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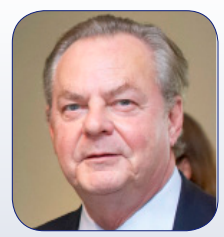
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Dear reader,

Welcome to the first edition of ENoP Quarterly, published by the European Network of Political Foundations, ENoP. The members organisations of ENoP are close to the five party families represented in the European Parliament and are based in countries of the European Union and Candidate Countries.

The ENoP Quarterly will provide you with information about the project of ENoP members involved in development cooperation and democracy promotion worldwide. Several of these projects are co-financed by the European Commission. Your contributions are highly welcomed.



Dr. Jürgen D. Wickert  
*ENoP Network Coordinator*

**ENoP – the Network and the Project**

**“Many countries as my own country few short decades ago see Europe as opening their own doors to freedom and democracy.”**

That is how José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, presented the worldwide importance of Europe in the democratisation process during his keynote speech at the first open conference of the European Network of Political Foundations ENoP on 13 November 2008 in Brussels. President Barroso recounted his personal memories of the Portuguese revolution in 1974:

“The different political foundations from different political parties were so important in shaping the future political system of Portugal.”

Although coming from 5 different European party families the 57 Political Foundations who agreed to join the ENoP Network are convinced that democracy promotion must be based on specific values, with the content and programmes defined by political actors.

In their cooperational approach with developing and transforming countries, the added value of political foundations can be seen in the equally strong links to political and civil society. This bridge-building and conciliational function is crucial in environments where the actors in civil society and governments are often opposed.

Currently, ENoP member organizations are active in more than 100 countries worldwide. Their partners vary from local parliaments and NGOs to academic institutions, political parties, trade unions and employers associations. Small and medium enterprise associations as well as media and public institutions occasionally collaborate too.

ENoP serves as means of communication and dialogue between its members and the institutions of the European Union as well as civil society organizations active in the fields of democracy promotion, development cooperation and political dialogue.

In addition to this, ENoP aims to support its members in accessing the various funding programmes of the European Union. Co-funded for three years by the European Commission, the ENoP project “Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development” has been contributing toward the achievement of this goal since January 2009.

For the whole project duration, the experienced foundations will contribute towards the training of younger and smaller foundations in joint projects. The “best practice” examples, provided during seminars or the newsletter, will support the raising of capacity throughout Europe.

“But” – as stated by President Barroso – “we have to go beyond simply being a relatively good example.”



## A decade of successes

### Jean-Jaurès Foundation, France, and the Harris Memel Fotê Foundation, Côte d'Ivoire

*Alexandre Minet*

**In September 2008, the Harris Memel Fotê Foundation together with the Jean-Jaurès Foundation organised a meeting between different African political foundations on the topic "Republic and State of Law in Africa" in Abidjan.**

What could look like just another conference is in fact the sign of the success of a decade of fruitful cooperation.

the democratisation which followed brought about the creation of numerous foundations as other think tanks that focused their activities on a new area of research. Although passing through a democratization process in the same period, many sub-Saharan African countries have not experienced the same phenomenon.

The Jean-Jaurès Foundation concentrated its effort in order to contribute to establishing such organisations on African soil. Hence, FJJ supported the initiative of Laurent Gbagbo, leader of the FPI (Ivorian Popular Front) and of the opposition at that time. Mr Gbagbo has been the president of the Côte d'Ivoire since 2000.

The new foundation has been named after professor Harris Memel Fotê, a well known sociologist and anthropologist who died in 2008. The Ivorian forerunner of the fight for democracy, Mr Fotê was a former member of the great "Collège de France" and former deputy of the Ivorian Popular Front.

The Jean-Jaurès Foundation supported the Harris Memel Fotê Foundation since the beginning. Thus, in 1999 the two foundations have signed an agreement in order to create a pan-African centre for documentation and training. This centre is currently established and actively pursuing its many projects and initiatives.

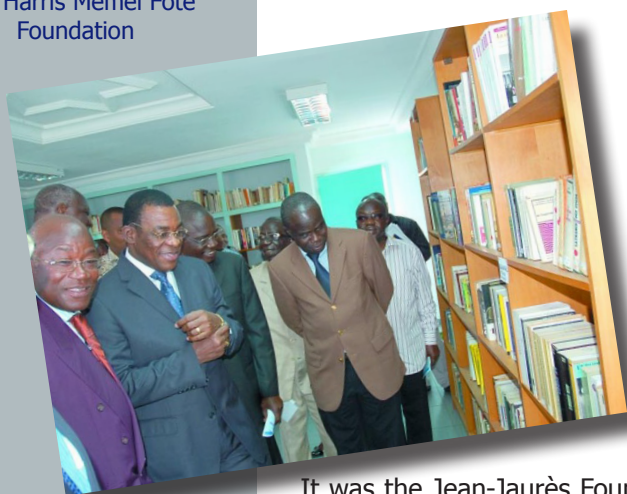
Well established – from both the

technical and political points of view – the Harris Memel Fotê Foundation has become one of the most important western African social-democratic political structures.

The quality and success of the foundation's last major event in Abidjan is evidence of such importance.

Given its pan-African tendency, this Ivorian political foundation is a symbol of the commitment of the Jean-Jaurès Foundation in the African continent and of its international actions.

The Harris Memel Fotê Foundation



It was the Jean-Jaurès Foundation (FJJ) which initiated the creation of the Harris Memel Fotê Foundation in 1999. After analysing the specific situation of the sub-Saharan countries, the need for stronger involvement of political foundations became evident.

As a matter of fact, the presence of political foundations on African soil is still too weak compared with the one in the Eastern and Central European countries. In the latter, the breakdown of political regimes and

#### Initiatives

##### **19th November 1999 – Paris, France**

Agreement between the Jean-Jaurès Foundation and the Ivorian Harris Memel Fotê foundation to create a pan-African centre for documentation and training.

##### **2000 – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

Pan-African centre for documentation and training.

##### **18th February 2001 - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

Laid the foundation stone of the pan-African centre for documentation and training.

##### **2002-2003 - Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

Follow up of the pan-African centre project.

##### **2008 – Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire**

Meeting of African political foundations.

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## A new momentum

### Training for Belarusian opposition members

*Bronne Pot and Vaidas Augunas*

**It was 2008 – a few months away from the parliamentary elections in Belarus – when a group of twenty Belarusian opposition members gathered for the third time in a row in Vilnius. They were thrilled. They were excited. Change seemed to be in the air! Indeed, strong rumours spread in Belarus: Mr. Lukashenko, president of Belarus, would admit a few oppositional candidates to the Parliament.**

Was it a first step to more democratic freedom or a friendly gesture towards the European Union? This motivated the participants to work even harder and the third gathering – a training in campaigning skills – ended with increased knowledge and inspiration. Thus, the people returned home with great enthusiasm and willingness to participate in the elections. Unfortunately, the poor results of the September 2008 elections are well known. Once again, they were another big blow for real Belarusian democracy: not one member of the opposition was elected. Was it a final, fatal step for real hope for Belarus?

The elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Belarus that took place last year clearly showed once again that opposition parties will not be allowed to participate satisfactorily in the politics of today. In spite of their hard work and countless efforts to reach the voter, the regime did not let democratic forces to be elected or in any other way contribute to Belarusian politics. However, the Eduardo Frei

Foundation, linked to the Dutch Christian Democrats, in co-operation with Jaunieji Krikščionys Demokratai (Young Christian Democrats of Lithuania) do not believe that abandoning work for the Belarusian opposition is the right thing to do, quite the contrary. There is need for continuing support and a new momentum is gathering.

The two foundations, which have been cooperating since 2004, started by providing training to the members from centre-right opposition parties, aiming to introduce democratic values in Belarus. For both security and geographical reasons, all training took place in Vilnius, capital of the Republic of Lithuania, located only 20 kilometres from the border with Belarus. In this way the organisers could fully focus on the programme issues, minimi-



sing possibility of the Belarusian authorities to undermine events. In 2008, the organisers tried to place the emphasis on the continuity of the democratic movement through a series of training on campaign skills parallel to the activities. Furthermore, they organised a congress in which four opposition parties including Alja-

ksandr Milinkevic and some former political prisoners took part and shared their will to combine forces in the elections. Given these efforts, the election outcome was even more disappointing. But despite the unfair rules of the game, EFF and JKD quickly took the opportunity to think thoroughly about the next momentum.

This comes with the upcoming presidential elections in 2011. With structural support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the efforts of Lithuanian partners, the circumstances are now perfect to start a long term project towards the Presidential election campaign.

A series of training courses will be conducted every year, focusing on different fields. 2009 is aiming to introduce the participants to the basics of organization management. The organizers will provide participants with skills on project management, human resource management, working with volunteers, etc. 2010 will rather be devoted to further training on campaign skills, building the coalitions, clarifying the messages, as well as on political programming. Finally, 2011 will provide some final opportunities to thoroughly prepare the participants of oppositional parties for the election day.



Mr Milinkevich at YEPP conference in 2008



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## A link to worldwide projects

### The ENoP – website relaunch



**Two years after establishing a first website presence the European Network of Political Foundations goes online with another format and a far broader scope of information.**

The new ENoP website will provide more detailed descriptions of the member organisations and their profile. Together with all editions of ENoP Quarterly, a regularly updated choice of projects in development cooperation and democracy promotion in more than 100 countries can be easily downloaded.

Thanks to the clear layout of the summaries this new service allows a quick access to the essential information on the various member activities. In addition the news section will be improved. More updated information will be published on a regular basis.

#### NEW ENoP MEMBERS:

• **Zaklada hrvatskog državnog zavjeta**, the Statehood Pledge Foundation was established in October 1995 in Zagreb. It is operating on the basis of Christian democratic principles.



• **Fundação Res Publica** was founded in summer 2008 in Portugal. It is based in Lisbon and close to the social democratic party in Portugal.



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