encapsulates the dynamic spirit and remarkable progress of the OSCE Academy over the past year, reflecting our unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence and independent research while promoting the principles and values of the OSCE in Central Asia.

Since its inception in 2002, the OSCE Academy has flourished into a beacon of learning and innovation. With nearly 650 graduates by the close of 2023, our

Ambassador Alexey Rogov

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

alumni stand as testament to the transformative impact of our programmes, making meaningful contributions to their localities and the broader OSCE region.

In 2023, we celebrated the launch of our new Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences Programme, focusing on Human Rights and Sustainability—an endeavour that embodies our dedication to progressive education and global citizenship.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed members of our Board of Trustees, as well as the dedicated faculty and staff whose unwavering dedication has been instrumental in our success. Despite facing continued challenges, including economic uncertainties and regional developments, the resilience of the OSCE Academy community continues to inspire. Through enhanced fundraising efforts and expanded academic and financial support, we have fortified our commitment to nurturing talent and fostering inclusivity.

As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I take immense pride in congratulating the entire OSCE Academy team for their collective efforts in advancing our strategic initiatives and sustaining excellence in research and academia. Looking ahead to 2024, I am confident in our ability to uphold our mission while prioritizing the well-being and engagement of our students, faculty, and staff.

Within the pages of this Annual Report, you will discover the vibrant tapestry of life at the OSCE Academy, brimming with inspiring stories and transformative initiatives. I invite you to immerse yourselves in the journey of our accomplishments and aspirations, as we continue to forge ahead with passion and purpose.

Warmest regards!



Dr. Indira Satarkulova

Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Valued Readers,

On behalf of our esteemed community of students, faculty, alumni network, researchers and staff, I am proud to share with our community our 20th Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2023 when I served as acting director. It demonstrates the impact of our indispensability, high quality, uniqueness and inclusivity throughout the ended year. It is filled with a comprehensive overview of the programmatic developments, including the achievements attained in running three Master of Science Programmes in Politics and Security, Economic Governance and Development and in Human Rights and Sustainability; and a Bachelor of Arts Programme in Economics. You will be introduced to the recent developments achieved by the OSCE Academy in implementing a series of its professional trainings, research and publications activities, joint projects carried out in partnership with various research, think tanks and educational institutions and organizations. We will proudly update you on our alumni activities, tell more about the newly established international and regional partnerships and present other accomplishments reached by the Academy's team via empowering excellent learning through experience and developments, continuing to achieve academic excellence in the region, demonstrating professional scholarly impact, sustaining regional and global enlargement with existing and new partners in support of the Academy's efforts to strengthen a truly regional academic and educational centre.

As you will see, in 2023 the Academy's strong position in the regional educational system proved its resiliency, which is designed around our students' aspirations, the regional needs of educated professionals and highly trained researchers, alumni community engagement, and our unique location in Central Asia. The Academy's qualified staff, faculty, research team, we all proudly remained committed to ensuring the Academy's sustainable growth and development.

On 17 February, the OSCE Academy Alumni community has proudly expanded to further 25 students, increasing the total number of alumni to 619. Shortly after, our Master's Programme in Economic Governance and Development was awarded with a certificate of international programme accreditation, formalizing the Programme's compliance with international quality assurance requirements and adherence to international education standards. In June we successfully reached several unprecedented milestones expressed in the: launch of the third Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme, implemented jointly with the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and co-financed by the European Union; international accreditation recognition of our oldest Master's Programme in Politics and Security. In August our 6th Summer School welcomed 70 participants in total. Thus, 48 students, selected out of 1825 applicants for the Master of Arts Programmes were joined by the second cohort of 25 Bachelor of Arts students in September, selected out of 2435 applicants. For the newly enrolled cohorts of students many travel and visa opportunities were improved significantly, although leaving certain related challenges to students from Afghanistan and thus affecting their ability to secure visas and travel to Kyrgyzstan.

Throughout 2023 the Academy has been continuing and growing its publication record which was reflected in 8 new Policy Briefs, 2 Research papers, 3 Springer Open Access Publications, 1 Working paper, 3 Research papers, and 4 AGRUMIG project Paper series. Six guest and public lectures, 3 book launches, 5 workshops, 3 certificate trainings, and 2 conferences were organized by the OSCE Academy in cooperation with faculty members, research and postdoctoral fellows. The OSCE Academy successfully continued its 8-partnership projects implementation in cooperation with the Foundation for Open Societies Institute, Global Engagement Center, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, National Endowment for Democracy, CAREC, Bielefeld University, University of Dortmund, European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme.

Our mission also enables exceptional partnerships which were developed and stocked in 2023 with the International University of Kyrgyzstan, Japan Central Asia Friendship Association, Kırşehir Ahi Evran University (Türkiye), the Kyrgyz Economic University, the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg (Germany), the Narxoz University (Kazakhstan), the National University of Mongolia (Mongolia), the PIL Research Company (Kyrgyzstan), the South East European University (North Macedonia), the State Agency for the Protection of Personal Data under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the University of Siena (Italy).

To ensure that our 619 graduates were market-ready and professionally demanded by the states, economies, the societies, and internationally, the OSCE Academy continued to lead, support with scholarships, internships and by offering various opportunities through organizing Chapter meetings (in Tashkent, Astana and

Vienna), accepted 4 fellows for the Junior Teaching Fellowship programme and 4 fellows for the Junior Public Officers Programme. The Academy organized: International Spring School on “Human Rights & Good Governance for Security in Central Asia,” in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice and the workshop on “Contemporary Security Sector Governance and Reform” conducted by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. In Fall our graduates happily benefitted from participating in the joint Alumni/Experts Conference: “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development”, organized by the OSCE Academy jointly with the University of Siena and receiving one scholarship within the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Research Fellowship and Master of Advanced Studies Scholarship programme jointly run by the GCSP and the Global Studies Institute (University of Geneva). We further enhanced our cooperation within Erasmus + (with: CAGHAN - Central Asia - Governance, History, Anthropology and Neighborhoods; JoPSciP, EUPeace) and Erasmus+ mobilities (with the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki; Freiburg University in Germany; the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Romania; the Philipps-University Marburg in Germany). As first and proud recipient of a grant from Jean Monnet Module on EU Climate Policy we organized a roundtable on “Climate Policy in Central Asia and Research Potential”. We continued our cooperation with MOCCA: Multilevel Orders of Corruption in Central Asia,” a Horizon 2020 project led by the University of Lund (Sweden) and we have proudly completed cooperation on the project titled: “Enhancing youth crime and drug use prevention through education on legality and awareness campaigns addressing threats of organized crime and corruption” launched and imple-

mented by the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities in close co-ordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Throughout 2023 all our developments and achievements were strongly supported by generous contributions from our regular and new supporters: Austria, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway via the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Poland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, that pledged funding to cover the Academy’s related extra-budgetary costs, provided third party funding. These pledges come in addition to the funding received from the Unified Budget and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek covering the Academy’s administrative costs. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic continued providing its vital in-kind support to the Academy in the form of a building hosting our campus.

It is undisputable that the OSCE Academy’s growth has come directly from the generous and stable support of our donors and the culture of giving that they helped to build. The OSCE Academy avails itself of this opportunity to convey sincere gratitude and address our kind request to continue in the coming months and years supporting the growing developments of the OSCE Academy to make our further possibilities on shaping a new generation of highly educated professionals, engaging into professional research vital for the wider region of Central Asia, and on stimulating policy formation processes in line with the principles and objectives of the OSCE, infinite. We look forward to the future, and all that we will accomplish together.

Yours sincerely.

MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

By the Decision of the OSCE Academy's Board of Trustees dated 28 November 2022 Dr. Indira Satarkulova – Deputy Director was appointed Acting Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

In May 2023, the Acting Director of the OSCE Academy, Dr. Indira Satarkulova addressed the 1424th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna within the Annual Report presentation by H.E. Ambassador Alexey Rogov, Head of the OSCE Programme Of-

fice in Bishkek and the Chairperson of the OSCE Academy Board of Trustees.

In February and November 2023, the OSCE Academy's Board of Trustees held two meetings.

In February an Agreement between the State Enterprise “Department of State Buildings” and the OSCE Academy related to the free use of the state building for educational needs was renewed.

EDUCATION



In 2023 the OSCE Academy continued to focus on providing high-quality education. Throughout the year, the Academy's efforts were concentrated on ensuring the quality of courses, improving students' research skills, and providing them with relevant experiences and networking through international internships. Hard work and commitment of the faculty to contribute to the studies and the professional development of each and every student, revising the curriculum structure to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the programmes, as well as student engagement remain important aspects of the education process at the Academy. In addition to the Bishkek-based permanent faculty members, leading academics from the OSCE Academy's partner institutions continued to provide a great opportunity for the students to develop knowledge on particular subjects through conducting intensive practice-oriented modules.

The OSCE Academy continuously evaluates the implementation of its master programmes, which includes a self-assessment and an independent accreditation process. In this past year, the MA programme in Politics & Security (Central Asia) received its five-year international accreditation from the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education "EdNet". The comprehensive accreditation process, which included evaluation of the students' work, faculty and staff over the previous five years confirmed the quality of the programme.

While the MA in Economic Governance & Development and the MA in Politics & Security

(Central Asia) programmes continue to graduate students that are highly demanded in governance structures and international organizations, in civil society and in academia, in September 2023 the OSCE Academy welcomed students of the newly launched Master Programme in Liberal Arts in Human Rights and Sustainability.

The Master Programme in Liberal Arts in Human Rights and Sustainability is the first master level programme in the Central Asian region aiming for a new generation of human rights and sustainability defenders. This programme is the eighth regional Master Programme run by the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, co-funded by the European Union. It advocates a world where human dignity, equality, freedom, human security, sustainable development, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for all human rights are realized.

The opening ceremony of the MAHRS programme was held on 29 September 2023 at the same time commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The opening ceremony of the programme brought together international experts and guests from the Global Campus of Human Rights, United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union (EU), academia, and civil society.

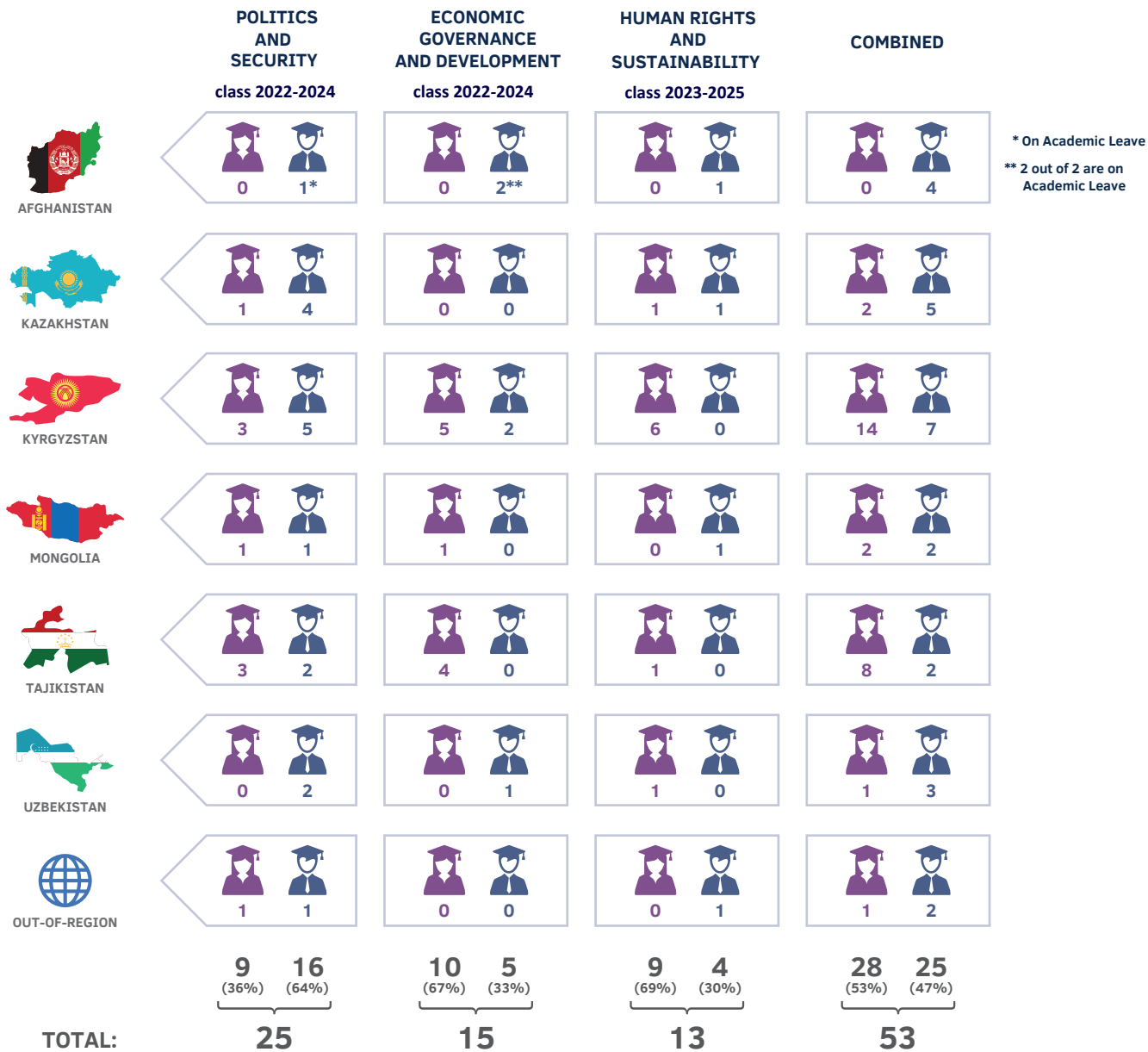
Simultaneously with the OSCE Academy's graduate students, two cohorts of undergraduate students from Kazakhstan,



"Learning about and through Human Rights and Sustainability is one of the best experiences we can share with future generations at the OSCE Academy,"

Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, MAHRS Programme Supervisor

Students of the MA Programmes



Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan actively contribute to the unique atmosphere at the Academy. In 2023, along with other newly enrolled students, two female students from Afghanistan joined the bachelor programme to continue their education in Kyrgyzstan.

The OSCE Academy is extremely proud to announce that according to the admission report for 2023 of the National Testing Center, the Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme secured the first-place position among the universities in Kyrgyzstan. A presence of this part of active and goal-oriented youth at the Academy is a great opportunity to cultivate a new generation of leaders.

MA PROGRAMME IN POLITICS AND SECURITY



Dedicated to provide high quality of teaching and student-oriented instruction, the Academy's faculty thereby made a significant contribution to the educational process. 93% of the MA in Politics and Security Programme faculty have a PhD degree.

Faculty. Winter 2023, Spring 2023 and Fall 2023

- **Dr. Anja Mihr** (Germany), OSCE Academy - DAAD
- **Dr. Aijan Sharshenova** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Baktybek Urmanbetov** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics, KazGUU University, Kazakhstan
- **Dr. Clara Portela** (Spain), University of Valencia, Spain
- **Ms. Dina Biba** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Elena Zhirukhina** (Russia), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Indra Overland** (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- **Dr. Pal Dunay** (Hungary), George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Germany
- **Dr. Rouslan Jalil** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Sebastian Mayer** (Germany), OSCE Academy - DAAD
- **Dr. Waleed Gumaa** (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia

Female – 5 (38 %), Male – 8 (62%)

In the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, the curriculum offered 25 full term, modular and elective courses in total.

Winter 2023

- Energy Politics
- European Politics
- Research Methods
- Central Asian Politics and Security
- Contemporary Security Issues
- Human Rights and International Law
- Central Asia and Russia
- Project Management
- German Language

Spring 2023

- Central Asia and the USA
- Central Asia and China
- European Climate Politics
- Nation, State and Nationalism
- Political Islam
- Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking
- Political Violence and Terrorism
- International Cyber Security
- Introduction into qualitative research methods
- MA Thesis Seminar

Fall 2023

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

MA PROGRAMME IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT



Teaching Fellows and Lecturers of the MA in Economic Governance and Development Programme were accompanied with visiting staff involved to teach several disciplines through the cooperation agreements. 80% of the faculty have PhD degree.

Faculty. Winter 2023, Spring 2023 and Fall 2023

- **Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Anja Mihr** (Germany), OSCE Academy - DAAD
- **Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Ms. Dina Biba** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Indra Overland** (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- **Dr. John D. Jinkner** (USA), Webster University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Kuat Akizhanov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics, KazGUU University, Kazakhstan
- **Dr. Lukasz Gruszczynski** (Poland), Kozminski University, Poland
- **Mr. Murod Khusanov** (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Nurgul Tilenbaeva** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Nurgul Ukueva** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Roman Vakulchuk** (Kazakhstan), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- **Dr. Waleed Gumaa** (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia

Female – 5 (33 %), Male – 10 (67%)

In the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, the curriculum offered 24 full term, modular and elective courses in total.

Winter 2023

- Econometrics
- Introduction to Stata
- Research Methods and Design
- International Development
- Good Governance in Central Asia
- Energy Politics
- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources
- Business Simulation for Politics and Governance
- Project Management

Spring 2023

- MA Thesis Seminar
- Economic Governance and Regulation
- International Financial System
- Economics and Regulation of Energy Sector
- Economics of Sustainable Development
- Integrated Water Resource Management
- Data Science
- Python

Fall 2023

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

MA PROGRAMME IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABILITY



The fall semester 2023 of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme was started with an introductory week on International Human Rights Law followed by short-term specific modules. Inviting leading academics, experts and representatives of international organizations and NGOs added dynamism to the learning environment, fostering interactive discussions, debates, and critical thinking among students.

Faculty. Fall 2023

- **Dr. Anja Mihr** (Germany), OSCE Academy – DAAD
- **Dr. Christelle Genoud** (Switzerland), King’s College London
- **Dr. Sebastian Mayer** (Germany), OSCE Academy - DAAD
- **Dr. Manfred Nowak** (Italy), Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- **Dr. Sergey Sayapin** (Kazakhstan), Kazakhstan Institute of Management, Economics and Strategic Research
- **Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Kemel Toktomushev** (Kyrgyzstan), UCA
- **Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Lucia Leontiev** (Germany), Free University of Berlin
- **Dr. Claudio Pala** (Italy), Atrocity crimes advisory group (ACA) EUAM Ukraine

Female – 4 (40 %), Male – 6 (60%)

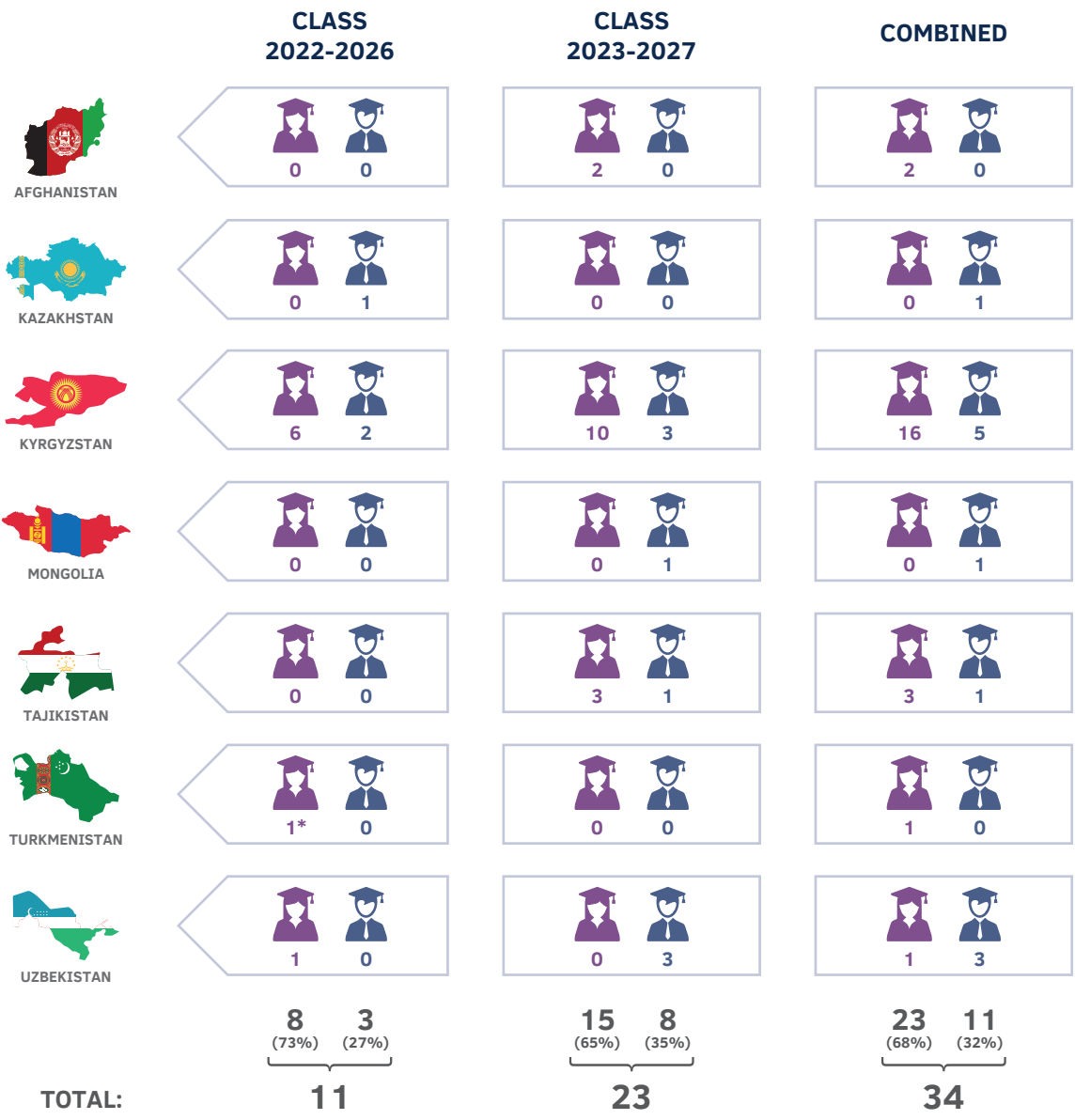
In the Fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic years, the curriculum offered 10 courses in total.

- Introduction to International Human Rights Law
- International Human Rights Law
- Good Governance in Central Asia
- Concepts and Policies of IHR Regimes
- Concepts and Policies of IR
- International Human Rights Law UN Treaty Law
- Concepts and Policies of Sustainability
- Political Regime Theory in International Relations
- Rights Fact-Finding
- Migration Law

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS PROGRAMME



BA in Economics Programme students



* On Academic Leave

Faculty. Spring 2023 and Fall 2023

Faculty members of the programme are from different countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan, and 79% of them have PhD degree.

Female – 6 (32 %), Male – 13 (68%)

- **Dr. Bedelbai Mamadiev** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Bakhtiar Igamberdiev** (Kyrgyzstan), United World International School
- **Dr. Baktybek Urmambetov** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov** (Kazakhstan), Higher School of Economics, KazGUU University
- **Dr. Esentur Ivagov** (Kyrgyzstan), IUCA
- **Dr. Kadyr Sultakeev** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Mirgul Nizaeva** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Mukaram Toktogulova** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Nurbek Madmarov** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Saltanat Imanova** (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy
- **Dr. Surakan Alymbekova** (Kyrgyzstan), AIU
- **Dr. Talant Asan uulu** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Urmat Ryskulov** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Dr. Vladimir Zbarski** (Kyrgyzstan), Academy of PE and Sports
- **Mr. Javlon Juraev** (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy
- **Mr. Aidyn Ali** (United Kingdom), OSCE Academy
- **Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA
- **Ms. Begimai Abdraeva** (Kyrgyzstan), AUCA

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

Spring 2023

- Calculus
- Mathematics for Economists
- Macroeconomics
- Information Technology
- Philosophy
- Ecology
- Law for Economists
- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Physical Training

Fall 2023

- Microeconomics
- Global Economy
- Probability and Statistics I
- Accounting I
- Management
- Finance
- Business communication
- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Physical Training

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

Fall 2023

- Introduction to Economics
- Linear Algebra
- Microeconomics I
- Political Economy
- Information Technology
- Foreign Language
- Russian Language
- Manasology
- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Physical Training











SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME



In August 2023, the OSCE Academy hosted its annual Summer School, which included preparatory courses, outdoor classes, and a closing ceremony held at Issyk-Kul. In this past year, the Summer School welcomed 70 participants from Central Asian countries, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Russia, and Turkey. Newly enrolled students of the OSCE Academy's MA Programmes in Politics & Security and in Economic Governance & Development as well as young graduates from other universities had a chance to understand how the knowledge and skills gained during the Summer School can contribute to their ongoing academic studies and future professional pursuits.

The Summer School programme offered courses specifically designed to equip participants with the necessary skill set to enter one of the OSCE Academy's MA programmes or another international graduate course. These included "Mathematics for Economists," "Academic Writing and Honesty," and "Introduction to Research Methods in Social Sciences." The courses were taught by a combination of the OSCE Academy's permanent faculty and recruited lecturers.

Summer School participants' statistics 2023

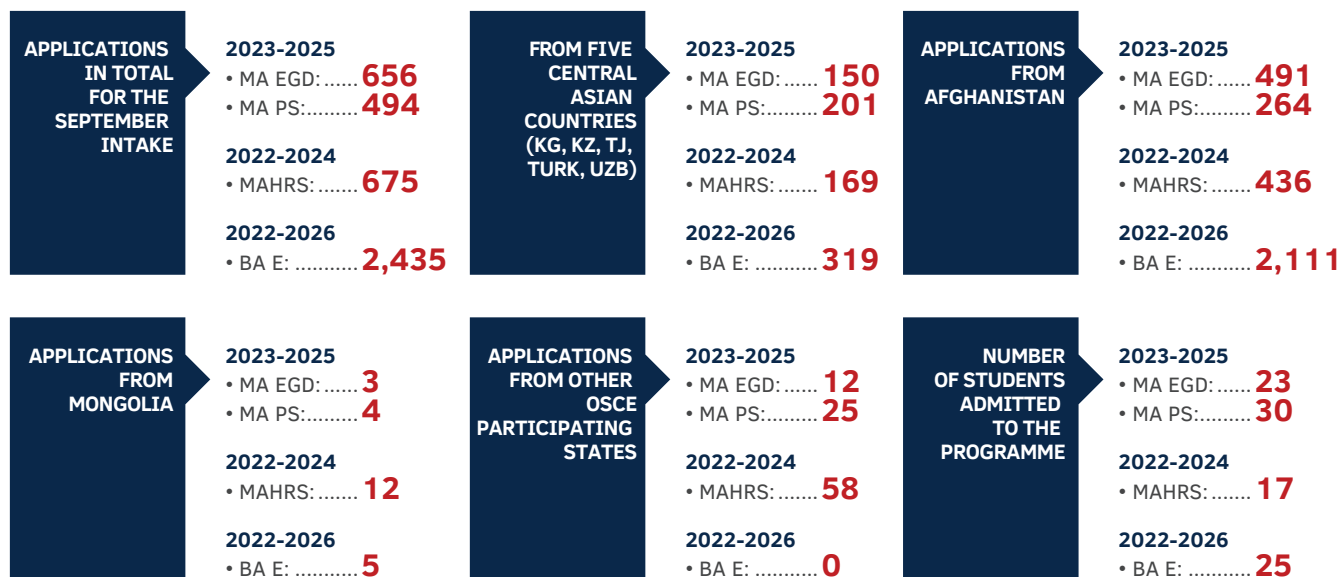
			Σ
 AFGHANISTAN	0	2	2
 KAZAKHSTAN	6	3	9
 KYRGYZSTAN	16	10	26
 MONGOLIA	4	0	4
 TAJIKISTAN	7	8	15
 TURKMENISTAN	3	0	3
 UZBEKISTAN	5	4	9
 OUT-OF-REGION	2	0	2
	43 (61%)	27 (39%)	70

ADMISSION PROCESS 2023

In 2023, the Academy successfully recruited students to its MA Programmes, including to newly launched MA Programme in Liberal Arts in Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS). Comparing 2775 applications received in the previous year, the number of applications for the three MA Programmes reached to 1825. However, the decrease in the number of received applications did not affect their quality. Thus, 252 candidates have been short-listed and invited for the entrance examinations. Most of the candidates have been invited for the examinations in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent. The remaining applicants have been examined online making a good combination of offline and online formats.

Practice of the online interviews have been continued, and 146 applicants have been interviewed, 60 for the MA in PS, 41 for the MA in EGD, and 45 for the MAHRS Programme. Overall, 70 candidates have been selected and joined the Academy's MA Programmes.

Admission to the Bachelor Programme in Economics took place simultaneously with the MA Programmes, and 25 students have been enrolled among 2435 applicants. Selection of applicants have been based on the results of the entrance examinations that took place in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe and Tashkent. The online examinations have been offered for applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan.



MA EGD = Masters of Arts in Economic Governance & Development
MA PS = Masters of Arts in Politics & Security

MAHRS = Masters of Arts in Human Rights and Sustainability
BA E = Bachelors of Arts in Economics

INTERNSHIPS 2023

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 view of their 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 offline mode, except for two students from Afghanistan, who completed their internships in online mode.

Offline internships were organized at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, Norway, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, Norway, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland, the CRISP in Berlin, Germany, the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in Braunschweig, Germany, the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkiye, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in Moscow, Russia, the European Neighborhood Council (ENC) in Brussels, Belgium, the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany, the Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki in Helsinki, Finland, the United Nation Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva, Switzerland, the IBN Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkiye, the University of Catania (UC) in Catania, Italy.

Regional internship organizations include the University of Central Asia (UCA) Bishkek Office, Kyrgyzstan, the Civil Society Support Center Jalal-Abad in Jalal-Abad, Kyrgyzstan, the Magnum Cash & Carry LLP in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Secretariat of the Parliament of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the FILC Charitable Foundation in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the Super Star Educational Center in Kabul, Afghanistan, the Bar Association «YugProfi», the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia (EFCA) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the Banking and Finance Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Aga-Khan Foundation in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the Border Management Staff College, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.



“It has been an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life. My internship at the OSCE Secretariat, Office of the Secretary-General allowed me to fully enter the world of politics, diplomacy, and negotiations at the highest level. The unique opportunity to regularly participate in political events at various levels, to be a member of an outstanding team, and to be surrounded by the most dedicated professionals in the field has significantly contributed to both my personal and professional growth, thereby pushing me one step further towards my career goals. Moreover, the unique architecture and atmosphere of Vienna doubled the joy of this experience.”

- **Madzhid Khamidov**
student of the MA
programme
in Politics and Security





“During my internship at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), I was part of the Climate and Energy group. There, we assisted our team in generating a report for an influential organization on renewable energy. We were fully integrated into the atmosphere of a research institute, experiencing its beauty and challenges. I am grateful for all the support we received during our stay and for their valuable advice regarding our thesis papers. The wonderful views of Oslo were a great addition to our journey.”

- **Bibigul Arzybaeva**
student of the MA
programme
in Economic Governance
and Development

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

Internship statistics for the academic year 2022-2024

	Σ		
OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria (offline)	6	3	3
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo, Norway (offline)	3	2	1
Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, Norway (offline)	1	1	0
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland (offline)	1	0	1
CRISP in Berlin, Germany (offline)	1	0	1
Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkiye (offline)	1	1	0
University of Catania (UC) in Catania, Italy (online)	2	0	2
Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in Moscow, Russia (offline)	1	0	1
European Neighbourhood Council (ENC) in Brussels, Belgium (offline)	1	1	0
European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany (offline)	1	1	0
Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) in Braunschweig, Germany (offline)	1	0	1
Aleksanteri Institute, University of Helsinki (AI) in Helsinki, Finland (offline)	2	2	0
United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva, Switzerland (offline)	1	1	0
IBN Haldun University in Istanbul, Turkiye (offline)	1	0	1
INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS	23	12	11
REGIONAL INTERNSHIPS (AROUND CENTRAL ASIA)	13	5	8

RESEARCH AND TRAINING UNIT

During 2023, the OSCE Academy continued hosting Postdoctoral and Associate Research Fellows, produced various publications including an edited volume for Springer Open Access, and implementing 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 published a number of research reports, policy briefs and other publications.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

CERTIFICATE TRAININGS: “PROJECT MANAGEMENT”, “PEACE AND CONFLICT” AND “CONFLICT SENSITIVE JOURNALISM”

In the year of 2023, the OSCE Academy organized three professional training seminars: on Project Management from 7 to 11 August, Peace and Conflict from 17 to 21 September and Conflict Sensitive Journalism from 25 to 28 September.

These trainings were designed for young and mid-career professionals from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan (Bishkek based) representing various sectors, such as international, development and non-governmental (non-profit) organizations, governmental bodies, research and academic institutions, and other civil society representatives. The training on “Project Management” enrolled 22 young professionals (13 women, 9 men) and provided participants with a holistic understanding of project management, where they had a chance to improve their skills to efficiently execute projects.



Trainings “Peace and Conflict” and “Conflict Sensitive Journalism” were conducted by Mr. Oliver Wiechmann, trainer from Crisis Simulation for Peace (CRISP) – an organization, based in Berlin, Germany that specializes in organizing training seminars in the fields of conflict transformation, civic education, and citizen participation. Mr. Ulugbek Nurumbetov, director of the Institute for Peace and Development and Dr. Elira Turdubaeva, Head of the Journalism and Mass Communications Programme at the International Ala-Too University in Kyrgyzstan were assistant trainers respectively. From the “Peace and Conflict” seminar participants learned about key terms, concepts and tools of conflict analysis. The interactive component of the training included conflict simulation game KODORI, where participants had a chance to play a role of key stakeholders and negotiate a comprehensive peace agreement. The “Conflict Sensitive Journalism” training taught participants on how media impacts on conflicts and taught them about ethics when reporting on conflict situations. 20 participants (9 men, 11 women) were enrolled to the Peace and Conflict Training while further 17 participants (11 women and 6 men) took the training on Conflict Sensitive Journalism.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS



ONLINE WORKSHOP: “CENTRAL ASIA’S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: DECISION-MAKING ACTORS AND PROCESSES”

On **28 April** the OSCE Academy hosted an online workshop titled as “Central Asia’s International Relations: Decision-Making Actors and Processes.” The workshop was organized by Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, within the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme implemented in partnership with the Volkswagen Foundation. The workshop covered individual Central Asian states and their external partners, with speakers shedding light on the actors and factors that shape policy processes and decisions. The speakers included Dr. Nurseit Niyazbekov from KIMEP University in Almaty, Dr. Farkhod Tolipov from Bilim Karvoni in Tashkent, Dr. Karolina Kluczewska from the University of Ghent in Belgium, and Dr. Emil Dzhuraev from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Speakers also included Dr. Paul Stronski from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Dr. Aijan Sharshenova from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Mr. Vito Acosta from Crossroads Central Asia, and Mr. Jos Boonstra from EUCAM at the Centre for European Security Studies (CESS).

POLICY DISCUSSION: “WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS ABROAD: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY TALK”

On **26 June** the OSCE Academy organized a policy discussion: “Winning Hearts and Minds Abroad: Public Diplomacy Talk” for MA students of the Academy. This discussion featured two foreign policy experts: Professor Erman Akilli from Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, and Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, who discussed the theory and practice of public diplomacy. The discussion focused on the implementation of public diplomacy in Eurasia and explore public diplomacy as a foreign policy and nation-branding instrument.

CONFERENCE: “CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA AFFAIRS: PERSPECTIVES FROM JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS”

On **27-28 June** the OSCE Academy organized a two-day conference on “China-Central Asia Affairs: Perspectives from Junior Research Fellows”. Three Junior Research Fellows (JRF) of the OSCE Academy, Adina Masalbekova, Dr. Berikbol Dukeyev, and Mukhammadsodik Donaev presented their articles focused on China’s presence in Central Asia. This conference was organized as part of the project “Pilot Project for Central Asian Centre for China Affairs”, which was supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (www.ned.org).

The conference hosted 9 international experts on China, including Raffaello Pantucci, Senior Fellow at RUSI/RSIS, Dr. Dilini Pathirana, Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo, Dr. Erman Akilli, Director of Foreign Affairs Office at Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Dr. Jabin T. Jacob, Associate Professor at Shiv Nadar University, Akram Umarov, Deputy Director at the Institute for Advanced International Studies (IAIS), Catherine Putz, Managing Editor at The Diplomat, Dr. Plamen Tonchev, Head of Asia Unit at the Athens based Institute of International Economic Relations (IIER), Dr. Brian Carlson, Head of the Global Security Team of the Think Tank at the Center for Security Studies (CSS), Frank Maracchione, Co-convener of Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute.



BOOK LAUNCH EVENTS

In the year of 2023, the OSCE Academy organized three book launch events. On **28 March** Cholpon Orozobekova, Director of the Bulan Institute for Peace Innovations, and former Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy organized a launch of her book titled as: “Foreign Fighters and International Peace: Joining Global Jihad and Marching Back Home”. Ms. Orozobekova’s book focuses on real-life experiences and hardships of individuals, particularly women and children. The event was attended by researchers, academics, and journalists.

The remaining two book launches were conducted on **24 April** on the edited volume “Climate Change in Central Asia – Decarbonization, Energy Transition and Climate Policy” and, on 9 November on another edited volume on “Researching Central Asia: Navigating Positionality in the Field”. Both books were published as part of the Springer Briefs in Political Science book series, as a result of the OSCE Academy’s multi-year cooperation with Springer.

The edited volume on “Climate Change in Central Asia – Decarbonization, Energy Transition and Climate Policy,” was co-authored by Dr. Rahat Sabrybekov, Post-Doctoral Research Fellows of the OSCE Academy and Dr. Indra Overland and Dr. Roman Vakulchuk from the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. On the book talk, each author presented their research on climate change in Central Asia. The edited volume on “Researching Central Asia: Navigating Positionality in the Field” was co-authored by Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Lecturer and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy and Dr. Jasmin Dall’Agnola, Postdoctoral Researcher at the George Washington University’s Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (IERES), Washington D.C. The speakers who contributed to this volume, discussed struggles and challenges they faced during their research in Central Asia. Specifically, they discussed the impact of such factors as race, gender, institutional affiliation, languages spoken, and various other aspects of their identity. Both book launches were organized in a hybrid format and attracted a lot of participants.



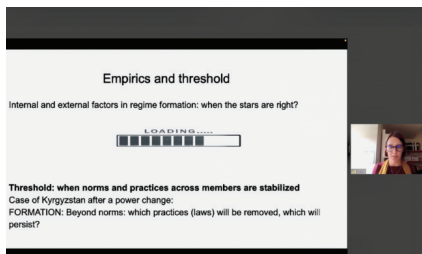
PUBLIC TALKS

On **31 May** the OSCE Academy organized an online Public Lecture by Barbara Meier, Associate Research Fellow of the Academy on the topic: “The Geopolitical Everyday: Capturing Transnational Attractions in Sympathies of Students in Bishkek and Osh”. Ms. Meier’s research project in Kyrgyzstan focused on transnational aspirations

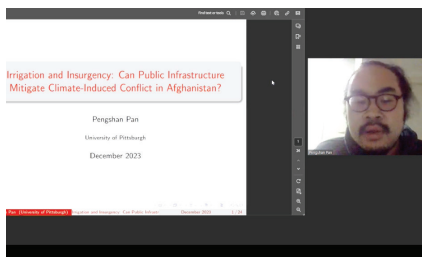


in students' educational choices, such as language learning or interest in specific study programmes. She discussed the concept of 'sympathy' and its application in the context of transnational justice.

On **30 August** Dr. Aliya Assubayeva, a Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and a Research Associate at the Center for International Development and Environmental Research, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, delivered a public lecture titled "Uncertainties in Water Security Decision-Making in Central Asia." During the lecture, Dr. Assubayeva presented her research paper, which had been published as part of her Research Fellowship at the OSCE Academy, focusing on the relevant topic of water security. The lecture focused on an exploration of the sources of endogenous uncertainty in water resource management, using case studies from Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Dr. Assubayeva emphasized the endogenous uncertainties that emerge from within the decision-making system and identified key factors for mitigating them. These factors included the improvement of data availability and analysis, the establishment of resilient infrastructure, and the enhancement of overall capacity.



On **14 September** the OSCE Academy held a public lecture on the topic of the Regional Security Regime Emerging in Central Asia. The lecture was led by Anna Jordanova, a Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague and a Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy. She presented the policy brief that elaborates on the problem of rising uncertainty across and within the Central Asian region and the reaction of the respective national regimes. During the presentation, Ms. Jordanova introduced the concept of the international regime as a form of cooperation and communication based on shared norms and practices, responding to member states' common interests. She also focused on the OSCE's presence in the region and gave recommendations.



On **07 December** Pengshan Pan, former Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and a doctoral candidate at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, delivered a public lecture on 'Irrigation and Insurgency: Can Public Infrastructure Mitigate Climate-Induced Conflict in Afghanistan?' Pengshan Pan examined the role of public irrigation infrastructure in mitigating climate-induced conflicts in Afghanistan, focusing on individual engagement with armed groups. Furthermore, he analyzed the differentiated effectiveness of various irrigation systems in addressing water-related conflicts. He also gave policy recommendations with a focus on local governance.

JOINT INITIATIVES



GUEST LECTURES

On **1 March** Prof. Andrew Mertha, George and Sadie Hyman Professor of China Studies and Vice Dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), delivered a guest lecture on China's Fragmented Foreign Policy to MA students of the OSCE Academy. The lecture was followed by a round table discussion with project researchers of the Academy Asylgul Kanatbekova (Senior Researcher), Adinai Masalbekova (Junior Research Fellow), and Nargiza Muratalieva, Associate Research Fellow.

On **12 April** Dr. Brian Carlson delivered a guest lecture on "China-Russia Relations in a Changing Central Asia". The lecture was attended by MA students in the Politics and Security Programme. Dr. Brian Carlson is head of the Global Security Team of the Think Tank at the Center for Security Studies (CSS). He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. On the lecture, he captured the China-Russia relationship in Central Asia from the period of the break-up of the Soviet Union to recent time. These guest lectures were organized in cooperation with the American Councils for International Education.

RESEARCH WORKSHOP: "CONNECTING PROTEST RESEARCH(ERS)."

On **15-17 May** the OSCE Academy hosted a 3-day research workshop titled "Connecting Protest Research(ers)." The workshop was delivered to 28 young scholars from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The workshop was part of an ongoing research project conducted by Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva, Non-Resident Research Fellow, George Washington University, in partnership with Dr. Beate Eschment, Zentrum für Osteuropa und internationale Studien (ZOiS) in Berlin and funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Scholars from Central Asia and Germany who study the topic of protests and other forms of contentious politics took part in the event. During the three days, participants had an opportunity to present their research projects and discuss empirical cases as well as methodological and ethical challenges related to protest research in non-Western contexts.



REPORT LAUNCH: “CENTRAL ASIA FORECASTING”

On **19 October** the OSCE Academy hosted an event in a hybrid format devoted to the launch of the second edition of Central Asia Forecasting Project Report. “Central Asia Forecasting” jointly organized with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Kazakhstan which served as a platform to present the findings of the survey and to discuss political, economic, and environmental aspects of Central Asia’s development. “Central Asia Forecasting” is a collaborative analytical project that aims to identify and track regional trends in Central Asia over time. The first study was launched in 2021, and the current edition is an updated follow-up on the first report. The report discussion was held by Dr. Aijan Sharshenova, Research Fellow at the Crossroads Central Asia Research Institute, Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev, President of the Crossroads Central Asia Research Institute, and Dr. Aliya Tskhay, Research Fellow at the University of St. Andrews, who elaborated on the political, economic, and environmental dimensions of Central Asia’s ongoing development.



JOINT EXPERT/ALUMNI CONFERENCE ON “CENTRAL ASIA: COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

On **4-5 November** a Joint Expert/Alumni Conference on “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development” was held at the OSCE Academy. The event was co-organized by the University of Siena. The two-day conference focused on gender, youth, and climate change issues in Central Asia, and a round table discussion on “The OSCE and the EU in the Reshaped Central Asia Geopolitical Scenario”. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Aksana Ismailbekova, Postdoctoral research fellow at the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient on the topic of “Daughters as Ojiza: Daughter’s Marriage, Security and Care among Uzbeks in Southern Kyrgyzstan.” Other speakers included alumni of the OSCE Academy, external experts, Dr. Fabio Indeo, Researcher and representative of the University of Siena, and Mr. Colin McCullough, Senior Planning and Co-ordination Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. The conference was organized in a hybrid format.



RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWS

In 2023, the OSCE Academy continued implementing its Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The Postdoctoral Research Scholarship programme is implemented in partnership with the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the Volkswagen Foundation via the University of Bielefeld and Dortmund University.

The two Post Doctoral Research Fellows, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov and Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova continued their research work at the Academy. Their positions are funded with the generous support by NUPI.

Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov



In 2023, Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov has been accepted for a Fellowship at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. Dr. Sabyrbekov's research interests include environmental economics, ecosystem services, natural capital, and natural resource management and he has published the following works in 2023:

- Kondev, B., Dixon, J., Zhou, Z., Sabyrbekov, R., Sultanaliev, K., & Hirmer, S. A. (2023). **Putting the foot down: Accelerating EV uptake in Kyrgyzstan**. *Transport Policy*, 131, 87-96.
- Sulaimanova, B., Overland, I., Sabyrbekov, R., & Vakulchuk, R. (2023). **Energy Transition in Central Asia: A Systematic Literature Review**. In *Climate Change in Central Asia*, 69-82.
- Sabyrbekov, R., Overland, I., & Vakulchuk, R. (2023). **Central Asian Climate Policy Pledges Under the Paris Agreement: Can They Be Fulfilled?** In *Climate Change in Central Asia: Decarbonization, Energy Transition and Climate Policy*, 35-49.
- Sabyrbekov, R., & Badilbek uulu. A. (2023). **Electric Vehicles Market in Kyrgyzstan: Trends, Obstacles and Recommendations for Development**. OSCE Academy Working Paper Series.

Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova



Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova's 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. In 2023, Dr Sulaimanova produced the following articles:

- Sulaimanova, B., Overland, I., Sabyrbekov, R., & Vakulchuk, R. (2023). **Energy Transition in Central Asia: A Systematic Literature Review**. In *Climate Change in Central Asia*, 69-82.

- Karymshakov, K., Sulaimanova, B., & Bergolo, M. (2023). **Employment Vulnerability and Earnings in Kyrgyzstan**. *The Journal of Development Studies*, 1-16.
- Karymshakov, K., & Sulaimanova, B. (2023). **Trade Facilitation, Infrastructure, and International Trade in Central Asian Countries**. ADB East Asia Working Paper Series.
- Shabieva, N., & Sulaimanova, B. (2023). **Women in Central Asia: Literature Review of the Web of Science Database**. *Reforma*, (97), 47-53.

Dr. Aijan Sharshenova



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. In 2023, she published the following works:

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



- Sharshenova, A. (2023). **Safety, security, and self-censorship as survival strategies**. In *Researching Central Asia: Navigating Positionality in the Field*, 67-75.
- Pierobon, C., & Sharshenova, A. (2023). **German and Russian Public Diplomacy Efforts in Kyrgyzstan: A Comparative Study of Norm Entrepreneurship**. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 1-24.
- Dall'Agnola, J., & Sharshenova, A. (eds) (2024). **Researching Central Asia: Navigating Positionality in the Field**. Springer Briefs in Political Science.

Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev



Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev's 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. Within the Volkswagen Stiftung "Postdoctoral Fellowship" grant titled as "Negotiating strategic partnerships: domestic roots of foreign policies in post-soviet Eurasia", Dr. Dzhuraev successfully completed his research project on "Politics of Foreign Policy Change in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan" on 30 April, 2023. In 2023, he published the following work:

- Dzhuraev, S. (2023). **Kyrgyzstan and the Changing Geopolitics of Central Asia**. In *The Changing Geopolitics of Central Asia and the Caucasus*.

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

In 2023, the Academy hosted 7 Associate Research Fellows. The Fellowship was launched in 2017 and aims to support PhD candidates and/or Post-Doctoral researchers in conducting their research projects and provide institutional affiliation to independent researchers. The length of the fellowship is up to twelve months and is open for Bishkek-based and non-Bishkek residents.



VINCENZO ALFANO

Research topic: Governance, Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs), and Vaccination Rates. The Second and Third Waves of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Central Asia: Implications for Good Governance

Dr. Vincenzo Alfano holds the position of Research Fellow in Political Economy at the University of Napoli Parthenope. He is also an associate to the Institute for the Mediterranean of the Italian National Research Council and to the Center for Economic Studies – CESifo. Also, he is a research fellow at the Global Labour Organization – GLO and a fellow at Italy’s National University Centre for Applied Economic Studies – CiMET. Moreover, he serves as a board member of several scientific journals and is Academic Editor for Plos One. Before being appointed to this position, Dr. Alfano had worked as Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Westminster International University in Tashkent. Dr. Alfano has broad research interests; his studies extend to different incentive systems, the institutions that create them, and their effects, and interactions in a variety of different contexts. In particular, his recent contributions focus on a variety of subjects, from health economics and public health to the economic impact of religion and sports economics, also within the context of Central Asia.



ALBERICA CAMERANI

Research topic: Enterprising Women in Kyrgyzstan: Insights into the Interaction of Gender and Entrepreneurship

Alberica Camerani is a doctoral researcher at Dublin City University, where she also works as a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher within the Innovative Training Network “Markets” (EU-MSCA grant). In her doctoral project, she focuses on the influence of the socio-cultural environment on female entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan, where she has three years of working and researching experience. More broadly, her research interests encompass gender, nation-building, and social transformation in Central Asia. She holds a double master’s degree from the University College of London and the Higher School of Economics in Economy, State and Society with a focus on the post-Soviet space. Recently, she joined the World Economic Forum Expert Network as a member advising on Gender Equality, Entrepreneurship and Future of Government.



TOMMASO AGUZZI

Research topic: Understanding Informality in Kazakhstan: A Study of Informal Entrepreneurial Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices

Tommaso Aguzzi is a Ph.D. Candidate within the Innovative Training Network MARKETS programme at Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Estonia. He holds a double Master's degree in Global Studies from the University of Vienna and Roskilde University, as well as a Bachelor's degree in International Development and Cooperation from the University of Bologna. His research interests focus on the practices of informal entrepreneurs operating in the Central Asian region. In particular, he is interested in understanding how social norms, morals, and business ethics are constructed by micro-entrepreneurs and the self-employed, and whether and how they deviate from the codified laws and regulation set by formal institutions.



GIULIO BENEDETTI

Research topic: The Role of Labor Intermediaries in the Migration Corridor from Central Asia to the EU

Giulio Benedetti is a PhD candidate at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and a Marie Curie early-stage Researcher in the Horizon 2020-funded International Training Network "Markets". His research focuses on informality and migration in the post-Soviet space. He focuses on informality and the role of intermediaries of migration.



EUGENIA PESCI

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, programs, and reports. She holds a Master's degree in East European Studies from the University of Bologna, Italy.



ANNA JORDANOVA

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. She focuses on new trajectories of the respective Central Asian states' foreign policies, 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.



JASMIN DALL'AGNOLA

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 Postdoctoral 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.

PROJECT RESEARCHERS

The OSCE Academy hosted 7 project researchers within the framework of three research projects: 1) “Pilot Project for Central Asian Center for China Affairs”, funded by the Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), “Analyzing Chinese Influence in Central Asia”, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and “Chinese Information Operation in the Kyrgyz Republic”, funded by the Global Engagement Center (GEC).



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. At the OSCE Academy, Mr. Umarov conducted research on the role of Uzbekistan’s stance on China, and delivered a course on East Asian Politics for BA students and participated in other events.



SHERZOD SHAMIEV, RESEARCH FELLOW (FOSI)

Mr. Sherzod Shamiev is a recent graduate of OSCE Academy and a researcher at the Center for Sociological Research “Zerkalo” in Tajikistan. He completed his undergraduate degree in Political Science and International Relations at the American University in Bulgaria. He has carried out research and project evaluations for various local and international organizations. His research interests focus on Sino-Central Asian relations, as well as on the security of Central Asia and Eurasia. He has also been researching on various security issues during his internships at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Hudson Institute’s Center for Political-Military Analysis. At the OSCE Academy, Mr. Shamiev conducted research on China’s investments in Tajikistan.



ADINA MASALBEKOVA (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, NED)

Ms. 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 focused 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.



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 has a 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 focused on the representation of China in Kazakh society through examining history textbooks, higher education outputs, and knowledge of history scholars in Kazakhstan.



MUKHAMMADSODIK DONAEV (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, NED)

Mr. 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 the "Union of Youth" in Tashkent. At the OSCE Academy, Mukhammadsodik's research focused on examining Uzbekistan-China relations through the lenses of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, commercial cooperation and media engagement.



NIVA YAU (PROJECT RESEARCHER, GEC)

Ms. Niva Yau's research interest follows Global China affairs with a particular focus on China's foreign policy, trade and security in its western neighbourhood, including Central Asia and Afghanistan. She has conducted a number of commissioned research and briefed officials on Global China affairs and China affairs in Central Asia, concerning security engagement, private security companies, governance export, influence campaigns, and more. In May 2022, Ms Yau testified in Washington DC for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Ms Yau is quoted by news agencies globally, such as BBC, The Independent, Nikkei Asia, The Economist, VICE, Le Monde, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera and others. Ms Yau was awarded the Albert Otto Hirschman prize for best political economy writing in 2020 by The Washington Post for her work on the latest development of Chinese policy banks in Central Asia. Originally from Hong Kong, Ms Yau has been based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan since 2018. She is a native speaker of Cantonese, Mandarin, English and learner of Russian.



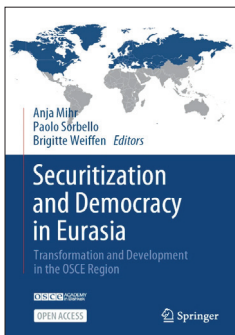
ASYLGUL KANATBEKOVA (SENIOR PROJECT RESEARCH ASSISTANT, GEC)

Ms. Asylgul Kanatbekova specializes in data analysis in research, applying this to interests in Central Asian migration and poverty issues. Asylgul received a Bachelor's degree in Management of State Property from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and a Master's degree in Demography and Population Studies from the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, the Russian Federation. Previously, she worked as a consultant for the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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.

SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS



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

Anja Mihr

This open-access book presents cutting-edge research on securitization and democratic development in the OSCE Region. Gathering contributions by practitioners and researchers from various disciplines, it presents case studies and highlights recent activities of proactive engagement in democratic institution-building and responding to security threats from the Balkans to Central Asia. The book will appeal to students and scholars of international relations, security studies, and the human rights-politics nexus.

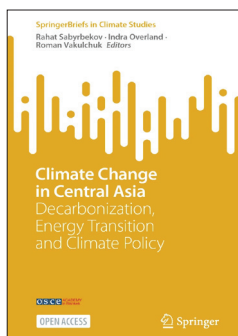




Researching Central Asia: Navigating Positionality in the Field

Aijan Sharshenova and Jasmin Dall'Agnola

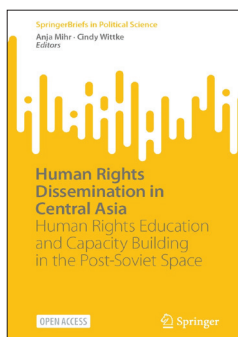
This open access book explores some of the struggles and challenges that researchers and practitioners face when conducting research in the Central Asian research setting. Written for scholars still in the planning stages of their research, it addresses key questions, including: How shall we problematize and reconceptualize the concept of positionality through lenses of local voices from the region? How do practitioners' and scholars' positionality contribute to their experiences of inclusion, exclusion, and access to the field? How do scholars navigate issues of personal safety and mental well-being in the more closely monitored societies of Central Asia?



Climate Change in Central Asia: Decarbonization, Energy Transition and Climate Policy

Rahat Sabyrbekov, Indra Overland and Roman Vakulchuk

This open access book explores climate change impacts, adaptation, and mitigation in Central Asia and discusses policy options for the Central Asian governments. To address the urgent need for local scholarship on climate change in Central Asia, and in particular the need for more research by social scientists, this book features a wide range of contributions on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation in the region. Each chapter makes an important contribution to social science scholarship on climate change and decarbonization in Central Asia. Topics include decarbonization opportunities, carbon pricing instruments, the geo-economics of the energy transition, the relationship between human mobility and climate change. The book thus offers valuable insights for both academics and policymakers.



Human Rights Dissemination in Central Asia: Human Rights Education and Capacity Building in the Post-Soviet Space

Anja Mihr and Cindy Wittke

This open access book explores the field of human rights dissemination in Central Asia. Offering a comparative perspective on five post-Soviet Central Asian states—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, it examines compliance with international human rights standards in these countries. The contributions capture various aspects of human rights dissemination through educational programs, seminars, training, and empowerment programmes at Central Asian universities, together with Central Asian NGOs/CSOs and international organizations.



OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS



Policy Brief No. 83: “Expanding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: mechanisms, perspectives, and challenges for the region and beyond”, Eva Seiwert, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_83_final.pdf



Policy Brief No. 84: “Soft Power of China in Kyrgyzstan: Impediments and Limitations”, Nargiza Muratalieva, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_84.pdf



Policy Brief No. 85: “Winning hearts and minds abroad: Public diplomacy and why it is important for the Kyrgyz Republic”, Aijan Sharshenova, Post-Doc Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at: https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_85_final.pdf



Policy Brief No. 86: “The regional security regime emerging in Central Asia”, Anna Jordanova, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/86_final.pdf



Policy Brief No. 87: “Human Trafficking in Kyrgyzstan: Causes, Trends, and Prevention”, Nina Miholjic-Ivkovic, Independent Researcher, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/87_final.pdf



Policy Brief No. 88: “Comparative Analysis of Industrial Development in Central Asian Countries”, Dmitry Erokhin, Independent Researcher, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/88_pb.pdf





Policy Brief No. 89: “Cross-border relations between Central Asia and Afghanistan in the Taliban era: Security and connectivity implications for the region”, Mélanie Sadozaï, Independent Researcher, available at: https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_89.pdf



Policy Brief No. 90: “Active Labour Market Policies in the Kyrgyz Republic: addressing employment barriers for a more inclusive labour market?”, Eugenia Pesci, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy and Kairatbek Dzhamangulov, Independent Researcher, available at: https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_90.pdf



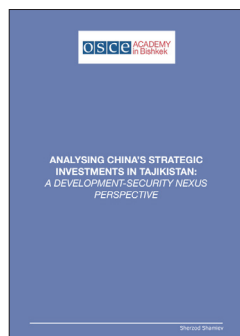
Policy Brief No. 91: “Economic-Environmental Interplay in Central Asia”, Dolapo Fakuade, Director for MSc Intelligence, Security and Disaster Management at the University of Derby, available at: https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_91_final.pdf



Policy Brief No. 92: “Sustainable Water Management for Agricultural Productivity and Climate Resilience: A Case Study of Uzbekistan with a Focus on Cotton Cultivation”, Zafarjon Sultonov, Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the City University of New York (CUNY), available at: https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/pb_92.pdf



RESEARCH REPORTS



Project Research Report: “Analysing China’s Strategic Investments in Tajikistan: A Development-Security Nexus Perspective”, Sherzod Shamiev, Project Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/report_Sherzod_Shamiev.pdf



Project Research Report: “Intersecting Policies: Exploring the Domestic Foundations of Uzbekistan’s Changing Stance on China”, Temur Umarov, Project Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy



https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/report_Temur_Umarov.pdf

RESEARCH PAPERS



Research Paper No.12: **“Review of uncertainties in water security decision-making in Central Asia”**, Aliya Assubayeva, Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at:
https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/rp_12_final.pdf



Research Paper No.13: **“Irrigation and Insurgency: Can Public Infrastructure Mitigate Climate-Induced Conflict in Afghanistan?”**, Pengshan Pan, Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at:
https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/research_paper_13.pdf



OSCE ACADEMY WORKING PAPER SERIES



Working Paper No. 1: **“Рынок Электромобилей в Кыргызстане: Тенденции, Препятствия и Рекомендации для Развития”**, Rahat Sabyrbekov, Post-Doc Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy and Alchynbek Badilbek uulu, Post-Doc Assistant, available at:
https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Working_Paper_1.pdf



RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

CAREC INSTITUTE'S RESEARCH GRANT ON DIGITALIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND DECARBONIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

In the year of 2023, the three Post-Doctoral Research Fellows of the OSCE Academy – Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Dr. Aizhan Sharshenova and Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova received a research grant from the CAREC Institute within the framework of its “Leveraging Digital Technology for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth”, CTTN Research Grants Program.

The Post-Doctoral Research Fellows of the Academy conducted a year-long research study on the topic of “Digitalization of Infrastructure and Decarbonization in Central Asia: Opportunities and Challenges” to develop a research-based report with policy recommendations for Central Asian governments. The results of the study will be published and shared with the public in the year of 2024.

LIBRARY



The Library at the OSCE Academy serves as the central place for information, supporting both the educational curriculum and ongoing research activities. It houses a specialized collection focusing on political science, economics, and development, with particular emphasis on International Relations, Conflict and Security Studies, Economic Governance, Human Rights, Development Studies, Comparative Politics, and Political Theory. This collection is curated to meet the needs of the Academy's programs and the requests of faculty, students, and researchers.

In addition to its physical collection, the library has subscriptions to several databases, including EBSCO, JSTOR, and T&F, providing access to academic journals, articles, and other scholarly materials. Further-

more, as a member of the Kyrgyz Library and Information Consortium (KLIC) within the EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) network, the library enjoys complimentary access to various electronic resources, including the Oxford Journals Collection, Cambridge Journals Online, IMF Electronic Library, SAGE Journals, OECD, Mathematical Sciences Publishing House, and De Gruyter eJournal.

To enhance accessibility and facilitate research, the OSCE Academy Library offers a digital repository for Master's Theses, powered by DSpace software. This repository enables students to create and share their digital portfolios, contributing to the dissemination of academic knowledge and fostering scholarly communication within the Academy community.

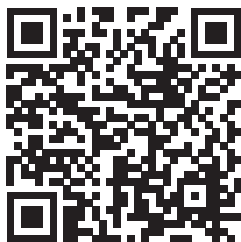
OUR ALUMNI



Alumni Chapter Meetings in Vienna, Astana, and Tashkent



*SalamAlum
Issue 13/2023*



We are pleased to share the significant accomplishments made by the OSCE Academy alumni community over the year 2023. A major event was the Annual Alumni Conference on Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development, the Alumni Spring School in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, a continuation of the implementation of already well-established exclusive initiatives, which created a great number of opportunities for our graduates.

In 2023 we were honoured to award Nuria Kutnaeva with title Alumna of the Year of 2023 for her professional achievements. Nuria received her Master's degree in the Politics and Security Programme in 2005 and is a graduate from Kyrgyzstan of the first cohort of the OSCE Academy Master's students. Nuria Kutnaeva's remarkable achievements and dedication to the Academy have made her one of the most prominent graduates among our alumni community.

This year, Nuria reached a new milestone in her career by being appointed to the post of the Kyrgyz Minister of Digital Development. Her accomplishments have not only made her a source of pride for the OSCE Academy but also a source of inspiration for our current students and fellow alumni.

We gladly share the full story of Nuria and the overview of all her activities in our annual Alumni Journal SalamAlum:

https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1703136025_56259100.pdf

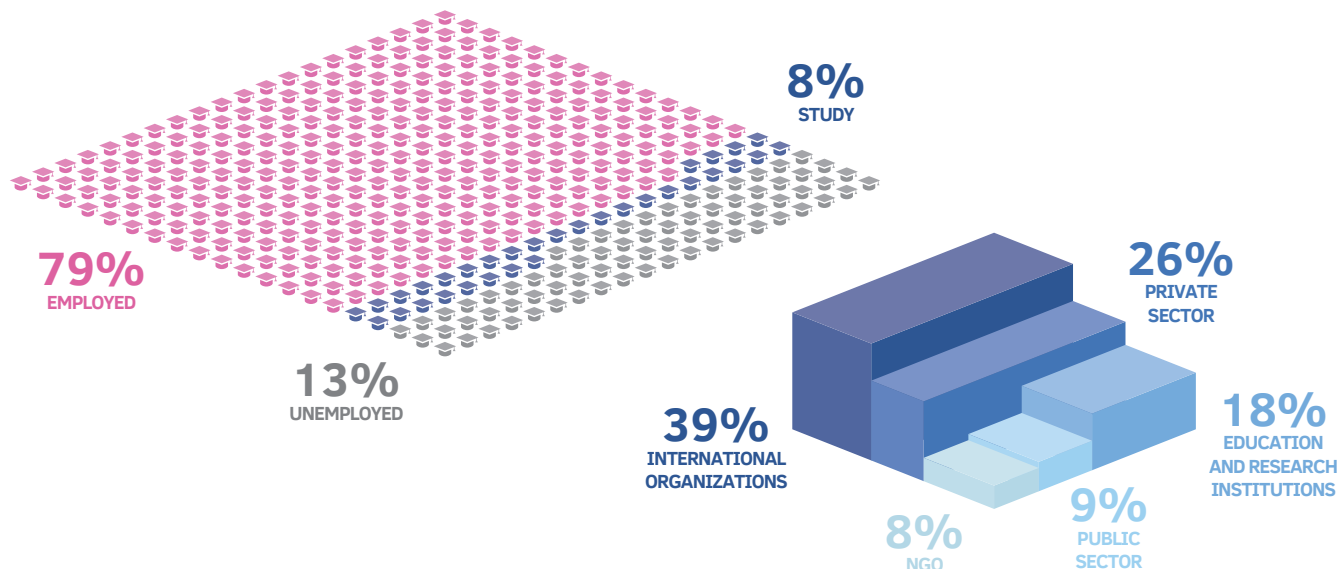
In the beginning of 2024 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network welcomed 36 newly graduated members to its ranks, totaling the overall number of our alumni to 655 (340 women and 315 man).

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.

Our latest Survey¹ revealed that 74 per cent of the Alumni, those originally come from Central Asian countries and Mongolia, live and work in the wider Central Asia region. Of the total number of alumni, it makes 66 per cent.

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

Employment: General and Sectoral



¹ The Alumni Survey 2024 held in March 2024 and includes the information about 613 alumni.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

INTERNATIONAL SPRING SCHOOL ON HUMAN SECURITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE CONDUCTED IN TASHKENT

On **16-20 April 2023**, the five-day International Spring School on “Human Rights & Good Governance for Security in Central Asia,” organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in co-operation with the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice with the support of the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The school brought together 20 graduates and students of the OSCE Academy and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent. The participants representing France, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, discussed such topical issues as human rights, security and good governance in Central Asia.



ALUMNI TRAINING: THE ROLE OF THE SECURITY SECTOR IN STABILITY AND PEACE IN THE REGION

From **16 to 21 July 2023**, fourteen OSCE Academy students and alumni from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan came together to learn about contemporary security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) concepts, taking the opportunity to think critically, to use different approaches, and to evaluate “when, where, and why” to apply SSG/R tools in the Central Asian context – including in light of the situation in Afghanistan. The holistic nature of security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), the transformations experienced by different countries, and the efforts still required to further improve security sector governance in Central Asia were discussed at an OSCE workshop, held at the picturesque Issyk-Kul lake.



JOINT EXPERT/ALUMNI CONFERENCE “CENTRAL ASIA: COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

One of the most extensive events was the Annual Alumni Conference. This significant event brought together experts, scholars, and graduates to deliberate on pressing issues under the theme “Central Asia: Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development.” The Conference was held at the OSCE Academy on **November 4-5**, which was co-organized by the OSCE Academy and the University of Siena, Italy (for more details please see pg. 31).



ALUMNI CHAPTER MEETINGS

In the **Spring and Fall of 2023**, the OSCE Academy organized Alumni chapter meetings in Vienna, Austria; Astana, Kazakhstan; and Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Alumni Chapter Meetings served as a platform for alumni from different years and students to network, share experiences, and discuss accomplishments since their time at the OSCE Academy.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



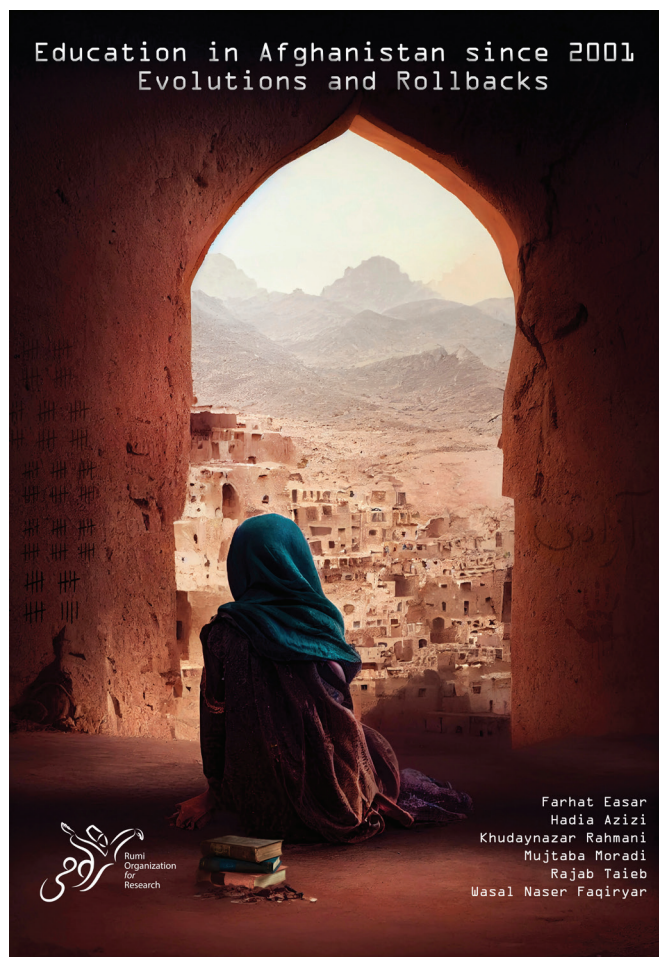
Jyldyz Abdyldaeva (third from the left) with other Chevening awardees from Kyrgyzstan

Year after year, we are thrilled to witness the remarkable achievements of our alumni, demonstrating their dedication to academic excellence and professional success. In this annual report, we are delighted to spotlight four outstanding stories that reflect the diverse accomplishments of our alumni at leading universities across the world. Jyldyz Abdyldaeva (PS'17) has been chosen as the prestigious CHEVENING Awardee for the 2023-2024 academic year. Currently, Jyldyz is pursuing her second Master's degree in Gender and Development at the University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies which has been ranked the world's FIRST over the last 7 years. In 2023, Ryan Schweitzer (PS'21) was accepted into Harvard University for the Master's degree programme in Islamic Studies. At Harvard, Ryan focuses on Islam and Identity in Central Asia. Also, two of our graduates received PhD degrees. Ahmad Javeed (PS'11) has successfully completed his PhD in Eurasian Studies at Nazarbayev University and got hired by his Alma Mater as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Natalia Zakharchenko (PS'12) studied accountability in social protection with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. She is affiliated with the Law Faculty at Vrije University Amsterdam, the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy at Ruhr-University Bochum.

*Please read the full stories in our 'Salam Alum' Annual Alumni Magazine available at:
https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1703136025_56259100.pdf*



ALUMNI INITIATIVES



In addition to building a career, our graduates are involved in working and volunteering to benefit and help others. Our alumnus Yermek Abilgazyev (PS'15) has dedicated himself to advancing economic development and prosperity in Central Asia. Yermek made a significant impact on the Central Asian trade landscape through the Trade Promotion Service Providers (TPSP) program. The program was a lifeline for regional companies, providing them with access to key advisory services such as marketing, B2B matchmaking, and certification preparation. Wasal Naser Faqiryar (PS'20) is an alumnus whose collaborative efforts with a team of OSCE Academy alumni have resulted in a detailed article exploring the fluctuation of education in Afghanistan since 2001. His dedication to illuminating the obstacles and prospects within the education sector serves as a testament to the resilience of our alumni in addressing intricate social issues. Lastly, Ahmad Javeed (PS'11), an enterprising alumnus who conceived the idea of an online fellowship to address the educational gaps in Afghanistan. Javeed's initiative seeks to empower youth by providing them with learning opportunities that have become increasingly scarce in the region. Through innovative solutions, Javeed is shaping the educational narrative for a generation of Afghan youth.

Please read the full stories in our 'Salam Alum' Annual Alumni Magazine available at:
https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1703136025_56259100.pdf



ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

JUNIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS (JPO) PROGRAMME



In support of the professional integration of alumni in the public service, starting from 2010 the OSCE Academy has run a Junior Public Officers Programme. This Programme provides an opportunity to the OSCE Academy's graduates from Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to intern at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic, the National Agency for Investments under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, State Agency for the Protection of Personal Data under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In 2023 overall four alumni conducted their internships in Kyrgyzstan:

- **Guldanika Osmonova (PS'23):** State Agency for the Protection of Personal Data under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Nadezhda Tatkalo (PS'19):** Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Asel Kuvatova (EGD'20):** National Agency for Investments under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
- **Aidanek Dushobai kyzy (EGD'21):** National Agency for Investments under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

JUNIOR TEACHING FELLOWSHIP (JTF) PROGRAMME

“Teach for Central Asia” aims to target regional universities and send Academy graduates to teach selected disciplines (relevant to the Academy's curriculum, e.g. Academic Writing, International Relations, Economics etc.). The Programme is intended to further grow and 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.

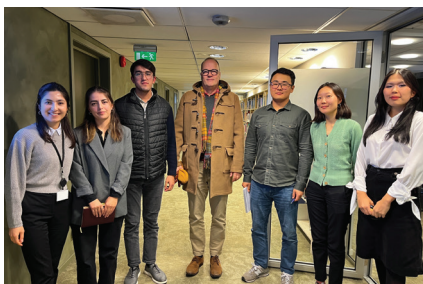


Esentur Bektursun uulu together with his students

Four OSCE Academy alumni have successfully completed the JTF Programme in Fall 2023:

- **Akmaljon Abdullayev (PS'05):** 'Theory of International Relations' course at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- **Esentur Bektursun uulu (PS'23):** 'International Negotiations and Commercial Diplomacy' course at the International University of Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Mohammad Tamim Siam (EGD'20):** 'Microeconomics' course at the Kyrgyz Economic University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Zhannat Kozhomgeldieva (EGD'20):** 'Regional Economics of Central Asia and Regulation of the Energy Sector' course at the Kyrgyz National University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

ONE-YEAR-STAY AT NUPI FELLOWSHIP



In 2023 two more alumni had a chance to participate in the fellowship offered by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI): Gavkharkhon Mamadzhanova (EGD'21) and Dastan Bekmuratov (PS'23). This Fellowship is exclusively targeted at the alumni of the OSCE Academy. This stay is an add-on to the MA degree from the OSCE Academy, and the purpose is to further prepare the two successful applicants for work in international affairs or continued study/research by deepening their practical and academic experience.

MAS AT THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY



Every year one of the graduates of the OSCE Academy receives a European Scholarship for Central Asia to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Global Studies Institute (GSI) of the University of Geneva. In 2023 Sherzod Shamiev (PS'19) was accepted to enhance his knowledge in security studies.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AT THE OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT



The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat regularly engages eight or nine graduate students of political science, law and international relations from universities in OSCE participating states as Research Fellows. Starting from 2017, one position of a Research Fellow every year is granted to an OSCE Academy graduate (under the MoU signed on 10 August 2016). This year Andrei Shvarev (PS'21) had the privilege to undergo his fellowship at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly International Secretariat. Andrei Shvarev joined the OSCE PA in Copenhagen as a Research Assistant in October 2023 to diversify his international experience following the successful 1.5-year term with the Central Asia Desk and Security Sector Governance project at the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre in Vienna.

ALUMNI GRANT



The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with the support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. This year Mirgul Ishenbek kyzy received an Alumni Travel Grant opportunity to attend the 17th Summer School on Migrants, Human Rights, and Democracy organized by the University of Palermo, Italy.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

The OSCE Academy has a wide partnership network, which continues to expand due to a growing number of programmatic activities. In 2023 we established seven new regional partnerships and seven international partnerships to engage more faculty and experts in the teaching process at MA and BA levels, conduct joint research projects and continue building the dialogue among experts:

REGIONAL PARTNERS

International University of Kyrgyzstan
<https://iuk.kg/>

Kyrgyz Economic University
<https://keu.kg/>

State Agency for the Protection of Personal Data under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic
<https://invest.gov.kg/>

Narxoz University, Kazakhstan
<https://narxoz.edu.kz/>

International Court of Arbitration in affiliation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic
<https://arbitricaccikr.com/>

PIL Research Company, Kyrgyzstan
<https://pilresearch.com/>

Karagandy University named after Buketov, Kazakhstan
<https://buketov.edu.kz/en/>

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Kırşehir Ahi Evran University, Türkiye
<https://www.ahievran.edu.tr/>

South East European University, North Macedonia
<https://www.seeu.edu.mk/>

Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies
<https://www.ios-regensburg.de/en.html>

Japan Central Asia Friendship Association, Kyrgyzstan
<https://centralasia.jinsha.tsukuba.ac.jp/en/about>

University of Siena, Italy
<https://en.unisi.it/>

National University of Mongolia
<https://www.num.edu.mn/en/>

Institute for Strategic Studies under the National Security Council of Mongolia
<https://en.iss.gov.mn/>



List of all our current Partner Institutions is available on our website:
<http://osce-academy.net/en/international/partners/>

STUDENT EXCHANGE

This year the OSCE Academy was pleased to host Antoine Andre, a student from Sciences Po, the Institute of Political Studies in Toulouse, for a four-month research internship starting in late January. During his stay, Antoine supported the research project of Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, the DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy, attended several courses of the MA Programme in Politics and Security, and participated in the International Spring School 2023 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

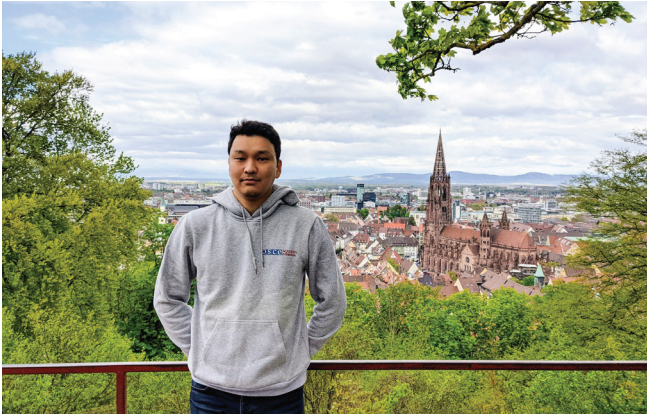
Here Antoine shared with us his experience at the Academy: *“My 4-month internship at the OSCE Academy provided me with an initial understanding of the socio-political challenges in Central Asia. Through the work, I conducted during my internship with Prof. Dr. Anja Mihr, the courses I attended as part of the Politics and Security Master’s Programme, and the regular exchanges with fellow students, I gained a wealth of knowledge. The Academy’s environment served as a perfect platform for me to develop an interest in and begin to comprehend the region. I encountered knowledgeable professors, supportive students, and attentive friends. Whether it is for an internship or pursuing an academic programme, I wholeheartedly recommend the OSCE Academy. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who facilitated my studies in Bishkek and assisted me in my daily life.”*





Erasmus+

OUTGOING STUDENT MOBILITY



Miras Makitov, a student of the MA Programme in Politics and Security, spent his summer semester at Freiburg University in Germany through the Erasmus+ programme.

“...The exchange of ideas, perspectives, and experiences during my time at Freiburg University has had a lasting impact on my outlook on both academia and life. The knowledge gained and the connections formed will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors. I am grateful to both the OSCE Academy and the Erasmus+ programme for granting me this enriching opportunity, which has truly been a transformative chapter in my educational journey.”

INCOMING STAFF MOBILITIES



In the second half of June the OSCE Academy hosted three Lecturers from Partner Universities, visiting the Academy via the Erasmus+ Teaching mobility. Dr. Ariadna Petria and Dr. Tareq Sydiq from the The Centre for Conflict Studies, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany and Dr. Radu Ungureanu from the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Romania. On 24 June Dr. Petri delivered a daily workshop to the MA students on Multi-Track Diplomacy. Dr. Ungureanu, delivered a guest-lecture within the modular course on Central Asia and the USA, taught to the MA in Politics and Security group by Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev. Dr. Sydiq delivered a guest-lecture within the modular course on Central Asia and China, taught to the MA in Politics and Security group by Dr. Yana Leksytina.

OUTGOING STAFF MOBILITIES



Between June 13-17 Cholpon Osmonalieva, Head of Department of Graduate Education, and Aigerim Egemberdieva, Programme Assistant, visited the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA) in Bucharest under the Erasmus+ staff mobility programme. Staff members met Dr. Ana-Maria Costea, Coordinator of the Erasmus Department at the SNSPA, and Dr. Ioana Roxana Melenciuc-Ioan, Head of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, as well as faculty members, to exchange experience and knowledge in the study process at both institutions and to discuss further cooperation opportunities.

NEW ERASMUS+ PROJECTS

Central Asia — Governance, History, Anthropology and Neighborhoods (CAGHAN)

The OSCE Academy is part of the Erasmus Mundus Design Measures (EMDM) – (ERASMUS-EDU-2022-EMJM-DESIGN) project to develop CAGHAN, an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters on Central (Eur)Asian Studies project. The project is coordinated by Dr. Jeroen Van den Bosch, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan. The end goal is to set up a unique, 2-year Master program (Area Studies) on Central Asian Studies (CAS) aimed at providing in-depth knowledge and skills to future specialists on this “region” (both in its narrow and broader understanding). Beside instruction on three of the region’s titular languages (but also offering Russian), courses are to be drawn from a multidisciplinary program, encompassing History, Political Science, as well as Sociology and Anthropology, supported by their relevant methodologies. The partner universities that will host students for one semester are: Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland, Humboldt University in Germany, and the OSCE Academy.

Jean Monnet Module “European Climate Policy”

In 2023 the Jean Monnet Module “European Climate Policy” project was successfully launched with its first cycle. Following the module on European Politics, taught by Dr. Clara Portela from the University of Valencia in Spain in April, in May Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, and Jean Monnet Project Coordinator, taught the first module on European Climate Policy. The first objective of the module was to provide students with a broad understanding of the key issues and challenges related to EU climate policy in Europe, as well as the skills and knowledge needed to analyse and evaluate policy options. The second objective of the module was to see how the lessons from EU climate policy can be learned to implement successful decarbonization strategies in Central Asia. This module was attended by students of the OSCE Academy and AUCA.



As a second component of the project, on 11 April 2023, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek organized a roundtable on “Climate Policy in Central Asia and Research Potential” moderated by Dr. Sabyrbekov. Representatives from the government of the Kyrgyz Republic, non-profit organizations, international organizations, and universities in Central Asia took part in the event. The objective of the round table was threefold.

Firstly, it aimed to convene stakeholders to deliberate on the prevailing state of climate policy within the region. This included an examination of existing initiatives, challenges encountered, and areas requiring further attention or improvement. Secondly, the meeting sought to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participants, drawing from the experiences and lessons gleaned from EU climate policies. By studying successful strategies implemented in the EU, the round table aimed to identify transferable practices and methodologies applicable to Central Asia's context. Thirdly, the session aimed to be a platform for the development of actionable plans and strategies. Through robust discussions and evidence-based insights, participants were encouraged to formulate concrete steps and initiatives that could effectively contribute to the region's decarbonization objectives. Emphasis was placed on devising approaches grounded in empirical evidence, ensuring that the proposed strategies were based on reliable data and analysis.

During the round table, Nurzat Abdurasulova, President of the Unison Group; Saikal Esenamanova, Lecturer at the Kyrgyz Economic University; and Nazira Esenalieva, Alliance of Universities for Green Economy

and Sustainable Development (AVZUR) discussed the current state of climate change in Central Asia and its impact on the region's economy, health and natural resources. National climate strategies and action plans adopted in Central Asian countries were discussed, including measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support renewable energy sources, and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Participants stressed the significance of consolidating researchers from Central Asia to conduct joint scientific and educational events in the field of climate change. They also identified priority areas in climate policy research, discussed issues related to the education and training of relevant specializations at universities, and considered opportunities and obstacles for publication in international journals.

In summary, the round table served as an important forum for stakeholders to collectively assess the current landscape of climate policy, leverage international best practices, and collaboratively chart a path forward towards sustainable and evidence-based climate action in Central Asia.

NOTABLE VISITORS AND GUEST LECTURERS



On 31 January 2023, OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Support Unit (SU) representatives, accompanied by staff members of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, visited the OSCE Academy. **Nora Vanaga**, Associate Project Officer, FSC SU/Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), and **Peter Merritt**, Project Clerk, FSC SU/CPC, met Dr. Indira Satarkulova, Acting Director of the OSCE Academy, and Victoria Orazova, Head of International Office, and introduced “Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) E-Learning Programme” developed by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre.



On 7 February 2023, **Kubanych Musuraliev**, Head of the Financial Literacy Department of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, delivered a guest lecture on “Financial Literacy and Financial Success” to students of the BA Programme and MA Programmes of the OSCE Academy.



On 27 February 2023, **Dr. Matthew Pringle**, a British/Canadian Human Rights Consultant, delivered an online guest lecture on “The Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT): An International Human Rights Instrument for the Protection of All” to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security. This lecture was a part of the course ‘Contemporary Security Issues’ taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina.



On 13 March 2023, **Bakyt Rysbekov**, Director of the National Centre of the Kyrgyz Republic on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the National Centre), and **Bakytbek Kasymkulov**, Head of the Department for Control and Coordination of the National Centre, gave a guest lecture on “Implementing the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the Kyrgyz Republic: The Situation With Torture in the Kyrgyz Republic” to students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security. The lecture was conducted as part of the course “Contemporary Security Issues’ taught by Dr. Elena Zhirukhina.



On 14 March 2023, **Heiko Schmidt**, Head of the Department for Scholarship Programmes in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), visited the OSCE Academy to discuss the cooperation between the DAAD and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, including DAAD funded Visiting Professorship and Language Assistantship.



On 16 March 2023, **Dr. Marc Ozawa**, Research Division, NATO Defense College, delivered a guest lecture on “European-Russian Energy Relations” to MA students of the Academy. Dr. Ozawa talked about the basics of oil and gas infrastructure and briefed on the petroleum sector of the Russian Federation. He gave an overview of the development of European-Russian energy cooperation.



On 29 March 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **H.E. Tomas Danestad**, the Ambassador of Sweden to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for an introductory visit.



On 29 March 2023, the OSCE Academy hosted a guest lecture on “Nuclear Proliferation Challenges and Nonproliferation Opportunities” by **Prof. William Potter**, Director, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and Sam Nunn and Richard Lugar Professor of Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. This event was held on the occasion of the first International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness and initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. Dr. Elena Zhirukhina moderated the lecture, which was attended by the MA students of the OSCE Academy, students and faculty of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.



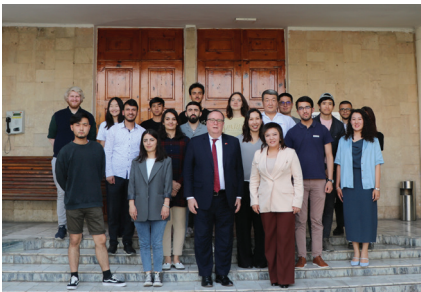
On 3 April 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **H.E. Lesslie Viguerie**, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to the Kyrgyz Republic, accompanied by **Mr. Garrett Greenlee**, Political Officer.



On 24 April 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **H.E. Vesa Häkkinen**, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, accompanied by **Mr. Riku Rantanen**, Special Advisor, and **Ms. Ekaterina Nakashidze**, Acting Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, along with their colleagues. During the meeting, Ambassador Häkkinen engaged with MA and BA students of the Academy, discussing their study processes and prospects for internships.



On 11 May 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to host **H.E. Antje Grawe**, the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Kyrgyzstan, and **Kanykei Ergesheva**, Partnerships and Development Finance Officer, for an introductory visit.



On 15 May 2023, students of the MA Programme in Politics and Security had the opportunity to meet **H.E. Lesslie Viguerie**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to the Kyrgyz Republic, accompanied by **Mr. Garrett Greenlee**, Political Officer. During the meeting, Ambassador Viguerie discussed U.S. foreign policy in Central Asia, highlighting both achievements and shortcomings, and also delved into the historical context of U.S. involvement in Central Asia.

5. Example (II): Structuring forces



On 31 May 2023, **Barbara Meier**, Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, delivered a public lecture on “Capturing Transnational Attractions in Sympathies of Students in Bishkek and Osh.”



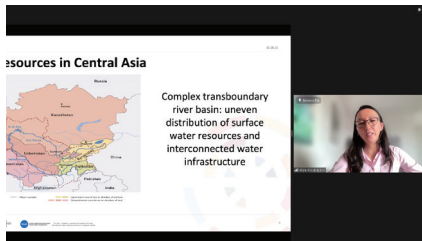
On 6 June 2023, OSCE Secretary General **H.E. Helga Maria Schmid**, accompanied by Ambassador **Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **Catherine Fearon**, OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre Deputy Director, and **Juliane Ziegler**, Executive Officer of the Office of Secretary General, visited the OSCE Academy as part of an official trip to Kyrgyzstan. The OSCE Secretary General met the current students, graduates, and staff members of the Academy.



On 22 June 2023, **H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, accompanied by a Delegation, visited the OSCE Academy as part of his official trip to the Kyrgyz Republic. During the visit, the Federal President had a meeting with the group of MA students and discussed a wide range of global issues and developments. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Anja Mihr, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy.



On 23 August 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome the newly appointed British Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic **H.E. Nicholas Bowler** for an introductory visit.



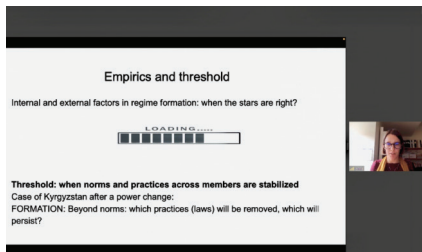
On 30 August 2023, **Dr. Aliya Assubayeva**, a Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy and a Research Associate at the Center for International Development and Environmental Research, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, delivered a public lecture titled “Uncertainties in Water Security Decision-Making in Central Asia.”



On 8 September 2023, the OSCE Academy hosted a guest lecture by **Ivan Saleyev**, Head of the National Office, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative Office in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Saleyev met the MA students of Human Rights and Sustainability Programme and delivered a presentation on Introduction to International Protection of Refugees.



On 12 September 2023, MA students of the Politics and Security Programme had an opportunity to meet **Lilla Schumicky-Logan**, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Portfolio Management at the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). Ms. Schumicky-Logan delivered a presentation on “Radicalisation that leads to Violent Extremism: Root Causes and Prevention Mechanisms” and also briefed students about the activities of GCERF.



On 14 September 2023, the OSCE Academy held a public lecture on the topic of “Regional Security Regime Emerging in Central Asia” by **Anna Jordanova**, a Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute of International Studies at Charles University in Prague and a Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy.



On 15 September 2023, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **Matilda Bogner**, Regional Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Central Asia. Students of all three MA Programmes of the Academy had an opportunity to learn about the activities of the UN OHCHR office and discussed with Ms. Bogner the practical work of the Office in the Central Asian region and globally.



On 21 September 2023, students of the MA Programmes had the opportunity to meet **Tadeusz Jedrzejczak**, Vice-Marshall of the Lubuskie Voivodeship and the Chairman of the European INTERREG Committee, who was accompanied by his team members - **Radosław Brodzik**, Director of the Department of Foreign Cooperation and **Mieczysław Łapanowski**. Mr. Jedrzejczak delivered a guest lecture on “The Role of Regions in the European Union.”



On 30 September, **Prof. Dr. Verónica Gómez**, President of the Global Campus of Human Rights in Venice, who also serves as a Professor of Law at the University of San Martin in Buenos Aires, and as a Judge at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights in Costa Rica, delivered a master class on “Regional Protection of Human Rights – the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights” to MAHRS students.



On 6 October, **Ms. Tatevika Paronjana**, Political Advisor to the EU Special Representative for Central Asia paid a visit to the OSCE Academy to learn more about its activities in the region.



On 02 November, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Ms. Helena Bogdan**, First Secretary and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Astana. Following the introduction, Ms. Bogdan met MA and BA students of the Academy and shared her educational and professional experiences.



On 09 November, the OSCE Academy welcomed **Ms. Dzhamilya Dzhamanbaeva**, the Akyikatchy (Ombudsman) of the Kyrgyz Republic, **Ms. Aichurok Nazaralieva**, Deputy Akyikatchy, **Ms. Ulara Kasymbekova**, expert of the Department for the Protection of the Rights of Children, Women and the Family and **Ms. Leyla Eshmukanbetova**, Secretary to the Ombudsman, for an introductory visit. This was the first visit of Dzhamilya Dzhamanbaeva to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek since her appointment to this position in May 2023.



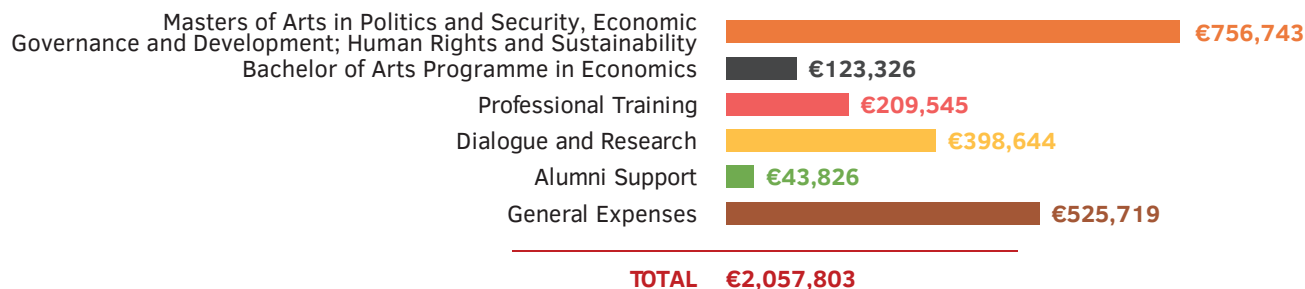
On 23 November, **Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov**, a Visiting Lecturer at the OSCE Academy and an Assistant Professor at Maqsut Narikbayev University, delivered a public lecture on “Unleashing AI in the Digital Age: Implications of Content Moderation for Human Rights.”



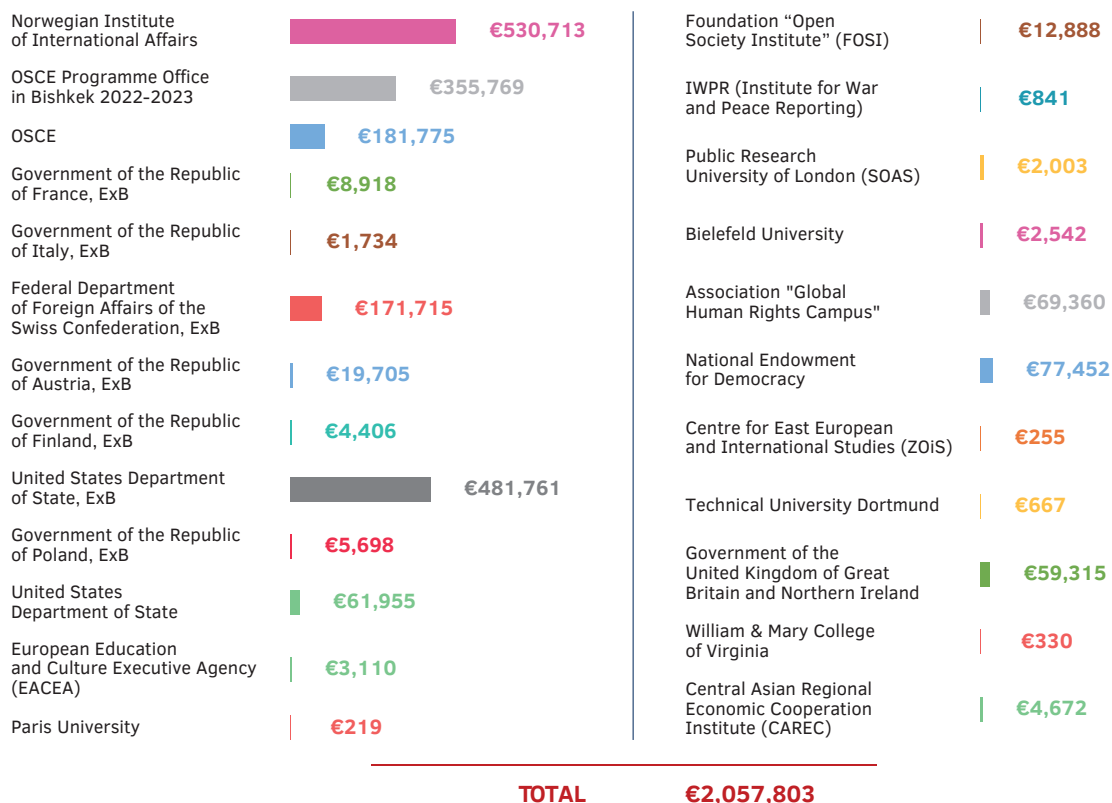
On 27 November, the OSCE Academy was honored to welcome **Ms. Mahri Bashimova**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, and **Mr. Gadam Beshеров**, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan who paid a first courtesy visit to the OSCE Academy.

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/>

