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### **Discussion with Ambassador Dr Hans-Georg Wieck on Western Democracy Assistance for Belarus**

On 14 March 2007 Ambassador Dr Hans-Georg Wieck delivered a speech at the IFSH on the necessary linkage of transition assistance to democracy promotion in Belarus. In previous decades, Ambassador Wieck had, inter alia, worked as German Ambassador to Moscow (1977-1980), as President of the Federal German Intelligence (BND; 1985-1990) and as Head of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus (1997-2001). Since 2004, he has been the Chairman of the NGO Human Rights in Belarus. Ambassador Wieck is very involved personally in encouraging western democracy promotion in Belarus. IFSH's co-operation with him began with consultancy services provided by CORE to the German Federal Foreign Office in 2006, when it was tasked with researching assistance approaches to civil society organizations and initiatives in Belarus.

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### **Joint IWEP/FES Conferences in Almaty**

On 13/14 March 2007, Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, participated in a conference on "Central Asia in 2007: Key Factors of Security" combined with a roundtable a day later on "European Union Policy Towards Central Asia: Security Issues and Different Approaches", both jointly organized by the Institute of World Economy and Policy and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Almaty / Kazakhstan. This timely conference, which took place just two weeks before the very first EU meeting with all five Central Asian foreign ministers, clearly showed the rising interest of the region's states in the Union, which, up to now has been only a secondary actor in Central Asia. Zellner gave a presentation on the different views of Europeans on Central Asia.

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## **CORE Capacity Building Workshops in Kazakhstan**

From 26 February until 2 March 2007, Anna Kreikemeyer and Delia Rahmonova-Schwarz participated in a first round of CORE Capacity Building Workshops with the OSCE Centre Almaty at five Kazakh universities (Al Farabi National University and the State University in Almaty, Eurasian University and the Diplomatic Academy in Astana, as well as the State University in Karaganda). Themes of their presentations were OSCE history, institutions, structures and field activities as well as reform problems and perspectives of the Organization. In addition to information on the OSCE's work in Kazakhstan presented by various members of the OSCE Centre Almaty, presentations on "Kazakhstan and the OSCE" were given by Tshingis Kaskeev, head of the OSCE department in the Kazakh foreign ministry and by Mara Gubaidullina, Faculty for International Relations at the Al Farabi National University.

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## **Paper Presentation at the 2007 ISA Conference in Chicago**

On 2 March 2007, Jens Narten, CORE researcher and doctoral candidate at the IFSH, participated in the international research panel on "Post-Conflict Spaces in International Relations: Localities" at the 2007 Conference of the International Studies Association (ISA) in Chicago, chaired by Mark Hoffman from the London School of Economics. Mr Narten presented the findings of his recent paper on "Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Local Ownership: A Case Study on External-Local Dynamics in Kosovo under the UN Interim Administration". This was followed by a lively panel discussion on the role of peacebuilding dilemmas, international actors and local spoiler groups, among other topics. The paper is currently under publication review and can be accessed and downloaded online at:

[http://archive.allacademic.com/one/isa/isa07/index.php?cmd=Download+Document&key=unpublished\\_manuscript&file\\_index=2&pop\\_up=true&no\\_click\\_key=true&attachment\\_style=attachment&PHPSESSID=0a1c31ee9898209432a22be7343d27f5](http://archive.allacademic.com/one/isa/isa07/index.php?cmd=Download+Document&key=unpublished_manuscript&file_index=2&pop_up=true&no_click_key=true&attachment_style=attachment&PHPSESSID=0a1c31ee9898209432a22be7343d27f5)

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## **Democracy Promotion Central Asia - European and US-American Experiences A Transatlantic Workshop at the Centre for OSCE Research**

After the end of the Cold War many representatives of Western states and institutions believed in a wave of democratization and in the idea of contributing from the outside to domestic peace and stability in transition countries. Central Asia, however, can be seen as an extraordinarily difficult region with respect to democracy promotion. In a workshop, on "Democracy Promotion Central Asia - European and US-American Experiences", organized by Anna Kreikemeyer and Wolfgang Zellner on 9 to 11 February 2007, more than 30 participants from science and policy took part, among them experts on democracy promotion as well as regional experts. Nearly half of the guests came from the US. The other participants were from Germany, Great Britain, Russia, and Kazakhstan. In her keynote speech Martha Brill Olcott (Carnegie Endowment, Washington) set the tone by underlining the necessity of thinking anew about perceptions, strategies and instruments of Western Central Asian policy. Panels dealt with different aspects of democracy promotion: elections and their observation by the OSCE, human rights protection, democratic governance and finally development perspectives of Central Asia between liberalisation and autocracy. In his concluding summary

Wolfgang Zellner welcomed the readiness of the participants to continue this dialogue in a broader framework with Central Asian partners.

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### **The Influence of the Ohrid Framework Agreement on the Stabilization of Macedonia**

Merle Vetterlein, CORE researcher and doctoral candidate at the IFSH has published an analysis (in German) of her field research results on the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) which was signed in 2001 to stabilize the interethnic situation in the Republic of Macedonia. The Agreement outlined a number of changes to the constitutional and policy order of the country. The core argument of this analysis is that the OFA has failed to create a stable multiethnic Macedonian state. This is shown by taking the educational policy, one of the contested political issues in the Republic, as an example for the continuing polarisation of the two main ethnic groups. The educational sector is marred by ethnic tensions and political controversy, leading to school segregation along ethnic lines, youth radicalisation, and escalating interethnic intolerance among communities. The systems are completely parallel and neither interethnic contact nor interethnic communication is possible in any part of the country. The paper of Merle Vetterlein, "Bildungspolitik als Schlüssel zur Konfliktlösung in Makedonien" [Education Policy as a key to conflict resolution in Macedonia], in: Sicherheit und Frieden (edited by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation) can be accessed and downloaded online at: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id/04270.pdf>.

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### **OSCE Yearbook 2006**

The 2006 edition of the OSCE Yearbook was published at the end of March. The twelfth edition opens with a review of the 2005 Slovenian Chairmanship and a discussion of recent attempts to reform the OSCE. The special focus is the Black Sea region. In the section on Conflict Prevention and Dispute Settlement, there are reviews of the work of the OSCE's field presences in Macedonia, Belarus, Moldova, and Azerbaijan. Other articles deal with the OSCE in Central Asia, and the prospects for peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Contributions relevant to the human dimension include a survey of the death penalty in the OSCE area, an inquiry into the interaction of OSCE standards and other systems of norms, as well as articles on Islam, Islamist extremism, and terrorism in the Northern Caucasus and Central Asia, and on Russian migration policy reforms. Contributions on efforts to build co-operative security include a discussion of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and the HCNM's Recommendations on Policing in Multi-Ethnic Societies as well as an overview of the OSCE's role in global counter-terrorism activities. The chapter on organizational aspects discusses the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the work of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media as well as the best means of promoting gender equality in the OSCE. Finally, reflections on the OSCE's external relations focus on the natural partnership between the European Union and the OSCE as well as the potential for co-operation between the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Organization.

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## **New CORE Publications**

*Narten, Jens*, In Need of Self-Reflection: Peacebuilding in Post-War Kosovo from a Systems-Analytical Perspective, in: *The Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations*, 1/2007, pp. 120-132.

*Schneider, Patricia/Tim J. Aristide Müller-Wolf*, The Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE. Working Methods, Procedures and Composition, Hamburg 2007, CORE Working Paper 16.  
[http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE\\_Working\\_Paper\\_16.pdf](http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/CORE_Working_Paper_16.pdf) (online only)

## **Recent OSCE-Relevant Publications**

*Bowring, Bill*, Ombudsman Institutions and Ethnic Conflict in Russia and Ukraine: A Failure of Local Institution-building?, in: Arie Bloed/Rainer Hofmann/Joseph Marko/James Mayall/John Packer/Marc Weller (Eds), *European Yearbook of Minority Issues*. Volume 4, 2004/5, Leiden 2006, pp. 269-294.

*Drzewicki, Krzysztof/Vincent de Graaf*, The Activities of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities: July 2004 - June 2005, in: Arie Bloed/Rainer Hofmann/Joseph Marko/James Mayall/John Packer/Marc Weller (Eds), *European Yearbook of Minority Issues*. Volume 4, 2004/5, Leiden 2006, pp. 595-613.

*Nikitin, Aleksandr Ivanovic*, Post-Soviet military-political integration. The Collective Security Treaty Organization and its relations with the EU and NATO, in: *The China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly* 1/2007, pp. 35- 47.  
[http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/CEF/Quarterly/February\\_2007/Nikitin.pdf](http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/CEF/Quarterly/February_2007/Nikitin.pdf)

*Sandole, Dennis J. D.*, *Peace and Security in the Postmodern World. The OSCE and Conflict Resolution*, London 2007.

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