

NECE Workshop

“Fragility and Resilience of Democracies in Europe. Where now for Citizenship Education and Civil Societies?”12 – 13 November 2017
Gdańsk, Poland**Biographies**

Oana Băluță is an Associate Professor for the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Studies at the University of Bucharest, where she teaches Introduction to Political Theory; Contemporary Political Ideologies; Gender and Politics; and Introduction into Mass Media Systems. She also works for the Gender, Minorities and Political Studies department, part of the Faculty of Political Science (National School for Political Studies and Public Administration), where she teaches Gender, Minorities and Political Representation.

Marinko Banjac is a teaching assistant in political theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, since 2007. He has held the position of a researcher at the same faculty since September 2009. Currently, he is involved in the implementation of the LLP project – Information and Research Activities for “Learning EU at School” entitled “Engaging the Youth – Building the Future”.

Petr Čáp works as a community-led local development adviser at the Czech Government’s Agency for Social Inclusion. Formerly, he was director of the Civic Education Centre at Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic). He is actively engaged in the development of civic education programmes for public libraries in rural areas, postcolonial global citizenship education and popular education programmes with the Homeless Action Group.

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Marek Cichocki, PhD is a Polish philosopher, historian of political thought, journalist, conservative columnist and former advisor to Lech Kaczyński, the late President of Poland. Cichocki graduated in German Studies, and in 1998 he received his PhD degree in Philosophy at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He has published a number of books, essays and articles on philosophy, political science, and international relations.

Nelly Corbel is the executive director of the Lazord Foundation and an independent consultant in citizenship education working with universities and governments around Europe and the Mediterranean. Prior to this, she served as the associate director of the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo until March 2015, where she has been providing leadership to a number of programmes.

Antje Drexler is head of the department for international understanding in Europe and the surrounding countries for the Robert-Bosch-foundation in Stuttgart/Germany. She studied slavica studies and economics in Freiburg, St. Petersburg und Göttingen. Her major interests include Science, health and Eastern Europe.

Ingrid Fichter works for the ministry of education as a Franco-German Relationship Officer in Paris. Her expertise includes international relations, especially between France and Germany, administrative law and youth education. She studied at the Pantheon University in Sorbonne (Paris I).

Alban Genty is a Project Manager at the Progressive Zentrum since May 2015. Actively committed to the civic education in France and Europe as co-founder and co-chairman of the French organisation Vote&Vous. He studied political science at the University of Münster, at Sciences Po Lille and at the College of Europe in Warsaw. Expertise in the fields of EU energy policy and in corporate

social responsibility regulation. Genty worked i.a. for the European Commission in Berlin, as political consultant in Brussels as well as in the German Bundestag.

Istvan Hegedűs, PhD studied in Budapest at the Karl Marx University of Economic Science from 1977-81 and at the Central European University in the Department of Political Science from 1994-95. In 2004 he graduated in Sociology and Social Policy at the Corvinus University of Budapest. His fields of interest are political parties, media, politics and decision-making in the European Union. Now he is the chairman of the Hungarian Europe Society. Furthermore, Hegedűs lecturer at the Budapest International Managements Semester of the École Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales d'Angers (ESSCA) and member of Team Europe Hungary.

Caroline Hornstein-Tomić, PhD is head of the Operative Division at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb since April 2016. Previously, she was senior researcher at the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb and lecturer at the Chair for Anthropology at Zagreb University's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Her fields of expertise include migration, identity politics, state-building and transformation processes in Central and Southeast Europe. From 2001 to 2005 she headed the Konrad Adenauer foundation's country office in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Martina Horvat graduated social pedagogy at Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences and is currently attending doctoral studies of social politics at Faculty of Law in Zagreb. Her activities so far include education and training aimed for the improvement of social competence, human rights, civil participation and activities as well as voluntary work. Thanks to her vast experience as a volunteer, she educated volunteering candidates and conducted workshops for teachers. A number of her scientific and specialized works have been published. She makes continuous efforts to improve her professional skills.

Milan Hrubeš is a researcher at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Studies, Charles University (Czech Republic). His research interests include political language analysis, framing analysis and political framing. Hrubeš also works with the Civic Education Centre, Faculty of Humanities at Charles University. He has participated in various educational projects within which he focuses on research tasks.

Edit Inotai earned her PhD at Corvinus University, Budapest, after that, she worked as a correspondent in Berlin. She served as a journalist at the Foreign Desk of Népszabadság from 1997-2003 and her main areas were European affairs, Spain, Latin-America with a special envoy to Madrid, Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile. In 2010 she became the Foreign Editor of Népszabadság and served in this position until 2014. Inotai speaks English, Spanish and German.

Boris Jokić, PhD has been research associate at the Institute for Social Science in Zagreb since 2010. His fields of interest include educational sciences, psychology with a special focus on the advancement of primary and secondary education in Croatia. He was one of the authors of the Strategy of Education, Science and Technology and a leader of Comprehensive Curricular Reform of Croatian Education.

Michalis Kakos is a senior lecturer in education at Leeds Beckett University (UK) where he leads a postgraduate programme on inclusive education. Previously he was leading the PGCE course in citizenship education at the University of Leicester. Kakos has also held research fellowships in the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education, University of Leeds and in the Centre for Research in Inclusion and Diversity at the University of Edinburgh.

Jacek Kołtan, PhD is philosopher and political scientist, Deputy Director for Research at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk, Poland. He studied at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland), Humboldt-Universität and Freie Universität in Berlin (Germany). He has been a fellow of the KAAD scholarship fund in Berlin (2001–2007) and a visiting scholar of the CUA in Washington DC (2012). His research interests cover social and political theory, history of solidarity idea, new social movements, hermeneutics as well as social design and anthropology. He teaches social design theory at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk.

Richard Kraemer is a co-founder and principal at Apsis Group, a programmatic and communications consulting firm based in Washington, DC. He is also a fellow on the Eurasia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Previously, he served nine years as the senior program officer for Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey at the National Endowment for Democracy. Prior to NED, he managed programs in the aforementioned countries and the Levant at the Center for International Private Enterprise. Before his work in the field of democracy and governance, Richard taught and researched at the Jagellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He is also an affiliated expert of the Public International Law and Policy Group, having advised the governments of Georgia and Montenegro. He has a particular interest in the role that democracy assistance plays in the maintenance of U.S. national security. He holds a BA from William and Mary and a JD from American University. Richard is proficient in Dari, Farsi, and Polish.

Ivan Krastev is the chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia and permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna. He is a founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Board of Trustees of The International Crisis Group and is a contributing opinion writer for the International New York Times. His latest books in English are "Democracy Disrupted. The Global Politics on Protest" (UPenn Press, May 2014); "In Mistrust We Trust: Can Democracy Survive When We Don't Trust Our Leaders?" (TED Books, 2013). His book "After Europe" has appeared in English (Penn Press, 2017) and in German (Suhrkamp, 2017).

Dimitris Makrystathis is currently the President of Youthnet Hellas and member of the Advisory Council on Youth at the Council of Europe. He is an experienced youth leader and activist involved in many international organizations and projects. He has experience on blogging and citizen journalism.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel is director of the department Democracies and Democratization at the science institut of Berlin and Professor of political science at the Humboldt University in Berlin. He is also a member of the science academy of Berlin/Brandenburg.

Veronika Móra has been working with Ökotárs Alapítvány (Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation HEPF) since 1997 and holds the position of the director since 2007. With HEPF and earlier, she's been working on a variety of issues related to ecological consumption, gene technologies and public participation. Besides her full time occupation she also has voluntary positions in a number of NGOs, among them the chairmanship of the Hungarian Donors Forum which works on developing the (corporate) philanthropic culture in the country. She is a biologist (MSc) by education, but also has an MA degree in organisational psychology, and most recently gained a diploma in environmental law.

Christoph Müller-Hostede has been a consultant at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/ bpb since 1988. In the bpb he is running projects regarding international relations, and issues of migration and integration in Europe. He is co-editor of the "Country Report China" in the publication series of the bpb. Together with Petra Grüne, Christoph Müller-Hofstede is responsible for the NECE Initiative promoted by the bpb. He has been running a Focus Group dealing with so called Hard to Reach Learners in Citizenship Education since 2013.

Alexandrina Najmowicz has been working for over ten years in the third sector and non-profit organisations in Romania, France and Europe wide. She is currently Director of the European Civic Forum, a transnational network of more than one hundred associations across Europe standing for Equality, Solidarity and Democracy, working to enable civic participation and European civil dialogue. She represents the European Civic Forum in the civil dialogue stakeholders group within the European Commission "Europe for Citizens" Programme, in the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group with Civil Society Organisations or the Council of Europe's OING Conference.

Grzegorz A. Nocko, PhD is head of the program fellows & friends for the Hertie-Foundation at Frankfurt/Main. He graduated at the TU Berlin with „Strategies for EUrope-related education. Between proEUropean action and a critical-reflexive educational demand. The role of foundations in Poland as actors in EUrope-related education“.

Anja Ostermann is managing director and project manager at the agency labconcepts in Bonn/Berlin, Germany. Her fields of expertise include discourses on Europe, culture and media, economics,

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Joanna Pankowska is the projects and communications director at AEGEE-Europe – Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) and president of the AEGEE-Warszawa. She studied philosophy and her tasks at the AEGEE are coordination of internal and external communication strategies and AEGEE projects.

Lena Prötzel works for the Schwarzkopf-Foundation in the section for promoting democracy, also, she is responsible for the project Understanding Europe in two regions. Her fields of interests are Europe, Migration and diversity.

Tomaž Pušnik is a young researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His broader field of research is political theory with a focus on citizenship, citizenship education, mobility and EU policies. He has been involved in several EU and national projects, including "Citizen(ship) in a New Age: Citizenship Education for the Multicultural and Globalized World", Jean Monnet, "Building the Future", European Social Fund, and the Erasmus+ project "Recognize it! Recognition of non-formal learning".

Martin Schiller has joined bpb in summer this year and is in charge of coordinating a comprehensive internationalisation strategy of the agency. Previously he has been a PhD researcher at Free University Berlin focussing on media and Western foreign policy as well as recent political transformation in North Africa and the Middle East. With a background in political sciences (Sciences Po, University of Saint Andrews and Free University Berlin) he keeps being intrigued by institutional change in a transnational context as well as citizen participation and agency.

Louisa Slavkova is a practitioner and scholar of democracy development, working in the field of democracy promotion and civic education in Europe and the MENA. She is combining her knowledge and experience in government, think tank and grass-root NGO work with her expertise in foreign policy, democratization and civic education. The mission is simple – to make sure democracy is never taken for granted. She co-founded Sofia Platform to tackle democracy shortcomings at home in Bulgaria but also to leverage the experience of Eastern Europe to support countries in transition around the globe.

Marc Soignet is part of the European Humanist Federation, there, he takes care of the EHF's communication, web presence, social media and media coverage. Soignet holds an MSc in Telecommunications Engineering as well as an MA from the College of Europe in Natolin, Poland. Before joining the humanist movement, he worked as Technical & Regulatory Policy Manager at DIGITALEUROPE and Public Affairs Consultant at Platte Consult GmbH/Sprl. He is also Board Member of the Brussels section of the Young European Federalists.

Jan Sowa is a dialectical materialist social theorist and researcher. He studied at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland and University Paris VIII in Saint-Denis, France. He holds a PhD in sociology and a habilitation in cultural studies. His research and teaching assignments took him to several universities in Poland and abroad, recently, University of São Paulo and Warsaw University. He is a member of the Committee on Cultural Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Jan Sowa edited and authored several books and published numerous articles in Poland and abroad.

Sigrid Steininger is the Austrian coordinator for the Council of Europe's 'Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights' programme. She is also the assistant leader of department of teaching principles and overarching competencies at the Ministry of Education in Austria.

Alexander Thamm is moderator, facilitator and speaker. He is dedicated to issues of international dialogue, equality, diversity and civil society. As manager he has worked for major Foundations and with a broad range of civil society and public institutions. In 2015/2016 he served as Managing Director of the Kreuzberger Kinderstiftung in Berlin, helping disadvantaged youth and young adults to educate themselves for an international environment. From 2008 – 2013 he worked as Program

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Erik Uszkiewicz is an expert of the Mertek Media Monitor which is a Hungarian watchdog organisation and think tank and a committed believer to European and international human rights standards and constitutional democracy. Uszkiewicz is specializing in the field of protection of fundamental rights, he wrote several publications. From September 2011 he is a PhD candidate in Legal and Political Science program at ELTE University. His research program focuses on prejudice and discrimination in the jurisdictional practise.

Klára Veverka acts as the Head of Educational Program and Operations Manager of the European Values Think-Tank based in Prague which is a non-governmental policy institute defending liberal democracy. Within the Educational Program, which aims at self-confident citizenship and media literacy, she organizes workshops with lecturers and interesting personalities of public life for high school students all over the Czech Republic. Prior to 2014, she worked for the Europe Direct information network in Brno where she also studied International Relations and European Studies at the Masaryk University. Her interest is strengthening the level of civic education and media literacy among Czech students in both school and out-of-school education.

Katarzyna Wielga-Skolimowska is a theater scholar, cultural diplomate and curator of international cultural projects based in Berlin. She studied at the Theatre Academy Warsaw and the Free University Berlin. From 2000 on she curated for the Adam-Mickiewicz-Institute in Warsaw interdisciplinary cultural programmes in Austria, Spain, France, Germany and Israel. From 2013 to 2016 she was the director of the Polish Institute Berlin and deputy speaker of the Berlin Cluster of EUNIC (European Union of National Institutes for Culture). Since 2017 she develops Poland-focused projects at the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

Karolina Wigura is a sociologist, historian of ideas and journalist. She is the Head of the Political Section of Kultura Liberalna (Liberal Culture), one of Poland's leading weekly magazines. She is also an assistant professor at Warsaw University's Institute of Sociology.