



## OSCE Academy in Bishkek: Academic Year 2004/2005 Begins



A new group of students for the new academic year at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek  
(Photo: AB)

On 6 September 2004 the director of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, **Dr. Tim Epkenhans**, inaugurated the academic year 2004/2005. Thirty students from nine countries will study together in the master's programme "Political Science (Central Asia)", which runs until June 2005. The OSCE Academy was established in December 2002. While 25 students finished a five-month pilot course, the current intake will be the first to receive a fully recognised master's degree in "Political Science (Central Asia)".

CORE is one of the four European partner institutes of the OSCE Academy. Three CORE researchers will teach on the master's programme just as on the pilot course. **Dr. Andrea Berg** was supervising the introductory module.

On the first day of the new academic year, the students were introduced to the master's program, the management of the OSCE Academy, and each other. In addition to obtaining prior academic qualifications, many of the students have experience working with international organizations, at universities or with local non-governmental organizations. Their interests range from international relations and conflict management to security building, human rights, ecotourism, and international aviation law. When asked to introduce themselves, many of the students underlined their intention to use the year at the Academy to develop ideas for regional co-operation and to improve security in the region.

Meanwhile, the OSCE Academy continues to conduct professional training courses on issues such as conflict management and regional security on a regular basis. The Academy has also started to develop small-scale research projects, which will be conducted together with local experts. Further information is available at: [www.osce-academy.net](http://www.osce-academy.net)

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## Jubilee Booklet: The OSCE Acquis and its Development

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the CSCE/OSCE, CORE will author and publish a booklet to be entitled "The OSCE Acquis and its Development". The booklet will reflect on the norms, principles and commitments that have been accumulated by the OSCE in its work of security building and co-operation in Europe, and which now constitute a key element of the continent's culture of peace building. The booklet will be published in early summer 2005. The project was agreed at two working meetings arranged by **Ambassador Alexi Härkönen** (Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE) and a number of heads and other high-ranking representatives of delegations of OSCE participating States with **Dr. Wolfgang Zellner** and **Dr. Frank Evers** in Vienna on 6 September 2004. As the initiator of the project, Ambassador Härkönen has the task of co-ordinating communication between CORE and the group of 16 interested delegations that have tasked CORE with producing the booklet.

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## Tolerance and Freedom of Religion



(Photo: OSCE/Alex Nitzsche)

As part of the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) held its annual meeting in Brussels. This year, **Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer** was invited to present CORE's FORB-related activities with regard to political Islam in Central Asia. She emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach based on the three pillars of research, dialogue, and education. In her view, participatory methods are needed in all three areas, i.e. local experts on the ground should first make suggestions as to which questions to ask, which measures to take and if and how external actors could be involved. The Advisory Panel places great importance on dialogue with Islam in the OSCE area.

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## Combating Extremism in Kazakhstan

On 1-2 July 2004, CORE researcher **Delia Rahmonova-Schwarz** participated in the round table "Combating Extremism" which took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Organized by ODIHR (Warsaw) and the OSCE Centre in Almaty, it covered a wide range of important issues, such as the emergence of political extremism in Central Asia, human rights and the fight against international terrorism, the role of international organizations and civil society in preventing extremism, and Kazakhstan's draft law on terrorism. In her presentation on assessing the threat of extremism, Ms Rahmonova-Schwarz underlined just how complex the situation is in various Central Asian states. She also informed the participants about some of her own relevant hands-on experiences in Tajikistan.

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### Fifth Pan-European Conference on International Relations

**Katrin Simhandl**, PhD candidate at CORE, participated in the Fifth Pan-European International Relations Conference which took place from 9–11 September in The Hague. The conference was organized by the Standing Group on International Relations of the European Consortium for Political Research (EPCR) and covered a broad range of ongoing debates in the field of International Relations. Her paper, which she gave within the conference section on dialogue in the analysis of international relations, considered the construction of Roma minorities in the discourse of EU institutions. The paper reveals how the discursive separation of "Western Gypsies and Travellers" from "Eastern Roma" enables a problematic situation to be contained within the boundaries of "Eastern Europe".

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### Little Focussed Response to New Challenges. Twelfth Meeting of the OSCE Economic Forum in Prague

The major annual event on economic and environmental issues within the OSCE convened from 31 May through 4 June 2004 in Prague. Senior CORE researcher **Prof. Kurt P. Tudyka** and CORE researcher **Dr. Frank Evers** took part as members of the German Delegation. The first meeting after the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension (Maastricht 2003) focused on the new challenges for building up institutional and human capacity in the field. In addition to the main agenda, a "Special Session on Integration Processes in the OSCE Region" highlighted specific interests in cross-regional co-operation on the part of a number of OSCE participating States, especially since EU enlargement in May 2004.



(Photo: OSCE/Mikhail Evstafiev)

Three side events were dedicated to "Promoting Entrepreneurship for Roma and Sinti", the "Anti-trafficking Programme", and "Promoting Co-operation with Mediterranean Partners in the OSCE". For the forum, the last represents a new form of promoting communication between the OSCE and its Partners and between the Partners themselves.

Although it had been decided in Maastricht to make the Forum a more effective enterprise, it proved once again to have serious deficiencies: Insufficient briefing of the keynote speakers hindered effective, focussed debates with the audience.

The twelve working-group sessions ran the risk of duplicating the efforts of the preparatory seminars in Yerevan, Dublin and Bishkek. The absence of coherent planning meant that few detailed suggestions for follow-up activities were generated. The Forum demonstrated how much of its capability to make political recommendations depends on the active involvement of and co-operation between the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office. It was therefore no surprise that corridor conversations often turned to the topic of whether a streamlined programme might not be better for the event.

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### Multi-ethnic Police Forces in the Balkans

On 15 June 2004, **Dr. Thorsten Stodiek** attended a meeting in Berlin of experts from the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) and members of the parliamentary party of the SPD, where he presented a report on the DSF-funded research project "The OSCE and the establishment of multi-ethnic police forces in the Balkans". The presentation and the discussion that followed centred on the

preliminary results from case studies undertaken in Kosovo, South Serbia and Macedonia, and on policy recommendations aimed at increasing the effectiveness of international police missions in the Balkans.

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### Multilateral Organizations in Central Asia

The Caucasus and Central Asia are gradually increasing in importance for Europe. A number of multilateral organizations have a considerable presence in those two regions of the former Soviet Union, and the states concerned participate in several international institutions. It is therefore most important to raise questions about the priorities of the various actors working in the Caucasus and Central Asia and the relationships and division of labour between them. The role of the OSCE and its relations to other multilateral organizations is particularly interesting. CORE researchers **Dr. Andrea Berg**, **Dr. Frank Evers** and **Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer** were just three of the many participants at the conference entitled "Multilateral Organizations in the Caucasus and Central Asia" held by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) on 10-11 June 2004 in Oslo. They presented papers on "Unintended Outcomes of Development Aid in Central Asia" (Berg), "The OSCE as an external Actor in democratization support" (Kreikemeyer), and "Utilizing EU enlargement for OSCE stability building in the South Caucasus" (Evers).

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### Round Table on Central Asia with Renault

On 4 June 2004, CORE Researcher **Dr. Andrea Berg** took part in a round table initiated by the Research Department of Renault, Paris. The purpose of the meeting, entitled "Central Asia Monitor", was to provide representatives of different departments within the company with inside knowledge on the five Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) plus neighbouring states such as Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. A number of experts on Central Asia took part in the meeting, including **Prof. Suha Bolukbasioglu** (Middle East Technical University, Ankara), **Prof. Ingeborg Baldauf** (Humboldt-University, Berlin), **Dr. Beate Eschment** (Martin-Luther-University, Halle), **Dr. Bayram Balci** (IFEA, Baku), and **Dr. Arnaud Ruffier** (EHESS, Paris). Dr. Andrea Berg provided input on economic and social factors in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. This is the first time that CORE has been involved in advising a private company. In the future, CORE hopes to strengthen its expertise in this regard.

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### Research Trips to Brussels and the Balkans

PhD student **Katrin Simhandl** conducted a series of interviews with members of the European Parliament and officials from the EU Commission in Brussels. She also participated in the Conference on Roma in an Enlarged European Union, which was organized by the Commission. The study visit was part of her research project on the discourse of EU institutions on Roma minorities. The interviews revealed insights into the ongoing debate on whether a strategy of mainstreaming, or one of targeting, would be the most appropriate approach for the future activities of the EU.

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PhD student **Friederike Gräper** interviewed representatives of international organizations in Pristina and Sarajevo about media-development strategies and techniques. The trips highlighted the different approaches taken by the international community in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo and underlined that, although lessons learned from Bosnia have been applied in Kosovo, central aspects of media development continue to require improvement.

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### Personnel: New Acting Deputy Head for CORE

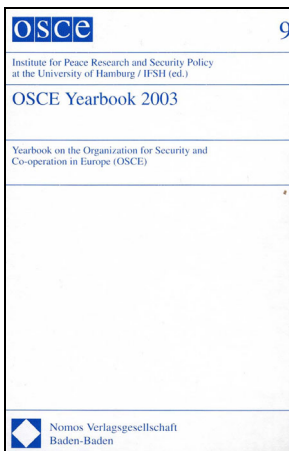


On 7 July 2004, **Dr. Frank Evers** was appointed Acting Deputy Head of CORE. Dr. Evers has particular responsibility for developing CORE's external relations with dialogue participants, academic partners, and users of CORE's consultancy services.

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### OSCE Yearbook 2003 – English edition now available

The OSCE Yearbook 2003 can be ordered from the publisher:



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