

GCRF COMPASS NEWSLETTER

Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia:
research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities.

Issue 4, October 2018-January 2019



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Welcome

Note



I feel extremely privileged to be able to address COMPASS advisors, friends, partners, collaborators and most importantly, its core members, at this moment of celebration. COMPASS has just transited from an idea of patterns to a tangible and practical object like a carpet or tapestry. The capacity building events in London and Brussels, not only familiarised our partner country participants with what the UK and Europe have to offer, but also exposed the UK and EU members of parliaments, diplomats, civil servants, think tanks, civil society actors, analysts and academics to key institutions and individuals from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Particular tribute goes to our COMPASS Post-Docs (especially Dr Madiyev), Programme Manager (C. Jummel), Communications and Events Manager, PhD students and affiliates for weaving together a training and enrichment exercise into a unique research and analysis opportunity. Apart from our signature capacity-building exercises in London and Brussels, our policy impact and capacity building efforts are now an established platform as exemplified by the activities reported in this letter. Whether it is digital dialogue or Silk Road diplomacy, COMPASS should be the first stop and one stop shop for any policy-makers in the UK, Europe or beyond. We are now looking forward to key events in Cambridge, Baku, Bukhara, Dushanbe, Exeter, Kent and Minsk. Yes! COMPASS is open for business!

Yours faithfully,

Siddharth S. Saxena
Co-I GCRF COMPASS
University of Cambridge

Past Events

FCO Policy Impact Training Seminar, 29 January 2019



On 29 January, the GCRF COMPASS project partners and delegates took part in the policy impact training seminar organised by Laurence Boyd, Senior Principal Research Officer at the FCO and COMPASS Advisory Board member. This workshop included policy impact discussions - how it is done in the UK and the region - with Q&A and an interactive session, led by Tom Croft, Senior Policy Planner. The panel speakers - Patrick Holdich (Head of Research Analysis), Cornelia Sorabji (Counsellor Strategy and External Enterprise), Matt Carter (Senior Advisor, GPI), and Kadri Liik (ECFR) - provided their own insights on how to extend impact of academic on policy decisions, and the role of various actors in shaping the UK's domestic and foreign policies. The COMPASS project also held its 1st AB meeting, with five members in attendance, to discuss the project's progress and receive feedback for its development in tandem with the FCO training session.

London Forum, 28 January 2019



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.

B. EST: Brussels Executive Study Trip, 20 - 26 January 2019

On 20-26 January 2019 the COMPASS project organised an Executive Study Trip to Brussels for the partner-countries. This event was held at the Press Club, at the heart of Brussels, bringing together for five days of training and networking, top-level delegations from across the Consortium: partner-HEI representatives, affiliate academics and ministry officials from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, as well as UK Universities – Cambridge and Kent. 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 neighbourhood and Central Asia. The event was organised with the assistance of **EUppportunity**, to whom the COMPASS project extends its gratitude for excellent organisation and handling of the event!



GCRF COMPASS and H2020 UPTAKE Workshop, LSE, 13 December 2018



On 13th December 2018 the GCRF COMPASS and H2020 UPTAKE projects organised a workshop at the LSE IDEAS in London. The workshop, titled 'Russia between East and West, and the Future of Eurasian Order' brought together over forty international participants from the COMPASS project, external universities and research institutes, and relevant Embassies, to examine Russia's external governance and the wider Eurasian region's response. The workshop was organised by PI Prof Korosteleva, and Zachary Paikin (COMPASS affiliate, University of Kent). The event addressed challenges and opportunities for cooperative orders in the wider Eurasia; dynamics of Russia's engagement in the region; the role of the Eurasian Economic Union; and the shared neighbourhood of Russia and the European Union. As a result of the workshop discussions, the organising team will be developing a proceedings and a Special Issue with contributions from COMPASS and external participants.

Caspian Innovation Conference, Azerbaijan 5 December 2018



Dr Saxena was invited to moderate a session on "The Role of Broadband Connectivity in Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities" plenary session. The speakers included H.E. Mr. Ramin Guluzade, Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Elmira Velizadeh, Deputy Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Ms. Atsuko Okuda, Chief of Information and Communication Technology and Development Section at UN ESCAP; Mr. Enrico Albertin, Director of Global Operations for Cisco Country Digitization Acceleration Program; Mr. Mehmet Toros, Turk Telecom International Group CEO; Mr. Gediz Sezgin, CTO of Turkcell among others. Dr Saxena was accompanied by Dr Kudaibergenova, J. Csabay and C. Berman from University of Cambridge.

<http://www.caspianinnovation.az/en/>

Cambridge COMPASS Field Mission to Baku, Azerbaijan 4-7 December 2018



Members of the Cambridge COMPASS team (Dr Saxena, Dr Kudaibergenova, C. Berman and J. Csabay) visited Baku during 4-7 December 2018. They attended the Caspian Innovation Conference, ADA University and participated in a video conference with all the COMPASS partners. During the trip, the team also met with representatives of various organisations, including Caucasus Research Resource Center, Baku Slavic University, the Port of Baku, and the BP Caspian. The Cambridge team also visited local arts and education representatives and established contacts at Yarat Centre for Contemporary Art and their education and development team.

International Scientific Conference: "Formation of the Belarusian statehood in the context of geopolitical shifts of the 20th century", Minsk, 29-30 November 2018



The Faculty of History of the Belarusian State University held the International Scientific Conference "Formation of the Belarusian Statehood in the Conditions of Geopolitical Changes of the 20th Century." The conference was accompanied by an International Seminar for COMPASS with a wider

pool of researchers and scholars in BSU.

Training workshop on "How to prepare successful project proposal", Baku, Azerbaijan 19-23 November 2018



HEI Training Workshop, "How to prepare a successful project proposal" was conducted in ADA University, Azerbaijan by the COMPASS BSU team. The workshop aimed at building basic competencies of project design and writing including problem identification, target groups analysis, understanding Logical Framework Matrix approach, applying ICT skills for project planning and budgeting, text writing and grant application management, resulting in workshop participants' developing their own bids. The workshop also reviewed requirements for existing EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and Jean Monnet. Participants included staff and academic faculty of ADA University and other HEIs in Azerbaijan, COMPASS Project participants from TNU (Tajikistan) and UWED (Uzbekistan).



Cambridge COMPASS Roundtable on "Community Dialogue and Democratisation in Uzbekistan", 15 November 2018

On 15 November 2018 the Cambridge team in the GCRF COMPASS project hosted a delegation from Uzbekistan. The event was organised by Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, GCRF

COMPASS UK, Centre of Development Studies and the Independent Institute for Monitoring Civil Society in Uzbekistan, Embassy of the Uzbekistan in the UK and the OSCE Office in Uzbekistan. The head of the delegation Prof Obdumurov (Head of the Sector of the Presidential Administration in Uzbekistan) and Nick Ray (Convener of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum Committee) were actively involved. P. Kalra, Dr Kudaibergenova and Dr Waljee gave presentations on best practice in CSO engagement.



Workshop on “The EU and resilience: interrogating theory, policies and practice”, 9 November 2018, Rome

On 9th November, COMPASS organised a workshop together with the Rome-based Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the H2020 UPTAKE project. The workshop, titled “The EU and resilience: interrogating theory, policies and practice” brought together over forty participants to reflect on the concept of resilience and its application in the EU’s policies towards the eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia.

Participants included COMPASS team members from all six project institutions; Advisory Board members; PhD students from the UPTAKE consortium; and external participants. The key note was delivered by Dr Tocci (AB member, Special Adviser to the European Union’s HR/VP Federica Mogherini, and Director of the IAI). The workshop will lead to several concrete outputs, including working proceedings and a Special Issue.



12th Core Group Meeting of the Munich Security Conference (MSC), Minsk, Belarus, 31 October-1 November 2018



Prof Korosteleva was invited to participate at the 12th Core Group Meeting of the Munich Security Conference (MSC). Limited to an exclusive group of 70 participants, the MSC Core Group Meeting in Minsk offered a neutral platform to discuss rising tensions between East and West, to establish dialogue and communication at the highest political levels. Participants included several heads of state and government, such as Alexander Lukashenko (President of Belarus), Armen Sarkissian (President of Armenia), Hashim Thaci (President of Kosovo); Prime Ministers of Serbia, Bulgaria, and Moldova; foreign ministers of Macedonia, Mongolia, Poland, and Slovakia, as well as high-level representatives of international organisations including OSCE Secretary General, EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, NATO Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation.

Training on “The Use of Open Science/Open Access - Issues of Plagiarism”, Baku 29 October-2 November 2018



A week-long research workshop was conducted on “The Use of Open Science/Open Access - Issues of Plagiarism” with the participation of ADA University faculty and researchers from other universities. The workshop series aimed at enhancing the research capacities of the researchers by developing their skills in publishing. Training was conducted by Dr Bruch, senior advisor for Strategy at Helmholtz Open Science Coordination Office.

COMPASS Field Mission to Belarus, 28 October- 4 November 2018



Prof Korosteleva visited the BSU, where she had a series of engagements. Elena met with the BSU team - Dr Nazaranka (Team Leader), Prof Victor Shadurski (Research), Yauhenni Preihermann (Policy) and Prof Rotman (via skype), to discuss BSU strategic priorities and specific calendar plans for this academic year; followed by meetings and training sessions with Ms Tatiana Kovshevich (Head of Finance, BSU), Prof Khodzin (Vice-Rector, BSU) and a wider pool of researchers covering a wider Eurasian region, from an inter-disciplinary perspective.

Conference: “From National Independence to Eastern Partnership”, Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 October 2018



ADA University in partnership with embassies of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia organized an international conference titled “From National Independence to Eastern Partnership: Story of Cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Baltic States”. Academics from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Azerbaijan presented on different topics and talked about security, regional cooperation, and integration to EU.

Cambridge conference on “Marx in a High Technology Era: Globalisation, Capital and Class”, 26-27 October 2018



Cambridge COMPASS, Cambridge Central Asia Forum in collaboration with the Centre of Development Studies, organised a conference on Marx in a High Technology Era: Globalisation, Capital and Class on 26-27 October 2018. The conference focused on Marx’s legacy in the 21st century. On the 27th of October Dr Saxena talked about the ‘Role of Science in the Development of High-Tech Production’ and their economic aspects. The discussion focused on Eurasia, especially the Central Asian countries of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan as well as Azerbaijan and the challenges they face in participating in the global economic market. The conference was attended by AB member Prof Nolan and

the event was co-organised by the S.Y Witte Institute for New Industrial Development in St Petersburg and the Lomonosov University, Moscow.

COMPASS Field Mission to UWED, Uzbekistan and TNU, Tajikistan, 13-17 October 2018



The COMPASS team from Kent and Cambridge visited their partners in UWED, Tashkent on 13-17 October 2018. They held meetings and discussions with COMPASS UWED team, Vice-Rector Rakhmankulov and COMPASS affiliates. The COMPASS team also met with HMG British Embassy and British Council core staff and other relevant partners from national institutions.



Following the visit to UWED, the UK COMPASS team visited Dushanbe in Tajikistan where they met with the Tajik National University Team, Prof Shahidi (National Team Leader), Prof Davlatov, Abdujabbor Rahmonzon, and Dr Nurulla-Khodzhaeva as well as deans and lectures of the respective departments and the Rector of TNU. During these meetings the team was able to establish the strategic plan of events, collaborations, research goals and important networks in the country for further project development. The UK COMPASS team held meetings in the Strategic Research Centre under the President of Tajikistan, the Tajik Academy of Sciences and local NGOs. The UK team also met with a wide array of young researchers, students and local community including the visit to the Shahidi Foundation and the Museum of National Instruments. During these meetings key themes for

research and collaborations were established.

Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) “COMPASS” Project launch, Baku, Azerbaijan 5 October 2018



ADA University along with its partners University of Kent, University of Cambridge, Belarusian State University, Tajik National University, and University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan, launched the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) “COMPASS” Project on 5 October 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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 of project partner countries, core partners from Kent and Cambridge.

COMPASS Field Mission to Azerbaijan 1 -5 October 2018



The COMPASS team from Kent and Cambridge visited their partners in ADA University in Baku, on 1-5 October 2018. They met with their counterparts including Nargiz Ismayilova (National Team Leader), Dr Valiyev and Dr Abushov (Research Integration), Fariz Ismailzade (Policy Impact), Nargiz Gafarova and Inara Yagubova (Community Engagement); discussed financial and transactional issues with the ADA University finance office; and engaged with a wider pool of researchers convened by the CEEUS team. These meetings allowed to discuss ‘Key Strategic Priorities’ for the university, and a range of individual and

shared activities for this and future academic years.

Talks and Events

Prof Karol, Rector of BSU visit to Cambridge and Kent, 30-31 January 2019



Prof Karol and Dr Nazaranka (COMPASS Team Leader, BSU) visited Cambridge on 30 January and the University of Kent on 31 January 2019. The visit included meetings with Head of the Department of Physics, Cavendish Labs, University of Cambridge, Nick Ray (Emeritus Fellow, Jesus College) and Prof Nolan (COMPASS AB member and Chong Hua Chair in Chinese Development, Judge Business School). The Rector also had a Q&A session with COMPASS affiliates in Cambridge and discussed prospects of further collaboration with the University of Cambridge with Dr Saxena.

The next day the Rector, Ambassador of the Belarussian Embassy, Sergei Aleinik and Dr Nazaranka visited University of Kent to sign the next phase of the ERASMUS+ mobility agreement (2018-2019) to enable exchange and knowledge transfer between BSU and Kent students and staff.



“Silk Road Travelers’ Texts” Conference, Zhejiang Normal University, China, 15-16 December 2018

Scholars from University of Cambridge presented in the International Conference on “Silk Road Travellers’ Texts from the 13th-14th centuries: Bibliography and Research”, held in Zhejiang Normal University 浙江师范大学, Jinhua 金华, Zhejiang 浙江, China, 15-16 December 2018.. GCRF COMPASS team member P. Kalra’s paper entitled ‘Silk Road and the Political Economy of the Mongol Empire: Yuan and Ilkhanid exchanges in the 13th century’ was presented along with Dr Sally K Church’s presentation on “Illuminated Texts Presented to the Mongol Khans by 13th-14th-century Western Travellers”. Yasmin Faghihi, Head of the Near and Middle Eastern Department, Cambridge University Library, presented a paper on “Paper: A Commodity and its Impact on Cultural Expressions”. The historic importance of the Silk Road in Central Asia and wider Eurasia is an essential part of the understanding for the COMPASS project. The environment in which the partner countries of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan operate includes China in very real terms. For broader Eurasia, Azerbaijan and Belarus the importance of the Belt and Road project requires engagement with academia and business in China. The conference proceedings are being prepared for publication in 2019.

3rd annual conference on “Forecasting international trends in International Uncertainty 2019”, Moscow, 14 December 2018

Dr Umarov participated at the international conference organized by Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). The event was sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The conference gathered experts in forecasting international politics from Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Great Britain, Kazakhstan, the USA, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Japan and other countries. One of the recurring ideas of the conference was that uncertainty, which is one of the main characteristics international relations today, is often disguised as «false certainty». The participants of the conference tried to determine the best ways of analyzing world politics and forecast trends for 2019.

The conference was kicked off by MGIMO’s Vice-Rector for Graduate and International Programs Andrey Baykov and was divided into three sections, each devoted to a geographical zone. Among the speakers were: Andrey Sushentsov, Director of MGIMO’s Scientific Center for the Analysis of International Processes, William Wohlforth, Prof at Dartmouth College, Jacob Shapiro, Director at Geopolitical Futures, MGIMO Prof and Advisor to the President of Rosneft Andrey Bezrukov and many more.



Representatives from TNU visited China for the CUIT 2018 International Education Week, 12 December 2018

Representatives from TNU visited the Chengdu University of Information Technology in China for a conference and to discuss prospects of further cooperation. Prof IMOMZODA (Rector, TNU), Prof Ghaforzoda (President, TNU), Prof Kasimov (Vice-President, TNU) presented at the conference.

Prof Fredric S. Starr, John Hopkins Institute visited UWED, 12 December 2018

On December 12, 2018, founder and chairman of the Institute of Central Asia and the Caucasus Frederick S. Starr at John Hopkins University delivered a lecture on “Foreign models of regional coordination and association” at UWED. Prof Frederick Starr expressed his opinion on the reforms taking place in Uzbekistan. He also spoke about the current situation of regional integration processes and their significance for world politics. The talk was followed by active questions and answers session.

Chris Webber, Head of the Open Innovation Department under the Cabinet of Ministers of Great Britain visited UWED, 5 December 2018

On December 5 2018, Chris Webber, Head of the Open Innovations

Department under the British Cabinet of Ministers, gave a lecture on “Evidence-based policy”. Chris Webber gave a lecture in an interactive way. He voiced methods of collecting evidence, methods of using evidence and adoption of innovative methods in public administration. He also shared his experience on this topic. Faculty members and students had the opportunity to express their views and suggestions as well.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/735>

ICT 2018, Vienna, Austria 4-6 December 2018



Faculty members of School of Information Technologies and Engineering, Dr Samir Rustamov's and Dr Abuzatdin Adamov have participated at ICT2018 Conference organized by European Commission in Austria, Vienna, on December 4-6, 2018 with the support of COMPASS.

The annual conference is a platform role for 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 and acquire new cross-border contacts and initiate collaborations.

International Conference: “Aitmatov at 90”, Columbia University, 29 November 2018

Dr Kudaibergenova was invited to give a talk at the conference about the literary, diplomatic, and cultural legacy of renowned Soviet and Central Asian writer, Chinghiz Aitmatov. Leading international scholars discussed complex topics relating to Aitmatov and issues of feminism, colonialism, and national identity in Eurasia. The importance of Aitmatov for Soviet film and music was also considered by a number of prominent figures who knew or collaborated with Aitmatov. Dr Kudaibergenova's talk was entitled, ‘Colonialism and 'National' Culture in Chingiz Aitmatov's Works’.

ADA University hosted the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission, 29 November 2018

On November 29, 2018 ADA University has hosted public lecture by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the topic “UNECE and its role for Sustainable Development Goals: is the UNECE region on track”.

Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Nobuaki Ito visited UWED, 28 November 2018

On November 28 2018, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan H.E. Nobuaki Ito delivered a lecture on the topic "The current state and perspectives of further development of bilateral relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Japan." at UWED. During his speech the history and current state of bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Japan, as well as the development trends of his country. The lecture was listened with great interest by students and teachers of the University and was followed by active questions and answers session. The Japanese Ambassador also expressed his satisfaction with the students' activity in the ensuing discussion, which demonstrates the great interest of the audience in Japan's modern foreign and domestic policy.

Chyngyz Aitmatov Readings, Cambridge 28 November 2018



Cambridge organized a one day event on Chyngyz Aitmatov, an iconic Eurasia diplomat and author. The event was co-organised with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the UK. Her Excellency Iskakova and Dr Saxena gave the welcome notes. P. Kalra gave a talk on ‘Chyngyz Aitmatov: the man, the author and the diplomat’. The talk covered notions of Eurasia, Silk Road

and the images of Central Asia which are shared and celebrated in the region. The event was organized to celebrate 90 years of Aitmatov's birth anniversary.

Ambassador of Belgium to Uzbekistan H.E. J.A. Regibeau visited UWED, 27 November 2018

On November 27, Ambassador of Belgium to Uzbekistan with residence in Moscow, H.E. Jean-Arthur Regibeau visited the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. Mr. Regibeau delivered a lecture on the topic: "The priorities of Belgium as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 2019-2020". The Ambassador of Belgium was accompanied by a delegation consisting of G. Rizzo, Minister- Counselor of the Belgian Embassy in Moscow, G. Seghers, Counselor on economics and trade and other officials. During the discussion, the high-ranking diplomat answered to many questions of the participants, in particularly, his position on the Brexit issue - the difficult process of the UK leaving the EU.

Meeting with M. Möller, UN Deputy Secretary-General, in UWED, 21 November 2018

A meeting of students and faculty members of the UWED with Michael Möller, UN Deputy Secretary General, Director General of the UN Office in Geneva was held on November 21. M. Moller talked about international law and global security, problems of sustainable development, adaptation of international security institutions to new realities and dynamically changing situation in the world.

The meeting was attended by U. Lapasov, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva, L. Grigoryeva, non-governmental non-governmental organization relations officer, Director of the National Center for Human Rights of Uzbekistan A.Saidov. The full text of Michael Möller's speech in the UWED - <http://uwed.uz/uploads/files/news/21-11-2018-Meller/Remarks-by-Mr.Michael-M%C3%B8ller.pdf>

Talk by Dr Saxena at “Education and Sports in the Epoch of the Powerful State”, Turkmenistan, 13-14 November 2018

Dr Saxena was invited by the Ministry of Education in Turkmenistan to a conference organised by the International University for Humanities and Development. He gave a talk entitled ‘Value Chain for New Science and Technology Development in Central Asia’. The talk touched on issues of Development and Technology which are not national and/or linked to borders representing the Westphalian nation state. Central Asia and wider Eurasia require a joint effort to be able to deal with these issues which are regional and global in nature.

Talk by Dr Klaus Zimmermann, President of Global Leader Organisation at ADA University, 13 November 2018

At the invitation of the Government of Azerbaijan, President of Global Labor Organization, Director of Center for Innovations and Technologies at the UN University, Honorary Doctor of Maastricht, Boon and Renmin Universities, founder of “Journal of Population Economics” Dr Klaus Zimmermann spoke at ADA University on November 13, 2018.

Model European Council conference: “EU-Turkey Relations”, Azerbaijan, 10-11 November 2018



On November 10-11 2018, ADA's European Azerbaijan Student Club with the support of Center of Excellence in EU Studies held at ADA the first 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 programme for Azerbaijani civil servants was organized in Brussels, 8-10 November 2018

ADA University's 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, 2018 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.



Conference on “The Promethean Movement towards Muslim Nations before WWII- the promethean activity in Azerbaijan and Central Asia”, 7 November 2018

On November 7, 2018 at ADA was held a conference “The Promethean Movement towards Muslim Nations before the World War II – the promethean activity in Azerbaijan and Central Asia” co-organized by ADA University and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Azerbaijan.

Work in Progress Seminars, University of Kent, October-December 2018

Between October and December, the COMPASS team at Kent organised

three Work in Progress Seminars (WIPs), where colleagues from the project's network presented their research, followed by lively discussions with the wider audience. The WIPs series were opened on 19th October, project PI Prof Korosteleva introduced the project's conceptual framework and her work on a monograph, ‘Governance and Resilience in wider Eurasia: connecting theory, geography and people’. The second seminar, on 23rd November, was an opportunity to delve deeper into the concepts of ‘complexity, resistance and resilience’, with a presentation by Dr Chris Henry (Kent). On 7th December, Zach Paikin (Kent) in his presentation, ‘Moscow, Beijing and the Future of International Society,’ talked about his PhD thesis’ conceptual work. The next WIPs took place on 18th January, when Susanne Szkola from the Kent Brussels School of International Studies presented a paper on ‘Power, pride and prejudice: Emotional othering in Azerbaijan's Presidential discourse’. The latest WIPs was on 8 February, with GCRF PhD student, Huawei Zheng presenting a paper on “The Eurasian Economic Union: an Order-Making Regional Actor?” The series takes place every three weeks, and welcomes Kent COMPASS affiliates and scholars from wider afield.

Cambridge Central Asia Forum Seminar Series October-December 2018

As part of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum Seminar Series N. Fayiz, Diplomat, Embassy of Afghanistan in the UK, ‘Role of Afghanistan's Key Individuals in Promoting a Winner Take All Principle as Opposed to Power Sharing’, P. Kalra gave a talk on ‘The Mongol Empire as a Model for Development in Eurasia today’, Dr Wilkinson, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, ‘The Prehistoric Silk Roads: Myths, Materials and Methods’, 30 November Nandin, Department of Architecture, UCL, ‘Metabolism of Mongolian yurts: a Mongolian architect's attempt to bring back yurt into modern life’. The seminars covered the region of Eurasia and the importance of the ancient and new Silk Road. The talks considered historic and modern concepts of Eurasia and Silk Road which are increasingly becoming significant in the political and economic landscape of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

UWED hosted a meeting on “Uzbekistan - the world community”, Tashkent 24 October 2018

On October 24, 2018, a creative meeting entitled “Uzbekistan in the World Community” was held at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the United Nations. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and professors, teachers, students of the university. At the end of the meeting, detailed information was provided by experts on the issues of interest to students.

UWED hosted Mr Mori, Head of the World Bank Country Office in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, 17 October 2018

On the 17th of October UWED hosted a meeting of students with the Head of the World Bank Country Office in Uzbekistan, Mr. Hideki Mori. The meeting was dedicated to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Mr. Mori spoke about the activities of the World Bank Group aimed at eradicating poverty and achieving economic well-being in the world, as well as helping the Government of Uzbekistan in implementing a program of socio-economic reforms. For these purposes, 18 projects totaling more than \$ 3.3 billion are currently being implemented in the country, which are aimed at supporting macroeconomic reforms, developing the agriculture, education, medicine, water supply, energy, transport and urban sectors. <http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/683>

Guest lecture by John McGregor, OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, Tashkent 24 September 2018

On September 24, 2018 University of World Economy and Diplomacy hosted guest lecture by OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan John McGregor dedicated to the topic «Cooperation of OSCE and Uzbekistan». Mr. McGregor presented an overview of the foundation of the organization, explained the organizational structure and scope of functioning of OSCE. Speaking about the current state and perspectives of cooperation between the OSCE and Uzbekistan, guest noted that the OSCE

and Uzbekistan are developing practical cooperation in a number of areas, including the fight against terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other international threats. As stated, cooperation between the OSCE and Uzbekistan will develop in the interests of preserving security and stability in the Central Asian region.

<http://uwed.uz/en/news/fulltext/679>

Save the Date

Conference on “The role of university education and science in modern society: on the occasion of 100th anniversary of the Belarusian State University”, BSU, 26-27 February 2018

For almost 100 years, BSU has been the flagship of higher education in Belarus as the scientific and cultural center of the country. In many ways, it shapes image of modern Belarus and represents it internationally in educational and scientific spheres. This is evidenced by the fact that BSU constantly ranks among the leading positions in higher education institutions around the world. The university’s high status is ensured by the use of innovative technologies in combination with decades-proven methods of educational process and scientific research. On the eve of the 100th anniversary, there is a need to evaluate the achievements of the BSU in educational and scientific fields, to show its role in the development of science and education in the Republic of Belarus, to identify opportunities for improving the intellectual potential for the future. It is important to comprehensively consider the role of BSU in both the European and the global scientific and educational systems.

To take part in the conference you need to send to organizing committee (conferences.hist.bsu@gmail.com) by February 10, 2019 text of report and application for participation.

National Training School, ADA University 25 February-2 March 2019

Dr Valiyev, Dean and COMPASS WP2 lead, is going to lead a National Training School for ECR from the 25 February-2 March 2019 in ADA University. This event is supported by University of Kent Q-step lead, Dr Erik Larson.

Meeting in Cambridge and Navroz, 8 March 2019

Cambridge Central Asia Forum will host its annual Navroz (Central Asian New Year) celebrations in Jesus College, University of Cambridge on 8 March 2019. The event will begin with a roundtable which will be attended by Ambassadors from Central Asia to the UK and senior academics from Cambridge. The theme of the roundtable this year is ‘Dynamics and Dynamisms of the Emerging Global Order: Role of Parliamentary Structures’. It will be followed by the cultural evening which will include an exciting array of dance and musical performances from the region to an audience of more than 300 people.

Research Workshop: Belt and Road Initiative @ Five, 13-15 March 2019

From 13th to 15th March the project teams in Kent and Cambridge will organise a joint event on regional responses to the Belt and Road Initiative. The programme consists of a one-day workshop entitled “The Belt and Road Initiative@ Five: Taking stock of global ambitions, regional response, and looking ahead”; a master-class for MA students; a roundtable at RUSI in London and a discussion in Cambridge on 15 March. More information will be published on the COMPASS website shortly.

COMPASS “Research in Action” Bukhara Training School, Uzbekistan 8-11 April 2018

Cambridge COMPASS in collaboration with UWED is organizing an international training school which will bring together leading experts, policy, academic, diplomatic, business community together with COMPASS ++ affiliates, as well as undergraduate, graduate students to discuss and debate on the current transformation processes taking place globally and their impact on Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbourhoods. The programme will

be multidisciplinary with a focus on academic research and policy projects to reflect recent changes in the multidimensional world, that link research and practice in the COMPASS geographies of remit. It will bring postgraduate students and senior researchers from the COMPASS partner Universities, enriched by Uzbek and Tajik broader group of participants, for three-days of discussions, lectures and roundtables to discuss research in progress. In the morning sessions advanced researchers will share their overviews on methodologies, working in the field and writing conceptually, constructing theories and writing research projects and in the afternoon sessions postgraduate students will be able to discuss their research-in-progress and get feedback from the senior colleagues. The aim of the workshop is to have open discussions, feedback and interactive lectures through a multi-faceted learning experience across all COMPASS partners and networks. Postgraduate students will be able to learn and use new skills on the spot, get feedback on their ongoing projects, share their ideas and learn conceptually from the leading experts in the field. More information will be available in due course on the COMPASS website.

COMPASS Student Convention, BSU, 25-27 April 2019

The Student Convention aims to provide students with an international opportunity to present and discuss their observations and outcomes on a broad number of issues linked to what are integration projects in Wider Eurasia, what are their achievements and perspectives and also what challenges the region faces and how it is perceived beyond.

Proposals focusing on particular countries experiences are also welcome. Generally, reports dealing with international relations, politics, history, economy and cultural identity will be favored, but the list of disciplines is not exhaustive and other ideas will be considered as well.

For further info please contact
Artsiom Nazaranka
nazaranka@bsu.by

COMPASS TNU Training workshop on “Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia”, Dushanbe 28 May 2019

TNU in collaboration with the Centre of Strategic Studies, Academy of Sciences and the Shahidi International Foundation will organise a one-day workshop on ‘Cultural Diplomacy in Central Asia’ in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 28 May 2019. This will be the launch event of TNU to talk about COMPASS goals in Tajikistan and allow for a broader discussion on Diplomacy in Central Asia and the wider Eurasian region. The panels will include discussions on how best to engage with the government, media and the community in Tajikistan to best inform the needs for capacity building in the country. Additionally, a panel on the Development of Cultural Diplomacy in the region especially from a historical perspective, keeping in mind the Soviet and post-Soviet experiences of Tajikistan, will guide and locate the immediate prospects for the country in the region and more globally.

Conference on “Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education: Opportunities for Action”, ADA University 19-20 June 2019

This year’s ADA Education Conference theme is pivoted around Sustainable Development Goal # 4, namely, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. ADA University in partnership with the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan and GCRF COMPASS project is delighted to invite researchers and policymakers in the field of education to submit their research papers to be presented at the ADA 4th International Education Conference.

The Conference aims at bringing together scholars, policymakers, independent researchers, educational practitioners, students and other stakeholders interested in national and international education development to present research analyzing educational strategies around the world and in Azerbaijan to reflect on best practices, discuss future steps and suggest policy recommendations for inclusive and equitable quality education system.

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: February 28, 2019 to sel@ada.edu.az.

ESCAS 2019 Exeter: The Globality of Central Asia, UK, 27-29 June 2019

The European Society for Central Asian Society (ESCAS) began in 1985 with a small conference at Utrecht University and has continued since with biennial conferences in a dozen European cities and more recently, in Central Asia too. Its focus is on building scholarly links and support between Europe and Central Asia. The theme for the 16th conference is ‘The Globality of Central Asia’.

<http://www.escas.org/next-conference/>

BIG GCRF CONFERENCE @Kent: “Governance and Resilience in Wider Eurasia: are cooperative orders possible?”, 30 June-2 July 2019

This BIG GCRF conference will bring together international scholars from Europe, Eurasia, Russia and China to discuss the potency of region-building initiatives – EaP @10; EEU and BRI @5 – and the prospects for their cooperation. More information soon on COMPASS web: **SAVE the date!**

Launch of GCRF COMPASS International Training School @Kent, 2-6 July 2019

The GCRF Conference will be followed by the launch of GCRF COMPASS International Training School, aiming to bring 16 GCRF Early Career Scholars and 10 external participants from UK and ODA countries, to discuss the challenges of governance for regional development and local response (resilience). More information soon on the COMPASS web: **SAVE the date!**

In other news



Web of Science Award 2018

Dr Anar Valiyev, Associate Prof of ADA University School of Public and International Affairs and COMPASS Project Associate for Research Integration has received Web of Science Award 2018 as the most productive author for Humanitarian and Social Sciences in Azerbaijan.

New Collaborations

ADA University and University of Bergamo, Italy: Starting from January 2019, ADA University will implement new international project in cooperation with the University of Bergamo (Italy) and Université Mohamed Lamine Debaghine de Sétif 2 (Algeria). The project is aimed to increase educational

and training capacities, as well as development of research skills and funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

Along with a number of activities including professionalization courses, trainings for trainers, eighteen students/researchers/professors from Azerbaijan will have chance to attend the Second Level Professional Master Degree

(<http://www.miur.it/guida/capitolo3.htm>) in Prevention and fight against radicalization, terrorism and for the integration policies and international security (MaRTe) in Bergamo, Italy.

Publications

GCRF COMPASS Contribution to the EU Strategy Report 2020-2027, 5 December 2018
<http://www.eurasiancouncilforeignaffairs.eu/publications/eu-strategy-report/>

GCRF COMPASS Tartu Proceedings, Co-editors: Dr Van-Gils, Dr Kudaibergenova, P. Kalra and Dr Saxena, https://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass/wp-content/uploads/sites/169/2018/11/COMPASS-Tartu-conference-proceedings-November-2018.final_.pdf

Valiyev, A. Policy Memo: U.S. Disengagement from the South Caucasus: The Throne Is Never Vacant, PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 545 October 2018 Anar Valiyev1 ADA University (Baku)
<http://www.ponarseurasia.org/sites/defa>

ult/files/policy-memos-pdf/Pepm545_Valiyev_Oct2018_2.pdf

Guliyev, F. 'Discursive closure: political parties and the (ir)relevance of ideology in Azerbaijan', Magazine: Southeast European and Black Sea Studies
www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?journalCode=fbss20; Article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14683857.2018.1556417>

Van Gils, E. (2018). 'Azerbaijan's foreign policy strategies in relations with the EU: Successful resistance and pursued influence', Europe-Asia Studies 70 (5): 738-758
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2018.1479733>

Thank you for your attention!

Please send your questions and news to Prajakti Kalra (pk315@cam.ac.uk).

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