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Dear readers,

Welcome to the next edition of ENoP Quarterly.

The member organisations of ENoP are close to the six party families represented in the European Parliament, and are based in countries of the European Union and Candidate countries.

We have had an exciting few months. We were well represented at the European Development Days in Stockholm, where we held our general assembly and elected a new board; on this note I would like to thank the previous coordinator, Jürgen Wickert, and the deputy coordinator, Gérard Fuchs, for their invaluable contribution.

We held a successful conference in Brussels following publication of the Council conclusions on democracy support, and ENoP participated in many consultations thus increasing its capacity and visibility, which we will continue to do in the years to come.

Europe is ready for a new start, with a new treaty in place, the launch of a new European Commission, and political foundations ready to make a contribution.

Finally, I want to wish all readers a merry Christmas and a fruitful 2010!



Arjen Berkvens  
ENoP Network Coordinator

**EU on its way to speak about support for democracy with one voice**

**“Political Foundations that are present on the ground obviously have a good idea of what is possible in a partner country. Any feedback from their side is relevant for proposals - ranging from input on country assessment to identification of potential interlocutors and partners for effecting implementation”.**

This was one of the key messages addressing political foundations during the ENoP conference, “The EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support in EU External Relations and its challenges to achieve more coherence and effectiveness in EU democracy support” on 1 December 2009. Two weeks after the adoption of the Council

Conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU’s External Relations, the three main people involved -Claudia Gintersdorfer, Council Secretariat, Balthasar Benz, DG Relex and David Johnson, DG Development - gave a briefing on the document’s background and the opportunity for assessments and reflections.

As the largest global donor the EU provides 19 instruments overall – belonging to all 3 pillars - in external assistance for developing and consolidating democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The new framework, listing a set of six recommendations, is a first step towards a coherent strategy and coordinated use of the existing instruments. Considering the backlash that democratisation processes experience worldwide, this new approach is of great relevance.

With regard to implementation, Andrea Ostheimer, Deputy Coordina-

tor of ENoP, highlighted: “In the past, democracy promotion by the EU has largely focused on protecting human and political rights, supporting institutional structures, on elections and particularly on election monitoring. Political actors have rarely constituted the target groups although they are the most important elements for consolidating democratic structures. External assistance is much needed on this and should not be neglected”.



Above: The first panelists. From the left: David Johnson, European Commission - DG Development; Arjen Berkvens, ENoP Coordinator; Balthasar Benz, European Commission - DG Relex; Claudia Gintersdorfer, European Council. On the right: participants of the ENoP conference during the second panel.



## How to win an election - Women style

*Nikolay Paunov*

**Liberal Politological Institute, BG**

*2007 was the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. At the same time, Bulgaria was preparing for its local elections. Thousands of candidates dreamed of positions as mayor or regional councillor. The Liberal Politological Institute (LPI) presented the European Commission with a project small in size, but large in scope – "Raising the political competence and encouraging political activity of women in Bulgaria". In a nutshell: how women can compete, and win, in the wild of the political playing field.*

**One of the main aims of the project was to present and promote the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All at local level.**

However, our key goal was to develop the specific skills and competencies of women who have decided

based discrimination.

The project's activities included two professional management training sessions, held in two of Bulgaria's biggest cities, Plovdiv (15-16 October, 2007) and Varna (24-25 September, 2007). These were focused on campaigning strategies and image-management for women with political ambitions and female candidates for elected positions. Thirty women from parties covering the entire political spectrum participated in each seminar.

During the training sessions, LPI conducted an algorithm in four "golden" components: women in politics and public process, effective political communication, constructing a public image, and campaign management.

Each of the 60 participants in our training sessions received a copy of our special managerial handbook for major pre-electoral campaigns - "How to win the elections: A political campaign guideline." One training hurdle was that opponents might be reluctant to share their campaign strategies, but we resolved this by analysing case-studies of typical campaign man-

agement models that each one of them will have to face. At the end of the training, opponents declared that regardless of who won the election they would continue to fight for gender equality as a political priority.

For the project "Raising the political competence and encouraging political activity of women in Bulgaria," the Liberal Politological Institute was commended as a promoter of best practices on gender equality by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, during an international conference on Youth thinking globally acting locally on gender equality held in Sofia on January 24, 2008. For LPI however, the most important result was that more than 30 % of the women involved in the project have now been elected as mayors or regional councillors.

to actively participate in politics, particularly in the structures and headquarters of political parties and local authorities.

We wanted to encourage parties to give women the opportunity to exercise their right to be involved in the political process in leading positions. After implementing the project we hoped to see an increase in the percentage of women working for local authorities, in order to achieve an equal and balanced representation. However, to accomplish this mission we needed to raise awareness among Bulgarian society on the problem of hidden gender-



Above: the participants during the seminar in Varna. On the right: the speakers of the Plovdiv seminar.



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## Training for promising politicians of the Western Balkans

*Danijel Tadić*  
**Alfred Mozer Stichting, NL**

**T**wenty-eight talented and promising politicians and members of social democratic parties from former Yugoslavia and Albania gathered in the Montenegrin coastal town of Bečići on 14 May, 2009, for the first seminar of the Promising Politicians Course 2009.

Accompanied by good weather and 'locked in' to a nice hotel nestled between impressive mountains and a beautiful sea, the course kicked off for the seventh year in a row.

The organisers of the course, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Alfred Mozer Stichting, aim to introduce young politicians to the various aspects of politi-

cal leadership, governance and the dynamics and structures of party policies. It is important to create a network among young and future leaders of Western Balkan countries and improve their knowledge on political de-

velopments in the region. After



all, these countries face similar challenges and most have the same goals, for example EU integration. Moreover, it is key that these countries integrate in a regional context, as most of the challenges the Western Balkans face on their road to the EU are specific to the region.

The theme of the seminar was 'social democracy and its policies', and from the very start there was a great atmosphere among the participants, which is important for ensuring a lively and interactive discussion. After a short theoretical introduction, the participants were divided in working groups in which they had to solve challenges and develop policies specific to the fictitious country Moltadonia, from the perspectives of mainstream conservative, liberal and social democratic political theories. The participants showed great eagerness and creativity in re-

solving the workshop assignments, and were then asked to discuss and present how they would communicate these policies to the voters - with a focus on education, health care and social security. On the last day of the seminar, after some brief lectures and a discussion on current political issues it was time to say goodbye, for now. It was impressive to see how all these young people from a region with such a turbulent recent history shared the same values and had become good friends in such a short period of time - Facebook invite-overload indeed.



In October, Sarajevo will host the Promising Politicians Course for a seminar on media and communication skills, with Tirana welcoming the participants in November for a seminar on EU integration. Finally, the participants will pay a one-week visit to the EU institutions in Brussels, a city which will hopefully be their capital too in the near future.



*In the photos:* group pictures of the promising politicians who attended the first seminar of the Promising Politicians Course 2009.



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## ENoP at the European Development Days 2009

Jiří Kozák

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Further proof of ENoP's increasing visibility and range of activities was to be found in its presence at the European Development Days 2009 (EDDs), held in Stockholm in October.

The fourth year of EDDs was organised by the European Commission and hosted by the Swedish EU Presidency. The issue of promoting democracy was prominent on the list of main topics this year, which gave ENoP and its members a good opportunity to demonstrate the important role of political foundations. For the second year running, ENoP set up a stand to promote the network's mission and activities and

those of its individual member organizations. Visitors could acquire information at the stand from ENoP representatives and members, including the newly elected ENoP Network Coordinator, Mr. Arjen Berkvens, and the Deputy Coordinator, Ms. Andrea Ostheimer. Printed publications such as the ENoP leaflet, several issues of ENoP Quarterly and a complete set of Best Practices were also available for those interested in further information. ENoP actively participated in organising the EDDs by co-hosting a side event named European Citizens as Catalysts of Change. A very special guest, H. E. Thérèse

and Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, former president of the United Republic of Tanzania. There is no better way to highlight the importance of promoting democracy and its actors than through concrete examples of projects created by people who devote their lives to fighting for freedom.



Olenga, Minister of Education, Information, Environment and Women's Affairs of the Province of Kinshasa/ DRC, accepted ENoP's invitation to take part in a panel discussion on "What role for European Citizens as Actors of Global Change?" together with Ms. Margot Wallström, Vice-President of European Commission

The personal contacts made by ENoP representatives during the EDDs were just as important as the increased visibility of ENoP. All those who participated had the chance to speak to other organisations as well as national and EU representatives, and we all know that promoting democracy cannot be achieved without personal connections with partners.



On the right: H.E. Thérèse Olenga, Minister of Education, Information, Environment and Women Affairs of the Province of Kinshasa/ R.D. Congo, ENoP panel speaker at the EDD event "European citizens as catalysts for change", Friday, 23 October  
Below: The ENoP delegation in front of the ENoP stand at the EDDs Development village

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