



*Schools of Political Studies*

# NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

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## *Letter from the Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe*

I am delighted to preface this first issue of the Schools of Political Studies' Newsletter as I am convinced that the Schools **are uniquely placed to help build a Europe based on the core values of the Council of Europe**. The aim of this quarterly Newsletter is to bring the achievements of the Schools to a wider audience thereby reinforcing a sustainable and well-informed support network.

The links between the Council of Europe and the Schools of Political Studies create a **win – win situation**: the Council of Europe has gained **better access to tomorrow's leaders and decision-makers** and more visibility amongst the population at large; whilst the Schools are **assured their political independence** and offer high standards of training and capacity-building thanks to the umbrella protection of the Council of Europe 'label'.

With new Schools just opened in Tunisia and Morocco, the Network of Schools of Political Studies now boasts eighteen Schools and reaches beyond Europe's shores. This is how it should be because from the outset - when the first School was opened in Moscow twenty years ago - their purpose has been to **promote democracy in countries in transition from autocratic to democratic societies and states**.

In this twentieth anniversary year it is also time to look towards the future of the Network; **we would like to see new Schools open in Western Europe too**, not only because, sadly, this part of Europe is also seeing a fair number of threats to its democratic systems, but also because such Schools could be part of partnerships between 'old' and 'new' democracies – and all sides would benefit from the ensuing exchanges.

Ambassador Piotr Świtalski

## **HUNDREDS OF SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS AT THE FIRST WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY**

**Over 500 participants from the Schools of Political Studies converged on Strasbourg** to join in the first World Forum for Democracy (5-11 October 2012). In addition to attending the different events of the Forum, the participants exchanged views with their peers in regional



meetings of Schools and met their country's judges from the European Court of Human Rights. Meanwhile the Secretary General of the Council of Europe held several meetings with the Directors of the Schools

and hosted the diploma award ceremony.

## **NEW SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES OPEN IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO**



New Schools of Political Studies are opening in Tunisia and Morocco. The new Schools are supported by the South Programme – an instrument financed by the European Commission

and implemented by the Council of Europe – which supports the transition to democracy in the Southern Mediterranean by focusing on strengthening civil society through the promotion of human rights and the rule of law by means of targeted cooperation and intercultural dialogue. Other partners include the Bulgarian School of Politics which has taken a lead role in establishing the Tunisian School.

### **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 17 other Schools have opened. The Schools' Network now covers the whole of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and, since 2012, countries of the Southern Mediterranean region.*

*The eighteen 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](#). [\*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](#)*

## SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE REAFFIRMS HIS COMMITMENT TO THE SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES



Following a meeting with the Directors of the Schools of Political Studies on 9 October 2012 in the margins of the World Forum for Democracy, Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, confirmed his commitment to the Schools and in a report to Ministers' Deputies the next day stated:

**"... I am very impressed by the activities of many of our schools. They are a very important asset for our Organisation. They engage in a broad range of**

**activities, and no doubt make a real contribution to fostering a democratic culture throughout Europe. I also found it encouraging to meet the new Directors of our two new schools in Morocco and Tunisia. I see absolutely no reason not to expand this unique network of political schools also to other parts of Europe, including Western-Europe."**

### **FOCUS on alumni of the Schools of Political Studies: GEORGIA (November 2012)**

Irakli Alasania - **Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Defense;** Vakhtang Balavadze - **Governor of Imereti Region;** Giorgi Baramidze- **Deputy Chairman of the Parliament from opposition;** David Batsikadze - **Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Adjara;** David Berdzenishvili - **Member of Parliament;** Levan Berdzenisvili - **Member of Parliament;** Zurab Chiaberashvili - **Governor of Kakheti Region;** David Darakhvelidze - **Minister for Refugees;** David Darchiashvili - **Member of Parliament;** Khatuna Gogorishvili - **Member of Parliament;** Giorgi Kirtadze - **Chairman of Batumi City Council;** Mikheil Machavariani - **Member of Parliament;** Mikheil Mkharaдзе - **Member of Parliament;** Nugzar Skhirtladze - **Judge of the Supreme Court;** Sozar Subari - **Former Public Defender; now Minister of Corrections and Legal Assistance;** Shalva Tadumadze - **Government Parliamentary Secretary;** Zaza Tavadze - **Vice President of the Constitutional Court;** Giorgi Tkemaladze - **Deputy Chairman of Tbilisi City Council;** Petre Tsiskarishvili - **Member of Parliament;** Natia Tskepladze - **Judge of the Supreme Court;** Thea Tsulikiani - **Minister of Justice;** David Usupashvili - **Chairman of the Parliament;** Nikoloz Vashakidze - **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs;** Paata Zakareishvili - **Minister of Reintegration;** Petre Zambakhidze - **Member of the Supreme Council of Adjara.**

### **SUCCESSFUL WESTERN BALKANS JOINT BID TO CREATE THE REGIONAL ACADEMY FOR DEMOCRACY**



The seven Western Balkans Schools of Political Studies made a successful joint bid to the European Union's European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for the development of a **Regional Academy for Democracy which aspires to shape a human infrastructure that will help solidify current democratisation processes** and embrace a spirit of regional cooperation. The three-year programme cycles will reach young, already established, political actors from the entire region who will in the near future form the highest level political leadership.

## PRESIDENT OF ALBANIA AWARDS CERTIFICATES AT GRADUATION CEREMONY



H.E. Mr. Bujar Nishani, President of Albania, gave an impassioned speech at the graduation ceremony of the Albanian School of Political Studies on 8 November. The event was also attended by Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and John Ruhoff, Deputy Swiss Ambassador to Albania who confirmed that the Swiss Cooperation Office in Albania will continue to support the School's activities for a further three years.

### ***THE CROATIAN SCHOOL CO-HOSTS A LECTURE BY BAN KI-MOON***



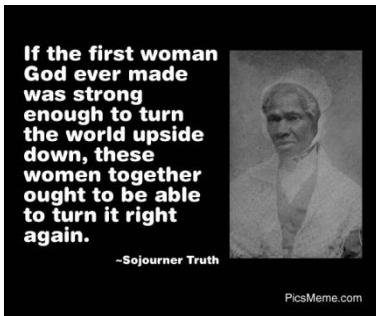
The Croatian School of Political Studies confirmed its **role as a leading civil society player** when it was invited to co-host a lecture by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 20 July 2012 on **'Croatia and the UN: Engagement and Opportunity'**. This event, which opened a three-day official visit of the UN Secretary General to Croatia, was organised by the School with the UN in Croatia and in co-operation with the Croatian United Nations Association.

### ***ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER INSPIRES PARTICIPANTS OF THE YEREVAN SCHOOL***



The participants of the Armenian second national seminar (Jermuk, 26-28 October 2012) had the privilege of hearing the **Prime-Minister Tigran Sargsyan speak on 'Economic developments in post crisis world'**. After the presentation the Prime Minister insisted on discussing all questions from the participants in a visit of over four hours. The three day seminar was funded by the Council of Europe and the Finnish authorities.

### ***SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME ON "DEMOCRACY, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STABILITY"***



As a permanent partner in the European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative, the Council of Europe invited the Schools of Political Studies in the six partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) to contribute to a **programme on women in public and political life by preparing a country report on the current situation in their country**. This initiative reflects the will of the Council of Europe to mainstream the Schools of Political Studies into other sectors of the Organisation.

#### ***RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON DEMOCRACY FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF POLICY PLANNING***

##### **[Living together: Combining diversity and freedom in 21st century Europe \(2011\)](#)**

This report analyses threats and proposes responses for **living together in open European societies**. It was prepared by the Group of Eminent Persons headed by the former German Foreign Minister **Joschka Fischer**. The other members were **Emma Bonino** (Italy), **Timothy Garton Ash** (United Kingdom), **Martin Hirsch** (France), **Danuta Hübner** (Poland), **Ayşe Kadioğlu** (Turkey), **Sonja Licht** (Serbia), **Vladimir Lukin** (Russian Federation) and **Javier Solana Madariaga** (Spain). The rapporteur was **Edward Mortimer** (United Kingdom).

##### **[Democracy on the Precipice - Council of Europe Democracy Debates](#)**

This publication presents the Democracy Debate lectures given by **Zygmunt Bauman, Ulrich Beck, Ayşe Kadioğlu, John Keane, Ivan Krastev, Nikolay Petrov, Jacques Rupnik and Žiga Turk** at the Council of Europe in 2011-2012. Each presentation analyses a specific aspect of democracy today, placing the issues not only in their political context but also addressing the historical, technological and communication dimensions. The authors make proposals on ways to improve democratic governance and offer their predictions on how democracy in Europe may evolve. Together, the presentations contribute to improving our understanding of democracy today and to recognising the ways it could be protected and strengthened.

### *Partner organisations of the Schools of Political Studies (2011-2012)*

• Agency for Legislative Initiatives, Ukraine • America for Bulgaria Foundation • Association Nouvelle Europe, France • Austrian Ministry of Defence • Balkan Trust for Democracy • Barcelona Centre for International Affairs • Bonita Trust, Gibraltar • British Council • British Foreign and Commonwealth Office • Bulgarian National Assembly • Canada Fund • Carnegie Moscow Centre • Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, USA • Croatian Chamber of Commerce • Czech Institute for European Policy (EUROPEUM) • Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Dutch Embassy, Bosnia and Herzegovina • Dutch Embassy, Croatia • Dutch Embassy, Georgia • Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Erste Bank, Austria • European Commission • EU Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) • European Fund for the Balkans • EU Eastern Partnership (EaP) • EU European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) • Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs • French Embassy, Bulgaria • French Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany • Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs • German Embassy, Bulgaria • German Development Corporation (GIZ) • Institute of Public Affairs, Poland • International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) • International Renaissance Foundation, USA • International Republican Institute, USA • International Visegrad Fund, Slovakia • Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Germany • Liechtenstein Government • Matra Programme, Netherlands • NATO Public Diplomacy Division • Norwegian Embassy, Croatia • Norwegian Embassy, Serbia • Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Olof Palme International, Sweden • Open Society Institute, Serbia • Open World Leadership Centre, USA • Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) • Polish Embassy, Ukraine • Providus Centre for Public Policy, Latvia • Robert Bosch Foundation, Germany • Rockefeller Brothers Fund, USA • Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Serbian Ministry of Defence • Serbian Parliament • SlovakAid • Slovak Atlantic Commission • Soros Foundation, Azerbaijan • Soros Higher Education Support Programme • Supporters of Civil Society in Russia • Swedish Development Agency (SIDA) • Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation • Swiss Embassy, Ukraine • Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Turkish Development Agency (TIKA) • United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) • USAID • USAID Business Enabling Project • US Embassy, Croatia • US Embassy, Serbia • Zadar Municipality, Croatia • Zagreb Tourist Board •

#### **ABOUT THE SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER**

*This Newsletter intends to provide up-to-date information on the activities of the Network of the Schools of Political Studies. It should serve as a tool for the Schools themselves, but also provide pertinent information to friends and supporters of the Schools.*

*In order for the quarterly Newsletters to be relevant and informative we invite the Schools and other interested parties to send news items to [ruth.goodwin \(at\) coe.int](mailto:ruth.goodwin@coe.int).*

*The deadline for articles to be sent to the Secretariat for the next issue is 1 March 2013.*