



**Association Alumni of the Centre for  
Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies**

**ACIPS Newsletter**

**September 2005 - February 2006 |**

**Issue 5**

We kindly invite you to share your recommendations and ideas for upcoming new projects, round tables or publications. In addition, please do not hesitate to advise us on how to create better communication between members and how to administrate our activities more efficiently.

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**Dear ACIPS members and readers,**

Welcome to the new issue of ACIPS Newsletter. We are pleased to update you on our ongoing activities, projects, and events.

We have developed a detailed summary of events, initiatives and activities of ACIPS from the past several months. Our goal is to keep you informed, updated, and involved in ACIPS's activities and to maintain a close relationship with ACIPS's supporters.

In this row below are ACIPS activities enlisted. In the left side row, new ACIPS projects are shortly described.

We hope you find the newsletter informative and its content useful.

Thank you for your continued interest in ACIPS!

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## Round Table

**“Freedom of expression versus freedom of religion: cartoons and protests”**

**Main speakers: Ph.D, Zdravko Grebo, Ph.D  
Neven Andjelic and Ivan Barbalic  
CIPS/ACIPS premises  
February 8, 2006**



Motivated by the current events, ACIPS and CIPS organized a round table which gathered a number of distinguished professors and practitioners, all of whom discussed the protection of religious freedoms and safeguarding of public expression.

**Establishment of the European Movement Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**January-March 2006**

**Donor: Open Society Fund**

The aim of the project is to establish the European Movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thereby strengthen the network between different organisations dealing with issues of civil society and European integrations.

**Workshops at universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**“Advocacy project for the Policy for Optimal Student Participation in the Quality Control of Higher Education”**

**December 7, 2005- Zenica; December 15. 2005- Tuzla; February 10, 2006-Bihac; February 11-2006 Banjaluka ; February 27-Mostar; February 28- Sarajevo**



In December last year ACIPS organized workshops in two university cities, Zenica and Tuzla. The workshops gathered young student representatives from these cities and NGO activists to discuss the so-called Bologna process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and student union issues in this country. The advocacy workshop activities have continued this year. Four more workshops were organized in Bihac, Banjaluka, Mostar and Banjaluka during February.

## **One - Stop – Shop**

**November 2005**

**Donor: USAID**

ACIPS implemented a project

**It is possible:  
entrepreneurship:**

**one - stop - shop**

that aimed to encourage young people to take their ideas and develop them into successful organizations/businesses, and once more for and by young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the world.



At the workshops held in the six cities, the student representatives and other participants (those not directly involved into student organizations) analyzed current state of affairs concerning the way student unions function in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**The Advocacy Project  
for the Policy of the  
Optimal Student  
Participation in the  
Quality Control of  
Higher Education**

**September 2005**

**Donor: Office of Public  
Affairs, US Embassy**

ACIPS members,  
researchers and analysts  
conducted a half-year  
policy research on  
student participation in  
higher education  
governance aiming to  
ensure the improvement  
in quality of the higher  
education system.

**Book promotion  
"Thank you for asking how I feel"  
Prepared by the activists of Helsinki Citizens  
Assembly Banja Luka**

**Speakers: Ph.D Miodrag Zivanovic and Ph.D  
Zdravko Grebo  
ACIPS/CIPS premises  
February 2, 2006**



ACIPS and Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka, organized a promotion of the book, entitled "Thank you for asking how I feel." The publication presents the attitudes of common people throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, as they are speaking about the Dayton Agreement from the perspective of personal expectations, but with a humorous note, because they are aware of their minor influence in "high politics."

The book is result of survey conducted amongst 500 people from 17 cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who answered questions as to how they lived ten years ago, how they felt when they heard that war was over, what they believe in, how they live nowadays, what was the best that happened to them in past ten years, and what they expect from their future... Out of answers to the above questions, as many as 170 stories and cites were written and published in this book.

**Catching up Societies  
in Transition: Female  
Highly-Skilled  
Migration and Youth  
Drain from South East  
Europe to Austria in  
the Context of EU  
Enlargement**

**July 2005**

**Donor: Austrian  
Government**

**Public Lecture**

**"Competition and State Aid in Bosnia and  
Herzegovina"**

**Lecturer: Davor Vuletic, MA in European Studies  
CIPS/ACIPS premises  
December 23, 2005**

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> ACIPS organized a public lecture on state aid and competition in BiH. The lecture is a part of the project "Support to promotion of reciprocal understanding of relations and dialogue between the European Union and the Western Balkans". The lecturer was Davor Vuletic.



Mr Davor Vuletic presented his research and discussed the future structure and organization of the Competition Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He offered two models: the regulator with no territorial branch offices similar to those existing in other countries and the European Union, and the regulator with territorial branches, which would not be established within current territorial order but within already existing economic areas that are real generators of future economic activities. At final, Mr Vuletic pointed out that the European Union has the strategy which ought to be carried out, whilst BiH has only the terms coming out from the EU standards, which ought to be fulfilled in order to make a better future for BiH integrations with the Union. Therefore, the reforms, as Mr Vuletic concluded, should be run carefully, while rapid and non-strategically defined reforms could be too costly and damaging to BiH.

**Support to promotion  
of reciprocal  
understanding of  
relations and dialogue  
between the European  
Union and the Western  
Balkans**

**June 2005**

**Donor: European  
Commission**

The project aims to  
promote reciprocal  
understanding between  
the EU and Western  
Balkans countries

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**Public Lecture  
"Trade liberalization in BiH"  
Lecturer: Nenad Klacar, a Senior Advisor in the  
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic  
Relations  
CIPS/ACIPS premises  
December 23, 2005**

A lecture on trade liberalization issues was given by Mr Nenad Klacar on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2005. The lecture is a part of the project "Support to promotion of reciprocal understanding of relations and dialogue between the European Union and the Western Balkans".



Mr Klacar discussed the current state of trade liberalization in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He presented a brief history of trade liberalization, in general and Bosnia and Herzegovina particularly, and the EU standards in this regard that function as a kind of guidelines for BiH. Mr Klacar analyzed current state of affairs of trade liberalization in this country as well as in the region. In his final words, Mr Klacar pointed out that Bosnia and Herzegovina had a long way to go in order to comply with all standards of the EU.

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**Round table  
„Establishment of the Optimal Model of Student  
Participation in the Quality Control of Higher  
Education“**

**Key speakers: Nejra Nuna Cengic and Haris  
Abaspahic**

**CIPS/ACIPS premises  
Thursday , 22. Decembar 2005.**

Lecturers presented the „Advocacy Project for the Policy of the Optimal Model of Student Participation in the Quality Control of Higher Education“ is being implemented by ACIPS and is financially supported by US Embassy Sarajevo Office of Public Affairs (OPA).



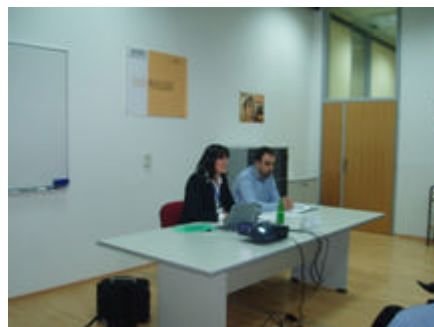
The participants of the round table were representatives of student organisations in BiH, Coordinational Youth Community, OSCE, representatives of WUS Austira and SUS (World Student Service). The round table discussion included: depolitization of the student unions, estimation of the efficiency of the current student participation at the universities, and questions of quality of Higher education institutions. The conclusion of the round table was to initiate a coordinated action between different student organizations and to promote educational reforms and better organization of the Higher education institutions.

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**Public Lecture**

**“Experiences of Serbia and Montenegro in the  
process of stabilization and accession to the  
European Union”**

**December 15th, 2005.**



Jela Bacovic, Director of the Office for Integration of Serbia and Montenegro to the European Union, held a public lecture on Thursday, December 15th 2005. At this occasion, Mrs Bacovic presented the experiences of Serbia and Montenegro on its way toward European Union as well as her own experience in negotiating with the EU`s officials. As main obstacles for Serbia and Montenegro to accede the EU Mrs Bacovic pointed economic problems and hesitation of Serbia`s government to constructively cooperate with the ICTY.

**Public Debate**  
**"Civil Society: successes and failures"**  
**Sarajevo, December 13th 2005.**



On December the 13th, at ACIPS/CIPS premises, a public debate on civil society matters in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held. Key speakers were Irham Ceco, editor in chief deputy of New Perspectives Magazine, Davor Marko, a journalist in the weekly „Suboticke novine“ and Belma Becirbašić, a journalist of BH Dani Magazine. Mr Ceco spoke about the current level of civil society development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mrs Becirbašić presented her views on public discourse dilemmas with regard to LGBTIQ issues in this country, while Davor Marko spoke about the new wave of state organized attacks on civil society in post-milosevic Serbia.

**NOVI POGLEDI /NEW PERSPECTIVES**  
**The sixth issue of the Magazine promotion**  
**December 13th, 2005**



On 13th December 2005, at CIPS/ACIPS premises, the sixth issue of New Perspectives magazine was promoted. The topic of this issue was: „Civil society: successes and failures. “ Launching was made possible with the support of Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thematic field of civil society discourse analyses in 6th issue of New Perspectives magazine was covered through interdisciplinary academic approach. Through various contributions of different authors transitional civil society had been examined. For example, one of the articles covers inclusion of ecological dimension in civil society development through parallel and cooperative engagement of the state and non-governmental sector in this regard. Also, the issues of secularism as a modern value as well as gender perspective of the civil action were discussed in several articles in the last issue of New Perspectives.

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**ACIPS Assembly**  
**December 10, 2005**

**and**

**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**



ACIPS Assembly has been held on the Human Rights Day. Various statutory changes had been adopted by the Assembly. One of them had been the establishment of the ACIPS Political Council and ACIPS forums. The Political Council of ACIPS aims to set up and verify active stances of the organization as well as to offer clear articulation of relevant standpoints, based on knowledge, over key political and social issues in the country. ACIPS forums will be non formal bodies that will, in various way, deal with issues such as gender, diplomacy, education, legal affairs etc.

On February the 20 this year the names of the Political council members were announced. The members are:

**Slavisa Rakovic, Zlatan Burzic, Davor Vuletic, Miradije Hodza, Erol Mujanovic, Denis Gratz (elected), and Ivan Barbalic, Reuf Bajrovic, Haris Abaspahic (permanent)**

**Public Lecture**  
**"Democracy in the Muslim world: challenges and perspectives "**

**Sarajevo, October 7th, 2005.**



Mr Anwar Ibrahim, a former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, gave a lecture on perspectives of democracy in those countries where Islam is an established religion. Mr. Ibrahim pointed to the key factors for hampering democratization in the Muslim world, such as low level of human rights protection, and lack of individual freedoms as well as conservative and patriarchic approach towards emancipation of women. Mr. Ibrahim gave the examples of Turkey and Malaysia which were, in his opinion, successful in transition to democracy.

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## LECTURE

„Promotion of democracy and EU enlargement eastwards :

**Mechanisms for political changes in the Western Balkans**

**Sarajevo, October 6th, 2005.**



Association Alumni of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies and Open Society Fund BiH organized a lecture of **Dr. Milade Anna Vachudova**, political sciences professor at North Carolina University in Chapter Hill. The lecture was entitled „Promotion of democracy and EU enlargement eastwards: Mechanisms for political changes in Western Balkans.

This interactive lecture gathered young people interested in European integrations. At the occasion, issues such as EU enlargement processes, economic problems of candidate countries in transition, rightist political culture in the respective countries, as well as corruption and citizens' apathy to participate in decision making were discussed.

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**Public lecture**  
**“European Perspectives of the Balkans”**  
**31 October 2005**

Mr Alexander Boshkov, former Chief Negotiator of Bulgaria with European Commission delivered a lecture entitled “European Perspectives of the Balkans”.



Mr Boshkov's lecture focused on Bulgaria's experience in the EU association process. Mr Boshkov presented the activities Bulgaria had taken in its way towards the EU as well as he gave his own views after he had experienced, as Bulgaria's chief negotiator, the temptations of all steps of this process. After he gave a lecture, Mr Boshkov answered the questions posed by the invitees to the occasion.

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## Suggested web sites

<http://www.western-balkans.info/htmls/home.php>

<http://www.mladi.info/>

<http://www.eudict.com/>

<http://www.witt-project.net/>

<http://see.oneworld.net/>

<http://www.sarajevo-x.com/>

<http://www.bhtourism.ba/eng/>