**Project "The Network on International Education in South Caucasus and Central Asia at the Intersection of Educational Spaces" (NIE-SCCA-EdSp)**

 Institute of Foreign Languages at Kyrgyz National University is a partner in the international project “The Network on International Education in South Caucasus and Central Asia at the Intersection of Educational Spaces” (NIE-SCCA-EdSp). The project is developed and coordinated by the Research and Teaching Unit Diversity Education and International Educational Research at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). Partner universities in the region include Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University (ASPU) and Fergana State University (FSU). The project is funded by the DAAD with support from the German Federal Foreign Office as part of the programme “Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World”.

The project aims to promote university cooperation and intercultural dialogue between Germany and the countries of the post-Soviet Islamic region—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan—in the field of international education. The project addresses the challenges and developments in international education, which result from the dynamic positioning of the South Caucasus and Central Asia within a field of tension shaped by diverse cultural, political, and economic influences.

The project draws on the concept of (post-Soviet and Islamic) educational spaces. International education in the South Caucasus and Central Asia is characterised by the tension between national, Islamic, European, and Russian influences—educational spaces which both converge and compete. Educational institutions in the region operate within this complex field of tension, taking into account their institutional and pedagogical frameworks and priorities. Within this context, several challenges to international education become apparent. These include, among others: international educational activities shaped by transnational communities and diasporas; the unintended effect of brain drain as a consequence of internationalisation; the recognition of foreign degrees and qualifications; regional and social disparities in access to international education opportunities; and the choice of language for international cooperation. The project explores developments in international education at different levels of the education system and in the field of non-formal education in the partner countries. It addresses these issues by building research capacities, supporting early-career researchers, developing innovative teaching programmes at partner universities, promoting the so-called third mission (societal impact, knowledge transfer, etc.), and fostering intercultural dialogue. A key aim of the project is to strengthen networks between academic and non-academic actors in the field of international education, and to enhance local collaboration between research and practice by establishing local networks for international education. The project makes active use of the Network on International Education in South Caucasus and Central Asia (NIE-SCCA), established in 2023, and is committed to developing it sustainably in order to support collaboration and knowledge exchange in this specialised field and geographical region.

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For more information see the main website of the project: https://www.interedu.phil.fau.eu/research/projects/current-projects/nie-scca-edsp/