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Newsletter #5

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the fifth issue of the newsletter for the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University. In this issue you will receive information about our activities from July to December 2016: the introduction of the new EU-funded project aimed at development of EU studies, conferences, workshops, public lectures held in ADA University, trainings for Azerbaijani officials, and many more.

Thank you for being with us in 2016!

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

Your EU Centre of Excellence team

- **Conference “Inter-Religious Tolerance and the Role of Social Media”**
- **Public lecture on single energy market and energy and law policies**
- **Regional Security Challenges- views from the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea**
- **25 years of Azerbaijan’s independence: between East and West**
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IN OTHER NEWS

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Introduction of the new EU-funded project

On 25 November 2016, Centre of Excellence in EU Matters organized kick-off event of the new EU funded project. The ceremony was led by rector Hafiz Pashaev, of ADA University, Ambassador Malena Mard, EU Delegation, Mr. Vasilis Maragos, DG Near, EU, Ms Egle Butkeviciene, Kaunas University of Technology.



The 14 months project “Support to establishment of EU Studies Programme at ADA University” has commenced its activities since 1 August 2016. The project is implemented in consortium with the Kaunas Technological University and other leading European universities.

The overall goal is to enhance the EU knowledge in Azerbaijan across various sectors and government institutions all over the country for better understanding of and cooperation with the European Union.

Public lecture by President of Croatia, H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović



On 24 October 2016 President of Croatia, H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, visited ADA University and gave a speech to ADA University students and faculty on bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Croatia within the framework of her official visit to Azerbaijan.

Course on on mediation and communication skills



On 20-24 September 2016 the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University together with DAAD Informationszentrum Baku organized a four-day course for Azerbaijani civil servants focusing on mediation and communication skills. The course was led by Dr. Stenner, a certified German mediator with extensive academic and practical experience in the filed of mediation

and negotiation. Dr. Stenner used experiential learning methodology to broaden the skills and experiences of Azerbaijani civil servants in communication and conflict resolution.

Workshop "Prospects and Challenging of Developing EU Studies"



On 25 November 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University hosted the workshop entitled "Prospects and Challenging of Developing EU Studies" within the framework of the new EU-funded project: "Support to Establishment of MA EU Studies Programme at ADA University." The attendees included representatives of local universities, academia, state agencies as well as the students, staff and faculty of ADA University. A number of international guest speakers were invited: Andres Bassols from EU External Action Service, Brussels, Jonas Urbanavicius from the Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania, Elena Korosteleva from University of Kent, UK, and Tamara Shashikina from European Studies Institute of MGIMO Universtiy, Russia. In a format of a workshop, the speakers shared

their experiences in the establishment of the EU Studies programme in their respective countries and discussed the prospects and challenges in instituting the programme in Azerbaijan.

Eurovillage - 2016

On 1 October 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies took part in the annual Eurovillage festival organized by the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan. The one-day festival took place on the Boulevard and welcomed locals and foreigners with entertainment, food and music. Visitors learned about the Center's activities and programs and participated in the EU trivia lottery. All participants were awarded with gifts. The winners of the EU Art Contest were also presented with certificates and gifts.



Conference “Inter-Religious Tolerance and the Role of Social Media”



On 15 December 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University hosted a conference entitled “Inter-Religious Tolerance and the Role of Social Media”. Malena Mard, EU Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Aflatun Amashov, Chair of

Azerbaijan Press Council, and Professor Roald Sagdeyev were amongst the distinguished speakers of the conference. The speakers discussed the influence of Azerbaijani social media on cultivating and

enhancing inter-religious tolerance in the country as well as highlighting Azerbaijan's secular nature where representatives of various religious groups are respected and accepted.

Public lecture on single energy market and energy and law policies

On 17-18 November 2016 the Center hosted a two-day lecture by Dr. Sitaras, Deputy Ambassador of Greece in Azerbaijan. Dr. Sitaras, an energy security expert, lectured ADA students on the topics of single energy market and energy and law policies of the EU. More than 40 students attended the lecture, which is a part of certificated lecture series.



Regional Security Challenges- views from the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea

On 9 December 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies together with the Romanian embassy organized a roundtable on “Regional Security Challenges - views from the shores of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea”. Amongst the guest speakers for the roundtable were Dan Iancu, Ambassador of Romania to Azerbaijan, Imre Lasloczki, Ambassador of Hungary to Azerbaijan, and William Lahue, Head of NATO Liaison Office for South Caucasus Region. The issues of regional peace and NATO's role in the process were discussed.

25 years of Azerbaijan's independence: between East and West



On 4 October 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University hosted an art exhibition entitled “ 25 years of Azerbaijan’s independence: between East and West”. The exhibition featured 30 art pieces of Mr. Ashraf Heybatov, Meritorious Artist of Republic of Azerbaijan, who has lived and worked in Berlin for the past 20 years. The attendees got a unique chance to meet and familiarize with the painter and his work.

Public lecture on “European Union: Understanding the Fundamentals and Current Trends”

On 29-30 July 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies organized a public lecture on “European Union: Understanding the Fundamentals and Current Trends.” The course was led by Nejla Ayvazi, who informed ADA undergraduate and graduate students about the basics of the European Union. This lecture was a part of the certified lecture series.

Europe awaiting New Years



On 27 December 2016 the Center of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University awarded participants of the art contest themed “Europe awaiting New Years” with gifts and certificates. 37 children illustrated their vision of what Europe looks like in preparation for New Years celebration and shared their drawings with ADA community.

Future plans

We are planning to fill next year plenty events and activities. Thus, more trainings, the 3rd EU Summer School, international conference, EU info days – all these are just a short list of plans of the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies, ADA University.



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