



## Training Programs

### *Program Goal - to use innovative methods to build social science capacity.*

The CRRC Training Program provides local professors, researchers and scholars with the skills they need to succeed internationally. CRRC is currently developing a set of online modules with two components. The first component, the core curriculum, builds foundational methodological competencies. The second component focuses on advanced skills that are needed in the region, such as energy economics and demographic tools. With its new modules, CRRC is using innovative technology-based methods combined with face-to-face training.

### Why Training?

The lack of social science capacity has an impact on the quality of policymaking. Local researchers are not sufficiently capable of analyzing the situation in their own countries. Consequently, there is insufficient expertise, and policymakers lack critical constructive support in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies. Foreign consultants cannot make up for this problem, since they often lack knowledge of local particulars, work in their own incentive structures, and are disproportionately more expensive.

### Why Innovative Methods?

Web-based technologies increase the reach of qualified trainers in the region and promote long-term interaction between instructors and trainees. Moreover, interactive and collaborative technologies offer deeper learning, helping trainees to internalize essential skills.

### What Innovative Methods?

CRRC has piloted online learning in the South Caucasus, and runs trainings through Moodle, an open-source, Web-based educational platform.

#### ➤ Application as Learning

CRRC uses Moodle to process applications. On Moodle, applicants do not merely apply, they go through online training before they are allowed to submit their application. "Application as learning" also allows CRRC staff to interact transparently, so that all applicants can see answers to questions during the application process.

#### ➤ Online Preparation before Training

Those who are accepted into the trainings receive materials and exercises through Moodle and interact with the trainer through online forums before they arrive in the classroom. This maximizes preparation and allows for engaged, output-oriented training sessions.

#### ➤ Face-to-Face Meetings

Electronic environments cannot replace human interaction. CRRC brings renowned international trainers to the South Caucasus. In-person trainings provide a rich learning environment, and encourage the development of research communities and global connections, as students interact with each other and international trainers.

#### ➤ Post-Training Follow-Up and Testing

Online learning through Moodle allows students to follow up with trainers after the event, and to complete project-based work. It also allows trainers to test those students who want to demonstrate what they have learned.

CRRC believes it has a unique program and is eager to share its experience!

The Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) is a network of resource and training centers established in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus. A partnership between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Eurasia Foundation, and local universities, the CRRC network offers scholars and practitioners stable opportunities for integrated research, training and collaboration in the region.