

ICPS newsletter[®]

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Challenges that demand a response

Ukraine's public institutions remain unreformed and are becoming a national security threat. This issue has been raised by the International Center for Policy Studies' new director, Vira Naniivska, at a series of events in recent months. A recognized expert on democratic governance and the reform of public institutions, Ms. Naniivska has been focusing public attention on the challenge of "desovietizing" institutional Ukraine

The threat that underlies unreformed state institutions

On 15-16 April, the International Security Forum called "From security in Ukraine to security in Europe: Challenges of the 21st century" took place in Lviv. Specialists on state security and international relations from 22 countries participated in the event, including experts from the EU, Russia, other CIS countries, the US, China, and Qatar. ICPS Director Vira Naniivska directly addressed the threat to national security represented by unreformed public institutions. According to Ms. Naniivska, because they are not recognized as such, unreformed state institutions represent an even greater internal threat to the security of the Ukrainian state, its freedom and its democracy.

The holding of such a forum was initiated by leading Ukrainian public, academic and community activists on 4 December 2009, on the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Guarantees on the occasion of Ukraine's joining the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Agreement. The actual organizer of the event was the Council on Foreign and Security Policy in partnership with the Razumkov Center, the International Center for Policy Studies, and the Western Analytical Group. Support was provided by the Lviv Oblast Administration, the Lviv Oblast Council and Ivan Franko National University in Lviv.

Decentralization blocked by soviet-style chain-of-command

On 8 April, a roundtable was held on the topic, "The main obstacle to decentralization is the incomplete democratization of the soviet-style chain-of-command." Ukraine has been in the midst of a political crisis for some time now. The reasons behind this are not the mentality, or the cultural or political history of the country, and not bad leadership or an east-west conflict. A fragmented, incomplete "desovietization" of the system of government, unsupported by established European standards of government is the sole reason for the political chaos in this country, says ICPS Director Vira Naniivska.

Participants in this debate included Regional Development and Construction Minister Volodymyr Yatsuba; Deputy Mayor of Kyiv Oles Dovhiy; National Academy of Public Administration under the Office of the President (NAPA) Director of the Department of Regional Administration, Local Government Volodymyr Vakulenko; City Institute Director Roman Basalyha; Canadian Ambassador Daniel Caron; and Heike Dörrenbächer from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty in Ukraine and Belarus.

March issue of *Inside Ukraine* released

On 30 March, ICPS analysts held a round of debates for the diplomatic community in Ukraine. In the March issue of *Inside Ukraine*, ICPS took an in-depth look at the immediate challenges that the new government is faced with, the country's growing fiscal gap, problems with below-cost gas and utility rates, and the measures needed to continue cooperation with the IMF. We also have a look at what mid-term priorities the government could tackle and we assess its capacity to do so. We continue our evaluation of state policies along the lines of the "Seven tests for Mr. Yanukovich" that were presented in the February issue.

The next issue is in the works and should be available around 27 April.

Learning from the Visegrad experience

On 10-12 March, ICPS Senior Economist Ildar Gazizullin traveled to Tbilisi to attend a seminar called "Sharing the Experiences of Visegrad Cooperation in the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighborhood Countries." This seminar was organized by the International Center for Democratic Transition.

Participants discussed what aspects of the Visegrad Four experience are transferable to other countries in the region and attempted to determine best practice in economic cooperation among Eastern Partnership countries. At the end, they presented their recommendations for projects in economic and energy cooperation in the region.

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icps newsletter editor: Olga Lvova (olvova@icps.kiev.ua)
Phone: (38044) 484-4400. Fax: (38044) 484-4402
English text editor: L.A. Wolanskyj
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Address: vul. Pymonenka 13A, Kyiv, Ukraine 04050
Web-site: <http://www.icps.com.ua/eng/>