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Newsletter #9

Dear Friends,

Year of 2018 is approaching to its end. 2018 was full of activities, events and programs - and our ninth newsletter is reflecting some, the most interesting memories from period of July-December.

Thank you for being with us this year, and we hope you will stay with us next year as well!

We wish you peace, love and happiness in New Year! Enjoy the holidays and our newsletter!

Your EU Centre of Excellence team

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)

skills

- Lecture on “The OSCE as a Platform for Renewing Dialogue and Rebuilding Trust”
- Workshop on “Producing High-impact Academic Papers”
- Conference 'From National Independence to Eastern Partnership'
- Research Workshop 'The Use of Open Science/Open Access - Issues of Plagiarism'
- Delegation from Ca' Foscari University of Venice
- Greek Ambassador spoke at ADA
- Training programme for Azerbaijani civil servants organized in Brussels
- “The EU and Resilience” workshop in Rome
- Model European Council
- Training on How to Prepare a Successful Project Proposal
- The Role of the Young People in

“COMPASS” Project launched



Azerbaijani launch of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) “COMPASS” Project commenced on 5 October 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The University of Kent, University of Cambridge in partnership with the ADA University, Belarusian State University, Tajik National University, and University of World Economy and Diplomacy of Uzbekistan, leads the project. From ADA side the project is implemented by Center of Excellence in EU Studies.

The launch event served as a platform for partners to share their plans for joint development, the project objectives with the wider community and hosted guests including Ambassadors, representatives of the University of Kent, governmental officials and representatives of international organizations.

Conceptually, this project explores new approaches to ‘governance’ with a focus on resilience, capacity-building, peoplehood, bargaining power, and cooperative orders, to make governance more effective and sustainable.

In practical terms, the project seeks to enhance relations between the UK and partner universities, and to set up regional ‘hubs of excellence’ at the top-level HEIs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, along with such dimensions as research integration, policy impact and sustainable communities.

President of Italy at ADA University

ADA University was honoured to host public speech of H.E. Sergio Mattarella, President of

Building a Secure, Stable and Peaceful Europe

- ICT2018 Conference
- “Study My Girl” campaign
- Training Needs Analysis for public and private sectors
- Plans for 2019

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Italy on July 18, 2018. Lecture has been conducted within the official visit of H.E. Sergio Mattarella to Azerbaijan. This was the first time when Italian president visits Azerbaijan. Public speech and other meetings during the visit have been mainly covering the topics of Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), contribution of stability and peace in the Caspian region to the Europe and included Azerbaijan-Italy business forum.

Regional Energy Security Symposium

On 16-20 July Center of Excellence in EU Studies in partnership with NATO Energy Center of Excellence and Naval Postgraduate School have organized Regional Energy Security Symposium. The Symposium has brought 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 it in Caspian and Caucasus regions. During the week attendees from the majority of government agencies and ministries have participated in lectures and seminars covering numerous topics such as Geopolitics of Energy, Critical Energy Infrastructure Protection, Cyber Security and others. Special guests of the Symposium have included Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Vitaly Baylarbayov, Vice president of State Oil Company (SOCAR), Dr. Brenda Shaffer from Georgetown University and other highly reputable international experts in related fields.



The 3rd ADA-EU Summer Camp

ADA's Center of Excellence in EU Studies and ADA Foundation in partnership with EU Delegation in Azerbaijan, "Tamiz Shahr" JSC and Equinor successfully organized the 3rd ADA-EU Summer Camp on 9 July - 3 August 2018. The Camp consisted of 4 weeks dedicated to a specific theme and more than 150 schoolchildren attended the program.



The first week, "ADR 100-From East to West" was dedicated to the hundred years of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and was mainly based on history and national heritage of Azerbaijan. Various speakers gave interactive lectures about the foundations of the country and its similarities with Europe. Children also had an extensive tour of the Baku city with the expert guidance of Fuad Akhundov. They also visited "From Waste to Art" museum and the Azerbaijan Airlines civil aviation facilities.

2nd week "ICT Genius" gave a unique chance to participants to increase their knowledge about information and communication technologies and develop their skills in this field. Children took part in lectures and quizzes about ICT basics, coding and robotics delivered by the faculty of ADA's School of IT and Engineering. They worked in groups for the project management course and presented their team presentations. As a part of their field trip, they visited Code Academy and Baku Media Center.

"Best Junior Banker & All about Employability" was the third week of the Camp and its sole purpose was to improve the banking and financial knowledge of the children and to help them prepare for the future job market. Participants started the week with a tour to the Central Bank of Azerbaijan where they had an extensive lecture about

the national currency and how the central bank works. Later, they participated in classes where different experts taught them about the ways and importance of choosing the right profession. Sessions about European fiscal policy and the history of the European banks were of great interest. Field trips to Balakhani Industrial Park and Carpet Museum helped them to have an understanding about how recycling businesses and museums work.

Last week of the program was "Environment Around Us". During this week, children learned about the alternative energy sources, environmental norms in Europe and the various ways of protecting the environment. They especially enjoyed the master-classes where they had a chance to convert different pieces of waste into art. Participants also made an informative visit to Coca-Cola and waste-management factory. In the end, they presented their mini-presentations.

4th UPTAKE Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training School in Uppsala

GCRF Compass team of ADA University has attended UPTAKE Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Training School in Uppsala, Sweden on 26 August – 1 September. The School panels were covering topics of Russia internal developments, external conflicts and outside perceptions. Dr. Anar Valiyev, ADA University, has presented his paper named "Unholy alliance: Azerbaijan's foreign policy towards Russia" at session panel.



Lecture on research skills



On 7 of September, Pierre Mounier-Kuhn, the well-known scientist of French National Centre for Scientific Research and Sorbonne University gave a lecture at ADA University. He talked about how as a historian he researched and studied the development of Information and Technologies and presented his recent works. He also told about details of research activities.

Lecture on “The OSCE as a Platform for Renewing Dialogue and Rebuilding Trust”

On 12 September, Thomas Greminger, Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) spoke at ADA

about “The OSCE as a Platform for Renewing Dialogue and Rebuilding Trust” in framework of his official visit to Azerbaijan.

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to OSCE, Galib Israfilov, representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan, civil society organizations, professors, staff members and students of ADA University attended the lecture.



Thomas Greminger highlighted the advantages of the OSCE and the main challenges that it faces. In the end, speaker answered the numerous questions of the participants and students.

Workshop on “Producing High-impact Academic Papers”

On September 24-28 2018 Center of Excellence in EU Studies week-long research workshop on “Producing high impact academic papers” under the EU-funded project “Strengthening Teaching and Research at ADA University”. During the week participants from ADA and other universities gained skills on how to write high impact scientific papers with following presentation at conferences, and to publicize in peer-reviewed high-ranking international journals. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Bernard Pochet, University of Liege (Belgium), director of publication of the international peer-reviewed journal BASE.



Conference 'From National Independence to Eastern Partnership'

ADA University in partnership with embassies of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia organized an international conference "From National Independence to Eastern Partnership: Story of Cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Baltic States" on 17 October.



The conference was chaired by Vice-Rector of ADA University Mr. Fariz Ismailzade, ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Juris Maklakovs, ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan H.E. Valdas Lastauskas and Charge d'Affairs of the Republic of Estonia Ms. Maija Tasa.

Security, regional cooperation, and integration to EU were discussed during the conference.

Research Workshop 'The Use of Open Science/Open Access - Issues of Plagiarism'

On 29 October – 2 November week-long research workshop was conducted on "The Use of Open Science/Open Access - Issues of Plagiarism". The workshop attended by ADA faculty and researchers from other universities aimed at



enhancing the research capacities of the researchers by developing their skills in publishing.

The workshop was organized by the Center of Excellence in EU Studies, ADA University, within the EU-funded project “Strengthening Teaching and Research at ADA University” project.

The Program was delivered by international expert Dr. Christoph Bruch, senior advisor for Strategy at Helmholtz Open Science Coordination Office.

Delegation from Ca' Foscari University of Venice



On November 2 rectors of ADA University and Ca' Foscari University of Venice signed in Baku a memorandum of understanding with ADA Ca' Foscari University of Venice which mainly focused at the student and academic

exchange.

Also, Vice-rector of Ca' Foscari University of Venice Prof. Tiziana Lippiello gave a lecture to students about "Following in Marco Polo's Footsteps: New Projects for the Valorization of the Cultural Heritage of the Silk Roads". The lecture was about the longstanding relationship between Venice and the Silk Road.

Greek Ambassador spoke at ADA

HE Nicolaos D. Kanellos,
Ambassador of Greece in
Azerbaijan met with ADA



students on 7 November and talked about his career as a diplomat with more than 30 years of experience in 8 countries. He also shared his thoughts about his passion for art and how he manages to combine being a diplomat and an artist at the same time. The event was followed by

ambassador's personal art exhibition at ADA University.

Training programme for Azerbaijani civil servants organized in Brussels

Center of Excellence in EU Studies in cooperation with the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) organised the second part of the training programme for Azerbaijani civil servants on Regional Security Challenges in Brussels, Belgium.



Training took place on November 8-10 and the participants were able to discuss, together with CMI and other invited experts the issues of EU crisis management and prevention mechanisms, as well as the EU's experience in the cases of Northern Ireland and the conflict in Georgia. In addition, the agenda included meetings with various key European actors, such as representatives of the European Parliament and the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia.

“The EU and Resilience” workshop in Rome

On November 9, 2018 a workshop “The EU and Resilience: interrogating theory, policies and practice” was organized jointly by the COMPASS project, Rome-based Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and H2020 UPTAKE. The workshop brought together over forty participants to reflect on the concept of resilience and its application in the EU’s policies towards the eastern neighborhood and Central Asia. Participants included COMPASS team members from all six project institutions; participants of UPTAKE consortium; and external participants from Westminster University (UK), University of Oslo (Norway), Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (Spain) and others. Dr. Rashad Ibadov, Assistant Professor at the School of Public and International Affairs, represented ADA University. Speakers presented their views on resilience in light of theory; policies; and practice.

Model European Council



On 10-11 November 2018, ADA’s European Azerbaijan Student Club with the support of Center of Excellence in EU studies held at ADA the first-ever Model European Council conference “EU-Turkey Relations within the Framework of EU-Turkey

Accession Bid”. The conference was a simulation of the European Council where one student-delegate each represented 28 EU Member States and Turkey.

Training on How to Prepare a Successful Project Proposal

On November 19-23, Center of Excellence in EU Studies conducted a workshop for higher education institutions on “How to Prepare a Successful Project Proposal”.



The training was aimed to develop basic competencies of project design and writing and covered problem identification, target groups analysis, understanding Logical Framework Matrix approach, applying ICT skills for project planning, budgeting, and grant application management.

The Role of the Young People in Building a Secure, Stable and Peaceful Europe

Round table "The Role of the Young People in Building a Secure, Stable and Peaceful Europe" took place on 30 November in cooperation with Embassy of Bulgaria in Azerbaijan. During the event, Bulgarian vision for the role of young people in the future of



of Europe, vision of the student about their place in the debate on the future of Europe, role of education in building of capacity and actively engaged young civil society and other topics were discussed.

ICT2018 Conference

Faculty members of School of Information Technologies and Engineering, ADA University, Dr. Samir Rustamov's and Dr. Abuzatdin Adamov

participated at ICT2018 Conference organized by European Commission in Austria, Vienna, on December 4-6, 2018.



The annual conference plays platform role for the

researchers who are seeking opportunity to:

- build quality partnerships for participating in ICT across Horizon 2020
- facilitate the setup of project consortia for the 2018-20 H2020 calls
- discuss and develop new project ideas on ICT at international level
- acquire new cross-border contacts and initiate collaborations

“Study My Girl” campaign

As a part of the GCRF COMPASS Project, Center of Excellence in EU Studies has launched Study My Girl (#OxuQızım) initiative in July 2018 by presenting on Facebook page a powerful video. In this video four women living in women’s shelter in Baku are sharing details of their life stories, what challenges didn’t allow them to get proper education and their thoughts on importance of education in life of every young woman. The main purpose is to support girls and women to get the education they deserve, share powerful stories about physical, cultural and social barriers they face in accessing education and create platform for public discussion and debate on women empowerment. The initiative will be continued by implementing community-based projects and trainings that help to empower girls and address barriers to girls’ education. The video can be viewed on CEEUS Facebook page in Azerbaijani with subtitles in English.

Training Needs Analysis for public and private sectors

Center of Excellence in EU Studies conducted Training Needs Analysis (TNA) for private and public sectors in Azerbaijan in framework of the EU-funded project “Support to Strengthening Teaching and Research Capacity at ADA University”. With the assistance of the project expert Ms. Ulle Purga the main goal was to develop a training strategy for strengthening and further expansion of the existing training programmes and the development of new sustainable training programmes. For this purpose, Ms. Purga also visited Baku on two separate occasions (7-18 May, 15-26 October 2018) for face-to-face meetings with various public and private sector representatives. As a result, two extensive mission reports were produced where analysis of the current training market in Azerbaijan was described.

Plans for 2019

Number of programs and activities are planned for upcoming 2019. EU-funded project “Support to Strengthening Teaching and Research Capacity at ADA University” and GCRF “COMPASS” project by UK Government are in the active phases of implementation. Besides, the 5th EU Summer School, the 4rd ADA Summer Camp, international conferences, round tables, trainings for civil servants and many more programs - all the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies, ADA University plans for next year.

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