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Newsletter No. 8 (January-June, 2018)

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share with you the 8th issue of the newsletter of the Centre of Excellence in EU Studies at ADA University. The issue will cover our activities from January to June 2018. This period had been particularly busy and full of different events and projects.

Enjoy reading our newsletter!

Your EU Centre of Excellence team

4th EU Summer School was organized at ADA University

Forward” was held at ADA University

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Between July 25 and June 6, ADA's Center of Excellence in EU Studies organized 4th EU Summer School in partnership with the GOPA Consulting Company (Germany), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the University of Bologna.

During two weeks, a very diverse group of 30 local and foreign participants engaged in various lectures, workshops and simulations about the important issues of the European Union. Alongside with professors from the University of Bologna and DAAD the Summer School was also attended by several professionals working in EU related fields including Denis Daniilidis (EU Delegation to Azerbaijan), Eldar Mamedov (European Parliament) and Marius Bordalba (WTO project).

The program was concluded with a closing ceremony where Mr. Kestutis Jankauskas (Head of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan) and Dr. Vafa Kazdal (Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, ADA University) congratulated the participants and made their final remarks.

ADA University staff visited Maastricht School of Management and Maastricht University

club conducted 2nd
Brain Challenge
Competition

- Future plans

On 18-23 February 2018 ADA
University staff visited
Maastricht School of
Management (MSM) and

MSM

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SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT**

Maastricht University (Netherlands). The primary goal of the visit was to familiarize ADA University staff with the best practices of the European universities on fostering teaching and learning quality, to study best practices on programmes development, recruitment, student and faculty data management and study quality assurance mechanisms. The discussion and revision of partnership between ADA University and Maastricht School of Management (MSM) and discussions around possible international accreditation of ADA's programmes were another aims of the visit.

ADA's representatives conducted number of meetings with top administrators of MSM to critically evaluate various aspects of the existing partnership and discuss the possible ways forward.

Education Conference titled “Strategizing Education Development: Reflections and Way Forward” was held at ADA University



ADA University, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and EU Delegation in Azerbaijan successfully ran the third International Education Conference “Strategizing Education Development: Reflections and Way Forward” on June 7-8, 2018. Minister of Education Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov and Chair of the Board of Directors of the State Examination Centre of the Republic of Azerbaijan Maleyka Abbaszade made opening speeches. Number of notable international experts were present at the conference as Keynote speakers.

The Conference focused on the National Education Development Strategy of Azerbaijan (2013) and provided a platform for educators, researchers and policy makers to discuss and share the experiences on its implementation, achieved results and lessons learned. Conference brought together scholars, policymakers, independent researchers, educational practitioners, students and other stakeholders interested in national and international education development.

The Conference analyzed knowledge produced at the national level, explored best practices around the world and re-envisioned possibilities for cooperation and mutual support in advancing education research and practice.

ADA's faculty and admission team visited regions of Azerbaijan



The faculty and admission team of the ADA University visited high schools in Sheki-Zagatala (January 10-12, 2018) and Ganja-

Mingechevir (February 1-2, 2018). The main purpose of the visit was to raise their awareness about the different topics offered by ADA's undergraduate and graduate programs and also to inform the students about the significance of a university education, to help them to identify their career choices after graduation.

Meetings organized with high school students contributed to the establishment of cooperation links between ADA, regional executive power, and the local school administrations. This will also serve to successful continuation and sustainability of the regional trips.

As a result of conducted meetings with the high schoolers, they were provided with the information about the education process, major selection, admissions and interview procedure at ADA University. The students were able to find answers to questions they were interested in.

ADA University was represented at education fairs



In order to raise the awareness about the programs offered by ADA University and market them to different audiences, ADA's admission team participated in three different education fairs - Access MBA (February 19, 2018), Begin Edu Fair (March 31, 2018) and A2

Education Fair (April, 14-15, 2018). During the event, hundreds of potential applicants were informed about the undergraduate and graduate programs of ADA and they were provided with comprehensive information about the application and admission process.

Students from University of Giessen visited CEEUS

On March 28-April 6, 2018 a group of undergraduate students of University of Giessen have been hosted by CEEUS. Visit has been organized by interdisciplinary research center called Giessen Center for Eastern European Studies. Main focus of the group concentrated mainly on the languages, cultures, literatures and histories of the Turkic peoples of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in general.



Within the visit, students received a lecture by Associate Professor of ADA University, Dr. Anar Valiyev on 'Architectural landscape and nation building processes/discourses on national identity as expressed in the urban space of Baku'.

Workshop 'Energy Security in Central Europe'

The event was organized by the Embassy of Hungary representing the Presidency of the Visegrad Group in cooperation with ADA University on May 3, 2018.



An international team of experts including Lenka Kovacovska, Former Deputy Minister of Energy (Czech Republic), Péter Kaderják, Director of the Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research (Hungary), Matus Misik, Assistant Professor of Comenius

University (Slovakia), and Elnur Soltanov, Dean of ADA University (Azerbaijan) discussed how Central European countries have been looking for ways to diversify their energy supply routes. The current situation was elaborated and the prospects were analyzed.

ADA was represented at Blackboard Teaching and Learning Conference in Manchester, UK

Group of administrators and faculty from ADA University visited Manchester on 9-12 April to attend Blackboard's annual Teaching and Learning Conference. Held at The University of Manchester, the event featured over 50 sessions covering topics ranging from accessibility, student success and retention, to educational integrity, educator empowerment, data protection and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).



ADA participants had the opportunity to open up a conversation with the Blackboard Learning team, as well as with other institutions on how technology will be best used to shape future strategy and development within the e-learning environment. TLC provided a stimulating environment where ADA team started to explore new ideas and seek out the latest solutions to help accomplish their institution's goals. ADA team highlighted the importance of this conference in addressing the current and future role of technology in promoting better education for everyone.

ADA team had a chance to meet other Blackboard users and listen to their success stories and hopes to share their own story at the next Blackboard conference.

GSRF COMPASS Project launch in Minsk



GSRF Compass Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance and sustainable communities Project launched in Minsk on 22-23 May 2018.

The University of Kent, along with its partners – University of Cambridge, ADA University, Belarusian State University (BSU), Tajik National University (TNU), and University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan (UWED) launched the prestigious Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) “COMPASS” Project on 22-23 May 2018 in Minsk, Belarus. At the launch ceremony, ADA University was represented by Director of CEEUS, Ms. Nargiz Ismayilova, Associate Professor of ADA University, Dr. Anar Valiyev and CEEUS staff. The project seeks to enhance relations between the UK and partner universities, and to set up regional ‘hubs of excellence’ along with the following three dimensions: research integration, policy impact, and sustainable communities.

EU Commissioner spoke at ADA University



"The EU sees Azerbaijan as a strategic partner", European Commissioner for Budget & Human Resources Günther Oettinger said during his lecture at the ADA University on June 1, 2018. He noted that Azerbaijan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial

integrity is important for the EU.

Commissioner mentioned that EU and Azerbaijan are currently working on a new partnership agreement that will replace the cooperation and partnership agreement signed in 1999.

The EU commissioner hailed Azerbaijan's policy of economic diversification and added that Azerbaijan is contributing to Europe's energy security through the Southern Gas Corridor.

Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, held in Tartu University, Estonia

Between the 10th and 12th of June, researchers of the GCRF COMPASS project attended the 3rd Annual Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, which was held at the University of Tartu (Estonia). The panels' aim was to discuss different challenges for regional



security and capacity-building in the region. ADA University was represented by Associate Professor, Dr. Anar Valiyev.

The Tartu Conference is a venue for academic discussion of the fundamental cultural, social, economic and political trends affecting all aspects of people's life in Russia and Eastern Europe. Inaugurated in June 2016, this forum brings together scholars from across multiple disciplines, from the region and beyond.

'Regional Security Challenges' training was delivered to civil servants



Centre of Excellence in EU Studies jointly with the Crisis Management Initiative delivered a training program 'Regional Security Challenges' for Azerbaijani civil servants on 1-3 May.

The objective of the programme was to support the capacities of government officials in Azerbaijan in understanding current security challenges in the EU and its neighbourhood, as part of their respective professional mandates.

The second activity of the training programme will consist of a 3-day visit to Brussels in Fall 2018, that will be structured around meetings with Brussels-based stakeholders on EU's response mechanisms to crisis and EU's experiences in dealing internal divides. The third activity of the training programme will consist of a 3-4-day workshop in Baku in March 2019, that will be structured around addressing the crisis through negotiations and political means.

ADA's European Azerbaijan student club conducted 2nd Brain Challenge Competition

European Azerbaijan student club with the support of CEEUS has conducted 2nd Brain Challenge Competition on April 24, 2018. EU Brain Challenge is a team-based competition requiring to have a general outlook, creativity and a basic knowledge about the EU and the world. The aim was to bring local and international students together and to educate about EU in an interactive and entertaining manner. The competition was consisting of 5 rounds and 70 questions in total. 60% of the questions were covering topics around EU and its member states, 30% on the world and 10% on logic.



Future plans

We also have many upcoming projects and plans for the other half of the year 2018. Some of them are 3rd ADA-EU Summer Camp for school children, Regional Energy Security Symposium in partnership with NATO ENSEC Center and Naval Postgraduate School, series of actions with COMPASS Project, Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and organization of EU-themed trainings for public and private institutions.

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