



20 16 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear Readers,

I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2016 Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. 2016 was a year of remarkable activity and new hopes for the Academy in spite of the challenges that the institution encountered throughout the year. The following report is designed to provide you with a thorough summary of the main accomplishments and events and will also inform you of the Academy's growth and how its alumni are succeeding today.

Having the opportunity to introduce you to this extensive report is both an honor and a privilege for me. Mid-October 2016, I arrived in Kyrgyzstan to serve as the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the OSCE Academy. Upon my arrival I learned that an important administrative success was achieved on 31 March 2016, when the OSCE Academy and the Government of Kyrgyzstan signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides the Academy with a mandate to operate its masters' programmes. The Memorandum also provides the free use of state premises for its campus. We are consistently humbled by the Government's support and count ourselves lucky to have committed partners in



Ambassador Pierre von Arx
Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Sciences who host our student interns in the Junior Public Officer programme, thereby giving students hands-on experience working in politics and diplomacy. We are grateful to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan for also supporting Junior Public Officers from their respective countries at home.

I am humbled and impressed by the brilliant minds undertaking the pursuit of scholarship at the Academy. Here we have an academic institution in the heart of Central Asia that takes the sharpest minds and provides them with a world-class education, free of charge. Graduates of the OSCE Academy are experienced and discerning critical thinkers with the ability to work anywhere in the

Here we have an academic institution in the heart of Central Asia that takes the sharpest minds and provides them with a world-class education, free of charge.

world. That being said, I'm proud to announce that of our 375 total alumni in 2016, 72% live and work here in Central Asia for Ministries of Foreign Affairs, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society. In 2016, students of the Academy also produced their 44th Policy Brief on topics relevant and pressing to Central Asia and the world. These facts fill me with pride because they mean that our alumni are directly contributing to the discovery of new knowledge and innovation at home while also stepping into leadership roles that will move their

countries forward. I want to emphasize that the glowing accomplishments of our students would not be possible without the staunch support given to the OSCE Academy by our generous donors.

Providing world-class scholarship to students regardless of their financial background indeed takes the dedicated support of our international donors. A record 1,194 individuals applied for admission to the 2016-2017 school year and we can say for certain that many of those applicants would not have had the financial means to dream of pursuing a Master's of the Arts without your support. As our alumni base grows and more students enter the professional workforce throughout Central Asia, we are confident that your generous investment will continue to grow.

I want to thank you – whoever you are, whether you have donated time, funds, or even your voice to our Academy – for your generous and wholehearted support. The OSCE Academy in Bishkek is so much more than an academic institution. With your support, the Academy hosts conferences and training courses, conducts research that is important to the future of our region, connects the brightest minds in Central Asia, and empowers students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference in their communities, all right here in the heart of the region. In a fast-paced and inter-connected world, the bright and well-rounded students of the OSCE Academy represent a shining hope for our future and their accomplishments reflect back on all of us who support and encourage them.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT

Dear Readers,

2016 has been a very eventful year for our Academy with the new Memorandum of Understanding signed in March. Together with our Kyrgyz and International Partners we explored new education and cooperation modalities for the near future. 2016 also saw the previous management team leaving, and a new Deputy Director stepping in. Despite these changes the Academy continued to steadily develop and consolidate its activities. In this report we would like to share with you the breadth, quality and value of the work undertaken by the Academy throughout 2016.

Long-Term Sustainability

2016 was an exciting and yet challenging time for the OSCE Academy which experienced significant changes in its administrative and educational activities.

On 31 March 2016 the OSCE Academy in Bishkek has made another important step strengthening its activity in the interests of the Central Asian region through international quality education when a new Memorandum of Understanding on extending the current operating modalities and academic independence of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek was signed. The Academy is very grateful to the German Chairmanship, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the OSCE Secretariat for their tremendous support. The Kyrgyz Government, from their side, has extended its support to the Academy by perpetuating the use of the Academy's building free of charge.

The Academy was very sad to see its Director, Dr Pal Dunay, leaving after two years of dedicated service to assume his new position at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Under Dr Dunay's leadership the Academy became an increasingly renowned institution in the region and beyond.

Extension of Educational Coverage

In 2016 the OSCE Academy in Bishkek welcomed Ms Chantsal Banidkhuu, the first MA student from Mongolia: *"First of all, I express profound gratitude to the OSCE Academy that gave me a great opportunity. The OSCE Academy always encourages the young people who want to study and improve their knowledge and career. I am the first Mongolian student at the OSCE Academy. Therefore I want to connect more Mongolian students with our Academy's activities. I wish the best of success to our Academy in its future endeavors."*

Activity Developments

The Academy's two graduate programmes, the Master of Arts in Politics and Security and the Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development, were successfully adapting to their new 16 month course design. For 2016-2017, 1,194 applications have been received, and 56 new students have been enrolled for the two graduate programmes. The Norwegian Institute of International Relations, St Andrews University, the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, and the Herbert C. Kelman Institute remain among the Academy's leading teaching partners.

In 2016 the Academy successfully held various capacity building events that were not part of the MA programmes. These training courses included history writing workshops, seminars on nation-building, public policy trainings, trainings on conflict-sensitive development, our Regional Security Conference, training on research methods for graduate and post-graduate students of social and humanitarian sciences and the junior public officers' programme. In 2016 14 new Policy Briefs were published, bringing the total number of Academy Policy Briefs to 44.

Alumni Network Growth

On 3-4 September 2016 the OSCE Academy organized and invited for the 3rd Alumni Reunion, for which more than 110 graduates came together. Today we are proud to have 375 Alumni filling the growing ranks of the OSCE Academy Community. Today 72% of graduates continue to live and work in Central Asia and in Afghanistan, finding jobs in government agencies and international organizations, in NGOs or the private sector.

The OSCE Academy's team will continue to ensure high-quality, career-relevant education that prepares professionals with skills and experiences for the states and societies of the region.

Sincerely,
Management of the OSCE Academy

ADMINISTRATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Following the requirements of the educational law in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2016 the Ministry of Justice approved the new Charter of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees. The Ministry of Justice also issued a certificate on the state re-registration of the legal entity.

A new Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the further activity of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek” signed by the German and Kyrgyz Foreign Ministers, H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier and H.E. Erlan Abdyldaev on 31 March 2016. The agreement will allow the Academy, which has been operational since 2002, to continue educating young professionals in the current premises generously provided free of charge by the Kyrgyz Government for an unlimited period of time.

The Agreement on the free use of state premise between the Presidential Administration and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek was signed on April 1, 2016. This



agreement allows the Academy to use the current building for the whole period the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic remains in force.

Licenses and Accreditation

In 2016 the MA Programme in Politics and Security went through the re-licensing and re-accreditation processes, required by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science. The new license is valid until 5 February 2018 whereas the new accreditation certificate will expire on 1 September 2018. The accreditation certificate renewal procedure will be completed in 2017 with the final receipt of accreditation for an unlimited period.

Furthermore, in 2016, the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development obtained an unlimited license for higher education (Masters Level) and started the preparation of documents for the accreditation which the Academy intends to receive by July 2017.

GRADUATE EDUCATION



Master of Arts in Politics and Security

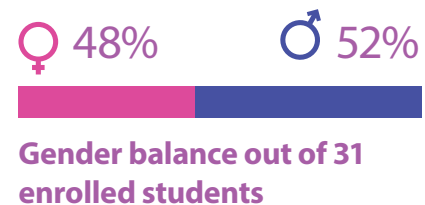
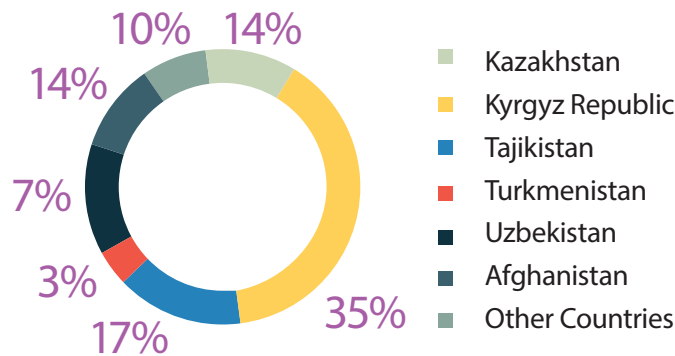
In 2016 the MA programme in Politics and Security continued its success story by providing high-quality education for students from all Central Asian states and Afghanistan, as well as from outside the region father abroad. The programme continues to graduate students that are highly demanded in governance structures and international organizations, in civil society and in academia.

MASTER OF ARTS IN POLITICS AND SECURITY PROGRAMME

Admission:

635	445	136	20	34	31
Applications in total for the September 2016 intake.	From the five countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan)	Applications arrived from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE Participating States	Students were admitted to the programme

Students represent all the five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. The programme also enrolled one student from Canada, one from France and one from Ukraine.



Graduated students in 2016:

23	Students have graduated from the programme:	2	Out of Region		4		4		3	Gender balance
					4		4		2	

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Faculty

The programme continued maintaining most of its core and visiting faculty, among them

- Dr Alexander Wolters (Germany)**
- Dr Pal Dunay (Hungary)**
- Dr Emilbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan)**
- Mr Payam Foroughi (USA)**
- Dr Lance Tillman (USA)** as permanent teaching fellows
- Mr Dieter Von Blarer (Switzerland)**
- Mr Augustin Nicolescu (Austria)**
- Dr Tim Epkenhans (Germany)**
- Dr Indra Overland (Norway)**
- Dr Helge Blakkisrud (also Norway)**
- Dr Graeme Herd (UK)**
- Mr Jonathon Hornbook (UK)** as visiting faculty members

Additionally, the programme has been successful in recruiting new visiting faculty members for courses and modules scheduled for the winter and spring 2016 semesters.

- Dr Ryhor Nizhnikau (Belorussia)**
- Dr Helene Zwick (France)**
- Dr Jason Strakes (USA)**

Curriculum

In the 2016 academic year, the curriculum offers 9 full term and 12 modular courses in total. “The spring 2016 semester programme offered one new elective course : “Central Asia and Middle East”.

Full-term courses
International Relations
Political Theory
Academic Writing and Honesty
Current Affairs Lectures
Political Institutions and Processes
Contemporary Security Issues
Political Economy
Research Methods
MA Thesis Seminar

Modular courses
The OSCE
Conflict Management
Human Rights and International Law
Political Islam
Energy Politics
European Politics
Central Asia and the USA
Migration and Human Trafficking
Sustainable Development
Nation, State and Nationalism
Central Asia and China
Central Asia and Middle East



Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development

In 2016, the MA Programme continued to serve as a unique educational project with a regional scope, including Afghanistan and Mongolia. Indeed there is no comparable graduate programme that brings together young professionals with such a variety of experience in Central Asia. It is highly competitive and its graduates work in the region, most often in international organizations but also in the public and non-profit sector, in education and research.

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Admission:

559

Applications in total for the September 2016 intake.

384

From the five countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan)

135

Applications arrived from Afghanistan

22

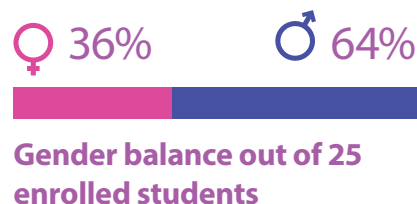
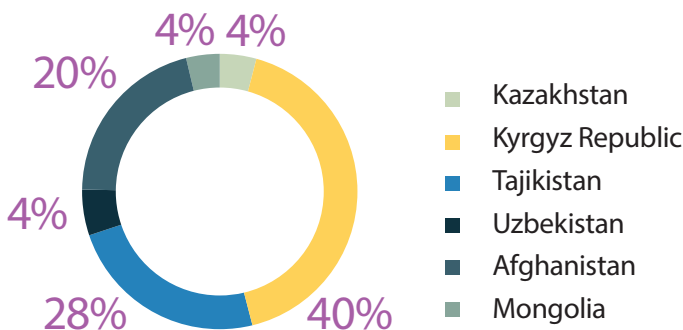
Applications from Mongolia

18

From other OSCE Participating States

25

Students were admitted to the programme



Graduated students in 2016:

21

Students have graduated from the programme:

1

Out of Region



5



8



1

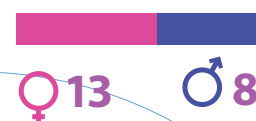


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Gender balance



Faculty

The programme continued maintaining most of its core and visiting faculty, among them

Dr Nurgul Ukueva (Kyrgyzstan)

Dr Lance Tillman (USA)

Dr Pal Dunay (Hungary)

Mr Gregory Dunn (USA)

Dr David Grant (UK)

Dr Helene Zwick (France)

Dr Ali Shah Syed (France)

Mr Dirk Van Der Kley (Australia)

Mr Ryhor Nizhnikau (Belarus)

Dr Irina Mironova (Russia)

Dr Jayarethanam Sinniah Pillai (USA) as permanent teaching fellows;

Mr Jonathon Hornbrook (UK)

Dr Gordana Pesakovic (USA)

Dr Mizanur Rahaman (Finland)

Mr Dieter von Blarer (Switzerland)

Dr Lukasz Gruszczynski (Poland)

Dr Jo Lind (Norway)

Mr Ernest Turdubaev (Russia) as visiting faculty members.

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

Curriculum

In 2016 year the curriculum offered 14 full term and 9 modular courses.

Full-term courses
Microeconomics
Macroeconomics
Econometrics
Statistics
Academic Writing
Research Methods and Design
Economic Governance and Regulation
Economic Law
China's Aid and Investment in Central Asia
Regional Integration
International Development
International Financial System
Economics and Regulation of Energy Sector
Economic Effects of Migration

Modular courses
The OSCE
Good Governance in Central Asia
Project Management
International and Regional Trade Arrangements
Economy of Border Management and Transport Routs
Industrial Policy
Economics of Sustainable Development
Integrated Water Management
Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources

OUR ALUMNI



The largest Alumni Network event ever held, the 3rd Alumni Reunion, took place in September 2016 and gathered more than 110 graduates from Central Asia, Afghanistan and other countries. Many alumni took an active part in organizing the event. Earlier in the year, in May and June, the alumni met in smaller groups in Dushanbe and Astana respectively, for short professional meetings.

The Director of the OSCE Academy, Pal Dunay, opened the reunion and expressed his sincere gratitude to the participants for their support and solidarity: «*Through your qualities we are attracting people to teach and study at the OSCE Academy. You are our ambassadors*». He further thanked the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs for their generous support and their important role in developing the alumni community and its activities. The alumni network has become a crucial element in spreading the mission and vision of the Academy among young professionals in the region as well as generating further support from our many partners.

During the alumni reunion, several invited guest speakers, among them former Academy Director Maksim Ryabkov, opened discussion rounds on such topics as fostering social change and the role of intellectuals.

Heated debates were triggered by the question of elite training and education and its impact on socio-economic processes in the region. Furthermore participants had the opportunity to attend seminars dedicated to ongoing research projects as well as a workshop on research collaboration. Sessions were organised by graduates, who wanted to share with their knowledge and their expertise:



Mr Rashid Gabdulkhakov '13, MAS, Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the Global Studies Institute of the University of Geneva, led the seminar *"Strategic Foresight Tools"*



Ms Elnura Omurkulova-Ozierska '11, Research Officer, National Institute for Strategic Studies in the Kyrgyz Republic, held the seminar *"Migration and Development"*



Mr Kodir Kuliev '13 EGD, Consultant & Executive Assistant at a private company in Uzbekistan, held the seminar *"Anti-corruption: Can We Fight Corruption in Central Asia?"*



Ms Natalia Zakharchenko '12, Independent Researcher, George Washington University, and Malika Tukmadieva '12, Independent Researcher, led the workshop *"Building bridges, burning walls: PROs and CONs of research collaboration"*



Ms Madina Abubeker '14, Senior Programme Assistant within the Human Dimension of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, led the seminar *"Human Rights in the Kyrgyz Republic: Prevention of Torture in Places of Deprivation and the Restriction of Liberty"*

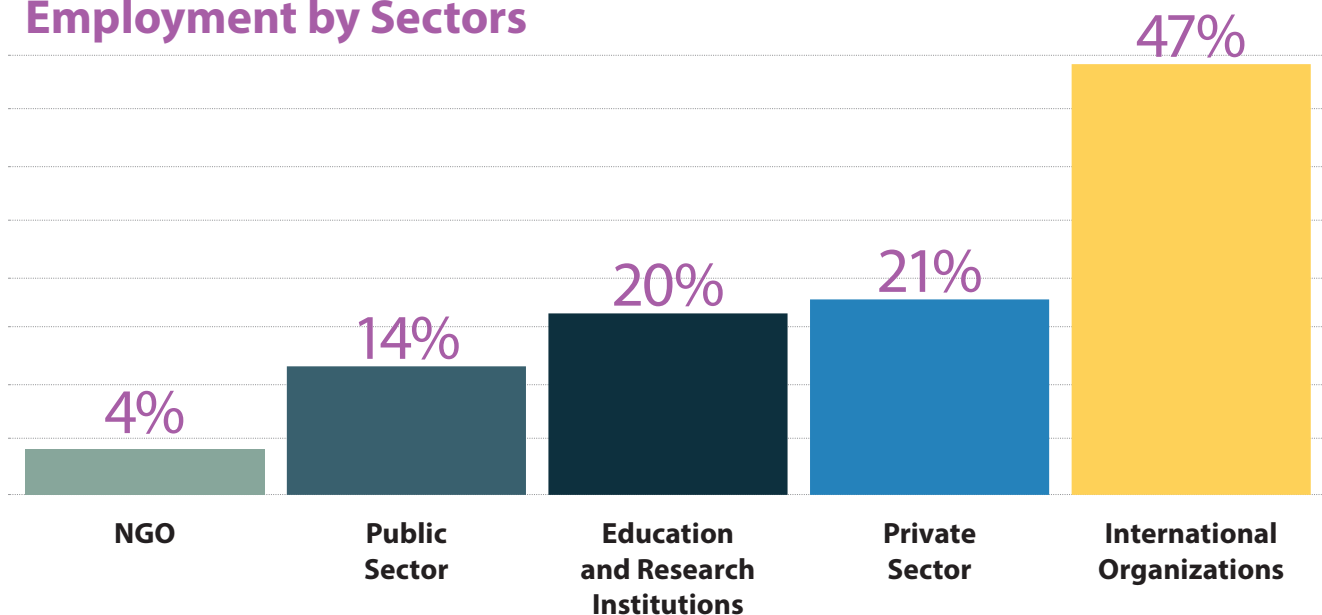


Dr Maxim Ryabkov, former Director of the OSCE Academy, currently Programme Coordinator, Bundesverband Russischsprachiger Eltern in Germany, also supported a small working session and organised the seminar *"Fear and exclusion: is right-wing populism a current danger?"*

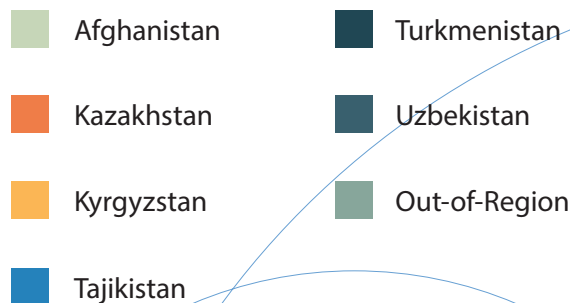
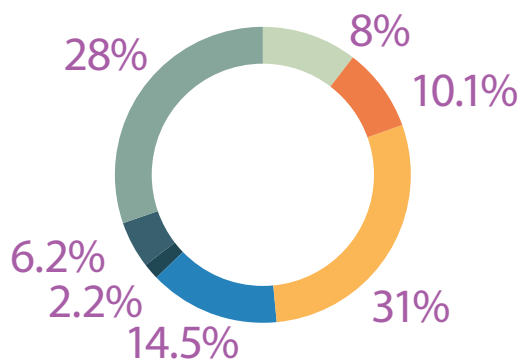
Alumni Survey

The results of the Alumni Survey show that 72 % of graduates live and work in Central Asia and Afghanistan, 80 % of alumni are employed, and 8 % continue their education pursuing PhD degrees. In general our alumni statistics show that more of our graduates find employment in the private and public sector, while employment in international organizations (IOs) slightly declines. Still this sector continues to outrank all other spheres of employment with nearly 40% of our alumni working in IOs.

Employment by Sectors



Geography



Alumni Spotlight and Alumni Fund



Mr Kushtarbek Shamshidov graduated from the OSCE Academy in 2010. In 2012 he received a scholarship to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, where he pursued a Master of Advanced degree. Today Kushtarbek is one of our most successful graduates, serving as Third Secretary/Consul at the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Kuala Lumpur. *«The Ministry of Foreign Affairs offers me plenty of opportunities to further develop my skills and there are many professionals in Kyrgyz diplomacy I can really learn from. For the next coming years, I would like to use these opportunities to be the best at what I do in order to take on more challenges and be useful for the country, where I belong.»* – said Mr Kushtarbek Shamshidov.



Ms Almakan Orozbekova is a graduate of the MA in Politics and Security Programme 2014. Almakan was accepted for a position of a PhD Candidate as part of the Research Group «How Terrorists Learn» of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany. *«I have been doing research, if I put it in a broader sense, on terrorism. There were different factors that contributed to my decision to do research on this topic. However, I would say that it was mainly my professors' advice and guidance that helped me to identify the research topic that I have been working on with a great interest further on. [...] the OSCE Academy has opened doors to different places and has greatly contributed to my achievements. [And it] has strengthened my principle of hard work that resulted in the achievements since graduation.»*- said Ms Almakan Orozbekova.

Junior Public Officers Programme

While the internship is a compulsory element of both MA programmes, the OSCE Academy continues to provide alumni with professional opportunities even after graduation. Most notably, the OSCE Academy now runs for more than 5 years a Junior Public Officer (JPO) programme with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Afghanistan. These internships last three months and are an excellent way to get acquainted with public affairs. In 2016 two alumni participated in the scheme:



Mr Vassiliy Lakhonin '13 (Kazakhstan) *«My current experience at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (at the Department of Multilateral Cooperation) is a dynamic combination of administrative-bureaucratic tasks along with intellectual challenges, ethics and diplomacy regulations, which speaks for the fact that learning is a complex and never-ending process.»*



Mr Yermek Abilgaziev '15 (Kazakhstan) *«With every week at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs I became more inspired to contribute to the development of my country and the strengthening of its political and economic role in a world. This internship offered me precisely this opportunity, by allowing me to employ my theoretical International Relations knowledge in a practical context. I gained valuable insight into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs activities and am especially interested to know about the internal decision-making process. Last but not least, I am eager to learn more about how to achieve outcomes in the national interest, as I hope ultimately to build a career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.»* New Professional

NUPI's 'History writing and nation-building in Central Asia' Project



Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

One-Year Stay at NUPI

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) has been 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. Since 2012 every year two alumni have received a chance to become NUPI research fellows for one year. The current Research Fellows are Ms Gulaikhan Kubaeva '14 and Mr Nurbek Bekmurzaev '14.



Launched in 2014, 'History writing and nation-building in Central Asia' is aimed at developing research and publishing skills among OSCE Academy alumni. The project team consists of a project leader from NUPI, Mr Helge Blakkisrud, and one alumnus from each of the five Central Asian countries. The five alumni were selected summer 2014 and are: Mr Nurlan Kabdylkhak '09 (Kazakhstan), Ms Nuraida Abdykapar kyzy '13 (Kyrgyz Republic), Mr Khushbakht Hojiev '06 (Tajikistan), Mr Nazar Mammedov '09 (Turkmenistan) and Mr Farkhod Aminjonov '09 (Uzbekistan). As part of the first phase of the project, the researchers are finalizing their individual articles for submission to international academic journals. The team presented their papers at a panel on the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) conference in New York in April 2015. The individual articles were presented at a seminar at the OSCE Academy in May 2016. During the second phase of the project, which started in the summer of 2016, the researchers will be working on book chapters to a book which will be edited by Mr Helge Blakkisrud.

Alumni Opportunities

Alumni Travel Grants



The OSCE Academy, with the support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, continues to support its alumni in their professional and academic developments in several ways, one of which is providing them with Travel Grants on a competitive basis. In 2016 Mr Akmaljon Abdullaev, Senior Research Associate at the Academy of State Management in Uzbekistan, graduate of 2005, received a grant to participate in the fifth regional conference of the Central Eurasian Studies Society at Kazan Federal University on 2-4 June 2016.

The second Alumni Travel Grant of 2016 was received by Ms Saltanat Mamytova, graduate of 2014, and currently Logistics Manager at Cenko Logix LLC, for attending the course and receiving Logistics & Supply Chain Management Certificate accredited by the American Institute of Professional Studies (USA) at the Laurels Institute Dubai on 5-8 November 2016.

Opportunities for Alumni provided in 2016:

- Internship in the Investment Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Research Fellowship at the International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen.



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 2015-2016 was received by Mr Rashid Gabdulkhakov '13. During his time at the GCSP, Rashid focused his work on border issues in Central Asia and migration.

SalamAlum

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

In 2016 Academy has published its sixth issue. The online version is available at:

<http://osce-academy.net/en/alumni/alum/full/35.html>

In 2016 the alumni renewed the tradition of collecting donations for the Alumni Fund and during the Alumni Reunion raised € 715 used to purchase additional stock of paper and cartridges for the students' printer. Another part of funds was used to renew the ping-pong rockets, which is by now a great tradition of the Alumni Network.



Alumni and the OSCE Academy



The OSCE Academy promotes initiatives of graduates to return to the Academy in the role of lecturer, trainer or speaker, if they hold expertise in specific fields. This year, Dr Nuria Kutnaeva, graduate of 2005, conducted training on “Research Methods for graduate and post-graduate students of social sciences and the humanities” for students from Bishkek universities. Supported by her colleague, Dr Aijarkyn Kojobekova, Nuria led a three-day intensive programme for twelve participants. The training generated great interest among potential applicants even from other countries. Started on 1 July 2016, the training gathered graduate and post-graduate students, who were in the process of writing their theses. Due to the increasing demand for such methodological courses and upon request of the audience this training was conducted a second time from 23 to 25 December 2016.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

In 2016 the OSCE Academy succeeded in offering even more conferences and training programmes relevant to its audience. The **Information Security Conference**, focusing in 2016 on “The Latest media developments in Central Asia: cooperation with civil society to enhance transparency and accountability” took place from 28 to 30 March. As an international event, it has been attended by more than fifty participants and speakers from Central Asia, Russia, Mongolia, Romania and the United Kingdom. The conference was organized in cooperation with the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, Internews, the Soros Foundation, the PromoTank Research Institute and AUCA. Two other major 2016 conferences included the **7th OSCE Academy-NUPI Annual Security Seminar: “Global Security Trends and Their Impact on Central Asia: 2016 And On”** that took place from 1 to 2 September with 39 participants coming from the region and beyond and the **Post-Communism 25+: Reflections on Social, Economic & Political Transitions** conference from 6 to 8 October 2016 in Issyk-Kul lake that gathered 55 participants.

Capacity building at the regional level is one of the long-standing objectives of the Academy. For that reason, the Academy is committed to continue enlarging its training portfolio for external beneficiaries, such as regional scholars, civil servants, journalists and activists from Central Asia. One new but already highly demanded training programme is the **Policy Paper Writing Seminar** that has been conducted from 18 and 22 April 2016. Out of 80 applicants fourteen qualified early career scholars from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia were invited to develop their analytical and writing skills. One of the features of this programme is that it is practice and result oriented and the best papers are published within Academy’s Policy Brief Series.

The **Regulatory Impact Analysis of Normative Acts Training** programme has been offered for several years in a row. In 2016, the training took place from 4 to 8 April 2016 and 27 representatives of state structures, ministries, NGOs, the public and the private sector from Central Asia had a chance to learn about the effects of legal acts and methods to study them under the guidance of Kemal Izmailov, a well-known expert working both with state organs and civil society.

The **Feasibility Studies for the Investment Projects Training** programme was offered twice in 2016. The first, with a focus on the entire region, was conducted in Kyrgyzstan between 25 and 30 April 2016 for twenty three participants. The second training, with a focus on Khujand, Tajikistan, was held in Dushanbe as the result of cooperation between the OSCE Academy and GIZ Programme Framework and Finance for Private Sector Development. This training programme, as many other capacity building projects of the Academy, was supported by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

The **Certificate Programme on Human Rights, Conflict Sensitivity and Project Management** is a two-week training programme consisting of two consecutive modules. The first, “Working on Conflict in Development Cooperation: Analysis – Intervention – Prevention and Do No Harm approach”, was organized by the Academy for representatives of ministries and other state agencies, NGOs and the private sector. This year an unprecedented number of applications were received and 22 participants were selected from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. The majority of participants were civil servants working for national state structures and international organizations.

From June to August 2016 the Academy hosted the annual **Central Asian School of Contemporary Journalism** in Bishkek, a 10-week training programme on contemporary journalism for young Central Asian professionals. This unique joint project of the OSCE Academy and the Deutsche Welle Akademie is a combination of technical training in print, radio, TV and online media. The workshop has a special focus on ethnic conflict and social inequality. The forth issue of «Nastoyashee Vremya» (The Present Time) – a magazine with works of our students prepared in the course of the training programme is available online at: <http://www.osce-academy.net/en/trainings/summer-school/journal/>. The programme is implemented with the generous support of Finland, Germany and Deutsche Welle trainers, with experience in local and international working conditions. For several years now follow up activities for alumni of this programme have been organized. Events include workshops, conferences, public lectures and short-term training programmes for selected alumni, traditionally conducted in Russian language. Trainers and organizers thoroughly evaluate the outcomes of each trainee group and each activity and based on these further develop the programmes for the years to come.

In 2016 staff of the Academy had the chance to participate in international conferences. On 2-4 June 2016 Research and Training Coordinator of the OSCE Academy Ms Svetlana Dzardanova and Senior Advisor at GIZ GmbH Program Professional Education in Central Asia Ms Janyl Bokonbaeva presented a co-authored paper titled: “Social Activism in Central Asia: Comparative Study of Activists-State Relations in the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan” at the 5th CESS Regional Conference in Kazan Federal University. The paper has been submitted to the Central Asian Affairs Journal and currently is under review.

NOTABLE VISITORS AND PUBLIC TALKS

Visitor	Title of Presentation
Mr Tolkunbek Abdygulov , the Kyrgyz National Bank Chairman	<i>Regulation of the financial sector of Kyrgyz Republic</i>
Mr Dirk van der Kley , Ph.D. candidate at the Australian National University	<i>"Chinese Economic Statecraft: Case Studies from Central Asia"</i>
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, German Foreign Minister H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier	<i>German Chairmanship in the OSCE</i>
Mr Jan Plesinger , Head of the OSCE Documentation Centre in Prague	<i>"Getting to Know the OSCE as Implementing Partner, Donor, Worker in the Field and Worker in the Secretariat"</i>
Ms Annika Pelkonen , member of the Finnish delegation to the OSCE in Vienna	<i>"Finland as international actor"</i>
Dr. Muhammad Mizanur Rahaman , Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh	<i>"Integrated water resources management in international river basins: Principles and practices"</i>
Mr Nikolay Pavlov , journalist and producer at the Washington, DC Bureau of Thomson Reuters Video News	<i>"Professional reporting of violent extremism and international terrorism in the media"</i>
Ms Christine Muttonen , Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Assembly's Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia, and Chair of the Parliamentary Group Austria – Central Asia	<i>"Conflict prevention and peace building: ways forward for OSCE engagement in Central Asia"</i>
United States Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Ms Sheila Gwaltney	<i>US foreign policy towards the Central Asian countries</i>
Mr Hartmut Koschyk , the Commissioner of the Federal Government on the issues of immigrants and ethnic minorities	<i>German policy towards ethnic minorities</i>
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mykola Doroshenko	<i>"Ukraine today, its reforms and human rights"</i>
British Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Robin Ord-Smith	<i>"Britain after Brexit"</i>

POLICY BRIEFS

In November 2010 the OSCE Academy launched its Central Asia Policy Briefs Series as an occasional paper series, which deals with current issues of comprehensive security relevant for Central Asia. The main aim of these papers is to foster interaction among policy, expert and scholarly communities. The topics cover various facets of comprehensive security, including, but not limited to, socioeconomic determinants of security, identity-based conflicts, political Islam, ethno-politics, security organizations, bilateral relations, the situation in Afghanistan and other neighboring states. The policy briefs are available on-line at: <http://osce-academy.net/en/research/policy-briefs>, and hard copies can be consulted in the Academy's library.

In 2016 Policy brief series changed from an occasional paper series to a regular publishing format and 14 issues were published:

Policy Brief #	Author	Title
44	Mr Mahdi Frough currently holds the position of Program Officer with the Asia Foundation at the Department of Survey & Policy and works on the book of A Survey of the Afghan People. He is also part time lecturer at the Department of Economics, Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education.	Afghanistan's mineral reserves catastrophe/quandary: hopes and fears concerning the development of mineral reserves
43	Dr. Charles J. Sullivan is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan.	Tranquility or turbulence in Tashkent? Uzbekistan in the post-Karimov era
42	Mr Rashid Gabdulhakov is a Research Specialist at the Central Asian Development Institute who received his BA in Political Science from Whitworth University in the United States. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Politics and Security from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and a Master of Advanced Studies in International and European Security from the University of Geneva and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.	Russian media discourses on Syrian refugees in Europe and Central Asian labor migrants in Russia: Russia for Russians, Europe for...?
41	Mr Muhammad Idrees is a Protection Assistant at UNHCR and holds a Master of Arts degree from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. (MA in EGD graduate)	Radicalization and violent extremism in Central Asia and Afghanistan
40	Ms Elmira Toktosunova is a Researcher at the Eastern University n.a. Mahmud Kashgari-Barskani located in Bishkek city, Kyrgyz Republic.	Extremism in terms of systemic transformation in contemporary Kyrgyz Republic

Policy Brief #	Author	Title
39	Mr Dmitrii Lazarenko is an independent expert specializing on public campaigning.	Factors influencing formation of electoral opinion in the Kyrgyz Republic
38	Mr Chingiz Batyrbekov is a visiting lecturer at the American University in Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.	Contextualizing the issue of returnees and analyzing relevant international experience applicable to Central Asia
37	Ms Madina Muratova is a graduate of the OSCE Academy, and currently works at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, the Economic and Environmental Dimension.	Family planning trainings for the newlyweds in Tajikistan
36	Ms Lidiya Chikalova is a graduate of the OSCE Academy.	Climate change as a political threat multiplier in Central Asia
35	Sappho M. Bonheur (pseudonym) – author requested to remain incognito.	LGBT in Kyrgyz Republic: from anti-gay propaganda bill to hate crime?
34	Ms Albina Yun is a graduate of the OSCE Academy.	Corruption in Uzbek higher education: detrimental impurity for the future
33	Ms Gulaikhan Kubayeva is a graduate of the OSCE Academy. Currently she is working as a visiting research fellow at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.	Inclusion of small farmers into production value chains through strengthening agricultural cooperatives in Kazakhstan
32	Mr Farkhod Aminjonov is Senior Research Fellow at the Eurasian Research Institute of Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh–Turkish University. He holds a Ph.D. in global governance from Wilfrid Laurier University/Balsillie School of International Affairs (Canada), an M.A. in international area studies from the University of Tsukuba (Japan), an M.A. in political science from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic) and a B.A. (Hon.) in international law from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Uzbekistan).	Security of the Central Asian energy system: institutional versus state interests
31	Mr Belek Ibraev is a Researcher at the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has completed a number of research projects on generational poverty and socio-economic roots of violent extremism and terrorism in Central Asia and Russia's North-Caucasus.	Addressing the Daesh threat in the context of Central Asia

FUNDING & EXPENDITURES

Expenditures by Area of Activities (in EUR)	
Professional Trainings	124149
Masters Programme in Politics and Security	307435
Masters Programme in Economic Governance and Development	218928
Alumni Support	40798
Dialogue and Research	117241
General Support Costs	231832
Total	1040383
Expenditures by Source of Funding (in EUR)	
Unified Budget (OSCE Centre in Bishkek)	174297
Finland (ExB)	23572
Germany (ExB)	70110
USA (ExB)	205442
Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (third-party funding)	494436
Switzerland (third-party funding)	72526
Total	1040383

The OSCE Academy and Community Services

The year of 2016 was baptized “A Year of Community Service” by the OSCE Academy Alumni Office and it resulted in a number of charity events for children from the Centre for Protecting Children in Bishkek (<http://streetchild.ktnet.kg/index.php/en/>). Starting January almost every month the Academy’s alumni, students and staff visited the Centre and spent time with children playing, making handmade cards, decorating their yard with tire-sculptures, celebrating major holidays together, visiting cinema and big fairs. This tradition will be kept alive in the coming years, as it brings joy, care and love to children, who face many difficulties in their lives.

The OSCE Academy and its Comparative Advantages

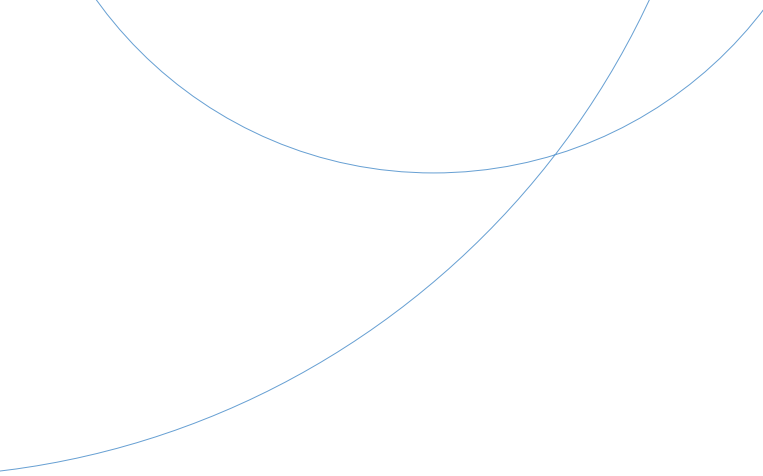
The OSCE Academy distinguishes itself from other educational institution in the world with its Mission and the conditions of education.

The Academy's mission is to promote regional cooperation, conflict prevention and good governance in Central Asia. The Academy was and stays a unique institution in terms of promoting OSCE values and principles through systematic education and training, but also as a provider of high quality graduate education and professional training to young leaders of Central Asia without the need to leave the region.

To achieve its mission the OSCE Academy:

- offers international quality education and supports all its students with scholarship;
- charges no tuition fee;
- hires only leading academics and experts from all over the world;
- hosts and develops a modernized library with the most recent publications and electronic resources;
- in cooperation with its partners provides the best internship opportunities in leading international organizations and scientific and research institutions;
- supports its alumni network by facilitating further professional and research opportunities.

In 2017 we will celebrate the 15th Academy's anniversary with events and activities noting its history and impact on the region. The OSCE Academy invites and sincerely welcomes new donors and partners to establish long-term and successful cooperation during this great period of recognition of the Academy's leading and outstanding status and demonstrated commitment to diversity in the educational system of the Central Asian region, Afghanistan and Mongolia.



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The report is also available on the OSCE Academy's website at:
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