



Towards a Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented
by the Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



DPP-SPS (2015)2 - English only

Strasbourg, 21 September 2015

**Second International Alumni Seminar
of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies**

'Defending Democracy, Freedom and Human Dignity against Internal and External Threats'

**Hotel Hollywood - Dr. Mustafe Pintola 23
Ilidža, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
(25 – 26 June 2015)**

REPORT

prepared by the
Directorate of Policy Planning

Introduction

The seminar was opened by Matjaž GRUDEN, Director of Policy Planning at the Council of Europe, who gave the floor to Ivo KOMSIC, Mayor of Sarajevo, for his welcoming address. On behalf of the host organisation, the School of Political Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mahir NURKANOVIC, Alumnus and member of the Board of the Bosnian School and a member of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, also extended a warm welcome to participants.

Following this, Mr Gruden pointed out that the present seminar in Sarajevo coincided with the Chairmanship of Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, holding it for the first time since the country became a member of the Council of Europe (CoE) in 2002. He recalled that the Schools of Political Studies are a valuable asset of the CoE and therefore a priority for the Organisation and for its Secretary General. However, the constantly growing community of the Schools' Alumni tends to be an underexploited strategic asset of both the CoE and the Schools. Many of those who have benefited from the Schools' programmes are in senior positions in their respective organisations and are involved in addressing the challenges to democratic values and in building a democratic future in their countries. The CoE wishes to invest in and make greater use of this link and this is the key purpose of the Alumni seminars.

The seminar was organised in four thematic sessions, two on the first day and two on the second day of the meeting. The programme can be found in Appendix I and the list of participants in Appendix II.

Theme 1 '*Protecting societies without undermining democracy*'

Chair: Michael REMMERT (Council of Europe)

Discussants: Marina GURYEVA (Russia), Jagoda NOVAK (Croatia), Andreas TAKIS (Greece)

The Chair introduced the theme of this session by recalling that it will also be at the center of attention at the next Strasbourg World Forum on Democracy in November 2015.

Marina GURYEVA from Russia described the trends which are being actively pursued by the authorities in some countries under the pretext of protecting security. This provided a screen for a number of measures aimed at restoring and reinforcing a more authoritarian rule and led, among other things, to a rapidly diminishing space for civil society. One of the possible responses to counter these trends may be to make greater use of information and communication technologies (ICT) including social networks. Whilst these technologies can make the actions of individuals more traceable by the corporate world and by public authorities and their security services, nonetheless, the widespread use of such technologies puts the private sector and public authorities under pressure to put into practice the principles of good governance such as accountability, transparency and the unimpeded flow of information. Information on all stages of policy cycles and procurement processes should be brought together by these actors and made available to the public in an authentic manner and in real time. Public participation in infrastructure projects concerning them should be ensured. The sustained application of these principles would harness the risks and negative consequences of ICT for individual liberties and privacy and unleash the benefits of ICT for open, prosperous and fair societies.

Jagoda NOVAK from Croatia recalled the principles of liberal democracy, such as respect for human rights and unimpeded functioning of democratic institutions. These principles, however, are being challenged by acts, measures and legislations introduced in the name of security. Widespread surveillance is restricting and violating our constitutional rights. The Council of Europe, as the forefront organisation mandated to

protect and promote human rights and democracy, should work on and vigorously defend standards which have been developed to prevent authoritarian excesses in our societies. She also emphasised the importance of independent and transparent institutions, notably civil society and independent media. Public service media (PSM) have a particularly significant role to play in this context. In the present situation, and given the negative trends we observe in some of our societies, it is vital to understand that democratic progress is not irreversible. In parallel to the tensions between security and democracy we should also pay very close attention to tensions which exist between the economy, especially financial institutions, and democracy.

Professor Andreas TAKIS from Greece highlighted the problem of widespread discretionary powers held by administrations responsible for security. These wide-ranging and wide-reaching powers, which are frequently not subject to any judicial scrutiny, are undermining the functioning of democratic governance and are going against national constitutional safeguards and international standards and obligations. The idea that democracy is conceivable without civil rights, that is by depriving parts of the population of their civil rights in order to overcome security challenges, misses the very point of civil rights, i.e. that individuals are responsible and able to decide authoritatively together with their equals on matters that affect them. Without this democracy is reduced to a mere technique of decision-making. Clearly, security problems are very real but addressing them should be non-negotiably tied to functioning democratic institutions and their civil liberty underpinnings.

In the ensuing debate a number of national examples of tension and conflict, or alleged conflict, between security and democratic principles were mentioned, notably in Tunisia where democratic reforms are being carried out against the background of persisting terrorist threats and radicalization. Turkey was also discussed and it was noted that the motive of defending national security is frequently invoked in situations in which freedoms guaranteed by the constitution and international conventions are being curtailed. Some possible responses to these trends were also raised, notably the new law on access to public information in Ukraine, which could and should have a dissuasive effect on attempts to misuse public prerogatives in the name of protecting security.

The key question arising from the discussion was how to respond to the fact that public opinion is predominantly in favour of robust and uncompromising security, especially in situations when the general public feels that their security and well-being is under threat. They may initially and instinctively even support measures which in the long term might prove to be ineffective or even counter-productive.

Theme 2 ‘Addressing the root causes of radicalisation in democratic societies’

Chair: Matjaž GRUDEN (Council of Europe)

Invited speaker: Ahmed DRISS (Tunisia)

Discussants: Juliana CICI (Albania), Gergana ANDREEVA-RAKOVSKA (Bulgaria)

In order to clarify some key terms related to the theme of the panel, the invited speaker, Ahmed DRISS, Director of the Tunisian School of Politics, stated that a definition that is widely accepted today explains radicalisation as a process by which individuals or groups come to adopt views that reject the status quo and contemporary ideas of freedom of choice, thus seeking to institute wide-ranging change in social and political systems.

It should be noted, however, that radicalisation is not only linked to the current discussion about Islamism and foreign fighters; it is much broader, including for example 19th century Marxism and 20th century neoliberalism. Moreover, a distinction needs to be made between non-violent and violent radicalism.

The participants considered the root causes of radicalisation which are multiple: discrimination by state authorities (e.g. ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities); family and social environment; poor education; economic exclusion (e.g. lack of labour market access and work experience); poor performance of law enforcement and the judiciary and, finally, declining trust in democratic institutions.

Different combinations of these disfunctionalities and their psychological and political effects give rise to ideological justifications of extremism, sometimes leading to terrorism.

As to the responses to radicalisation and extremism, formal education systems need to strengthen young people's civic competences by acquainting them with key social and political concepts and structures (such as democracy, justice, equality, citizenship and civil rights) and by enabling them to engage in democratic public life. Moreover, schools in partnership with local organisations, representatives of local communities, and the families of children at risk, should establish effective early warning systems to prevent early school dropout. It is important that teachers receive appropriate training so as to perform that role properly and effectively. The Council of Europe competence framework for teachers that is presently being developed is expected to contribute to this objective.

Public authorities and civil society play a crucial role in preventing extremism. The efforts of national and regional governments, local authorities, social partners and NGOs should be mobilised, and their forces pooled, to create a supportive environment for young people at risk of exclusion, so that they may meaningfully participate in public life and realise their full potential.

There is also a need for intercultural dialogue and mass-scale information campaigns for young people to prevent radicalisation and hate speech. These should involve local community ambassadors (such as local opinion leaders and mediators) and the internet and take into account the cultural and religious values and socio-economic situation of people who may be attracted to radicalisation.

When it comes to limiting the freedom of expression of radical voices on the internet, this needs to be done in accordance with international standards of human rights and in conformity with the rule of law, and respecting the principle of proportionality.

Turning to radical Islamism, the group agreed on the need to acknowledge the depth of the mutual grievances between the Islamic world and the West. In some of its reactions to the 9/11 attacks, the West fuelled the Islamists' cause. There is a need to re-evaluate the relationship between the West and the Islamic world, going back way beyond 2001. Such a reflection should result in a new historical - and contemporary - narrative that emphasises what unites cultures and religions rather than what divides them.

Much as the West needs to assume some responsibility, there needs to be a reform of religious institutions in the Islamic world that gives back legitimacy to moderate Islam, thus giving rise to an adequate interpretation of Islamic history as a history of moderation. In this context, the view was also expressed that secularism might be leaving the way open for radical Islamists to speak in the name of Islam.

Theme 3 '*Promoting women's rights and countering domestic violence*'

Chair: Mary-Ann HENNESSEY (Council of Europe)

Invited speakers: Ismeta DERVOZ (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Despina SYRRI (Greece)

Discussant: Ruben HAYRAPETYAN (Armenia)

The Chair introduced the theme of the session and suggested that it could be approached at three levels: (i) gender equality, women's empowerment and ways to implement these; (ii) preventing, prosecuting

and suppressing violence against women and children, and (iii) evolution of cultural norms and attitudes, and the impact of European norms and standards.

Following this, Ismeta DERVOZ, MP and former member of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, gave a presentation on "Promoting women's rights and countering domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)" (the full text of her speech can be found on the website of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps/default_EN.asp).

Ms. Dervoz spoke about the constitutional protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms which includes equality between men and women in its provision on prohibition of discrimination, but also through international instruments of human rights. BiH was the first country in the Balkans to develop a national action plan for gender equality and additional strategies in other sectors (domestic violence, security sectors, rural women, gender responsive budgeting). BiH has also initiated regional co-operation in the area of gender equality, for example by signing the Regional Declaration on co-operation of gender mechanisms in the Western Balkans in 2005.

The global economic and financial crisis has affected women particularly hard, but measures aimed to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis have not been designed as gender-sensitive. Traditional society and stereotypical views of the role of women and men maintain segregation on the labour market, as well as the dismissive perception of women in decision-making positions.

BiH has ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Currently BiH is developing public policies focusing on the implementation of the Convention as well as a framework for monitoring implementation and reporting of the Convention.

Domestic violence, one of major challenges of Bosnian and Herzegovinian society, is a problem that has been taken out of the private realm and has been identified as a social problem. Victims of domestic violence in BiH were put in the focus of attention as a result of changing legislation, education, capacity-building and improved practices of institutions in more effective implementation of law, as well as of better co-operation between institutions and non-governmental organisations.

One positive and encouraging sign of improvement is the existence of a vibrant and diverse non-governmental sector, not only in the fields of gender equality and domestic violence, which has been supported and trained by the international community in the post-war period.

BiH offers a range of specialised support services for victims of violence and continuously runs campaigns to inform the general public and potential victims on the available remedies. These efforts have targeted different audiences including the general public but also the professionals working in the judiciary and the law enforcement.

A specificity of countries in the Balkans which have gone through recent wars is that domestic violence is in many cases linked to the legacy of conflict, and women and men are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other conflict-related health problems. Some estimates show that during the four years of war some 20,000 women were raped. After all these post-war years, the country has not found a way for victims to receive justice. Although recently some progress has been achieved in bringing perpetrators of sexual violence to justice, the majority of perpetrators of sexual violence remain unpunished.

Concluding her speech, Ms. Dervoz said that gender equality is not exclusively a 'woman's concern', it is the responsibility of all individuals and it has increasingly been acknowledged that men and boys are also inextricably involved with gender issues and that they have an important role to play in efforts to achieve equality. Moreover, it is widely believed that progress towards gender equality will stimulate positive transformations in the lives of both women and men, resulting in a better society.

Echoing Ms. Dervoz's conclusion, Mr. HAYRAPETYAN said that women are the only majority whose rights are under threat. At the same time, there is convincing evidence that increasing the welfare of women has a positive multiplying effect. Women are not only passing knowledge on to their families and children, but in economic terms any increase of female income has twice the impact on the welfare of families than a similar increase brought by men. Consequently, there has been a shift from protection and promotion of rights of women to their empowerment.

As far as women in politics are concerned, in today's Armenia, only 10.6% of members of Parliament, 2 out of 18 ministers and 6 out of 65 deputy ministers were women (data 2012). However, gender equality increasingly becomes accepted as a commitment that comes with Armenia's integration into Europe. Another example mentioned is Tunisia, where gender equality is now constitutionalised and part of electoral law (e.g. zipper principle for party lists). Today, 30 % of members of the Tunisian Parliament are women.

With regard to violence against women and to domestic violence, the second invited speaker, Despina SYRRI, who is the founder and Director of the Civic School of Political Studies in Greece, noted more generally, that in higher income countries there is a focus on home visits and similar types of intervention, whereas there is relatively little stress on work with perpetrators. By contrast, in lower income countries there is a focus on prevention. According to Ms. Syrri, such programmes are most effective when they are participatory, look critically at which cultural norms are accepted by society and which are not and, on this basis, challenge the acceptance of violence. State responses to violence against women and children need to be informed, balanced, not influenced by public opinion, and culturally sensitive. All affected sectors need to be involved and need to take gender issues into consideration.

As to the prosecution of perpetrators in the Balkans region, it was observed that the current emphasis is still on prevention. Problems with prosecution include strong underreporting (an estimated 10 % of cases are reported) and a culture of victim precipitation, i.e. that it is claimed that female victims willingly attract certain forms of male behaviour. On the other hand, community policing has proven to be very effective, but in times of austerity, community policing tends to fall into the first category of services to be cut.

The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention seems to be having a positive impact in the countries that have ratified it.

Theme 4 'Brainstorming Round Table on the development of the Schools' Alumni Network'

Chair: Catherine LALUMIERE (President of the Association of Schools of Political Studies)

Moderator: Jack HANNING (Secretary General of the Association of Schools of Political Studies)

Jack HANNING moderated this session, the aim of which was to identify ways to make alumni involvement productive for the Schools and the wider community, and to give something back to the institution which has nurtured them. Other issues include what role alumni can play in spreading the Council of Europe's values and how they could help the Schools in fundraising.

In addition to the alumni associations of individual schools, one tool to help alumni remain involved is the website of the Association of Schools of Political Studies which includes a list of alumni, but which is not interactive for the time being.

Participants stressed the need for alumni events to act as forums of exchange, both at national and international levels. This should be in all Schools, but in particular those that operate in a difficult political environment, in part to alert their peers to illiberal trends emerging and enable them to detect similar developments in their countries at an early stage.

A number of Schools have been in existence for a decade or more and have built up sizeable alumni communities. The Kyiv School, for example, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and has regular meetings with USPS alumni politicians, a number of whom are MPs in the Verkhovna Rada. Similarly, the Georgian alumni feel that after 15 years their School has considerable influence on society in Georgia. The Croatian alumni community sees itself as a network of people who have been co-operating successfully on a number of themes and have reached some public visibility.

The alumni of the School of Political Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina keep in touch with their School by acting as speakers in successive training cycles of the School and as participants in regional activities such as the Regional Academy for Democracy for the Western Balkans. Alumni of the Bosnian School are also involved in preparing policy briefs that are published by their School. Three recent policy briefs were available at the seminar: Women in political decision-making, strategies against youth unemployment, and conflicts of interest in politics. These policy briefs are of high quality and the School would like to scale this up, resources permitting.

In line with this example, a number of participants suggested that pools of experts from the alumni community be created with the help of online platforms. By developing national or international thematic networks, they could formulate positions as an input into politics, thereby increasing the Schools' visibility in European policy making.

Jack Hanning added that the Association has requested participatory status at the Council of Europe Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (Conference of INGOs) and that this could provide a way of bringing such input into the Council of Europe.

Michael Remmert (DPP) concurred about the importance of alumni visibility for the Schools, not least because funders usually inquire about the sustained impact of the Schools of Political Studies. Alumni and their activities are one of the key elements of sustainable impact and this is to be made as visible as possible, as it increases the School's credibility vis-à-vis funders.

In this context, the CoE Secretariat and the Association wish to reiterate their wish expressed at last year's Alumni Seminar that alumni are encouraged to contribute to the Council of Europe's Newsletter on the Schools of Political Studies and to provide content for the Association website, including articles on topics relevant to the Network and news pieces regarding events with alumni participation.

At the end of this brainstorming session, Ms Catherine LALUMIERE shared her reflections about the political context in which the Schools of Political Studies operate today.

She pointed out that today there is a crisis of values and of democracy in Europe. The current situation is more difficult than in 1989 where there was great optimism and confidence in the future of the Greater Europe. Now nationalisms are resurging, coupled with populism, and democracy is regressing in some countries. There seems to be a decline of the values of solidarity, respect of the other, reconciliation, i.e. quite the opposite of the European spirit. Europe's citizens must be brought in closer contact with the European project.

Europe needs the Council of Europe to defend the European spirit, also because the European Union has few, if any, tools to critically accompany democratic developments in its member states. Similarly, the Schools of Political Studies remain as important as ever and it would be desirable if the Schools' network could be expanded to those geographical regions of Europe which it is not covering yet.

Appendix I: PROGRAMME

Thursday 25 June 2015	
14:00	<p>Opening of the seminar by Mr Matjaž GRUDEN, Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe</p> <p>Welcoming address by Mr Ivo KOMSIC, Mayor of Sarajevo</p> <p>Words of welcome on behalf of the host by Mr Mahir NURKANOVIC, member of the Board of the Bosnian School and MP, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
14:30	<p>Theme 1 ‘<i>Protecting societies without undermining democracy</i>’</p> <p>There are serious concerns in European countries and beyond about threats which are placing strains on democratic stability and pose growing challenges to the prospect of open tolerant societies. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional, legal changes and challenges to the independence of the judiciary; • Restrictions on freedom of the media and the use of state-controlled mass media to manipulate public opinion and to undermine societies’ tolerance of other people’s beliefs, opinions and lifestyles; • Restrictions on the activities of civil society organisations; • Indiscriminate mass surveillance by governments of internet and telephone communications. <p>Terrorist attacks and other security risks lead to calls for greater state control and indeed governments and public institutions have a responsibility to protect their citizens. However, this must not be taken as a pretext to jeopardise freedom and individual rights and to weaken the democratic control of government and political leaders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can some of the anti-democratic processes be reversed and how can further erosion of the foundations of open societies be prevented? - What policy responses are required to ensure that the right balance is struck between defending freedom and ensuring security without violating fundamental rights at the same time? - What are the prospects for a greater empowerment of the public in political decision-making processes and greater accountability of politicians and democratic institutions?
16:15	<p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Michael REMMERT, Deputy to the Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Discussants</u></p> <p>Ms Marina GURYEVA, <i>Deputy Director, Innovation Centre of the National Research University (Russia)</i></p> <p>Ms Jagoda NOVAK, <i>former Deputy Ombudsman (Croatia)</i></p> <p>Mr Andreas TAKIS, <i>Assistant professor, Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)</i></p> <p><i>Coffee break</i></p>

16:45 – 18:30	<p>Theme 2 ‘Addressing the root causes of radicalisation in democratic societies’</p> <p>The deadly attacks of Paris, Copenhagen and Tunis which have marked the beginning of 2015 provide further evidence that today democracies are seriously threatened by external attacks that reflect the radicalisation and extremist violence of certain groups. Security responses must be based on the respect of human rights, the rule of law and democracy and should be accompanied by preventative measures aimed at eradicating the root causes of intolerance and extremism, especially among young people. A resolute and ongoing battle against social exclusion, discrimination, racism and hate speech are key instruments to reduce the danger of extremism and to ensure democratic security. Strengthening citizenship education, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue - and involving civil society in decision-making processes including, in particular, its marginalised segments, - also plays a crucial role in this respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What responses are required to extremist violence, in particular as regards the prevention of radicalisation? - What role for education in creating and transmitting a culture of democratic citizenship and in helping to prevent radicalisation and hate speech? - How to respect the specific sensitivities of religious groups without stifling freedom of expression? - How can intercultural dialogue be further promoted? What is the shared responsibility of political, civil and cultural leaders as well as media professionals in eliminating the incentives of extremism and in building more inclusive societies? <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Matjaž GRUDEN, <i>Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe</i></p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Mr Ahmed DRISS, <i>Director, Ecole politique de Tunis</i></p> <p>Ms Juliana CICI, <i>Deputy Commissioner, Ombudsman of Albania (Albania)</i></p> <p>Ms Gergana ANDREEVA-RAKOVSKA, <i>Chairperson of the Business Foundation for Education (Bulgaria)</i></p>
18:30	<i>Dinner at the Hotel</i>
20:00	Reception at the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted by Mr Ivo KOMSIC, Mayor of Sarajevo

Friday 26 June 2015

09:00	<p>Theme 3 ‘Promoting women’s rights and countering domestic violence’</p> <p>Violence against women is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights abuses in the world. It crosses every social and economic class, every religion, race and ethnicity. Not only does it threaten women's health and their social and economic well-being, it is also a major obstacle to building fair and democratic societies.</p> <p>This is a highly topical problem throughout Europe and its neighbourhood, however with particularly high prevalence in the Western Balkans region. Despite the increasing attention paid to this issue - one example being the entering into force of the Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in August 2014 - the number of victims of violence against women and domestic violence remains intolerably high.</p> <p>Following a proposal from the Bosnia and Herzegovina School of Political Studies, this round table provides an opportunity to compare different national responses to this problem and to consider possible solutions to eradicate gender stereotypes, combat discrimination against women and promote mutual respect.</p>
-------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can economic, social, educational and health policies respond more effectively to violence against women? - How can civil society contribute to ensuring that violence against women is always understood to be unacceptable and that adequate infrastructure support is available for victims of violence? - How can men be engaged as agents of change, standing alongside women, to end violence? <p><u>Chair:</u> Ms Mary-Ann HENNESSEY, <i>Head of Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo</i></p> <p><u>Invited speaker:</u> Ms Ismeta DERVOZ, <i>MP, Sarajevo</i></p> <p><u>Discussants:</u> Mr Ruben HAYRAPETYAN, <i>Associate Professor, Deputy Head of Management Department, Armenian State University of Economics (Armenia)</i> Ms Despina SYRRI, <i>Founder of the Civic School of Political Studies in Greece and Advisor to the Regional Co-operation Council Secretariat</i></p> <p>10:30 <i>Coffee break</i></p>
11:00	<p>Brainstorming Round Table on the development of the Schools' Alumni Network</p> <p>The round table will provide an opportunity to hear participants' suggestions regarding the kind of activities that would be the most attractive for the Schools of Political Studies alumni network. They will also be invited to consider their role in developing a strong alumni community and engaging it in a sustained way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How could the impact of the Schools of Political Studies be reinforced in their respective countries?</i> - <i>How could the Schools' Network and the Council of Europe help alumni become steadfast long-term partners of the Organisation?</i> - <i>How could the European Association of Schools of Political Studies help strengthen the Alumni Network?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Ms Catherine LALUMIERE, <i>President of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe</i></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr Jack HANNING, <i>Secretary General of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies</i></p> <p>12:00</p> <p>Closing session</p>
12:30	<p><i>Lunch at the Hotel</i></p>
14:00 - approx. 22:00	<p>Excursion to Mostar and group photograph on the Old Bridge <i>Dinner at a restaurant on the way back from Mostar</i></p>

Appendix II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

INVITED SPEAKERS

Ms Ismeta DERVOZ	Member of Parliament Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr Ahmed DRISS	Director Tunisian School of Politics
Mr Ivo KOMSIC	Mayor of Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr Mahir NURKANOVIC	MP, Federation BiH Parliament, Sarajevo, SPS Alumnus
Ms Desponia SYRRI	Founder of the Civic School of Political Studies in Greece and Advisor to the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat

ALBANIA – ACADEMY OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Ms Juliana CICI (Seminar Discussant)	Deputy commissioner, Ombudsman of Albania
Ms Elvana ZHEZHA	Executive director, Balkan Center for Cooperation and Development

ARMENIA – YEREVAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Mr Ruben HAYRAPETYAN (Seminar Discussant)	Deputy Head of Management Department, Associate Professor, Armenian State University of Economics
Mr Menua SOGHOMONYAN	Academic Secretary of Yerevan State University (YSU), Associate Professor to the YSU Political Institutes and Processes Chair

BELARUS – East-European School of Political Studies

Ms Julia DZINGAILO Expert on Regional Development (UNDP and EU projects)

Ms Anastasiya KHAMIANKOVA Founder of Center for Business Communication BEL.BIZ and a Startup hub “Imaguru”

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - School of Political Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Zlatan KLOKIC Minister of Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation Government of Republika Srpska

Mr Slaven ZELJKO Advisor to the Speaker of the Federation BiH Parliament, House of People

BULGARIA - Bulgarian School of Politics

Ms Gergana ANDREEVA-RAKOVSKA (Seminar Discussant) Chairperson of the Business Foundation for Education

Ms Elena POPOVA Judge at the Specialized Criminal Court in Bulgaria, professor at the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and trainer at the National Institute of Justice

CROATIA - Academy for Political Development

Mr Danijel KATIČIN Director of Vranski jezero Nature Park Public Institution

Ms Jagoda NOVAK (Seminar Discussant) former Deputy Ombudsman

GEORGIA - Tbilisi School of Political Studies

Ms Sophiko JAJANASHVILI Deputy Head of PR department of the administration of the President of Georgia

Mr Giorgi JAVAKHISHVILI Secretary of the Central Election Commission of Georgia

GREECE - Civic School of Political Studies in Greece

Mr Christos ILIADIS Post-doctoral researcher at Panteion University (Athens), trainer-facilitator for the Council of Europe in projects regarding Roma integration

Mr Andreas TAKIS (Seminar Discussant) Assistant professor, Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, alternate member of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union

KOSOVO* - Pristina Institute for Political Studies

Mr Avni BYTYÇI Political advisor to the Speaker of the Parliament

MOLDOVA - European Institute for Political Studies

Ms Olga ISMAILOV Journalist, TV7

MONTENEGRO - School of Democratic Leadership

Mr Genci NIMANBEGU, MP President of Albanian National Council in Montenegro
Head of MPs Club of Albanian parties, member of Committee on European Integration and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning

Mr Milan RADOVIC Mr Milan RADOVIC
Human Rights Programme coordinator, NGO Civic Alliance

MOROCCO - Citizenship School of Political Studies

Mr Yassine SOUIDI Researcher, Rabita Mohammadia of Ulama

ROMANIA - "Ovidiu Sincai" European School

Ms Catalina LIGIA MATEI Deputy editor-in-chief, Agerpres National News Agency

* 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.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - Moscow School of Civic Education

**Ms Marina GURYEVA
(Seminar Discussant)** Deputy Director at the Innovation
Centre of the National Research
University

Mr Sergey PONOMAREV Senior teacher of political science
department, coordinator of the Fund
of Regional Social Program 'Our
Future'

SERBIA - Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence

Ms Milica JEVTIC Journalist, National Television of
Serbia

Ms Maja VIDENOVIC Vice-president of Democratic Party

THE 'FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA' - Centre for Research and Policy Making "Mother Theresa"

Ms Tina DJEPOVSKA Head of Unit at the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Mr Jeton KRASNIKJI National Programme
Coordinator, Macedonian Center for
International Cooperation

TUNISIA - Tunisian School of Politics

Ms Zakia BOUHJILA Advisor to the Minister of
Communication Technologies and
Digital Economy
Member of National Committee of
Afek Tounes

Mr Osama AL SAGHIR Député et porte parole du conseil
Shoura d'Ennahda (parti ENNAHDA)

TURKEY - European School of Politics

Ms Gizem KARSLI Parliamentary Advisor, Turkish
National Assembly, Turkish
Parliament, Ankara

Mr Orkun YILDIZ Researcher, Economics and Admini-
stration Sciences Faculty, Gazi
University; Director Entrepreneurial
Leaders' Community, Ankara

UKRAINE - Ukrainian School of Political Studies

Ms Olga LVOVA Senior analyst at Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy

Ms Olesya TSYBULKO Counselor to the Member of the Parliament of Ukraine

VISEGRÁD - Visegrád School of Political Studies

Mr Darab GAJAR (Czech Republic) Journalist, Radio Free Europe

Ms Silvia HUDACKOVA (Slovak Republic) Head of Policy Section at Siet political party

Mr Piotr KOŁOMYCKI (Poland) Chief of Cabinet, MEP Office of Dariusz Rosati

Ms Lilla PINTER (Hungary) Service of the European Parliament's Spokesman

ASSOCIATION OF THE SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Mme Catherine LALUMIERE President of the Association of Schools of Political Studies, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr Jack HANNING Mr Jack HANNING
Secretary General
Association of Schools of Political Studies

COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

Mr Matjaž GRUDEN Director of Policy Planning

Mr Michael REMMERT Deputy to the Director

Ms Mary-Ann HENNESSEY Head of Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo

Mr Esad MAVRIC Executive Secretary, School of Political Studies of Bosnia and Herzegovina - c/o Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo

Ms Suzette SAINT-MARC Administrative Assistant
Directorate of Policy Planning

