



Autumn 2017

CORE Conducts an International Workshop on Civil Radicalization Prevention in Almaty, Kazakhstan

While religious radicalization and extremism can be observed in almost all parts of the OSCE area, their specific root causes and features differ significantly. In Central Asia, the currently dominant debate is on how to counter foreign Islamist groups and their potential to convert a large segment of the population to their interpretation of Islam. Groups from the Near- and Middle East and South West Asia, so the argument goes, could gain sustained influence.

In cooperation with the Kazakh-German University, CORE conducted an international work-



The participants at the roundtable in Almaty

shop on this subject titled “Civilian Prevention of Radicalization in Central Asia” in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 24 October 2017. This was the concluding meeting of a project that aimed to analyze sources of and instruments to prevent religious radicalization in the three Central Asian states, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and

New IFSH Director

Prof. Dr. Ursula Schröder

On 1 October 2017, Prof. Dr. Ursula Schröder, took over the leadership of the IFSH as Scientific Director. Simultaneously, she took up the position as Professor for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. Dr. Schröder was most recently Professor for International Security Policy at the Free University of Berlin where she researched questions on state structure and reforms of the security sector in crisis areas. She studied in Berlin and Aberystwyth (Wales) and received her doctoral degree from the European University Institute in Florence.

Prof. Schröder held her first lecture at the University of Hamburg on the topic of “The Role of Peace and Security Studies in Politics and Society” on the occasion of the presentation of diplomas to the graduates of the 15th class and the welcoming of the 16th class of the Master’s Degree Program ‘Peace and Security’ on 11 October 2017.

A detailed profile of the new IFSH Director will appear in the beginning of December in the IFSH newsletter ifsh news 122.

4th Interdisciplinary Central Asia Day at IFSH on

**“Regimes in Central Asia: Institutional
Adaption, Political Continuity?”**

17 November 2017, 09:30, IFSH,
Beim Schlump 83, 20144 Hamburg,
2nd floor, room 023

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Tajikistan. Throughout the year, the project had brought together experts from Moscow, Bishkek and Osh (Kyrgyzstan), Almaty (Kazakhstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan) - all in all, about eighty governmental officials from offices overseeing religious affairs and the security apparatus, scholars, Islamic clerics and NGO representatives. The project included extensive research trips, interviews and a series of seven roundtables hosted by CORE's project partners in their cities. It greatly benefitted from CORE's long-standing networking in Central Asia.

The aim of the Almaty meeting on 24 October 2017 was to summarize the outcome of these activities now and to identify subject areas that are worth being pursued in 2018. For that purpose, the fourteen workshop participants adopted a final paper on their common findings and intentions called "Memorandum on the Prevention of Religious Radicalization in Central Asia 'Responsibility of the State and Religions for Civil Peace'".

In this memorandum, they note that the precise scope of extremism in Central Asia is unknown and that much of what the Central Asian governments do to counter radicalization is based on a worst-case scenario. With respect to root causes, the workshop participants note that radicalization in the Islamic context affects the most varied social groups and is definitely not only found in the fringe groups of society. Radical groups capitalize on dissatisfaction with the general living conditions, not least with poor government leadership, education, the memory of stability and social recognition of the Soviet years and the lack of vocational and social perspectives. The coupling of this dissatisfaction with calls for a life under strict Islamic rules is already well under way.

The workshop participants discussed the particular role that the *Hanafi Madhhab* plays for the development of national identities, societal consolidation and civil peace. The *Hanafi Madhhab* is the traditional Islamic school of law in the region. Its theological and secular positioning and judgments are greatly appreciated in the Islamic world, but meet opposition from a number of influential law schools outside the

region. Foreign radical preachers try to proselytize *Hanafi* believers, who are often not well acquainted with Islamic sacred texts, theological discourses and traditions. Moreover, the *Hanafi Madhhab* represents the Islamic school of law in an overall weak economic region and is not really well-off materially. Furthermore, the traditional centers of *Hanafi* theology are located in Bukhara and Tashkent, situated in today's Uzbekistan. Youth and clerics seeking religious education have stopped travelling there and increasingly favor educational institutions in the Middle East. These matters, according to the workshop participants, call, *inter alia*, for significant conclusions on the sphere of education concerned with Islam. This is one of the central findings of the project.

Another field of discussion was the role women play in radicalization prevention. Also in Muslim views, trends of discrimination against women are perceived in current religious life, especially in the field of religious education and the active participation of women and girls in public life at all levels of society. This can lead to susceptibility to radical flows of Islam, which are increasingly developing a subtle gender-specific approach in recruitment.

The project made a contribution to coming to a more elaborate understanding of these matters. It also served to help establish or develop contacts between governmental, Muslim and academic representatives at national and regional levels. The Almaty workshop and the entire project on "Civil Radicalization Prevention in Central Asia" were commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office.

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The majority of the Central Asian states are consolidated authoritarian regimes with only distant prospects for democratization. However, regardless of regime type, Central Asian regimes are confronted with a number of internal and external challenges. These challenges range from economic crises and the associated social problems to migration, radicalization or political succession to a changing foreign policy environment in the region. The 4th Central Asia Day focuses on the following questions: How do governments of Central Asia handle these challenges and use the opportunities that come with them? Where are proven strategies modernized and where do we see unexpected reactions and genuine political innovation?

IFSH invites all interested scholars of Central Asia to discuss these and related issues

Further information online at

<https://ifsh.de/file-IFSH/IFSH/pdf/News/CfP_4._Zentralasientag_Hamburg.pdf>.

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Civil Radicalization Prevention in Tajikistan

CORE conducts Roundtable in Dushanbe

Preventing religious radicalization is a highly sensitive issue at the top of the political agenda in Tajikistan. CORE and the Center for Islamic Studies, under the President of Tajikistan, invited about 20 governmental officials, scientists and NGO representatives to a joint brainstorming meeting on this subject. The current renaissance of Islam in Tajikistan is a strong element of state-building and the development of the country's national identity. At the same time, as in the neighboring countries, Tajikistan's Muslim religious communities see themselves in an intense competition with other Islamic schools over Islam's correct contemporary interpretation. Religious issues also play a dominant role in discussions about domestic and national

security interests in Tajikistan, particularly in the context of the prevention of radicalization.

In an open-minded dialogue, participants shared their views on these issues, the religious situation in the country, and the government's



The participants at the roundtable in Dushanbe

current religious policy. Furthermore, they discussed forms and tendencies of religious radicalization in the country and factors of the domestic social and political situation that clearly nourish these developments. Particular attention was given to the interests of various state actors and confessional organizations from outside the region and their influence on Central Asia. The roundtable concluded with an exchange on German and Tajik experiences with the prevention of religious radicalism through civilian means and ways to include relevant governmental and non-governmental players into the respective efforts.

The Tajik participants expressed a lively interest in learning more about the traditional separation of state and religion in German approaches to regulate the relationship between the secular state and religious organizations, and how this relationship was particularly challenged by mass migration and the integration of migrants and refugees of diverse religious backgrounds. The roundtable was complemented by a number of expert interviews.

The event in Dushanbe was the sixth in a series of roundtables that CORE has conducted in the course of this year in Moscow, Bishkek and Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and Almaty (Kazakhstan, see above). They are part of a project on "Civil Radicalization Prevention in Central Asia" commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The members of the team working at CORE on this project are Frank Evers, Jeannette Klötzer, Arne Seifert and Esther Somfalvy.

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Islam in the Modern Secular State

CORE participates in governmental conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

At the invitation of the State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, CORE's Central Asia Adviser, Arne C. Seifert, attended a conference on the above topic in Bishkek.

In his introductory speech, President Atambayev, the initiator and patron of the conference, spoke of new challenges for the secular state in an increasingly religious, Islam-oriented society. By its tenor, his speech highlighted,



Arne C. Seifert (3rd from right) at his presentation

inter alia, the following accents: The secular state must gain its strength in and from its ability to keep the society in balance even under changing religious and social conditions. He called for tolerance and dialogue between and within different religious currents, including that of Islam. He called for "prudent and reasonable" support for a "rational Islam". With its representatives, the state must strive "in a democratic way for consensus". The President proposed to the participants that an "international basis of dialogue" be established in Kyrgyzstan.

The Kyrgyz organizers emphasized the international dimension of the problems to be dealt with by the broad regional and foreign presence of participants, including the Foreign Minister of India, the Minister of Culture of Egypt, a representative of the Belgian Parliament, the Head of the EU Representation for Central Asia, OSCE, UNDP, heads of authorities on religious and national minorities affairs, including those of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, all in all, experts from 19 countries. The participants underlined their interest in open, creative treatment of the problem. Arne C. Seifert contributed two presentations on the topics "Relations between the Secular State and Religion in a German Perspective" and "What Could Modernity of Secular Islamic Relations be in a Central Asian Secular State with a Muslim Majority Population?"

In conclusion, the participants supported a draft declaration for the inauguration of an international dialogue platform in Bishkek, which would address aspects, such as the place and role of Islam in the modern state, the promotion of the interaction of state and religion, and interreligious dialogue.

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Eurasia Peace Studies Exchange Network Workshop in Tbilisi



IFSH student participants in Tbilisi
(f.l.t.r.) Diana Alpysbaeva, Biniyam Yemane Berihu,
Yaiza Rojas Matas

Eurasia as a region (post-Soviet space and neighboring countries) has gained visibility on the international agenda. Being in a crucible betwixt and between the East and the West, the developments in this region have effects far beyond its borders. Through cooperation and exchange in the *Eurasia Peace Studies Exchange Network*, comprising the partner institutions of the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) in Bishkek, the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) at the University of Tromsø, Ilia State University in Tbilisi, the State Universities in Odessa and Kiev as well as IFSH Hamburg, the network tries to manage diversity by fostering dialogue on international and comparative perspectives within a peace studies framework. Furthermore, the aim is to establish an arena for mutual exchange of knowledge and competence among all six involved EPSE institutions.

At its start-up meeting in April 2017, the network, which is funded for 2017-2019 by the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU), created a stable platform for Europe/Eurasia and intra-Eurasian exchange. From 23-28 October 2017, the first of three intensive workshops gathered students, staff and practitioners from different institutions at Ilia State University in Tbilisi. Eleven academic teachers and fifteen PhD students, graduates and master's students from twelve countries discussed together perspectives for peace research. For the IFSH, Anna Kreikemeyer gave a lecture on *Peace Research in Europe and Eurasia. Between Double Securitization, Normative Divides and Trans-local Challenges*. Diana Alpysbaeva, Yaiza Rojas Matas and Biniam Yemane Berihu, graduates from the 2016/2017 master program, participated in the multinational group of students from eleven countries. The second EPSE coordination meeting is planned for March 2018 at IFSH in Hamburg.

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CORE at Workshop on OSCE Economic and Environmental Confidence-Building in Vienna



*The participants of the workshop in Vienna
(Photo OSCE, Salko Agovic)*

The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions conducted a second workshop on “OSCE Confidence-Building in the Economic and Environmental Dimension” at OSCE headquarters in Vienna, on 10 October 2017. The event was part of a project that aims to assess the role economic and environmental matters could play to overcome distrust in the relations between the West and Russia. Various OSCE participating States qualify these relations now as worrisome geopolitical and geo-economical rivalry. The participants of the workshop had, therefore, given themselves the task of conceptualizing new confidence-building functions and instruments of the OSCE, which has not been done so far for the OSCE’s second basket - the field of economic and environmental affairs.

The workshop was attended by representatives of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities as well as a dozen scholars of the OSCE Network. Wolfgang Zellner, in his capacity as OSCE Network Coordinator, and Frank Evers represented CORE at the event. The overall project is sponsored by the delegations of Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Slovakia to the OSCE, the University of Birmingham and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Vienna. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has the lead in the

collective drafting of the project's final report that will be presented to the OSCE in December 2017.

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Central Asia Country Day of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Azam Isabaev attended a "Central Asia" Workshop organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on 19-20 September 2017 in Bonn. The workshop gathered scholars and practitioners who work with and in Central Asian states in the areas of research, education, and development. The aims of the workshop were to facilitate networking amongst researchers as well as to discuss the prospects of further developing the research cooperation between German and Central Asian researchers. The latter is in line with the federal government's new strategy of internationalization of education, which seeks to foster international collaboration in the areas of education, research and innovation.

The two-day workshop allowed for an active exchange of views and experiences to explore possibilities for improving research collaboration with Central Asian partners. Attendees stressed, *inter alia*, that facilitation of long-term research projects could lead to durable institutional cooperation. Within its program to intensify the research collaboration with Central Asian partners, BMBF also informed the participants about its plans to open a representation office in Central Asia.

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The Road to the Charter of Paris (1990) OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions Workshop in Paris

On 4-5 September 2017, 25 members of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions met in Paris with historians and retired diplomats to discuss the negotiations that led to the CSCE Charter of Paris (1990). The aim was to identify the various interests and ideas that were incorporated into the Char-



The participants of the workshop in Paris

ter, which may continue to be represented from different perspectives even today. The workshop was part of the Network project "The Road to the Charter of Paris. Historical Narratives and Lessons for the OSCE Today", which aims to contribute to a better shared understanding of divergent security policy narratives. Among the participants were the former Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatolii Adamishin, the former OSCE Secretary General Wilhelm Höynck, the former Polish Foreign Minister Adam Daniel Rotfeld and the ambassadors Marianne von Grünigen (Switzerland), William H. Hill and John J. Maresca (USA), Pierre Morel (France), Stefan Lehne (Austria), Markku Reimaa (Finland) and Jerzy M. Nowak (Poland). CORE was represented by its Head, Wolfgang Zellner, and Deputy Head, Frank Evers.

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Recent OSCE Relevant Publications

Wolfgang Zellner (Ed.), *Security Narratives in Europe. A Wide Range of Views*, Series Demokratie, Sicherheit, Frieden, Bd. 221, Nomos Verlag Baden Baden, 2017, 218 S., brosch., 49,- €, ISBN 978-3-8487-4507-4.

The relationship between Russia and the West is worse than it has ever been since the end of the Cold War. Substantially contradictory interests are at the core of this new constellation of conflict. But a far-reaching mutual lack of understanding also contributes to the fact that even entering into serious dialogue has become difficult for the two sides. Key terms, such as security or stability, mean something quite different to each of them. This precarious situation has led to a new interest in the “narratives” of states, elites and populations. Every attempt at mediation between the different security narratives is doomed to fail. This volume is intended to contribute to the different storytellers’ better understanding of what the other sides mean. As a result, the thirteen security narratives published in this book paint a much more differentiated picture than the bipolar East-West pattern would suggest.

With contributions by: Kari Möttölä, Barbara Kunz, Kornely Kakachia, Wolfgang Zellner, Serena Giusti, Andris Spruds, Barend Ter Haar, Andrei Zagorski, Christian Nünlist, Benno Zogg, Hüseyin Bağcı, Ali Serdar Erdurmaz, Oleksiy Semenyi, James Gow and Philip Remler.

Khylko, Maksym/Oleksandr Tytarchuk (Eds), *Human Security and Security Sector Reform in Eastern Europe: Study*, East European Security Research Initiative Foundation/Friedrich Ebert Foundation to Ukraine and Belarus, Kyiv, June 2017. <http://eesri.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Human-Security-EastEurope-2017-Study_EESRI-FES_ENG.pdf>.

Asmussen, Jan, *Die Ukraine Krise – Hybride Kriegsführung und die Wiedergeburt der OSZE*, in: Andrea Gawrich/Wilhelm Knelangen (Eds), *Globale Sicherheit und die Zukunft politischer Ordnungen*, Leverkusen 2017, pp. 163-184.

Belobrov, Yuriy, *European Hopes: The Conventional Arms Control Regime Can Be Revitalized*, in: *International Affairs* (Minneapolis, MN) 4/2017, pp. 25-34.

Gawrich, Andrea, *Evading Democratic Standards: Authoritarian Democracy-Prevention Strategies in the OSCE and the Council of Europe*, in: Andrea Gawrich/Wilhelm Knelangen (Eds), *Globale Sicherheit und die Zukunft politischer Ordnungen*, Leverkusen 2017, pp. 133-148.

Gromov, Alexei/Chetaikina, Svetlana/Vashchanka, Vasil, *OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation in 2016: Suffrage Rights in Law and Practice*, in: Wolfgang Benedek/Matthias C. Kettmann/Reinhard Klaushofer/Karin Lukas/Manfred Nowak (Eds), *European Yearbook on Human Rights 2017*, Vienna 2017, pp. 409-423.

Lanz, David, *Charting the Ups and Downs of OSCE Mediation*, in: *Security and Human Rights*, 3-4/2016 (2017), pp. 243-255.

Liechtenstein, Stephanie, *Interview with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz*, in: *Security and Human Rights* 1-2/2016 (2017), pp. 229-232.

Shakirov, Oleg, *NoSCE or Next Generation OSCE?*, in: *Security and Human Rights* 3-4/2016 (2017), pp. 289-314.

Imprint

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