

WORKSHOP



“Political conflicts in Europe and the role of media”

June 4th, 2009, 14:30-16.00 h

Corresponding with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is calling attention to the role of the media in the political change in Central and Eastern Europe from 1989-1990.

Visitors from Germany and Romania will be called upon as references and witnesses. With the expansion of the Internet and mobile technology in the second half of the 1990s, new methods of mass communication and information have been established. These new media channels played an important role during the political upheaval in Serbia in 2000, in the Ukraine in 2004 (Orange Revolution) and in Georgia in 2007. Guests from these countries will report on those issues.

During the KAS-panel “Political Conflicts in Europe and the Role of Media” we would like to achieve the following goals:

- to verify the importance of free media in the situation of political change

- to identify the role of new media in political conflicts in past, present and future,
- to bring together media experts to provide a cross-cutting international perspective for the role of media,
- to increase the awareness of opportunities and risks for media during future political conflicts.

Holger Doetsch, Spokesman in the last government of the GDR

Dr. Anneli Gabanyi, former correspondent of Radio Free Europe and head of Romanian section, Romania/Germany

Tamara Skrozza, journalist of the weekly “Vreme”, Serbia

Andrij Schewtschenko, Member of Parliament, telecaster of the “5th Channel” during the Orange Revolution, Ukraine

Giorgi Targamadze, Member of Parliament, head of Christian Democratic Movement and telecaster of “Imedi-TV”, Georgia

Moderator: **Dr. Dirk Förger**, Director KAS Media Program South East Europe

- **Holger Doetsch**

Holger Doetsch was born 1963 in Bendorf/Rhine.

He works as a merchant and writer. In 1990 he was speaker in the first and last democratic legitimate government of the GDR (Ministry for youth and sports). Later he became chief press officer of the youth organization (Junge Union – JU) of the German Christian-democratic party (CDU) and of the CDU in Thüringen and Brandenburg. He was collaborator at the German Bundestag (Office of members of parliament Ulf Fink and Rainer Eppelmann). Actually he is working as a university teacher (Journalism, Rhetoric and Public Relations). Holger Doetsch lives in Berlin.

- **Dr. Anneli Ute Gabanyi**

Dr Anneli Ute Gabanyi is a Romanian-born German political scientist, literary critic, journalist, and philologist, especially known for her research on the society and culture of the Cold War period in Romania and the Romanian Revolution of 1989. Gabanyi studied Philology and Political Science at the University of Cluj, and later at the Université d'Auvergne and the University of Southern California. She received a PhD in Philology from the Helmut Schmidt University in Hamburg. In 1963, Gabanyi and her family were allowed, as ethnic Germans, to reunite with their relatives living in West Germany. They settled in Munich, where she became an analyst for Radio Free Europe (1969); she was head of the station's Romanian Research Section until 1987. As former main analyst for Südost-Institut in Munich, she is presently an associate researcher for the German Institute for International and Security Issues (*Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik*) in Berlin. She has frequently visited her native country after the Revolution and is a regular contributor to *Sfera Politicii*.

- **Tamara Skrozza**

Tamara Skrozza is a journalist of *Vreme*, a political magazine from Belgrade, deputy editor in chief of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, member of Belgrade Media Centre Executive Board and coordinator of Gender Section of Independent Journalists' Association of Serbia.

A series of her columns about "journalism from an insiders' point of view" was printed as a book. She is also editor of an educational teenage magazine and a journalists' trainer specialized in ethics and writing for media. At the end of the nineties, Tamara Skrozza was employed at Radio Index, an independent radio station which was shut down by Milosevic's regime a couple of times. She covered street demonstrations, police brutality, edited daily news broadcasts and did more than 100 interviews with the leaders of opposition parties and people engaged in opposition activities.

- **Andriy Shevchenko**

Andriy Shevchenko was born June 10, 1976 in Prykarpattia, in Western Ukraine.

Shevchenko went to school in Kyiv. In 1993-94 he was an exchange student to Alameda High School, Alameda, California. In 1999 he received his Master's Degree from the Institute of Journalism at Kiev National Taras Shevchenko University. He also studied Political Science and Economics at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Shevchenko has worked as a multi-media journalist since 1994 for the 1+1 TV Channel, Novyi Kanal, Radio Voice of America and others. Under the administration of President Kuchma Shevchenko he was one of the leaders of the journalists' movement against censorship. In 2002 he left Novyi Kanal under political pressure. Later in 2002 he established Kyiv Independent Media Union and was elected its first Chairman. In 2003 he introduced his idea of creating the Channel of Honest News. The 5th Channel, a 24-hours-day news channel, was the

only network not controlled by the government and eventually played a key role during the Orange Revolution of 2004. Mr. Shevchenko was the editor-in-chief of the channel and a presenter. In 2005, after the Orange Revolution, he was appointed vice-president of National Television Company of Ukraine, but left his position 6 months after the government refused to transform the state broadcaster into a Public Broadcasting System. He is the President of the Center for Public Media, an NGO promoting public broadcasting in Ukraine. In 2005 Shevchenko received *The Press Freedom Award* from Reporters Without Borders (Austria) and a number of Ukrainian journalistic awards, including *The Best News Presenter*, *The Best News Program*, *The Best Documentary* ('Teletriumph', 2005). Ranked 5th by Yulia Tymoshenko's Block, he successfully ran for the Parliament in 2006 and 2007. He has been serving in the Parliament's Free Speech Committee as its youngest Chairman ever and First Deputy Chairman. Shevchenko was named a "world fellow" of Yale University in 2007 and 2008.

- **Giorgi Targamadze**

Giorgi Targamadze was born on November 22, 1973 in Tiflis, Georgia. He is a professional TV-journalist, member of the Georgian Parliament and the head of the Christian-Democratic Movement. In 1995 he became Director of the Ajara Supreme Court TV Radio Studio and in 1997 head of Ajara Supreme Court Press-Service. In 1999 he was elected for parliament for the first time, where he was chairman of the fraction "Unified Georgia" until 2003. From 2004 to 2007 he directed the public-political Program "Teleimedi". Since 2008 he has been in parliament for a second legislative period, where he currently is the leader of parliamentary minority.

- **Dr. Dirk Förger**

Director Media-Program South-East-Europe, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Dr. Dirk Förger was born June 11th, 1960. After school and military service he studied biology at the universities of Mainz, Cologne, Munich and Los Angeles. In 1987 he graduated with a degree in genetics, biochemistry and zoology. In 1991 he received a Ph.D. at the clinical chemistry department of the University Munich. Since this time he was employed as a print, radio and TV journalist. He worked with ARD, the first German national radio and TV channel. Between 1995 and 2000 he was medical editor and science correspondent of the daily newspaper "Die Welt". After that he became editor in chief of "TZ Gesundheitsmagazin", a medical supplement which he developed and which arrived a circulation of 5.5 million in 85 newspapers. From 2001 on he was director of Public affairs and communication at a pharma company (Bristol-Myers Squibb) and head of communication of the "Association of German network operators" (VDN), which has more than 400 members and covers 90 percent of the electric wires in Germany. Dr. Dirk Förger is experienced in the political environment. He was public affairs manager of former German health minister Heiner Geissler, and was running three election campaigns for the German Christian-democratic party (CDU). In the beginning of 2009 he won the prize for advancement of Bulgarian broadcasting together with the media-program South-East-Europe of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.