

Frontiers of Democrac: Embedding Democratic Values

Tolerance and Transparency

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Katarzyna BATKO-TOLUĆ is Programming Director of the Watchdog Organizations Expert, Citizens Network Watchdog Poland. “I am proud to be among the developers of a grass-root social movement aiming at transparency of governments and accountability of decision-makers that brought major change in Poland. In my work I focus on preparing on-line and off-line tools to get people engaged and to educate themselves in civic oversight and influence on governance. Currently my organization works with more than 300 activists, bloggers,

journalists, organizations and groups all over Poland. We also advocate for better legal solutions concerning openness of governance, monitor legislative process, litigate, take part in the public debate and provide above 1000 legal consultations annually for those who want to shape Polish democracy. For this vision and bottom-up strategy I was named a social innovator by the Ashoka – Innovators for the Public and awarded a Knight's Cross of Order of the Rebirth of Poland.”

Ian FELDMAN is the President of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality (Equality Council) – an independent parajudicial public authority, established in 2013 to combat discrimination in the Republic of Moldova. He was appointed by Moldovan Parliament as a Member of the Council in 2013 and elected as a President of the Council in 2015. In 2014, he was one of the three candidates proposed by the UN Human Rights Council Consultative Group for the position of Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. For over 17 years Mr. Feldman has led a professional career in the field of counter-trafficking, international human rights and development as a clinical psychologist, national, regional and international expert, consultant and advisor. He worked in 10 countries, on 3 continents, for more than 50 projects, advising various UN, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations and got wide operational experience, including experience in security challenged regions. He



trained and consulted professionals from 27 countries coming from different regions of the world: Western and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, North-Eastern Africa, Horn of Africa, South-East Asia. Mr. Feldman holds two Bachelor degrees: in Management from Institute of Management of Moldovan State University, and in Psychology from Moscow State University. He studied Jungian Psychoanalysis in Moscow Institute of Psychoanalysis and got his Masters in Psychology from Free International University from Moldova (ULIM). Currently he is working on his PhD thesis in Moldovan State University. In December 2015, Equality Council, led by Mr. Feldman, got annual UN Human Rights Award for the efforts in combating discrimination and ensuring equality in the Republic of Moldova.



Anita KONCSIK, dr. has been working as a lawyer and senior researcher at K-Monitor Public Benefit Association since 2014 where she does advocacy management and legal research. Within the frame of advocacy activities, she regularly monitors Hungarian legislative proposals on political finance, public procurements and freedom of information issues where she also elaborates recommendations based on international good practices (devoting special attention to CEE examples and EU-level challenges). She has been participating in submitting comments and recommendations to the drafted national anticorruption programme and the draft law on public procurements (pointing out i.a. the shortcomings of sectoral regulations in Hungary). Besides elaborating policy papers, she also coordinates development of IT tools for anticorruption

built upon the findings of interdisciplinary research. (The latest redflag-tool strengthens independent procurement risk monitoring in Hungary since 2015). In 2010, Anita became lecturer at Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences (ELTE) Faculty of Law, at first junior lecturer of the Department of Legal Theory, then assigned lecturer of the Department of Criminology. She also worked as an editor of an e-journal of legal and social theory called “tolle,lege!” In order to gain more experience from different strata of legal profession, she worked earlier as a clerk to the justice in Budapest Capital Regional Court of Appeal and as assigned translator for the Court of Justice of the European Union. Now, she is writing her PhD-thesis on modelling legal and social phenomena with the help of AI (artificial intelligence).

Laco ORAVEC graduated from Faculty of Law at the University of Pavol Jozef Safarik in Kosice. Then he passed civil military service in feminist NGO Fenestra in Kosice. Since 2002 he is working with Milan Simecka Foundation, currently as Programmes Director. He is active in the fields of human rights, minority rights, multiculturalism, social inclusion and public policy. In the moment he is also PhD student at Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University





Anton PISARENKO is Project Coordinator at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation. He is in his final year of his Master's Program in Foreign Policy at the Institute of International Relations of the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. Originally, from Mariupol, Donetsk region, he graduated from Mariupol State University having completed successfully his Bachelor degree in International Relations. He was actively involved in the civil society life in Mariupol being a member of the local international relations expert community NGO "Dipcorpus". He was one of the organizers of the first "Euromaidan" in Mariupol. He was also a member of the Youth Delegation of Ukraine to the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (December 2014) and has a journalistic background. His research interests lie particularly in the field of political ideologies and European integration.

Bogdan RADU is Visiting Researcher of the CEU Center for European Neighborhood Studies since 2012. He received his MA in European politics from the University of Manchester (MA) and his Ph.D. Political Science from the University of California, Irvine, USA. He completed his doctoral degree in 2007, with the dissertation *Traditional Believers and Democratic Citizens. A Contextualized Analysis of the Effects of Religion on Support for Democracy in East Central Europe*. Since 2007, he holds a lecturer position in the Department of Political Science at Babes-Bolyai University. His research revolved around issues of political culture, democratic transition and consolidation and comparative studies of public opinion in the context of an enlarged Europe. He conducted research on religious values and political beliefs, for both adults and the youth, focusing on the relationships between religiosity and religious participation on the one hand, and political participation and support for democracy on the other hand. More recently, Bogdan became interested in studying the concept of public opinion in the realm of international governance, especially focusing on international development. He is committed to interdisciplinary approaches and the combined use of empirical and interpretive methods.





Martin ŠIMÁČEK is Director of the Institute for Social Inclusion in the Czech Republic. He graduated in journalism at Charles University in Prague in 2001. Now he is completing follow-up studies of public and social policy. In 1999, he worked as an interpreter for asylum seekers from Central and Eastern Europe in the UK. From 2001 he worked for People in Need Foundation as director of the Central Bohemian branch of Social Integration Programmes, as well as a desk officer of the Slovakia branch, which focused on the work in Roma settlements. In 2007-2009 he worked for the Ministry of Education in the section of social programs in education. In 2009, he helped to introduce the social work in the region Samagrela in Georgia. In the years 2009-2015 led the Agency for Social Inclusion of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. In the years 2013-2014 he represented the Czech Government Commissioner for Human Rights during the time the position was not occupied. Since 2015 is an adviser to the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and the Director of the newly established think tank for public policies in the Czech Republic called the Institute for Social Inclusion.

Agnieszka SŁOMIAN is the founder and chairwoman of the Institute for Eastern Initiatives in Krakow, Poland. She is a doctoral student at the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University, and a graduate of Russian studies and Russian philology. Her academic research concentrates on Central Asia, primarily on Kazakhstan. She coordinates cultural, educational and research projects, and organizes workshops and training courses. She loves to travel.



Oleksandr SUSHKO is Research Director at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Kiev and member of the Maidan People's Union council, he has also been director of the Centre for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy of Ukraine and has taken part in projects in favour of freedom of movement and the civic initiative for visa liberalisation, "Europe without Barriers". He is Ukraine coordinator for the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and director of the International Renaissance Foundation, an NGO, which supports citizens' initiatives working for a democratic society in Ukraine as part of the Open Society network.

Zsuzsanna VÉGH is a Research Fellow at the Center for European Neighborhood Studies. Her research focuses on the Visegrad cooperation, the Visegrad countries' foreign, security and international development policy, as well as the European Union's relations with its Eastern neighborhood (Eastern Partnership). At CENS, she has been engaged, among others, in multiple research projects focusing on the Europeanization/transition experience of the Visegrad countries and its relevance for countries in the Eastern neighborhood. She holds a Master's degree in international relations and European studies from the Central European University (2012) and one in international studies from the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest (2011). She also studied at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. She joined the Center for European Neighborhood Studies in August 2012. Previously, she worked at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs as an adjunct fellow.

