

Ten Years Centre for OSCE Research (CORE)

Ten years ago CORE was founded in the presence of many prominent personalities – then Federal President Johannes Rau participated in the founding act as did the First Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ortwin Runde, the OSCE Secretary General, Ambassador Jan Kubis and more than half a dozen OSCE ambassadors. At that time, the Centre for OSCE Research represented more a hope than a showcase of significant achievements. Certainly, five volumes of the OSCE Yearbook had already been published and an initial research project on the High Commissioner on National Minorities had been started, but nearly everything else was still in the planning stage.



CORE Researchers: Wolfgang Zellner, Frank Evers, Elena Kropatcheva, Diana Digol, Anna Kreikemeyer (Photo JR)

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Ten research projects, 25 policy papers and 10 volumes of the OSCE Yearbook further on, the picture has changed. Worldwide, CORE is the only research institute that continuously follows the OSCE’s activities. A considerable proportion of the literature on the OSCE is generated in the context of CORE. Important areas of OSCE activities – its field operations, the HCNM, its police activities, and its democratization work in Central Asia – have been subjects of CORE research projects. Since 2001, dialogue projects between secular forces and (moderate) Islamists have been implemented in Tajikistan and Central Asia. CORE has substantially contributed to the founding of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and currently the Centre is supporting the establishment

of the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe. Training courses for future OSCE Chairmanship countries have become a specific trademark. They were implemented in 2007 and 2008 for Kazakhstani and in 2009 for a mixed group of Kazakhstani and Lithuanian diplomats. In addition, we have actively participated in the OSCE's discussions: Whether the Corfu process, the Forum for Security Cooperation or the Annual Security Review Conference – CORE is frequently represented in Vienna.

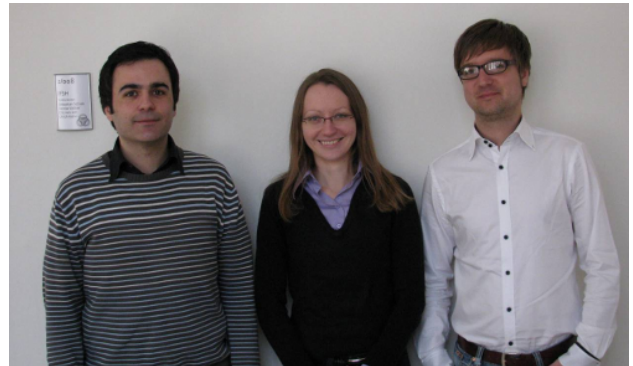


The OSCE Yearbook Team: Ursel Schlichting and Graeme Currie (Photo JR)

All of this has only been possible because we co-operated with many relevant institutions and they with us. First of among them is the German Federal Foreign Office that has supported CORE since 1999. Without the many discussions with staff members of the Federal Foreign Office, but also with the delegations in Vienna, the OSCE Secretariat and the OSCE institutions and field operations our work would not have been possible in this manner. The same holds true for our manifold contacts with scholars in a number of countries.

And the next ten years? There will be enough work for twenty! First, there is the new European security dialogue that started with President Medvedev's proposals and will take years. This also means working in more depth on a number of issues from arms control and crisis management to energy security and the institutional inter-linkage of Europe. Further

on, we want to expand our regional expertise, particularly on Russia and the other East European countries, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. And finally we want to continue what we have done over the last ten years: editing OSCE Yearbooks, following the development of the Organization, offering advice to the OSCE, governments and institutions, and assisting, through our training programs, in establishing practical expertise in European security building.



CORE PhD candidates, Sebastian Schiek, Lena Kulipanowa Ulrich Kühn (Photo JR)

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OSCE Rule-of-Law Assistance - CORE and the German Federal Foreign Office Jointly Conduct Workshop in Vienna

CORE and the German Federal Foreign Office jointly conducted a workshop on OSCE rule-of-law assistance in Vienna, 25 – 26 March 2010. The workshop focused on two specific topics: the independence of the judiciary and administrative justice reforms in three regions - Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia. As one of the participating States that took the initiative in proposing the OSCE Helsinki Ministerial Council Decision on "Further Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area" (2008) and campaigned for its adoption, Germany considered this to be an appropriate time to further discuss suitable ways of its implementation. This was the driving motive for convening the workshop.

The workshop had more than 30 participants including high-ranking government officials from Belarus, Georgia, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, OSCE rule-of-law officers from the OSCE field operations, representatives of the Kazakh OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the current OSCE Troika, the directorship and leading rule-of-law experts of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), representatives of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe as well as members of think tanks in Germany and elsewhere. During the two days of the workshop, discussions were held in a lively atmosphere on governmental and non-governmental expectations vis-à-vis OSCE rule-of-law assistance, best practices and the specific requirements of OSCE field work, as well as on assistance by development agencies and donor organizations. The workshop was a reflective contribution to the ongoing OSCE dialogue on common European values.



At the workshop: (from l. to r.) Carsten Weber (OSCE ODIHR), Frank Evers, Wolfgang Zellner and Lothar Freischlager (German Federal Foreign Office)

See also: German Federal Foreign Office, Foreign Ministry promotes Rule of Law, at: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/de/Aussenpolitik/InternatOrgane/OSZE/100326-Rechtsstaatsseminar,navCtx=21914.html> [German only] and <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Startseite.html> [Foreign Ministry Website in English]

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Head of CORE at the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation

Together with Andrei Zagorski (Moscow State Institute for International Relations) and David Law (Geneva Center for Democratic Control of Armed Forces) the Head of CORE, Wolfgang Zellner, participated on 24 February 2010 in a roundtable discussion on the principles of the “Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security” organized by the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The FSC is the OSCE body in which its 56 participating States discuss issues of disarmament, arms control and confidence- and security-building measures and take related decisions. Zellner stressed that the Code of Conduct can provide a relevant normative contribution to the OSCE’s security dialogue within the framework of the Corfu process, as it includes nearly all security-related principles of the OSCE in a concise manner. Both his contribution as well as the discussion showed the close relationship between the Code of Conduct and the draft European Security Treaty tabled by Russia in November 2009.

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CORE on a Fact-Finding Tour by the Union of South American Nations

At the invitation of the German Federal Government, representatives of the member States of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) visited Berlin and Vienna from 21 to 27 February 2010 to collect information on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). Within this framework, the Head of CORE, Wolfgang Zellner, joined the South American guests in the “Europasaal” of the German Federal Foreign Office and acquainted them with the principles, structures and institutions of the OSCE. In South America, where up until now there has been no CSBM regime, although there are relevant tensions between some states, there is a grow-

ing interest in CSBMs and European experiences with them.

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CORE Capacity-Building for the “Border Management Staff College” in Dushanbe

At the invitation of the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Dushanbe (Tajikistan), CORE is actively cooperating on the development of their scientific training. In the course of this collaboration, Diana Digol has written guidelines for a scientific advisory board which she presented on 12 February 2010 at the Inaugural Meeting of the BMSC in the Vienna Hofburg.



Diana Digol, Ketil Ottersen, Hardy Roehling and Andrus Öövel at the BMSC Meeting (from l. to r.)

In February 2010 as well the BMSC Director Wolfgang Maierhofer visited CORE in Hamburg and discussed further possibilities for collaboration with Wolfgang Zeller, the Head of CORE and Diana Digol. The OSCE BMSC began its work in the summer of 2009.

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CORE Presentation at the 18th Partnership for Peace International Research Seminar in Vienna

Invited by the NATO Defense College in Rome (NDC) to participate, Ulrich Kühn spoke at the

18th Partnership for Peace International Research Seminar in Vienna on 5 February 2010. Sponsored by the NDC in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defense and Sports, the seminar on “The Indivisibility of Euro-Atlantic Security” attracted approximately 170 participants, primarily OSCE Heads of Missions and Ambassadors. Elaborating on the CFE Treaty, Ulrich Kühn concentrated on the debate on conventional arms control and proposed three steps for overcoming the current impasse.

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Staff

Marietta S. König, Research fellow and PhD candidate left the IFSH on 31 January 2010 and took on the position as leading Reporting and Information Officer in the Zugdidi Field Office, EU Monitoring Mission/EUMM Georgia. Ms König was part of CORE from October 2004. In her work she concentrated on the effectiveness of conflict management and mediation of external actors (OSCE and UN Missions) in Georgia’s ethno-political conflicts, as well as transformation processes in the South Caucasus, and energy related issues in the Black Sea region.

At the IFSH she was the main contact person for political developments in Georgia. Several of her analyses have been published in Germany and abroad. During her time at CORE/IFSH she also observed elections for the ODIHR/OSCE and the EU. In her new function she is responsible for all reports of the field office in Zugdidi sent to the EUMM headquarters in Tbilisi, and is therefore involved in all planning and decision making. Ms König will continue as a freelance researcher and PhD candidate at CORE/IFSH.

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Publications

OSCE Yearbook 2009

The OSCE Yearbook 2009, which was published in early 2010, contains a wealth of informed writing on the Organization, its activities, and the issues that concern it. It opens with four contributions written by leading European security experts: Adam Daniel Rotfeld asks whether Europe needs a “new security architecture”, Andrei Zagorski addresses President Medvedev’s proposal for a treaty on European security and the resulting “Corfu Process”, as do Pál Dunay and Graeme P. Herd, while Egon Bahr and Reinhard Mutz discuss the future of détente.

The participating States in focus this year are Ukraine, Lithuania, and Belarus; Dennis Sandole also examines the implications of post-Bush era US foreign policy for Europe. The OSCE conflict prevention and dispute settlement activities discussed include the prospects for conflict resolution in Moldova, the role of the Mission in Kosovo, military aspects of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the OSCE Centre in Astana, and prospects for conflict settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Turning to the three dimensions, contributions include Frank Evers’ in-depth consideration of the OSCE’s election observation activities and an informed legal discussion of de facto regimes and human rights by Hans-Joachim Heintze. Our authors also discuss problems facing human rights defenders, contradictions in international police reform, the OSCE’s approach to border security and management, and the legacy of Professor Victor Yves Ghebali, who died last year. The OSCE Yearbook addresses students and academics, politicians and journalists, and the interested general public.

Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH (ed.), OSCE Yearbook 2009, Yearbook on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Vol. 15, Nomos, Baden-Baden 2010, ISBN 978-3-8329-5336-2, € 69.

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Recent Relevant OSCE Publications

Assenova, Margarita / Janusz Bugajski (Eds.), *Kazakhstan’s OSCE Chairmanship - Challenges and Opportunities - A Policy Paper of the U.S.-Kazakhstan OSCE Task Force*, Washington/D.C. 2009.

http://csis.org/files/publication/091202_Bugasjski_Kazakhstan_Web.pdf

Cameron, Alastair / Jean-François Morel, *Europe de la défense - le chœur du débat*, Paris 2009.

Cohen, Jonathan, *Effective Participation of National Minorities as a Tool for Conflict Prevention*, in: *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*, 4/2009, pp. 539-548.

Eicher, Peter, *Improving OSCE Election Observation*, in: *Security and Human Rights* 4/2009, pp. 264-276.

Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (Ed.), *OSZE-Jahrbuch 2008 - Jahrbuch zur Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa*, Baden-Baden 2009.

International Crisis Group, *Central Asia: Migrants and the Economic Crisis*, Asia Report No. 183, 5 January 2010, Bishkek/Brussels 2010.

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/getfile.cfm?id=4234&tid=6456&type=pdf&l=1>

Kühn, Ulrich, *From Capitol Hill to Istanbul: The Origins of the Current CFE Deadlock*, CORE Working Paper 19, Hamburg 2009.

[http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE%20Working%20Paper%2019%20\(Kuehn\).pdf](http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE%20Working%20Paper%2019%20(Kuehn).pdf)

Palermo, Francesco, *When the Lund Recommendations are Ignored: Effective Participation of National Minorities through Territorial Autonomy*, in: *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*, 4/2009, pp. 653-663.

Richter, Solveig / Andrea Schmitz, *Security Dialogue or Talking Shop? The Corfu Process under Kazakhstan’s OSCE Chairmanship*, SWP Comments, 3/2010, Berlin 2010.

http://www.swp-berlin.org/en/common/get_document.php?asset_id=6864

Skolnikov, Vladimir D., *Missing the Big Picture? Retrospective on OSCE Strategic Thinking on Central Asia*, in: *Security and Human Rights* 4/2009, pp. 294-306.

Imprint

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