

# ICPS newsletter<sup>®</sup>

## European Integration: Fighting the crisis and looking further

*One of ICPS's major project foci in recent years has been European integration. ICPS Director Olga Shumylo explains the Centre's new priorities in this sphere and what this means for us and for Ukraine as a whole*

Dear partners,

In its 14 years of operation, the International Centre for Policy Studies has succeeded in its original mission: to establish the concepts and procedures of public policy in Ukraine, which ICPS was the first to promote.

Now that we are entering a new phase, we are aware that the country's unstable political situation and the added complication of an economic downturn demand a qualitatively new approach to public policy. As of 2009, the Centre will focus on fostering democratization and modernization in Ukraine through well-grounded, informed and determined "Europeanization." Based on these new objectives, we have decided to review the list of services and publications that we provide and to introduce a higher quality of communication with our partners.

The ICPS team thanks all of its partners—government representatives, the Verkhovna Rada, business, NGOs, donors, and the Ukrainian and foreign press—for having supported us and for your confidence in our products. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

### What we have attained

ICPS has established itself as an organizationally and financially independent institution that influences the democratization process in Ukraine by introducing public policy instruments. According to the Foreign Policy Research Institute's 2008 Report, ICPS was among the 228 leading think-tanks around the world that were singled out from among a total of 5,080. Over the last 14 years we have gone:

- from announcing the idea of public policy to instituting western standards in practice
- from analyzing policy to providing comprehensive analytical support for the Government and seeing ICPS recommendations put into action
- from studying western practice in consultations to large scale campaigns among interest groups and stakeholders using in-house methods
- from learning about public policy procedures to teaching other NGOs systematically and setting up an NGO network
- from promoting public policy in the NGO sector to reforms in the post-secondary institution that trains government personnel
- from analyzing policies in other countries and associations to influencing their policies towards Ukraine

The Chair of the ICPS Supervisory Board, President **Alexander Kwasniewski**, said in his letter to the Board:

"I would like to reiterate the importance of institutions like ICPS in the particular political and economic circumstances that we have now in Ukraine and the world. [...] ICPS has to continue providing reliable, independent information on the political, economic and social situation in Ukraine. [...] Such a role for ICPS is extremely important, as it gives additional stimulus to the Administration, motivates political forces to action, and gives them know-how for concrete reform proposals."

Today, the Centre is able to provide objective, independent views on public policy, to offer technical assistance to the Government, to be a source that business can depend on in order to make informed decisions, and to be a resource center for NGOs in Ukraine and the CIS.

## Where we are heading

Right now, Ukraine is facing one of its greatest challenges: to get through this crisis. The question is what instruments, both internal and external, will make this possible. Ukraine is currently in talks with the European Union about an Association Agreement. How might this be one such instrument? How will relations with Russia shape up? What opportunities for overcoming this crisis are offered by Asia?

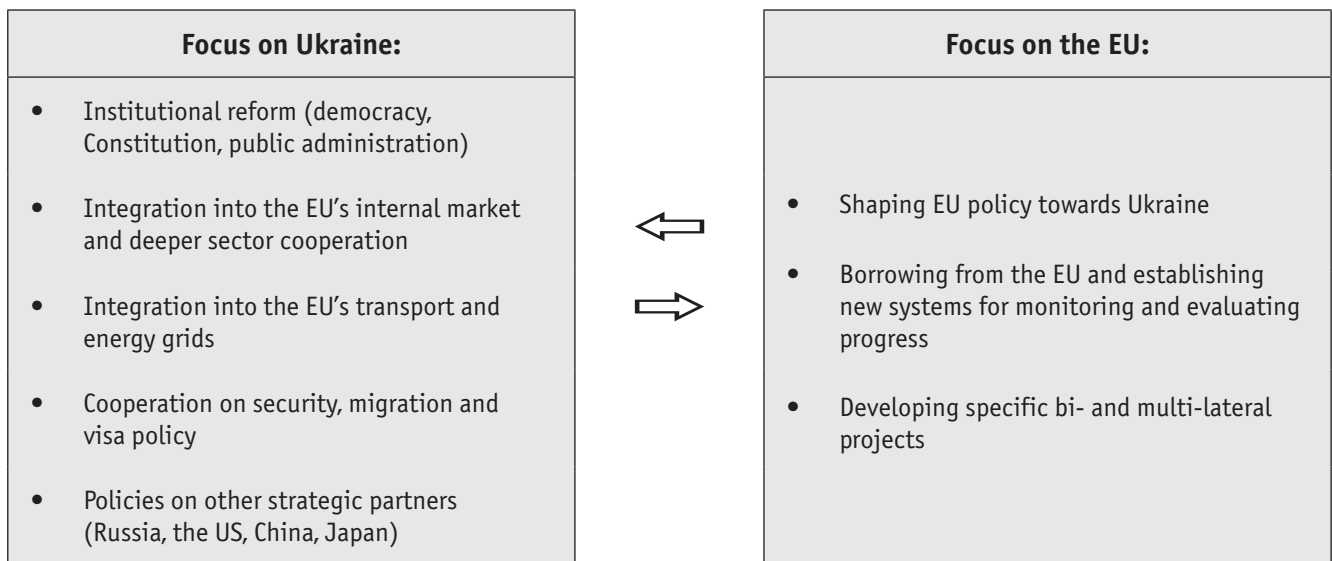
At the same time, we have to start thinking about the period after the crisis. How can Ukraine return to and improve its competitive position under the new conditions? What new opportunities will come out of the crisis for Ukraine?

As of 2009, the Centre will concentrate on developing and instituting algorithms for carrying out key reforms that are necessary to overcome this crisis, to look for the

most active instruments to do so, and to ensure the further democratization and modernization of Ukraine.

## European integration as crisis management tool

The ICPS team is confident that European integration is one of the best instruments for internal transformation in Ukraine. Over the next two years, we will concentrate on these key issues:



In this way, we hope to transform ICPS into an independent "one-stop-shop" on Ukraine's European integration for all interested parties both in Ukraine and abroad.

As always, we will continue to be results-oriented, especially on concrete changes in public policy through technical assistance to the Government, through independent impact analysis, through public consultations with all stakeholders, and through monitoring the effectiveness of state policies. And we will do all of this in the context

of European integration. In this connection, we will be expanding our circle of partners by placing considerable attention on working with the Verkhovna Rada, local governments, the private sector, and the press.

On behalf of the ICPS Team, I would like to thank all our partners, again, for your confidence over all these years and invite you to continue to work with us!

Olga Shumylo, Director

International Centre  
for Policy Studies. ■

*ICPS Director Olga Shumylo is an expert in European integration who worked as an advisor to Hryhoriy Nemyria, Ukraine's Deputy Premier for European and International Integration over the past year.*

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The International Centre for Policy Studies is an independent research organization whose mandate is to promote the introduction of public policy concepts and practices in Ukraine. This is achieved by increasing the know-how of key government officials for policy choices, formulation and debate, and the awareness of the public-at-large of the benefits of policy.  
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