

## **The Second OSCE-IFSH Essay Competition 2021: Conventional Arms Control and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures for Students and Young Professionals**

in co-operation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO University), and the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

Are you under 35 years old and interested in military security in Europe? Do you want to win up to €3,000 and present your work to diplomats in Vienna?

Take part in the second edition of the OSCE-IFSH Essay competition organized by the OSCE and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), together with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO University), and the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). The first edition of the essay competition took place in 2020 and encouraged innovative thinking and helped to contribute to a new generation of professionals studying challenges and opportunities related to conventional arms control and confidence- and security- building measures.

### **Prizes**

Three winners of the Competition will receive cash prizes of up to €3,000 and a certificate signed by the OSCE Secretary General. Subject to the COVID-19-related situation, the winners will also be invited on an all-expenses paid trip to Vienna to attend and present their essays at a meeting of the [OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation](#).

Other prizes include a spot in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Short Course offered by the VCDNP, the possibility to publish the winning essay, a €500 voucher for books and other related materials.

### **Participation**

Students and young professionals who are nationals of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation<sup>1</sup> up to 35 years of age (born after 1st January 1986) are invited to submit original essays on any of the following topics:

- OSCE's role in enhancing trust and stability and reducing military risks in Europe, including its use of instruments of conventional arms control (CAC), and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs)
- Impact of new technologies and new types of conventional weapons on security and stability in Europe
- Role of new technologies in enhancing CAC and verification

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the OSCE membership, please see <https://www.osce.org/participating-states> and <https://www.osce.org/partners-for-cooperation>.

- Lessons learnt from other regions to enhance military stability and security in Europe with respect to the above-mentioned domains
- The potential contribution of gender-sensitive approaches to the above-mentioned domains of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe

Notes: The following topics are **not** covered by this essay competition: missile defence, subregional conflict situations, deterrence and nuclear force postures, hybrid threats, cyber security.

The organizers especially encourage entries from women. Students and professionals studying/working on peace and security, military affairs, political affairs, international relations and other legal, policy and technical disciplines are invited to submit entries. The OSCE also welcomes entries by early career professionals from governments, including those working in foreign affairs, the defence forces, intelligence agencies, security agencies, the defence industry, as well as academia and the non-governmental sector.

Participants of the 2020 OSCE-IFSH Essay Competition, except for the top seven finalists, are also eligible to participate with new essays.

### **The rules**

Submission deadline: Entries must be sent to [essay-competition2021@osce.org](mailto:essay-competition2021@osce.org) by **Sunday, 1 August, 2021**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET).

- Only one entry per person.
- Essay length: Between 2,500-4,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography) plus an abstract of maximum 150 words
- Format: MS Word document
- Language: English

For more information, see “Terms and Conditions”

### **The selection process**

- A Selection Committee will include members of all partner organizations.
- Submitted essays will be evaluated anonymously.
- Announcement of the final results to all participants by the end of October **2021**.
- Subject to the COVID-19-related situation, winners will need to be available to travel to Vienna for the meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in December 2021. The dates and additional information will be announced in due time.

Disclaimer: Decisions concerning the selection of winners are final and not subject to appeal. The Organizer reserves the right to award fewer or no prizes in any contest if, in its sole discretion, it does not receive a sufficient number of eligible and qualified entries for that contest.

For any additional queries, please contact [essay-competition2021@osce.org](mailto:essay-competition2021@osce.org).

## Terms and Conditions

1. The competition is only open to nationals of OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation<sup>2</sup>.
2. Applicants must be 35 years old or younger (born after 1st January 1986). Winners will be requested to send their identification documents (passport copy) to facilitate administrative arrangements and travel to Austria (Ref: Standard Compliance Statement).
3. Individuals currently employed by the OSCE, including interns, are not permitted to participate in this competition.
4. Essay maximum word count: 2,500-4,000, excluding footnotes/bibliography and the abstract.
5. All essays must be submitted in English.
6. Only one essay is allowed per applicant of the competition. Once an essay has been submitted, the applicant will not have the opportunity to revise it.
7. All essays must be an original work by the applicant. All essays must be texts that have not been published elsewhere. Quotes and concepts taken from published and unpublished sources must be clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. Citations must follow Chicago style, and applicants can at any time be requested to provide clarification of the source. Any paper with content that can be identified as plagiarism will immediately be disqualified.
8. The essays should be submitted in MS Word format with the following settings:
  - Font: Times New Roman, size 12
  - Page orientation: Portrait
  - Margins set at “normal” (top: 2.54cm, bottom: 2.54cm, left: 2.54cm, right: 2.54cm)
  - Line spacing: 1.5 lines
9. The overall themes for the Young CSBM Scholars 2021 are as follows:
  - The OSCE’s role in enhancing trust and stability and reducing military risks in Europe, including its use of instruments of conventional arms control (CAC), and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs)
  - The impact of new technologies and new types of conventional weapons on security and stability in Europe
  - The role of new technologies in enhancing CAC and verification
  - Lessons learnt from other regions to enhance military stability and security in Europe with respect to the above-mentioned domains
  - The potential contribution of gender-sensitive approaches to the above-mentioned domains of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe

Notes: The following topics are **not** covered by this essay competition: missile defence, subregional conflict situations, deterrence and nuclear force postures, hybrid threats, cyber security.

10. The submission should be made per e-mail to [essay-competition2021@osce.org](mailto:essay-competition2021@osce.org)

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- With the subject “Essay Competition 2021 applicant’s family name” in the subject line - E.g. Essay Competition 2021 Bauer
- Have the essay as an attachment in MS Word format
- Contain the following information on the title page
  - Applicant’s first and last name as in the passport
  - Title (gender)
  - Contact details
  - Affiliation with one of the following:
    - university student
    - professional in academia, think tanks or NGO
    - professional at industry/private sector
    - state institution/public sector
    - other (please specify)
  - If a student, in what programme enrolled (Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral Programme)
  - Citizenship
  - Essay title
  - Word count, excluding footnotes and bibliography, abstract, list of acronyms, table of contents, acknowledgements, cover page.

11. Only entries submitted before **Sunday, 1 August 2021**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET) will be considered for the competition.

12. Criteria for assessment of papers

Definition of the Problem, Research Question and Research Design
Clear line of argument based on evidence
Policy Relevance
Structure and Writing
Presentation and Referencing

**Disclaimer: Decisions concerning the selection of winners are final and not appealable. The Organizer reserves the right to award fewer or no prizes in any contest if, in its sole discretion, it does not receive a sufficient number of eligible and qualified entries for that contest.**

**The winners will need to sign the OSCE “Standard Compliance Statement” before receiving the awards.**