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Newsletter #10

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the 10th issue of the newsletter of the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies, ADA University. The issue covers activities of the Center from January to June 2019.

In our December 2018 newsletter we have highlighted some exciting news about new projects and programs the CEEUS is initiating. We are pleased to report that such already established programs of the Center as ADA EU Summer School and Summer Camp are successfully running and reaching new phases of collaboration with our stakeholders. Existing and new programs and projects of the CEEUS provide for support for the development and delivery of certificated and professional development programs for public and private sectors,

Government Officials successfully finalized

- **PROJECT: Strengthening Teaching and Research Capacity of ADA University**
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students, young researchers, capacity building and internationalisation of University.

The first half of 2019 has been busy one for us. The CEEUS was successful so far in receiving new grants and building new collaborations and partnerships with European Higher Education Institutions. These new endeavours now determine our priorities, training and research focus. You will find full updates on the progress of the CEEUS on the pages of current biannual newsletter.

Warm wishes to our readers, and we are looking forward to work with you at new projects!

Sincerely,
Center of Excellence in EU Studies

LATEST NEWS

5th ADA EU Summer School



The 5th ADA-EU Summer School was held on 10-21 June 2019 in partnership of ADA University Center of Excellence in EU Studies, DAAD (Germany) and University of Bologna (Italy). This year Summer School has been focused on "EU Eastern

Neighborhood in the context of the Future of the EU' and aimed to discuss main driving forces, current challenges and development trends that are shaping the Future of the EU today as well as how those processes influencing ENP and EaP strategy of EU, internal perspectives of EaP countries on collaboration with the EU. Also, the School concentrated on the 10th year anniversary of the Eastern

- **COMPASS Student Convention in Minsk, Belarus**
- **4th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies**
- **16th Biennial Conference in Exeter, UK**
- **Publications**
- **PROJECT: PRaNET**
- **Master Degree Scholarship**
- **2nd EU-Azerbaijan Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue and Anti-Radicalization**
- **International Conference “Radicalization, de-radicalization and violent extremism”**
- **OTHER NEWS**
- **Joining celebration of 10th Anniversary of the EaP in Mingachevir**
- **Roundtable Discussion “Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic: 20 years in NATO”**
- **Public Lecture by Ambassador Vydaudas Usackas, EU Ambassador to**

Partnership policy initiative and it served as a platform to discuss what has been achieved during these years.

The Summer School brought together students, recent university graduates, experts, young professionals and researchers from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Germany, Italy and the UK to broaden their expertise and comprehensive understanding not only on the topic of the School, but also on the functioning of the EU institutions, its intricate decision-making process and the roles of various actors involved.

The sessions of this two-weeks long intensive program featured lectures of academicians from leading European Universities and experts and practitioners like H.E. Fuad Isgandarov, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the EU and Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Parliamentarian and Head of Delegation of Azerbaijan to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, group presentations, interactive discussions.

New Project: Creating Enterprise: Business Start-Up Journey – Azerbaijan/UK



We are pleased to announce that CEEUS was successful to win grant from Creative Spark Partnership Fund’s Creative Spark: Higher Education Enterprise Programme. This is a five-year initiative to support international university and

institutional partnerships to develop enterprise skills and creative economy across seven countries in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan), South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia) and Ukraine through UK support. The programme has been developed in response to an underdeveloped creative sector and a

Afghanistan and Russia

- **Second Round of Regional Energy Security Symposium in Tbilisi, Georgia**
- **Certificate Programme on Combatting Human Trafficking**
- **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**
- **Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium – Caucasus**
- **4th ADA EU Summer Camp**
- **Professionalization Courses for civil servants**
- **Training Programs for Public and Private sector**
- **SOCIAL MEDIA**

demand for entrepreneurship training in the programme countries, supporting wealth and job creation.

Consortium of this international project is built by:

- University of Kent, UK;
- ADA University, Azerbaijan;
- Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, Azerbaijan;

The project implementation will start from September 2019.

New Project: Preventing Radicalisation Network (PRaNet)

Another success is that CEEUS has become part of another international project and new consortium from January 2019. PRaNET is a three years long project funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research within the framework of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 2017/2020 "Strategy for the promotion abroad of the Italian higher education program". The project aims to promote the establishment of university-networks, organize high-education courses and professionalization courses, promote academic and international student mobility.



Consortium of this international project is built by:

- University of Bergamo, Italy;
- ADA University, Azerbaijan;
- University Mohamed Lamine Debaghine de Setif 2, Algeria;

The project implementation started in January 2019.

Training Programme on Regional Security Challenges for Government Officials successfully finalized



The CEEUS and Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) have usefully finalised the 3rd round of Training Programme for governmental officials in Azerbaijan focused on security issues. The year-long training programme has provided in-depth exposure to lessons learned from

international best practices, particularly when it comes to the European Union experiences and sequenced immersion in concrete case-studies that will allow for both reflection and applied learning practice, while creating a space where key officials from relevant governmental institutions can engage together in structured brainstorming about the current security trends and challenges.

PROJECT: Strengthening Teaching and Research Capacity of ADA University

The project supports ADA University as a whole and particularly its CEEUS to address main challenges in its further development as both national and international renowned university. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the ADA's capacity in four strategic directions: i) institution building, ii) teaching, iii) research and iv) outreach activities and to help the ADA to fully integrate the CEEUS into the university structures.

Staff Study visit of Delegation of ADA University to Ca Foscari University, Italy

Through 4-8 February 2019 group of staff and faculty members of ADA University has travelled to Ca'Foscari University (Italy) for a Study trip. Business week was filled with a number of meetings with various departments of the University including academic units and units of



student services. In particular, group was welcomed by the Vice-Rector of the University Mrs. Lippiello along with her colleagues responsible for International cooperation and development, Mrs. Magni and Mr. Canone. Bilateral relations between two Universities are expected to evolve and to include cooperation on exchange of students and faculty.

Training of Trainers Series

On March 28-29 and April 2-3, 2019 CEEUS has conducted "Training for Trainers" for professionals from public and private sectors. Workshop series have been held by international expert Mrs. Ulle Purga. Within the training program, participating trainers



had chance to improve their training skills and learn new techniques of training design and delivery. The program emphasized adult learning approaches and focused on defining methods and tools to ensure efficient learning process.

Training on Support to Research Grant Applications

On 27-31 May 2019, CEEUS has organized training on “Support to Research Grant Applications, International Calls for Proposal, Preparing a Pilot Bid”. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of ADA faculty and staff in identifying relevant research funding opportunities, grant calls, preparing applications and proposals for international calls and managing the research projects.

PROJECT: GCRF COMPASS

The GCRF UKRI COMPASS project is an ambitious UK government capacity-building initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project at the University of Kent, together with Cambridge University as its research partner, seeks to establish ‘the hubs of excellence’ at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to act as nodes for knowledge sharing and transfer along the following three dimensions, namely research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities.

Brussels Executive Study Trip



On 20-26 January 2019, delegation from Azerbaijan including ADA faculty and staff and representative of Ministry of Education have participated at Executive Study Trip to Brussels organized within COMPASS project for top-level delegations across project's consortium members. During these five days of training and networking, the attendees of this landmark event met high-level EU officials and practitioners to exchange ideas and learn more about EU decision-making, negotiations, lobbying, trade, funding and tender opportunities, scientific cooperation and strategic priorities for the Eastern Neighborhood and Central Asia.

GCRF COMPASS London Forum

On 28 January, the GCRF COMPASS project organised its landmark event – the London Forum. This event brought together higher-ranking academics, including Vice-Chancellors and PVCs, and practitioners from Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and UK Universities – Cambridge and Kent, to engage with the UK government officials, policy-makers, funders and practitioners. The forum provided opportunities for networking, and exploring options for further cooperation on different levels of resilience-building - institutional, educational, community, economic, energy and security. The diverse and dynamic group of speakers and panelists provided an in-depth insight, as well as, actionable and practical tools for engagement.

Executive Vice Rector of ADA University, Mr. Fariz Ismayilzade and Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative, Ms. Gunay Rahimova have delivered speech at panel titled Wider Eurasia – changes and challenges: the view from the region.

Research Reward Program Announcement

Within GCRF COMPASS Project from January 2019 has been announced Research Reward Program for high-quality research publications of research active faculty members of ADA University. The program allows rewards for publications by ADA University faculty in journals, books, book chapters and conference proceedings that are ranked according to indexation in recognized international databases. The program aims at increasing research productivity and uplifting ADA University's academic rank. The Program is valid for academic years of 2019-2021.

1st Early Career Researchers Training School

CEEUS has completed the 1st Early Career Researchers Training School on Research Methodology, conducted from February 25 - March 1, 2019

The main objective of the program is to offer an opportunity for further skills development on research

methodology and exchange of ideas for Doctoral and Postdoctoral students, and early career researchers.



The 1st Early Career Researchers Training School was organized within the framework of the GCRF COMPASS project in partnership with University of Kent, UK. The training was conducted by Dr. Erik Larsen (Lecturer at University of Kent), a member of a £10-million Q-

step initiative supported by UK government and Dr. Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University.

GCRF COMPASS Workshop on Belt and Road Initiative in Kent and Cambridge

On 13-15 March 2019 Dr. Ali Sager, ADA University School of Public and International Affairs participated at GCRF COMPASS one-day workshop at University of Kent, Canterbury 'The Belt and Road Initiative @ Five: Taking stock of global ambitions, regional response, and looking ahead,' that brought together scholars working on recent developments regarding China's BRI and the regional responses from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to China's growing investments. Following the workshop in Kent, University of Cambridge organized a one-day workshop on 'BRI and the Silk Road' on 15 March in the Centre of Development Studies.

GCRF COMPASS Cambridge-led 'Research in Action' Training Workshop in Bukhara, Uzbekistan

On 8-11 April 2019 Dr. Ali Sager, Assistant Professor at ADA School of Public and International Affairs has attended a three-day workshop entitled 'Research in Action' organised within GCRF COMPASS Project by University of Cambridge together with the Coordination and Methodological Centre on contemporary history under the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences. It was designed to engage with varied research cultures, interdisciplinary research, and methodologies of research while considering the most current concerns in Central Asia, wider Eurasia and globally. This workshop provided the basis for research capacity building, a core goal of the COMPASS project, in academia, government and media. The workshop focused research methodologies across development paradigms and encompassed sustainability, multilateralism, scientific and cultural diplomacy,

international relations, political economy, industrial policy and technology, science and education amongst other areas.

COMPASS Student Convention in Minsk, Belarus

On April 25-27, 2019 the 1st International Student Convention was organized at Belarusian State University under the aegis of the GCRF COMPASS project. The student convention attracted over 800 student participants, with 17 COMPASS student representatives from all consortium members. The focus of the COMPASS Convention was on the theme of 'Integration of Intonations: challenges and perspectives', looking at wider Eurasian region.

ADA University students Ms. Nigar Gurbanli (BAIS student) and Ms. Shabnam Ashurova (MADIA student) have participated and presented papers at the Convention.

4th Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies

On 9–11 June 2019 Dr. Kavus Abushov, Assistant Professor of ADA University School of Public and International Affairs, attended the 4th Annual Tartu



Conference “Rethinking Sovereignty and Identity in an Era of Change” within the GCRF COMPASS Project to present paper “Failed balancing despite crude power: explaining alignment behavior in the post-Soviet space”.

The Tartu Conference is a venue for academic discussion of the fundamental cultural, social, economic and political trends affecting all aspects of people’s life in Russia and Eastern Europe. Inaugurated in

June 2016, this forum brings together scholars from across multiple disciplines, from the region and beyond.

16th Biennial Conference in Exeter, UK

Dr. Anar Valiyev, Dean of ADA School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) attended the European Society for Central Asia Studies (ESCAS) 2019 conference, taking place on 27–29 June 2019 at University of Exeter, UK within the GCRF COMPASS Project. This biennial conference is one of the most important regular gatherings in the field of Central Asian Studies. In 2019, it addresses the theme of the ‘Globality of Central Asia’, and consider the global dimensions and transnational flows that affect the region particular local, national and international contexts. Dr. Valiyev gave presentation on Post-Socialist Urban Renewal and Its Discontents: ‘Gentrification - Like’ Processes in Baku.

Publications

Policy Memo: U.S. Disengagement from the South Caucasus: The Throne Is Never Vacant

Author: Anar Valiyev

Journal: PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 545 October 2018

Link to the

article: http://www.ponarseurasia.org/sites/default/files/policy-memos-pdf/Pepm545_Valiyev_Oct2018_2.pdf

Article: Azerbaijan’s foreign policy towards Russia since independence: compromise achieved

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev

Journal: Southeast European and Black Sea Studies

Link to the article:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14683857.2019.1578053?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Article: Bonus pay for teachers, spatial sorting, and student achievement”

Author: Dr. Muharrem Yesilirmak

Journal: Science Direct

Link to the article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2019.02.004>

PROJECT: PRaNET

Master Degree Scholarship



Center of Excellence in EU Studies in partnership with University of Bergamo (Italy) announced Scholarship and has selected six students from Azerbaijan for studying at the Second Level Professional Master Degree in Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for the integration policies and international security (MaRTe) in Bergamo, Italy.

Program is sponsored within an international PRaNet Project funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research within the framework of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 2017/2020 "Strategy for the promotion abroad of the Italian higher education program".

Selected participants have been awarded with full scholarship covering Master's fees and monthly scholarship to cover costs of accommodation, food, travel, administrative costs.

For information, same scholarship will be applied for years of 2020 and 2021.

2nd EU-Azerbaijan Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue and Anti-Radicalization



On April 25-26, 2019 CEEUS in partnership with the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan and State Committee on Religious Associations of Azerbaijan have co-organized the 2nd EU-Azerbaijan Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue and Anti-Radicalization. During two

days experts from Azerbaijan and different EU countries have discussed issues of tolerance, awareness raising activities in preventing violent extremism, the state-religion relationship as messengers of peace.

International Conference “Radicalization, de-radicalization and violent extremism”

On May 10-11, 2019, Dr. Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs of ADA University, attended an International Conference at University of Bergamo, Italy on "Radicalization, De-radicalization and Violent extremism. An international comparative approach". The conference was organized within PRaNet Project.

OTHER NEWS

Joining celebration of 10th Anniversary of the EaP in Mingachevir

On May 21-22, 2019 CEEUS has joined European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Eastern

Partnership in Mingachevir.

During the series of events held in Mingachevir citizens of the city got acquainted with the EU funded projects in Azerbaijan, “Europe for you” exhibition and meetings with schoolchildren have taken place. CEEUS team has met schoolchildren in Mingachevir where made presentation on EU History.

Roundtable Discussion “Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic: 20 years in NATO”



On March 12, 2019 ADA University hosted a Roundtable Discussion with Ambassadors and Experts on celebration of 20 years of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joining NATO and discussion about challenges connected with the

transformation of these countries' security architecture connected with the entry into the Alliance.

Public Lecture by Ambassador Vydaudas Usackas, EU Ambassador to Afghanistan and Russia

On May 2nd, Ambassador Vydaudas Usackas, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania has delivered public lecture at ADA University on the theme “The West and Russia: Handling Clash of the World Views”. Amb. Usackas,

the European Union's (EU) ambassador to Afghanistan and Russia, outlined the political frame of the European Union-Russia diplomatic relations, geopolitical confrontation and plunging ties between the EU and Russia, and regional interest of two sides in general from a broader context.



Second Round of Regional Energy Security Symposium in Tbilisi, Georgia

On 15 – 19 April, 2019 Second round of Regional Energy Security Symposium – Caucasus (RESS-C) was held in Tbilisi, Georgia. This round was hosted by Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic and Research Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and co-sponsored by The U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Energy Academic Group and the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence.

The Second round of RESS-C was attended by delegation of Azerbaijani civil servants that were participants of the First round of RESS-C hosted by ADA Center of Excellence in EU Studies in July 2018.

The major goal of the symposium is to further strengthen regional energy security and resiliency through increased awareness, regional coordination/cooperation, interagency coordination, and public-private partnerships.

Certificate Programme on Combatting Human Trafficking

On March 11-13, ADA University CEEUS in partnership with European Union and International Organization for Migration (IOM) has conducted certificate program on “Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan (ENCT)”. In this 3-day long training for students of diplomacy and international relations program of ADA University have been encompassed capacity building of future diplomats in the field of combating human trafficking, key concepts and action procedures to take relevant actions to combat human trafficking and assist victims of trafficking.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium – Caucasus

On July 1-5, 2019 ADA University Center of Excellence in EU Studies in partnership with NATO Energy Center of Excellence and Naval Postgraduate School will co-organize a third round of ‘Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium-Caucasus’. The Symposium will bring together government officials, representatives of high reputable oil companies, high-ranking officials from Azerbaijan and academicians from USA to discuss energy security and threats to Caspian and Caucasus regions.

4th ADA EU Summer Camp

On July 8-August 2, 2019 CEEUS conducts its annual EU Summer Camp program. The Summer Camp will be a place open for schoolchildren with balanced combination of educational and entertaining activities. All program sessions will be delivered in English language by ADA and other experts, as well as representatives of various European embassies and international private and public organizations as guest speakers.

Professionalization Courses for civil servants

On September 30, 2019 Center of Excellence in EU Studies in partnership with University of Bergamo within PRaNet Project will launch first round of Professionalization courses on Terrorism, Terrorist threats and Countermeasures. Course will be taught by international faculty team and practitioners from the field. The course participants will be granted by University of Bergamo by official Professionalization Certification Diploma. The course will be conducted during October 2019.

Training Programs for Public and Private sector

Another training programs on "EU Rules for procurement", "Doing business in the EU" and etc. will be organized by the CEEUS in Fall 2019 for representatives of public and private sectors.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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