

Promoting rule of law in Central Asia:

The potential of the EU's Central Asia Strategy to combine the development co-operation efforts of different actors

(2 hours per week) 3/6/9 ECTS
Mondays 2:00-4:00 pm
Sessions: 15 Oct 2012; 29 Oct 2012 - 4 Feb 2013
Venue: GD 204
Stefan Hanisch

The Rule-of-Law Initiative is one of the key elements of the EU strategy on relations with the five Central Asian states—“The EU and Central Asia – Strategy for a New Partnership”—, adopted by the European Council in June 2007. Like the strategy itself, the initiative serves the overall objective of security and stability.

In the context of the initiative, several EU Member States and the Commission further implement specific long-term programmes, some of them in close co-ordination with other international organisations such as the Venice Commission of the COE, the COE itself and the OSCE. The Rule-of-Law Platform established in 2011 underpins these efforts.

A closer look at the initiative's implementation reveals a gap between the strategy's rhetoric and the practical achievements. The Commission's most recent progress report sees “scope for adjusting the focus of EU actions and to target EU efforts more narrowly in the framework of the priorities set out in the strategy”, which they expect will increase the impact of EU actions and co-operation efforts.



The overall objective of the seminar is to find an answer to the question, under which conditions the rule-of-law initiative can be an asset.

The first part of the course will give an introduction: 1) to the Central Asia Strategy in general, its documents and activities, as well as to the evaluations pursued by different stakeholders; 2) to the status of legal and judicial reform in the five Central Asian countries. Furthermore, the course will set up the methodological and theoretical base for the issues at stake in the seminar. We are going to discuss impact evaluation, strategy building, policy analysis and concepts such as “law and development” and rule of law.

In the second part, the participants will investigate related activities of the EU, the Venice Commission, the COE and the OSCE in certain countries and in comparison.

Much of the initiative's success depends on the selection of legal topics, promising change and wide impact. The search of such topics will be the issue of the third part of the course.

The working language of the seminar will be English. Students may submit seminar papers in English or German.

Participation requirements:

Proficiency in English. Reading comprehension in Russian and/or a Central Asian language is an asset.

Performance test and credits:

ECTS: 3/6/9. MES modules: ZB Wirtschaft, Recht, Politik, WPM 1-6. Regular attendance; presentation and term paper.

For registration, please contact:

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References for an introduction to the topic (available online):

1. [Boonstra, J. & Denison, M. \(2011\) Is the EU-Central Asia Strategy Running Out of Steam?, EU-Central Asia Monitoring \(EUCAM\) Policy Brief No. 17, May.](#)
2. [Council of the European Union \(2007\) The EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership, Brussels, October.](#)
3. [Emerson, M., Boonstra, J. \(Rapporteurs\), Hasanova, N., Laruelle, M. & Peyrouse, S. \(2010\) Into EurAsia. Monitoring the EU's Central Asia Strategy \(Brussels & Madrid: CEPS & FRIDE\).](#)
4. [Schuster, M. \(2011\) The EU's Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia: From Initiative to More Substance?, EU-Central Asia Monitoring \(EUCAM\) Policy Brief No. 18, June.](#)

Electronic sources:

http://eeas.europa.eu/central_asia/index_en.htm

http://eeas.europa.eu/central_asia/docs/index_en.htm

http://www.venice.coe.int/site/main/Central_Asia/Default_E.asp

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1767825&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383#RelatedDocuments)

[id=1767825&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383#RelatedDocuments](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1767825&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383#RelatedDocuments)

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