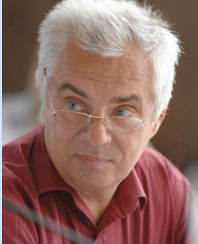


Issue 6, April 2014

## Editorial



The recent meeting of directors of the Schools of Political Studies offered an opportunity to take stock of the plans to enlarge the Schools' Network: **two new Schools are about to open their doors: a School for Turkey in Istanbul and a School for Greece**

**in Thessaloniki.** These welcome additions reflect our ambition to broaden the Network into all European regions. In the same vein, discussions are underway with the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, and the Central European University, Budapest, to build synergies between these well-respected institutions and the Schools.

We are also moving forward on our **goal to develop an international alumni community** which would build upon and take further the national alumni networks. The political and civic leaders who have participated in the Schools' programme represent a vast potential which we strive to better integrate into the Schools' Network and which could play a key role in promoting the Council of Europe's *acquis* and values in their respective countries. Thus we are organising the **First International Alumni Seminar in Strasbourg on 19-20 June 2014** aimed at alumni who have attained high levels of responsibility in their country or internationally.

We are deeply shocked by the **seven-year prison sentence handed down to Ilgar Mammadov, Director of the Baku School of Political Studies**, despite serious misgivings on the part of the international community over the fairness of the trial. I can only echo the statement of the High Representative and Commissioner of the European Union who "...regrets that the verdicts against Mr Mammadov and Mr Yaqublu appear politically motivated, contrary to Azerbaijan's international commitments as a member of the Council of Europe and... calls upon Azerbaijan to do more to ensure the independence of the judiciary, in keeping with their responsibility as upcoming chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers."

Ambassador Piotr Świtalski

## A new School of Political Studies opens its doors in Turkey



On 3 April 2014, in the margins of the annual spring meeting of Schools' Directors, the Council of Europe and Mr Osman Kavala, Director of Anadolu Kültür in Istanbul, signed a **Partnership**

**Agreement officially establishing a European School of Politics in Turkey** and thereby becoming the 20th member of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies Network.

**The School aims to offer high-quality training to new generations of political leaders in Turkey** with a view to fostering dialogue amongst young politicians on major public policies, strengthening leadership skills, encouraging exchange of know-how and stimulating co-operation. The School intends to work closely with Bogazici University of Istanbul and will organise its first seminar in May of this year.

## School Alumni now have their own seminar event



**The first international SPS Alumni Seminar (19-20 June 2014, Strasbourg)** will bring together about 40 outstanding alumni from different Schools and different annual cycles.

The participants will explore the theme "**Harnessing young people's potential for building a democratic future**", thereby offering input to the forthcoming World Forum for Democracy on youth participation. The alumni meeting will look at ways to respond to the marginalisation of today's young generation and ask if young people can define their own set of common values for the future.

The seminar will also provide an opportunity to **exchange ideas on how to develop and strengthen the SPS Alumni Network**, which aspires to become a steadfast long-term partner of the Council of Europe.

## FOCUS ON SCHOOLS' NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### The Seven Western Balkan Schools come together for the second Regional Academy for Democracy (RAD)



The inaugural event of the RAD 2014 programme, entitled **“Invisible people? Many Faces of Migrations in Western Balkans”**, took place from 21 to 24 February in Niš (Serbia), thereby officially launching the second cycle of this successful project of regional co-operation of the seven Western Balkan Schools. The seminar enabled a frank and open discussion on the issues of irregular migration and human rights, the asylum policies in the EU and in the region, as well as on the sensitive question of the integration of Roma. On the last day of the seminar participants paid a visit to the largest Roma settlement in Nish “Beograd-mala”, accompanied by local Roma community leaders.

### Tbilisi School celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia’s membership of the Council of Europe



On 1–2 May 2014, the Tbilisi School of Political Studies holds a seminar on **“Political Culture Before the Local Elections”** dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the country’s accession to the Council of Europe. Diplomatic corps accredited in Georgia and high-ranking representatives of the Council of Europe and other International organisations are addressing the School’s participants. The event provides an opportunity to discuss the influence of the Soviet heritage on civic and political culture in South Caucasus, the question of electoral context and of democratic sustainability, as well as the main challenges facing Georgian society today.

### FOCUS ON ALUMNI OF THE SCHOOL OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP, MONTENEGRO (UP TO APRIL 2014)

**Aleksandar Damjanovic**, MP of Socialist People’s Party (SNP) and President of the Parliamentary Board for Economy, Finances and Budget  
**Rifat Fejzic**, Reis of Islam community in Montenegro  
**Nik Gjeloshaj**, MP of New Democratic Power (FORCA) and member of several Parliamentary Boards  
**Azra Jasavic**, MP of Positive Montenegro and member of several Parliamentary Boards  
**Snezana Jonica**, MP of SNP and member of several Parliamentary Boards  
**Srdja Kekovic**, General Secretary of the Union of Free Trade Unions  
**Milica Kovacevic**, President, NGO “CDT”  
**Jelena Kulidzan**, Informative Programme Editor, TV Vijesti  
**Vuk Maras**, Programme Director, NGO “MANS”  
**Srdja Milic**, MP and President of Socialist People’s Party (SNP)  
**Suljo Mustafic**, Vice President of the Parliament of Montenegro  
**Milan Radovic**, Human Rights Co-ordinator, NGO “Civic Alliance” and Member of the Council, Radio and Television of Montenegro (RTVCG)  
**Branislav Radulovic**, Member of the Senate of National Audit Institution  
**Slaven Radunovic**, MP of Democratic Front and President of the Parliamentary Board for European integration  
**Gojko Raicevic**, Editor of portal “IN4S”  
**Dragoslav Scekcic**, Mayor of Berane Municipality  
**Dragan Sjekloca**, News Editor, “Al Jazeera Balkans”  
**Mirko Stanic**, Spokesperson of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Secretary to the SDP Group in the Parliament of Montenegro  
**Milan Zugic**, General Service Editor, “MINA” Agency  
**Vladan Zugic**, Political Editor, Daily Newspaper “Vijesti”

*The Forum of Democratic Leadership, established by the alumni of the Montenegrin School, is a tangible example of the Schools of Political Studies efforts to develop a genuine and strong alumni community. Established two years ago, the Forum brings together annually former and current School participants and provides a framework for long-term co-operation, exchange of experiences and networking activities between representatives of political parties, civic and business leaders and the media. It has become a real platform for strategic debates on key political and social issues, such as reform processes in the context of European and trans-atlantic integration of Montenegro.*



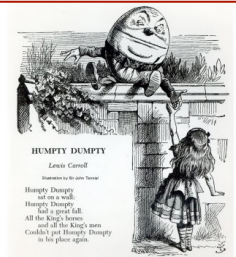
## OPEN THOUGHTS

### DEMOCRACY THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

**“The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can make words mean so many different things.”<sup>1</sup>**

**By Jack Hanning**

Secretary General of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies



When the Berlin Wall came down, 25 years ago, the fall of communism and the toppling of dictatorships sparked continent-wide euphoria. Peace, stability and democracy became by-words for a prosperous and bright European future.

But the dream of a continent-wide democratic “wonderland” was short-lived as economic hardship, coupled with political uncertainties and military conflicts gradually engendered a sense of drift and gloom.

What has gone wrong and what can we do about it?

Why are there a growing number of countries in both the Council of Europe and the European Union which appear to be opting for autocracy rather than democracy?

Why are countries which used to chant the mantra of no double standards and no dividing lines in Europe actually applying double standards and creating new political (and military) dividing lines themselves?

Over the last 25 years, the European Union, the Council of Europe and dozens of civil society and other organisations have spent vast amounts of time, energy and money helping democratising nations reform their institutions, their legal systems, their judiciaries, their police etc.

All this has been done in agreement with the authorities of these countries which, of their own volition, chose to join the Council of Europe. They freely and willingly accepted to subscribe to the standards and obligations flowing from membership of an institution which embodies the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and which stands for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The use of military force by one member state against another member state such as we have just witnessed in

Crimea, by definition, creates new dividing lines in Europe and is contrary to the UN Charter, the CSCE Helsinki Final Act and everything which the Council of Europe and the European Union represent. As the former French President François Mitterrand put it so aptly in his last speech to the European Parliament “nationalism is war”.

Repressive legislation to silence civil society, (e.g. the Russian NGO GOLOS) is incompatible with the notion of a democratic society upheld by the Council of Europe which highlighted the need to work with non-governmental organisations in its first ever Statutory Resolution adopted in 1951. Here we have a different, not to say a double standard too!

Other examples are the ban on Twitter and You Tube as well as the imprisonment of dozens of journalists in Turkey which, in clear contradiction with the European Convention on Human Rights, breach the notion of freedom of expression, restrict press freedom and necessarily intimidate others from working effectively.

The arrest and detention of people active in political and public life in Azerbaijan including the 7-year sentence meted out on the Director of the Baku School of Political Studies, Ilgar Mammadov, and other politically motivated cases are clearly contrary to the Council of Europe’s legal and Human Rights standards.

The recent elections in Hungary are another example of failure to live up to democratic principles. According to the OSCE a number of factors provided the country’s ruling party with an undue advantage including biased media coverage and a blurring of the separation between the State and the party.

What is clear is that there is a worrying trend in a number of countries where the very notions of democracy and human rights are being distorted. We

are confronted with a mirror image in which democracy means autocracy and justice means repression and intimidation. It is as if we were witnessing the emergence of a Europe of autocracies alongside the Europe of democracies imagined in the wake of WW II!

It brings to mind the graphic words of the great French lawyer and politician, Pierre-Henri Teitgen, who in 1949 when pleading for international Human Rights machinery said “...Evil progresses cunningly, with a minority operating, as it were, to remove the levers of control. One by one, freedoms are suppressed, in one sphere after another. Public opinion and the entire national conscience are asphyxiated...”<sup>2</sup>

Teitgen goes on to underscore the need to intervene before it is too late. Today that means the Council of Europe and the European Union must sound the alarm and act decisively before things go from bad to worse.

It also means we need more, stronger and better resourced Schools of Political Studies to alert the up-coming generations to the dangers and pitfalls facing democracy.

The Europe for which we are striving is based on freedom and justice: freedom to question and inquire; freedom to write and speak; freedom from corruption and mismanagement; freedom from discrimination; freedom from intimidation; freedom from tyranny.

As the former Czech President Vaclav Havel once put it: “We must not be afraid of dreaming the seemingly impossible if we want the seemingly impossible to become a reality. Without dreaming of a better Europe, we shall never build a better Europe!”

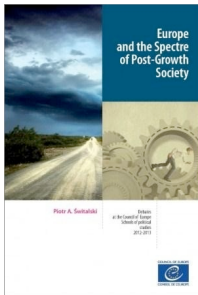
(1) Lewis Carroll 1871

(2) PACE Official Reports, August 1949, p. 1158.



## NEW PUBLICATION

### “Europe and the Spectre of Post-Growth Society”



With this collection of essays, based on the debates at the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies from 2012 to 2013, Ambassador Piotr Świtalski, Director of Policy Planning of the Council of Europe, analyses major societal concerns facing Europe and explores the relevance of the European project and its capacity to address the threats to democracy. What role can the Council of Europe play in providing creative solutions to the challenges? How can we embody the idea that Europe is bigger than the European Union and that the European agenda is richer and deeper than the economy and politics? To buy the book, please go to the Council of Europe's Online Bookshop ([www.book.coe.int](http://www.book.coe.int)).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 8–11 May 2014<br>Skopje       | <p><b>“Social and Labour Rights in Times of Prolonged Economic Crisis”</b></p> <p>2nd RAD Seminar for the seven Schools of Political Studies in the Western Balkans.</p>  |
| 4–8 June 2014<br>Sofia        | <p><b>Summer Academy “Building Democracy through Cultural Diplomacy”</b></p> <p>Experience Sharing between the Schools of Political Studies in Bulgaria, Tunisia and Morocco</p>  |
| 19–20 June 2014<br>Strasbourg | <p><b>“Harnessing young people’s potential for building a democratic future”</b></p> <p>This international seminar for alumni from all Schools will engage participants in a reflection about the theme of the 2014 edition of the World Forum for Democracy.</p> |

For the full calendar, please visit the [Schools’ website](http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu).

## CONTACTS

### DIRECTORATE OF POLICY PLANNING (DPP)

**Ambassador Piotr Świtalski**  
Director  
piotr.switalski(at)coe.int  
+33 (0) 3 88 41 30 95

**Michael R Emmert**  
Deputy to the Director  
michael.remmert(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

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

### EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF POLITICAL STUDIES

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

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

[www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu](http://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 19 further Schools have been created. 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 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 and Turkey.

[\*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 and to subscribe to the Newsletter, please go to the [Schools of Political Studies website](http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu).