

CORE Newsletter November 2005

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Lecturing at the EIUC, Venice

On 17 November 2005, the Acting Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, lectured at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice on "The Role of the OSCE in Eurasian Security" and led a seminar on "The OSCE's Crisis and Reform Debate" as part of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA).

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Research trip to the Southern Caucasus

From 22 September to 10 October 2005, CORE researcher Marietta S. Koenig visited the South Caucasus to collect material for her dissertation project on UNOMIG mediation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Based at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) in Tbilisi, Georgia, Ms. Koenig carried out interviews in Georgia and, with the help of UNOMIG transport facilities, in Abkhazia. The key focuses of Ms. Koenig's research during this trip were on whether and how UNOMIG's interventions have had an impact on the process of resolving the violent Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and on the factors that have determined the effectiveness of these interventions. She talked with UNOMIG personnel and the staff of other international organisations active in the conflict management process, including the EU, the OSCE Halo Trust, and the Red Cross, as well as with representatives of the Georgian government, the de facto authorities in Abkhazia, Abkhazian journalists, Georgian and Abkhazian political scientists, Georgian and Abkhazian NGO representatives, and international experts.

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Research Trip to Kiev and Moscow

In October 2005, CORE researcher Elena Kropatcheva visited Kiev and Moscow within the scope of her PhD Project "Russian Foreign Policy towards Ukraine as a Source of Contention with the West." While there, she interviewed leading Russian and Ukrainian experts and policymakers and met with the Director of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Kiev, Mr. Ralf Wachsmuth. Ms. Kropatcheva also attended two conferences in Moscow on Russian-German and Russian-EU relations, which were attended by important Russian and Western politicians. The trip provided her with a wealth of up-to-the-minute, first-hand information on Russian-Ukrainian-Western relations and on the "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine and its consequences.

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The Abkhazian view of UNOMIG mediation efforts

On 31 October 2005, Marietta S. Koenig delivered a lecture on the Abkhazian view of UNOMIG mediation efforts in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) in Tbilisi, Georgia. Ms. Koenig's findings were based on a week-long research trip to Abkhazia, during which she collected material for her dissertation project, which focuses on UNOMIG's intervention. In her lecture, she focused on three key contentious points affecting the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict management process: the return of IDPs and refugees to Abkhazia; security; and the future status of Abkhazia. The conflict parties have failed to come to an agreement on all three points, despite intensive UNOMIG mediation, thereby blocking any potential resolution of the conflict in the near future. The Abkhazian attitude towards UNOMIG generally remains one of indifference or disappointment. UNOMIG's political mandate, which acknowledges Georgia's territorial integrity *a priori*, including Abkhazia, makes UNOMIG unacceptable as a neutral mediator for the Abkhazian side. Most Abkhaz doubt UNOMIG's ability to influence the conflict resolution process as long as the official Georgian side is not willing to produce a draft of a possible conflict solution. A comprehensive settlement can only be reached by means of co-operation between the Abkhaz and the Georgians, with or without UNOMIG facilitation.

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EU and OSCE in Central Asia

Between 29 October 2005 and 6 November, 2005 CORE researcher Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer undertook a research trip to Almaty, Kazakhstan, where she conducted interviews with the heads and other staff of both the OSCE Centre and the EU Delegation. The focus of her interest was a comparison between OSCE and EU projects in Central Asia. Both organizations are active at a local level, but the settings of their work are quite different. The small OSCE centres in Central Asia typically undertake projects that bring together governments and civil society to help the states of the region to fulfil their OSCE commitments. The EU has a different, more strategic and programmatic, approach. In projects such as Technical Assistance for the CIS (TACIS) or the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), it works with either governmental or civil society

partners in a far more structured way. The results of the comparison will be published in a study for the German Foreign Ministry.

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Conference at swisspeace

On 8. November Fausta Simaityte participated in the swisspeace Annual Conference 2005 "Searching for Peace in Chechnya – Swiss Initiatives and Experiences".

The main focus lay on the potential role of external actors in this particular conflict. The question was asked as to whether the West should pursue political or humanitarian objectives in Chechnya. According to the Kremlin's logic, there is no distinction between these activities. The Council of Europe's rapporteur on Chechnya, Andreas Gross, stressed the Russian side's lack of commitment, while admitting that neither the Russian Federation nor "the West" has a strategy towards the Chechen conflict. Two Russian experts on the Northern Caucasus, Alexei Malashenko and Anna Matveeva, drew a pessimistic picture of the region's future: a bleak scenario in which a Caucasian revolution is a real possibility. According to Dr. Malashenko, if the West wants to play a role of a mediator, it needs to find an advocate in Russia and a link to Chechen society. This, however, must be preceded by the creation of an accurate "conflict map" as well as actors network analysis on both Chechnya and Russia.

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ISS Seminar "OSCE: Quo Vadis?"

On 14 November 2005, the Acting Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, participated in a seminar entitled "OSCE: Quo Vadis?", organized by the EU Institute for Security Studies. Dr Zellner delivered one of the three opening statements on "The OSCE after 30 Years: Achievements and Problems". The seminar focused in particular on enlarging EU-OSCE co-operation.

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Lecture by CORE and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Hamburg

Elena Kropatcheva and Marietta König, CORE PhD research fellows and Friedrich Naumann Foundation scholarship holders, organized and moderated a public lecture event on "The 'Colour Revolutions' in Georgia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan: More Democracy in the CIS region?" Held in Hamburg on 23 November 2005, the event was sponsored by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in co-operation with CORE. Following presentations by Ms. Kropatcheva on the "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine and by Ms. König on the "Rose Revolution" in Georgia, the moderators discussed the "Tulip Revolution" in Uzbekistan and the parliamentary election in Azerbaijan with their guest speakers: Prof. Eva-Maria Auch, an expert on Oriental and Caucasian Studies and the History of Eastern Europe, and Dr. Beate Eschment, an expert on Central Asia and Oriental Studies.

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Human Security in Central Asia

On 1-2 December 2005, CORE researcher Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer contributed to the experts meeting on "The Effects of Development Co-operation with Central Asia on Crisis Prevention" of the German Ministry of Economic Co-operation and Development in Bonn. In her presentation on "Human Security in Central Asia – Possibilities and Barriers", she emphasized the "governance" dilemma confronting development co-operation in Central Asia. Any co-operation with authoritarian and corrupt regimes could strengthen their weak legitimacy and play into the hands of elites with particular interests rather than supporting the human security of the people. In her conclusion, Dr. Kreikemeyer recommended a greater emphasis on *political* questions and increased use of conditionality in state-level relations, and a more participatory approach toward the population in Central Asia.

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Latest Publications by CORE Members

Evers, Frank/Martin Kahl/Wolfgang Zellner, The Culture of Dialogue. The OSCE Acquis 30 Years after Helsinki, Hamburg 2005.

http://www.core-hamburg.de/documents/30Years_OSCE_Booklet

Richter, Solveig, Kroatien: Zitterpartie nach Europa. Zwischen EU-Konditionalität und politischen Manövern, in: Südosteuropa Mitteilungen, 45: 6, 2005, forthcoming.

Stodiek, Thorsten, Der Aufbau multiethnischer demokratischer Polizeien auf dem südwestlichen Balkan, in: Martin H. W. Möllers/Robert Chr. van Ooyen (eds), Jahrbuch öffentliche Sicherheit 2004/2005, Frankfurt am Main 2005, pp. 427-440.

Zellner, Wolfgang, Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa (OSZE), in: Wolfgang W. Mickel/Jan Bergmann (Eds.), Handlexikon der Europäischen Union, Stuttgart 2005, pp. 581-584.

Zellner, Wolfgang, Russia and the OSCE: From High Hopes to Disillusionment, in: Cambridge Review of International Affairs 3/2005, pp. 389-402.

Recent OSCE Relevant Publications

Ahrens, Geert-Hinrich, Die Präsidentschaftswahlen in der Ukraine. Die schwierige Mission der OSZE/ODIHR-Wahlbeobachter (August 2004 bis Januar 2005), ZEI Discussion Paper C151, Bonn 2005.

Fokine, Yuri/Vladimir Chizhov/Yuri Kashlev/Oleg Grinevskii/Andrei Zagorskii/Alois Peterle/Vsevolod Sofinskii/Andrej Benedejcic/Aleksandr Grushko/Heikki Talvitie/Martin Vukovic/Aleksandr Gorelik, Helsinki 30 Years Later (Round Table Discussion), in: International Affairs (Moscow) 5/2005, pp. 184-200.

Gheballi, Victor-Yves, Growing Pains at the OSCE: The Rise and Fall of Russia's Pan-European Expectations, in: Cambridge Review of International Affairs 3/2005, pp. 375-388.

Grinevskij, Oleg A., Perelom. Ot Brežneva k Gorbačovu, Moscow, 2004.

Hækkerup, Hans, Russia, the OSCE and Post-Cold-War European Security Introduction, in: Cambridge Review of International Affairs 3/2005, pp. 371-373.

International Crisis Group (ed.), Azerbaijan's 2005 Elections: Lost Opportunity, Europe Briefing N°40, Baku/Brussels, 2005.

http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/europe/caucasus/b040_azerbaijan_s_2005_elections_lost_opportunity.pdf