



2017 ANNUAL
REPORT

osce ACADEMY
in Bishkek



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Readers,

I am honoured and privileged to have the opportunity to present you with the 2017 Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The report is an excellent opportunity for you to get acquainted with recent developments and successes at an educational institution that has already attained outstanding reputation not only in Central Asia, but also far beyond the region.

Despite serious challenges faced at the beginning of the year, 2017 was characterized by the shaping of a new strategic vision for the Academy and first remarkable achievements towards its future development. It is the joint merit of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, the Academy, the host State, and not least the donor community, whose dedicated support has allowed for the development of world-class educational standards at the Academy and enabled it to overcome difficulties.

Year by year the Academy attracts more extraordinary and success-oriented young people from the Central Asian states, Afghanistan and Mongolia, who



Ambassador Pierre von Arx
Head of OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

ultimately become the ambassadors of regional integration and international friendship. The Academy has become a pole attracting all who are committed to a better future for their countries based on regional stability and prosperity.

Today, youth in the region have come to see the Academy as a solid platform to jumpstart their professional and academic careers, and to achieve a meaningful impact on national and regional development. Indeed, the outstanding education provided by the Academy represents a fantastic investment in the young generation on the part of the OSCE. These days the Academy alumni have become real 'movers and shakers' that promote cooperation between their countries and lead them forward. The graduates of the OSCE Academy are in high demand in Central Asia and elsewhere, because of their sharp minds, values, competency and resourcefulness.

Our enhanced collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic has gained us their

great support, without which today's OSCE Academy would be hardly imaginable.

I am also grateful to the members of the Board of Trustees that have constantly provided support to the Academy, ensuring visibility as well as strategic guidance for its development. In a broader sense, the OSCE community, through its participating States, has contributed greatly with generous political and financial support. These invaluable contributions are not only aimed towards academic enhancement of students in the region, but rather enriching regional integration towards peace, stability and development today.

I am confident that by working together we can set our goals even higher, implement them even better, achieve more and open up even greater opportunities for bright youths from the region and for the region.

I wish you an interesting reading of the 2017 annual report.



Dr Alexander Wolters
Director of OSCE Academy in Bishkek

INTRODUCTION FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY

Dear Readers,

We proudly present to you the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for the year 2017. We hope you enjoy reading about our past activities and join us in our delight in the new achievements of the Academy. Today our institute continues to build on its reputation as one of the most advanced graduate institutes in the region of Central Asia.

2017 was a turbulent and exciting year for the OSCE Academy. Times were challenging in the first months when the question for the sustainable development of our institute demanded close attention while a new management was only taking its seats. It was in those crucial moments that support from the OSCE in Vienna, from participating States and from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, as well as from the Kyrgyz Government and the wider donor community provided invaluable back-up and allowed operations to continue and to grow. Eventually the second half of 2017 saw the full resumption of operations and the initiation of new developments.

In September 2017 the Academy invited 49 students from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, and Georgia to enroll in its two MA programmes and to learn within the following 16 months about Politics &

Security, and Economic Governance & Development. Few months later, on 16 December, 52 students of the old class (Academic Year 2016-2017) successfully graduated from the Academy and joined our reputed Alumni Network which grew to number 427 members. It was in November last year that our connection to our former students was fostered once again when 34 alumni gathered at the Academy to conduct the 5th Alumni Conference, an event regularly organized with the generous support of our main partner, the Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs (NUPI).

With further support from NUPI the Academy implemented a series of professional trainings in Fall 2017, gathering participants from Central Asia and beyond and inviting them to engage into such diverse topics as project feasibility, conflict sensitivity, or policy analysis. Several guest lectures throughout the year as well as round-tables, conferences and summer schools completed the range of activities our institute realized with much success in 2017. Last but not least, in August 2017 13 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan graduated from the Central Asian Summer School of Contemporary Journalism, a joint programme organized together with the Deutsche Welle Academy.

We are delighted to have reached agreements with new partners in 2017 and to receive further support for our programmatic development. Following our successful submission in October of a new extra-budgetary project proposal, contributions from the United States, from Finland, Austria and Switzerland amounted to full coverage of the costs of the Academy in 2018. Furthermore, part of that funding will be used to create full-time faculty positions at the Academy, a major step for our institute that will help to develop the Academy into a full-fledged graduate institute. Last but not least, the German Academic Exchange Service agreed in late November to fund a new Visiting Professorship at the Academy to start in Fall 2018.

More partnerships were formed in 2018, for example with the Aleksanteri Institute in Helsinki, Finland, and the European Institute for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany. We are excited about these developments and look forward to widen our network and deepen our cooperation with partners at home and abroad in the coming years.

For now we hope you enjoy our Annual Report 2017!

ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

In April 2017 the OSCE Academy welcomed Dr Alexander Wolters as the new director. Dr Wolters has extensive academic and professional experience in the region and in Kyrgyzstan specifically. He has been teaching and working in Kyrgyzstan for many years, including research for his PhD. He holds a BA degree from the Westphalian Wilhelms University in Münster, and an MA in Cultural Studies from the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany where he also received his PhD degree in 2012. As a Visiting Professor Dr Wolters has been with the Academy since August 2013 within the partnership between the OSCE Academy and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), teaching Political Theory, Contemporary Security Issues and European Politics.

In March, May and November 2017 the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy held its meetings. While during the March and May gatherings, held in Bishkek and in Vienna respectively, the Trustees were occupied with discussing the challenging situation the Academy faced in the first half of 2017, the meeting in November, also held in Vienna, served to report on the successful introduction of reform measures and programmatic developments at the institute. Questions raised during the meetings concerned the launch of a new ExB project for the years 2018-2020 and the plans of the Academy's management



Repair and construction works in the yard of the OSCE Academy.

to establish full-time faculty positions. The new ExB project proposal was an urgent matter during the BoT meetings in March and May and the final project was met with unanimous approval by the Trustees during the presentation in November. The suggestion to establish full-time positions was furthermore considered a necessary step to help the Academy increase its research capacities and to set the conditions for developing the educational programmes needed to become a full-fledged graduate institute.

In December repair and construction works at the OSCE Academy's building and yard were completed. With the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek the Academy building's roof was completely renovated. Outside in the yard, a metal tent was erected containing new tables and benches for students; inside the building walls were re-painted and minor



renovations conducted, including replacing old windows and refurbishing offices and sanitation facilities.

Licenses and Accreditation

In 2017 the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development went through the re-accreditation processes, as required by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science. The new accreditation certificate, received after a thorough evaluation by the accreditation commission on 12 July 2017, is valid until 12 July 2022. The license was given in 2016 for an unlimited period.

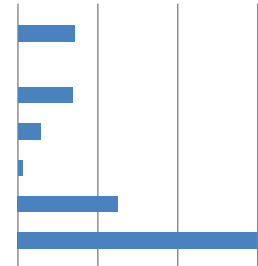
Finances

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

on the Academy's website where we publish the results of our yearly audits and provide further explanations about the Academy's funding strategy as well as financial policies.

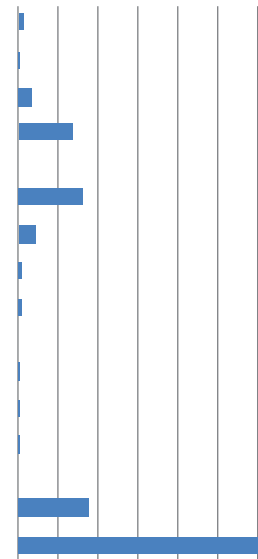
Expenditures by Area of Activities

MA Programme in Politics and Security.....	€231,733
MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development	€219,621
Professional Trainings.....	€93,934
Alumni Support.....	€17,335
General Support Costs.....	€408,786
Total	€971,409



Expenditures by Source of Funding

Austria (ExB).....	€22,876
Finland (ExB)	€7,307
Germany (ExB)	€55,000
USA (ExB).....	€221,839
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (third-party funding).....	€262,034
Swiss MFA (third-party funding).....	€70,997
Centre for European Security Studies	€17,241
Paris University 13.....	€17,302
Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (IFA).....	€3,962
UNESCO.....	€3,181
Dortmund University	€884
Unified Budget (OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek)	€288,786
Total	€971,409



DISCLAIMER: These figures are taken from the financial statements of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for the year 2017. Further information about the Academy's finances, including the audit report for the year 2017, can be found under <http://www.osce-academy.net/en/about/annual-programs/>

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND SECURITY PROGRAMME 2016-2017



MA Programme in Politics and Security continues to provide excellent knowledge in international relations, political science, conflict prevention, security, international development as well as allows its students acquire and improve their analytical, critical and research skills. As a result students from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia and further abroad become more competitive in the labor markets of their countries and apply the knowledge and skills they received in the MA to their work in the public sector, international organizations, civil society and research institutions.

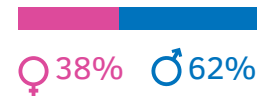
Graduated students in 2017:

26

Students have graduated from the programme:



Gender balance



Admission statistics for the academic year of 2017-2018

480

248

220

3

9

25

Applications in total for the September intake

From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, UZB, TURK, TJ)

Applications from Afghanistan

Applications from Mongolia

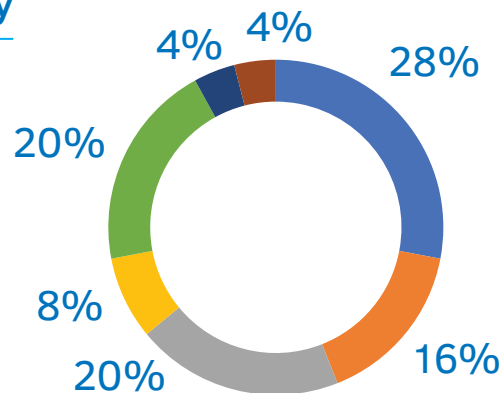
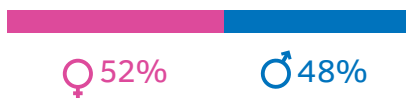
From other OSCE Participating states

Number of students admitted to the programme

Admitted students represent Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Afghanistan, Mongolia, Out of Region. The programme also enrolled one student from Georgia and one student from Mongolia.

Enrolled Students by Country

Gender balance out of 25 enrolled students



- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Afghanistan
- Mongolia
- Out of region

Curriculum

In the 2017 academic year, the curriculum offered 9 full term and 11 modular courses in total. The spring 2017 semester programme offered one new elective course: “Central Asia and Russia”.

Fall Semester:

Full-term courses:

- International Relations
- Political Theory
- Academic Writing and Honesty
- Current Affairs Lectures
- Political Institutions and Processes

Modules:

- The OSCE
- Human Rights and International Law

Winter Semester:

Full-term courses:

- Contemporary Security Issues
- Political Economy
- Research Methods
- MA Thesis Seminar
- Current Affairs Lectures
- Central Asian Politics

Modules:

- Conflict Management
- Political Islam

Spring Semester:

Full –term course:

- MA Thesis Seminar

Modules:

- Energy Politics
- European Politics
- Migration and Human Trafficking
- Sustainable Development
- Nation, State and Nationalism
- Central Asia and Russia

Faculty

The programme maintained most of its core and visiting faculty, including:

Dr Alexander Wolters, (Germany), OSCE Academy

Dr Emilbek Dzhuraev, (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

Dr Payam Froughi, (USA), OSCE Academy

Dr Lance Tillman, (USA), European School of Central Asia (ESCA)

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

Mr Dieter Von Blarer, (Switzerland)

Mr Augustin Nicolescu, (Austria), Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Dr Tim Epkenhans, (Germany), University of Freiburg

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

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

Mr Jonathon Hornbook (UK), German Technical Co-operation (GIZ)

Additionally, the programme has been successful in recruiting new visiting faculty members for courses and modules scheduled for the winter and spring 2017 semesters.

Mr Tomoyuki Hashimoto (Japan), Higher Education Academy of the UK

Dr Selbi Hanova (Turkmenistan), Sciences Po

Dr Paul Fryer (Finland), University of Eastern Finland

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2016-2017



The MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development has successfully received a new five-year accreditation, confirming its status as a unique education project enrolling students from Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia and beyond. In 2017 the fifth cohort of young professionals received their degrees and began work at government bodies, leading international and national non-profit organizations and private companies inside and outside the region.

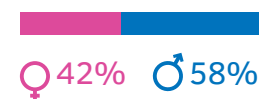
Graduated students in 2017:

26

Students have graduated from the programme:



Gender balance



Admission statistics for the academic year of 2017-2018

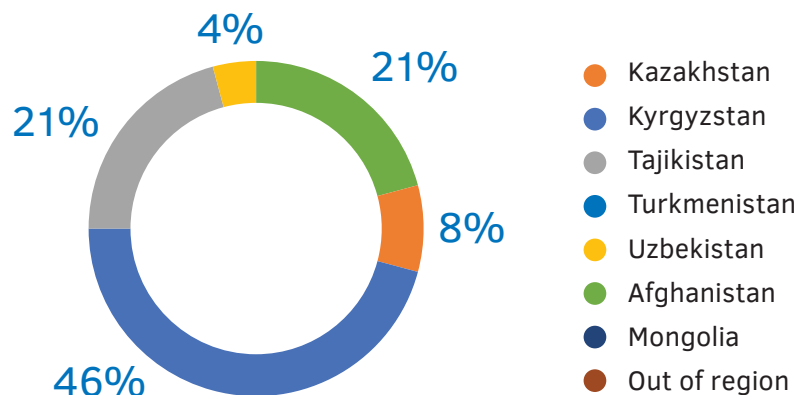
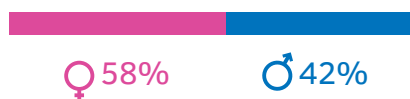
563 214 345 3 1 24

Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, UZB, TURK, TJ)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE Participating states	Number of students admitted to the programme
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Admitted students represent Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Afghanistan, Mongolia, Out of Region. The programme also enrolled one student from Georgia and one student from Mongolia.

Enrolled Students by Country

Gender balance out of 24 enrolled students



Curriculum

In 2017 year the curriculum offered 12 full term and 11 modular courses.

Fall Semester:

Full-term courses:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Academic Writing
- Statistics

Modules:

- The OSCE
- International and Regional Trade Arrangements
- Good Governance in Central Asia
- Economics of Sustainable Development
- Project Management

Winter Semester:

Full-term courses:

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

Modules:

- Economy of Border Management and Transport Routs
- Industrial Policy

Spring Semester:

Full –term course:

- International Development
- International Financial System
- Economics and Regulation of Energy Sector
- Economic Effects of Migration

Modules:

- Energy Politics
- International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings
- Integrated Water Management
- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources

Faculty 2017

The programme maintained most of its core and visiting faculty, among them;

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

Dr David Grant (UK), European School in Central Asia (ESCA)

Dr Nurbek Jenish (Kyrgyzstan), National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic

Dr Ulanbek Akmatbaev (Kyrgyzstan)

Dr Hélène Syed Zwick (France), British University in Egypt

Dr Ali Shah Syed (France), American University in Cairo

Dr Jo Lind (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

Mr Jonathon Hornbrook (UK), German Technical Cooperation (GIZ)

Dr Gordana Pesakovic (USA), Argosy University

Dr Mizanur Rahaman (Finland), University of Asia Pacific

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

Mr Dieter von Blarer (Switzerland)

Dr Lukasz Gruszczynski (Poland), Polish Academy of Sciences

Mr Ernest Turdubaev (Russia), Far Eastern Federal University

Ms Diana Biba (Kyrgyzstan), Wolrd Bank

Dr Nazgul Zhenish (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS AND CONFERENCES

In 2017, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek laid foundations for the development of international cooperation with partners while strengthening the Academy's traditional professional programmes. The Academy signed several memorandums with international institutions and organizations and succeeded in increasing the number and quality of the offered regional programmes. In cooperation with its partners, the Academy offered courses and events for state and non-government institutions, parliamentarians, and young scholars from Central Asia and wider OSCE region.

On 3-4 July 2017, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted the workshop **“Contested Global Governance, Transformed Global Governors?”**. Organized by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in cooperation with the University Paris 13 (Paris), the American University of Central Asia (AUCA, Bishkek) and the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC, Bishkek) the workshop gathered around 40 high profile academics and experienced practitioners from the region and beyond working on international organizations and global governance questions within the framework of the research project GLOBALCONTEST funded

Dr John Heathershaw,
University of Exeter,
United Kingdom and Dr
Oleg Korneev, CERAL,
University of Paris 13,
France





by the French National Research Agency (ANR). The initiative aimed to explore the ongoing debate over global governance interventions by international organisations in ostensibly “weak” states and the impact this debate has on international organisations.

From 21-23 September, with support from the Volkswagen Stiftung, the OSCE collaborated with Dortmund University to organize the **Summer School “Regional Cooperation – Approaches from Central Asia and Europe.”** This Summer School is a component of the research-based professionalization project “Between Stability and Transformation: Regional and Transnational Cooperation in Central Asia and between Central Asia and Europe (2016-

2019).” The project aims to enhance the interdisciplinary research capabilities of junior researchers in the field of social sciences.

24 participants from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Russia participated in the Summer School. Participants were brought up to speed during a series of introductory, discussion-focused lectures. These lectures were then followed by a workshop based on individual topical preferences, moderated by a double chair – one with a Central Asian and one with a European cultural background. Within these workshops, the participants discussed current issues in Central – Asia aiming to find solutions for given problems and identify new avenues of research.

Right to left: Ms Ainuru Altybaeva, Member of the Parliament, Jogorku Kenesh, Dr Alexander Wolters, Director of the OSCE Academy and Ms Svetlana Dzardanova, Training and Research Coordinator of the OSCE Academy



Journalism School
Participants learn useful
hints during the TV-Radio
Module

On 25 October, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, in collaboration with the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA), hosted a roundtable on the topic of **“Bride Kidnaping, The Status Quo and the Formation of Public Opinion: Approaches, Practices, Problems and Opportunities.”** This multi-disciplinary discussion platform emerged as part of a project aiming to change attitudes towards bride kidnaping, with financial support of from IFA CCP Plus (with means of the German Federal Foreign Office).

The goal of the roundtable was to stimulate dialogue between representatives from human rights organizations, religious circles and law enforcement agencies – as well as researchers, historians, writers,

sociologists, journalists and other interested citizens.

Roundtable participants contributed to the development of recommendations for further actions in the context of the project, and participated in thematic panels and discussions.

Capacity building at regional level is one of the long-standing objectives of the Academy. For that reason, the Academy is committed to further enlarging its training portfolio for external beneficiaries, including regional scholars, civil servants, journalists and activists from Central Asia.

The Centre for European Security Studies (CESS) in cooperation with the OSCE



Academy in Bishkek and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic held three subsequent courses on **'Improving Skills, Tools and Techniques of Parliamentary Staffers'** in March, May and August 2017. The objective of the programme was to build up the capacities of the parliament in effective and accountable policy-making and oversight on security and defense matters. Around 20 MPs and staffers participated in all three phases within the planned training series for Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: A Capacity Building Programme for the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan. The course was designed as a mixture of theoretical and practical sessions and also featured a two-day long simulation game.

Trainers from CESS, Netherlands and a renowned Parliamentary Empowerment expert from Belgium, Mr. Peter Vanhoutte actively worked with the participants during sessions covering a variety of issues from enhancing communication skills to an effective representation of the citizens. This training course was financially supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 31 July to 18 August the Academy hosted the annual **Central Asian School of Contemporary Journalism in Bishkek**. Over 3 weeks 13 young journalists were familiarized with the central features of TV based journalism with a focus on particular topics relevant to Central Asia. This School is a joint programme of the OSCE Academy

Participants of the Training on Regulatory Impact Analysis

in Bishkek and the Deutsche Welle Akademie in Bonn and has been running since 2010. The main aim of the School is to enhance the capacity and the qualifications of young journalists from Central Asia. The curriculum of the course was designed jointly by experts from the OSCE Academy and the Deutsche Welle Akademie and aims to boost both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The young professionals that participated in the course received training in journalistic ethics, open source research and in reporting on ethnic conflict. In addition to the theoretical knowledge, participants of the journalism school had a chance to apply the newly acquired skills in practice. During these

three weeks, they worked on their own video report which is available here: <http://akademie.dw.com/zaschool2017/>.

From 11 to 15 September, the OSCE Academy conducted regional **Training on Regulatory Impact Analysis** for junior and mid-level officials from the analytical departments of institutes, ministries and departments in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Working in an interactive format, 13 participants familiarized themselves with the following topics: government regulation and participation of citizens in political decision-making, bases for public policy analysis, opportunities and challenges when applying the regulatory impact analysis, international best practices and experiences in other

Participants of the Certificate Programme working in groups





countries. The training was conducted by Izmailov Kemal Osmanovich from the Institute of Public Analysis and Research, Kyrgyzstan.

From 2 to 6 October, the OSCE Academy conducted training on **Writing Feasibility Studies for Investment Projects** in the context of state development policy (industrial development, export promotion, and infrastructure development) for junior and middle-level staff from the analytical sections of institutes, ministries and departments in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

As part of the training, 22 participants learned how to conduct anticorruption analysis and complex analytical projects.

These included investment analysis, analysis of political and social impacts, and analysis of environmental impact.

Between 6 -10 November 2017 the OSCE Academy in Bishkek conducted the **Policy Paper Writing Seminar** for young scholars and experts from the region and Afghanistan. The main purpose of this annual seminar is to enhance the capacity of participants in writing policy briefs on various regional topics through lectures, class discussions, group work, individual and peer-editing sessions.

As an outcome of the programme several of the best papers are usually published in the framework of the Central Asia Policy Briefs series. The OSCE

Participants of the training on Writing Feasibility Studies for Investment Projects

Academy seeks to create and maintain a regional network of active young scholars who can potentially become leaders and decision makers.

Between 21 November-1 December the OSCE Academy held a two-week long **International Certificate Programme in Conflict Sensitive Development**. This is an annual training programme of the Academy designed for participants from all Central Asian states and Afghanistan. In 2017, 14 young professionals from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Belarus joined the programme.

The international Certificate Training Programme in Conflict Sensitive Development is aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of experts from Central Asia and Afghanistan to analyze economic development projects for countries and territories with ongoing or recent political, military or ethnic conflict. The curriculum covers analysis of economic risks associated with conflicts, principles of good governance in application to situations of conflict and practical conflict analysis and conflict management. The training uses recent cases, up-to-date theoretical material and highly interactive training methods.

From 9 - 12 December, the OSCE Academy and the International Debate Education Association (IDEA CA) held a four-day training and debate in British Parliamentary Debate Format **“HUMAN RIGHTS CUP 2017”** for schoolchildren. The event



School children during the debate training

was part of a project to change the attitudes towards bride kidnapping, with the financial support of the IFA CCP Plus program (Germany). The project started with an interdisciplinary expert meeting on 25 October 2017 (<http://osce-academy.net/en/news/full/447.html>). During the meeting, experts developed a number of recommendations. One of these was a recommendation to hold events focused on preventing bride-kidnapping for secondary school students.

About 40 schoolchildren from nine secondary schools from 8-11 grades took part in the subsequent event from 9 till 12 December. The school-age participants were familiarized with national legislation and international documents on the



protection of girls' rights in the Kyrgyz Republic and discussed topics including early marriages; bride-kidnapping plus how and when to use Kyrgyz-language terms like “Ala-kachuu” and “Zorduk”.

Trainers from IDEA CA taught participants how to use effective debate techniques including goal-setting, identifying expectations, use of counter-arguments, analyzing arguments and feedback technology. The training was concluded with a debate tournament and the award of certificates to participants.

The project also published special information leaflets (<http://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Brochure.compressed.pdf>) as well as well as a thematically-based sto-

ry “Erkinay”, which was written by writer Altyn Aman, illustrated by Tatyana Zelenskaya and translated into Russian and English by Altyn Aman and Svetlana Dzardanova. (<http://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Erkinay.pdf>) Hard copies of “Erkinay” were distributed among schools and libraries around Kyrgyzstan. The book was published with support from the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek.

The release of the “Erkinay” cartoon on 29 January coincided with the conclusion of the joint project of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA) aimed at changing attitudes towards bride-kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan (<http://osce-academy.net/en/news/full/476.html>)

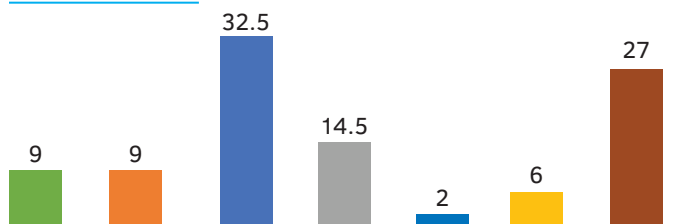
The joint project of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IFA) was designed to inform and engage young people. In Kyrgyzstan, the practice of bride-kidnapping prevents many promising young women from receiving an education, effectively depriving them of a decent life. Despite the fact that the criminal code of Kyrgyzstan provides for up to 7 years imprisonment for kidnapping a person under the age of 17 for the purposes of marriage, the public, victims themselves and law enforcement agencies often do not consider abduction and forced marriage a serious crime. The central idea of the project was to challenge perceptions of bride kidnapping as a “tradition” and instead stress the crime’s violent and anti-rights nature.



OUR ALUMNI

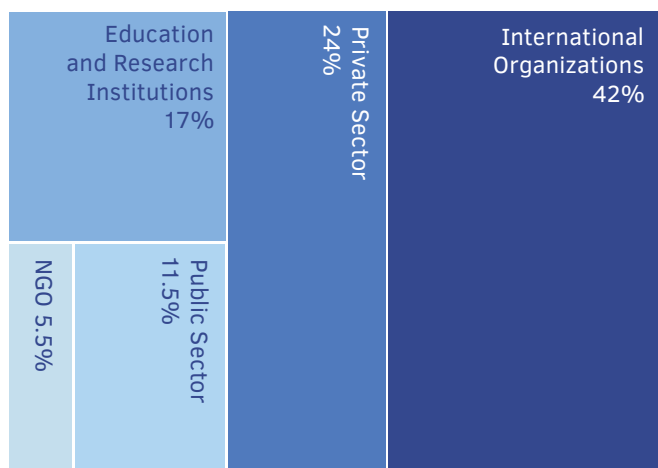
In 2017 the OSCE Academy Alumni Network welcomed 52 new graduates pushing the total number of alumni in the network to 427 (230 females and 197 males). Our alumni make up a regional network of professionals working in government structures, international organizations, NGOs, education and research institutions as well as in the private sector. The annual Alumni Survey¹ revealed that the number of graduates living and working in the Central Asian region and Afghanistan has grown to 73%, while 34% of the employed alumni hold senior positions, such as directors/deputy directors, CEOs, heads of departments, managers and officers. A further 26 graduates chose an academic path and are currently pursuing a PhD.

Geography

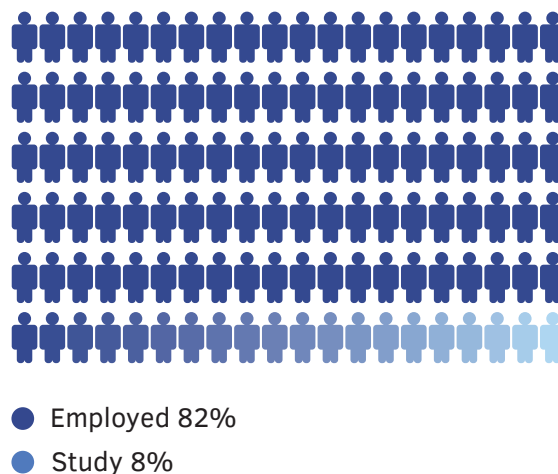


- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Afghanistan
- Out of region

Employment by Sector



Employment



¹ The Alumni Survey 2018 contains the information about 372 alumni

JUNIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS' PROGRAMME

The OSCE Academy's support for alumni is multi-vector, aiming at providing graduates opportunities to continue their professional and academic development through targeted activities. The Junior Public Officers' (JPO) Programme is one of the major components of this support. The component, initiated in 2010 allows graduates to experience everyday life of the State Structures.

In 2017 two alumni participated in the JPO Programme:

Ms Suhaila Khyber '10 (MA Programme in Politics and Security) - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

Mr Alan Mamatov '16 (MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development) - the Agency for Investment Promotion and Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic.

This JPO Programme is being implemented in accordance with the Agreements signed with Institute of Diplomacy of the Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan as of 28 May 2012 (prolonged on 10 January 2018), the Agency for Investment Promotion and Protection of the Kyrgyz Republic as of 16 June 2017 and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan as of 10 September 2010 (prolonged on 26 November 2015).



“The JPO programme within the Directorate General of Support to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Division has given me the chance to learn more about the system, its effectiveness and how things work there. It has been engaging and needed investment of efforts to handle some of the demanding tasks, so, I turned to be more workaholic. The working environment has been one of teamwork and I learned to manage my future tasks in a team ... I have been engaged in policy matters and have broadened my understanding of policy areas.” – Suhaila Khyber



“The JPO programme developed by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek is truly a unique experience for a young graduate and a precious addition to a master's degree. There, I received a chance to enhance obtained knowledge by participating in the promotion of large-scale investment projects. Moreover, as a JPO from the OSCE Academy, I was constantly given complicated tasks on the same level as other experts from the agency. I encourage our prospective graduates to apply, and would like to send my warmest gratitude to the OSCE Academy for organizing such powerful opportunities for its students.” – Alan Mamatov

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



5th Alumni Conference

On 18-19 November the OSCE Academy has conducted the 5th Alumni Conference on Comprehensive Security and Sustainable Development in Bishkek. More than thirty alumni and students from Central Asia, Afghanistan and the OSCE region participated in the event. The conference was welcomed by Director Dr Alexander Wolters and the Programme Coordinator of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek Ms Rosalia Bollen. In total 19 alumni presented their papers across three themed OSCE panels: Politico-Military, Human and Economic-Environmental. Presenters touched upon security in Central Asia and Afghanistan; foreign policy vectors; regional economic unions and their implications to the region; challenges in the educational sphere; use of mass media by extremists and other important regional issues. Dr Emil Joroev, Dr Farhad Kerimov teaching fellows of the OSCE Academy and Mr Shairbek Dzhuraev, Marie Curie Fellow, University of St Andrews chaired and moderated the conference panels. The two-day conference was concluded with a guest-lecture by Dr Pal Dunay of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies titled “No paradigm shift but major rearrangements in international politics.”

ALUMNI CHAPTER MEETING IN TAJIKISTAN

On 12-13 August, the OSCE Academy organized a meeting of its Dushanbe alumni chapter. During these two days 24 graduates of both MA programmes, the Journalism School as well as new students of the upcoming academic year gathered. The traditional format of the event was changed in order to include a one-day workshop on project proposal writing and a social event outside the city. This new format was welcomed by the alumni. The OSCE Academy is proud that it can rely on the professionalism of its alumni and ask for their contributions. This time our graduate Mr. Faruh Kuziev ('15) who has extensive knowledge and experience writing and winning international grants was invited to conduct the workshop

Alumni Spotlight

Nurturing a generation that can play a part in decision-making in the region is one of the main goals of the OSCE Academy Masters Programmes. In 2017 10 alumni from Afghanistan started their service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Ministry of Finance and other State Bodies.



Zahidullah Jalali '09

MA Programme in Politics and Security

“I have always felt proud about the schools I have attended and they mattered in every job I have applied for and every position I have been considered for. I had the opportunity to serve in different capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Afghan Missions in Bishkek and Kiev. In April 2017, based on the nomination of the Afghan Government, all SAARC Member States (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives) approved my appointment as the Director General of the SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO) with effect from 13 October 2017. SARCO is a specialized body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), with its headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan.”



Sona Khal Mohammad '16

MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

“I am currently working with Afghanistan Ministry of Finance-Chief of Staff as a senior specialist in the Bilateral Economic Commission Directorate. In this position I am putting my theoretical knowledge from the Academy into practical work. My main job is to facilitate and provide technical support on convening Bilateral Economic Commissions and prepare reports on regional development projects including progress reports, briefing on projects, preparing materials and resources for the Minister to present and discuss at meetings and conferences. Drafting and finalizing agreements and Memoranda of Understandings with the relevant ministries, embassies and internal authorities. Analysing Afghanistan’s economic relations and growth with partner countries is another important aspect of my work. I am deeply grateful to the OSCE for paving the way to help me reach my goals and I am eager to leverage the education, experience and abilities attained at the Academy to make a significant contribution to the process of building my community and developing my country”



Zabihullah Mudabber '16

MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development

“I am currently the Director of WTO affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industries and responsible for planning and leading the work of the WTO affairs directorate and reporting on the work of the WTO department to the Minister and Deputy Minister for Commerce. My inspiration to utilize my skills and education for the reform of Afghanistan’s trade and economic sector emanate from the faith that I have in myself. I believe Afghanistan’s youth is the strongest and most powerful force for building a prosperous Afghanistan; and the future of Afghanistan could be different and better if we, the youth, start serving Afghanistan in the best way.”

ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

One-Year Fellowship at NUPI

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) has been one of the biggest donor and partner of the OSCE Academy for many years. NUPI is particularly committed to supporting our alumni and provides different professional opportunities, in particular to those graduates, who are interested in research. 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 study at PhD level by deepening their practical and academic experience. Since 2012 every year two alumni have received a chance to become NUPI research fellows for one year. The Research Fellows of 2017 were Ms Galina Khegay '16 from Uzbekistan and Ms Saule Aripova '15 from Kyrgyzstan.



Galina Khegay '16

“The fellowship was a perfect combination of professional growth, career development, self-study, and fun. I attended events where I met Prime-ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassadors; talked to academics whose works I used to study; got to experience tough and, at times, tedious realities of research; traveled to Florence to present my research work on migration at the European University Institute; found new topics of interest and set new goals. None of this would have been possible if the OSCE Academy had not accepted me for the MA programme in 2015, and if Dr Indra Øverland and Dr Helge Blakkisrud had not found me suitable for the position. I am grateful for all of it.”



Saule Aripova '15

“A visiting research fellowship at NUPI was professionally valuable and a personally enjoyable experience. NUPI provides a highly stimulating environment with seminars, workshops, and varied social events inspiring for scholarly pursuits of all kinds. We got to listen to outstanding speakers like the president of Estonia, Ministers of foreign affairs from Georgia and Moldova, as well as distinguished scholars at NUPI. I had a chance to work on my own projects and get valuable feedback from my colleagues. At NUPI I understood how challenging and demanding the research work is, as it is completely self-driven and requires endless discipline, curiosity and creativity.”

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 countries as Research Fellows. Starting from 2017, one position of the Research Fellow a year is granted to the OSCE Academy graduate (under the MoU signed on 10 August 2016). Alumni join the International Secretariat in order to gain practical experience in the field of international affairs, and the Assembly, in turn, benefits from increased language capacity as well as a strong research capacity.



The first alumnus selected for the Fellowship was Sergey Marinin '14 from Kazakhstan, who completed his Fellowship in February 2018.

Sergey Marinin (middle), with the ex-President of the OSCE PA Christine Muttonen, Secretary General Roberto Montella and other Fellows

“These 6 months have been quite beneficial and enriching experience in both professional and personal spheres for me. I have deepened my knowledge of the organizational and functional sides of work at the OSCE PA. Working in the international environment has made me more confident in my language capacities as well as providing me with multiple valuable professional and social skills such as writing, drafting, better decision-making, communication and teamwork skills. This extremely competitive programme has empowered my way of thinking of myself, making me not just a better professional, but a better person. The unique international team of the OSCE PA has always been helpful and given me many priceless pieces of advice, which I highly appreciate. I would also like to take this chance to once again express my sheer gratitude to the OSCE Academy for nominating me for the programme, and for continuous support throughout my career,” – Sergey Marinin.

EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR CENTRAL ASIA TO STUDY AT THE GCSP AND UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Every year one Academy alumnus/ alumna receives a European Scholarship for Central Asia to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Global Studies Institute of the University of Geneva. The scholarship of 2016- 2017 was received by Ms Regina Sokolova '14 from Tajikistan.

“The learning environment at the GCSP is truly unique and holistic. High-ranking military officials, diplomats, mediators, scholars and practitioners with an extensive international experience deliver presentations on variety of security-related topics, make dynamic group work and discussions, ask to solve crisis situations and come up with extraordinary solutions. Geneva is the center of international governance and being next to the Graduate Institute I had a chance to attend open lectures and discussions on contemporary security challenges, multilateral diplomacy, global trends in terrorism, human rights and role of state and non-state actors in peace building. The learning experience and shared classes with NISC (New Issues in Security Course) participants not only enriched my knowledge about contemporary security and leadership topics, but turned my thinking upside down,” – Regina Sokolova.



SalamAlum

OSCE ACADEMY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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

In 2017, the Academy published its sixth issue. The online version is available at: <http://osce-academy.net/en/alumni/alum/>

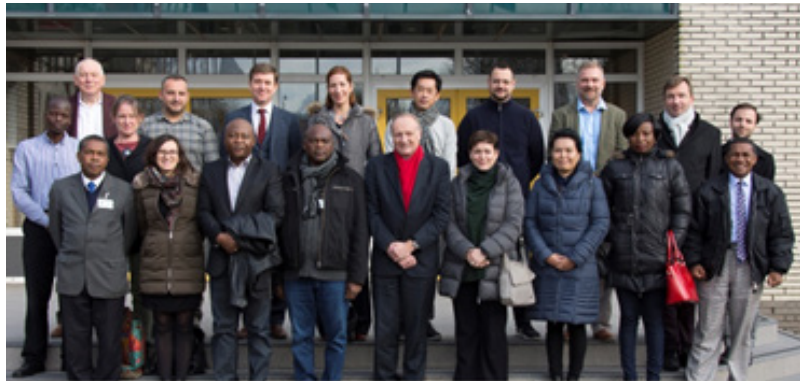


ALUMNI TRAVEL GRANT

The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. The grants will help the OSCE Academy alumni attend the conferences, trainings worldwide or events for professional certification. In 2017 the Grant was received by Raushan Bolotalieva '11, to participate in the Advanced Training on Security Sector Reform (SSR) organized by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with DCAF, on 27 November 1 December 2017. Raushan currently works as a Security Sector Governance/ Reform and Gender Advisor to Member of Parliament and also Deputy Chairwoman of Kyrgyz Association of Women in Security Sector, Kyrgyzstan.

“I am very grateful to the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs for providing me this great opportunity to attend the Advanced Training on Security Sector Reform in The Hague, Netherlands from 27 November to 1 December 2017. This five-day intensive residential course was organized by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). The training was aimed at those who are just about to be deployed in a bilateral, regional or multilateral mission to support security sector reform programmes or those who work in the area of SSR with programme design or at policy level.

As a person who has just stepped in the policy level as a SSR advisor, I have been privileged to learn from senior practitioners and professionals who are working closely on issues related to SSR. These people representing civilian, military and police personnel, as well as



civil society and the private sector, have shared their experiences from different countries. I have had a chance to be exposed to versatile SSR processes including in Madagascar and Central African Republic where it took years to have the key stakeholders cooperate and eventually take ownership of the ongoing SSR; in Uganda where it is being carried out across different dimensions of the security and justice sectors as well as in terms of economic development and in Greece, where it currently deals with border and refugee management,” –
Raushan Bolotalieva.

Participants of the Advanced Training on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

NOTABLE VISITORS AND PUBLIC TALKS

Visitor	Title of Presentation
Mr. Stefan Martin , Consul of the German Embassy in Bishkek	<i>“Protection of the economic interests of European citizens in Kyrgyzstan”</i>
Mr. Tolkunbek Abdygulov , the National Bank Chairman, Kyrgyzstan	<i>“Financial sector of Kyrgyzstan”</i>
Mr. Paul Gulleik Larsen , Special Advisor /Special Envoy for UN Security Council Affairs, MFA, Norway	<i>“The United Nations in a changing geopolitical landscape: a Norwegian perspective”</i>
H.E. Dr Gerhard Sailer , Ambassador of Austria to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan	<i>“Modern Network Diplomacy”</i>
H.E. Ms. Sheila Gwaltney , Ambassador of the United States of America to Kyrgyzstan	<i>“Kyrgyz-US Relations”</i>
H.E. Lamberto Zannier , OSCE Secretary General	<i>OSCE: Evolution, Developments, Challenges</i>
H.E. Mr. Yoshihiro Yamamura , Ambassador of Japan to Kyrgyzstan	<i>East-Asian Affairs in general and Japan’s Relations with Central Asia</i>
Mr. Jonathan Aves , Senior Political Advisor from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), HQ, London	<i>“How the EBRD Makes Political Assessments in a Country of Operation”</i>
Ms. Tamari Bulia , Communications and Outreach Coordinator / PA to the Director, and Dr Zora Popova (Bulgaria) Senior Research Associate	<i>US foreign policy towards the Central Asian countries</i>

SOCIAL EVENTS

The regional component of all OSCE Academy Programmes is one of its main features and offers a key motivation for students to apply. The major holiday of Nooruz, which is celebrated across the region, is a major highlight in the Academy's cultural calendar. This year, students from all Central Asian countries, Afghanistan and Mongolia performed national dances and songs, played their national instruments and presented their traditional cuisine. The celebration of Nooruz was also attended by the Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek Ambassador Dr Pierre von Arx and the Ambassadors of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan the EU Delegation and Ukraine.





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