

# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN EU STUDIES

CEEUS Newsletter No. 13 / June-December, 2020



## NOTE FROM DIRECTOR:



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the final newsletter of the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University for this year. The issue covers activities of the Centre from July to December 2020.

It has been a year of significant changes. Despite the pandemic, we have continued exploring ways of connecting online, conducting our research, strengthening partnership, educating and delivering the

projects. An online working environment has become our new reality, with numerous high-level seminars, workshops and conferences, and even academic programs being taught in digital format.

It has also brought us success in broadening the area of activities to the new Jean Monnet project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, securing funding for another year of the Creating Enterprise Business Start-Up project funded by the British Council. These fascinating new projects will focus on issues spanning EU Studies, policy and business and creative entrepreneurship. We are looking forward to delivering a new array of lectures, seminars, policy roundtables and publications as a part of all of our projects over the coming year. Meanwhile, in 2020 we wrapped up the Prevention Radicalization Network (PRaNet) Project. Report on the project can be found below in the current newsletter.

Read on for full details of this year's activities and stay tuned on our website and social media pages for details of events to come. We are grateful to our partners who significantly contributed, and we acknowledge the European Delegation to Azerbaijan for its ongoing support and contribution.

We look forward to engaging with you in 2021!

Ms Nargiz Ismayilova  
Director of the Center of Excellency in EU Studies, ADA University

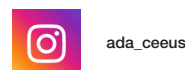
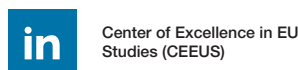
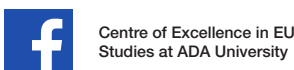
## LATEST NEWS

### Dr. Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs, appointed Jean Monnet Chair

Center of Excellence in EU Studies is pleased to announce that Dr Anar Valiyev, Dean and Associate Professor of ADA University School of Public and International Affairs has been appointed Jean Monnet Chair in EU Studies by European Union Jean Monnet Action since September 2020. As part of the Jean Monnet program, a Jean Monnet Chair is a teaching post granted to university lecturers who specialize in European Union studies and research. Dr Valiyev is the second person in Azerbaijan and the first academician at ADA University to be awarded with this position. Dr Anar Valiyev will help cultivate researchers and strengthen EU studies during his 3-year tenure.

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## Regional Energy Security Symposium - Caucasus finalised

On 11-14 August 2020 ADA University Center of Excellence in EU Studies, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), NATO Energy Security Center of Excellence (NATO ENSEC COE), British Petroleum (BP) and State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) have conducted Regional Energy Security Symposium – Caucasus that has brought together professionals in energy and international security from Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey.

The Symposium was addressing geopolitical and economic significance of energy security in the modern world, possible threats and their types and sources, risks and probabilities, the steps to be taken to address them, and the basics of establishing energy security policies.

More than 40 participants from government, non-government and business institutes have participated at the Symposium. The program has been lasting for four days and featured honourable speakers such as Vice President of SOCAR Mr Elshad Nasirov, Former Ambassador of the US to the Republic of Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar, Ambassador of the US to the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Lee Litzenberger, Ambassador of Turkey to the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr Erkan Ozoral, Naval Postgraduate School professor Dr Brenda Shaffer. Within the speeches and presentations have been extensively discussed topics such as importance and security of critical energy infrastructure in Azerbaijan, regional geopolitical climate, public partnership, and other topics.



## 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.

Check project website for more information:  
<https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/>

## GCRF COMPASS Policy Workshop “Karabakh conflict and implications for regional balance of power”

On December 22-23, the Center of Excellence in EU Studies organized a virtual GCRF COMPASS Policy Workshop dedicated to the discussion of decades-long conflict and geopolitical transformation emerged after the 44-day war.

This two day long virtual event featured the keynote speaker Professor Elena Korosteleva from University of Kent. Dr Farid Shafiyev from Baku-based Centre of Analysis of International Relations, Dr Svante E. Cornell from Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, Dr Ayca Ergun from the Middle East Technical University (Turkey), GCRF COMPASS Research Associated Dr Anar Valiyev and Mr Fariz Ismailzade, Dr Michael Doran, Senior fellow at Hudson Institute and the former US Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Mr Matthew Brysa were among the main speakers of the virtual event. The panellists discussed the strategies of Western countries, Turkey and Russia towards the South Caucasus and the political implications of the Karabakh war on the region. The virtual workshop was attended by more than 100 local and foreign participants representing think tanks, universities and different institutions.



## Shifting geopolitics of the South Caucasus after Nagorno Karabakh War

GCRF COMPASS Policy Workshop



Mr. Fariz Ismailzade



Dr. Anar Valiyev



Prof. Elena Korosteleva



Dr. Farid Shafiyev



Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli



Dr. Michael Doran



Dr. Svante Cornell



Dr. Luke Coffey



Mr. Matthew Bryza



Dr. Ayca Ergun



Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

22-23 December, 2020  
15:30-17:30

Registration at:  
[ceeus@ada.edu.az](mailto:ceeus@ada.edu.az)

Article at Research in Educational Administration and Leadership (REAL) journal 2020 Volume 5 , Issue 4, Pages 1083 - 1121

“Azerbaijan and European Higher Education Area: Students’ Involvement in Bologna Reforms”

Authors: Lala Mammadova and Anar Valiyev

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30828/real/2020.4.4>

Link:

<https://dergipark.org.tr/en/pub/real/issue/58741/794773#author1578034>

### Publications:

Article at Pathways to Peace and Security, 2020, vol. 2(59): 167-180

“New big war in the South Caucasus and prospects for peace in Karabakh”

Authors: Dr. Anar Valiyev and Ms. Nargiz Gafarova

DOI: 10.20542/2307-1494-2020-2-167-180

Link to the article:

[https://www.imemo.ru/en/index.php?page\\_id=1684&article\\_id=10191](https://www.imemo.ru/en/index.php?page_id=1684&article_id=10191)

Working paper “Attaining SDG 8 in Azerbaijan: The challenges of economic transformation and job creation”

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev

Link:

[https://www.ilo.org/emppolicy/projects/sida/18-19/WCMS\\_749432/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/emppolicy/projects/sida/18-19/WCMS_749432/lang--en/index.htm)

Analysis “An Account on Karabakh War: Why Now and Then What?”

Author: Dr Anar Valiyev and Dr Ayca Ergun

DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.30777.60006](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.30777.60006)

Link:

<https://www.uikpanorama.com/blog/2020/11/10/an-account-on-karabakh-war-why-now-and-then-what/>

Analysis at PonarsEurasia “The Myth of Syrian Mercenaries in Karabakh Debunked in Eight Parts”

Author: Dr. Anar Valiyev

Link:

<https://www.ponarseurasia.org/article/myth-syrian-mercenaries-karabakh-debunked-eight-parts>



# PROJECT: PRANET

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/>

## Another cohort of Azerbaijani students have been awarded with scholarship within PRaNet project

Late August 2020, 27 Azerbaijani students have started education with scholarship at the online post-graduate Second Level Master Degree Program in Prevention and Fight against radicalisation, terrorism and for integration policies (MaRTe), within the PRaNet project. The program is aimed at creating the professional skills important 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. In addition to the MaRTe program 24 Azerbaijani experts, state officers and researchers have been successfully graduated three professionalisation courses in Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for international integration and security policies in Operational, Political and Social dimensions. All 51 students enrolled in educational programs within the PRaNet project have been awarded with full scholarships

## Workshop Series on “Security issues in the South Caucasus”



Centre of Excellence in EU Studies with support of University of Bergamo organised a five days long workshop series covering a range of topics on security issues in the region of the South Caucasus between October 26-31, 2020. The program brought together Azerbaijani and international students, post-graduates with an ambition to become experts in regional politics, work as diplomats and in international organizations, those who were interested in a fruitful and thought-provoking discussion with experts in the field.

Throughout the five days long workshop series, participants gained knowledge on origins of current conflicts in the South Caucasus and potential threats and risks for peace in the region, got an understanding of impact's level on the region of the geopolitics today, improved the skills of analytical, expert and research work in the discussed matters.

## Closing Conference of the PRaNet project

On November 23, 2020, a virtual closing conference of the PRaNet (Prevention of Radicalisation Network) Project was conducted with participation of all project partners, beneficiaries of the project and experts. The Project, which has been implemented between January 2019-November 2020, was designed to contribute to deepen knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon of radicalization, development of social inclusion and de-radicalization policies and to provide for the improvement of integration, through post-university education activities and academic research. The Project partnership has been composed of the University of Bergamo (Italy), the Université Sétif 2 (Algeria) and ADA University (Azerbaijan). The Closing Conference represented an opportunity for the Project partners, independent experts and beneficiaries to sum up the efforts, review the achievements of the Project and its impact, and provide an outlook for follow up activities.

Within the framework of the PRaNet project:

- 32 Azerbaijanis have received scholarship to pursue education at University of Bergamo's MaRTe Master program in “Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for integration policies”
- 43 Azerbaijani civil servants and experts have received scholarship to participate at Specialisation trainings on the problem of radicalization and recruitment, for the improvement of integration and social cohesion as a countermeasure and response to violent extremism
- Has been formed an international research team that has developed a Book on the topic
- E-Conference on the topic of “Radicalization, Terrorism and Deradicalization: Perspective from Azerbaijan” conducted on June 18, 2020 and brought together academicians, researchers, practitioners and graduates to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of



## Deradicalization and Radicalization

- 5 days long workshop series conducted on October 26-30, 2020 with participants from HEIs, international organizations and public agencies

- Mutual visits to Italy, Algeria, and Azerbaijan to participate at project launch and study at professionalization course conducted

- Developed network of researchers and professionals on the topic in the Project participating countries.

## 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.

Check more information about the project:

<http://creatingenterprise.ada.edu.az/>

British Council announces winners of the third year of the 'Creative Spark' call in Azerbaijan

Following the first successful year of the implementation of Creating Enterprise: Business Start-Up Journey - Azerbaijan/UK project in 2019/2020, an international team led by University of Kent (UK) and ADA University and Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts (Azerbaijan) won the right to continue work on the project for the second consecutive year. As a result of this collaboration the project and the resulting platform will seek to improve the low rate of entrepreneurial education among Azerbaijani students studying in creative fields.

The first year of the project has been finalized in May 2020, with finalization of the 8 weeks long Creating Enterprise: The Business Start-Up Journey Entrepreneurship Skills Course organized by ADA University in partnership with University of Kent Business School (UK).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

3<sup>rd</sup> GCRF COMPASS International Training School for Early Career Researchers

On 15-18 February 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> GCRF COMPASS International Training School for Early Career Researchers (TS) under the aegis of the GCRF COMPASS Project and JM Chairmanship in EU studies will be organised by the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies. The TS's theme focuses on "Human Security in a Globalizing World" and reviews security phenomenon from broader approaches considering security threats where the security landscape is influenced by and has possible implications across different sectors such as the economy, the environment, migration, health and etc. The aim of the TS is to promote wider understanding of peace, security, and international stability in the region and globally, by elevating human security as a crucial component of security policy.

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

Between February-April 2021 ADA University in partnership with University of Kent Business School (UK) and Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts will be conducting the Entrepreneurship Skills Courses. This 10-week program will be a complex activity for the development of competencies and skills of participants that are required to be a successful entrepreneur and step-by-step guide to starting a business. The program focuses on innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial skills. At the final stage of the course participants will have chance to participate at the start up competition to present business plans. Winners will be awarded with award to help them in their professional development. More information about the program is available at:

<https://creatingenterprise.ada.edu.az/>