



## Centre of Excellence on EU Studies

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the first issue of Newsletter of the Centre of Excellence on EU Studies in ADA University. From now, the Newsletter will serve as a quarter report about activities implemented by the Centre and announcements of upcoming events. We have done a lot and have many plans behind us - EU Spring School will be organized for ADA students in March and Summer School in July; international conference dedicated to Azerbaijan-EU relations will be hosted in fall 2015, and many more.

Enjoy our newsletter!

Your EU Centre of Excellence team

## Establishment of the Center of Excellence in EU Studies



between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the EU. The ADA University and the College of Europe implement the project.

The center was established at ADA University in January 2013 as part of the agreement between the European Commission and the government of Azerbaijan. The memorandum signed between the two parties in 2011 specified objectives of the project “Support to civil service training capacities in Azerbaijan with a focus on EU affairs”. These objectives are to increase the knowledge of civil servants and other relevant actors in EU matters, to facilitate the implementation of agreements and to help to deepen relations

## European Commission President gives lecture at ADA University

President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, gave a lecture at ADA University in Baku on 14 June 2014.

Called “EU-Azerbaijan – new opportunities and challenges”, the lecture was attended by state officials, members of parliament, university rectors and diplomats.



## The first meeting of focal points dealing with EU matters in state institutions

On 14 March 2014, the Center for Excellence held the first meeting with 40 civil servants who were nominated as focal points from Azerbaijani governmental institutions.

The aim of the meeting was to inform focal points on the goals and future activities within



the project as well as responsibilities and expectations towards focal points.

## Training of Trainers program (ToT)

This program was delivered by experts from ADA University and the College of Europe from June-July of 2014 and was aimed at training participants from civil service, educational institutions and other societies. Participants were equipped with special skills on how to be a good trainer covering: introduction, adult learning, facilitation skills, training techniques, the use of training aids, the planning of training, presentation skills, micro-training, preparation of a training course, and the evaluation of training. 150 participants attended the nine trainings, and 60 potential trainers were selected as a result. These trainers are expected to deliver the trainings for Azerbaijani civil servants in EU-related matters, including but not limited to EU Negotiations Skills, Introduction into EU Basics, and Trade and Customs Policies.



## Study visit to Brussels and Bruges

From the 14-18 of July 2014, seventeen Azerbaijani civil servants came to Bruges for a study visit to the College of Europe and to



EU institutions in Brussels. The study visit program included training sessions on EU affairs, visits to the EC and EP and a one-day Training of Trainers session. The study visit aimed at developing the participants' training skills and improving their knowledge of the EU and to allow them to better perform when delivering training seminars and short courses on EU Affairs at Azerbaijani institutions.

## Public Lecture by Svante Cornell (Crisis in Ukraine and its impact on regional security)

Today ADA University successfully held a roundtable discussion with Dr. Svante Cornell, Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University (USA) and co-director of the Institute for Security and Development Policy (Sweden). Attended by different ambassadors and representatives of international organizations, members of parliament and students the discussion focused on the topic of crisis in Ukraine and its impact on regional security, as well as how it will affect political developments in Caucasus.



It is worth to note that, Dr. Cornell's main areas of expertise are security issues, state-building, and transnational crime in Southwest and Central Asia, with a specific focus on the Caucasus and Turkey. He is the Editor of the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, the Joint Center's bi-weekly publication, and of the Joint Center's Silk Road Papers series of occasional papers.

Dr. Svante Cornell is also an author of the book "Azerbaijan since Independence".

## Montenegrin Prime Minister visits ADA University

On September 19 Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Dukanovic visited ADA University. His official visit to Azerbaijan started on September 18.

Mr. Dukanovic met with the Rector of ADA University, Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev. He also got acquainted with the ADA campus, Library and Student center and met with students from Montenegro.

Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Dukanovic started his official visit to Azerbaijan on September 18.



## Pilot Training

The training for trainers selected from the ToT series took place from the 24-28 of November. Trainers demonstrated their knowledge in EU general affairs and soft skills and how they deliver these skills. Jesus Ballesteros, expert from the College of Europe, mentored the training to assist trainers to improve their training abilities.



## Former President of Serbia at ADA University

ADA University hosted former President of Serbia H.E. Boris Tadic, who delivered a lecture on the topic "25 years after the Berlin Wall. How the global politics have changed" for students, professors and staff of the University.



The event was wrapped up with Q&A session.

Rector of ADA University Ambassador Hafiz Pashayev welcomed the guest and mentioned that the lecture has been initiated by the newly established Center for Excellence in EU studies. He also talked about how the University embraces diversity and multiculturalism and highlighted the countries represented in student body of ADA.

During his speech H.E. Boris Tadic talked about the current global politics, its implications, and stressed the need to accelerate the process of creation "United Europe" .

## British Minister for Europe David Lidington held a lecture in the ADA

In his speech, the British Minister paid special attention to the issue of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said he regretted that since his last visit to Azerbaijan, as well as 20 years after establishing the ceasefire, the agreement on the conflict has still not been reached.

Nevertheless, David Lidington stressed that the UK government strongly supports the work of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs: "Madrid principles set out in 2007 provide the basis for a deal but they involve difficult decisions and compromises for both sides".



Then, British Minister answered questions of the lecture participants. Commenting on the question why Karabakh is out of the spotlight, while the international community reacts quickly to the conflicts in Georgia and Ukraine, David Lidington responded that each conflict was different and had its own characteristics.

Speaking about a possible revision of the OSCE Minsk Group, David Lidington claimed that in this

case they would have to start from scratch. "The mechanism by which the OSCE group works, suggests to resolve issues by consensus. Therefore, any changes in the Minsk Group structure will require the agreement of all members of the organization," said David Lidington.

## Trainings for Azerbaijani Civil Servants

The trainings for civil servants started in December 2014. During only one month there were about 200 civil servants from line ministries. The trainings cover such modules as EU basics, EU strategies and Project Cycle Management, negotiation, presentation and communication skills, migration, human rights, energy policies, taxation, etc. - all related to EU matters. The trainings will continue till April 2015. In general, 1,000 participants are expected to attend the trainings.



## Establishment of EU library in ADA University

Two of ADA University Library staff members, visited the College of Europe Library in Bruges, Belgium from the 24-27 November 2014. Important research topics were the observation and analysis of the information resource's collection management, implemented policy and procedures, technological environment and others. This visit is a step towards the development of a focused library collection to support ADA's Centre of Excellence in EU Studies.



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