



## CORE NEWS

Summer/Autumn 2008

### **Joint CORE/MGIMO Workshop in Moscow**

On 30 September 2008, CORE and the Center for War and Peace Studies at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) jointly organized a workshop on “Russia and the European Union: Disputes and Common Ground within the OSCE and Beyond”. The event, which was attended by scientists as well as by representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EU Delegation and the German Embassy in Moscow, was part of a project aimed at improving the dialogue between the EU States and the Russian Federation within the framework of the OSCE. The most disputed question in the very frank discussion was in what way, against the background of the recent events in Georgia, cooperation can be continued, political damage limited and a new framework for co-operative security in Europe created.

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### **CORE's Second International Central Asia Conference**

From 15 -17 September 2008, CORE's second International Central Asia Conference “Co-operation with Central Asia - The Potential of the EU's Central Asia Strategy” took place in co-operation with the Protestant Academy in Loccum, organized by Dr Anna Kreikemeyer and Dr Wolfgang Zellner together with Dr Corinna Hauswedell from the Loccum Academy. The conference combined an analysis of the Central Asian region's cooperation problems with a critical review of the



implementation of the 2007 EU Strategy for Central Asia. Top-level political and academic experts discussed the potential for cooperation currently coming to the fore in the areas of education and science including, for example, environmentally-oriented water management and intercultural and interreligious dialogues. In a lessons learnt forum, the conference provided opportunities to share information and exchange views on existing or completed cooperation projects with Central-Asian partners. The conference organizers succeeded in bringing together more than 100 participants including 32 panelists, among them twelve from all five Central Asian states.

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### **PSIO Focus Conference „OSCE Future Operations and Leadership“(Geneva)**

On 12/13 September 2008, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, Head of CORE, participated in the PSIO Focus Conference „OSCE Future Operations and Leadership“ and contributed to “The Status of OSCE Field Operations”. As every year, this conference, organized by the Program for the Study of International Organizations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, brought scientists, diplomats and OSCE practitioners together who discussed a broad range of questions from the current situation of the OSCE to the programmatic approaches of the forthcoming Chairmanships. Of course, the most debated issues were the recent events in Georgia and the question of what this means for the future of the OSCE.

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### **OSCE Training for Kazakh Diplomats**

From 2-28 June 2008, CORE conducted its second OSCE-related training course for members of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry. This course offers specific know-how on the duties of the OSCE chairmanship. Altogether in 2007 and 2008 CORE successfully trained 15



young diplomats from the Kazakh Foreign Ministry, most of them will be members of the future Kazakh CiO task force. Future OSCE chairmanship countries have already announced their interest in this CORE training program.

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## **German edition of the OSCE Yearbook 2007 published**

The German edition of the OSCE Yearbook 2007 will be published this autumn. Issues analysed in depth include the effects of the Kosovo status negotiations on Russian-EU relations and the *de facto* states in the post-Soviet space and the consequences of Russia's suspension of the CFE treaty. The special focus section on tolerance and non-discrimination includes contributions by Ambassador Dieter Boden, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Ömür Orhun, and the Secretary General of the OSCE, Marc Perrin de Brichambaut. All the texts included in that section have been made available by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights via its TANDIS portal (<http://tandis.odhr.pl>). Thanks to an agreement with the NOMOS publishing house, the full texts of all but the latest editions of the OSCE Yearbooks are also available for download in English and German on the CORE website.

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## **Seminar “Arms Control in Crisis Situations” at the RACVIAC Centre, Croatia**

On 10 and 11 July 2008, the German Federal Foreign Office together with the RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation in Zagreb / Croatia organized a seminar on “Arms Control in Crisis Situation” within the framework of the Berlin Seminars on Conventional Arms Control. For the middle of the holiday season, the seminar was very well attended with about 60 participants from 28 States. Dr Wolfgang Zellner, the Head of CORE, gave a presentation on “Chances and Limits of Arms Control in Regional Conflict Situations: Success or Failure?”, mainly discussing experiences with some OSCE instruments as well as within the framework of UN peacekeeping operations. After two days of lively debate, almost all participants agreed that they wanted to return soon to the hospitable RACVIAC centre to continue discussions.

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## **CORE Head Held Keynote Speech at OSCE Annual Security Review Conference**

The Head of CORE, Dr Wolfgang Zellner, held a keynote speech during Working Session I, “Transnational Challenges to Security in the OSCE Area”, at the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference in Vienna on 1 and 2 July 2008. Zellner stressed that the OSCE States should consider reviving the topic of thematic missions as an instrument for addressing transnational challenges and threats. In addition, he called upon the OSCE to make Central Asia a strategic priority. These positions were taken up by some delegations in the plenary debate as well as in informal discussions. Altogether, the conference was widely perceived as better structured and more interesting than last year's, which unfortunately also reflects the fact that disputes and tensions have increased within the OSCE area.

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## New Staff Members

In September 2008, **Elena Kulipanova** joined CORE/IFSH as a PhD candidate. She studied International Relations in Almaty and European Studies and Intercultural Communication in Fulda. In 2007 she received a Master's Degree in Peace and Security Studies (M.P.S.) from the IFSH at the University of Hamburg. Since 2007 Elena Kulipanova has also been a steering committee member of the M.P.S. Alumni Society at the IFSH. During her stay at CORE, she will write a PhD thesis on "Multilateral cooperation in and with Central Asia: Reciprocal adaptation and learning processes in cooperation relations between international institutions (UNDP, EU, ADB) and Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)", funded by DAAD and the Open Society Institute (OSI).



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In October 2008, **Sebastian Schiek** joined the CORE/IFSH as a PhD candidate. He studied Political Science at the Free University Berlin where he received his Diploma Degree in 2005. In 2007 and 2008 he conducted field research in Kazakhstan and was visiting lecturer at the German Kazakh University in Almaty. He received a one-year scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and now holds a scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. At CORE he will write a PhD thesis on the impact of informal institutions on Kazakh cooperation policy with international organisations. His research interests include state and bureaucracy as well as ethnicity and nationality in Central Asia. Schiek is a member of the Central Eurasia Studies Society (CESS), the German Association for East European Studies and the German Kazakh Society.



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## **Imprint**

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