

First Regular Meeting of the OSCE Academic Network

On 30 October 2013, representatives of fifteen member institutions met in Vienna for the first regular meeting of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions. The network is, as its newly adopted Mission Statement says, "an OSCE-related track II initiative. The network's members are research institutes from across the OSCE area that are engaged in academic research and policy analysis on issues relevant to the OSCE's three dimensions of security." After the network had been formally founded during the OSCE Security Days in June 2013, the real founding work had to be done at the October meeting.



Wolfgang Zellner, Centre for OSCE Research (CORE)

That started with a thorough discussion on the network's self-concept and working instruments. The meeting debated and amended a "Mission Statement" that formulates the network's objective as follows: "The network provides expertise, stimulates discussion and raises awareness of the OSCE. It contributes to the ongoing security dialogue within the OSCE framework. It helps to address common threats

and challenges and contributes to the efforts supporting the Helsinki+40 process and future OSCE dialogue formats. In a more long-term perspective, the network helps to clarify the substance of and the process towards achieving the participating States' shared vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community. The network is used for the exchange of expertise and the coordination of activities between its members." An additional paper on "Working Instruments" defines the roles of network meetings, a steering committee and a network coordinator. For a period of two years Sonja Stojanovic (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy), Ambassador Jim Collins (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Andrei Zagorski (Institute for World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences), and Wolfgang Zellner (CORE/IFSH) were elected as members of the steering committee. Zellner's term as network coordinator was extended to two years.

Another agenda item was devoted to the first network project on "Threat Perceptions in Europe". This project should make a contribution to the OSCE's ongoing Helsinki + 40 process by rationalizing the debate on threat perceptions that, for the most part, is not conducted in an open and transparent manner. The project will be implemented by a group of experts from 20 member institutes, thus providing quite a good regional distribution of the states analyzed. The necessary funds for the project of about 100,000 Euros will be provided by Switzerland, Germany and Finland. A number of other project ideas were also discussed.

While Ambassador Fred Tanner from the OSCE Secretariat, who serves as a contact point,

participated in the whole meeting, Ms. Andrea Rauber Saxer, Deputy Head of the Swiss Delegation, Amb. Sanja Milinković, Deputy Head of the Serbian Delegation, and Mr. Serhiy Dvornyk, member of the Ukrainian Delegation, addressed the specific point of how the network can be involved in the Helsinki + 40 process. A number of concrete steps were identified.



Sonja Stojanovic, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy

Together, the meeting marked a fresh start for the OSCE academic network, an idea that has been raised again and again over the last 20 years, but has never before materialized. The network has attracted a lot of attention and interest and already comprises nearly 30 institutes. In addition, it enjoys the full support of the OSCE Secretary General and a rapidly increasing number of delegations.

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OSCE Workshop at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich

On 8 November 2013, Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, participated in a working meeting at the ETH on the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014. It started with an overview by the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, Ambassador Thomas Greminger, of the work program of Switzerland for the Chairmanship, followed by a courageous address by Christine Egerszegi-Obrist, the Head of the Swiss delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, who stressed the responsibility to work for stability in Europe. In a second

round, presentations followed on the Helsinki + 40 process (Lisa Watanabe, ETH), the perception of Russia (Hans-Henning Schröder, SWP) and conventional arms control in Europe (Wolfgang Zellner, CORE). A third round had a regional focus on the South Caucasus (Tobias Privitelli, Swiss OSCE Task Force), the Western Balkans (Franz-Lothar Altmann, University of Bucharest), and the fight against terrorism (Christian Bühlmann, Geneva Centre for Security Policy). The workshop, which started at 9.30 and closed at 16.00 sharp, showed what this new type of brief and concise meetings can achieve.

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CORE at the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting

At invitation of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, Halil Yurdakul Yiğitgüden, CORE Deputy Head, Frank Evers, participated as a speaker in the opening session of the annual OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM) in Vienna on 21 October 2013. In his speech, he focussed on the combined messages of the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension and the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century - both adopted in Maastricht in 2003. He spoke about the current competence and task of the OSCE to address politically cross-cutting economic and environmental threats and challenges in their genuine contexts, including in non-economic areas, such as the politico-military and the human dimensions.

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Workshop on “The Internal and External Aspects of the European Integration Policy of Ukraine” in Ukraine

On 17-18 October 2013, CORE, together with the Ukrainian European Studies Association and the National Academy of Public Administration, organized a two-day workshop on “The Internal and External Aspects of the European Integration Policy of Ukraine.”



*Participants of the workshop on
“The Internal and External Aspects of the European
Integration Policy of Ukraine.”*

The workshop gathered twenty Ukrainian EU experts from Ukraine’s different regions to discuss the country’s EU integration prospects, taking into account the internal political situation in Ukraine, its national identity, its participation in the OSCE, its cooperation with European and Euro-Atlantic partners, with the Russian Federation and other partners. The subject of the workshop was especially relevant due to the developments around the Association Agreement, the issue, which was supposed to be resolved by the end of November. The workshop attracted a lot of attention, and there were more than 50 guests, representing different leading Ukrainian institutes as well as the mass media. The workshop was organized thanks to the DAAD grant, “Support of Democracy in Ukraine”.

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OSCE Focus Conference, Geneva

The traditional OSCE Focus Conference in Geneva, this time on 11/12 October 2013, al-

most resembled a test run for the forthcoming Swiss OSCE Chairmanship 2014. In the presence of representatives of the Ukrainian (2013), Swiss (2014) and Serbian (2015) OSCE Chairmanships, a number of other OSCE ambassadors from Vienna, the OSCE Secretary General and the Director of ODIHR, almost the entire OSCE agenda was discussed from a tour d’horizon to human rights monitoring, arms control and transnational threats. Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, participated in the meeting and chaired a session on security sector reform in the OSCE region.

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Conference “Eurasian Security Community and the Role of the OSCE, Almaty, Kazakhstan

This conference, taking place on a warm late-summer day (3 October 2013) in Almaty and jointly organized by the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (KISI) and the OSCE Centre in Astana, was particularly interesting because it brought together participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine and Turkey with a handful of “Westerners”, thus giving the conference its specific flavor. Several participants engaged in a quite critical discussion on the OSCE’s Astana vision of a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security Community, stressing that this vision does not have any basis in the real world or focusing on the fact that the different parts of this huge region are only loosely connected and are actually drifting further apart. A new element was that a number of participants, particularly from KISI, argued on the basis of the ‘security complexes’ approach of the Copenhagen school. Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, gave an introduction to and moderated Session 1 titled “On Eurasian Security”.

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OSCE-Related Induction Course for Mongolia

Between 23 and 27 September 2013, CORE conducted an OSCE-Related Induction Course for Mongolia. The course addressed more than thirty representatives of some eighteen Mongolian government offices and academic institutions. It was commissioned by the MFA of Mongolia and sponsored by the OSCE Division of the German Federal Foreign Office. The Mongolian Institute for Strategic Studies hosted the training course at its conference facilities. Generous support from the OSCE Secretary General and helpful advice from the Director of the ODIHR enabled a particularly high quality course to be offered.



Participants of the OSCE-Related Induction Course for Mongolia

The course was opened by Mr Gombo Tsogtsaikhan, State Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. The twenty lectures and sessions comprising the course were held by a team of CORE experts in cooperation with officers of the OSCE Secretariat and a former high-level representative of the ODIHR. The atmosphere during the five-day course was open-minded. With a rating of 4.38 out of 5, the feedback from the Mongolian participants has been very positive.

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CORE at 8th Pan – European Conference on International Relations in Warsaw

On 21 September 2013, Anna Kreikemeyer presented a paper on “Power and Security in Eurasian Regional Organizations. The Example

of the Collective Treaty Security Organization (CSTO)” in the panel: “What Future for the Post-Soviet Space?” of the 8th Pan – European Conference on International Relations in Warsaw. In this paper she analyzes the barriers to cooperation in the CSTO behind the background of the security situation in the Ferghana Valley and on the Central Asian-Afghan border. In this region the CSTO is the regional organization in place, which is supposed to organize security among its members. However, up to now, it has not reacted efficiently. Kreikemeyer argues that neither an increased need for security nor a direct upgrading of the CSTO from the outside or from above will overcome this structural dysfunctionality. Greater efficiency cannot be expected from this Eurasian regional organization and security vacuums will persist for structural reasons. The CSTO is only an example for other organizations in the post-Soviet space in which the ruling authoritarian-bureaucratic elites of member states necessarily have to cultivate façade behavior behind the background of implementation deficits, due to their clientelistic power structures. In more detail the paper analyzes the examples of the difficulties in building up functioning collective rapid reaction forces and combating the drug trade.

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Staff News

Azamjon Isabaev has been a PhD candidate at the IFSH since October 1, 2013. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in International Relations at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in



Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 2007 and 2009 respectively. After that, Azamjon worked as research fellow at the Center for Political Studies

in Tashkent. In 2013 he received a DAAD-Scholarship for PhD-Studies at the IFSH. Among his major scientific interests are Regional security in Central Asia, as well as regional and international pipeline politics.

Within the framework of his thesis, Azamjon is investigating the question of stability and/or power relations in Central Asia after the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. His research question relates to the impact of the "Afghanistan-factor" on shaping the foreign and security policies of Central Asian states. The dissertation is designed to explore the perceptions by the states of Central Asia of an "Afghan-threat", as well as projections of those perceptions on their security agendas.

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Recent OSCE-relevant Publications

Anthony, Ian/Lina Grip, Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Europe, in: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (ed.), SIPRI Yearbook 2013, Oxford 2013, pp. 406-410.

Badalassi, Nicolas, Les accords d'Helsinki ou le triomphe des conceptions paneuropéennes du général de Gaulle, in: Vingtième siècle 3/2013 (No. 119), pp. 55-70.

International Crisis Group (Ed.), Kazakhstan: Waiting for a Change, Asia Report N°250, 30 September 2013, Brussels 2013.
<<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/central-asia/kazakhstan/250-kazakhstan-waiting-for-change.pdf>>.

Lazovski, Aleksandar/Aleksandar Dimishkovski, ODIHR's Activities Against Discriminatory Practices in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: A Case-Study of Roma Integration, in: Wolfgang Benedek (ed.), Euro-

pean Yearbook on Human Rights, Antwerp/Vienna/Graz 2013, pp. 357-365.

Tove H. Malloy (Ed.), Minority Issues in Europe: Rights, Concepts, Policy, Berlin 2013.

Wake, Douglas, Is There Life after Astana? Recent Developments in the OSCE's "Human Dimension" in Historical Perspective, in: Wolfgang Benedek (ed.), European Yearbook on Human Rights, Antwerp/Vienna/Graz 2013, pp. 337-355.

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