

Issue 9, April 2015

Editorial



I was delighted to meet with the Schools' directors at our recent Spring meeting in Budva, Montenegro. During the one and a half days we spent together I was most impressed by the quality of the Schools' activities and by the steadfast commitment of the directors to contribute to the building of

robust democratic societies based on the values and standards of the Council of Europe.

Particularly stimulating was the workshop we held on 'Threats to liberal democracy: a challenge to civil society'. Ably introduced by Hakan Altinay, Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul, we explored the merit of claims by some people that the liberal democratic model is not really essential for successful governance. We agreed that we who work for democratic stability and security take such questions seriously; we cannot bury our head in the sand and just hope that the liberal democratic model will win out. Our Schools of Political Studies are well placed to spearhead honest discussions and deep reflection amongst young leaders on how democracy could adapt to new realities without losing its soul.

Indeed this need to develop our shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe is the driving force behind the forthcoming 2nd annual Report on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law, the preparation of which has been entrusted to DPP and which will be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe at the 125th Ministerial session in May.

A challenge for our Network is to create stronger mutual links between the Schools and to develop a School 'brand' which ensures that we are able to attract people of the highest calibre to participate in our seminar cycles and other activities and then to keep them involved in the Network of Schools as alumni and even as expert and guest speakers. At the Directors' meeting we confirmed that informal but effective ways of achieving a brand of excellence will be further explored.

The forthcoming 2nd Alumni seminar, which will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 25-26 June, offers another opportunity to develop greater links and exchanges between the Schools as well as providing input to the fourth World Forum for Democracy which will take place this November.

Matjaž Gruden, Director of Policy Planning

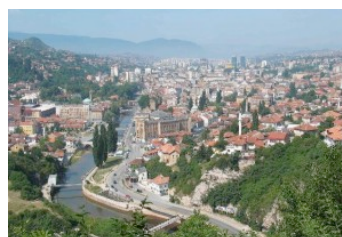
Schools' Directors meet to discuss Threats to Liberal Democracy



The meeting of Directors of the Schools of Political Studies took place from 30 to 31 March 2015 in Budva, Montenegro, at the invitation of the School. They discussed the current challenges

and the future orientations of the Network of the Schools. The welcoming address was given by **Mr Igor Lukšić**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, pictured above (2nd from left). **Mr Hakan Altinay**, Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, made the introductory remarks on the main topic of debate - '**Threats to liberal democracy: a challenge to civil society**'. This set the scene for a rich exchange of views on the political challenges that the Schools are facing in their respective countries and the possible ways in which the Council of Europe can provide support in addressing them. They also discussed the forthcoming Alumni seminar and their participation in the 2015 World Forum for Democracy.

Second International SPS Alumni Seminar to be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Following the success of last year's First International Alumni Seminar which brought together 50 outstanding alumni to explore issues of youth participation in democratic life, it was

agreed at the last SPS Directors' Meeting that such a seminar would be held on an annual basis. The **Second International SPS Alumni Seminar** will be held in **Sarajevo on 25-26 June 2015**, in close co-operation with the School of Political Studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Echoing last year's Alumni Seminar approach, the theme this year will be linked to that of the World Forum for Democracy on "**Freedom vs control: the democratic response**" (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015), thereby providing content to inspire debates at the Forum and preparing the Schools' contribution to this major event. Against this background, the Second International Alumni Seminar will be dedicated to the theme "**Defending freedom and human dignity against internal and external threats**".

FOCUS ON SCHOOLS' ACTIVITIES

Pilot event in Cyprus: towards a new School in the Mediterranean



On 4 June 2015, a pilot event will bring together participants from both communities in Cyprus to exchange views on the **prospect of a bi-communal School of Political Studies in Cyprus**. Participants will include potential students of the School, representatives of public authorities and civil society organisations, and possible partners. Being held in the buffer zone in Nicosia, the one-day pilot workshop will include a presentation of the Network of Schools of Political Studies, an exchange of views on the scope and prospects of a School in Cyprus as well as a **thematic discussion on the specific political culture on the Island**.

Support to the Schools of Political Studies in Morocco and Tunisia extended



Building on the achievements of the South Programme I, the Council of Europe continues its collaboration with the European Union to strengthen democratic governance in the South Mediterranean by launching on 10 April the South programme II for 2015–2017. With the support of the South Programme I, and substantial support received from the Norwegian authorities, two **Schools of Political Studies were established in Tunisia and Morocco** in 2013. These Schools have been vital in developing capacity of emerging leaders and fostering dialogue between actors from all fields of society. They have played a pertinent role in stimulating political debate in their countries and throughout the Northern

African region. **The launch event introduced the priorities and perspectives for South Programme II**, which include **consolidating the Schools' foothold** as active actors of democratic governance and progress in the region, **enhancing the Schools' impact** by developing a strong alumni community, and **strengthening the regional dimension** to create a genuine platform for debate and exchange of experience at the regional level.

SPS Network welcomes a new School's Director in Moldova



Since Viorel Cibotaru's appointment as Minister of Defence for the Republic of Moldova, **Stella Utica has been appointed as the new director** for the School of Political Studies in Moldova. She received her BA in Political Science and her MA in Security and Diplomacy from the National School of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest. She was project co-ordinator at the Institute for Public Policy in Chisinau, co-ordinating the implementation of the project "Messages for Europe: Enhancing support for the EU–Republic of Moldova Association Agreement" that is implemented within the 'Democracy Grants Program' of the US Embassy in Moldova. Stella's main areas of interest are new

types of **security threats in the Black Sea Region**, **gender quotas** and substantive representation of women and **anti-discrimination policies**.

First Online Forum of Civic Dialogue is launched by the School of Civic Education



In March 2015 the School of Civic Education of Moscow launched its first forum of civic dialogue. Throughout the coming year, this online platform will broadcast **discussions with eminent Russian and foreign experts** on vital issues surrounding the challenges that humanity is facing today. Examining national and global philosophical and civic thought, and reflecting on the accumulated experiences of government, media and civil society institutions, this forum strives to further develop the School's philosophy. The forum is open to **participants from the 20 other Schools of Political Studies** in order to create an environment which encourages the exchange of information, experience and best practices. The forum will offer participants from different countries and

varied expert backgrounds an online space to broaden their vision of the world and to understand each other's point of view. The forum has simultaneous English interpretation at: http://civiceducation.ru/i_classes/

ALUMNI CORNER



What Response to Democratic Security Challenges?

By Saša Magazinović

Saša Magazinović graduated from the School of Political Studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in 2010. He now serves as MP in the Parliament of BiH and is Head of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of the BiH parliamentary group. Saša is also Head of the SDP's BiH International Cooperation Department. Since 2011 he has been deputy representative of the SDP for BiH at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

I was born in Sarajevo, at that time a city in Yugoslavia – some people would say a non-democratic country with only one political party but the country was economically and socially stable and most of the population were satisfied. My children were born in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a democratic country with intangible human freedoms, but little security in terms of jobs, health, and their future.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has developed democracy, but it is far from what it should be and it is clear that the country needs not only to develop its democracy, but also its economy and rule of law.

No matter how economically and democratically strong or weak we appear in comparison with the European champions in democracy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and indeed all the Balkan countries, face the same global challenges as all European countries.

There are individuals from Bosnia and Herzegovina who go to Syria or Ukraine to fight in a war, and the same phenomenon occurs in the UK, Germany, Austria, etc. The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted a law which prohibits these actions, and which prescribes imprisonment for those who participate on foreign battlefields and in foreign military formations.

However, it is much harder for people in Bosnia and Herzegovina today than for the countries in Western Europe; oversight of procedures, adoption of laws, habits, mentality, history and the level of implementation of democratic will of the people is not the same in my country as in the countries of Western Europe. In the western Balkans it is much more difficult to solve problems in a way that is not at the expense of democratic standards which we are still struggling to fully implement, despite our best intentions; we are trying to build up democracy to the level of our role models whose help and solidarity we require; but the help often does not come in the way as we expect.

Security is key for people in Bosnia and Herzegovina; many would say that it is more important than human rights and democracy. We are a country which was recently at war and when one is at war, only one thing matters: to stay alive. Unfortunately the feelings of trauma stay. Despite the general willingness to trade a piece of democracy and human rights for a bit of security amongst the public, on an institutional level, this has never been enforced.

The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina try to follow positive examples of democratically developed countries within the European Union in the hope of one day becoming a part of it. But modern Europe, despite attempts to present a different image, is in fact a Europe of differences and divisions: great and powerful countries are on one side, small and weak states are on another. Democratically developed countries are on one side, those who still need to develop their democracies are on the other side.

And then a global problem occurs, like the one we have today with terrorism and where great and powerful economically

developed countries were the first ones to say that we should fight global terrorism together. Of course we should remain together in the fight against terrorism, but we the small countries often ask why we are only equal when there is a global challenge or a problem. And when the problem is settled everyone goes back to their positions in the global hierarchy. We continue to be societies in democratic development and the great ones continue to look exclusively after their own economic and other interests.

Europe, being the bearer of the idea of protecting human rights and civilisation values, must not allow its current interpretation of human rights to harm the freedom and security of its citizens. Freedom is a relative concept and our freedoms are linked with the freedoms of others. When freedom is violated because of the freedom of another, the state must help to regulate the sensitive issue and to consciously limit what some consider their freedom.

Either we are always together, or we never are; this needs to be addressed urgently and then we can talk about democracy, laws, common values and Europe. In my opinion we can only survive if we stand together both great and small, strong and weak, and both democratically advanced and those who wish to become so, the left and the right, and those who were born in socialism and our children who were born in a democracy.

FOCUS

ON ALUMNI OF THE SCHOOL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BIH) – APRIL 2015

Danijela BABIC, MFA, Head of Department for bilateral relations, Government of the Federation of BiH
Vanja BAJIC, MP, National Assembly of the Republica Srpska (NSRS)
Branislav BORENOVIC, MP, NSRS
Igor CRNADAK, Minister of Foreign Affairs in BiH
Semsudin DEDIC, Minister of Agriculture, Government of the Federation of BiH
Aleksandra DELSASO, Council of People, NSRS
Vukota GOVEDARICA, MP, NSRS
Željko JOSIC, MP, Parliament of the Federation of BiH
Darijana KATIC, MP, Parliament of the Federation of BiH
Zlatan KLOKIC, Minister of Economy and Regional Cooperation, Government of the RS
Damir MASIC, MP, Parliament of the Federation BiH
Senad SEPIC, MP, Parliament of BiH, Head of BiH delegation to PACE
Saša MAGAZINOVIC, MP, Parliament of BiH, member of BiH delegation to PACE
Zlatko MAKSIMOVIC, MP, NSRS
Mahir NURKANOVIC, MP, Parliament of the Federation of BiH
Igor OSTOJIC, MP, NSRS
Lana PRLIC, Vice-President of Social Democratic Party, Government of the Federation of BiH
Edin RAMIC, Minister of Refugees and Human Rights, Government of the Federation of BiH
Ramiz SALKIC, MP, Deputy Speaker, NSRS
Dusica SAVIC, MP, NSRS



A selection of SPS forthcoming events

16-20 April 2015	'Local Democracy in the Western Balkans'
Croatia	2nd RAD Seminar for the seven Balkan Schools
27-29 May 2015	'V4 co-operation within the EU context'
Prague	2015 Annual Programme of the Visegrád School
3-6 June 2015	'Culture and Security'
Sofia	2nd Summer Academy of alumni of Moroccan, Bulgarian and Tunisian Schools
25-26 June 2015	'Defending freedom and human dignity against internal and external threats'
Sarajevo	Second Annual Seminar for SPS Alumni

For the full calendar, please visit the [Schools' website](#).

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CONTACTS

DIRECTORATE OF POLICY PLANNING (DPP)

Matjaž Gruden
 Director
 matjaz.gruden(at)coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 21 18

Michael Rimmert
 Deputy to the Director
 michael.rimmert(at)coe.int
 +33 (0) 3 88 41 34 05

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

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

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

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

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

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 20 further Schools have been established. The Schools' Network now covers the whole of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the countries of the Visegrád Group, the Caucasus and the Southern Mediterranean region.

The twenty-one 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](#); the countries of the Visegrád group; [Turkey](#) and [Greece](#). [*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.]

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