



SCPP!

**Summer School Series | Social Cohesion & Public Policy
in Central Asia and the Caucasus**



Research Funding by VolkswagenStiftung from a Project Perspective German Higher Education and Science Forum Central Asia, Halle 2026

Summer School Series

**Social Cohesion and Public Policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus
Disentangling the Linkage Through Ideas, Interests and Institutions**

Summer School Series funded by



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International, Interdisciplinary and Practice-Oriented Summer School Series

Three overarching goals: capacity building – networking and a sustainable project design – thereby generating transdisciplinary knowledge

19 participants | students, PhDs & Postdocs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan
... with individual research projects in different research fields & topics

Summer School 1: 9–14 September 2025 | Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Summer School 2: 23–29 March 2026 | Almaty, Kazakhstan

Summer School 3 & Final Conference: 22–27 September 2026 | Tbilisi, Georgia



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→ **Why here, now?**

VolkswagenStiftung's last granted project in the *region oriented* funding initiative
“Between Europe and the Orient – A Focus on Research and Higher Education in/on Central
Asia and the Caucasus”

| VolkswagenStiftung shifted the funding strategy → tackling *global challenges* by an
international perspective and through cross-border cooperation



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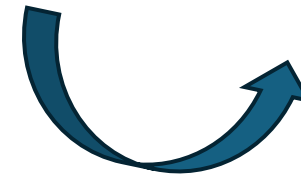
→ **VolkswagenStiftung's Research Funding**

Live Webinar on the Funding Portfolio

<https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/en/live-webinar-our-funding-portfolio>

Twice a year | free, one-hour live webinar in English

Next webinar: **9 April 2026**





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Interesting for Research Funding? | <-> Our Learnings

1. Consider basic formats in research (funding)

Good research requires a basis of trust and mutual knowledge/understanding of all partners

2. Consider early career researchers

Harnessing young talent – tailor made; shared platforms, exchange of methods and resources (especially in social sciences & humanities)

3. Incorporate interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary perspectives

For perspectives, positionalities, research questions, research processes & results, their interpretation etc. (<-> theory/philosophy of science)



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For What?

... this way:

Open up & show research capacities in cooperation with (Central Asian/German/international) partners!

There is a great deal that can be made fruitful for funding: not only in terms of regional expertise, but also concepts/theory development (e.g. via different understandings of language/native and second languages), methods (e.g. interview techniques) & again perspectives, positionalities, research questions, research processes, their interpretation etc.

→ To be compatible with both, regional funding and non-regional funding



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Thank you!

... Much looking forward to Q&A, discussion, experience exchange etc.!