

IN THIS NUMBER:

Page 1:

- Editorial
- Three Days of Political Training in Russia

Page 2:

- Promoting "Green Cities" and "Social Economy" in Times of Crisis

Page 3:

- Learning to be heard: Seminars for Young Politicians in Africa

Page 4:

- PRINCE in Bulgaria: Experiences and Challenges

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 14th edition of the ENoP Quarterly, which marks the beginning of our new project: "Building a bridge towards socio-political stakeholders for an effective EU development assistance – enhanced dialogue with and within the European Network of Political Foundations," co-financed by the European Commission.

Our ongoing advocacy for civic education and democracy support in EU development assistance cannot be perceived separately from the current economic turmoil. In my country, Greece, the crisis has multiple aspects: economic, social and political. The recent elections in June 2012 confirmed the dismantling of the traditional bi-partisan system and its substitution by a fragmented party system with strong extremes on both the left and the right. According to recent polls the neo-Nazi party of "Golden Dawn" could be third in vote share in the next parliamentary elections. The shrinking of the Greek middle class - a social stratum traditionally associated with political stability - is another feature. Without a doubt, these events threaten the future of our democracy. Moreover, in the context of widespread frustration, euro-skepticism seems to grow. We would also like to draw attention to the re-invigoration of nationalism and populism in Europe and the tensions created between national and transnational identities under the pressure stemming from a harsh social reality. Therefore it is a challenge for us today to provide an integrated policy proposal based on the need to balance economic sustainability with social cohesion and democracy inside and outside the EU.



Zinovia Lialiouti, **ISTAME**

Three Days of Political Training in Russia

Martin Ångeby, **Swedish International Liberal Centre**
www.silc.se

From the 23rd to the 26th of August, a Democracy Forum was held in St Petersburg, organized by ENoP member the Swedish International Liberal Centre, SILC.

The Russian Liberal party Yabloko Youth section, St Petersburg branch, assisted in the practical organization of the event. The Democracy Forum brought together various Russian NGOs and individual activists on issues ranging from LGBT to environment and school projects. The purpose of the Democracy Forum was to strengthen the capacity and motivation for political activism, share experiences and develop new networks. All countries thrive from a strong civil society, Russia included.

During the forum the participating NGOs and political activists gave presentations on projects and campaigns they are arranging in the

St Petersburg area. SILC had also brought along members of the Swedish Liberal Party and Liberal Youth to the Forum, to share their experiences as young politicians in municipal government, how the Liberal Youth organize themselves and which campaigns they are in-



involved in. Following this the participants were divided into different working groups to discover what they can learn from each other: both the Swedish and the Russian activists were enthusiastic in identifying new ideas for campaigning

and project development. The three day long Democracy Forum emphasized practical exercises, for instance a much appreciated role play of a public hearing. The seminar room was set up like a real public hearing and a good discussion ensued on how to use public hearings in activism.

Overall, the Democracy Forum provided added inspiration for all participating activists and ideas for their projects and campaigns. It also served as an occasion to network with other civil activists and the participants found further projects they were interested in being a part of.

In the end, the work that the Swedish International Liberal Centre does in Russia is about making friends. People across the world have a love of dialogue, social engagement and free expression. We thoroughly enjoy our work!

Role play during the Democracy Forum in St. Petersburg

Picture by: SILC



Promoting “Green Cities” and “Social Economy” in Times of Crisis

Venetia Chatzi, *Green Institute of Greece*
www.greeninstitute.gr

Two main public events focusing on the promotion of Green Cities and Social Economy within- and as a response to- the current economic, social and environmental crises, were supported by the Green Institute of Greece during summer 2012.

“Towards a Green, Open and Inclusive City” was the first event implemented from the 28th to the 29th of June 2012 in Thessaloniki. The 2-day International Conference was organised by ‘Active Citizens-Ecology in Action’, ‘Greens in Big Cities’ and ‘Ecologists Greens/Local Government Group-Greece’ in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Stiftung and the Green Institute of Greece.

A roundtable on the vision and strategies for shaping a green and sustainable urban future was organised during the opening day of the conference. High emphasis was given to the role of local authorities and their green alliances in making the urban environments greener, especially during these turbulent times.



Two main panels were organised for the second day of the conference. The first focused on the

difficulties that immigrant communities and minorities face in different societies across Europe and the need to counter rising racism and xenophobic trends. Importance was placed on the need for further promotion and support of multicultural heritage and inclusive integration policies. The main target of the second panel was to discuss best practices and experiences so as to share common visions of green urban development based on active civic involvement for a sustainable future.



On the following day of the conference the “Greens in Big Cities” Network and the Greek Green Local Councillors organised a seminar entitled “Shaping green policies in Local Governments-Experiences and good practice”. The topics focused on the responsibilities and function of regions and municipalities in an administrative decentralization in terms of transparency, the politics of social inclusion and the high importance of civic participation.

The second summer public event on “Social Economy and Social Enterprises and Cooperatives” from the 6th to the 8th of July 2012 was

organised in Athens by Nikos Chrysogelos, MEP from the Ecologists Greens/Green Group in the European Parliament, supported by the Green Institute, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung and Ecologists Greens.

The discussion of the round table during the first day of the event started with an introduction to social economy at the local, national, European and global levels and its significance in overcoming the current crisis and its negative aspects.

The roundtable that followed the introductory session was dedicated to the important role of local governments in promoting social economy schemes in favour of local economies/communities and the natural environment.

During the international conference on the second day speakers focused on best practices and lessons

learned from social cooperative enterprises across Europe in producer-consumer networks, renewable energy, waste management, building infrastructure and the health and social integration sector. The institutional framework and funding opportunities for the development of social enterprises were also discussed, shedding light on the challenges and difficulties related to the establishment of cooperative banks.

On the last day a training seminar was held for those participants interested in how to establish and operate social/community enterprises in the fields of renewable energies, recycling, producer-consumer networks and social services.

In the middle: “Towards a green, open and inclusive city” conference

Picture by: Konstantinos Tsakalidis

Below on the left: Participants in “Social economy and social enterprises and cooperatives” seminar

Picture by: Venetia Chatzi

ENoP Contacts:
info@enop.eu
www.enop.eu





Learning to be heard: Seminars for Young Politicians in Africa

Otto Widmark, **Olof Palme International Centre**
www.palmecenter.se

“Young people tell me that they are not being listened to by the older members at party meetings”, says Erike Tanghøj. She chairs the pan-African Program for Young Politicians in Africa, PYPa which is a three-year initiative. Starting in 2012, the program is run by the Centre Party International Foundation, CIS and the ENoP members: Green Forum, GF, Christian Democratic International Center, KIC and the Olof Palme International Center, OPC.

Beatie Hofmeyr from the South African organization Education and Training Unit (ETU), who is the implementing project manager in Southern Africa, explains:

“The politicians say they can’t agree with their opponents because of ideology, but what they really mean is the opposite”, Erike Tanghøj explains. “The different parties are ideologically rather similar with some vague social democratic idea, but they differ in practical policies. That is what they build their hostility around.”



Thus, part of the regional training is through debating ideological roots and meeting with political opponents. Participants gradually develop more respect for their opponents, with some very successful outcomes. For example in Uganda the KIC program resulted in a joint organization for youth associations, something unique in the Ugandan context.

About 120 young African politicians from eleven countries are involved. The goal of the program is to increase young people’s participation in politics and their influence on policies and to strengthen democratic leadership. It consists of three educational events per region per year, varying between one and two weeks for each event, and one pan-African academy focusing on political theory, conflict management, capacity building, and developing respect for political opponents.

“It’s not a cultural problem. It’s about the same generation of politicians that became active in the 60s and 70s squeezing young politicians out from formal decision making. It’s hard to change career so there are a lot of leaders who just hang on to power until they die.”

CIS, GF, KIC and OPC all have a history of working in different parts of Africa and by allocating the management of different regions accordingly, specific knowledge of the different organizations is used effectively.



Through capacity building and conflict management, the PYPa program aims at encouraging young politicians to challenge the prevailing power structures. A large part of this is focused on the theories surrounding power structures and understanding the practices of discrimination, thereby letting the participants identify the reasons behind young people not reaching their full political potential.

Conflict management is an important part of this educational program. Having ideologically different Swedish organizations implementing it is unique and strengthens the orientation towards tolerance and respect for political opponents.

Young people make up a large group of voters, but it could be argued that a culture of age discrimination blocks their political influence. The inferior status of youth issues in many African countries partly results from a culture where the elderly are seen as presumed leaders, and partly from authoritarian party structures.

But PYPa involves the elderly established politicians in mother parties and governments, as well as discussing the seemingly contradictory link between a lack of ideology in political parties and a rather hostile approach to political opponents.



In the middle: On the way to an orphanage in Jinja, Uganda

On the left: Leadership training in Jinja, Uganda

Pictures by: Christian Democratic International Centre

On the right: Young politicians engaged in group work, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Pictures by: Center Party International Foundation

ENoP Contacts:
info@enop.eu
www.enop.eu



PRINCE in Bulgaria: Experiences and Challenges

Stefan Georgiev, *Institute for Social Integration*
www.isi-bg.org

Galina Asenova, ISI and seminar attendees with training certificates

Picture by: ISI

"Awesome! This workshop revealed to me both the many milestones and the details of the way the EU operates," stated a participant at the end of the three-day workshop in Sofia in the framework of the "Get on Board" project.

"Mobilizing young leaders to support the EU enlargement process towards the Western Balkans" - the second PRINCE project was launched at the beginning of 2012 and is now being implemented by ENoP members. The Bulgarian share was carried out from the 7th to the 9th of September in Sofia. The Institute for Social Integration (ISI) organized the workshop together with the Liberal Political Institute (LPI) and with the project coordinator Christophe Steyer from the Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).

The project aims to raise awareness on EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans. The main goal is to acquaint citizens from EU members with present and potential candidate countries for future enlargement. A significant part of the project is online communication and the e-learning platform designed especially for it. 24 young leaders from 18 dif-

ferent youth NGOs took part, including 4 participants from FYROM. All participants - aged 18 to 25 - were selected as young and influential leaders in their youth communities.



On the first day the participants met Prof. Dinko Dinkov from the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) and experts from the Center for European and International Studies (CEIS). After an introduction on the basics of EU enlargement they discussed the progress of the Western Balkans towards the EU and shared experiences on Bulgarian lessons with regard to EU membership.

The second day was dedicated to a simulation game which gave the opportunity to experience the sequence of the enlargement process: from initial stages such as writing an application form for EU membership through to negotiations with those who

have obtained "accession candidates" status, up to the voting of the Council and the EP - and the official ceremony of signing the accession contracts. The participants played different roles as the institutions involved (EC, EP, Consilium), candidate countries, media representatives. At the end everyone sat an online-test on the e-learning platform, which covers the basics of the EU institutions and the history of the enlargement process in order to be certified as multipliers of the project.

On the last day of the workshop all participants sat a short "Train-the-Trainer" course where they gained the basic knowledge and skills needed to be successful multipliers of the "Get on Board" project.

The mission continues. In the next few months certified multipliers will organize and conduct simulation games in their youth communities to contribute to the project's goal. As partner organizations, ISI and LPI will support them and continue the mission of raising the awareness of EU citizens on the enlargement process towards the Western Balkans.

Editor/publisher

- Andrea E. Ostheimer
ENoP-Project Director

Coordination/editorial staff

- Friederike Gaensslen
- Alina Garkova

Editorial Team

- Chantal Delmas
- Aaron Farrugia
- Luděk Jiráček
- Rok Prešern
- Mònica Sabata
- Rebecca Wagner

Layout

- Alina Garkova

ENoP Office Contacts

15, Rue d'Arlon, B-1050 Brussels • T: +32 2 23 000 29 • Email: info@enop.eu • www.enop.eu
Project Director: Mrs Andrea E. Ostheimer • Project Manager: Mrs Friederike Gaensslen

Applicant

[Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.](http://www.konrad-adenauer-stiftung.de)

Partners

Alfred Mozer Stichting Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung e.V.
Andreas Papandreou Institute for Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung
Strategic and Development Studies Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung e.V.
CEVRO Heinrich-Boell-Stiftung e.V.
Eduardo Frei Stichting LIBERALES
Fondation Jean-Jaurès Politische Akademie PoIAk
Fondazione Magna Carta Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung e.V.

Associate

Fundació Catalanista i Demòcrata Catdem



This project is co-funded by the European Commission