



Schools of Political Studies NEWSLETTER

SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Issue 2, March 2013

Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of the Schools of Political Studies Newsletter. Much has happened within the Network of the Schools of Political Studies in the three months since the first edition and I will begin with the good news.

Members of the Network of the Schools of Political Studies have long expressed their wish to see the Network expand into the countries of central Europe. Involving this region could help bring greater depth to the exchanges between Schools. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce an initiative to set up a **new School** which will bring together young politicians, civil society activists, journalists and civil servants from the countries of the **Visegrád Group – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic**.

Meanwhile our friends in the “Organisation internationale de la Francophonie” (OIF) have set up a **School of Political Studies in Yaoundé, Cameroun**; the first such School in sub-Saharan Africa. We hope to see participants from this School join some of the regional activities being developed by the Tunisian and Moroccan Schools. **Our efforts to create a School of Political Studies ‘brand’ are beginning to bear fruit.**

Sadly, the importance of the School of Political Studies’ mission to strengthen democratic processes and practices throughout the European space has been brought home to us in a most painful manner; Ilgar Mammadov, Director of the Baku School of Political Studies, was arrested on 4 February 2013 with another Azerbaijani political activist. International organisations and NGOs have been active in trying to secure his release and an Appeal has been submitted to the European Court of Human Rights. The Council of Europe Secretariat is doing its utmost to ensure a speedy, fair, transparent and independent investigation of the charges. **More than ever this confirms the urgency and significance of our efforts to build robust democracies.**

Ambassador Piotr Świtalski

The Regional Academy for Democracy: a unique initiative to build political capacity in the Western Balkans



Young political leaders who are expected to obtain highest-level positions in the future are the focus of the Regional Academy for Democracy (RAD) seminars. This three-year project **‘Shaping the European Future of the Balkans – Building a**

New Political Culture and Political Elite’ has been developed by the seven Western Balkan Schools of Political Studies and is supported by the European Commission through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). It operates under the auspices of the Council of Europe. In the words of Sonja Licht, President of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, “RAD should be a tool to make the political elite of our region more knowledgeable, responsible and visionary, to help us **work together in building a better, brighter future for our countries, our region, Europe, and the whole world**”.

[RAD website](#)

The Network of Schools extends to Central Europe: welcome to the Visegrád School of Political Studies!

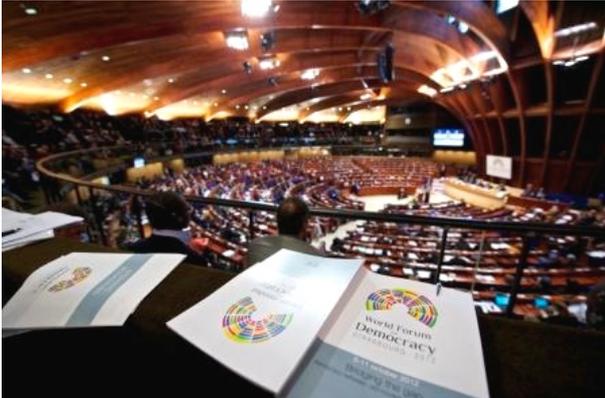


The Visegrád School of Political Studies is a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw. It is regional by its very nature – the participants will be recruited from the four countries of the Visegrád

Group – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovak Republic – so the School aims to **establish a regional network of like-minded leaders, ready to take on greater responsibility for a more mature political culture in central Europe** and stronger leadership within the European Union. As the 19th member of the Council of Europe’s Schools of Political Studies Network, on the one hand the Visegrád School will benefit in sharing the vast knowledge, experience and know-how from the other Schools in the Network. On the other hand, **all the Schools will benefit from this important extension of the Network to central Europe.**

<http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps/>

The Schools of Political Studies invited to play a key role in the 2013 World Forum for Democracy



The 2013 World Forum for Democracy on “**Rewiring democracy – reconnecting citizens and democratic institutions in the information age**” will be held in Strasbourg on 27–29 November 2013. This second edition will explore participatory initiatives and innovative ideas which have the ambition to increase institutions’ transparency and foster more deliberation and citizen influence on decision-making (for more information on this event, please consult the [Forum’s website](#)). This Forum offers an occasion for the Schools of Political Studies to explore issues with prominent European and international personalities.

Just as importantly, the Forum provides ample opportunity for the participants of the 19 Schools of Political Studies to meet each other, learn from each other and inspire each other. In a number of meetings specifically organised for the Schools, participants will be able to discuss common problems in bilateral and regional meetings, and to meet Judges from the European Court of Human Rights. In many cases the links forged at such events help build international networks which last for entire careers.

FOCUS

ON ALUMNI OF THE UKRAINIAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES (MARCH 2013)

Anatoliy Amelin, Commissioner, National Securities and Stock Market Commission

Oleksandr Bilous, Fellow at Koretsky Institute of State and Law of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Assistant to Minister of Justice

Volodymyr Bogatyr, Partner at LCF Law Group, Deputy Minister of Justice (2007–2011)

Oleksandr Bohutskiy, Director–President, ICTV (TV network), Yuriy Bova, Mayor of Trostyanets

Darya Chepak, Press–Secretary of the President of Ukraine
Dmytro Gorchakov, Political Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Oleksandr Kharebin, President, Expert Ukraine Information Group

Kateryna Kotenko, Executive Director, Industrial Television Committee

Alina Koval, Secretary of the City Council of Volochysk
Yulia Kovalevska, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine (V–VI convocations)

Andriy Kozyura, Director General, Legal Company ‘Liga–Pravo’

Armen Kurginian, Head of Sales Department, Caparol Ukraine

Anatoliy Maksymchuk, Deputy Director General, STB (TV Network)

Oleg Petrenko, First Deputy Director General, Universal Clinic ‘Oberig’

Elina Shishkina, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine (VI convocation)

Oleksandr Starukh, PhD at .F. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Former Governor of Zaporizhzhya Oblast

Dmytro Voloshenkov, Deputy Head of Odessa Oblast Administration, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine (V convocation)

Vladyslav Voskresenskiy, CEO and Co–founder, Invisible CRM

Igor Zhovkva, Head of FDI Department, State Agency for Investment and National Projects of Ukraine (SAINPU)





Launch in Tunis of the first School of Political Studies outside the European Continent

Supported by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Norwegian Government, and associated with a like-minded initiative by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and DEMO Finland, the Tunisian School of Political Studies was inaugurated on 8 January 2013, thereby becoming the first School to be established outside the European Continent. Its Director, Ahmed Driss, gave an interview to Yulia Kochneva of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies.

What is the origin of the Tunisian School of Political Studies?

The idea crossed my mind long before the revolution in Tunisia but remained a dream in an environment without freedom. With the fall of the former regime the School of Political Studies became possible, and indeed even more necessary, in order to respond to the needs of a new generation of politicians.

How were the first links with the Council of Europe established?

I first suggested the project when the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe came to Tunisia immediately after the revolution. Several months later, following informal discussions with the Bulgarian School of Political Studies and contacts with representatives of the Council of Europe, our organisation (Centre of Mediterranean and International Studies – CEMI) won the call to establish a Council of Europe School of Political Studies in Tunis.

How did the different political actors in the country welcome the project? Have you encountered any obstacles to the creation of the School?

The project was enthusiastically welcomed by all political actors and civil society in Tunisia. We did not encounter any obstacles.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Tunisia today? How could the School help to overcome this?

The biggest challenge, and it is the case for all the political actors, is the lack of democratic culture.

The contribution of the School will be, among others, to mitigate this deficit.

What does your School hope to receive from the Council of Europe?

The Council of Europe label provides strong institutional support for the School. This will help us to better fulfill our mission and will provide access to a network of qualified experts for the seminars we will be organising.

Have you already been able to develop links with other Schools of Political Studies? Do you think the network dimension is important?

The Network of Schools of Political Studies encourages learning from good practices and will open up various opportunities through the exchange of experience. Our partnership with the Bulgarian School of Politics led us to quickly assimilate their training methods, to discover team work, to develop a training manual and to familiarise ourselves with evaluation methods.

How do you envisage the future development of the School of Political Studies in Tunisia?

The Tunisian School of Political Studies is becoming a crucial pathway for future politicians and civil society actors. Its development will create a major center for training, research and support for democracy.

If the Network of Schools of Political Studies was to widen out, it would be to which countries?

North Africa, which is Europe's direct southern neighbour, is experiencing a period of intense transformation. The need for other Schools in this region is urgent.

New book on the Schools of Political Studies by Prof. Denis Rolland



The book "Towards European Democratic Governance: The Council of Europe from the Schools of Political Studies to the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy (1992-2012)" by Professor Denis Rolland was recently published in France. The book, written in French, looks at the work of the Schools of Political Studies since the first one was set up in Moscow 20 years ago. Taking a historian's approach, the author sets out his own views on the Schools' functioning, programme,

financing and prospects. The book looks at how a genuine Network has developed in Europe and how it contributes to the debate on European identity and values, the defense of human rights and the promotion of democracy. [Read more](#)



Forthcoming events

14 MARCH 2013 **INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF THE MOROCCO**
Rabat, Morocco **SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES**

In the presence of Mr Pietro Marcenaro, Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly and Mr Zoltán Taubner, Director of External Relations of the Council of Europe.

13 MAY 2013 **ENERGY. DEVELOPMENT. DEMOCRACY.**
Zagreb, Croatia The 2nd conference of the regional initiative “**Public dialogue on the sustainable use of energy in South-East Europe**” organised by seven Western Balkan Schools of Political Studies.

21-22 MAY 2013 **DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND DIVERSITY**
Strasbourg, France Seminar for the School’s Network organised by the European Association of Schools of Political Studies.

13-14 JUNE 2013 **MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF SCHOOLS**
Strasbourg, France The meeting will include a seminar on the **Quality and impact assessment manual for the Schools of Political Studies** as well as encounters between the Schools’ Directors and representatives of Major Administrative Entities of the Council of Europe.

CONTACTS

DIRECTORATE OF POLICY PLANNING

Ambassador Piotr Świtalski
 Director
piotr.switalski@coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 30 95

Michael R Emmert
 Deputy to the Director
michael.remmert@coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 34 05

Ruth Goodwin
 Project Officer
ruth.goodwin@coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 34 96

Suzette Saint-Marc
 Project Assistant
suzette.saint-marc@coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 28 67

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Jack Hanning
 Secretary General
jack.hanning@gmail.com
 +33 (0) 6 75 79 73 27

Yuliya Kochneva
 Project Manager
yuliya.kochneva@coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 21 89

www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu

ABOUT THE SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

The Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies train future generations of political, economic, social, cultural and environmental leaders in countries in transition. They run seminars and conferences on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The first School was created by civil society activists in Moscow in 1992 and since then 18 other Schools have opened. The Schools’ Network now covers the whole of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and, since 2012, Southern Mediterranean region and countries of the Visegrád Group.

The nineteen Schools are (in order of their founding): [Russian Federation](#); [Georgia](#); [Bulgaria](#); [“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”](#); [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#); [Moldova](#); [Kosovo*](#); [Serbia](#); [Romania](#); [Croatia](#); [Armenia](#); [Ukraine](#); [Azerbaijan](#); [Albania](#); [Montenegro](#); [Belarus](#); [Tunisia](#); [Morocco](#) and [Visegrád group](#). [*All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.]

For more information please go to the [Schools of Political Studies website](http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu)