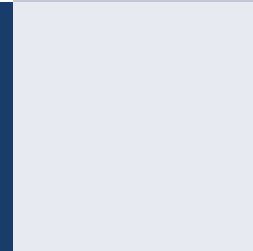
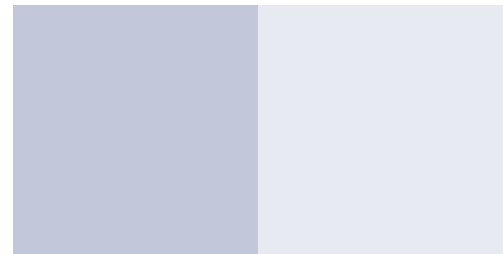


# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT



**OSCE** ACADEMY  
in Bishkek

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



## Contents

List of Abbreviations .....	3
Message from the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees .....	4
Message from the Management of the OSCE Academy .....	5
Education .....	8
Master of Arts Programmes .....	8
MA Programme in Politics and Security .....	11
MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development .....	13
MA Programme in Human Rights and Sustainability .....	15
Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme .....	19
Admission Process 2025 .....	23
Internships .....	24
Research and Training Unit .....	25
Professional Training .....	25

Conferences and Workshops .....	27
Joint Initiatives .....	30
Research and Publications .....	36
Postdoctoral Research Fellowships .....	36
Associate Research Fellowship .....	38
Publications .....	39
Research Projects in Partnerships .....	46
Library .....	47
Our Alumni .....	48
Alumni Activities .....	50
Alumni Spotlight .....	52
Alumni Initiatives .....	53
Alumni Opportunities .....	54
Partnerships and Co-operation .....	56
Notable Visitors and Guest Lecturers .....	61
Finances .....	71

## LIST ABBREVIATIONS

- ADB** - Asian Development Bank
- AHRC** - Arts and Humanities Research Council
- AI** – Artificial Intelligence
- APAPKR** - National Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic
- AUCA** – American University of Central Asia
- CAETM** - Center for Assessment of Education and Teaching Methods
- CAREC** - Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute
- CBAM** - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
- CBC** - Cross-Border Cooperation
- CBDC** - Central Bank Digital Currency
- CRISP** - Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V.
- DAAD** - German Academic Exchange Service
- DCAF** - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
- DDoS** - Distributed Denial-of-Service
- DGAP** - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik
- DHBW** - Dual University of Baden Württemberg
- EACEA** - European Education and Culture Executive Agency
- ECMI** - European Center for Minority Issues
- ENC** - European Neighborhood Council
- ESCAS** - European Society for Central Asian Studies
- EUCP** - European Climate Policy
- GC** - Global Campus of Human Rights
- GCSP** - Geneva Centre for Security Policy
- GIP** - Gender Issues Programme
- GIZ** - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- ICRC** - International Committee of the Red Cross
- INTPOLSEC** - Association of International Politics and Security
- ISoG BW** - Baden-Württemberg School of Intersectoral Governance
- IWPR** - Institute for War and Peace Reporting
- MAEGD** - MA in Economic Governance and Development
- MAHRS** – MA in Human Rights and Sustainability
- MAPS** – MA in Politics and Security
- METU** - Middle East Technical University
- MOCCA** - Multilevel Orders of Corruption in Central Asia
- NHC** - Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- NISI** - National Institute for Strategic Initiatives
- NUPI** - Norwegian Institute of International Affairs
- OSCE** - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- OSCE CPC** – OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre
- OSCE ODIHR** - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
- OSCE RFoM** - OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- OSG** - Office of the Secretary General
- PIK** - Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- POiB** – OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek
- Q&A** – Questions & Answers
- SDU** - Suleyman Demirel University
- SNSPA** - National University of Political Studies and Public Administration
- SPCE** - Sustainability Partnership across Central Europe and Asia
- SQL** - Structured query language
- SSG/R** - Security Sector Governance and Reform
- TİKA** - Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
- UCA** – University of Central Asia
- UN OHCHR** - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dear Esteemed Members of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek Community,

It is a privilege to present the OSCE Academy in Bishkek's 2025 Annual Report, which reflects not only a year of academic and institutional achievement, but also a period of thoughtful adaptation and renewal. In a time of growing financial pressures and shifting donor landscapes, the Academy has responded with resilience, discipline, and innovation. It has done so while strengthening its ability to deliver high-quality education while using resources more strategically and effectively.

Since its establishment in 2002, the OSCE Academy has evolved into a leading regional centre for learning, research, and dialogue. Today, supported by a network of more than 700 alumni, our graduates contribute meaningfully to public service, diplomacy, research, and civil society across Central Asia and beyond. Their continued success demonstrates the enduring value of the Academy's academic model, professional opportunities and its commitment to developing principled, capable leaders.

In the 50th year since the Helsinki Final Act, the Academy has taken important steps to enhance financial sustainability and operational efficiency. Our focus through all of these changes has been the education of our students. Through careful budget prioritization, strengthened internal controls, expanded partnerships, and targeted fundraising efforts, we have ensured that limited resources are directed toward core academic and student-support functions. As a long-time scholar myself, I recognize how important it is to provide our students with the best support possible. These measures have enabled us to maintain educational quality, protect scholarship opportunities, and expand access, even in a challenging financial environment.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the host State of Kyrgyzstan, our Board of Trustees, academic partners, donors, OSCE field operations in Central Asia as well as the Academy's leadership, faculty, and staff for their continued trust and commitment. Their collective support has been essential in navigating economic uncertainty and reinforcing the Academy's long-term stability. The professionalism and dedication of our team have been central to sustaining institutional performance while embracing necessary reforms.

This Annual Report offers a comprehensive account of a community that continues to learn, adapt, and grow. It captures an institution that has transformed challenges into opportunities and uncertainty into renewed purpose. I invite you to explore these pages, reflect on our shared achievements, and join us in advancing education, dialogue, and co-operation in support of peace and security throughout Central Asia and beyond.

With warmest regards,

**Ambassador V. Frobarth**

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

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OSCE ACADEMY



Dear Readers,

It is my honour and pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek for 2025. Another important year is behind us: a year of stabilization and consolidation with some important successes, and a few problems that remain for the short- or longer-term future. The Academy tried its best, and often successfully. However, as the working environment of the OSCE Academy continued to change dynamically, the adaptation need has remained a challenge.

The Academy survived a few difficult moments related to personnel, funding, internship opportunities, and the image we project. It is most important that we successfully retained its appeal, and functioning. The three MA programmes continue to inch closer to similar level of demand and catch up with the different length of their history. As the friends of the Academy know well, the Politics and Security (MAPS) programme

has 22 years of history, whereas the Economic Governance and Development (MAEGD) is 13 years old, while the Human Rights and Sustainability (MAHRS) programme is in its third year. The three programmes with some overlaps among their curricula, reflect the three dimensions of the OSCE.

The Academy, more precisely put its leading collective body, the Board of Trustees, had to take a painful decision in October 2025. The Economics BA programme had to be suspended. The Academy did not enroll new students in 2025, and the students who started their studies in 2022, 2023, and 2024, will complete them in 2026, 2027, and 2028, respectively. Of course, those who have been studying in the Economics BA will be just as esteemed graduates of the OSCE Academy as every student of the 708-member alumni community of the MA programmes who completed their studies by 2025.

In 2025 after a few months of vacancy, a new deputy director, Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev joined the Academy. He had already been deputy director between 2012-5 and has been teaching at the Academy. It was great to engage a true insider who had such a comprehensive insight. He did an enormous job in the months he spent with us, fixing certain budgetary matters, drafting and redrafting various documents requested by partners and donors. Unfortunately, academia pulled him back and, in the end of 2025, decided not to stay with us longer. However, his great contribution will stay with the Academy. We are also fortunate that he will continue to contribute to the academic programme, including teaching.

It is the best news that by late-2025 stability returned and the level of consolidation reached a more advanced phase. The 2023-5 cohort of MA students completed their studies and graduated on the 13th of February 2025. It happened for the first time in the history of the OSCE Academy that the students of three MA programmes graduated together. 25 MAPS, 17 MAEGD, and 11 MAHRS students, overall, 35 women, and 18 men joined the alumni community. With the 53 graduates of 2025 the alumni community has risen to 708.

The 2024-6 cohort continued its studies and worked hard on their theses to be submitted in early January 2026. The new cohort of MA students started their studies even though with the caveat that Afghan citizens could only join the programme somewhat later due to some administrative hurdles that took time to overcome. For the first weeks they benefitted from online access to the courses. The Academy continues to be fortunate to have the chance and select the best from among many highly qualified candidates.

In 2025 the excellent news that had arrived in 2024 reached the OSCE Academy for the second time: The Academy has been ranked as the top higher education institution of Kyrgyzstan by the Center for Assessment of Education and Teaching Methods (CAETM), based on the results of the competition for admission (based on the overall score of the main test). It conveys the message that the work of more than two decades of many, the good news spread by our graduates, the insistence on professional and moral standards, have brought fruits. It also means that we will have to work hard to maintain the high standards and hope for similarly high recognition. However, we should remain modest as there are other higher education institutions in Kyrgyzstan that also do their best. Still, hopefully staying in the league of being one of the most demanded higher educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan is already a great honor and achievement.

The OSCE Academy started to publish more than in the two preceding years. In 2025, ten Policy Briefs and two Research Papers were published and made available both online and in print. The emphasis of our research and publications work has remained unchanged: 1. Publishing policy-relevant research on Central Asia, and in majority by Central Asian authors, 2. Provide opportunity to young authors with whom we work closely to foster the quality of their early publications and contribute to their further academic advancement. In addition to these two series, the Academy also sent to print the open access Springer book edited by Professor Sergey Sayapin, "International Law, Politics and Security in Central Asia." It is the desire of the OSCE Academy that our basic teaching activity would be strongly complemented by research and publications both by our faculty and our associate researchers, graduates and others.

During 2025, the OSCE Academy signed 11 new bilateral memoranda and agreements with universities, national institutions, and international bodies and renewed one Inter-Institutional Agreement (via Erasmus+) with Paris Lodron University, Salzburg.

The OSCE Academy could always count on the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek (POiB), and its head, who is also the chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy. In August 2025, Ambassador Alexey Rogov left his post to take up the position of heading the OSCE programme office in Astana, and Ambassador Volker Frobarth started to work in those functions. With Ambassador Frobarth's vast experience in various functions, including several earlier OSCE field assignments, the transition has been smooth, and the Academy was not left without close attention, support and guidance for a minute.

Each of the three MA programmes of the OSCE Academy have received international accreditation. Seeking accreditation helps with self-assessment, and reflection of the merits and shortcomings of programmes. Now, the Academy is about to complete the accreditation of its BA programme and has also embarked upon institutional accreditation. The latter will also allow that the Academy appear and be measured in university rankings. Due to its size, the variety of its programmes, and its resources, the Academy understands it will not be on the top of various lists, but ranking will be an important indication of its presence and in due time will also indicate objectively the tendencies of its work. We are very grateful to EdNet to guide us through the demanding process.

The OSCE Academy faces a challenging situation as far as its budgetary resources. As it is widely known, the budget of the organization has not increased, and the unified budget, in accordance with decisions taken in December 2025, may even shrink. One major, large, long-term large extra-budgetary donor reconsidered its priorities that required further effort to compensate. The fact, the security needs of many OSCE participating States, understandably, give priority to hard security matters, and less to activities that improve regional cooperation through higher education, also affects the Academy. The Academy is extremely grateful for the continuing support of the POiB. The extra-budgetary support concentrates in a few participating states from Austria, to Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland. It must remain a strong priority of the Academy to broaden the circle of states that support it. When the OSCE Academy faced some temporary financial difficulties, it benefited from the solidarity of the OSCE presences in Central Asian participating states. The two major direct funders of the Academy, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), and the Global Campus of Human Rights (GC) demonstrated high level flexibility, in some cases reallocated funds to the basic function of the Academy. All these elements contributed to the continuing viability of the Academy. The Academy does its best to demonstrate how responsibly it uses the endowed funds also in order the donors would know that their support is well-spent with maximum prudence. This has been demonstrated among others by a modest and considerate reduction of staff from 39 to 32.

I hope when you read the annual report you notice the efforts and the achievements and you share the view that the Academy is a valuable and unique programme, and works as the longest-standing implementing partner of the OSCE.

I wish you have the attention to the Annual Report and find a way to support the work that is so dear to us: To promote development by bringing the young generation of intellectuals together for the benefit of the broader region.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Pal Dunay,**  
**Director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

## EDUCATIONAL

### Master of Arts Programmes

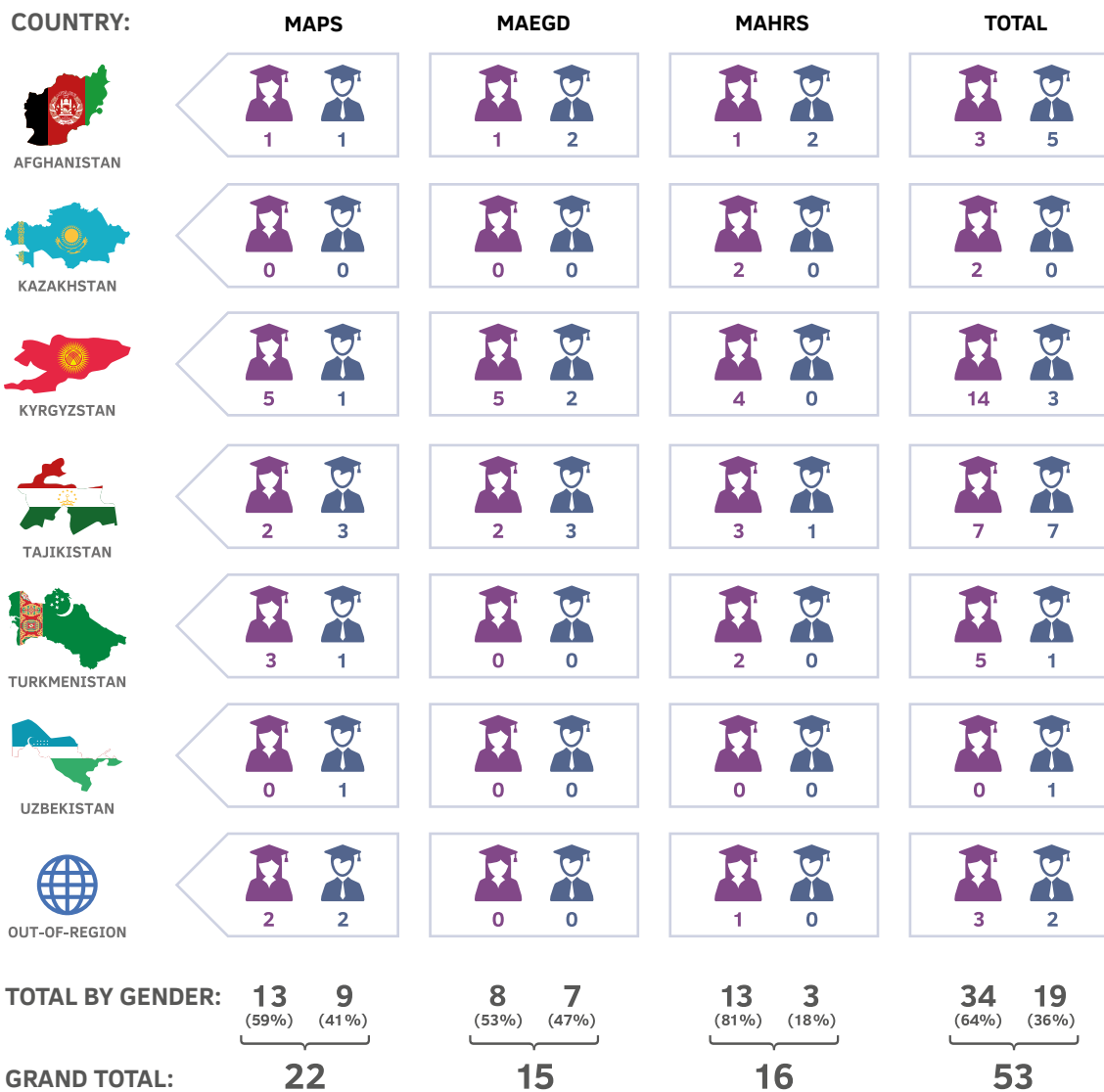


In 2025, the Master's programmes of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek continued their work in providing advanced academic training in politics, security, economic governance, and human rights. On 13 February, the Academy held its annual graduation ceremony for the 2023–2025 cohort, with 53 students completing their studies across the MAPS (Central Asia), the MAEGD, and the MAHRS. The MAHRS saw its first cohort graduate, reflecting the programme's incorporation into the Academy's academic offerings. The graduates represented countries from Central Asia and the broader OSCE region, highlighting the Academy's expanding international reach and the growing diversity of its student body. These alumni continue to make meaningful contributions to public service, international organizations, and civil society, reinforcing the Academy's professional impact across the region.

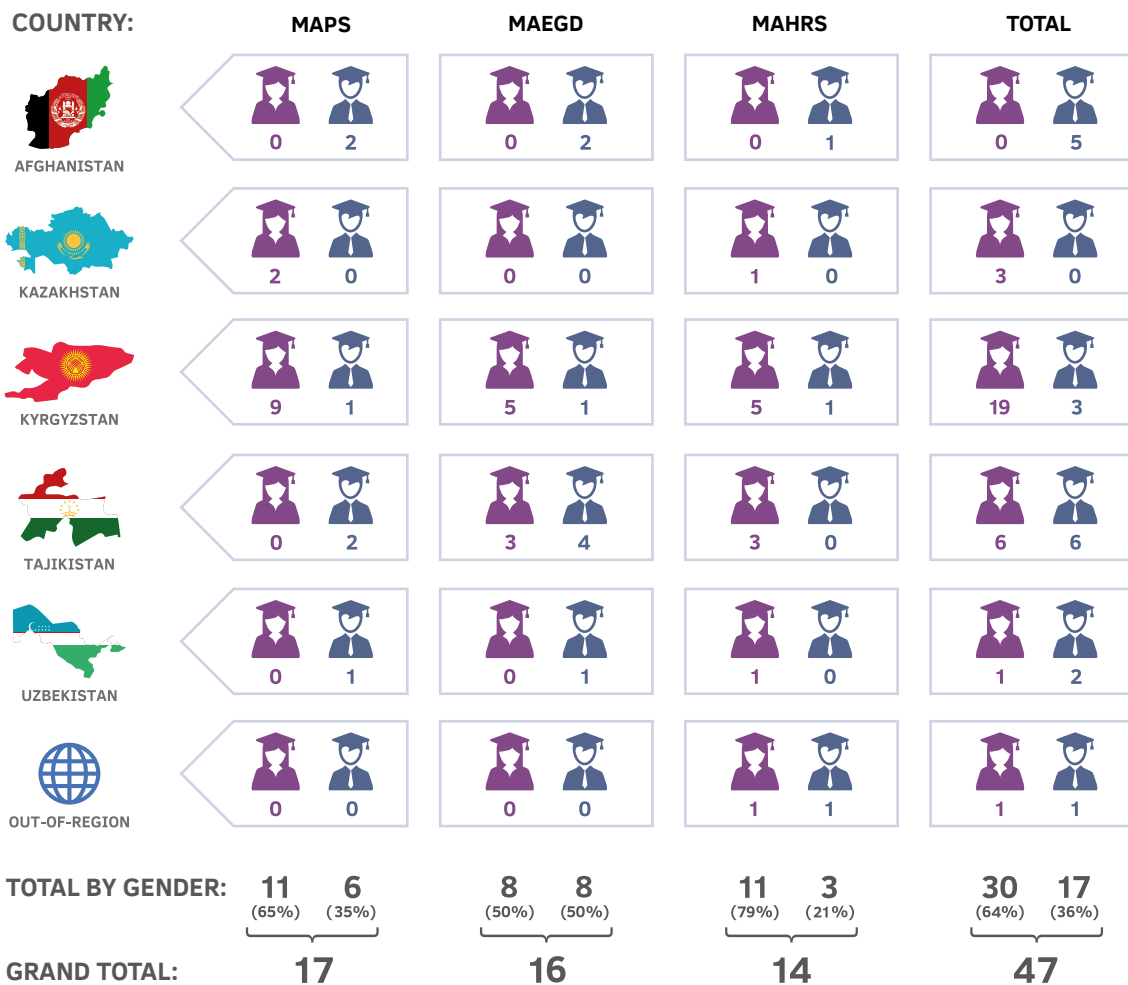
In September, a new cohort of Master's students joined the Academy, engaging in coursework and research designed to strengthen analytical skills, applied knowledge, and practical problem-solving. During the autumn semester, students combined theoretical study with practical approaches relevant to governance, security, economic development, and human rights in the region.

Overall, 2025 reflected the ongoing work of the Academy in supporting advanced academic programmes and maintaining consistent standards of teaching and learning across its Master's programmes.

## Students of the MA Programmes class 2024-2026



## Students of the MA Programmes class 2025-2027



## Master of Arts in Politics and Security Programme



The MAPS (Central Asia) is a multidisciplinary graduate programme designed to equip students with advanced knowledge of political systems, international relations, and regional security dynamics. The programme combines theoretical foundations in political science and security studies with policy-oriented analysis focused on Central Asia. Through rigorous coursework, research, and engagement with practitioners, the programme prepares graduates for careers in public administration, diplomacy, international organizations, research institutions, and civil society, fostering critical thinking, analytical competence, and evidence-based policy expertise.

In 2025, 18 highly qualified lecturers with PhD degrees contributed to the programme. Their strong academic backgrounds and research experience demonstrate the Academy's dedication to high-quality education, providing students with in-depth knowledge, critical analytical skills, and a comprehensive understanding of regional and global security issues.

### Faculty. Winter 2025, Spring 2025 and Fall 2025

- Dr. Aijan Sharshenova (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Baktybek Urmanbetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Barbara Christoph (Germany), Georg-Eckert-Institute, Germany
- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqsut Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Clara Portela (Spain), University of Valencia, Spain

- Dr. Daniela Irerra (Italy), School of Advanced Defence Studies, CASD, Italy
- Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Helge Blakkisrud (Norway), University of Oslo, Norway
- Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Mary Bernadette Conde (Philippines), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov (Netherlands), University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Dr. Rouslan Jalil (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Sebastian Mayer (Germany), OSCE Academy – DAAD, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev (Kyrgyzstan), Crossroads Central Asia, Independent Non-Profit Research Institute, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Yana Leksyutina (Russia), Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia

Female – 7 (39 %), Male – 11 (61%)



*“Teaching Political Violence and Terrorism at the OSCE Academy has been a particularly rewarding experience. The course encourages students to critically engage with the causes, dynamics, and implications of violence in contemporary conflicts, fostering rigorous analysis and thoughtful debate in a uniquely diverse classroom setting,” – Dr. Daniela Irerra, School of Advanced Defence Studies, CASD, Italy*

In Winter 2025, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025, the curriculum included a total of 22 full-term, modular, and elective courses.

#### Winter 2025

- Central Asian Politics and Security
- Contemporary Security Issues
- Central Asia and the USA
- Governance, Democracy and Public Policy
- European Politics
- International Political Economy
- Introduction into Qualitative Research Methods
- MA Thesis Seminar

#### Spring 2025

- Central Asia and Russia
- Central Asia and China
- Nation, State and Nationalism
- MA Thesis Seminar
- Political Islam
- International Cyber Security
- European Climate Policy
- The Rise of AI and Big Tech: Implications for Global Politics and Security

Fall 2025

- The OSCE
- International Relations
- History of Political Thought
- Central Asian Politics and Security
- Academic Writing and Honesty
- Research Methods

## Master of Arts in Economic Governance and Development Programme



The MAEGD is a graduate programme designed to provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary education in economics, governance, and development based on international standards of teaching. The programme equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary for professional and academic careers in economic policy, public policy, and development. It combines rigorous theoretical and practical training, offering contemporary approaches and analytical tools that are relevant both generally and in the Central Asian context.

Students benefit from learning opportunities with leading academics, experts, and representatives of international organizations. The curriculum emphasizes applied economics, policy analysis, and governance frameworks, preparing graduates to contribute to government institutions, international organisations, development agencies, and the private sector.

In 2025, the MAEGD received comprehensive academic support, with 79% of the lecturers holding PhD degrees, enhanced by valuable insights from experts and practitioners.

## Faculty. Winter 2025, Spring 2025 and Fall 2025

- Dr. Nurgul Tilenbaeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Ms. Akylai Mukhtarbek kyzy (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Kuat Akizhanov (Kazakhstan), Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute, China
- Mr. Aibek Ashirov (Kyrgyzstan), World Bank, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. John D. Jinkner (USA), Savannah State University, USA
- Dr. Roman Vakulchuk (Kazakhstan), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia
- Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Björn Vollan (Germany), University of Marburg, Germany
- Dr. Bernd Hayo (Germany), University of Marburg, Germany
- Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Rashid Gabdulhakov (Netherlands), University of Groningen, Netherlands
- Dr. Alisher Mirzabaev (Uzbekistan), International Rice Research Institute, Philippines
- Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev (Kyrgyzstan), Ala-Too International University, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Lukasz Gruszczynski (Poland), Kozminski University, Poland
- Dr. Alexander Wolters (Germany), Independent Expert
- Dr. Nurbek Jenish (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Germany
- Mr. Glen Biggus (USA), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Female – 2 (11%), Male – 17 (89%)



*“My experience teaching in the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek has been truly rewarding. The Academy fosters a dynamic and intellectually open environment where I can engage with highly motivated students and share heterodox perspectives in line with my pluralist approach, helping shape thoughtful and future-oriented policy-makers. It is a privilege to contribute to such a diverse and forward-looking academic community.”*- Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute, China

In Winter 2025, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025, the curriculum included a total of 25 full-term, modular, and elective courses.

## Winter 2025

- Econometrics
- Introduction to Stata
- Research Methods and Design
- Industrial Policy
- International Financial System
- Business Simulation for Politics and Governance
- International Economic Indices and Economy Rankings
- Project Management
- Python

## Spring 2025

- Energy Politics
- Economics and Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources

- Economics of Sustainable Development
- International Development
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- MA Thesis Seminar
- Data Science
- International Cyber Security

## Fall 2025

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

## Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences in Human Rights and Sustainability



The MAHRS is a programme designed for young scholars and professionals aiming to study International Human Rights Law, Good Governance, and Sustainability Principles, Norms, and Standards, with a focus on the Central Asian region. It is structured as a transdisciplinary MA programme, bridging international law, social sciences, and humanities. MAHRS is hosted by the OSCE Academy and implemented by the Global Campus Central Asia, a regional hub of the Global Campus of Human Rights network. Through this affiliation, the programme is embedded within a broader international academic community dedicated to advancing human rights education and research.

The programme offers students a comprehensive understanding of human rights frameworks and sustainable development. It is delivered by a highly qualified and experienced faculty and consists of two terms at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, followed by a third term at a partner university. The curriculum is enriched by visiting professors and experts, who contribute to specialized courses and practice-oriented modules through partnerships with leading institutions. Additionally, guest lecturers provide real-world insights, ensuring that students develop a practical and up-to-date understanding of global human rights challenges and sustainable development solutions.

In 2025, the MAHRS programme received comprehensive academic support, with 81% of lecturers holding PhD degrees, further enriched by insights from experts and practitioners.

## **Faculty. Winter 2025, Spring 2025 and Fall 2025**

- Dr. Anja Mihr (Germany), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Ariadna Petri (Romania), University of Marburg, Germany
- Dr. Baktybek Urmanbetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqsut Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan
- Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Clara Portela (Spain), University of Valencia, Spain
- Dr. Roman Vakulchuk (Kazakhstan), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Waleed Gumaa (United Kingdom), Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia
- Dr. Indra Overland (Norway), Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, Norway
- Dr. Claudio Pala (Italy), Atrocity Crimes Advisory Group (ACA), The European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM), Italy
- Dr. Daniela Irrera (Italy), School of Advanced Defence Studies, CASD, Italy
- Dr. Elvis Fokala (South Africa), University of Pretoria via Global Campus of Human Rights, South Africa
- Dr. Francisco Romero (Spain), Institute for Comparative Federalism at Eurac Research, Italy
- Dr. Inge Zwart (Sweden), Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- Dr. Kemel Toktomushev (Kyrgyzstan), University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Lauri Mälksoo (Estonia), School of Law of the University of Tartu, Estonia

- Dr. Mike Hayes (Thailand), Mahidol University, Thailand
- Dr. Pal Dunay (Hungary), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Rustam Atajanov (Uzbekistan), KIMEP University, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Sagynbek Orunbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Saniia Toktogazieva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Sebastian Mayer (Germany), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Viktoria Akchurina (Kyrgyzstan), Ala-Too International University, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Vincenzo Della Sala (Italy), University of Trento, Italy
- Mr. Nick Danziger (Monaco), Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- Mrs. Barbara Strasser (Austria), Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- Ms. Aigerim Kussaiyn kyzy (Kazakhstan), Social and Gender Studies Center, Kazakhstan
- Ms. Claudia Modonesi (Italy), Global Campus of Human Rights, Italy
- Ms. Kanykei Kasybekova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan

Female - 11 (38%), Male - 18 (62%)



*“Teaching in the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability has been an immensely rewarding experience. The interactions with students, the stimulating discussions, and the rich exchange of perspectives within the group have been particularly meaningful. The environment fostered by the OSCE Academy not only supports strong academic development but also encourages significant personal growth—an asset that will undoubtedly serve students well in their future professional paths. I wish them every success and am confident they will use their knowledge and skills to serve and strengthen their communities.”* - Dr. Francisco Javier Romero Caro, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism at Eurac Research in Bolzano/Bozen (Italy)

In Winter 2025 and Fall 2025, the curriculum included a total of 28 full-term and modular courses.

#### Winter 2025

- OSCE (SDG 17)
- Regionalism
- Climate Justice in Central Asia
- Gender Rights
- Political Regime Theory

#### Fall 2025

- International Human Rights Law and Sustainable Development Goals: Introduction
- European Union Politics
- International Criminal Law
- Fact-Finding in International Law
- Minority and Indigenous Rights

- Sustainability and Civil Society in Central Asia
- European Union Law and Human Rights
- Mixed Methods: Qualitative Verification, Research Methods and Case Studies
- Applied Teaching Methods
- Conflict Prevention and Resolution
- Arts & Human Rights: Pathways to Sustainability
- Democratization and Good Governance
- Children's Rights
- Human Rights Violations as International Crimes
- Sustainable Development and Crisis Management
- International Criminal Law
- Fact-Finding in International Law
- OSCE (SDG 17)
- Quantitative Methods in International Relations
- Geopolitics of Sustainable Development Goals
- Political Theory and Thought; Good Governance
- Concept and Policies of International Relations
- International Human Rights Law
- International Human Rights Law in Central Asia

## Mobility Term – Fall 2025

The mobility term is spent in the following partner universities:

- American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Ala-Too International University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Kazakhstan University of Management, Economics and Strategic Research (KIMEP), Kazakhstan
- University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan
- Yerevan State University, Armenia
- Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
- University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- The National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania
- University of Valencia, Spain

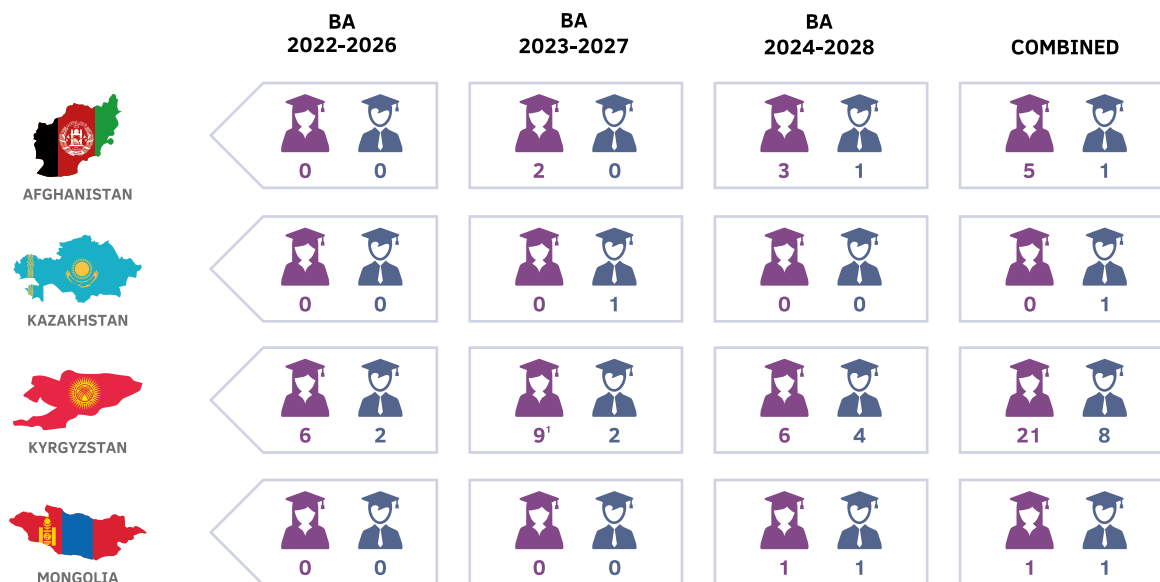
## Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme



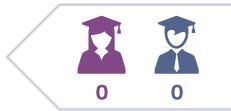
The Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme brings together three cohorts of undergraduate students from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, contributing to the OSCE Academy's diverse and vibrant academic community alongside graduate programmes.

The programme is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of national and global economic processes, combining economic theory with applied analytical tools and policy-oriented perspectives. It promotes critical thinking, practice-oriented learning, and the ability to analyse complex socio-economic challenges. Through its international and English-taught format, the programme encourages cross-cultural interaction and fosters an inclusive academic environment, reflecting the Academy's commitment to high-quality education and regional cooperation.

### BA in Economics Programme students



<sup>1</sup> On academic leave due to health reasons



TOTAL BY GENDER:

7 (70%)    2 (30%)

13 (67%)    7 (33%)

12 (69%)    6 (31%)

32 (68%)    15 (32%)

GRAND TOTAL:

9

20

18

47



*“Through a diverse and intensive curriculum, ranging from Accounting to Marketing, the BA programme offered a comprehensive view of modern economics. The combination of data analysis and policy-oriented courses enhanced my ability to evaluate economic issues. My theoretical knowledge was consolidated through practical internship experience. Together, these experiences prepared me for further academic and professional challenges,”- Amirkhon Anvarov, BA student 2023-2027, Uzbekistan*

## Faculty. Spring 2025 and Fall 2025

In 2025, the BA in Economics programme was delivered by a diverse group of faculty members representing the OSCE Academy, American University of Central Asia, and other partner universities and institutions from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany. This diverse composition contributed to a rich academic environment and exposed students to a wide range of international and regional perspectives.

A significant proportion of the faculty held doctoral degrees, with 20 out of 27 instructors (74%) possessing a PhD, ensuring a high level of academic expertise and research-informed teaching. The faculty included 15 male and 12 female instructors, supporting a balanced and inclusive academic environment and reflecting the programme’s commitment to gender diversity.

- Dr. Esentur Ivagov (Kyrgyzstan), International University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Urmat Ryskulov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Javlon Juraev (Uzbekistan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Bakhtiiar Igamberdiev (Kyrgyzstan), United World International School, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Ulanbek Moldokmatov (Kyrgyzstan), High School of Economics and Business, Kyrgyz State Technical University, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Akram Khalilov (Kyrgyzstan), BI Norwegian Business School, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Baurzhan Rakhmetov (Kazakhstan), Maqsut Narikbaev University, Kazakhstan
- Dr. Kiyalbek Akmoldoev (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Zhyldyz Tegizbekova (Kyrgyzstan), Ala-Too International University, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Eldar Komar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Faculty of Economics Podgorica, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dr. Saikal Anvar kyzy (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova (Kyrgyzstan), OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Mukaram Toktogulova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Mirgul Nizaeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Ms. Begimai Abdraeva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Ms. Kanayiym Kydyralieva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Arina Wischnewsky (Germany), Trier University, Germany
- Dr. Vladimir Zbraski (Kyrgyzstan), Academy of PE and Sports, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Gregory Jordan Dunn (USA), Hari Shankar Singhania School of Business, India
- Ms. Lidiya Chikalova (Armenia), University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Görkem Atsungur (Turkey), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Saltanat Imanova (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Baktybek Urmambetov (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Azamat Kibekbaev (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Anara Momunalieva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Dr. Natalia Korosteleva (Kyrgyzstan), American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Almaz Ashirov (Kyrgyzstan), Business Development Consultant, Kyrgyzstan



*“It was an interesting teaching experience, as the group of students has very different interests. What helped bring them together was creativity. It sparked their curiosity and showed them that even the most ordinary topics can become engaging with just a pinch of creativity,” – Ms. Lidiya Chikalova, Lecturer, University of Central Asia*

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

### Spring 2025

- Marketing
- Econometrics II
- Economic Growth and Development
- History of Economic Thought
- Introduction to Research Methods
- Economics and Industrial Policy

### Fall 2025

- Qualitative Research Methods for Economists
- Quantitative Research Methods for Economists
- Sustainable Development and Green Economy
- Economic Security and Data Protection
- Public Policy Evaluation and Impact Analysis
- Energy Economics and Sustainability
- Blockchain and Digital Finance
- Creative and Knowledge-Based Economy
- Digital Economy and Platform Markets

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

### Spring 2025

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- History of Kyrgyzstan
- Geography of Kyrgyzstan

### Fall 2025

- Money and Banking
- Econometrics I
- National Economy
- Taxes and Taxation
- Data Science
- Project Management
- Social Entrepreneurship

## Bachelor of Arts in Economics Programme Curriculum, Class 2024-2028

### Spring 2025

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Political Economy
- Law for Economists
- Calculus
- ICT
- Ecology
- Math for Economists
- Macroeconomics I
- Physical Education and Sports

### Fall 2025

- Kyrgyz Language and Literature
- Microeconomics II

- Statistics II
- Accounting II
- Macroeconomics II
- Economic Analysis
- Physical Education and Sports
- Global Economy
- Finance
- Accounting I
- Statistics I
- Management
- Business Communication
- Physical Education and Sports

## Admission Process 2025

In 2025, the Academy successfully recruited students for its MA programmes. The number of applications for the three MA programmes reached 1,163. A total of 241 candidates were shortlisted and invited to the entrance examinations. Most of the candidates were invited to take the exams in Astana, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Tashkent. Online tests were conducted for applicants from Afghanistan, Mongolia, and countries outside the Central Asian region. Based on the examination results, 90 applicants interviewed - 37 for the MAPS (Central Asia), 29 for the MAEGD, and 24 for the MAHRS. In total, 60 candidates were selected for the Academy's MA programmes.

### Graph 1: Admission 2025-2027 application statistics / MAEGD



### Graph 2: Admission 2025-2027 application statistics / MAPS



### Graph 3: Admission 2025-2027 application statistics / MAHRS

<b>347</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>
Applications in total for the September intake	From five Central Asian countries (KZ, KG, TJ, TURK, UZB)	Applications from Afghanistan	Applications from Mongolia	From other OSCE participating States	Number of students admitted to the programme

### Internships

The internship continues to play a key role in bridging academic learning with practical application, reflecting the Academy’s commitment to preparing graduates for leadership and impact in their respective fields. In 2025, students from the MAEGD, MAPS (Central Asia), and MAHRS successfully completed their mandatory internships, an integral component of the Academy’s academic curriculum. These internships provide students with practical experience, professional skills, and networking opportunities, supporting their personal and professional development. Through these placements, students are able to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings, while making meaningful contributions to the region.

In 2025 internships were organized at the Academy’s partner organizations and institutions – the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, Austria; the NUPI in Oslo, Norway; the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) in Oslo, Norway; the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland; the Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V. (CRISP) in Berlin, Germany; the European Neighborhood Council (ENC) in Brussels, Belgium; the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany; the Haydar Aliyev Eurasian Research Center at Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkiye; the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CAREC) in Urumqi, China; EURAC Research in Bolzano, Italy; the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic; the Embassy of Denmark in Vienna, Austria; the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara, Turkiye; the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR) in Warsaw, Poland; the University of Sustainability in Vienna, Austria; the Global Campus HQ in Venice, Italy; University of Trento, Italy; and the UN OHCHR in Geneva, Switzerland (remote).

Regional internship organizations include the University of Central Asia (UCA) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the Public Fund “Child Rights Defenders’ League”, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the CAREC Country Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; M-Vector in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; the Central Asian University of Environmental and Climate Change Studies in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Delegation in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Center for Comparative Studies of Power and Governance, Higher School of Economics University in St. Petersburg, Russia; the UN Women Country Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of SDU University in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Throughout their internships, 49 students engaged in projects related to water management and climate, gender equality, peace and security, international relations, national minority rights, economics and development, human rights and applied academic and research competencies. These experiences allowed them to gain practical skills and insights both within and beyond the Central Asian region.



*“I am passionate about working in this unit (Gender Issues Programme, Office of the Secretary General) since it reflects my long-held belief in gender equality and women’s rights, as well as my conviction in the key role of the OSCE in achieving this objective. Empowering women and ensuring their inclusion and equal participation in all spheres of political and public life is what I consider a fulfilling approach to maintaining peace and security, and it is an honor to contribute to this cause. Furthermore, interning at the GIP significantly contributes to my master thesis as well as my future research endeavors.”* - Leyli Yuldashova, MAPS, 2024. Place of internship: The OSCE Secretariat, Vienna

#### Internship statistics for the academic year 2024-2026

	Σ				Σ		
<b>OSCE Secretariat</b> in Vienna, Austria	5	3	2	<b>CAREC</b> in Urumqi, China	1	1	0
<b>GCSP</b> in Geneva, Switzerland	1	1	0	<b>Czech University of Life Sciences</b> in Prague, Czech Republic	1	0	1
<b>NUPI</b> in Oslo, Norway	3	2	1	<b>Embassy of Denmark</b> in Vienna, Austria	1	1	0
<b>NHC</b> in Oslo, Norway	1	0	1	<b>University of Sustainability</b> Vienna, Austria	2	2	0
<b>METU</b> in Ankara, Turkiye	1	0	1	<b>Global Campus HQ</b> in Venice, Italy	1	0	1
<b>CRISP</b> in Berlin, Germany	2	2	0	<b>OSCE ODIHR</b> in Warsaw, Poland	1	1	0
<b>ENC</b> in Brussels, Belgium	2	1	1	<b>University of Trento</b> in Trento, Italy	1	1	0
<b>ECMI</b> in Flensburg, Germany	2	2	0	<b>INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS</b>	30	21	9
<b>Haydar Aliyev Eurasian Research Center at IBN Haldun University</b> in Istanbul, Turkiye	1	0	1	<b>REGIONAL INTERNSHIPS (AROUND CENTRAL ASIA)</b>	19	11	8
<b>EURAC Research</b> in Bolzano, Italy	4	4	0				

## RESEARCH AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

In 2025, the OSCE Academy continued to host Postdoctoral and Associate Research Fellows, and made significant strides in producing a variety of publications. The Academy also advanced multiple research projects. Regularly organized events such as trainings, workshops, conferences, book launches, and public lectures were held in hybrid and online formats attracting both local and international participants. Additionally, the Academy published policy briefs and other academic publications.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

### Certificate Training: “Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Public Administration”

On 29–30 October, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek convened a two-day training entitled “Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Public Administration”, bringing together 22 civil servants (10 women and 12 men), to reflect on how digital transformation is reshaping public administration and environmental management.

The training aimed to enhance participants' digital competencies, raise their awareness of cyber threats, and strengthen the skills needed for the safe and effective use of innovative technologies in their work. The training was organized in cooperation with the National Institute for Strategic Initiatives (NISI) under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, with support from NUPI.



In their opening remarks, Dr. Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, and Mr. Shumkarbek Adilbek uulu, Deputy Director of NISI, emphasized that digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence have become integral to sustainable governance. They underlined that public institutions today operate in an environment where cyber threats, data vulnerabilities, and emerging AI tools directly affect state resilience and public trust.

The first day immersed participants in the practical realities of cybersecurity and AI use in everyday administrative work. Led by Ms. Nuriya Kutnaeva, former Minister of Digital Development of the Kyrgyz Republic, the sessions combined real-world case studies with interactive discussion. Exploring the concept of “cyber hygiene,” participants examined how personal and institutional data can be exposed, manipulated, or exploited. Particular attention was given to phishing schemes, social engineering, and the growing sophistication of deepfake technologies. The discussion then shifted from risks to responsible innovation, as participants compared major AI platforms - including OpenAI’s ChatGPT, DeepSeek, and Google’s Gemini - considering both their administrative potential and the safeguards required for data protection. A hands-on workshop on prompt engineering encouraged participants to experiment with practical applications of AI while critically assessing its limitations and ethical implications.

The second day broadened the perspective from individual digital practices to systemic security and environmental governance. Mr. Asan Akhmatov, a retired colonel and cybersecurity expert, introduced core principles of information security - confidentiality, integrity, and availability - illustrating how layered protection and “defence in depth” strategies strengthen institutional resilience. Through concrete examples of cyberattacks, ranging from DDoS incidents to ransomware and SQL injections, participants gained a clearer understanding of how technical vulnerabilities intersect with human factors.

Linking digital security with sustainability, Ms. Kamila Irgebayeva explored how digitalization can enhance environmental governance. Her sessions highlighted the application of monitoring systems, sensors, drones, and digital twins in resource management, waste treatment, and water systems. These discussions underscored that digital tools, when embedded in sound governance frameworks, can support transparency, efficiency, and long-term ecological resilience.

The training concluded with a certificate ceremony that recognized not only the completion of the programme but also the shared commitment to strengthening institutional capacity in an era of rapid technological change. By combining cybersecurity awareness, AI literacy, and environmental perspectives, the programme illustrated how sustainable governance increasingly depends on the informed and responsible integration of digital technologies.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS



### Workshop on Transdisciplinary Research and Education for Sustainable Development

From 16 to 19 June, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a 3.5-day seminar on transdisciplinary research and education for sustainable development, in cooperation with the SPCE Hub and the Baden-Württemberg School of Intersectoral Governance (ISoG BW). Over the course, 32 participants (14 women, 18 men) from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan engaged in discussions, introduced key concepts, methods, and practical applications of transdisciplinarity - focusing on

real-world problem solving, stakeholder collaboration, and knowledge integration. Led by international experts including Dr. Torsten Philipp, Prof. Dr. Monika Gonser, and Prof. Dr. Jochen Eckart, the training featured interactive group work, project development, and a panel discussion on geopolitics and sustainability in Central Asia and Europe. The event concluded with project presentations and a discussion on future collaboration and publication.

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## Annual Security Conference 2025

### “Coming of Age: Central Asia and the OSCE in a Shifting Security Landscape”



Marking the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act - the foundation of the OSCE - the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted its in-person Annual Security Conference on 25–26 November 2025 under the title “Coming of Age: Central Asia and the OSCE in a Shifting Security Landscape.” Bringing together more than sixty experts, researchers, and practitioners, the conference provided a platform to reassess the OSCE’s role and Central Asia’s place within a rapidly evolving global security environment. The event was organized in partnership with the University of Siena and generously supported by the NUPI.

Opening the conference, Dr. Pal Dunay reflected on the continued relevance of the OSCE despite mounting political and institutional challenges. He emphasized the organization’s distinctive operational role, particularly in regions where few other multilateral actors maintain a comparable presence. His remarks highlighted the impor-

tance of field activities, including those of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, and reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to dialogue, capacity building, and regional cooperation.



H.E. Ambassador Dr. Volker Frobarth, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, situated current tensions within the broader historical trajectory of the CSCE/OSCE process. While acknowledging the gravity of today's conflicts - including Russia's war against Ukraine - he underscored the organization's resilience and its longstanding contribution to democratic institutions, rule of law, human rights, conflict prevention, and early warning across Central Asia.

The keynote address by Dr. Alexander Wolters focused on Central Asia's evolving agency within the OSCE framework. He argued that the region has developed greater coherence in recent years and called for a more coordinated Central Asian voice capable of shaping, rather than merely reacting to, debates within the organization. Particular attention was drawn to issues that require stronger regional articulation, including water governance, regional security dynamics, and Afghanistan.

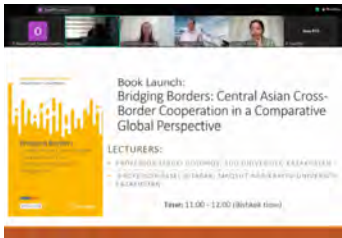
Across six thematic panels, participants examined the OSCE's future engagement in Central Asia; regionalism and Afghanistan; connectivity and infrastructure initiatives such as the China – Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan railway; environmental and water security; human rights and justice; and emerging challenges related to terrorism, digital borders, and hybrid threats. Discussions underscored the interdependence of environmental sustainability, socio-economic development, and political stability, as well as the importance of intra-regional cooperation driven by Central Asian states themselves.

The conference concluded with reflections on the need to translate dialogue into sustained research and policy engagement. By combining scholarly analysis with practitioner perspectives, the Annual Security Conference once again reaffirmed the OSCE Academy's role as a regional platform for critical debate on security, governance, and cooperation in Central Asia and beyond.

## Book Launch Events



On 11 March, the OSCE Academy hosted a book presentation titled "Intercommunal Warfare and Ethnic Peacemaking in Central Asia" by Dr. Joldon Kutmanaliev, a researcher at Leuphana University in Germany. During the presentation, Dr. Kutmanaliev introduced his book and shared insights from his fieldwork, highlighting the crucial role played by local leaders. He explored how geography and social dynamics influenced the events of the 2010 Kyrgyz-Uzbek clashes. The following Q&A session allowed attendees to engage further with the context of such conflicts, research methods and data collection techniques used in the study. Participants raised questions about the applicability of Dr. Kutmanaliev's findings to other contexts, the role of informal leadership in peacebuilding, and the broader significance of local-level mediation efforts in global conflict resolution.



On 5 June, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted the online launch of the book “Bridging Borders: Central Asian Cross-Border Cooperation in a Comparative Global Perspective.” The event featured presentations by Professor Sergei Golunov (SDU University, Kazakhstan) and Professor Assel Bitabar (Maqsut Narikbayev University, Kazakhstan), both co-authors of the volume. The book emphasizes the importance of CBC for regional integration and development, drawing on global best practices and tailored policy advice for Central Asia.



On 27 October, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted the book launch of “Political Economy of Kazakhstan: From Neoliberal Dogma to Social Catastrophe. Includes a Dictionary of Neoliberal Euphemisms and Postmodern Concepts” by Dr. Kuat Akizhanov. The event took place in the Academy’s Conference Hall and was conducted in English and Russian. The book provides an in-depth analysis of Kazakhstan’s thirty-year neoliberal economic model, examining elite enrichment, inefficiencies in national fund management, and socio-economic inequalities.

## JOINT INITIATIVES

### Online discussion titled “What Does President Trump’s Return Mean for Central Asia?”



On 1 April, representatives of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek participated in an online panel discussion entitled “What Does President Trump’s Return Mean for Central Asia?” The event was co-organized with the Hague Research Institute for Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia and the University of Groningen, and moderated by Dr. Agha Bayramov.

The discussion examined how political changes in the United States may affect the international system and Central Asia’s external relations. Dr. Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, reflected on the broader systemic implications of shifts in U.S. leadership, framing his remarks around a historical quote attributed to Otto von Bismarck to illustrate the enduring global weight of American foreign policy.

Dr. Sebastian Mayer, DAAD Associate Professor at the Academy, presented a talk on “Changing Patterns of Central Asian Security Cooperation” addressed evolving patterns of security cooperation in Central Asia, highlighting how regional dynamics may adapt to renewed uncertainty in global politics. Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev, Senior Lecturer in the MA in Politics and Security Programme, analyzed the implications of current U.S. developments for Central Asia, distinguishing between structural factors that sustain distance in U.S. - Central Asia relations and potential adjustments in communication and engagement under a second Trump administration.

The event gathered more than forty participants, including a strong representation of OSCE Academy alumni, whose active engagement in the discussion underscored the Academy’s continuing role as a platform for informed debate on international and regional affairs.

## Public Lecture on “Why Climate Change Is More Than a Threat to Human Civilisation”



On 15 April, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a public lecture by Dr. Alan Collins, Professor at Swansea University, entitled “Why Climate Change Is More Than a Threat to Human Civilisation.” The event was opened by Dr. Anja Mihr, Academic Director of the MAHRS Programme.

Drawing on the new edition of his book *Contemporary Security Studies*, which includes a chapter on post-human security, Professor Collins invited the audience to reconsider conventional understandings of security. He explored concepts such as ecological security and the Anthropocene, encouraging critical reflection on dominant climate security discourses.

A central argument of the lecture was the need to move beyond strictly human-centered frameworks. Professor Collins proposed that, in the context of climate change, security should be understood in terms of the resilience of ecosystems rather than solely the protection of states or societies. Without rethinking the conceptual foundations of security, he argued, policies pursued in its name risk undermining the very conditions necessary for human survival.

The lecture brought together students, faculty, and members of the public and concluded with a lively discussion that further examined the implications of ecological and non-human approaches to security.



## Workshop titled “Power and Space in Kyrgyzstan, 1924–2024”

On 17 April, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted the workshop “Power and Space in Kyrgyzstan, 1924- 2024.” The event formed part of the international research project “Land and Power in Kyrgyzstan,” led by Dr. Alun Thomas of Staffordshire University (UK) and Dr. Stephan Rindlisbacher of European University Viadrina (Germany), and supported by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) under its Curiosities Award scheme.

Opening the workshop, Dr. Pal Dunay welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of historically grounded research for understanding contemporary governance and identity formation in Central Asia. The keynote presentations by the project leaders sets the conceptual framework. Dr. Thomas examined processes of territorialization and state-building strategies in Kyrgyzstan, while Dr. Rindlisbacher explored how spatial and administrative restructuring in mountainous regions of the former Soviet Union shaped political authority and center - periphery relations.

Subsequent panels broadened the discussion through regional and thematic perspectives. Contributions addressed the historical experiences of Kazakh communities in Kyrgyzstan, the socio-economic and demographic consequences of collectivization, and the role of the establishment of the Kara-Kyrgyz Autonomous Region in 1924 in shaping ethnic self-consciousness and identity. The governance of pastures in the later Soviet decades was also examined, illustrating how land management practices reflected broader political and economic transformations.

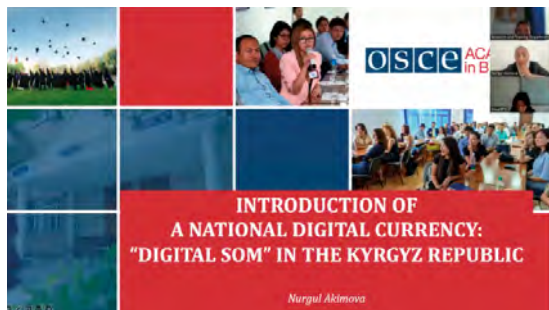
The workshop concluded with an engaged discussion among scholars and participants, underscoring the value of interdisciplinary dialogue on land, power, and state formation in Kyrgyzstan's past and present.

## Online public lecture titled “Heat Adaptation in Central Asia Through Household Cooling Choices”



On 25 April, the OSCE Academy hosted an online public lecture titled “Heat Adaptation in Central Asia Through Household Cooling Choices”, addressing the growing challenge of extreme heat in Central Asia. The lecture featured presentations by speakers from the Asian Development Bank, CAREC Institute, NUPI, and the OSCE Academy. The discussion focused on how household cooling strategies in the region are shaped by factors like power supply infrastructure and climate conditions, emphasizing the need for adaptive strategies at the household level to cope with heat stress.

## Online public lecture titled “The Digital Som as a Strategic Tool for Financial Inclusion and Transparency in the Kyrgyz Republic”



On 10 July, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted an online public lecture titled “The Digital Som as a Strategic Tool for Financial Inclusion and Transparency in the Kyrgyz Republic,” delivered by Ms. Nurgul Akimova, an economist and expert in digital transformation. In her lecture, Ms. Akimova shared the findings of her policy research on how the Digital Som, a proposed Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), could help address low financial inclusion and informality, and improve transparency in public finance. She also talked about comparative observations on foreign CBDC projects in China, Nigeria, and Europe and examined how Kyrgyzstan fits into this global landscape.

## CAREC Women's Business Forum 2025



The CAREC Women's Business Forum took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 21 October, bringing together policymakers, development partners, financial institutions, and women entrepreneurs to reflect on how gender equality and green innovation can jointly shape more sustainable economies across Central and West Asia. Framed by the theme "Together for Green Innovation and Gender Equality," the forum served not only as a high-level dialogue, but also as a space for exchange between practitioners, awardees, and regional experts.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Zheng Wu, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the Kyrgyz Republic, emphasized that green innovation and technology offer practical solutions at the intersection of climate action and gender equality. Cleaner energy, climate-smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure, and digital tools, he noted, can reduce women's health risks and unpaid care burdens while expanding professional opportunities for women entrepreneurs and engineers. Mr. Sultan Akhmatov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic, further underscored that advancing gender equality and fostering innovation are not parallel agendas, but mutually reinforcing drivers of long-term economic growth.

Co-organized with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Kyrgyz Republic, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), OJSC Eldik Bank, and the Unison Group, the forum was structured around four thematic conversations that collectively traced the pathway from policy frameworks to financing instruments and grassroots innovation.

Faculty members of the OSCE Academy contributed to Session 1 titled “From Evidence to Action: Advancing Gender and Green Innovation in CAREC Climate Pathways.” Dr. Sebastian Mayer, the DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy, opened the session with welcoming remarks and provided an overview of the Academy’s dedication to promoting gender and green innovation. Following this introduction, Dr. Roman Vakulchuk, a Visiting Lecturer at the OSCE Academy and Head of the Climate and Energy Group at the NUI, facilitated the session. The lineup of speakers included Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova, Head of the Research and Training Department at the OSCE Academy; Dr. Sadiq Syed, Country Representative of UN Women in the Kyrgyz Republic; Ms. Tara Uzra Dawood, Founder and Chairperson of Ladiesfund and a CAREC individual awardee from Pakistan; and Ms. Khayala Miriyeva, CEO of Climasel, a CAREC organizational awardee from Azerbaijan.

The event also featured CAREC Gender and Green Innovation Awards 2025 recipients from across the region, whose initiatives illustrated how local solutions - from renewable energy applications to environmentally responsible business models - can scale up when supported by enabling policies and finance. An accompanying expo showcased women-led green enterprises, adding a practical dimension to the policy dialogue and reinforcing the link between regional strategies and community-level action.

### Policy dialogue “Gender and Youth in Water & Energy: Building Inclusive Futures for Central Asia”



On 3 - 4 November, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), in partnership with the research institute of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP) and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, convened a policy dialogue titled "Gender and Youth in Water & Energy: Building Inclusive Futures for Central Asia." The two-day exchange created a platform for in-depth reflection on how gender equality and youth engagement can be meaningfully integrated into water and energy governance across the region.

The dialogue unfolded as a structured yet highly interactive exchange. From the outset, participants were invited to engage beyond formal presentations, beginning with a poster walk and networking session that encouraged direct conversation among representatives of international organizations, research institutions and civil society. This format set the tone for an open and practice-oriented discussion, linking academic perspectives with field experience.

In the keynote address, Mr. Hugh Riddell, Country Representative of the World Bank Group in Kyrgyzstan, framed the debate within broader socio-economic and environmental transformations. He drew attention to the comparatively low participation of women in the national economy and emphasized that increasing female labor force participation remains essential for sustainable development. At the same time, he highlighted shifting financial priorities toward energy and water investments in response to accelerating climate risks, including projected glacier loss and its long-term implications for the Naryn, Chui and Talas river basins.

Subsequent sessions deepened the discussion by exploring how regional cooperation, national policy frameworks and local implementation intersect. Participants reflected on the need to strengthen cross-border coordination in energy distribution and water management, including more formalized and long-term regional agreements. At the same time, the debate acknowledged persistent centralization trends in parts of Central Asia, which may complicate efforts to decentralize water governance and promote inclusive participation at sub-national levels.

Gender mainstreaming emerged as a cross-cutting theme throughout the dialogue. Contributions emphasized that women's leadership in the water and energy sectors continues to be constrained by limited access to finance, unequal property rights and entrenched social norms. Without systematically addressing these structural barriers, efforts to respond to projected temperature increases and mounting water stress in Central Asia risk remaining insufficient. Demographic dynamics, particularly the relatively large share of working-age populations in several countries of the region, were discussed as an additional opportunity - provided that young people are meaningfully integrated into decision-making processes.

The concluding discussion synthesized these strands, underlining that inclusive governance in water and energy requires not only technical solutions, but also institutional coordination, transparent data-sharing and sustained regional dialogue. In the closing reflections, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Volker Frobarth, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, stressed that growing water demand - driven by climate change, industrialization and population growth - will further intensify the need for coherent policies and stronger cooperation across sectors and ministries.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

### POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The OSCE Academy continued implementing its Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The Postdoctoral Research Scholarship programme is implemented in partnership with the NUPI.

#### Dr. Ayat Ullah (in partnership with NUPI)



Dr. Ullah has earned his PhD in Agricultural Extension Education and Communication from the University of Agriculture, Peshawar, where his research focused on the role of extension services in enhancing the adaptive capacity of farmers in Pakistan. He has extensive experience in social and behavioral research within food and agricultural systems, demonstrated through numerous publications in reputable journals and contributions as a peer reviewer. Dr. Ullah holds a senior researcher position at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. Previously, he completed two postdoctoral fellowships funded by the European Union at the Czech University of Life Sciences. He gained professional experience from the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research in Germany and the Department of Forest, Environment, and Wildlife in Pakistan.

#### Publications and Activities within the Fellowship



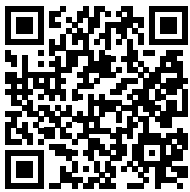
“Determinants of Job Satisfaction and Motivation among Community Forest Workers: Insights from the Hindu Kush Himalaya, Pakistan” by Postdoc Ayat Ullah and co-authored with Miroslava Bavorova, and Vladimir Vernera, available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13549839.2025.2456546>



“Community and Institutional Drivers of Deforestation, Environmental Impacts, and Extension Interventions for Forest Management in the Hindu Kush Himalaya”, Ayat Ullah, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, OSCE Academy. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/ldr.5586>



“Factors influencing management of Black Sigatoka disease of banana and plantain in the South-West Region of Cameroon” by Ayat Ullah, Sylvanus Agbor Tabi, Miroslava Bavorova, Faizal Adams, Vladimir Verner, available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0261219425001437>



“Pesticide exposure, health impacts, predeterminism, and health insurance demand among Pakistani farmers: Implications for policy” by Muhammad Arshad, Yasir Mehmood, Sreejith Aravindakshan, Ayat Ullah, Stefan Sieber, Timothy Joseph Krupnik, available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666154325002765>



“Climate adaptation policies in Central Asia overlook mental health”, Ayat Ullah, Michael-Jakob, Miroslava Bavorova & Indra Overland, available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-026-35198-x>



On 29 May 2025 Dr. Ayat Ullah gave an online public lecture “How Do Pastoralist Communities Weather the Climate Crisis?”, where he explored how climate change transforms pastoral livelihoods across the Hindu Kush Himalaya. <https://osce-academy.net/public-lecture-on-how-do-pastoralist-communities-weather-the-climate-crisis/>

Dr. Ayat Ullah, was invited to participate in the Scientific Workshop on Research in Behavioral Sciences, which was held from 13 to 19 September 2025 in Janov and Prague, the Czech Republic. Dr. Ullah contributed by presenting his recent research findings and engaging in collaborative discussions with other researchers during the workshop.

### **Dr. Zaman Shah (in partnership with NUPI)**



Dr. Shah gained his PhD degree from the Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Nanjing, China. He has published more than 15 research articles in the well-reputed peer-reviewed SCI, SSCI and ABS indexed journals as a first, second, and corresponding co-author during his doctoral studies. He serves as an anonymous reviewer of several peer-reviewed journals such as Sustainable Development, Applied Energy, Science of the Total Environment, Energy Sustainability and Society, Energy Reports, Financial Innovation, Journal of the Knowledge Economy, and others. Dr. Shah was ranked as a Top Scholar at the College of Economics and Management in Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, according to ScholarGPS.

## Publications and Activities within the Fellowship



Dr. Shah Zaman, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, has co-authored an article in Sustainable Development “Policy Strategies for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century: Fresh Empirical Evidence in Global Framework”, available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/sd.70153>



On 22 May, the OSCE Academy hosted a public lecture titled “Environmental Performance and SDGs: How Do Income Disparity, Urbanization, Resources Consumption, and Female Employers Affect the Ecological Footprint in Emerging Economies?” by Dr. Shah Zaman. Dr. Zaman explored the links between climate change, socio-economic factors, and environmental performance in emerging economies, focusing on income disparity, urbanization, resource consumption, and female employment rates. <https://osce-academy.net/public-lecture-on-environmental-performance-and-sdgs-how-income-disparity-urbanization-resource-consumption-and-female-employment-affect-the-ecological-footprint-in-emerging-economies/>

On 1 July, Dr. Shah Zaman, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy, was accepted to participate in the September Summer School hosted by the Department of Economics at the University of Oxford. The course, titled “Solution Methods for Macroeconomic Models”, took place from 8 to 12 September 2025. This opportunity enhanced Dr. Zaman’s expertise in advanced macroeconomic modeling techniques.

## ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In 2025, the Academy hosted two Associate Research Fellows, one of whom continued his fellowship from 2024 and one researcher who joined the Fellowship programme in 2025. The Fellowship was launched in 2017 and aims to support PhD candidates and/or Post-Doctoral researchers in conducting their research projects and provide institutional affiliation to independent researchers. The length of the fellowship is up to twelve months and is open for Bishkek-based and non-Bishkek residents. The new Associate Research Fellows are:

### Mr. Domagoj Mihaljevic



#### **Research topic: Kyrgyzstan’s Re-Export Economy as Power Balancing**

Domagoj Mihaljevic is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Nottingham. His thesis focuses on Yugoslavia’s economic strategies for integrating into the world market in the period 1945-1970. The aim of the research is to show the importance of broader context of Cold War governance and global development policy in structuring internal Yugoslav political debates on economic policies, trade integration, and foreign debt structures.

## Dr. Matteo Benussi



**Research topic: Memory and Morality of Conflict: Volunteer in Arms in, out, and across Post-socialist Eurasia.**

Matteo Benussi is a social and cultural anthropologist based at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, specializing in religion, ethics, politics, and space-making in Eurasia. Prior to returning to his Alma Mater in Venice, he completed his PhD at the University of Cambridge and pursued postdoctoral training as a Marie Curie Global Fellow at UC Berkeley. Matteo has conducted research on Islamic piety movements and halal living in Tatarstan, the legacies of the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, post-Soviet heritage politics, as well as the intertwinings of matter, faith, and infra-

structure. He is currently exploring topics of war, poetry, time, justice, and political theology/ontology amid Eurasia's geopolitical convulsions.

## PUBLICATIONS

In 2025, The Academy continued its cooperation with the Springer Open Access publisher and launched the volume on “Bridging Borders: Central Asian Cross- Border Cooperation in a Comparative Global Perspective” edited by Sergei Golunov and Assel Bitabar. Additionally, the OSCE Academy published a number of policy briefs and research papers.



## SPRINGER PUBLICATIONS

**Bridging Borders: Central Asian Cross-Border Cooperation in a Comparative Global Perspective**  
*Sergei Golunov, Assel Bitabar*

This book examines cross-border cooperation (CBC) in Central Asia from a comparative perspective. It focuses on four main areas. First, it reviews international experiences to highlight useful practices that could be applied in Central Asia. Second, it looks at how the policies of Central Asian governments affect CBC—both positively and negatively. Third, it identifies factors and actors that contribute to more effective CBC in the region, including the involvement of non-governmental organizations. Fourth, it gives recommendations for improving CBC based on lessons from other regions and an analysis of the Central Asian context. The authors argue that CBC is an important element of regional integration, as it helps build practical connections between neighboring countries. At the same time, current efforts in Central Asia are limited. Political centralization and a lack of funding continue to hold back CBC. To move forward, it is important to consider the experiences of other regions, including both successful and unsuccessful examples.

[https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Bridging\\_Borders.pdf](https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Bridging_Borders.pdf)



## OSCE ACADEMY POLICY BRIEFS



Policy Brief No.98: "Rethinking the Problem of Agency in the "Borderization" of Georgia", Leonardo Zanatta, Associate Research Fellow of the OSCE Academy, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB\\_98\\_final.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_98_final.pdf)



Policy Brief No.99: "Introduction of a National Digital Currency: "Digital Som" in the Kyrgyz Republic, Nurgul Akimova, Independent Researcher, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB\\_99\\_final.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_99_final.pdf)



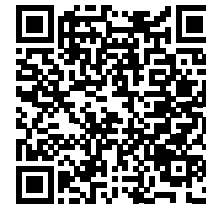
Policy Brief No.100: "From Policy to Action: Strengthening Civil Society's Role in Coordinated Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention", Dana Soltangazinova, Graduate student of the OSCE Academy, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy\\_brief\\_100\\_designed.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_100_designed.pdf)



Policy Brief No.101: "The Problems of Hydropower: Charting a Sustainable Energy Pathway for Central Asia", Harry Fennell, Independent Researcher, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy\\_brief\\_101\\_designed.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_101_designed.pdf)



Policy Brief No.102: “Inclusive Climate Adaptation in Central Asia: Strengthening Participatory Governance for Resilience”, Dmitry Erokhin, Independent Researcher, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy\\_brief\\_102\\_designed.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_102_designed.pdf)



Policy Brief No.103: “Breaking the Chains: Combating Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan”, Nina Miholjic Ivkovic, Independent Researcher, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy\\_brief\\_103\\_designed.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Policy_brief_103_designed.pdf)



Policy Brief No. 104: “Domestic Violence Against Women and Children in Kazakhstan: A Call to Strengthen Accountability, Protection, and Prevention”, Zahar Ivan Hryniv, Independent Researcher, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Hryniv\\_PolicyBrief.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Hryniv_PolicyBrief.pdf)



Policy Brief No. 105: “Renewable Energy Prospects in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Opportunities for Growth”, Zafarjon Sultonov and Hari K. Pant, Independent Researchers, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/policy\\_brief\\_105.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/policy_brief_105.pdf)



Policy Brief No. 106: “Climate Change and Electricity Demand: Empirical Evidence and Forecasts for Kyrgyzstan”, Anna Arkhangelskaya and Akylai Muktarbek kyzy, Independent Researchers, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB\\_106\\_website.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/PB_106_website.pdf)



Policy Brief No. 107: “Strengthening Femicide Data Collection and Media Reporting in Uzbekistan: Research Findings and Recommendations”, Svetlana Dzardanova and Niginakhon Saida, Independent Researchers, available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/brif\\_107\\_website\\_final.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/brif_107_website_final.pdf)



## ACADEMY RESEARCH PAPERS

Research Paper No. 14: “Irreversibility of Voluntary Nuclear Disarmament”, Dana Ubaidolla, Graduate student of the OSCE Academy (2025), available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Final\\_version\\_14\\_publication.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Final_version_14_publication.pdf)



Research Paper No. 15: “The Middle Corridor’s impact on Kazakhstan: foreign policy, economic development, and regional cooperation”, Assylbek Assylkhanov, Graduate student of the OSCE Academy (2025), available at: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Web\\_version\\_15.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/file/Web_version_15.pdf)



## ACADEMY PAPER SERIES

The Academy Paper Series summarizes conferences, workshops, and seminars organized by the Academy with the purpose to reflect on the main issues raised and discussed during the events. The reports are published on the Academy’s website in English or Russian language depending on the language of the event.

Summary Report of the Annual Security Conference held on 16-17 December 2024  
[https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Security\\_Conference\\_Report.pdf](https://www.osce-academy.net/upload/file/Security_Conference_Report.pdf)



Summary Report of the Annual Security Conference held on 25-26 November 2025  
<https://osce-academy.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1academy-papers-14.pdf>



## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The Faculty of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek remained actively engaged in research, academic exchange, and policy dialogue throughout 2025. Faculty members contributed to scholarly debates through peer-reviewed publications, policy papers, and book chapters addressing key issues such as climate adaptation, energy efficiency, political development, human rights, regional cooperation, and geopolitics in Central Asia. In addition to their research output, they participated in international conferences, academic workshops, and policy forums, and delivered lectures and training sessions aimed at strengthening research capacity and supporting emerging scholars. Through these activities, the Faculty continued to contribute to academic knowledge production and policy discussions relevant to Central Asia and the broader Eurasian region.

**Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor, published a book chapter titled “The International Staff” in The Oxford Handbook of NATO, edited by James Sperling and Mark Webber and published by Oxford University Press, 294–308. Available at: <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/59634/chapter-abstract/505042274?redirectedFrom=fulltext>



From 2 to 5 March, Dr. Mayer, together with Dr. Anja Mihr, Academic Programme Director of the MAHRS Programme at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, participated in the 66th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association in Chicago, the United States. Dr. Mayer presented a paper titled “The OSCE as a Contested Security Institution” in a panel on norms shaping and being shaped by intergovernmental interactions. His research examined institutional change within the OSCE, focusing particularly on the evolution of its international bureaucracy in response to participating State’s demands for institutional transformation. During the same convention, Dr. Mihr delivered several presentations, including one addressing the international paradigm shift of security communities with a focus on Eurasia. Her analysis highlighted how security organizations in the region are increasing-

ly evolving from norm-defending actors into platforms for interaction, influenced by hybrid warfare, the emergence of new regional hegemony, and differing governance models.

In addition, on 11 September, Dr. Mayer gave a talk “Writing to be Read: Academic Writing Skills for Emerging Scholars” during a Summer School on “Social Cohesion and Public Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Disentangling the Linkage Through Ideas, Interests and Institutions”. The lecture focused on strengthening academic writing and publication skills among early-career researchers. <https://crossroads-ca.org/building-knowledge-and-networks-summer-school-on-social-cohesion-and-public-policy/>



**Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Head of the Research and Training Department, co-authored two research publications addressing household responses to climate change and energy efficiency challenges in the region. The first is a Working Paper titled “Heat Adaptation in Central Asia: Household Cooling Choices,” published by the Asian Development Bank and co-authored with Dina Azhgaliyeva (ADB), Hans Holzacker (CAREC Institute), and Indra Overland (NUPI) <https://www.adb.org/publications/heat-adaptation-central-asia>

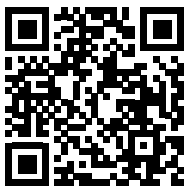
The second publication, titled “House Insulation: Needs and Willingness in Central Asia”, was published in the peer-reviewed journal Energy and Buildings (indexed in SCOPUS) and co-authored with Dina Azhgaliyeva and Hans Holzacker. Both publications examine household-level adaptation strategies to climate change and energy efficiency in Central Asia <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378778825006255>



In addition to her research publications, Dr. Sulaimanova actively participated in international academic and policy events. On 17 July, she took part in the 4th Stipendium Hungaricum Alumni Reunion organized by the Embassy of Hungary in the Kyrgyz Republic, where she delivered a presentation titled “Guide into Research,” providing practical insights on research planning, academic publishing, and career development in the social sciences.

On 11 September, Dr. Sulaimanova delivered a presentation at the policy workshop “Advancing the Green Transition in CAREC: Policy Pathways for Low-Carbon Growth.” Her presentation addressed the digitalization of infrastructure and decarbonization in Central Asia, highlighting opportunities and challenges for promoting low-carbon growth in the region.

Furthermore, on 20 September, Dr. Sulaimanova presented online at the international conference “Silk Road of Knowledge: Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in an Era of Social-Ecological Uncertainties,” organized by the Kazakh-German University. Her presentation, titled “Household Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia: Gendered Perspectives from Insulation and Cooling Choices,” examined gender dimensions in household climate adaptation strategies, with a focus on how insulation and cooling decisions are influenced by household composition and socio-economic factors.



**Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, published a peer-reviewed journal article titled “An (almost) *laissez faire* party system: How Kyrgyz parties failed and what could be done about it” in the early online publication of the Policy Studies journal. The article analyzes the weaknesses of the party system in Kyrgyzstan and explores possible reforms to strengthen political party development. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01442872.2025.2538849>



He also authored a policy essay examining the role and evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization following the Organization’s Tianjin Summit. The essay was published by the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (Rondeli Foundation) as part of its policy publication series. <https://gfsise.ee/a-spirited-forum-in-quest-of-application-reflections-on-the-shanghai-cooperation-organization-after-tianjin/>



In addition, Dr. Dzhuraev served as the lead author in a five-author collaboration on a policy paper analyzing the geopolitical dimensions of cooperation between Central Asia and Afghanistan. The paper was produced within a joint project of the Center for Progressive Reforms in Uzbekistan and the PeaceNexus Foundation Central Asia Program, and was published on the CPR platform. <https://proreforms.uz/publications/afghanistan-and-central-asia-analytical-project-on-politics-and-economics-of-a-common-space-460>



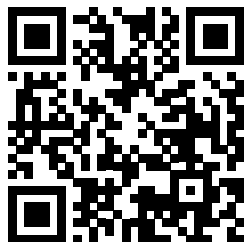
Dr. Dzhuraev also participated in several international academic and policy events. In September 2025, he attended the academic workshop “Exploring Regional Dynamics in a Multiplex World” in Ankara, Turkey, organized by INTPOLSEC and supported by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Building on the research presented at the workshop, he is currently developing a scholarly article on the regional foreign policy strategies of Central Asian states. <https://intpolseccongress.com/haberler/bolgesel-guvenlik-calistayi>



In October 2025, Dr. Dzhuraev participated in a conference on Central Asian–South Asian regional connectivity organized at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad, Pakistan, in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation offices in Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. At the conference, he delivered a presentation focusing on Central Asian perspectives on regional connectivity and cooperation with South Asian partners.

Throughout the year, Dr. Dzhuraev also contributed to a number of high-level policy-oriented meetings and expert discussions held in Baku, Termez, Almaty, Warsaw, and Brussels. These events brought together experts and policymakers to discuss issues related to regional security, rule of law, human rights, and international cooperation.

Furthermore, representing the OSCE Academy, Dr. Dzhuraev participated in the Erasmus mobility workshop “Toward a Seamless Mobility in Education” hosted by the University of Valencia in Valencia, Spain, in October 2025.



**Dr. Anja Mihr**, Academic Director of the MAHRS programme, published several scholarly works during the reporting period. These include the chapter “Transitional Justice and Transitology in the Post-Soviet Space” in *International Law, Politics and Security in Central Asia* (ed. Sayapin), published by Springer in 2026, DOI : 10.1007/978-3-032-17818-3; “Transitology and Regime Battles in Eurasia’s Economic Corridor Triangle” in *Strategic Navigation through Economic Corridors: Europe–Asia Connectivity* (ed. Khan, K.H.), published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2025, [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-6011-7\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-96-6011-7_3)

and “Human Rights in Central Asia” in *Central Asia in a Multipolar World* (eds. Lempp and Meyer), published by Springer, 2024, pp. 147-165.

Dr. Mihr also participated in several international research projects. From April 2024 to June 2025, she served as Co-Researcher on the British Academy–funded project *Identity Politics in Ukraine (1991–2014)*, conducted in collaboration with the University of Swansea (UK) and the University of Mykolaiv (Ukraine). In addition, from September 2024 to April 2026, she has been involved in the Global Campus of Human Rights research project *Climate Change–Induced Conflict and Human Rights under the Right Livelihood programme*.

During the reporting period, Dr. Mihr also actively contributed to international academic events. In November 2025, she spoke at the German-American Conference at Harvard University’s Kennedy School on the topic of *Climate Change and Indigenous Rights*. She also participated in the DAAD Alumni Network Law Meeting in Belgrade in November 2025, which focused on *Human Rights, Rule of Law and Transition in Serbia*.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PARTNERSHIPS

### “MOCCA: Multilevel Orders of Corruption in Central Asia” project



This Horizon 2021 initiative, led by Lund University, Sweden, is a four-year research and staff exchange programme funded by the European Commission. MOCCA focuses on advancing research on corruption across multiple levels in five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.



On 12 May, the OSCE Academy was pleased to host **Dr. Liutauras Gudžinskas**, a researcher from Vilnius University for a one-month research secondment. As part of his visit, he delivered a public lecture on June 11, 2025, titled “The Puzzle of the Baltic States’ Democratic Resilience: The Evolution of the Party System as a Missing Link.” <https://osce-academy.net/public-lecture-the-puzzle-of-the-baltic-states-democratic-resilience-the-evolution-of-the-party-system-as-a-missing-link/>



From 1 May to 30 June, **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy, spent a research stay at the Sociology of Law Department at Lund University, Sweden, where the EU-funded research and training MOCCA project is headquartered. Dr. Mayer participated in the MOCCA Mid-Term Conference from 6 to 8 May, at Lund University, which explored Corruption and Governance in Central Asia. It featured eight thematic panels, more than 60 presentations, and extensive discussions, with speakers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Czechia, Estonia, and Sweden. <https://www.mocca.lu.se/article/mocca-mid-term-conference-explores-corruption-and-governance-central-asia>



Dr. Mayer presented his related research on “Emergence and Coherence of the Central Asian Anti-Corruption Regime Complex.” On 21 May, he gave a talk at the Sociology of Law Department on “The OSCE as a Contested Security Institution.” <https://www.soclaw.lu.se/en/calendar/research-seminars-multilevel-orders-corruption-central-asia>



The OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted Scott Abel, a researcher from Estonian Business School for a second research secondment under the MOCCA project, from 6 September to 6 October. The purpose of this visit was to complete his ongoing research project on the perceptions of Kyrgyzstani journalists regarding societal corruption. On 1 October, Mr. Abel delivered a guest lecture titled “The Baltic Model – Democracy, Resilience, and Cyber Power in Estonia” to the Politics and Security MA programme.



From 17 November to 2 December, the OSCE Academy hosted Assistant Professor Dr. Murat Genç from Istanbul Medipol University as a visiting researcher within the MOCCA project. Dr. Genç, who lectures at the Center for Elective Education and serves as Director of the Erasmus Institutional Coordination Office at Istanbul Medipol University, pursued his research project titled “Capacity Building in Combating Corruption in Kyrgyzstan: The Role of the OSCE.”

## LIBRARY



The OSCE Academy Library is an important information resource that supports educational programmes and scientific research. The collection includes materials in key areas such as political science, economics, and law, with a particular focus on international relations, security, human rights, economic governance, comparative politics, and political theory. The collection is regularly updated and curated to meet the needs of faculty, students, and researchers.

Each year, the Academy Library subscribes to leading databases, including EBSCO (online journals), JSTOR, Taylor & Francis, and EBSCO eBook Academic Subscription Collection, providing access to academic journals, articles, e-books, and other scholarly materials.

Additionally, the Academy Library provides free access to electronic resources through EIFL, including databases such as Oxford Journals Collection, Cambridge Journals Online, OECD, De Gruyter eJournals, MSP, Royal Society eJournals, and SAGE eJournals.

To support research and improve accessibility to materials, the Academy Library also offers a digital repository for master’s theses. This repository, based on DSpace software, allows students to create and share their digital portfolios, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and strengthening scientific communication within the Academy.

## OUR ALUMNI



We are pleased to share the key achievements of the Academy's Alumni Network throughout 2025. A highlight of this year was the 6th Alumni Reunion, held on 14–15 June, which brought together over a hundred graduates from across Central Asia, Europe, and the United States. The opening ceremony featured an expert panel on “Artificial Intelligence: Threats and Opportunities,” exploring AI’s impact on education, the labour market, data protection, and disinformation. Alumni also participated in workshops and round tables on water security, academic publishing, PhD preparation, and security sector governance. Over two inspiring days, graduates reconnected, exchanged experiences, and celebrated the spirit of the Academy, making the reunion a true symbol of unity and shared purpose.

In line with the Academy's commitment to supporting the professional growth of its alumni, the OSCE - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) Summer School on Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) was held from 8 to 13 June on the shores of Issyk-Kul. The programme brought together alumni, students, and young journalists from Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia to explore the links between SSG/R, human security, and the safety of journalists, offering valuable insights, interactive learning, and networking opportunities.

In 2025, the title of Alumnus of the Year was awarded to Nurlan Kabdykhak, a 2009 graduate of the MA Programme in Politics and Security from Kazakhstan. Recognized for his outstanding academic and professional achievements, Nurlan successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and now serves as Assistant Professor of History at Stony Brook University in New York. His research on empire and colonialism in Central Asia reflects the Academy's values of academic excellence and regional engagement.



We are proud to present the inspiring success stories of our graduates, along with a comprehensive overview of all other Alumni Network activities, in our annual Alumni Journal SalamAlum. [https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062\\_81522700.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062_81522700.pdf)

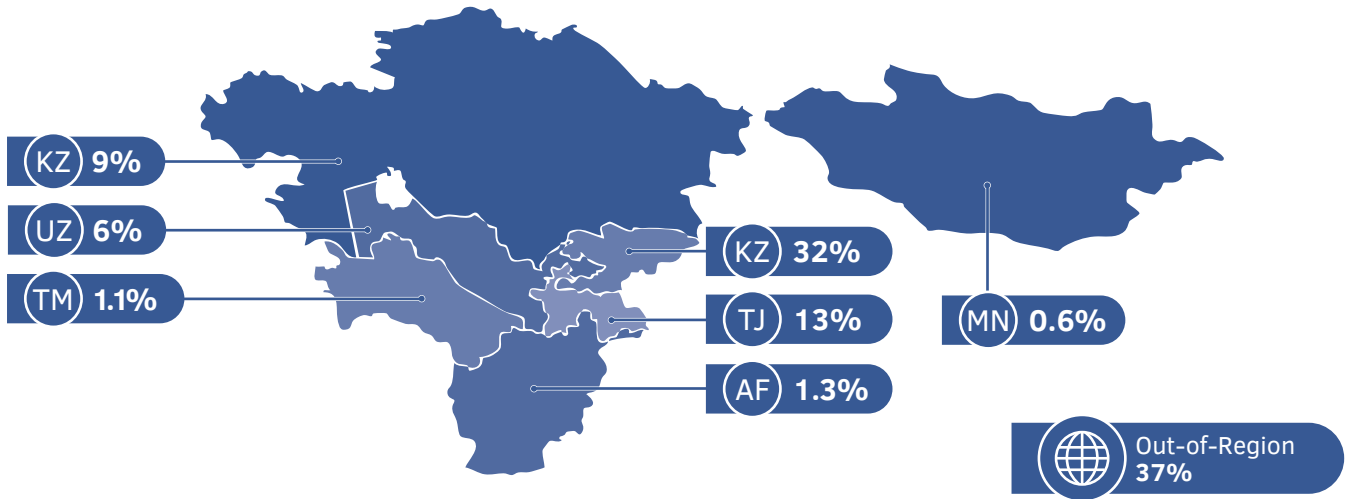
By 2025 the overall number of graduates is 708 (375 females and 333 males). We conduct a yearly Alumni Survey to track the career progress of our graduates, strengthen connections within our network, enhance the quality of our efforts to engage alumni in collaborative initiatives, and customize our projects to meet their professional and academic needs.

Additionally, the survey helps expand the Academy's support and contributions to the growth and empowerment of the Alumni Network.

Our latest Survey<sup>2</sup> revealed that 73 per cent of the Alumni, those originally come from Central Asian countries and Mongolia, live and work in the wider Central Asia region. Of the total number of alumni, it makes 62 per cent.

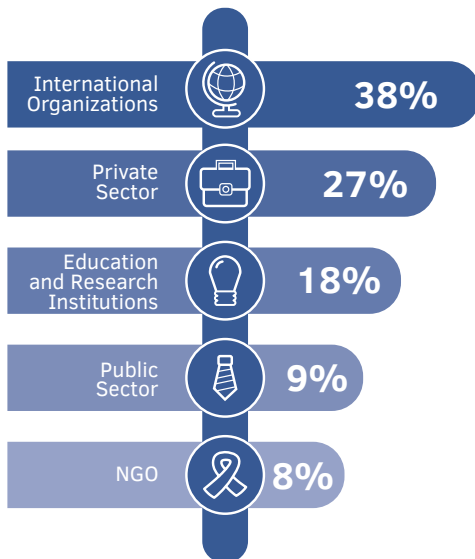
<sup>2</sup>The Alumni Survey 2025 was conducted in March 2025 and included the information about 633 alumni.

## Current Residence:

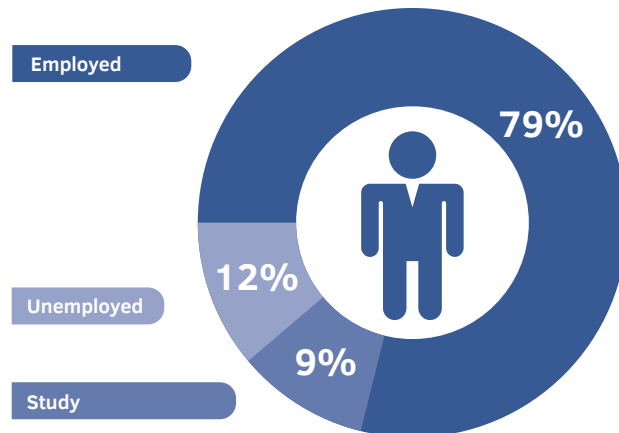


\* This infographic shows where our alumni currently reside. Number in each country represents percentage out of the total number of the alumni responded to the Alumni Survey.

## Employment by Sectors:



## Employment:



30 per cent of employed alumni hold senior positions, such as Directors, CEOs, Heads of departments, Managers and Officers working for the Central Asian governments, international organizations, education institutions and NGOs. 35 alumni who chose an academic path, are currently working on their PhD.

## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

In 2025, the OSCE Academy introduced several new initiatives aimed at strengthening communication and fostering closer collaboration within its esteemed alumni community:

### *Alumni Training: OSCE-DCAF Summer School: Human Security and Climate Change*



From 8 to 13 June, the OSCE Academy alumni and students participated in the “OSCE-DCAF Summer School on SSG/R at the OSCE Academy - Linking SSG/R, Human Security and the Safety of Journalists,” co-organized by the OSCE Secretariat’s Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and the Office of the Secretary General (OSG), together with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (RFoM), the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and DCAF. This year the School was held at the Issyk-Kul lake. The event brought together twenty-two participants from Afghanistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – OSCE Academy students and graduates as well as young

journalists from the region. The Summer School focused on the holistic nature of human security, including within the framework of the OSCE’s Youth and Security Agenda, with a specific focus on the freedom of the media and the protection of journalists. This is the third edition of the OSCE-DCAF Summer School on SSG/R, following two successful courses in 2023 and 2024, which has now become a traditional event bringing together OSCE Academy students and alumni from Central Asia, Afghanistan and Mongolia. This year, the partnership between the OSCE and DCAF was further cemented by the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Academy and DCAF, which will allow MA students from the OSCE Academy to benefit from dedicated internships at DCAF’s HQ in Geneva for the years to come.

### *6th Alumni Reunion*



On 14–15 June, the OSCE Academy welcomed back its graduates, partners, and friends for the 6th Alumni Reunion, bringing together around 150 participants, including more than a hundred alumni from across Central Asia, Europe, and beyond. The gathering celebrated the growth of the Academy into a vibrant regional hub with three Master’s programmes, a Bachelor’s programme, and a dynamic network of over 700 alumni active in academia, public service, diplomacy, and civil society.

The opening ceremony highlighted the central role alumni play in advancing the Academy’s mission and strengthening regional cooperation. A special session showcased inspiring alumni achievements, illustrating how the Academy’s education continues to empower graduates to pursue impactful careers across the globe and to turn knowledge into leadership.



The Reunion featured an expert panel on “Artificial Intelligence: Threats and Opportunities,” exploring themes such as disinformation, education, the labour market, and digital safety. Participants also engaged in workshops and round tables on water security, climate change, academic publishing, PhD preparation, and security sector governance, creating space for professional exchange and collaboration.

The second part of the Reunion unfolded in a warm and celebratory atmosphere on the terrace of the Orion Hotel. The celebratory Alumni Award Ceremony honoured distinguished graduates and recognized the dedication of long-standing members of the alumni community, as well as the continued support of partners and donors. The second day, held in an informal outdoor setting, offered opportunities for networking, team-building, and reconnecting. For more details on this special event, welcome to read on page 7 of our Alumni Magazine SalamAlum: [https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062\\_81522700.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062_81522700.pdf)



## Alumni Chapter Meetings



In mid-April, the OSCE Academy conducted Alumni Chapter meetings in Astana, Tashkent, and Dushanbe. Overall, 36 graduates residing in three Central Asian capitals gathered for meetings with the Academy's representatives. On 16 April, Dr. Sebastian Mayer, DAAD Associate Professor at the OSCE Academy, met alumni in Astana, and Ms. Victoria Orazova, Head of the International Department, together with Ms. Aiyim Chotoeva, MAHRS Programme Assistant, met alumni in Tashkent. On 18 April, Dr. Mayer and Ms. Orazova met alumni in Dushanbe. During these meetings, graduates of different years shared their experiences after their studies at the OSCE Academy and discussed regional developments. The chapter meetings serve as a platform for networking among the Academy's graduates from different years and programmes, and help maintain ties with former students.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Each year, we are proud to showcase alumni whose careers reflect courage, innovation, and a deep commitment to public service. In this report, we highlight the remarkable achievements of Kodir Kuliev MAEGD'14, a graduate of the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development from Uzbekistan.

Kodir has emerged as one of Central Asia's dynamic leaders in anti-corruption, compliance, and ethical governance. As a government advisor, educator, and policy expert, he works at the intersection of public insti-

tutions, professional compliance bodies, academia, and private advisory services—bridging policy and practice to strengthen transparency and institutional resilience. His work has contributed to national anti-corruption reforms, regional compliance development, and international cooperation, while also promoting responsible business practices and good governance.

Alongside his policy and advisory roles, Kodir is actively engaged in teaching and public outreach, integrating ethics, compliance, and accountability into higher education and professional training. He has also supported the Academy's development by initiating new partnerships and strategic collaborations, further expanding opportunities for students and alumni.

Guided by the belief that integrity requires leadership, diplomacy, and interdisciplinary thinking, Kodir continues to promote accountability and public trust across the region. His career exemplifies the Academy's mission to educate principled leaders capable of driving meaningful and lasting change.

Please read the full story in our Alumni Magazine SalamAlum available on page 20:  
[https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062\\_81522700.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062_81522700.pdf)



## ALUMNI INITIATIVES



Each year, we are proud to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of our alumni, whose work reflects innovation, leadership, and a strong commitment to positive change. In this annual report, we are pleased to share the inspiring story of Assel Mussagaliyeva-Tang (PS'05), one of the Academy's earliest graduates from Kazakhstan.

Assel is a leader in the field of digital education and the founder of EDUTech Future, a startup recognized by the governments of Singapore, Kazakhstan, and the UAE. Over the past two years, she has trained more than 2,000 participants across Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, ranging from schoolchildren to senior civil servants and university professors. Her work focuses on expanding access to digital skills and generative AI, promoting inclusive and skills-based career pathways in emerging economies.

Deeply influenced by her studies at the OSCE Academy, Assel combines technological innovation with a strong understanding of policy and international cooperation. She actively supports equitable access to AI education, including through a dedicated scholarship programme for OSCE Academy students and alumni. Through her global partnerships and public engagement, she continues to promote responsible and accessible AI education, embodying the Academy's values of leadership, service, and regional impact.

Please read the full story in our Alumni Magazine SalamAlum available on page 23:  
[https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062\\_81522700.pdf](https://osce-academy.net/upload/journal/files/1766743062_81522700.pdf)



## ALUMNI OPPORTUNITIES

### *Junior Public Officers (JPO) Programme*



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

In 2025, overall two alumnae conducted their internships in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan:

Aizat Sabyrbek kyzy, MAEGD'25: National Investments Agency under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Gulzhan Begeyeva MAPS'17: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### *One-Year-Stay at NUPI Fellowship*



In 2025, two alumnae of the MA Programme in Economic Governance and Development, Nomin Batsukh from Mongolia and Altynai Tolonova from Kyrgyzstan (Class of 2024), were selected to take part in the fellowship programme offered by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI). This Fellowship is exclusively targeted at the alumni of the OSCE Academy. This stay is an add-on to the MA degree from the OSCE Academy, and the purpose is to further prepare the two successful applicants for work in international affairs or continue study/research by deepening their practical and academic experience.

## MAS at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy



Every year one of the graduates of the OSCE Academy received a European Scholarship for Central Asia to study at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and the Global Studies Institute (GSI) of the University of Geneva. In 2025 Daniyar Kussainov, MAPS'14, was accepted to enhance his knowledge in security studies.

*“Now, only two months into the programme, I feel completely re-energized. Being a student again after such a long professional break is the feeling I didn't realize I was missing. The course is engaging, interactive, and genuinely thought-provoking — expanding my understanding far beyond my previous professional focus on security alone. What truly elevates the experience is my cohort? I'm learning alongside 22 experienced professionals from 17 countries, spanning from Bolivia to Bangladesh, representing the military, diplomatic services, and international organizations. This diverse, high-caliber environment offers perspectives that simply cannot be gained behind a desk. I am profoundly grateful to the OSCE Academy, the GCSP, and the University of Geneva for this incredible new chapter.” - shares Daniyar.*

## Alumni Grant



The OSCE Academy Alumni Network, with the support of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, offers travel grants to qualified OSCE Academy alumni to support their professional and academic development. In 2025 two alumnae were awarded this Grant: Ms. Svetlana Dzardanova, MAPS'09 to participate in the 20th European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) Conference, titled “Moving Central Asian Studies Ever Further: Orthodox vs Unorthodox Approaches,” held in Tashkent and Samarkand, and Dr. Arzuu Sheranova, MAPS'15 to

present her joint research, “What explains legislators’ behavior: ‘Surviving’ in the Parliament in Central Eurasia with centralized control and limited political freedoms,” at the CESS Conference hosted by the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND CO-OPERATION

During the reporting period, the OSCE Academy strengthened and expanded its network of institutional partnerships through several new and renewed agreements. The Academy renewed its inter-institutional agreement (via Erasmus+) with Paris Lodron University, Salzburg and also formalized the cooperation with the DCAF, which has been a partner of the OSCE Academy in co-organizing the Summer Schools (led and funded by the OSCE Secretariat) for alumni and students over the past two years.

New partnership agreements were established with Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan, the International University for Peace in Georgia, and the CAREC Programme in support of its Gender Project. In addition, the Academy expanded institutional cooperation through new Memoranda of Agreement with the Institute of Chartered Compliance Professionals in Kazakhstan and Kyungdong University Global in the Republic of Korea.

Further strengthening its collaborative network, in particular to support the most recent MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme, the Academy signed new agreements with UN Women in Kazakhstan, the Public Foundation “Child Rights Defenders’ League,” Eldik Bank in Kyrgyzstan, that will accept MA student for internships, and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, and the Prof. Dr. Zdravko Grebo Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Sarajevo, that have become partners/members of the Global Campus of Central Asia Hub.

In addition to new partnerships, the Academy actively continued collaborating with existing partners worldwide. The activities held in 2025 are summarized below.

### BILATERAL RESEARCH EXCHANGE

The OSCE Academy fosters partnerships with regional and international universities to collaborate in research and dialogue, as well as to implement exchange programmes and internships. This year, the Academy was delighted to welcome Ms. Enéa Faugere, a student from Sciences Po, the Institute of Political Studies Bordeaux, for a three-month research internship, and Ms. Lili-Spera Pelé from the European Politics Department at ESPOL Catholic University of Lille, for a one-month internship. Throughout their stay, Enéa and Lili contributed to ongoing research projects and supported various activities within the Research and Training Department. They have greatly contributed to work on several publications of the OSCE Academy and the timely, high quality output speaks for itself.



*“During my time at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, I had the opportunity to work in the Research and Training Department, where I was involved in a variety of tasks that greatly enriched my professional experience. What made this experience truly remarkable, however, was the warm and welcoming environment created by my colleagues. I felt constantly supported by the OSCE Academy team, whose professionalism and kindness made my integration both easy and enjoyable. Beyond the academic experience, my stay in Kyrgyzstan allowed me to discover Central Asia and to deeply appreciate the richness of Kyrgyz culture. I was especially impressed by its traditions, hospitality, and amazing landscapes — from the Issyk-Kul Lake to the Ala-Archa mountains. Exploring Bishkek and the surrounding regions gave me genuine insight into this very special country. I feel truly grateful to have been part of such an inspiring environment, and I will always remember my experience there—whether through discussions with students and researchers or during the Alumni Reunion—as a period of both professional growth and personal discovery.” - Ms. Enéa Faugere*

## ERASMUS+

### Faculty and Staff Mobilities



Throughout 2025, the lecturers and administrative staff members of the OSCE Academy had a number of opportunities provided by the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme. In addition, the OSCE Academy also hosted lecturers from the Philipps-University Marburg as part of the Erasmus+ exchange.

Between 19 and 23 May, MA students of the Economic Governance and Development Programme had a modular course on Economics of Sustainable Development taught by Dr. Björn Vollan, Professor of Economics, and Dr. Bernd Hayo, Professor of Macroeconomics at the Philipps-University Marburg. This visit for teaching was made possible under the Erasmus+ Inter-Institutional Agreement with Philipps-University Marburg, Germany. The course provided an in-depth introduction to key concepts and methods in sustainable development economics, with a special focus on theoretical foundations, empirical tools, and policy implications.

From 6 to 10 October, representatives of the OSCE Academy visited the SNSPA in Romania as part of the Erasmus+ Staff Mobility Programme. Ms. Katya Argynova, Librarian of the OSCE Academy, Ms. Cholponai Kanatbekova, Junior Finance Specialist, and Ms. Nazgul Kadyrova, BA Specialist met with Prof. Mihail Cercel, Dean of the Department of International Relations and European Integration, and Dr. Ana-Maria Costea, Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator at SNSPA. The meetings served as a platform for exchanging experiences and discussing academic processes, including the admissions process and the course credit system. The OSCE Academy team also explored the university campus and visited the library, where they were introduced to the digital resources and database system. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about SNSPA's educational programmes and share information about the OSCE Academy's academic activities. *SNSPA has been one of the OSCE Academy's key Erasmus+ partners, successfully promoting student and staff exchanges since 2020.*



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From 20 to 24 October, Dr. Emil Dzhuraev, Senior Lecturer at the OSCE Academy, participated in the Erasmus International Week “Moving towards seamless mobility,” organized by the University of Valencia in Spain. With participants from more than a dozen universities and countries, the event was devoted to making the most out of the Erasmus cooperation and exchange programmes.

From 14 to 23 December, Dr. Anja Mihr, Academic Director of the MAHRS Programme, taught at the University of Valencia, as part of the Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility. She delivered several courses on Human Rights and Transitology from comparative perspectives in Eurasia, focusing on Europe and Central Asia, within the Faculty of Law and Public Policy. A vibrant exchange on these subjects between Dr. Mihr and the students and faculty from the University of Valencia underscored the relevance of this Erasmus exchange.



## Students Mobilities

In 2025, altogether six students had benefited from the Erasmus+ student mobility programme:

- Ms. Aginai Kebekchieva, BA in Economics, spent the Spring semester at the University of Tartu in Estonia;
- Ms. Kamila Isakova, MAEGD Programme, spent the Fall semester at the the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Marburg in Germany, the Business Administration and Economics Faculty;
- Mr. Komronbek Isroilov, MAPS Programme, spent the Fall semester at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of Marburg in Germany;
- Ms. Kristina Ryabova, MAHRS Programme, spent the Fall semester at the the Department of International Relations and European Integration of the SNSPA in Romania;
- Ms. Nasiba Ermetova, MAHRS Programme, spent the Fall semester at the the Department of International Relations and European Integration of the SNSPA in Romania;
- Mr. Navruz Erkaev, MAHRS Programme, spent the Fall semester at the the Faculty of Law of the Universty of Valencia in Spain.



*“One of the most valuable aspects of mobility was the international environment. Studying alongside students from different countries created a lively and inspiring atmosphere. It allowed me to exchange ideas with people from diverse backgrounds and helped me improve my intercultural communication skills. Being part of such a diverse community broadened my perspective in many ways.” - Mr. Komronbek Isroilov*

These mobility initiatives represent the OSCE Academy’s continued commitment to fostering international collaboration, enhancing academic quality, and providing students and staff with opportunities to develop skills and expertise on the global stage.

## Jean Monnet Module – European Climate Policy (EUCP)

The year 2025 marked the final and third year of implementation of the Jean Monnet Module project - EUCP - led by Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov, the Project Coordinator and Visiting Lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. Over the course of the project, significant progress was made in advancing academic innovation, strengthening research capacity, and fostering dialogue on climate governance in Central Asia.



One of the project’s central achievements was the development and delivery of a new graduate-level course titled European Climate Policy: Lessons for Central Asia. The course was taught in English and introduced students to the institutional framework and policy instruments of European climate governance while exploring their relevance for the environmental and economic challenges faced by Central Asian countries. The course adopted a comparative approach, encouraging students to examine how elements of European climate policy could inform regional strategies in Central Asia. Teaching responsibilities were shared between Dr. Rahat Sabyrbekov of the OSCE Academy and Dr. Carla Portella from the University of Valencia, ensuring that students benefited from diverse academic and regional perspectives.



The project also made a strong contribution to research and capacity building. Through the course and associated academic activities, students were supported in developing policy-relevant research on climate governance. In total, more than twenty student working papers were produced, addressing issues such as climate policy frameworks, regional cooperation, and environmental governance in Central Asia. In addition, the teaching faculty began preparing a peer-reviewed academic article that builds on the insights generated through the project. The article, titled *Urban Climate Resilience in Transition Economies: The Case of Central Asia*, aims

to contribute to the growing academic literature on climate governance in emerging economies. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/addfee/meta>



Beyond the classroom, the project played an important role in facilitating policy dialogue and strengthening regional networks. Over the three-year implementation period, three annual multi-stakeholder workshops were organized, bringing together representatives from government institutions, civil society organizations, academia, and international organizations. The third workshop was held on 27 June, and was titled “Advancing Regional Climate Policy in Central Asia: Lessons from the EU and Future Perspectives.” The event was opened by Dr. Pal Dunay, Director of the OSCE Academy, and participants were welcomed by Ms. Gulnara Isaeva, National Coordinator of the Erasmus+ Programme in Kyrgyzstan. Presentations were delivered by Saikal Esenamanova, researcher at the Kyrgyz University of Economics, Dr. Andrea Bassi, Founder and CEO of Knowledge SRL and Extraordinary Associate Professor at Stellenbosch University, Maral Sagynaliyeva, Director of the Silk Road Research Center at Ala-Too International University, and Dr. Kanat Tilekeyev, Deputy Director at the University of Central Asia. Discussions focused on regional cooperation and the role of research in addressing climate policy challenges in Central Asia.



These workshops served as platforms for discussing regional climate challenges, sharing policy experiences, and exploring opportunities for cooperation. As a result of these engagements, the project helped establish a regional climate study network that provides an ongoing forum for exchange between researchers and policymakers working on climate-related issues in Central Asia.

The project has contributed to climate policy discussions in several important ways. First, it facilitated knowledge transfer by introducing participants to key European Union climate policy mechanisms, including the European Emissions Trading Scheme and

the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). These instruments were analyzed as examples of governance tools that could inspire policy innovation and adaptation in Central Asian contexts. Secondly, the project promoted policy learning by examining how the European Union’s experience with regional integration and coordinated environmental policy could inform similar collaborative approaches in Central Asia.

Another major contribution of the project has been its role in strengthening local academic capacity. By integrating experiential learning methods, encouraging student research, and providing guidance on academic publishing, the project enhanced the ability of students and early-career researchers to engage with climate policy debates. The workshops and research outputs also helped bridge the gap between academia and policy practitioners.

Finally, the project contributed to raising public awareness about the importance of climate policy in Central Asia. Teaching materials, workshop recordings, and policy briefs were made publicly available, ensuring that the knowledge generated through the project can continue to benefit students, researchers, and policymakers beyond the life of the project. The course website and related materials remain accessible online through the OSCE Academy and the dedicated course platform.

In terms of measurable outcomes, the project trained more than 75 graduate students through the EUCP course. Three regional workshops were organized, each bringing together approximately 35–40 participants from across sectors. The project generated more than twenty research outputs, including student papers and faculty publications. In addition, a full set of open educational materials—including lecture presentations, recordings, and course resources—has been made available in English to support wider dissemination and future teaching.

Further information and publicly accessible project materials can be found on the OSCE Academy Jean Monnet Module webpage and the dedicated course website. <https://osce-academy.net/international/jean-monnet-module/> and <https://sites.google.com/view/eu-climate-policy-lessons/home?authuser=0>



## NOTABLE VISITORS and GUEST LECTURERS



On 14 January, **Dr. Payam Foroughi**, Assistant Professor of International Relations and Security Studies at the American University of Iraq - Baghdad, conducted a guest lecture on “Afghanistan’s recent history and the geopolitical ramifications of the Taliban regime.”



On 14 February, **H.E. Janne Heiskanen**, Ambassador of Finland to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, visited the OSCE Academy following his attendance of the Graduation Ceremony of the master’s students of the Academy a day before. He met with **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy, to discuss the OSCE Academy’s activities, programmes, partnerships, challenges, and opportunities.



On 15 February, **H.E. Manfred Huterer**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Uzbekistan, met with **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy and **Prof. Anja Mihr**, Academic Director of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme, to discuss the regional work of the OSCE Academy and possible cooperation with regional think tanks, particularly in Uzbekistan.



On 21 February, **Mr. Thierry De Wilde**, Attache for Internal Security at the French Embassy in Moscow, accompanied by **Mr. Olivier Deher**, Communications Officer at the French Embassy in Moscow, visited the OSCE Academy. They were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Interim Director, **Ms. Cholpon Osmonalieva**, Head of the Department of Education, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy, to discuss the Academy's activities, security issues, and possible cooperation with French higher education institutions. The meeting was followed by discussion with students.



On 27 February, **Mr. Mounir Satouri**, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament, **Ms. Isabel Wiseler Lima**, Member of the European Parliament from the Group of the European People's Party - Christian Democrats, **Mr. Ignacio Sanchez Amor**, Member of the European Parliament from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, **Mr. Bruno Goncalves**, Member of the European Parliament from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, **Mr. Urmas Paet**, Member of the European Parliament from Renew Europe, **Ms. Myriam Goinard**, Member of the Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, **Mr. Charalampos Kontonis**, Member of the Secretariat of the Subcommittee on Human Rights,

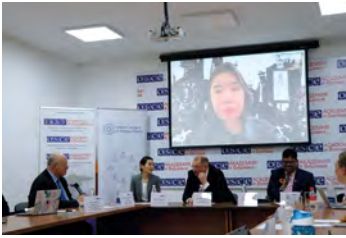
**Ms. Anna Ksiazczakova**, Adviser from the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, **Ms. Itziar Munoa Salaverria**, Adviser from Renew Europe, visited OSCE Academy to meet with students of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme for a discussion on human rights and EU relations with Central Asia. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Interim Director of the OSCE Academy, **H.E. Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the OSCE Academy, and **Dr. Michael Hayes**, Vice President of the Global Campus of Human Rights.



On 4 March, **Mr. Talant Sultanov**, Policy Advocacy Advisor at the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership and Co-Founder of the Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter, conducted a guest lecture on "Closing the Digital Divide: Internet Governance and Meaningful Connectivity in Central Asia."



On 5 March, **H.E. Nicolas Faye**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Kyrgyzstan, visited OSCE Academy to have a panel discussion on "French Policy in Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan with a Focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI)." The discussion was moderated by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy. **H.E. Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek also attended the session.



On 7 March, the OSCE Academy organized a discussion event dedicated to International Women's Day on gender equality and women's empowerment in Central Asia. The keynote speakers of the discussion were **H.E. Ambassador Alexey Rogov**, Head of the OSCE POiB, **Ms. Lara Scarpitta**, Senior Adviser of the OSCE on Gender, **Dr. Syed Sadiq**, UN Women Country Representative in Kyrgyzstan, **Ms. Aigerim Toktogulova**, National Project Officer (WIN) at the OSCE POiB.



On 11 April, **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy, welcomed a delegation of 18 students and professors from the Aleksanteri Institute at the University of Helsinki during their study tour to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for academic exchange and dialogue on regional developments in Central Asia.



On 24 April, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **H.E. Jaap Ora**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Estonia to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, accompanied by **Ms. Triinu Pits**, Deputy Head of Mission at the Estonian Embassy. The meeting was attended by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy, **Mr. Colin McCullough**, Senior Planning and Coordination Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **Dr. Emil Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer, **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate

Professor, **Ms. Cholpon Osmonalieva**, Head of the Education Department, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy.



On 26 April, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Ms. Farah Karimi**, Special Representative of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on Central Asia and Head of the Delegation of the Netherlands to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, accompanied by **Ms. Ainur Argynbekova**, Deputy Head of the Delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, **Ms. Femmy Bakker-De Jong**, Secretary of the Delegation of the Netherlands, **Ms. Manuchekhr Salokhudinov**, Senior Advisor, and **Ms. Farimah Daftary**, Senior Advisor. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Emil Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer in the Politics and Security Programme, **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the visit, Ms. Karimi delivered a presentation on "Civil Society's Role in Safeguarding Human Rights: Navigating Geopolitical Crises and the Erosion of International Law," followed by a discussion with students of the OSCE Academy.



On 26 May, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **H.E. Dr. John Mikal Kvistad**, Ambassador to Central Asia at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by **Ms. Marte Lauvhjell**, Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. Mr. Colin McCullough, Senior Planning and Co-ordination Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, also attended the meeting. The meeting focused on the role of the OSCE Academy in the region, support for its alumni community, and opportunities for further cooperation with Norwegian partners.



On 11 June, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Ms. Zulfia Karimova**, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist at the Asian Development Bank Central and West Asia Department, and **Ms. Asel Kubanychbekova**, Consultant at the Asian Development Bank. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Head of the Research and Training Department, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the meeting, the parties discussed the CAREC Programme and signed a cooperation agreement to support the CAREC Gender and Green Innovation event that took place in Autumn 2025 in Kyrgyzstan.



On 12 June, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek welcomed **Mr. Knut Are Okstad**, Minister Counsellor of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna, **Ms. Maria Gjørwad Hagen**, Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and **Ms. Elisabeth Librekt Olsen**, Senior Advisor in the Research Group on Climate and Energy at the NUPI. The delegation was received by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Head of the Research and Training Department, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. The meeting focused on cooperation with Norwegian partners, projects supported by NUPI, and the Academy's institutional activities, after which the delegation also met with MA students from the Politics and Security and Economic Governance and Development programmes.



On 17 July, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Prof. Dr. John Kyu Lee**, President of Kyungdong University in South Korea, and **Dr. Sirojiddin Juraev**, Dean of the International Faculty and Associate Professor at Kyungdong University. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the meeting, the parties discussed academic cooperation and student exchange opportunities, and **Dr. Pal Dunay** and **Prof. Dr. John Kyu Lee** signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing a framework for future cooperation.



On 21 July, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Ms. Ekaterine Metreveli**, President of the Rondeli Foundation (Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies), accompanied by **Mr. Alex Petriashvili**, Senior Fellow, **Dr. Mamuka Komakhia**, Senior Analyst, **Dr. Zurab Batiashvili**, Research Fellow, and **Ms. Keti Emukhvari**, Research Fellow at the Rondeli Foundation. The delegation was welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, and **Dr. Emil Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer in the Politics and Security Programme at the OSCE Academy. The meeting focused on regional developments in Georgia and Central Asia and explored opportunities for future cooperation in research, publications, and academic exchanges.



On 18 August, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Professor Andrew J. Nathan**, Professor at Columbia University, accompanied by **Ms. Jessica Leonard**, Regional Director for Central Asia at American Councils in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The guests were welcomed by **Dr. Emilbek Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer in the Politics and Security Programme, **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the visit, Ms. Leonard introduced an academic exchange initiative of American Councils, and participants held a discussion on current global and regional developments.



On 20 August, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Mr. Glenn Zyzanski**, First Secretary at the Embassy of Canada to Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. He was welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the meeting, **Dr. Pal Dunay** presented the Academy's activities and regional role, and **Mr. Glenn Zyzanski** discussed regional political developments and the Academy's work.



On 2 September, **Mr. Constantin Zelenty**, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy to Kyrgyzstan, held a session with students of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme on regional human rights issues and Germany's contribution to addressing them.



On 2 September, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **H.E. Ambassador Raphael Naegeli**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE and the United Nations in Vienna. He was welcomed by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Head of the Research and Training Department, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the visit, participants discussed the Academy's activities, Switzerland's support as a donor, and priority areas of cooperation in light of the upcoming Swiss OSCE Chairpersonship.



On 10 September, **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of International Department at the OSCE Academy, welcomed a delegation of representatives of youth networks from the Republic of Tajikistan during a study visit on gender equality, youth political participation, and the prevention of stereotypes, discrimination, and domestic violence.



On 16 September, **H.E. Ambassador Terhi Hakala**, Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, **H.E. Janne Heiskanen**, Ambassador of Finland to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, **Ms. Annika Pelkonen**, Senior Specialist in the Finnish OSCE Chairpersonship 2025 Task Force at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, **Ms. Seraina Petersen**, Policy Support Officer at the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre visited the OSCE Academy. **Ambassador Dr. Volker Frobarth**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **Mr. Colin McCullough**, Senior Planning and Co-ordination Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, and the members of the management of the OSCE Academy met the distinguished guests.



On 17 September, **Ms. Liliana Smiech**, Director General for International Affairs at the Ludovika University of Public Service in Budapest, **Mr. David Biro**, Senior Advisor to the Director General for International Affairs and Coordinator of the Ludovika Center for Turkic Studies, visited the OSCE Academy to present the programmes and activities of both institutions and discuss internship, Erasmus+, joint research, and academic exchange opportunities.



On 25 September, **Dr. Robert Karaszewski**, representative of the Abu Dhabi School of Management, met with **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, Head of Research and Training Department, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of International Department at the OSCE Academy, to discuss academic partnerships, study tours, internships, and joint research in energy and climate change.



On 26 September, **Dr. Maria Adele Carrai**, Assistant Professor of Global China Studies at NYU Shanghai, visited the OSCE Academy accompanied by **Mr. Maksat Koshkarbayev**, Senior Program Officer at American Councils for International Education, to conduct a guest lecture on “Mapping Global China: New Methods to Understand China’s Expanding Presence.”



On 23 October, **Mr. Stefan Mayer**, member of the German Bundestag’s Foreign Affairs Committee and the CDU/CSU parliamentary group’s rapporteur for Central Asian countries, accompanied by **Mr. Constantin Zelenty**, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, visited the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.



On 24 October, **Dr. Jomart Ormonbekov**, Political Affairs Officer at the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in New York, held an interactive session on “Building a Career in International Peace and Security: Lessons from the UN and Beyond” for the MA students of the OSCE Academy.



On 27 October, **Dr. Stefan Ziegler**, Faculty Member at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and Associate Professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy, held an interactive lecture and discussion session with students on “International Law Through Film”. The lecture was opened by **Mr. Andres Müller**, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Kyrgyzstan, and by **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy.



On 29–30 October, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a training titled “Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Governance.” The event was opened by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy, and **Mr. Shumkarbek Adilbek uulu**, Deputy Director of the National Institute for Strategic Initiatives under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic. Sessions were delivered by **Ms. Nuriya Kutnaeva**, **Mr. Asan Akhmatov**, and **Ms. Kamila Irgebayeva**, focusing on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and digitalization in public administration and environmental management.



On 4 November, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek hosted a visit by **Mr. Santeri Leinonen**, Special Representative on Youth, Peace and Security of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, and **Ms. Marjo Kaller**, First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the OSCE, accompanied by **Ms. Guljamal Tokombaeva**, National Programme Officer at the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. The delegation met with **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy, and participated in a roundtable on youth policies in Central Asia. Student presentations were delivered by **Ms. Saikal Sakmamatova**, **Ms. Emira Seidenalieva**, **Ms. Aigerim Assanova**, **Mr. Abror Nosirov**, and **Mr. Fazliddin Urokov**, followed by a discussion on youth engagement and regional cooperation.



Director, **Dr. Emil Dzhuraev**, Senior Lecturer in the Politics and Security Programme, **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor, and **Ms. Victoria Orazova**, Head of the International Department at the OSCE Academy. During the visit, participants discussed the Academy's programmes and Switzerland's continued support, and **H.E. Ambassador Pierre-Yves Fux** delivered a presentation to students on "Swiss Neutrality – Challenges and Opportunities."



From 14 to 17 November, the OSCE Secretariat, in cooperation with the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and with support from the Embassy of Switzerland in the Kyrgyz Republic, organized a training seminar for young experts from Central Asia, South-East Europe, and the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation on inclusive project work and digital research skills. The event was opened by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy, followed by remarks from **Mr. Santeri Leinonen**, Special Representative on Youth, Peace and Security of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, **H.E. Ambassador Sirocco Messerli**, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kyrgyz Republic, **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Volker Frobarth**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **Dr. Lara Scarpitta**, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues at the OSCE Secretariat, and **Ms. Gorica Atanasova-Gjorevska**, Senior External Co-operation Officer at the OSCE Secretariat. The seminar brought together young experts, OSCE Academy students, and programme alumni for sessions on the OSCE Youth and Security Agenda, gender mainstreaming, diplomacy, and digital research skills.



On 21 November, **Dr. Kadyrbek Sultakeev**, representative of the American University of Central Asia, conducted a guest lecture on "Harsh Winter Shocks and Distress Sales: Consumption and Asset Smoothing Among Livestock Farmers in Kyrgyzstan."



On 1 December **Ms. Farah Karimi, Head of Delegation of the Netherlands to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly**, and head of its ad hoc group on migration, as well as its former special representative on Central Asia visited the OSCE Academy. Ms. Karimi, a member of the Senate of the Netherlands was met by the Director of the OSCE Academy, **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Deputy Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Head of the Research and Training Department, **Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova**, and **Ms. Aiyim Chotoeva**, Programme Specialist for the MAHRS programme.



On 3 December, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek welcomed **H.E. Monika Lenhard**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kyrgyz Republic, who joined **Mr. Matthias Vollert**, Head of Division for the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Eastern Partnership at the Federal Foreign Ministry of Germany. The delegation was received by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director, **Dr. Shairbek Dzhuraev**, Deputy Director of the OSCE Academy, and **Dr. Sebastian Mayer**, DAAD Associate Professor.



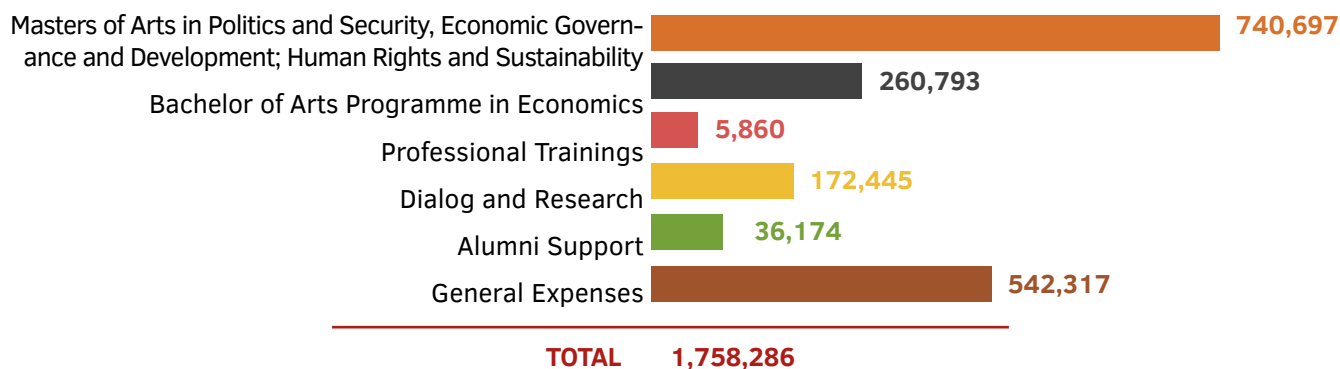
On 4 December, the OSCE Academy hosted **Professor Won-Gyu Hwang**, Policy Advisor at the National Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (APAPKR), for a guest lecture on long-term economic development strategies for the Kyrgyz Republic. Prior to the event, Professor Hwang was welcomed in the Academy's library by **Dr. Pal Dunay**, Director of the OSCE Academy.



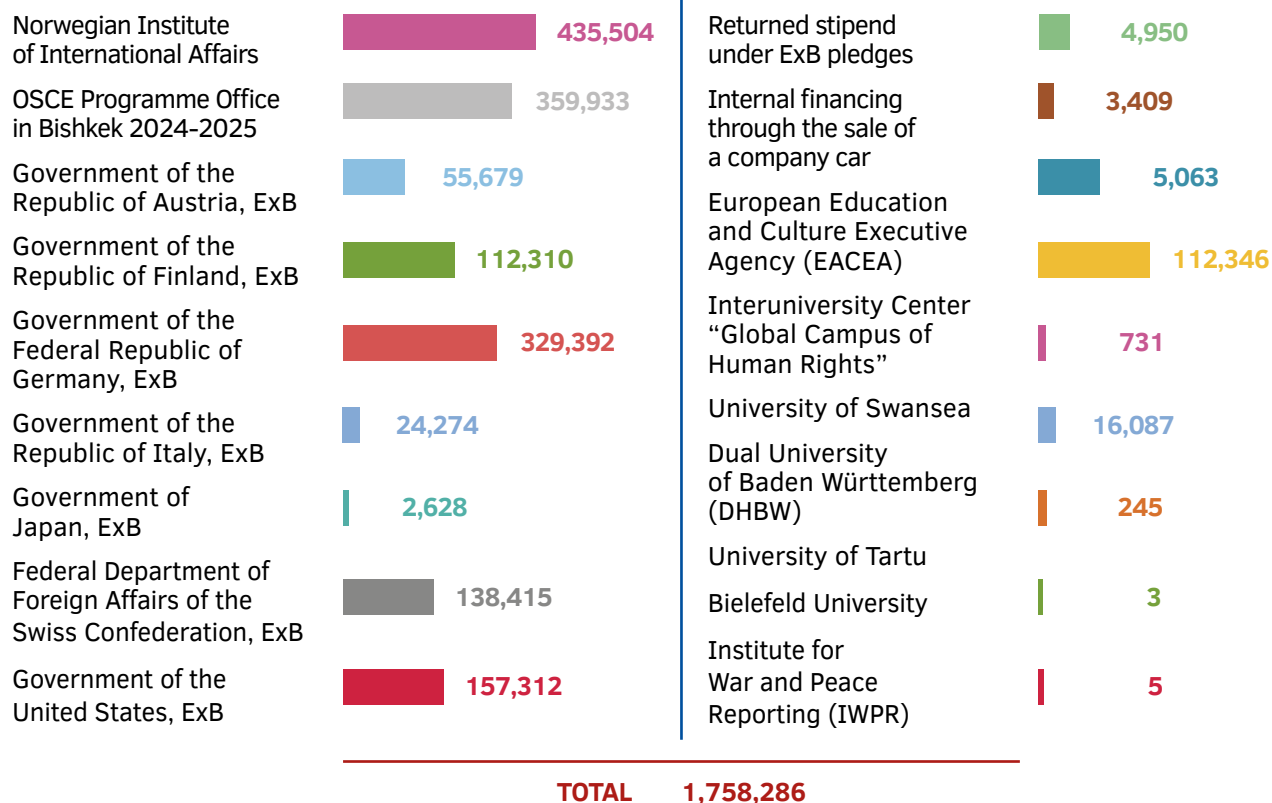
On 10 December, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and GC Central Asia hosted a workshop marking Human Rights Day and the 77th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. **Prof. Manfred Nowak**, Secretary General of the Global Campus of Human Rights, **H.E. Ambassador Antje Grawe**, UN Resident Coordinator to Kyrgyzstan, **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Volker Frobarth**, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek, **H.E. Rémi Dufлот**, Ambassador of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic, **Mr. Fabio Piana**, Deputy Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Dr. Anja Mihr**, Academic Director of the MA in Human Rights and Sustainability Programme, addressed participants and highlighted the importance of the topics discussed. MAHRS students **Saikal Malik kyzy**, **Yerke Yerken kyzy**, **Mamatkazy Rasul uulu**, and **Eugenia Ricciotti**, presented their research on human rights issues in Central Asia.

## FINANCES

### Expenditures by Area of Activities 2025



### Expenditures by Source of Funding



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The report is also available on the OSCE Academy's website at:  
<https://osce-academy.net/the-osce-academy-in-bishkek/reports/>

