

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Annual Security Conference 2025

## *Coming of Age: Central Asia and the OSCE in a Shifting Security Landscape*

*Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic  
25–26 November 2025*

Marking 50 years since its origins at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the OSCE carries a legacy shaped by both achievements and challenges in its unique mission to promote security and cooperation across dividing lines. On this anniversary, the OSCE Academy's Annual Security Conference 2025 provides a timely platform to examine the OSCE's promise and record, accomplishments and challenges, strengths and constraints, with a particular focus on Central Asia, the southeastern-most region within the world's largest regional security and cooperation organization.

Situated at the intersection of major geopolitical currents and key transregional connectivity routes, Central Asia faces rising environmental pressures while also showing encouraging trends in intra-regional peace and cooperation. Since the early 1990s, the OSCE has been a key international actor in the region, actively engaged in all five Central Asian states through initiatives spanning all dimensions of comprehensive security.

To mark the Helsinki final act's 50th anniversary, the OSCE Academy invites researchers, academics, and practitioners to join a critical reflection and forward-looking dialogue on international security, governance, regional cooperation, and sustainable development. Central Asia presents a critical geographic space where all the above themes – core to the OSCE's mandate – converge in both complex challenges and emerging opportunities. Through interdisciplinary exchange and policy-relevant analysis, the conference will explore vital questions around multilateralism, institutional resilience, and regional strategies in the context of growing global uncertainty.

The OSCE Academy's Annual Security Conference is supported by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and organized in partnership with the University of Siena.

### **Key Conference Themes**

Within the scopes of the two overarching conference themes – *the OSCE at 50* and *Central Asia's evolving role* – we invite proposals that offer critical, innovative, and policy-relevant perspectives on topics including, but not limited to:

- Mutual contributions and relevance: the OSCE's record in Central Asia – and Central Asia's role in the OSCE
- Cross-border cooperation, conflict, and peacebuilding
- Transboundary water governance, environmental security, and climate risks
- Connectivity, critical infrastructure, trade and economic cooperation: their implications for regional stability
- Regionalism reimagined: insights from and for Central Asia
- Sustainable development and environment protection
- The role of digital technologies and cyber governance in regional security

- Scientific cooperation and emerging disruptive technologies competition
- Education, youth engagement, and gender equality in OSCE and regional initiatives
- Preventing violent extremism, and addressing terrorism, drug, and human trafficking
- The OSCE's resilience amid shifting global and regional orders
- Human rights from third basket of Helsinki final act to current OSCE challenges
- Arms control, non-proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, collective security: the CSCE and OSCE experience
- Other relevant topics aligned with the conference themes are also welcome.

We particularly encourage interdisciplinary, comparative, and policy-oriented contributions. Submissions from both established and early-career researchers, especially those working in or on Central Asia, are welcome. Selected papers will be considered for publication in the OSCE Academy Policy Brief Series, subject to peer review and editorial approval.

### Submission Guidelines

Submissions are invited from a wide range of contributors, including scholars, policy professionals, government officials, representatives of international organizations, and OSCE Academy alumni. We welcome contributions from both the Central Asian region and outside.

To apply, applicants must complete both steps below:

- Fill out the registration form at <https://forms.gle/YbGH53ws5fMbuMqC6>
- Submit your application as a single document (PDF or Word) to [rtd@osce-academy.net](mailto:rtd@osce-academy.net) including:
  - An abstract (400–500 words) outlining the proposed paper
  - A short bio (maximum 200 words) highlighting relevant expertise

### Selection Committee

Representatives from the OSCE Academy in Bishkek:

- Chair: Dr. Pal Dunay, Director
- Member: Dr. Burulcha Sulaimanova, Head of the Research and Training Department
- Member: Dr. Sebastian Mayer, Senior Lecturer
- Member: Dr. Emil Juraev, Senior Lecturer

Representatives from the University of Siena:

- Member: Dr. Matteo Gerlini, Associate Professor, Department of Political and International Sciences
- Member: Dr. Fabio Indeo, Research Fellow

### Conference Timeline

- Release of the Call: 15 July 2025
- Submission deadline: 10 September 2025
- Notification of acceptance: 17 September 2025
- Conference dates: 25–26 November 2025

### Important Notes

- The working language of the conference is English.
- There is no conference fee.
- A limited number of travel grants will be available to cover travel and up to three nights of accommodation in Bishkek. Requests for travel support must be submitted through the registration form above. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to arrange their own travel to Bishkek.