



OSCE Academy Intervention at PC 19 April 2012

Dear Chairman, Excellencies,

The OSCE Academy in Bishkek has the honor to present to the Permanent Council its major achievements over the past two years, since my previous address in 2010. The OSCE Academy is a unique establishment that since 2002 promotes the OSCE agenda of regional cooperation in Central Asia. We focus on graduate and professional education, and provide a platform for dialogue between policy and research communities.

Since 2004 the Academy runs a Masters in Politics and Security whose alumni community, working in Central Asia, Afghanistan and other countries, has reached 174. They contribute to the positive development in the region. 70 per cent of alumni live and work in Central Asia and in Afghanistan. 6 per cent of alumni who are not in Central Asia are originally from out of region. 10 per cent of alumni abroad are doing Masters or Ph.D. abroad and plan to return back to the region, 2 per cent are working in the International Organizations in capacities dealing with the region. We assist our alumni in professional development and increasingly receive their support to Academy in admissions, research and other activities. This is a valuable link showing that the Academy has matured into a recognized institution of learning.

In 2012, thanks to the generous support of Austria, Norway and the US, the Academy opened a second Masters Programme in Economic Governance and Development. Run on the same principles of regional focus, merit-based and regionally balanced admission, this new programme enrolled this year its first 24 students from Central Asia and Afghanistan.

In both programmes we capitalize on our growing international partnerships, and on the support of the OSCE itself, with the OSCE sharing its expertise with our students. On this note I would like to express a sincere appreciation of the efforts that our colleagues from OCEEA, CPC, the field missions, particularly the Centre in Bishkek, are making teaching on both programmes. Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Danish Royal Defense College, University of St Andrews, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Science, PIR Center in Moscow and many others continue to be our partners in implementation of our graduate education.

In 2010-2012 we have strengthened our research profile, with a series of successful high-profile conferences, research projects on security trends in Central Asia, political Islam, trade regimes, language policies in Central Asia. In 2011, the OSCE Academy launched its Policy Briefs series jointly with the GCSP. The Academy consolidated its professional trainings for a greater impact on the professional development of our target groups: journalists, civil servants and governmental and independent analysts and experts.

The Academy's activities increasingly involve Afghan participants, in particular currently 9 Afghans study on the Masters programme. Our 5 (since 2008) Afghan graduates are working in Afghanistan, including the Afghan government. The involvement of Afghan students benefits the prospects of cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan, and we are pleased to report that our Afghan graduates are a very active part of the Alumni Network.

The Academy's strategic development is following upon the recommendations of the independent evaluation supported by the MFA of Finland and the OIO of the OSCE Secretariat. We highly appreciate the positive outcome of this evaluation. There are three directions in which the Academy will develop in the coming years. The first is the broadening of institutional and financial support base of the Academy, including through jointly funded projects with our partners. Second, we will strengthen the regional ownership through better alignment of our research and training programmes with the specific needs of our Central Asian stakeholders. Third, we will increase the visibility of our activities.

In conclusion, on behalf of the OSCE Academy, I have the privilege of thanking the OSCE pS and all our donors for their continuing support of our activities.

Maxim Ryabkov

Director