

Call for Participants

Advancing Young Scholars and Peacebuilder Careers 2022

“Analysing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in the Caucasus”

Promoting mutual understanding and constructive approaches to transform the protracted conflicts in the Caucasus has been a challenging endeavor already for the last 30 years. The Russian war against Ukraine not only makes this work more challenging but also reinforces old and creates new vulnerabilities for all sides. Thus, the year 2022 in the Caucasus is characterized by a high degree of uncertainty and further shrinking spaces for dialogue and knowledge exchange between the societies in conflict. It is precisely against this trend that it is vital to promote the voices and strengthen the skills of young civil society actors and researchers from all over the Caucasus. Therefore, the project **Advancing Young Scholars and Peacebuilders Careers** aims to support both academic skills to analyze and practical capacities to constructively deal with vulnerabilities on different societal levels.

To this end, firstly, the project will strengthen the capacities and skills of the young scholars and peacebuilders 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. And finally, we will support selected small-scale initiatives of the participants and further develop their community peacebuilding capacities.

This year’s project is devoted to **“Analysing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in the Caucasus”** and contributions from participants can be made in two ways:

- 1) **Research articles or analytical papers** dealing with vulnerabilities in the Caucasus and possible approaches to solving them.
- 2) **Ideas for small pilot projects** dealing with vulnerabilities of local communities in the Caucasus with a possible comparative perspective

All contributions should aim to contribute to the exchange of knowledge, promotion of mutual understanding, confidence, and peacebuilding. Participants shall analyze and address common problems from different perspectives and work together on new ideas and approaches to deal with them more effectively. To achieve the objectives set, the project consists of several measures that build on each other.

Central project components:

A one-week workshop on “Analysing and Addressing Vulnerabilities in the Caucasus” in Georgia, July 25 –29, 2022

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 conflict studies and peacebuilding. The gathering combines a small conference, training, and regional exchange. Participants will receive training on vital skills and competencies to help them fulfill their potential.

Funded by:

Support for 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 services and research support.

A joint print and online publication "Corridors-Proceedings Vol. IV"

We will publish selected papers submitted in time and successfully get through the mentoring and review process in the edited volume to facilitate knowledge exchange and awareness-raising, stimulate academic discussion, and promote the knowledge and skills of the young experts. The book will be published and widely distributed online and in print.

Mini-grants to support pilot community peacebuilding projects by the participants

We can support a limited number of small-scale projects by project participants with mentoring and mini-grants. The projects should aim to produce a tangible impact in local communities and facilitate practical cooperation between participants from different regions. The mini-grants can, therefore, support capacity building on practical peacebuilding skills and facilitate the development of practical follow-up initiatives on issues identified by the participants.

Project participants:

Our project aims to support young scholars and civil society activists from the whole Caucasus region. We invite young experts from social and political science, conflict research, neighboring disciplines, and young civil society and peacebuilding activists up to 40 years of age for the project. By selecting this target group, we aim to strengthen future multipliers in the Caucasus and facilitate dialogue and cross-regional networking.

Application:

The application documents consist of two parts. Firstly, a short **letter of motivation** (one page) and a **curriculum vitae**. Secondly, a **short abstract** or **project idea** (max. 750 words) on specific aspects, topics and approaches connected with vulnerabilities in the Caucasus.

It is also possible to apply in tandems or smaller groups, with a priority to diverse regional backgrounds.

Please send your application consisting of a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, and abstract/project idea to info@opencorridors.de no later than 10 July 2022 and with the email subject "AYPC 2022".

This project is a joint effort from Corridors with Civic Idea (Georgia) and the Research and Training Institute for Sustainable Development (Armenia).

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

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