



Institute for Peace Research and  
Security Policy at the University  
of Hamburg



## **CORE Central Asia Working Group**

### **Research – Consultancy – Mediation**

Central Asia figures high on CORE's agenda, and the Centre has had a dedicated Central Asia Working Group since the end of 2002. CORE carries out a variety of activities related to Central Asia, including research, mediation and consulting projects.

Our team comprises six in-house researchers whose academic backgrounds range from Political Science and Economics, to Post-Soviet, Cultural and Islamic Studies. Two of them have worked in OSCE Centres in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan). We strive to communicate with our Central Asian partners in their local languages. All of us speak Russian and between us we cover all the Central Asian languages.

We are currently pursuing six research, consultancy and mediation projects in all the Central Asian states except Turkmenistan. One of our principles for co-operation is to follow a participatory approach. We try to learn as much as possible from our local experts and prefer in-depth exchanges in local meetings. Most of our research, mediation and consulting activities take place in the region, whether these take the form of round tables with our Tajik project partners, a workshop on democratisation in Kazakhstan or experts' meetings, as are held in every country.

In our research, we work closely with seven local experts with a range of academic and NGO backgrounds. In the area of mediation, we also co-operate with leading politicians and religious leaders. Fellowships are provided to encourage research fellows from Central Asia to perform internships in Hamburg. Since 2003, we have also been active in academic teaching and the supervision of Central Asian doctoral students.

## Research

### **Security through Democratisation?**

#### **A Theoretically Based Analysis of Security-Related Democratisation Efforts Made by the OSCE in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan (2003-2004)**

The CORE research project "Security through Democratisation?" is aimed at analysing the role of the OSCE as an external actor in the liberalisation and democratisation processes of the post-soviet states Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. As the OSCE makes a unique normative connection between the human dimension and security, the key question is: In which way do OSCE-democratisation measures contribute to maintaining and strengthening stability and security? Together with six local co-operation partners, the CORE researchers Dr. Andrea Berg and Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer are studying various problems of democratisation. Their results will be published in 2005.

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### **Transnational Migration in Central Eurasia: A Cross-national Study on Seasonal Migrants from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in Kazakhstan and Russia**

For more than a decade, the former Soviet Union has been experiencing waves of migration from the less developed countries of the CIS to the more economically privileged Russia and Kazakhstan. The flow of migrants from Central Asia increased especially strongly at the end of 1990s. The research project on migration to be conducted at CORE in 2005-2007 aims to analyse the migration of seasonal workers from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan using an innovative approach known as transnational migration. Besides focusing on aspects related to the security policies of Central Asian states, this project will comprehensively research the role of international organisations and NGOs and the impact of transnational migration on the process of transformation.

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### **Performance Records of UN and OSCE Field Missions: The Cases of Georgia, Kosovo, the FYR of Macedonia and Tajikistan (2002-2004)**

During the past decade, over 20 multi-functional UN peacekeeping missions and OSCE missions have been deployed. They are the most important instruments currently available to international actors for crisis prevention and conflict management. However, there is a real discrepancy between the political importance of missions and the academic research that has been carried out on this innovative instrument. This project, which is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, is an attempt to close the current gap. The central questions can be determined as follows:

What are the organisational characteristics of missions and their parent organisations? To what extent do these explain differences in the performance of UN and OSCE missions?

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### **Central Asia in the OSCE Yearbook**

The OSCE Yearbook, which has been published in German by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg/IFSH since 1995, and in English and Russian since 1996, began to report regularly on Central Asia in 1996 with articles on Kyrgyzstan (Omar A. Sultanov) and Uzbekistan (Alois Reznik). Since then, it has contained contributions on the OSCE Mission to Tajikistan (Arne C. Seifert, 1999, and Lena Jonson, 2002), the OSCE Central Asia Liaison Office (Thomas Dorenwendt, 1999), Turkmenistan and the OSCE (Bess Brown, 2000), conflict constellations in Central Asia (Rainer Hermann, 2001), political Islam in Kyrgyzstan (Anara Tabyshalieva, 2002), Uzbekistan's strategic approach to security and stability in Central Asia (Ravshan M. Alimov, 2002) and – most recently – Kazakhstan and the OSCE (Zhanylzhan Dzhunusova, 2003). Central Asia was the special focus of the 2000 Yearbook, which contained articles by Wilhelm Höynck on "A Sustainable Stabilization Policy in and for Central Asia", Arne C. Seifert on "The OSCE and Islam" and Sukhrob Sharipov on "Security through Democratisation" from a Tajik perspective.

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### **Consultancy**

#### **Consultancy and Lobbying for the OSCE Academy in Bishkek**

Acting at the request of the German MFA, CORE has assisted in establishing the OSCE Academy in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). CORE took the lead in drafting the Academy's overall design and the schedule of its one-year master's programme in "Political Science (Central Asia)". From the very beginning, CORE was involved in the work of the Academy's Advisory Board, Curriculum Development Group and Admission Commission. CORE advises the Academy's Board of Trustees and Directorship and undertakes some of the Academy's teaching activities. CORE has also assisted in selecting the very first teaching staff and students. CORE sees its efforts as a good example of how it can place its academic and Central Asia competencies at the disposal of OSCE headquarters and OSCE participating States.

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## **Consultancy for the CiO on Educational Issues in Central Asia**

The Bulgarian Chairmanship-in-Office of the OSCE has identified education as a priority for the organisation's activities in the year 2004. In the Central Asian region, in particular, it is believed that modern education systems with high standards can help foster stability and security and provide a further impetus towards achieving OSCE standards and ensuring full compliance with the organisation's principles.

CORE is advising the Bulgarian Chairmanship on questions of education in Central Asia. It contributed to the success of a ministerial conference on April 5, 2004, in Tashkent entitled "Education as an investment in the Future" with two food-for-thought papers and a keynote speech by Dr. Andrea Berg entitled "Challenges to education systems in Central Asia". The Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Solomon Passy, offered to follow up the discussions held during this conference at a future event in Bulgaria, on the invitation of the Bulgarian Minister of Education.

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## **Mediation**

### **Peace-Building Dialogue between Secular and Islamist Forces in Tajikistan**

This project, funded by the German MFA since 2001 and jointly by the German and Swiss MFAs since 2003, aims to create a common forum for the representatives of the secular government and political Islam as a follow-up to the peace process, which officially ended in 2000. The project is co-ordinated by Dr. Arne Seifert, who worked in the OSCE mission in Tajikistan during the final years of the peace process. He is also the mediator and the consultant on the project. The participants in the dialogue are mainly former members of the Commission for National Reconciliation who were involved in the post civil-war compromise process. At the end of 2003, formerly conflicting secular and Islamic dialogue parties agreed on a document entitled "Confidence Building Measures" consisting of principles of peaceful coexistence.

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