

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN EU STUDIES

CEEUS Newsletter No. 12 / January-June, 2020



NOTE FROM DIRECTOR:



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Center of Excellence in EU Studies mid-year update. 2020 has begun very promising with tightening relationship with Center's partners in Central Asia, involvement to new networks and conduction of the Regional School for Early Career researchers. Since March 2020 we have moved to online and distant way of working as the current COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rapidly adapt

to new realities. We have explored new opportunities such as webinars with leading experts from all around the world, e-Conference and online training program for students followed by online start-up pitch competition. We are pleased to share with you newsletter of the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University for January to June 2020.

Read on for full details of this half-year's activities and stay tuned on our website and social media pages for details of events to come. As always, we thank our partners who contribute so much, and we acknowledge the European Delegation to Azerbaijan for its ongoing support and contribution. We look forward to engaging with you in 2020!

Sincerely,
Center of Excellence in EU Studies

LATEST NEWS

Check our website to stay updated and connected!

In late December 2020 we have announce the launch of the new CEEUS website. Since that the website has become even more content rich! We invite you to check our website to stay updated and connected!
ceeus.ada.edu.az

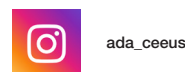
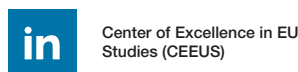
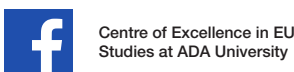
Launch of series of webinars

Since April 2020, CEEUS has launched series of Webinar Public lectures that has turned to the platform where CEEUS partners, international experts and academicians share with audience their expertise on selected topic and talking about their research, followed by a chance to ask questions. Webinars are open for everyone and conducted over Zoom.

Convened by CEEUS Director Ms Nargiz Ismayilova webinars have featured Dr. Carlo Frappi, Professor at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) and internationally recognized expert in Turkish and South Caucasus, and Energy Security studies on 'Nexus of critical infrastructure development and energy security' and a webinar enriched with a role-play game on "How to use mediation technics to resolve conflicts" conducted by Dr. Taniel Sikharulidze, international trainer and mediator.

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Project

GCRF COMPASS COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY BUILDING IN EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CENTRAL ASIA: RESEARCH INTEGRATION, IMPACT GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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.

2nd GCRF COMPASS International Early Career Researchers Training School

On February 17-21, 2020 CEEUS has organised an **International Training School for Early Career Researchers on "Good governance and effectiveness of public institutions in Post-Soviet Eurasia"** within GCRF COMPASS Project.

The TS participants have been graduates and PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and practitioners working in/with public institutions from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the UK. During the week have been discussed best practices and development challenges of public institutions (e.g. parliaments, civil service, institutions of government, etc.), and their role and effectiveness in delivering good governance across Post-Soviet countries.



GCRF Conflict Intersections Global Partnership Development Awards Workshop

During January 2020 COMPASS CEEUS team members have participated at GCRF "Conflict Intersections' Global Partnership Development Awards: Prevention and Resilience at the

Intersections between Conflict, Fragility and Wider Development Challenges and Risks" workshop in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



Publications

Article at International Politics Journal: A battle for transportation routes in the Russian neighborhood: Is there a place for small states?

Authors: Dr. Anar Valiyev and Ms. Shahana Bilalova

Link to the article: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41311-020-00241-9>

Article at Terrorism and Political Violence Journal: Drawing a Boundary between Structural Factors and Identity in Ethnic Conflict: Bringing Back the Role of Identity (Impact 1.390)

Author: Dr. Kavus Abushov

Link to the article: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546553.2020.1717475>

Article at Civil Wars Journal: Refining the Line of Distinction between Ethnic Conflict and Security Dilemma: Towards a Theory of Identity Driven Ethnic Conflict

Author: Dr. Kavus Abushov

Link to the article: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546553.2020.1717475>

Book chapter: The University of Chicago Press Books "Azerbaijan's Geopolitical Landscape CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, 1991-2018"

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev

Link: <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/A/bo51154022.html>

Policy Brief: Azerbaijan's contribution to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

Author: Fariz Ismailzade, Bahruz Babayev

Link: <https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/wp-content/uploads/sites/169/2020/05/COMPASS-ADA-Paper-on-BRI-Fariz-final.pdf>

Publication at NYU Jourdan Center: 10 years of Eastern Partnership Time to Take Serious Steps

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev

Link to the article: <http://jordanrussiacycenter.org/news/ten-years-of-eastern-partnership-in-azerbaijan-time-to-take-serious-steps/#.X1fDDmqzbZZ>

Analysis at Central Asian Analytical Network (George Washington University): COVID 19 and Azerbaijan: Short overview of emerging calls

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev and Ms. Nargiz Gafarova

Link to the article: <https://caa-network.org/archives/20014>

Project

PRaNet - PREVENTION RADICALISATION NETWORK

PRaNet is an international project and entails the creation of a university wise network between the University of Bergamo (Italy), ADA University (Azerbaijan) and Université Mohamed Lamine Debaghine de Sétif 2 (Algeria) aiming to deepen knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon of radicalization, development of social inclusion and de-radicalization policies and to provide the improvement of integration, through post-university education activities and academic research.

Check Project website for more information:

<https://www.projectpranet.com/en/>

E-Conference on Radicalisation, Terrorism and Deradicalisation: perspectives from Azerbaijan

On June 18, 2020 Center of Excellence in EU studies has hold an E-Conference on the “Radicalization, Terrorism and Deradicalization: Perspective from Azerbaijan” within Prevention of Radicalization Network (PRaNet) project. The conference has brought together academicians, researchers, practitioners, and graduates to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of Deradicalization and Radicalization. The conference was built around panel discussion and research work presentations of PRaNet project alumnus.

The first panel had specific focus on the role of education in preventing radicalization and deradicalization, agenda of the international organizations in counter-terrorism measures to address extremism/radicalization of individuals and social inclusion policies of government in preventing radicalization and was introduced by Dr. Anar Valiyev, ADA University Dean of School of Public and International affairs, Dr. Michelle Brunelle, University of Bergamo, Mr. Vladimir Gjorgiyev, IOM Chief of mission in Azerbaijan and Dr. Elgun Safarov, member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The second panel featured presentation by graduates of PRaNet project, Professionalisation course for civil servants and Marte master program that have featured speeches and discussion on counterterrorism policies of Azerbaijan, reasons for absence of sectarian violence in Azerbaijan, modern terrorism and impact of terrorism on political systems.

The conference is considered to become a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns, as well as practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted in these fields.



Conference proceedings are available at:

http://ceeus.ada.edu.az/uploads/items/1595512334E-Conference%20Proceedings_18%20June%202020.pdf

Call for Applications for Scholarship for the Second (online) Edition of the Specialisation Course in “Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for international integration and security policies” at University of Bergamo, Italy is now open!

The two Specialisation Courses in “Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for international integration and security policies – Political dimensions” and in “Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for international integration and security policies – Operational dimensions” have goal to understand the problems related to radicalization and the possible ways to give life to inclusion policies, tools and concrete de-radicalization activities, including the identification of precise strategies and educational plans for the prevention of radicalization and to address the issues related to returnees.

The courses are especially dedicated to stakeholders and actors already active in the field, as an additional tool to further increase knowledge of political dimensions of radicalisation phenomena with a specialised perspective.

Application deadline is 15 August 2020. Learn more about the program: <http://ceeus.ada.edu.az/trainings/view/1/>

Call for Applications for Scholarship for the New (online) Edition of the Professionalisation Course in “Social Dimension of Radicalization, Terrorism and De-radicalization: perspectives from Italy, Azerbaijan and Algeria” at University of Bergamo, Italy is now open!

Professionalisation Course in “Social Dimension of Radicalization, Terrorism and De-radicalization: perspectives from Italy, Azerbaijan and Algeria” has the goal of understanding the problems related to radicalization and the possible ways to give life to inclusion policies, tools and concrete de-radicalization activities, including the identification of precise strategies and educational plans for the prevention of radicalization and to address the issues related to returnees.

The course is especially dedicated to stakeholders and actors already active in the field, as an additional tool to further increase

knowledge of political dimensions of radicalisation phenomena with a specialised perspective. Application deadline is 15 August 2020.

PRaNet project website is live now

We are excited to announce that new website has been launched to communicate all the activities and programs conducted within PRaNet Project by all partners. Current and prospective partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the PRaNet Project will find useful information about our programs, training courses and scholarship announcements on our website.

The direct link to the website: <https://www.projectpranet.com/en/>

Project

CREATIVE SPARK

The Project is conducted within British Council'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, South Caucasus and Ukraine through UK support. The programme has been developed in response to an underdeveloped creative sector and a demand for entrepreneurship training in the programme countries, supporting wealth and job creation.

Creating Enterprise: The Business Start-Up Journey Entrepreneurship Skills Course

Between March-May 2020 Creating Enterprise: The Business Start-Up Journey Entrepreneurship Skills Course has been organized by ADA University in partnership with University of Kent Business School (UK) and funded by British Council. The Course has brought together group of selected students with different background ranging from IT and Business studies to Arts and Cultural studies for an engaging journey within which have been enhanced their entrepreneurial competencies and skills and provided step-by-step guidance for a start-up project development. Even the implemented quarantine regime did not stop the flow of the course and thanks to both participants and instructors, the course has moved to an online learning platform. On May 30, a (an online) pitching competition has been conducted and the winning three teams selected and awarded with seed funding!

Winning projects and teams:

1st place: Study Fun

1st place:
Study Fun

Laman Hamidova
Azerbaijan State University
of Culture and Arts

Maryam Hasanova
ADA University

Team: Maryam Hasanova, ADA University, and Laman Hamidova, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

About the project: An app where people can monitor their productivity for a certain time. One can study various subjects both by himself and with friends or even with different people from all over the world, who are studying the same subject.

2nd place: SPARK

Team: Susan Hasanova, ADA University

2nd place:
SPARK

Susan Hasanova
ADA University

About the project: Website for companies, like all companies have data about their departments and their staff, all the promotions, trainings, etc. The idea is to facilitate the hiring process for company and the process of exploring job for unemployed people.

3rd place: ArExpr

Team: Jigme Tashi Namgyal, ADA University, Lawrence Joshua Flomo, ADA University and Elbey Mirgasimov, Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts

3rd place:
ArExpr

Jigme Tashi Namgyal
ADA University

Lawrence Joshua Flomo
ADA University

Elbey Mirgasimov
Azerbaijan State University
of Culture and Arts

About the project: A learning app that turns learning into a game, with achievements, colourful characters, and AR.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Regional Energy Security Symposium 2020 – Caucasus



On August 11-14, 2020, CEEUS in partnership with NATO Energy Center of Excellence and Naval Postgraduate School will co-organize the fourth round of 'Advanced Regional Energy Security Symposium-Caucasus'. For the first time the program will be held in an Online format. 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. The Symposium aims to further strengthen regional energy security and resiliency through increased awareness, regional coordination/cooperation, interagency coordination and public-private partnerships. The program is intended for regional Energy Security stakeholders at the field in senior management position.

Online edition of 2nd Level Master Degree Program

From September 2020 within PRaNet Project will be launched Online edition of the Second Level Master Degree program in Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for the integration policies and international security (MaRTE) conducted by University of Bergamo (Italy) in partnership with ADA University. The post-graduate course lasting one year, aims at creating the professional skills necessary for those who want to address the issues related both to the study, development and evaluation of social policies for interreligious and intercultural integration, and to the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism, including through the study and application of methods of de-radicalization and counter-terrorism strategies.