

## Research Group on Western Balkans



*The Mostar Bridge, Photo by V.Ryan*

In December 2004, a working group of young researchers focussing on Western Balkan affairs constituted itself with the aim of synergizing their research efforts on various research hotspots such as Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia. The group currently consists of five members – Friederike Gräper, MA, Jens Narten, MA, Solveig Richter, MA, Dr. Thorsten Stodiek and Merle Vetterlein, MA - and meets on a monthly basis at the Centre for OSCE.

The working group seeks to promote the exchange of scientific approaches and the exploration of specialized fields of peace research, such as the media, democratisation, human rights, policing, and multi-layer causes of conflict in the Western Balkans. With this working approach, the research group hopes to elaborate joint patterns of conflict analysis and refined strategies for a peaceful transition applicable to the Western Balkans.

PhD candidates at the Centre have just started three new research projects, which have evolved from the working group . One project focuses on the interdependence of socio-economic, demographic, interethnic, and external factors as causes of conflict in Macedonia. Another project deals with the relationship of human rights norms and international efforts to civilize violent conflicts in Kosovo. The study is based on a systems-analytical understanding of both local and international actors as self-referential closed social systems that rely on their own selective observations of their environment and pre-coded means of internal communication. A third research project provides for an analytical approach in measuring the effects and impact of international organizations at the sub-systemic level while focussing on the achievements of democratization by international organizations and their contributions to transition processes in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro.

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## Visit at German Federal Agency for Civic Education

On 24 January 2005, CORE acting head **Dr. Wolfgang Zellner** and researchers **Dr. Andrea Berg** and **Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer** visited the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (*Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung*) in Bonn together with **Dr. Margret Johannsen** and **Dr. Götz Neuneck** from the IFSH. While Wolfgang Zellner gave an introduction on the activities of IFSH, the two researchers introduced CORE's broad range of research and consultancy projects. Anna Kreikemeyer gave an overview on various research projects dealing with OSCE activities or with security related problems in the OSCE area. Andrea Berg addressed the field of CORE's services: consultancy, publication and academic teaching, amongst them the the OSCE Depository Library, the OSCE Networking Website and the activities related to the establishment of the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The president of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, **Dr. Thomas Krüger**, as well as the heads of the publication and the IT section showed great interest in a future exchange on cooperation fields with the IFSH.

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## Consultancy on school management in Tajikistan



School children in a mountain village(Photo: A.Berg)

As Central Asia is one of the central areas of expertise of CORE, the German Agency for Technical Development Cooperation (GTZ) contracted CORE researcher **Dr. Andrea Berg** as a consultant in October and November 2004 for the coordination of a survey on school management in Tajikistan. Together with three teams of interviewers from the Institute of Teacher Qualification in Dushanbe, she conducted field research in 60 schools in three districts of Western Khatlon. The purpose of the research was to gather detailed information on the quality and content of teaching and learning, the level of cooperation between communities, schools and parents and the state of repair of school buildings.

The final report of the research was presented to the GTZ in December.

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## CORE Talks in The Hague and Brussels

On 16/17 November 2004, CORE acting head **Dr. Wolfgang Zellner** and his deputy **Dr. Frank Evers** paid a visit to OSCE and EU institutions in The Hague and Brussels. The goal of the visit was to analyse the provisions the two organizations have developed in protecting national minorities. In particular, issues of mutual compatibility of OSCE political commitments and EU legal regulations were discussed with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities **Rolf Ekeus**; HCNM Director **John de Fonblanque** and experts of the HCNM office as well as representatives of the European Commission's General Directorate for External Relations, Enlargement, Employment and Social Affairs, and Justice

and Home Affairs. At present, CORE is conducting research on inter-organizational requirements in protecting national minorities, specifically in light of recent and forthcoming EU enlargements.

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### CORE Teaching Activities

From 8-11 November 2004, **Dr. Anna Kreikemeyer** lectured on "Democratization" at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. From May to November 2004 she acted as a supervisor in the Central Asia Youth Network (CAYN), which was set up by the OSCE Centre in Tashkent. Here she worked with students from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, who were writing a joint paper on problems of human trafficking in the region. Within the Central Asia Research Initiative (CARI) of the Open Society Institute, Budapest, Dr. Kreikemeyer is senior research adviser to a doctoral student from the University of Jalal Abad in South Kyrgyzstan, who is writing his dissertation on the "Political Role of Islam in Central Asia".

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### European media development discussed in Thessaloniki

From 5-7 November 2004, **Friederike Gräper**, PhD candidate at CORE, attended the annual conference of the subgroup "Media" of the European Sociological Association (ESA) called "New Directions in European Media" in Thessaloniki. In her presentation, Ms Gräper focused on the European Union's activities in media development. She addressed the specific implementation tactics in that field and posed the question whether the European Union may be overstretching its legal competencies. In her argumentation, the European Union is not only promoting democracy and human rights abroad. Instead, its decisive promotion of a public broadcasting system resembles foreign cultural promotion. But since "culture" still belongs to the sovereignty of the member states, the European bodies have only limited room to manoeuvre. Friederike Gräper argued that the EU, under the umbrella of foreign democracy promotion, has overlapped the existing boundaries and grabbed new competencies through the back-door.

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### Website

**osce**networking

In November 2004, *OSCE Networking*, a joint project of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and CORE, which had been developed in 2001/2002, was re-launched. The website's content has been restructured and its appearance redesigned. The site's focus is twofold: first, it offers a link-database, which provides access to more than 3,500 websites with specific information on different economic, social and political topics on all 55 OSCE participating States; second, it contains a collection of secondary literature available online and more than 2,500 bibliographical references on OSCE/CSCE-related literature, providing valuable sources of information to students and scholars who are looking for detailed information. This international project is conducted jointly by CORE and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva with support from the International Relations and Security Network (ISN) in Zurich and the Specialized Information Network International Relations and Area Studies in Berlin.  
<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/osce/networking>

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## Field trip to Serbia and Montenegro

From 24-30 October 2004, core researcher **Dr. Thorsten Stodiek** conducted a field study in Serbia and Montenegro. This was the fourth field trip he has made to the Balkans as part of his research project “The OSCE and the creation of multi-ethnic police forces in the Balkans”, which analyses police-reform and police-training activities of the OSCE in South Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo. Visiting Belgrade and several municipalities of the south Serbian “Presevo Valley”, he met senior representatives of the Law Enforcement Department of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro, the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, several police officers and representatives of Human Rights NGOs. He also conducted a written survey, in which 200 Albanian and Serbian police officers and their former OSCE police instructors were asked to evaluate the OSCE’s training activities as well as the “Multi Ethnic Police Element” project as a whole, which was initiated by the OSCE three and a half years ago.



*Thorsten Stodiek (2nd from left) with Lieutenant Zoran Andjelic, Chief of Police of the southern Serbian municipality of Medvedja (2nd from right), and representatives of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, in front of Police Headquarters in Medvedja.*

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## OSZE-Jahrbuch 2004 (German edition of the OSCE Yearbook 2004)

As always, the tenth *OSZE-Jahrbuch* brings a wealth of talent, experience, and insight to bear on a wide range of OSCE-related issues. As well as reports from the Organization’s long-term missions in Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Kosovo, the latest edition tackles several highly topical concerns such as trafficking in human beings, anti-Semitism – and the high-profile OSCE anti-Semitism conference held in Berlin in April 2004 – money laundering and organized crime, the fight against corruption, and the potential relevance of the CSCE for the conflicts of the Middle East.

The *OSZE-Jahrbuch 2004* has a special focus on the Caucasus and the region’s many wars and (frozen) conflicts. In nine original contributions, internationally renowned regional experts analyse these conflicts in their historical and political contexts, describe the latest developments against the background of trans-regional economic and political issues, and explore possible ways to resolve the conflicts.

Prominent authors this year include Ambassador Robert L. Barry, former head of several OSCE missions, Dr. Svante Cornell, Deputy Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at John Hopkins University, Dr. Pál Dunay, Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Freimut Duve, the former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dr. Amalia Kostanyan, Director of the Center for Regional Development/Transparency International (CRD/TI) in Armenia, and Professor Gert Weisskirchen, Member of the German Bundestag and Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

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The OSCE Yearbook can be ordered from the publisher:



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### Latest Publications by CORE Members

**Berg, Andrea**, Strengthening Basic Education in Tajikistan. Baseline Survey on School Management in Western Khatlon. Eschborn 2005 (GTZ Report).

**Berg, Andrea**, Wer hat Angst vor George Soros? Die Auseinandersetzung zwischen autoritären Machthabern und internationalen Organisationen in Zentralasien, in: Sicherheit und Frieden, N° 4, 2004, pp. 206-211.

**Berg, Andrea**, Dynastie oder Demokratie? Die Personalisierung des Staates in Zentralasien, in: Welt-trends, Winter 2004, Vol. 12, N° 45, pp.49-58.

**Bitter, Jean-Nicolas/Frédérique Guérin/Delia Rahmonova-Schwarz/Arne C. Seifert** (Eds), From Confidence Building Towards Co-operative Co-existence. The Tajik Experiment of Islamic-Secular Dialogue, Baden-Baden 2005 (Demokratie, Sicherheit, Frieden 172).

**Kreikemeyer, Anna**, Learning by Doing - The OSCE in Central Asia, in: NYASnytt, Asia Insights 2/2004, S. 2-3, 24.

[http://www.nias.ku.dk/nytt/2004\\_2/NIASnytt2\\_2004.pdf](http://www.nias.ku.dk/nytt/2004_2/NIASnytt2_2004.pdf).

### CORE-News

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