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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 13th edition of the ENoP Quarterly!

The articles we selected for our triple publication illustrate the diverse scope of work of ENoP member-foundations across all party families. Starting with the ENoP open conference on the "Agenda for change", this edition will also introduce you to a variety of projects implemented by our members, with a focus on election observation, local governance in Asia and Europe, political dialogue and social cohesion.

Last but not least we are offering you the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest PRINCE II project, a joint effort of seven ENoP member-foundations showcasing the results from a fruitful and lasting cooperation.

We wish you an enriching time with our articles and hope to see you at our new premises at Rue d'Arlon 15, Brussels as of May 2012.



ENoP Editorial Team

ENoP Open Conference 'Agenda for Change: Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy'

The "Agenda for Change" drafted by the EEAS and the EC intends to tackle poverty eradication, fragile states, support for democracy and good governance. These topics were also in the focus of the ENoP Open Conference in February 2012.

Aimed at improving EU aid effectiveness in a changing global environment, the Agenda for Change was discussed from different angles at the one-day conference.

The morning panel was chaired by ENoP coordinator Anne de Boer and involved EC and EEAS representatives. Françoise Moreau, DG DEVCO /EC, stressed the evolving global scenario as regards both economic turmoil and the 'Arab Spring'. Felix Fernandez-Shaw, EEAS, emphasized the importance of bringing politics into development assistance

while Olivier Consolo, CONCORD, highlighted the human rights and democracy aspects of the Agenda, and reflected on the challenge of achieving aid effectiveness in fra-



gile states. Martin Ängeby, SILC/ Sweden elaborated on the role of political foundations in supporting upcoming actors by stating that 'democracy cannot exist without the presence of democrats'.

The afternoon panel was chaired by Patrick Leusch, DW Akademie, and addressed the Agenda from a partner perspective. The EP represen-

tative, Franziska Keller, expressed her concerns about the newly-introduced concept of 'inclusive growth'. Various aspects of the Agenda were discussed by participants from partner-countries, including Belarus, Mexico and the African Diaspora. Tatyana Poshevalova, Eurobelarus, Carlos Muñoz-Piña, Instituto Nacional de Ecología, and Awil Mohamoud, ADPC, deemed contact with CSOs as being essential for the Agenda's effective implementation. Geert Laporte, ECDPM, identified the rule of 3-Cs of the Maastricht Treaty as a precondition for successful implementation.

The conference was wrapped up by Andrea Ostheimer, the ENoP project coordinator, who stressed the challenge of keeping the global outreach of the Agenda, while at the same time overcoming fragmentation in EU development assistance.



Fighting Electoral Fraud in Mali

Gérard Fuchs, *Fondation Jean-Jaurès*, **FJJ**
www.jean-jaures.org

Upon my arrival in Bamako on February 20th 2012, an already well-advanced political campaign was underway, with the first round of the presidential elections planned for April 29th and the general election to be held before the summer. However, in the Northern provinces a dangerous mix of Tuareg demands for recognition, a proliferation of al-Qaeda groups and drug traffickers and the circulation of weapons in the wake of the Libyan uprising have stirred renewed unrest which has almost overshadowed the campaign.

Two weeks before my arrival, the city was the centre of understandable but worrying demonstrations by members of the armed forces. Understandable due to the significant casualties suffered while fighting rebel forces, with little information given to the families on the identities of the victims. Worrying since the apathy displayed by the authorities prior to these developments is clearly a matter of concern and symptomatic of great underlying disarray.

From Europe, Mali has so far been seen as a haven of peace and democracy, at least in comparison to its neighbours. And it is true that since the overthrow of Moussa Traoré in 1991, presidents have succeeded each other without any major drama and in respect of the Constitution. However, none of the elections were exempt from major

fraud, including a contested result during the first round of the 2002 presidential elections.

I was invited by the *Rassemblement pour le Mali*, a party presided over by former Prime Minister Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, and with whom the *Fondation Jean-Jaurès* has been working for many years. My role during these two days was to lead several workshops aimed at analysing the various fraud strategies used by the

by the administration to assemble the results and applies predetermined multiplying coefficients to each candidate's results.

The interest of the meeting lay less in exposing these practices than in the relief some seemed to find in seeing that many others had encountered the same problems. Moreover, they all agreed that only a strong coordinated action could discourage such tactics. An idea was put forward of using a parallel network in order to assemble the results of the elections, by taking pictures of the reports and sending them through smart phones.

As is often the case, I returned to France with mixed feelings of regret and hope. Regret for the stubborn refusal of European institutions to co-finance initiatives organised with partners that are political parties. And hope fuelled by the enthusiasm and commitment of all those who participated in these two days, most of whom travelled a long way to join forces in the name of a common cause.

current authorities and to present the available means to counter them. A difficult task in a country where limited resources and poverty mean that holding the key to public funds can be transformed into a considerable means of applying pressure.

The dedicated and vocal panel was composed of local leaders who had already experienced every electoral trick imaginable: paid voters, suspicious identity cards (as none have photos) and falsified election results. But the new and most worrying aspect for me is electronic fraud, which is based on the software used



Above: Map of Republic of Mali

Below: Position of Republic of Mali in Africa

Maps by: LDRG

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DELGOSEA: Working Towards Sustainable Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia

Susanne Stephan, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Manila, **KAS**
www.DELGOSEA.eu

'Life in the DELGOSEA family means reflection, adaptation and development, reaching beyond individual cultures and backgrounds. We are diverse, but united in our aims and visions,' Susanne Stephan, DELGOSEA Project Manager

The eco-savers project of Marikina, an e-government scheme in Yogyakarta and upgrading an old collective housing project in Vinh City – these are just a few of the very successful best practices being replicated by communities across Southeast Asia as part of the DELGOSEA project.

The project at a glance

The "Partnership for Democratic Local Governance in Southeast Asia" (DELGOSEA) was launched in March 2010 and is co-financed by the European Commission and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung of Germany through the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. A network of local government associations (LGAs), local authorities, non-governmental organisations and academic institutes in the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia is focusing on a transnational exchange of sustainable good governance practices in four main areas:

- People's participation in planning and decision-making
- Institutional governance
- Urban environment
- Fiscal management and investment promotion strategies

The DELGOSEA approach to best practice replication

To begin with, 16 best practice cities were selected from these four thematic areas. These best practices are workable, results-oriented good

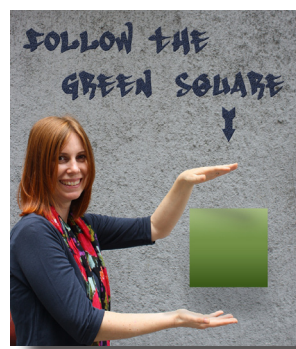
governance approaches, frameworks and methodologies applied by local governments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services.

One of the most important criteria for the selection of a best practice was the adaptability and transferability of the concept to different countries, since these best practices were replicated by so-called pilot cities across Southeast Asia. Equally important, of course, was that the selected projects had proved to have a real impact on the living conditions of rural people. DELGOSEA was also looking for

are huge, but the project showed that there was also much common ground to be found.

Other examples include pilot projects from Vietnam, where Tra Vinh City focuses on introducing e-government to the city in an effort to improve the efficiency of local government and make routine administrative processes more user-friendly. In Indonesia, the city of Tarakan implements an 'eco-savers' project - a simple but ingenious concept that involves local schools in collecting recyclable rubbish. Bacolod City in the Philippines replicates a best practice example from Cambodia, where a 'people-public-private partnership' (PPP) was established to improve municipal infrastructure.

There is another aspect to the work of DELGOSEA, which underpins much of the project's success: the various publications that DELGOSEA has produced, both to help the pilot cities implement their chosen best practices and to document the replication process. These range from detailed descriptions of all the best practices to training manuals for coaches who assist pilot cities in their efforts. The publications will soon be complemented by a handbook which offers step-by-step instructions on how to replicate best practices. They are all available via the DELGOSEA website (www.DELGOSEA.eu) and form part of our sustainability strategy by making as much information as possible available. Another part of DELGOSEA's sustainability strategy is a networked communications structure whereby beneficiaries, strategic partners, policy-makers and DELGOSEA staff can exchange information and communicate with each other.



innovation - a project had to offer something new in one of the four aspects of local governance. Last but not least, sustainability is of great importance!

However, the 16 pilot cities are the real stars of the project, putting an incredible amount of effort, enthusiasm and investment into adapting a best practice to suit their individual needs and conditions, across national, political and cultural borders. To give just one example: Choam Chao in Cambodia chose to replicate a best practice sample from Solo in Indonesia on how to revive a traditional market and relocate street vendors; the differences between the two countries

There is no need to re-invent the wheel. The DELGOSEA network exchanges knowledge between cities in Southeast Asia. This knowledge is available and accessible to any local government in Southeast Asia that wants to learn from and implement best practices from other places.

Join the DELGOSEA Network!
...and follow the green square.

Visit our website
www.DELGOSEA.eu

Register for the monthly newsletter
Network-News@delgosea.eu

Connect to us
www.facebook.com/DELGOSEA
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www.youtube.com/DELGOSEA

In the middle: Susanne Stephan, DELGOSEA project Manager

Picture by: KAS, Manila

This project has been co-funded by the European Commission

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Democracy Building in the Arab World: Case Study Sudan

Christian Passin, Politische Akademie der ÖVP, **PolAk**
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When in autumn 2009 the Political Academy of the Austrian People (PolAk) organised a training seminar for Sudanese elections officials, "Strengthening Democracy in Sudan" (please refer to the ENoP homepage - Best Practices January 2010) they could not have predicted it would lead to a long-lasting and high-ranking cooperation with government and civil society organisations as well as political parties in the North and South.

In addition to smaller-scale initiatives such as a seminar on "Christian-Islamic Dialogue in Europe and the Orient" (November 2009) and a workshop on "Understanding Political Islam in Europe" (March 2010), a major conference on "Challenges to the South Sudanese Referendum" was held in Vienna in November 2010. The conference was opened by the Austrian

Foreign Minister, Michael Spindelegger and his Sudanese counterpart Ali Ahmed Karti. The following day a closed workshop took place in Baden near Vienna with Sudanese Ministers from the North and South, representatives of the Austrian Foreign and Defence Ministries and leading foreign policy think-tanks.

Following the conference, in the beginning of December 2010 an Austrian delegation visited the Su-

danese capital of Khartoum and the South-Sudanese city of Juba. The delegation was headed by Werner Fasslabend, President of the Political Academy. In the course of this visit talks were held with Government and party political representatives and a number of NGOs. Some days later a follow-up to the November workshop in Vienna took place in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. North and South Sudanese politicians as well as Austrian representatives discussed interdependencies for sustainable peace between the North and South.

danised by PolAk and the Austrian National Academy for Defence.

Another study visit was organised by PolAk at the end of May 2011. Meetings were again held in the capital Khartoum and Juba in the South, but unfortunately the visit to Juba was cancelled for technical reasons. The delegation included Austrian, Czech and Hungarian politicians from various political party families as well representatives from foreign policy think-tanks.

In June and July 2011, PolAk welcomed His Excellency Issa Bashary Mohamed, Sudanese Minister of Science and Technology, and Sudanese Foreign Minister Karti in Vienna. Minister Karti delivered a lecture on "Sudan after Secession". In the meantime President Werner Fasslabend had the honour of participating as official guest in the celebration of independence of the new state of South Sudan in Juba on 9 July 2011. The Political Academy will continue to focus on developments in both states, Sudan and South Sudan, in 2012. In the first half of 2012 a special conference on the economic situation of South Sudan will be organised in Austria.



From 16 - 17 March 2011 the Speaker of the Sudanese Parliament, his Excellency Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir, paid a visit to Vienna. There he met with his Austrian counterpart, Ms Barbara Prammer, and participated as keynote speaker in an international panel focusing on the socio-economic and political challenges after the South Sudanese independence referendum (9 - 15 January 2011), or-



Above: Workshop on the "Challenges to the South Sudanese Referendum" with the participation of Sudanese Ministers, representatives of the Austrian Foreign and Defence Ministries and leading foreign policy think-tanks

Below: The Speaker of the Austrian Parliament Ms Barbara Prammer and Werner Fasslabend welcome the speaker of the Sudanese Parliament Ahmed Ibrahim El Tahir in the Austrian Parliament

Pictures by: Parlamentsdirektion/HBF/Gunther Pusch

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Rising Stars 2011 in Prague

Luděk Jiráček, **CEVRO** and International Republican Institute
www.cevro.cz

Bangasi Joseph Bakosoro from South Sudan was one of the participants in a programme called "Rising Stars", hosted by CEVRO for the second time in September 2011. Organised in cooperation with the International Republican Institute (IRI), this is an international programme for the global promotion of democracy.

IRI's Rising Stars programme works to ensure the leaders of new democracies are fully equipped with skills in effective democratic governance prior to taking office. Through international exchanges participants

are exposed to the experience of recent successful transition countries and gain insight into the challenges of democratic governance and best-practices in policy development.

In September 2011 eight democracy activists from Belarus, Bolivia, Burma, Russia, South Sudan and Zimbabwe participated in a two-week intensive practical and academic training programme in Prague, on topics ranging from democratic governance to executive management, anti-corruption, civic society and democracy and macroeconomic policy.

During this two-week programme participants met with experts, academics, government officials and ci-

vil society organisations who spoke of the Czech Republic's successful democratic transition and discussed lessons-learned.

The programme included a meeting with Senator Tomáš Gurlich in the Senate of the Czech Republic. During an excursion to the city of Pilsen the group met the mayor and learned about the challenges in transforming the city into the thriving and populous business centre

Ingrid Štegmánová, head of the International Department, outlined the roles of municipalities and the challenges of decentralisation. The group also attended a workshop in Agora CE with deputy director Pavel Mička. Agora CE is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation for strengthening the process of democratisation in the Czech Republic.

Furthermore, a website was created specifically for the members of Rising Stars project, providing information on the project, material from seminars and presentations, videos, and world news as well as the possibility to ask experts for help. The new portal is also available for an on-line exchange of ideas and experience.

The programme aims to provide participants with knowledge and skills that will help them in the fight for democracy and prosperity in their countries. Sharing experience is an important part of this, and at the end of the programme participants presented their own strategies and received certificates of completion of the project Rising Stars 2011.



Above: Participants in the "Rising stars" programme

Below: Meeting with Martin Baxa, Mayor of Pilsen

Picture by: CEVRO

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Monitoring for Democratic, Free and Fair Elections in Bulgaria

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A tendency to violate democratic practices in the electoral process in Bulgaria is a fact: this was one of the conclusions of a joint project by the Institute for Social Integration (ISI)/ Bulgaria in partnership with the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS).

Monitoring of the electoral legislation, campaign and process in Bulgaria took place in June-November 2011. Three teams carried out the activities: Team 1 was occupied with the topic of legislation and the Electoral Code in June; Team 2 dealt with the media in July-October; and Team 3 (consisting of 353 observers throughout the whole country) worked on the election days themselves on the 23rd and 30th of October. They found that the quality of the electoral legislation to have deteriorated and reported the campaigning tactics as being unfair, manipulative and unequal.

st with the realisation of democratic, free and fair elections for both presidential and local authorities in Bulgaria in autumn 2011. The aim was to contribute to the prevention of election fraud and increase voter participation.

The Legal Monitoring Team analysed the recent Election Code, adopted just a few months before the elections and containing reconsiderations on parts of the legislative decisions - necessary for assuring more democratic and representative election bodies. The Constitutional Court came to the same conclusion as the experts and ruled

the participation in the elections of political parties on the basis of subjective criteria to be deprived". The required number of signatures for registration of a party to participate in the election process should therefore be reduced, in conformity with the Venice Commission.

The principle of residence qualifications should be guaranteed for both active and passive suffrage. Since there is some merit in the introduction of the limitation on the civil right to elect - retracing the election process of the past few years whereby a number of discrepancies been noted - then restricting the right of each person to be elected is akin to restricting democracy. The public must decide for itself whether or not a candidate is suitable for a public post. We must be careful not to underestimate the intelligence of the citizens with regard to legislators.



In the middle: ISI joint Conference with Partner NGO's on "The Defects of Democracy"

Picture by: ISI

Contrary to common democratic practices, the campaign, election days and results were influenced by economic, corporate and even criminal interests - this despite the fact that the Head of the Elections Headquarters of the ruling party is the Interior Minister himself, a highly unpopular appointment not only in the EU but in developing countries as well.

The monitoring goals were to assi-

that part of the texts were unconstitutional; other decrees referred to the Court were declared as not in contradiction of the Constitution but nonetheless as "a step back in the process of democratisation of the local government and a decrease in the democratic legitimacy of the municipal bodies".

Furthermore, our experts recommended "the powers of the Central Election Committee to not allow

The Media Monitoring Team worked on the basis of information (news, announcements, analyses, comments) reported in the Bulgarian media. The change of owner of some of the most popular Bulgarian media titles as well as the creation of whole media empires has raised a number of questions. On the one hand this could be cause for concern about the objectivity of the "fourth authority". There was a clear tendency to edit political news,

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which was often reported in a biased manner. This is by its very nature a distortion of one of the media's main roles, which is to inform, not to manipulate civil society.

During the observation, a multitude of cases of abuse and destruction of property owned by political parties and leaders was detected. This involved a number of acts of damaging and burning clubhouses of the various political parties. It is fair to say that acts such as arson and explosions at clubs of political parties are intolerable for an EU-member country and seriously hinder the establishment of democratic standards.

Whether such acts are simply criminal or have a political dimension, they are circumstantial evidence of an underdeveloped democratic political life, which includes the political parties as well. The case of the residence qualification (registration and permission to vote in a different place of residence) and "migration" during elections are still a hot topic. Such incidents are becoming the rule rather than the exception and are the best indicator for potential flaws and shortfalls in an effective legal framework. It is an indisputable fact that in

addition to the "death souls/nominal members" at the elections, so-called "prohibiting registers" sprang up which illegally prevented thousands of Bulgarians from voting on both election rounds.

One of the most frequent possible manipulations is the discrepancy between the content of an article and its headline, meaning the media is able to thereby raise false hopes and make unfounded statements.

as immediately afterwards. Vote-swapping was far from the only registered violation the day before the elections. There was also the issue of counting the results, and possibly for the first time these elections witnessed an essentially new trend: the presence of large numbers of candidate-supporters at polling stations.

As voters started doubting their intentions, the experts and monitors concluded that this could be a new form of vote-trading with candidate-supporters playing the role of "dealers". Perhaps the most remarkable example came from the area of Blagoevgrad: in the first round of the elections 3,600 candidate-observers were registered, out of a possible total of 66,000 voters.



Often one candidate will be covertly or overtly favoured while another is ignored by the media. Equality and mutual respect in the media is a leading principle of democratic elections. The most frequently mentioned politician in the period of the survey was Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, who was referred to 1164 times in print and 63 times in prime-time TV news. The disproportion and inequality here is remarkable when compared to other political leaders' coverage, for example the opposition leader Sergei Stanishev, whose name only appeared 297 times in print and 10 in prime-time TV news.

Overall, the Institute for Social Integration and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies call on the media as well as political actors to behave appropriately, to not be influenced or coerced into delivering propaganda or misleading statements. Discrediting or false arguments are obstacles to fulfilling the key role of the media - which is to inform. Politicians must commit themselves to creating laws to this effect and obeying them as a precondition to reinstating the trust lost between them and Bulgarian civil society.

Our initiative was closely followed by the media in Bulgaria. Representatives of ISI and FEPS held several round tables with other NGOs, with a very positive outcome. The realisation of the project shows that cooperation between non-governmental civilian organisations of varied political inclinations, methods and backgrounds in defending democracy, civil liberties and rights is possible and productive.



Above: ISI pressconference, presenting "Monitoring of Elections Legislation"

Below: Pressconference, presenting "Media Monitoring" project

Pictures by: ISI

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How to Become a Good Project Manager

Adina Trunk, *Kristdemokratiskt Internationellt Centre, KIC*
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Being a good project manager is challenging. It takes skill, efficiency, thoroughness and probably quite a few years of practical experience. But above all, it takes a well-defined role and some basic training so as not to feel that you are trying to reinvent the wheel. For this, help is sometimes needed.

The Christian Democratic International Centre (KIC) believes in affording its partners complete ownership of their projects, from the planning to the implementation and reporting phase. This means that partners in countries stretching from Uganda to Georgia need to know how to best run their projects and keep on track with current agreements and established goals. Employing capable people is naturally a good starting point,

but since the projects have expanded over the last three to four years, the demand for good counterparts in our partner organisations has increased as well. Colleagues must manage and coordinate several projects at a time, addressing respective mother parties, youth wings or women's associations and making sure that everybody is doing what they are supposed to, and on time.

ment, the meeting created multiple opportunities for networking. Individual meetings with members of parliament and a visit to the party congress offered participants the possibility of strengthening their contacts with Christian Democratic politicians who are to be involved in the projects. Last but not least, the participants had the chance to share experiences and best practices with one another, creating a good basis for future collaboration and synergy among the projects.

The participants might still encounter problems in their new roles, but they now feel much better prepared for what lies ahead. Together with regular virtual meetings with KIC to monitor and help with unexpected difficulties, this has hopefully also laid the groundwork



In the middle: Project managers from Eastern Europe networking at the Christian Democratic Party congress

Below: Lecture on efficient project management

Pictures by: KIC



As such, prior to the start of the new project cycle for 2012, the Eastern Europe division of KIC organised its first educational project management training session which proved an unexpected success. Over the course of five days, new and former project managers, all responsible for one large country project, were invited to Stockholm to take part in both theoretical presentations and practical workshops specifically designed to help newcomers succeed in their new roles. As well as capacity-building on subjects such as project management, leadership, economic and best practices and conflict manage-

for monitoring progress. And on a personal level, in case they do need our or each-other's advice, it will be easier to pick up the phone and call Stockholm, Kiev or Tblisi.



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European Municipalities - Prepare for Challenges of the 21st Century

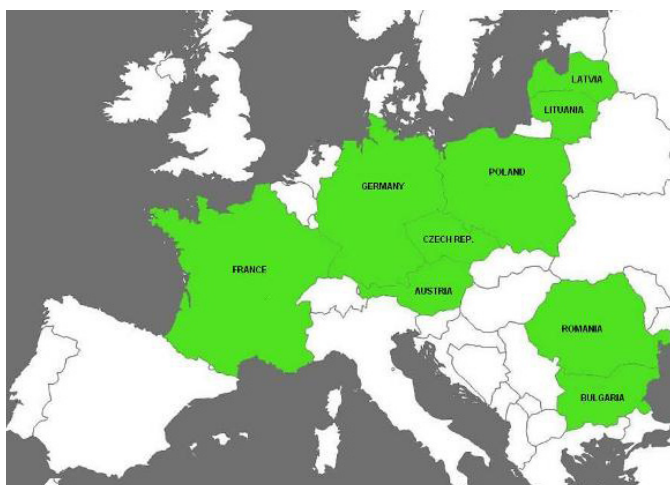
Lasse Brand, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Brandenburg, *hbs*
www.boell.de

What are the factors that render municipalities successful in climate protection? One key issue is their capacity at an administrative and political level. For an effective climate policy, municipal actors need to know why it is so crucial to become active, which measures can be undertaken and how to implement them. Capacity-building for municipalities is thus crucial for preparing them for the challenges of the 21st century.

BEAM 21 is a capacity-building training program for local politicians and municipal staff in European municipalities. Participants are trained in many aspects of municipal climate protection, such as energy production, transport, construction, public procurement and urban planning. This blended-learning approach delivers an online course combined with five seminars in between. Courses take place in nine EU-member countries, each translated and adapted to suit its host nation.

During the course, participants are introduced to a variety of best practice examples from all over Europe: an innovative heating system in Plonsk (Poland), Green public

procurement in Gothenburg (Sweden), local funding for solar panels in Litomerice (Czech Republic), the Veggie-Day in Gent (Belgium), free public transport in Hasselt (Belgium), the "compact city" as urban planning concept in Freiburg (Germany), and many more. Participants discuss these initiatives and share experiences with experts from other municipalities, jointly



With more and more people thinking, talking and acting on climate protection and intelligent use of energy, better results can be achieved. This is true not only within the EU, but also in candidate and developing countries. Fossil fuel prices will continue to rise – a challenge especially for those who use energy inefficiently. Promoting participation-oriented initiatives for intelligent use of energy can prove valuable for other regions as well. In particular, the BEAM 21 courses in Central- and Eastern Europe can support efforts in other transition countries such as candidate countries in south-eastern Europe.

Project Partners

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Brandenburg as main applicant and:

- University of Applied Science Eberswalde, Germany
- Forum Soziale Technikgestaltung/Talheimer, Germany
- Local Energy Agency of the Greater Lyon, France
- Public Environmental Centre of Sustainable Development, Bulgaria
- Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology, Lithuania
- Focus Eco Centre, Romania
- Foundation for Environmental Education (Friends of the Earth), Latvia
- Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland
- Centre for Environment and Development, Poland
- Association First Warsaw Agenda 21, Poland
- Hnutí Duha (Friends of the Earth), Czech Republic
- City of Geislingen, Germany
- Austrian Green Foundation, Austria

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Times of Crisis - Social Cohesion in Greece

Dr. Antonios Klapsis, Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy, **KKID**
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For the last two years Greece has been facing the most important economic crisis since the end of World War II. As a member of both the European Union and the Eurozone, the crisis in Greece has become a matter of international concern and repeatedly hit the headlines of major newspapers and television networks worldwide, with special focus on its repercussions for the stability of the Euro.

participation of eminent experts, and was aimed at presenting new data together with a thorough analysis of the subject. Its importance was further highlighted not only by the fact that it was attended by a wide audience, but also that the opening address was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Solidarity, Dr. Dimitris Vartzopoulos.

negative expectations of most Greeks concerning their future, have burdened the psychological dimension of everyday life and left approximately half the population feeling emotionally distressed. It should be noted that the above-mentioned survey will be repeated on a regular basis throughout 2012 with a view to examining the long-term effects (the second part of the survey was expected in March 2012).

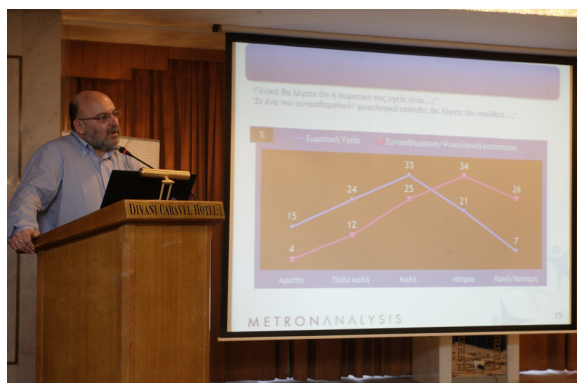
In the middle: Stratos Fanaras, CEO of Metron Analysis

Below: Professor Mooli Lahad, founder and president of the Community Stress Prevention Centre

Picture by: KKID

The implications associated with the Greek crisis have been extensively analysed and light has been shone on every last detail. However, very little has been said about the consequences of the ongoing crisis for the daily lives of ordinary Greek people, even less so as regards its impact on the national psyche and social cohesion.

In an attempt to bridge this gap and stimulate public debate on the matter, the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy and the Centre for European Studies jointly organised a symposium entitled "Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis". The symposium was held in Athens on 16 December 2011 with the par-



During the first part of the symposium, Stratos Fanaras, CEO of Metron Analysis - one of the largest and most renowned research and public opinion survey companies in Greece - presented the results of a survey carried out specifically for the symposium. The survey highlighted both the financial and the psychological dimension of the crisis. As Mr. Fanaras pointed out,

In the second part of the symposium dealing with the psychological and social repercussions of the economic crisis, notable experts presented their views on the effects of the economic crisis on the mental health of the Greek population. All the speakers agreed that the crisis has negatively affected the psychological condition of most Greeks, who tend to become more and more pessimistic and experience an increasing sense of depression.

the crisis has had an unprecedented impact on day-to-day life, with one in three Greek households being unable to meet their financial obligations and only one in ten managing without particular difficulty. These financial difficulties, combined with the highly

The symposium was closed with a speech delivered by the internationally renowned psychologist Professor Mooli Lahad, founder and president of the Community Stress Prevention Centre. Professor Lahad presented the Greek audience with his pioneering methodology for communities' psychological coping mechanisms and recovery from crisis and trauma. More specifically, he talked about his concept of "Islands of Resilience" which can help societies facing great problems to counter negative effects until the system begins to show signs of recovery.



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Get on Board! Mobilizing Young Leaders to Support the EU Enlargement Process towards the Western Balkans

Christophe Steyer, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, **KAS**
www.kas.de

The picture was posted on Facebook just seconds after it was taken: 12 workshop participants, the team of the project "Get on board! Mobilizing young leaders to support the EU enlargement process towards the Western Balkans". The post relates to the profile of the second PRINCE project implemented by seven ENoP member organisations from January 2012 to January 2013: Online communication will play a crucial role.

The first Prince 2009 project, "The EU-Enlargement process: Open your mind and get involved! Awareness raising events in the area of future enlargement towards the Western Balkan states in eight selected European countries" has already been completed.

The new project is designed to enhance the value of information material. It focuses on e-learning activities and the use of modern media as a communication platform, as well as the implementation of simulation games as a tool for raising awareness on EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans. The goal is to familiarise EU citizens

with candidate countries and potential candidates in the context of future enlargement. Among the key issues are: promoting tolerance and understanding through intercultural and face-to-face dialogue; stimulating an informed public debate in the EU about the benefits and challenges of future enlargement; highlighting the extent of the reform process each candidate country has to undergo or has already completed in order to join the European Union.

their region.

The simulation game will enable participants to experience EU enlargement by becoming virtual actors in this process as a member of the European Commission, the European Parliament, a Member State or as part of a delegation from a potential candidate country. The project partners will use the content of this module as material for 3-day workshops in their countries. Furthermore, the password-secured section of the e-learning platform will use the simulation game as background content accessible exclusively to future workshop participants who want to become trainers themselves and who have passed a test.



In the middle: Participants during the inception workshop of PRINCE II project

Picture by: Friederike Gaensslen, ENoP

The material available for the e-learning platform will provide information through 5 sections. There will be information related to EU enlargement and a background on the historical, socio-political and cultural diversity of the Western Balkan states. There will also be a presentation of their contributions to the European Union and their potential as future EU members. Finally, an integrated map will help external users to find and contact young leaders on EU enlargement and Western Balkan countries in

Project Partners

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Germany as main applicant together with ENoP member-foundations:

- Alfred Mozer Stichting AMS, The Netherlands
- Institute dr. Janez Evangelist Kreka iJEK, Slovenia
- Institute for Social Integration ISI, Bulgaria
- Liberal Conservative Academy CEVRO, The Czech Republic
- Liberal Political Institute LPI, Bulgaria
- Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party, PoAk/ Austria

and the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation

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On Board – Ready for an EU Project

*Nikolay Paunov, Liberal Political Institute, LPI
www.lpi-bg.org*

Participants in LPI's project 'Make that gesture - sign language training for students'

Picture by: LPI

'Get on board!' is the slogan that attracted the Liberal Political Institute to PRINCE 2, the latest joint project of the ENoP member-foundations. The project will add a new dimension to LPI's range of activities.

World Economy, Sofia University, New Bulgarian University. The participants in the initiatives, representing mainly the younger generation, have ever since become inseparable part of the foundation's profile, which is targeting and integrating as volunteers the younger generation.

work of active young volunteers is the fruit of LPI's dedicated work over the last decade. These young academic collaborators from Bulgaria and neighbouring countries also constitute the principle target group of the ongoing PRINCE 2 project.

LPI possesses sound experience in Bulgaria on political campaigning for young people, including a project on sign language for students, aimed at integrating deaf students into political life.



The sign language project and political campaign trainings have gathered

together future political consultants and professionals from acknowledged universities in Bulgaria, among which The University of National and

With its expertise and volunteer work, LPI has proved that it is possible to make a change even without significant funding. An extensive net-

The project itself - 'Mobilizing young leaders to support the EU enlargement process towards the Western Balkans' - is aimed at raising awareness among younger generations. It gathers together LPI and seven political foundations from various European countries and a range of political backgrounds. Now with the joint efforts of its European counterparts involved in the project, LPI will have the chance to add an international dimension to its work and offer more opportunities to its local activists.

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