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Policy Development and Confidence Building Workshop for Civil Society Leaders and Policy Makers from the Black Sea Region

6–10 October 2014, | Budapest, Hungary



Introduction

The Black Sea region faces a number of turning points in 2014. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine presents a serious challenge to the pan-European security order; the EU is in the process of re-formulating its Eastern Neighborhood policy as well as its approach to the Black Sea region which is of vital strategic importance to it; protracted conflicts, closed borders and strategic rivalries have weakened institutions of governance and allowed the democratic rule of law to deteriorate; indeed, in a number of domestic contexts, the discourse on human rights and democracy is under great strain.

This moment deserves reflection. What are the conceptual issues that need to be re-thought in the light of recent developments, and what are the best and worst case scenarios for the region? Do priorities need to be re-ordered in order to

achieve long-lasting solutions to cope with the considerable transnational challenges the Black Sea region faces?

This five-day immersion workshop for 30 innovative thinkers from within civil society organizations, researchers from policy think tanks and policy makers from the Black Sea region (Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia) is designed to provide a forum to discuss, and develop practical, equitable and sustainable solutions to regional policy problems in the spheres of democratic institution building, human rights and cooperative security policy.

Co-organised by the Council of Europe and the School of Public Policy at Central European University, the interactive workshop will allow participants to share their experiences and challenges and will encourage collaborative discourse, research and action on issues broadly linked to the core Council of Europe mandates. It aims at focusing conversations and analysis around the large conceptual issues that will shape the region within the next five years.



Format

The entire workshop will be held in English. To render it as interactive as possible, a number of assignments may be given in advance of the event to selected participants who may also be invited to make presentations or to act as discussants at different occasions during the workshop. Individual consultations with lecturers will be included in the program, upon request, to ensure the program is tailored as much as possible to each participant's needs.

Registration

Please visit the workshop website at <http://spp.ceu.hu/events/2014-10-06/democratic-leaders-black-sea-region> and fill in the form at the bottom. The registration deadline is 3 September 2014.

Participants

The workshop will be organised for 30 participants from seven countries from the geographical region around the Black Sea, i.e. **Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey** and **Georgia**. It will bring together opinion leaders from different backgrounds, such as scholars associated with innovative policy think tanks, experts, journalists, civic activists and human rights defenders with several years of professional experience.

Registration deadline: 3 September 2014

<http://spp.ceu.hu/events/2014-10-06/democratic-leaders-black-sea-region>

Program outline

Monday, 6 October

Participants arrive *(morning)*

- 1.45 pm **Registration**
- 2.00 pm **Catered lunch** at Central European University
- 3.00 pm **Workshop opening and welcome remarks**
- Amb. Piotr Świtalski | *COE Director of Policy Planning*
 - Prof. Wolfgang Reinicke | *Dean, SPP*
- 3.30pm **Opening debate**
- The Future of Democracy, Security and Economic Policy in the Region.**
A conversation with Thomas Carothers and Gerald Knaus, moderated by Matteo Fumagalli.
- 7.30 pm **Opening dinner**

Tuesday, 7 October

► **DEMOCRACY** *(morning)*

Thomas Carothers

- Session I**
- Do democracy indicators matter? Vibrant democracy and its 'hardware'/'software' indicators. Can institutional configurations be verified through check lists? Can a certain 'temperament', a type of public debate, be measured as part of a technocratic assessment?;
 - Democracy, democratization and backsliding: the closing space for international democracy and rights support and for civil society.
- Session II**
- Pull and push factors: democratization from within and without;
 - The problems of political party development and of international support for party development;
 - Civil society development and activism: new tools

► **VALUE CONFLICTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS** *(afternoon)*

Gerald Knaus, Ulrich Speck

- Themes**
- The role of the EU and the CoE: scope of and limits to European soft power in the region;
 - The role of international civil society organisations and coalitions working on human rights in the region;

- Three case studies to test how/whether the EU, the Council of Europe and the international human rights movement still makes a difference in this region:
- Freedom of information in crisis – are there any red lines left?;
- The right to a fair trial under siege in the region?

Wednesday, 8 October

▶ **HUMAN RIGHTS—continued** *(morning)*

Gerald Knaus, Ulrich Speck

Selected participants will be asked to present the diverse perspectives and debates on these issues, from the viewpoint of their country. The goal is to grasp what is truly new in the challenges to human values in the region in light of recent larger developments (Russia-Ukraine conflict; developments inside Turkey; debates on future EU policy towards the East; challenges to international human rights organizations).

▶ **POLITICAL ECONOMY** *(afternoon)*

Béla Greskovits

Themes

- The role of economic ties in shaping responses to the current crisis;
- Economic sanctions vs economic interdependence;
- Energy trade, vulnerability and diplomacy;
- The rise of state capitalism in the region;

Thursday, 9 October

▶ **SECURITY CHALLENGES IN EURASIA** *(full day)*

Matteo Fumagalli, Gwendolyn Sasse (TBC)

Themes

- Challenges to the European security order: ‘spheres of influence’, regional and global order;
- Emerging security challenges in the Eurasian space;
- Russia’s perception of EU/NATO enlargement;
- Conflict management in a GO world;
- Tools to manage seemingly intractable conflicts, especially deescalating gestures and peace-building measures;
- Finding solutions that last: the role of regional organisations in confidence building, mediation and conflict resolution;
- Selected participants will be asked to present the diverse perspectives and debates within one country of the region.

Friday, 10 October

► **COLLABORATIVE THINKING, COLLECTIVE ACTION** *(morning)*

Goran Buldioski

Session I

• **Do evidence and analysis still matter in policy debates?**

This session will challenge participants to reflect why and how data and analysis still matter. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine serves as prime example how rational discourse and evidence-based analysis is displaced in an environment where emotion and symbolism are prevalent. What approaches should policy researchers use to counter propaganda? Will the old methods give the same validity and reliability of findings? How should policy analysts try to reach out to broader segments of the public in times of crisis? The attention is more on formats and means of delivering analysis. To be heard, do we have to shout louder and more often or speak differently and to different groups? In sum, which role is there for policy think tanks to resist omnipresent propaganda and sophisticated ways of manipulation?

Session II

• **The role of think tanks in second-track diplomacy**

Session 2 will discuss the extent to which policy researchers cope with protracted policy uncertainty and the policy vacuum that has emerged during the crisis. Some crises don't have one good solution. As the annexation of Crimea put the whole European security system into question, many national governments are operating in an unknown terrain and are likely to pursue piece-meal approaches. How do policy analysts adjust to that? How do policy innovators in the region perceive the conflict, and what can be done to foster collaborative research to build confidence? What themes/topics are likely to generate cooperation among researchers in the region and why? What would be the goals and intellectual framework of that cooperation?

Evaluation

Farewell luncheon

Participants depart (afternoon)

Faculty



GORAN BULDIOSKI is the director of the Open Society Think Tank Fund. His expertise encompasses strategic planning and capacity building for NGOs and policy research centers, organization and project management in the nonprofit sector, and development of democratic and participatory policy change in Central and Eastern Europe. Buldioski holds graduate degrees in public policy from the CEU and in organizational behavior from the George Washington University. Before joining the Open Society Foundations, he worked for the Council of Europe, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation and the National Youth Council of Macedonia. His articles and research papers addressing think tanks, policy-relevant research, and democratic transition in Central and Eastern Europe have appeared in the *European Voice*, *Sharp! Magazine*, *the Turkish Policy Quarterly*, *LSE UNDP Development and Transition Newsletter*, *the International Journal for Not-for-Profit Law*, and *the Western Balkans Security Observer*.



THOMAS CAROTHERS, Distinguished Visiting Professor at SPP, is the vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He is the founder and Director of the Democracy and Rule of Law Program, which analyzes the state of democracy in the world and the efforts by the United States and other countries to promote democracy. Carothers is a leading authority on democracy promotion and democratization worldwide as well as an expert on US foreign policy generally. He has worked on democracy assistance projects for many public and private organizations and carried out extensive field research on democracy-building efforts around the world. In addition, he has broad experience in matters dealing with development, human rights, rule of law, and civil society development. Carothers is the author or editor of eight critically acclaimed books on democracy promotion, and has many articles published in prominent journals and newspapers. He is a senior research fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University, and has also taught at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).



MATTEO FUMAGALLI is Associate Professor at CEU, teaching courses on Transnational Environmental Politics and on post-Soviet politics. His interests include Central Asian, Caucasian and post-Soviet politics more broadly; the comparative study of authoritarianism; international security; the politics of development; ethno-nationalism, migration, and diasporas; state failure and collapse; the ‘water-energy-food security nexus’. His recent and forthcoming publications include articles in the *International Political Science Review*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Ethnopolitics*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Osteuropa*, and *Electoral Studies*. Matteo serves on the advisory board of the OSF’s Central Asia Research and Training Initiative (CARTI), and leads the “Tajikistan and Afghanistan Access Program” (OSF/HESP). He has consulted the UK Ministry of Defense, the Italian Foreign Ministry, the High Commissioner on Ethnic Minorities (HCNM/OSCE), and the UK Ethnic Minority Law Centre. He regularly contributes to Oxford Analytica and the Johns Hopkins University’s Central Asia and the Caucasus Analyst.



BÉLA GRESKOVITS is professor at the CEU Department of International Relations and European Studies, and Department of Political Science. His research interests are the political economy of East-Central European capitalism, comparative economic development, social movements, and democratization. His most recent articles appeared in *Studies in Comparative and International Development*, *Labor History*, *Orbis*, *West European Politics*, *Competition and Change*, *Journal of Democracy*, and *European Journal of Sociology*. He has recently had a book dealing with capitalist diversity on Europe’s periphery, written together with Dorothee Bohle, published by Cornell University Press.



GERALD KNAUS is the founding chairman of the European Stability Initiative, a policy analysis and advocacy NGO based in Istanbul, Berlin and Brussels. After having studied in Oxford, Brussels and Bologna, Knaus taught economics at the State University of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and spent five years working for NGOs and international organisations in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2001 to 2004, he was the director of the Lessons Learned Unit of the EU Pillar of the UN Mission in Kosovo. Gerald has published a number of articles and reports that have triggered wide public debates, including “Travails of the European Raj” on Bosnia (2003) and “Member State Building and the Helsinki Moment” on the EU’s role in the Balkans (2004). In 2011, he co-authored, alongside Rory Stewart, the book *Can Intervention Work?* He has also co-authored more than 60 ESI reports as well as scripts for 12 TV documentaries on South East Europe. He is a founding member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and Associate Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University’s Kennedy School, where he was a Visiting Fellow in 2010/2011 lecturing on state building and intervention.



GWENDOLYN SASSE is a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College and University Reader in Comparative Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies. Prior to her arrival in Oxford in 2007 she was a Senior Lecturer in the European Institute and the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the LSE (which was awarded the LSE Robert McKenzie Prize for the best dissertation). Her research has concentrated on different dimensions of regime change, with a particular emphasis on the post-communist region. Her most recent book *The Crimea Question: Identity, Transition, and Conflict* (Harvard University Press, 2007) won the Alexander Nove Prize, the Annual Book Prize awarded by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies. She is currently working on the political behaviour of migrants, in particular the ‘political remittances’ migrants send ‘home’. She received an Oxford University Teaching Excellence Award in 2009.



ULRICH SPECK is a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels. His research focuses on the European Union's foreign policy and Europe's strategic role in a changing global environment. Since 2009, he has edited the *Global Europe Brief*, a weekly EU foreign policy newsletter widely circulated among decisionmakers in Brussels and other European capitals. From 2010 to 2013, Speck was an associate fellow at the Madrid-based think tank FRIDE. Prior to that he worked for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague and Brussels, and in 2006 he was a fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington, DC.

Speck writes a monthly foreign policy column for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, a leading Swiss daily. He has published widely on German and European foreign policy and transatlantic relations.

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