



Call for Participants

Advancing Young Scholars and Peacebuilders Careers

Protracted conflicts in the Caucasus are characterised by three dynamics: (1) the collective alienation and (self-)isolation of societies which cause shrinking spaces for dialogue over the divide; and (2) the narrow understanding of the complex conflict structures, and the need for new and innovative ideas for peaceful conflict transformation; and (3) lack of young specialists dealing with the issues mentioned above in a professional manner. To develop new ideas and initiatives to generate positive dynamics within the protracted conflicts, the input of young peacebuilders and peace researchers is necessary. However, there are very few higher education opportunities in this field in the Caucasus. Therefore, young peace actors do have limited prospects to fulfil their dreams and to make a positive impact in their societies and beyond. To this end, firstly, the project will strengthen the capacities and skills of the target group through training and knowledge transfer. Secondly, we facilitate knowledge exchange, open dialogue and networking among them and with international experts. Thirdly, we will strengthen the visibility of the participants within the expert community and enable knowledge transfer from the Caucasus into international discourses. In order to achieve the objectives set, the project consists of several measures that build on each other.

Project components:

The one-week workshop on “Protracted Conflicts: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives in the Caucasus” in Berlin, August 10 – 15, 2020 (TBC)

The workshop, which is the heart of the project will bring together 20 young scholars, graduates, advanced students and civil society activists from all over the Caucasus and international experts in the field of conflict studies and peacebuilding. The gathering is a combination of a small conference, training, and regional exchange. During the workshop, the participants can present their research and practical experience on issues related to the topic and receive feedback from their peers and international experts. Furthermore, participants will receive training on vital skills like academic writing, advocacy or scenario-building.

Support for collaborative or individual academic articles or opinion papers of the workshop participants

After the workshop, we offer participants continued training and several mentoring sessions with international scholars and experts to advance their work. Additionally, we will provide language editing for final papers and small publication grants to cover research-related costs.

The joint print and online publication “Corridors-Proceedings Vol. II”

All papers that are submitted in time and successfully get through the mentoring process will be published in the edited volume to facilitate knowledge exchange and awareness-raising, stimulate academic discussion, and promote the knowledge and skills of the authors. The edited volume will be published and widely distributed, both online and in print.

Given the uncertainties of the current pandemic, the fall-back date for the workshop is September 2020. If it is not possible to hold an international workshop in Germany by then, we will convert the project into a condensed online learning and exchange format, which is strongly oriented towards the needs of the selected participants.

Project participants:

Our project aims to support young scholars and civil society activists from the whole Caucasus region. We invite young actors from the fields of conflict research and civil society conflict transformation from Georgia/Abkhazia, Armenia/Nagorno-Karabakh/Azerbaijan, and Russia to apply for the project. This includes advanced students, graduates, doctoral candidates, lecturers, and civil society activists up to 40 years of age. By selecting this target group, we aim to strengthen future multipliers in the Caucasus and facilitate dialogue and networking across lines of conflict.

Application:

To apply for the project, we kindly asked you to provide us with a short **letter of motivation** (one page), a **curriculum vitae**, and an **abstract** of your paper proposal of no more than 1.000 words. We encourage contributions with a strong research focus and those that reflect on practical developments and experiences. We invite individual and joint applications of up to two people on topics related to the overall theme *“Protracted Conflicts: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives in the Caucasus”*. Topics may include:

- local and regional conflict dynamics
- common challenges for the region (like migration, youth unemployment, environment, human rights, development)
- current initiatives and trends in conflict management
- best practice examples in community peacebuilding and civil-society cooperation
- experiences in and opportunities for regional cooperation
- future perspectives and scenarios for the Caucasus

Interested persons, please send your application consisting of letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, and abstract to Sebastian Relitz (relitz@opencorridors.de) **not later than by 26 June 2020**. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Thanks to the generous funding of the German Federal Office (#CivilSocietyCooperation), we will cover the project-related costs, including travel, accommodation, full board, and excursions.

About the organisers:

Corridors – Dialogue through Cooperation is a German NGO that aims to foster dialogue and cooperation between societies from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the European Union. Together with local partners, we develop joint learning and capacity-building opportunities in the field of formal and informal peace education. We design and implement projects that enhance knowledge transfer, create new opportunities for direct people-to-people contact, and raise awareness and understanding of the context and dynamics around protracted conflicts. For further information, visit www.opencorridors.de and follow us on [Facebook](#).