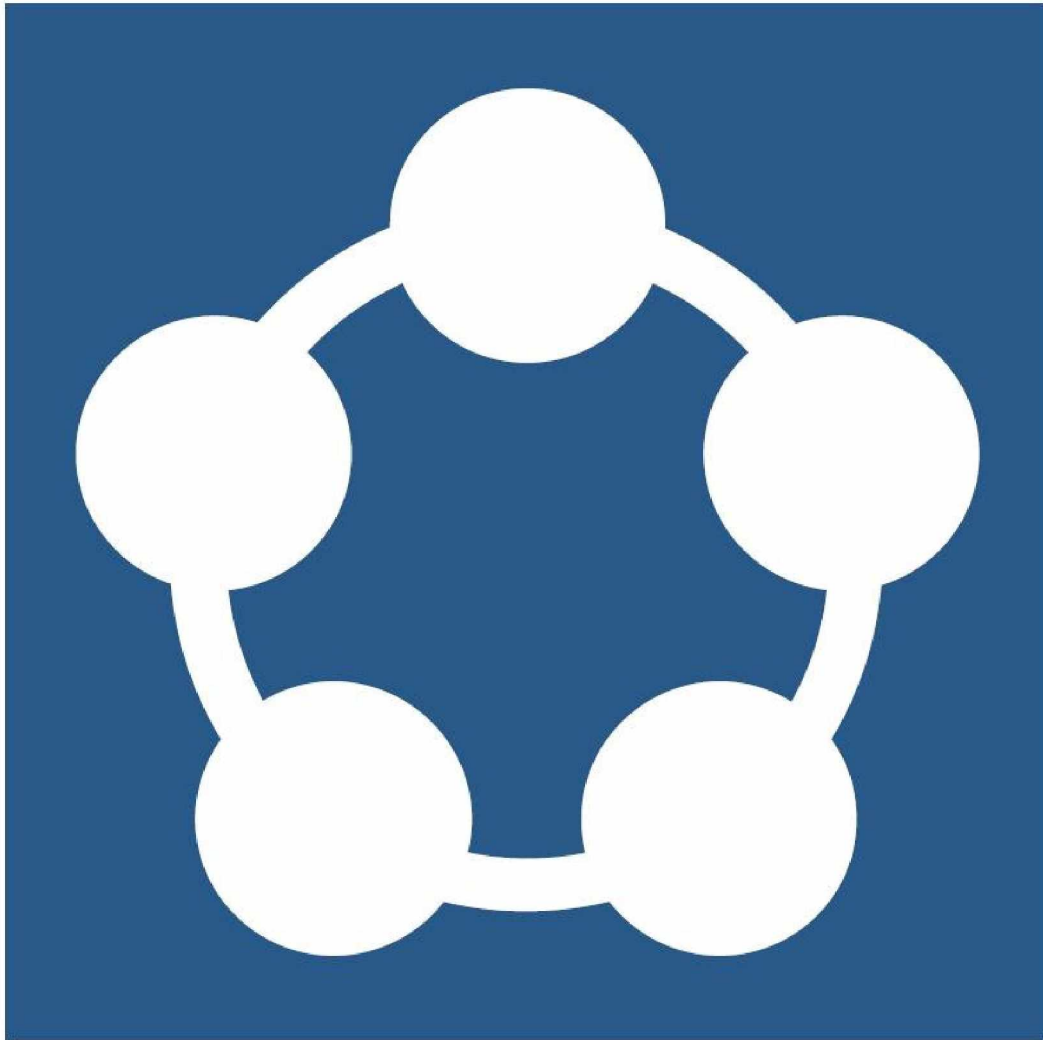


A Different View

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IA P S S

WITH

**BAKAR BEREKASVILI * HORTENZIA HOSSZÚ * LAURA
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Since the '80s a global reform movement in public management has been vigorously under way. Following the Westminster-style governmental reforms which defined as 'new public management' (NPM) the Eastern-European countries tried to shrink the size of government and imposed a market-style discipline on government after their regime-change. However, in contrast to the similarities in basic strategies of governmental reforms with the leading Westminster countries the reforms led to different results in Eastern-European countries.

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Various countries celebrate March as the International Women's Month. While superpowers like United States, Russia, and France never had a female head of government, third world countries like Sri Lanka, India, the Philippines, and Pakistan take pride in having had woman heads of state. The Philippines, in particular, became the first Asian nation to have a female president in 1986. In 2001, the country embraced a second woman leader. While upper-class and highly educated Filipinas increasingly wield power and influence in professional and social circles, the majority of middle and lower-class women live in a totally different world.

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USEFUL LINKS FOR THE TOPIC OF MONTH

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Foreword: In Memory of Merab Mamardashvili

by Bakar Berekashvili

“Truth is higher than nation”

Merab Mamardashvili

Dear friends,

I am especially happy to see another issue of A Different View which aims to discuss and evaluate development of civil society in post-soviet countries, to seek and analyze several key mistakes and achievements which we face now in this area. And I am very excited that this issue of ADV is dedicated in memory of Merab Mamardashvili, outstanding Georgian philosopher and public intellectual who gave his brilliant contribution in promotion of civic and democratic values in former soviet countries, including Georgia.

Merab Mamardashvili spent most part of his life in Russia where he graduated philosophy from Moscow State University and he deeply believed that it was his mistake to study in Russia. He studied in the country where soviet tyranny and oppressive regime of soviet system was awfully reflected and where academic freedom and right for free thinking among the scholars and intellectuals merely did not exist due to so-called political correctness. And even within such terrible conditions which Mamardashvili faced in Russia he remained faithful towards his values and principles which were reflected with his compassion of democratic state based on strong free civil society. Mamardashvili strongly promoted the idea of civic participation and need for civil society for any state and he delivered his lectures with such visions and views during Soviet era and despite high pressure from state bureaucracy he never joined large group of conformists which existed in academic community of USSR.

Despite high criticism of Soviet Union by Mamardashvili, this is a great mistake to say that Mamardashvili disliked Socialism, in contrast, Mamardashvili had his sympathies towards philosophical and conceptual basis of Socialism and he thought that Socialism was great European idea. And his critical reflections towards Soviet Union was relevantly accurate because Soviet Union did not manage establishing of real Socialism where social justice and solidarity should be guaranteed, instead of this Soviet Union and its Bolshevik founders established great tyranny and managed to close minds for majority of its citizens.

Citizens and civic groups were central for Mamardashvili in formation of state. He deeply trusted that citizens and society in general should emancipate their minds from such stereotypes, biases and prejudices which can disturb democracy and civil harmony in country. In late 1980s Mamardashvili returned in Georgia and worked for the Institute of Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of Georgia and he also delivered number of lectures in philosophy at Tbilisi State University. This was time while in Georgia there was large scale promotion of nationalistic discourse from opposition political forces who soon took power in Georgia and also from large part of society there was active propaganda of nationalistic ideology. Mamardashvili strongly confronted with such nationalistic discourse and criticized those people who were in favor of such way of thinking. Many people during this time did not like Mamardashvili because they thought that cosmopolite nature of Mamardashvili's thinking was damaging for Georgia and he was especially discriminated by Zviad Gamsakhurdia, famous Georgian Nazi politician whose political team gradually started

growing the power and finally it took state power in Georgia by the end of 1990s and in Spring of 1991 Gamsakhurdia became president of Georgia.

Merab Mamardashvili died by heart attack in November 1990. By that time he was on the peak of popularity in the groups of European intellectuals and philosophers, his writings are very valuable in contemporary Europe but unfortunately in Georgia still Mamardashvili is not respected and not many people know about his brilliant intellectual life.

One year later from the death of great Georgian philosopher, Soviet Union formally destroyed and this happened in December 1991. All member states of Soviet Union remained alone towards new challenges and initiatives. Some managed successfully to develop in progressive ways and some could not do it because of weak and powerless society.

Civil society is a very dangerous word for many governments in majority of former soviet countries. For example, this word "Civil Society" has cruel essence for the governments in Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan and etc. Deaths and murders of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society activists in these countries show high level of dictatorship and totalitarianism which is established in these countries by their political leaders. Formation of civil society eventually means opening of the minds of citizens and their active civic participation which of course will be defeating phenomenon for corrupted political regimes in post-soviet countries and that's why they brutally attack idea of civil society.

However, in terms of development of civil society in post soviet countries there are still some progress together with regress. For example in Georgia we have thousands of NGOs, civic groups and associations of citizens who strive to promote and advance democracy in Georgia; however regress is that many such institutions and associations are controlled by the government and lost real significance of civil society organizations. Also, universities which are central actors of civil society are totally controlled by the ideological mechanisms created by state authority.

This is an achievement for civil society development in former soviet countries while we see brave life of Gari Kasparov in Russia against government, while we see how Kasparov and his group struggle for protection of human rights and solidarity in Russia, and this achievement is caused by small part of citizens in Russia who wish to bring down totalitarianism and to replace it with democratic order.

I hope this issue of ADV will give clear landscape and basic trends of development of civil society in post-soviet countries and will give its modest contribution to promotion of the idea of civil society in former soviet countries. This issue also includes links on the topic of the month where you can learn more about civil society in former USSR and countries of Eastern Europe. I am really very thankful to all persons who contributed to this issue of A Different View.

Best regards,

Bakar Berekashvili

TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Lasting Reforms without Civil Society?

by Hortenzia Hosszú

Introduction

Since the '80s a global reform movement in public management has been vigorously under way. The movement has been global in two senses: first, it has spread around the world; second, it has been sweeping in scope. Governments have used management reform to reshape the role of the state and its relationship with citizens. Following the Westminster-style governmental reforms which defined as 'new public management' (NPM) the Eastern-European countries tried to shrink the size of government and imposed a market-style discipline on government after their regime-change.

The management reform movement builds on the notion that good governance - sorting out of mission, role, capacity, and relationships - is a necessary condition for economic prosperity and social stability. According to concept of good governance in the interaction of state, business and society governmental reforms privilege the second sector over the state (Drechsler, 2004:388). The management reforms have embodied six core characteristics in general, which can be labeled as standard tool kit of strategies: productivity; marketization; service-orientation; decentralization; policy; accountability (Kettl, 2000:2-4).

However, in contrast to the similarities in basic strategies of governmental reforms with the leading Westminster countries (like UK, USA, and New Zealand) the reforms led to different results in Eastern-European countries. In this paper I would like to give brief scratch about the difficulties of implementation global public management reforms in former communist countries of Eastern-Europe.

Preconditions for reforms

The governmental reforms have spread very quickly, often without careful analysis of the results they have produced or even the preconditions for successful implementation. In the middle of change there is a profound paradox: government management is required both more and less important than the reformers suggest.

On one hand, macro governance and macroeconomic issues often swamp governmental reform. What matters most usually is whether the economy is growing and whether citizens think government is working. The problems the reform movement in Eastern-Europe seeks to solve have to do with government's relationship with civil society. Its strategies and tactics seek to strengthen government's capacity to meet citizens' hopes. Swedes assess their reforms by the level of economic growth, continuation of treasured social welfare programs, and maintenance of social cohesion.

On the other hand, government bureaucracy and its management play a central role in these macro-level political and economic issues. For governments to grow, they must manage their debt and public programs effectively. Government managers and elected officials alike have complained that standard bureaucratic procedures frequently handicap their government's ability to respond effectively to global challenges. Hence, government reform is often much more important than it appears on the surface. Without strong public management well-equipped to tackle the problems government faces, governments in many nations have been unable to play their required roles.

It seems that the success or failure of the governmental reforms rather depends on how deeply its reforms become wired into a state's governance systems – its political institutions, public expectations, and civil society than its internal policy elements. According to my hypothesis the success of implementation depends on integrating efforts between the strategy

and external factors and claims with the support of non-governmental sector and the civil society.

Basic strategies of governmental reforms

Let me start with the enumeration of the elements of basic strategies. In general, the governmental reforms are specified with six core characteristics, which are the following: 1, productivity; 2, marketization; 3, service-orientation; 4, decentralization; 5, policy; 6, accountability.

Governments have had to find ways to squeeze more services from the same - or smaller - revenue base with increasing productivity. The main question in the case of productivity: How can governments produce more services with less tax money? Possible tools for the governments are the privatization; outsourcing for achieving increased efficiency.

The marketization is a governmental tool for implementation of market-style incentives to root out the pathologies of government bureaucracy. Governments have to replace traditional bureaucratic command-and-control mechanisms with market strategies, and then rely on these strategies to change the behavior of program managers mainly with training programs.

Aspect of service-orientation tries to build a bridge between state and the citizens. For better connection with citizens governments have to make governmental programs more responsive, and have tried to turn their service delivery systems upside down. The governmental reforms usually apply same methods like giving citizens' choice among alternative service systems; training program managers (service-providers) to focus on service; and encouraging a customer-oriented approach in government services.

Decentralization is also a possible tool for reformers. However, it is still a very sensitive question in the Eastern-European countries, because their structure is based on partition of communist era (mainly on county-system) and the decentralization means shifting power to this old structure, not to the newly-formed regions. Another way to decentralization is transferring more service delivery responsibilities to local governments, however in the most cases the local governments has not enough source for implementation. Aim of the decentralization is making the governmental reforms more responsive and effective with decentralization many programs to lower levels of governments.

Accountability is not as easy task as it seems, because governments have to improve their ability to deliver what they promise. Reaching this governments have tried to replace top-down, rule-based accountability systems with bottom-up, results-driven systems which are one of the key issues of governmental reforms. The opportunities are broad from uniting the different efforts are strategies to push operational decisions closer to the front lines to focus those decisions on results rather than on processes to increasing efficiency by testing government's processes against private markets. Another different approach is increasing responsiveness of government to its citizens or capacity of government, especially central government, to manage effectively.

In the case of policy-making the main point is that how can government improve its capacity to devise and track policy. Most important task here is to separate government's role as purchaser of services (its policy function) from its role in providing them (its service-delivery function).

After reviewing the core characteristics of governmental reforms which define the basic strategy I will follow the external factors which give important preconditions for making and implementing reforms.

Maybe the most important external factor is political environment. With the end of communist era, many Eastern-European nations found themselves amid widespread debates about the role of state. Former communist countries had the daunting task of transforming their basic systems of governance, devising institutions that are more democratic, building civil society with reshaping their relationships with their citizens. The claim of 'smaller state'

linked up with 'westernization' in Eastern-European countries. The political force for somehow shrinking government has nevertheless spread around and created strong political pressures for reform.

The second factor is the social one. Nowadays many Eastern-European nations have been working to reconstruct their social, legal, economic, and political systems. Some nations faced profound societal transformation which makes tension among different groups of society.

The economic situation is crucial for success but not for implementation of reforms. In some nations the economic situation brought harsh challenges to the governments and great urgency for reform. Other nations launched their reforms to escape economic stagnation and to fuel economic growth. Corporate leaders in many nations have complained that government, especially its tax and regulatory policies, has reduced economic growth and limited their businesses' global competitiveness. Deregulation, privatization, and other tactics to promote job creation and economic growth have been central to the political debate.

The institutional factor is frame which can be useful for smoothing the governmental changes. All governments have found themselves part of an increasingly global economy and political system. Major initiatives - military, economic, and political - require careful negotiation and partnership. Within the European Union the new member states are racing to harmonize their policies and create supranational structures to shape future programs. Meanwhile, besides European Union international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization, are playing big roles in shaping the world community. Many national governments have devolved power down to the local level.

Conclusion

In sum, the lesson for Eastern European reformers that public management reform is not only job for the public sector. The central reform strategies required broad participation from citizens in setting goals and, in many cases, close partnership between the governmental and nongovernmental sectors. Without successful integrating effort between the government and civil society the government reforms are doomed to fail. In those countries where the government operates the reforms by the book following only the basic strategies of leading Westminster countries, besides their private and civil sectors routinely have breached the rules and regulations never will be efficient to impose management reforms of the sort popularized.

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ARTICLES

Regional and local government in the European Union

by Laura Kovács

Regional policy in the European Union

European regional policy is designed to bring about concrete results, furthering economic and social cohesion to reduce the gap between the development levels of the various regions. From a scientific approach, regional policy brings added value to actions on the ground. The policy helps to finance concrete projects for regions, towns and their inhabitants. The idea is to create potential so that the regions can fully contribute to achieving greater growth and competitiveness and, at the same time, to exchange ideas and best practices. This is the main purpose of the new initiative Regions for economic change. The whole regional policy is in line with the priorities set by the EU for growth and jobs.

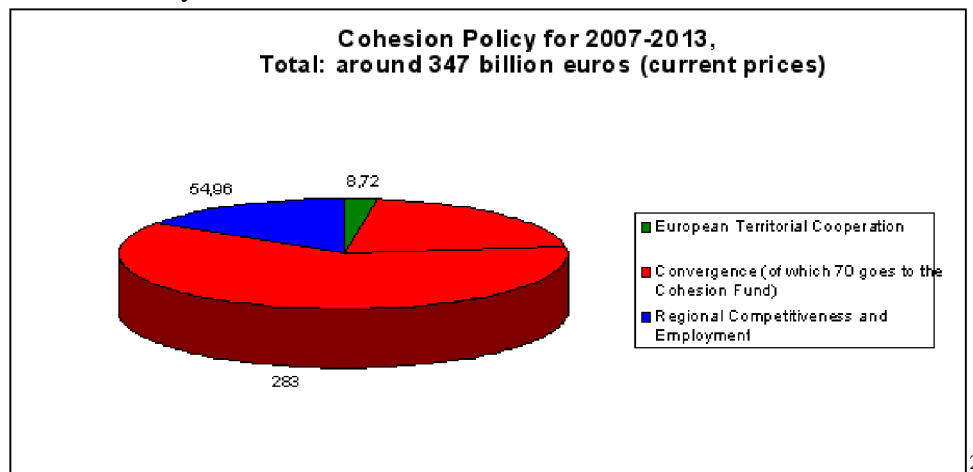
The main instruments of the policy are the following:

- The European Regional Development Fund operates in all Member States and co-finances physical investments and, to a limited extent, training for citizens. The funding is concentrated on the poorest regions in terms of GDP per head.
- The Cohesion Fund co-finances mainly transport and environment projects in Member States whose GNP is less than 90% of the EU average.
- The regional development component as well as the cross-border cooperation component of the new Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) helps candidate countries to develop their competitiveness and their economies particularly through the development of transport networks and environmental infrastructure.

There are two additional more specific financial instruments:

- The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) provides financial assistance in the event of major natural disasters.
- The EU contributes to the International Fund for Ireland which, together with the PEACE programme in Structural Funds, aims at peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.¹

1. Figure Cohesion Policy for 2007-2013



(source: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/fonds/index_en.htm)

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/fonds/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/fonds/index_en.htm

Objectives, Structural Funds and instruments 2007-2013

Objectives	Structural Funds and instruments		
Convergence	ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund
Regional Competitiveness and Employment	ERDF	ESF	
European Territorial Cooperation	ERDF		

(source: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/object/index_en.htm)

Treaty of Maastricht

However, for the sub-state entities had to wait for the Treaty of Maastricht to secure their first recognition at treaty level. It was this that was responsible for the introduction of three new, and in these respect very important changes.

The first was the opening-up of the Council of Ministers to representatives from sub-state entities. In particular, in an expansion of its initial configuration, which limited representation of the Member States to members of their respective central governments, the Maastricht Treaty amended of the EC Treaty, dropping the reference to national governments. The new wording thus allowed Member States to be represented in Council sessions by members of regional governments.

The second change was the setting-up of the Committee of the Regions; consisted of „representatives of regional and local bodies”.

The third change was the enunciation of the subsidiarity principle. It means an ever closer union among the people of Europe, in that decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen.³ This framework was partially modified by the Treaties of Amsterdam and Nice.

Treaty of Amsterdam

The Treaty of Amsterdam thought the special protocol appended to it, was responsible for introducing the complete proceduralisation of the subsidiarity principle.

It also strengthened the position of the Committee of the Regions:

- by giving it powers to adopt autonomously its own rules of procedure (which previously, under the Maastricht Treaty, was subjected by the Council’s approval)
- by stating that the Committee could be consulted by the European Parliament, and not just by the Commission and the Council, as laid down in the Maastricht Treaty
- by increasing the number of instances in which the Committee must be consulted

As regards the Treaty of Nice, two changes to the structure of the Committee should be mentioned.

Treaty of Nice

The first concerns the legitimisation of its members to ensure an institutional link exist between the Committee and the entities it represents, the Treaty stated that its members must hold elected regional or local office or must be accountable to an elected assembly at a

³ Treaty of the European Union: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11992M/htm/11992M.html>

corresponding level. In this way using a system similar to that used for the old Consultative Council of Regional and Local Authorities, it was responding to a need widely felt at regional and local level.

The second change concerns the procedure for the appointment of members of the assembly. The Treaty of Nice provides for the strengthening of the principle of proposal (by the individual Member States) compared to actual appointment (by the Council), stating that the latter must be performed in *conformity* with the former.⁴

Treaty of Lisbon

On 13 December 2007, EU leaders signed the Treaty of Lisbon; it has come to an end several years of negotiation about institutional issues. The Treaty of Lisbon amends the current EU and EC treaties, without replacing them. It will provide the Union with the legal framework and tools necessary to meet future challenges and to respond to citizens' demands.⁵

The new Treaty includes: recognition, for the first time, of the principle of local self-governance. There is potential for this to reinforce the Council of Europe *Charter on Local Self-Governance*, which gives local authorities certain rights of autonomy and imposes certain obligations on national governments in their relations with local government; more effective consultation of local and regional governments, and their associations. There will better enable local government to influence the course and content of new EU laws that will affect local authorities; a duty on the EU to minimise the financial and administrative burdens of new EU law. When proposing new EU laws, the European Commission will need to consider how cumbersome and costly they will be to implement, and to keep the burden on local authorities to a minimum; recognition of the essential role of local government in procuring, organising and providing public services. The Treaty recognises the local lead in public service provision and this will encourage better involvement of local government representatives in framing new laws that affect local public services; balanced regional development ('territorial cohesion') a key objective of the EU. This goes beyond funding and requires all new laws and policy, in whatever field, to contribute towards the general objective of balanced development. In many cases this could benefit for local governments, a new EU right to act in policies covering public health; culture; education, youth, sport and vocational training. These are all areas in which local government is the primary provider or key stakeholder. EU support for local actions in civil protection. This includes preparing local authority civil-protection staff and in responding to natural or man-made disasters within the EU; a guarantee that the EU will not act where a task can be better achieved at the local or regional level (the 'subsidiarity' principle). This will ensure that the EU does not act where local or regional bodies have a role; this is more likely to be relevant to the UK devolved administrations than to local government; strengthening of the Committee of the Regions, which is an EU advisory body which issues Opinions on draft legislation of relevance to the local and regional level. The Committee of the Regions gains the power to go to the Court of Justice if it believes that the subsidiarity principle has been breached, or if its right to be consulted on relevant issues is not respected.

⁴ Procedures for local and regional authority participation in European policy making in the member states CdR studies E-1/2005, Brussels, page 10, 11, 12.

⁵ http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm

The LGA's⁶ view

The LGA recognises that the local government elements of the EU Lisbon Treaty could help to promote good governance in Europe, by helping to ensure that EU actions are properly justified; limiting EU action to those areas which cannot be better managed at local or national level; ensuring that EU actions are proportionate without imposing undue administrative or financial burdens on local authorities; and ensuring that the EU will be better consult local government through its representative bodies at European and national level. The LGA believes, however, that these are facets of good governance that do not necessarily require a new treaty, but can and should be implemented in advance of the EU Lisbon Treaty coming into effect, or in its absence, it should not be ratified.⁷

Associations

An analysis of the channels through which regional and local authorities participate in the preparation of Community policies would not be complete without a look at some of the other channels available, in addition to those already considered. These include the associations representing regional and local authorities and the representation and liaison offices these authorities have set up in Brussels.

Starting with the associations, we should first point out the “historic” role they played in the gradual opening up of the European system of government to the regional and local dimension. It is to their efforts that, for instance, the creation of the Committee of the Regions is due. Furthermore, they are constantly interacting with the European institutions and bodies to protect the interests of their members.

The following European Associations deserve special mention:

(1) AEBR: Association of European Border Regions is regularly called in by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Parliament on issues such as the future development of regional and cohesion policy (including Community Initiatives), spatial planning, trans-European networks, social issues, the impact of enlargement on cross-border issues, institutional issues etc.⁸

(2) AER: Created in 1985, the Assembly of European Regions is the political voice of the regions and the key partner for the European and international institutions on every issue of regional competence. The AER promotes subsidiarity and regional democracy and enables the regions to form the essential link between the European Union and the citizens. It supports the diversity of the regions and translates this diversity into strength. The AER consist of currently more than 250 member regions from 33 European countries and 14 interregional organisations. Riccardo Illy, President of Friuli Venezia Giulia, is the AER elected President. The AER headquarters are in Strasbourg.⁹

(3) CLARE: The Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies is the conference of chairmen of the legislative federal state parliaments of Europe. The chairmen who are CALRE members are not at the head of the national parliaments of their respective countries, but lead of the parliament of a sector or region. Membership of the CALRE is limited to regions from the European Union.¹⁰

(4) CEMR: The Council of European Municipalities was founded in Geneva in 1951 by a group of European mayors; later, it opened its ranks to the regions and became the Council of

⁶ The Local Government Association (LGA), formed on 1 April 1997, promotes the interests of English and Welsh local authorities - a total of just under 500. These represent over 50 million people and spend around £74 billion a year on local services. The LGA exists to promote better local government.

⁷ <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/311966>

⁸ <http://www.aebr.net/>

⁹ <http://www.a-e-r.org/about-aer/vocation.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.calre.be/EN/default.html>

European Municipalities and Regions. Today, it is the largest organisation of local and regional government in Europe; its members are national associations of towns, municipalities and regions from over 35 countries. Together these associations represent some 100,000 local and regional authorities. CEMR works to promote a united Europe that is based on local and regional self government and democracy.¹¹

(5) CPMR: Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe. There are considerable differences in levels of development across Europe. Regions located far from the centre of Europe suffer from their peripheral situation, whether they are maritime or not. This is why the CPMR is pushing for EU policies to promote balanced territorial development.¹²

(6) REGLEG: Conference of European Regions with Legislative Power is an informal co-operative venture of the regions with legislative powers within the European Union.¹³

The liaison offices in Brussels play a very important role, for disseminating and exchanging information, for the contacts they can maintain with the Community institutions, for their lobbying activities on behalf of the authorities they represent, and finally for the links they can maintain with other similar authorities throughout the European Union. They are becoming increasingly respected as interlocutors of the bodies of the EU, for evaluating the impact at regional and local level of draft policies. The fact that they represent one specific authority or perhaps several geographically adjacent authorities means they are not interchangeable with the associations, since unlike these they can express the interests of a geographically defined area. Therefore, they have a special role to play in the direct consultation of the authorities they represent.¹⁴

Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the political assembly that provides local and regional authorities with a voice at the heart of the European Union. Established in 1994, the CoR was set up to address two main issues. Firstly, about three quarters of EU legislation is implemented at local or regional level, so it makes sense for local and regional representatives to have a say in the development of new EU laws. Secondly, there were concerns that the public was being left behind as the EU steamed ahead. Involving the elected level of government closest to the citizens was one way of closing the gap. There are three main principles at the heart of the Committee's work:¹⁵

Subsidiarity

This principle, written into the Treaties at the same time as the creation of the CoR, means that decisions within the European Union should be taken at the closest practical level to the citizen. The European Union, therefore, should not take on tasks which are better suited to national, regional or local administrations.

Proximity

All levels of government should aim to be 'close to the citizens', in particular by organising their work in a transparent fashion, so people know who is in charge of what and how to make their views heard.

¹¹ http://www.ccre.org/presentation_en.htm

¹² <http://www.crpm.org/index.php?act=1>

¹³ <http://www.regleg.org/default.asp>

¹⁴ Procedures for local and regional authority participation in European policy making in the member states CdR studies E-1/2005, Brussels, page 40,41.

¹⁵ <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PresentationTemplate.aspx?view=folder&id=be53bd69-0089-465e-a173-fc34a8562341&sm=be53bd69-0089-465e-a173-fc34a8562341>

Partnership

Sound European governance means European, national, regional and local government working together - all four are indispensable and should be involved throughout the decision making process.¹⁶

The Committee's consultative works Directorate is organised in six Commissions, whose responsibility is to support the preparation of Committee of the Regions Opinions (COR) on the proposals of the European Commission.

1. COTER (Commission for Territorial Cohesion);
2. ECOS (Commission economic and social policy);
3. DEVE (Commission for Sustainable Development);
4. RELEX (Commission for External Relations and Decentralised Cooperation);
5. EDUC (Commission for Culture, Education and Research);
6. CONST(Commission for Constitutional Affairs, European Governance and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice).

European Charter of Local Self-Government

The European Charter of Local Self-Government opened for signature by the member States of the Council of Europe on 15 October 1985 and entered into force on 9 September 1988. The Committee of the Regions of the European Union calls for the principle of local self-government, as defined by the Charter, to be included in the Community treaties. Moreover, the Committee of the Regions works together with the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) with a view to monitoring the implementation of the Charter.

The Charter commits the ratifying member states to guaranteeing the political, administrative and financial independence of local authorities. It provides that the principle of local-self government shall be recognised in domestic legislation and, where practicable, in the constitution. Local authorities are to be elected by universal suffrage, and it is the earliest legal instrument to set out the principle of subsidiarity.

Local authorities, acting within the limits of the law, are to be able to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility in the interests of the local population. The Charter considers that public responsibilities should be exercised preferably by the authorities closest to the citizens, a higher level being considered only when the co-ordination or discharge of duties is impossible or less efficient at the level immediately below. To this end, the Charter sets out the principles concerning the protection of local authorities' boundaries, the existence of adequate administrative structures and resources for the carrying out of their tasks, the conditions under which responsibilities are to be exercised, the financial resources of local authorities and the legal protection of local self-government. It limits the administrative supervision of local authorities' activities to the verification of lawfulness only.

The principles of local self-government contained in the Charter apply to all categories of local authorities. Ratifying states undertake to consider themselves bound by at least twenty paragraphs of Part I of the Charter.¹⁷ An analysis of the channels through which regional and local authorities participate in the preparation of Community policies would not be complete without a look at some of the other channels available, in addition to those already considered. These include the associations representing regional and local authorities and the representation and liaison offices these authorities have set up in Brussels.

¹⁶ <http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/PresentationTemplate.aspx?view=folder&id=be53bd69-0089-465e-a173-fc34a8562341&sm=be53bd69-0089-465e-a173-fc34a8562341>

¹⁷ The European Charter of Local Self-Government

Conclusion

As a supranational organization, the member states of which have transferred some of their sovereign powers in a number of policy areas, the European Union has not been entrusted by its member states with the responsibility of defining a common policy, legislation or institutional framework in what concerns the organization and functioning of their respective national government and public administration systems.

Therefore, the European Union has no legal resources (regulations, directives, decisions, etc.) directly aimed at the strengthening of local self-government or the reform of the local administration in the member states. In fact, in the process of accession to the EU of a candidate country, there is no suitable rule directly addressing this particular policy (local administration reform).

However, the existence of an effective, efficient and democratic local government system - consisting of a number of elected local authorities, representing their respective local communities, and entrusted with a number of public tasks and responsibilities to be managed by them. Apart from providing local and regional authorities in the EU member states with an institutional voice in the decision-making process, the EU supports the development of local and regional authorities and their active involvement in the implementation of EU policies.¹⁸

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Cini, Michelle (2002) *European Union Politics*. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

The European Charter of Local Self-Government

Treaty of the European Union:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11992M/htm/11992M.html>

Treaty of Amsterdam: <http://www.eurotreaties.com/amsterdamtreaty.pdf>

Treaty of Lisbon: http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/fonds/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/object/index_en.htm

<http://www.a-e-r.org/about-aer/vocation.html>

<http://www.calre.be/EN/default.html>

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<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/311966>

<http://www.aebr.net/>

Behind the Culture of Silence: Violence against Philippine Women

by Michael Teodoro G. Ting Jr.



Maria Clara is a principal character in the novel, *Noli Me Tangere*. She represents the traditional qualities of Philippine womanhood: pure and simple, delicate and meek, yet blessed with an inner strength.

(Text & photo by PCVC 2008.)

Various countries celebrate March as the International Women's Month. While superpowers like United States, Russia, and France never had a female head of government, third world countries like Sri Lanka, India, the Philippines, and

Pakistan take pride in having had woman heads of state. The Philippines, in particular, became the first Asian nation to have a female president in 1986. In 2001, the country embraced a second woman leader. While upper-class and highly educated Filipinas increasingly wield power and influence in professional and social circles, the majority of middle and lower-class women live in a totally different world.

Ang pagiging babae ay pamumuhay sa panahon ng digma (To be a woman is to live at a time of war), quipped a lady poet.¹⁹ The verse says it all—the travails, the sentiments, the plight of women in a male-dominated society such as the Philippines. Local and international sociologists observed that Filipino culture has it for men to be aggressive and women subserviently meek.²⁰ This largely paved the way for a wide array of human rights violations, apparently committed because the victim is a woman. This is gender-based violence, or violence against women.²¹

Historical Context

In separate studies, women historians Encarnacion Alzona²² and Sister Mary John Mananzan²³ found women to enjoy more egalitarian status during the pre-Spanish period.²⁴ This, however, gradually changed when the 333-year Spanish regime modified the social

¹⁹ Joi Barrios, *Ang pagiging babae ay pamumuhay sa panahon ng digma* (To be a woman is to live at a time of war), BABAYLAN WOMEN'S PUBLISHING COLLECTIVE 144-145 (1990).

²⁰ Dee Dicen Hunt & Cora Sta. Ana-Gatbonton, *Filipino Women & Sexual Violence: Speaking Out & Providing Services*, presented to the Immigrant Women's Support Service Forum, "Sexual Violence in a Gender, Cultural & Human Rights Framework," Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia, Brisbane (24 November 2000) [hereinafter Women's Service Forum].

²¹ Delia D. Aguilar, "The social construction of the Filipino woman", 35 (1) *Diliman Review* 50-62 (1987).

²² Encarnacion Alzona, *The Filipino Woman 1565-1973* (1934).

²³ Sister Mananzan is the former president of St. Scholastica's College, which runs the Institute of Women Studies. Sis. Mananzan delivered a speech before the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT). As of 2008, she is the president of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippine. See EATWOT, *Toward An Asian Principle of Interpretation: A Filipino Women's Experience*, Forum for Interdisciplinary Endeavors and Studies, Institute of Women Studies (1991).

²⁴ Pre-Spanish women had the following rights:

- (1) to be treated as an equal by her husband and to share his honors.
- (2) to retain her maiden name.
- (3) to freely dispose of the property she had brought into the marriage.
- (4) to be consulted or informed by her husband about his business affairs and contracts.
- (5) to divorce her husband in case of non-support or maltreatment.
- (6) to attain headship in the *barangay*.
- (7) to have a baby or not, whether she is married or not.
- (8) to name her children.
- (9) to enjoy the preferential role in religious ceremonies as priestesses, called *babaylanes* or *catalones*.

system into a patriarchy, transforming the ebullient pre-Spanish woman into a “shy, diffident, puritanical, tearstained little woman,”²⁵ resembling Rizal’s *Maria Clara*.

Spanish colonizers introduced Roman Catholicism to facilitate their rule and neutralize the influence of independent women. Values of monogamous marriage and chastity were inculcated alongside the concept of property ownership. The Filipina became subordinate to a male figure: her father before marriage, her husband after marriage.²⁶

Religious & Moral Context

A predominantly Catholic community, Filipino society clings to the teachings of the male-centered and male dominated Roman Catholic Church.²⁷ A premium is placed on virginity until marriage. Sexual intercourse is only for procreation, Marriage is indissoluble. The husband is head of the household with absolute authority over his wife and children. His word is law and his action beyond question.²⁸ The wife, like Caesar’s, must be beyond suspicion.

Sex is a taboo subject under conservative community standards. The sensitive parts of the body are not to be mentioned. Hence no specific words are assigned to some of them, as well as some sexual behaviors, making it not possible to translate English vocabulary to Filipino. Instead, Filipinos use euphemisms when talking about sex.²⁹

Cultural Context

The patriarchal system lays down the cultural context within which Filipino women are considered. The male species, the dominant social group, dictate communal standards through a socialization process facilitated by families, communities, schools, parishes, and the media. This led to male dominance and female subordination.³⁰

By tradition, the husband is the breadwinner in the family while the wife is “queen of the home”, ministering to domestic and household needs. In addition, she holds control of the “purse”, as the husband normally submits his monthly pay to the wife and gets a regular allowance from her. However, these “matriarchal tendencies” in the Filipino home only dwells on the realm of superficiality. The fact remains that the husband is head of the family, and the wife only second to him.³¹

Sexuality is viewed from a double standard. Women ought to remain virgins until marriage while men enjoy sexual freedom. Adulterous wives are looked upon with scorn, while infidel husbands are condoned for acting “naturally as men.” Young women are disgraces once they lose their virginity before marriage, while young men can “sow wild oats” with reckless abandon. Young women ought to marry early to legalize sexual relations or to avoid becoming “old maids,” while young men may enjoy sex freely and are even initiated by their fathers to frequent brothels.³²

Against this backdrop, most domestic violence and sexual assault against women are perpetrated and kept in silence. Cases are reported with much reluctance on the part of the

²⁵ Quoted in Betty Jamie Chung & Shui Meng Ng, *The Status of Women in Law, A Comparison of Four Asian Countries*, Occasional Papers Series No. 49, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, at 4 (1977).

²⁶ Luz Lopez Rodriguez, “Patriarchy and women’s subordination in the Philippines”, 1 (1) *UP Review of Women’s Studies* 20 (1990-1991).

²⁷ Women’s Service Forum, *supra* note 2.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Carolyn Israel-Sobritchea, “The ideology of female domesticity: Its impact on the status of Filipino women”, (1) *UP Review of Women’s Studies* 26-41 (1990) [hereinafter Sobritchea].

³² *Sama-Samang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan* (SIBOL), WOMEN’S HEALTH AND THE LAW 27 (1997).

victims. Victims would rather stay in violent relationships than come out in the open. The fear, shame, and guilt are just overwhelming to overcome.³³

Violence against Women: Definition and Kinds

Violence against women, as defined by the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women, pertains to:

“... any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.”³⁴

Violence against women is commonly perpetrated in three areas, namely:

- 1) In the family, usually in the following forms: battering; sexual abuse of female children in the household; dowry-related violence; marital rape; female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women; non-spousal violence; and violence related to exploitation.
- 2) Within the general community, including: rape; sexual abuse; sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere; trafficking in women; and forced prostitution.
- 3) Within the State, wherever it occurs, where physical, sexual and psychological violence is perpetrated or condoned by the same (i.e. custodial violence against women, violence in situations of armed conflict).

Deducible further, violence against women may be in any of the following kinds:³⁵

- 1) Domestic violence, which includes physical abuse, emotional and psychological violence (i.e. verbal threats), and economic abuse (i.e. lack or absence of financial support). This occurs in the family, usually considered a private matter by the bystanders - including neighbours, the community, and government. The recent death of actress Ma. Theresa Carlson, attributed to domestic violence, is a wake-up call for many.³⁶
- 2) Traditional practices, consisting of physically and psychologically harmful customs deeply rooted in the tradition and culture of society (i.e. arranged marriages);
- 3) Female genital mutilation (forced circumcision of the female clitoris, imbedded in some indigenous culture);
- 4) Dowry-related violence and early marriage;
- 5) Marital rape, including forced sexual intercourse, striptease, and similar forms of brutality;
- 6) Incest or sexual contact between relatives by consanguinity;
- 7) Violation of reproductive rights (i.e. forced sterilization, forced abortion);
- 8) Rape
- 9) Sexual harassment, which pertains to any unwanted or uninvited sexual attention that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment in the school, workplace, etc.;
- 10) Gender discrimination or sexism, which occurs when women, by virtue of their gender, are denied equal access to education, employment, and other opportunities for advancement;

³³ Sobritchea, *supra* note 13.

³⁴ UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (December 1993).

³⁵ United Nations Department of Public Information, DPI/1772/HR (Feb. 1996) [hereinafter UN Information]. See also Rep. Ignacio Bunye, “Towards the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Children: The Syndrome & the Solution,” *The Lawyers Review* 77 (Dec. 31, 1998) [hereinafter Bunye].

³⁶ The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), *Primer Series on Women & Domestic Violence* (1997) [hereinafter PRIMER].

- 11) Lesbophobia/Homophobia, wherein lesbians and gays are discriminated, ridiculed, harassed or abused because of their sexual orientation;
- 12) Medical abuse or unwanted or unnecessary surgical procedures (i.e. internal examinations, hysterectomy, etc.);
- 13) Abuse of women with physical or mental disabilities;
- 14) Ritual abuse with religious cults;
- 15) Pornography;
- 16) Abuse of incarcerated women;
- 17) Violence against women in situations of armed conflict;
- 18) Violence against refugee and displaced women;
- 19) Sexual slavery, prostitution and international trafficking in women.³⁷

International and National Instruments

Because statistics and studies have shown that domestic violence has become a global phenomenon involving millions of women, international and national legal instruments and mechanisms have already been established to address the issue. Among the international instruments and treaties³⁸ are:

- 1) The Convention for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic (1910);
- 2) The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women & Children (1921);
- 3) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- 4) International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights (1966);
- 5) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women [CEDAW] (1979);
- 6) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1999);
- 7) Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime & The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women & Children (2000);
- 8) Vienna Declaration & Programme of Action (1993);
- 9) Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action (1995);
- 10) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Declaration on Transnational Crime (1997);
- 11) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing & Combating Trafficking in Women & Children in Prostitution (1998);
- 12) Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration (1999); and
- 13) UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993).

Important domestic laws addressing the problem include:

- 1) The Revised Penal Code, specifically Articles 262 (mutilation), 263 (serious physical injuries), 265 (less serious physical injuries), 266 (slight physical injuries), 246 (parricide), 248 (murder), 249 (homicide), 247 (death or physical injuries under exceptional circumstances), 266-A (rape), 334 (concubine), and 336 (acts of lasciviousness).³⁹
- 2) The Family Code, specifically Articles 72 (marital rights & obligations), 55 (legal separation), and 36 (psychological incapacity).⁴⁰
- 3) Republic Act No. 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Law;

³⁷ Amparita Sta. Maria, *Using Legal and other International Instruments to Combat Trafficking in Women & Children within the Asia-Pacific Region*, 46 ATENEO L.J. 684 (2001) [hereinafter Sta. Maria].

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ The Revised Penal Code (1932), as amended.

⁴⁰ The Family Code, Executive Order No. 209 (1988).

- 4) Republic Act No. 8353 expanding the definition of rape and reclassifying it as a crime against persons;
- 5) Republic Act No. 8505 providing assistance & protection for rape victims;
- 6) The Revised Administrative Code of 1987, establishing the Bureau of Women's Welfare;
- 7) Presidential Decree No. 633, as amended by Executive Order No. 208, creating the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW);
- 8) Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act; and
- 9) Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act.
- 10) Joint Circular No. 2004-1 on National GAD Planning and Budgeting.

Present Statistics

In the United States, a woman is beaten every 18 minutes, with 3-4 million women battered each year. In India, 5 women are burned in dowry-related deaths everyday. 50% of women in Bangkok claim being beaten by their husbands. Moreover, a World Health Organization would reveal that more than 25% of homicidal deaths around the globe were of women.⁴¹ Worse, only 8.2% of domestic violence cases are reported implying a yet bigger scenario.⁴²

In the Philippines, the Women's Crisis Center has reported that an average of 4 women and children are raped everyday. At least 7 of 10 victims were raped by men known to them.⁴³ In a year's summary, the Philippine National Police reported an increase in the reported cases of violence against women from 1999 to 2000, ranging from a 43.7% increase in physical injuries, 17.6% for rape and attempted rape, 8.6% for acts of lasciviousness, 4.2% for threats, 2.1% for concubinage, and 1.2% for sexual harassment. Close to 40% of the victims were violated by their intimate partners: their husbands, live-in partners or boyfriends. Not surprisingly, more than 80% of violence cases were committed by men.⁴⁴

Recommendations

While there no exists exact formula or a panacea for the problem at hand, violence against women can be properly addressed by more sufficient legislation through:

- 1) Consolidation of all pertinent laws into a Code for the Elimination of Violence Against Women⁴⁵; and
- 2) Effective implementation of the "Law on Anti-Abuse of Women in Intimate Relationship" principally authored by Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo;⁴⁶ and
- 3) Ratification by the State of all relevant international treaties and conventions.

However, legislation alone will not suffice. Addressing the Filipino chauvinist culture, the heart of problem, should be primordial task. Therefore, the community, as a whole, should rapidly and sincerely recognize equality between women and men, as mandated by the Constitution.⁴⁷ The long prevailing culture of chauvinism should be put to an end. Starting from the home where young boys are taught by their parents, Filipino culture should be freed from the bondage of gender inequality, one step at a time. Slowly, yet surely.

⁴¹ PRIMER, *supra* note 18.

⁴² UN Information, *supra* note 17.

⁴³ Bunye, *supra* note 17.

⁴⁴ The PNP Statistical Handbook (2001).

⁴⁵ Bunye, *supra* note 17, at 78.

⁴⁶ PRIMER, *supra* note 18.

⁴⁷ Art. II, Sec. 14, The Philippine Constitution (1987).



OUR HOUSE – NEWS FROM IAPSS

CONFERENCES

IAPSS Conference: Confronting Energy and Climate Change Policies
Graduate Student Conference on Social Sciences – Budapest, Hungary
IAPSS Conference: Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders: The Future
Challenges of World Politics from a Youth Perspective

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ExCOM, IAPSS

IAPSS CONFERENCES

Ljubljana, Slovenia

26th to 30th of May

Topic: Confronting Energy and Climate Change Policies

During the first half of this three-day conference, the topic of energy politics will play the main role. There are going to be lectures about energy politics on the national and international level, the role of energy resources in conflicts and the very important discourse concerning renewable energies. The second part will focus mainly on the issue of climate change and which policies the different international institutions are trying to implement to counteract this development. In seminars and working group presentations the participants of the conference will discuss the impact of the Kyoto Protocol and the follow-up decisions of the Climate Conference in Bali, which will supplement the discussion concerning the recent decisions of the European Commission. At the end of the second part there is going to be a presentation of short movies that will show the consequences of climate change to emphasize the importance of this topic to all the participants.

Information: www.iapss.org

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES

Budapest, Hungary

Date: 18th and 19th of April, 2008

Topic: New Challenges to Social and Political Sciences and International Relations

Deadline: **6 April, 2008**

The organizers encourage a multiplicity of approaches from different social sciences backgrounds, encompassing a broad range of topics from the fields of (but not limited to): political theory, political economy, political sociology, international political economy, international relations theory, international law, human rights, security studies, European studies, public policy, public administration, environmental studies, gender studies.

Contact: iapss_ceu@ceu.hu

Ljubljana, Slovenia

26th to 30th of May

Topic: Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders: The Future Challenges of World Politics from a Youth Perspective

In July 2008 IAPSS will present a roundtable in Ljubljana, Slovenia as part of the 2nd Global International Studies Conference.

Information: <http://www.wiscnetwork.org/>, <http://www.wiscnetwork.org/registration.php>

CALL FOR PAPERS

A DIFFERENT VIEW, IAPSS

22nd Edition, 2008

Topic: Dominant Forms of Ideology in West and Rest – Comparative Considerations

Deadline: **22nd of April, 2008**

The Editorial Board of ADV invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit short academic and opinion articles for publication in its March 2008 issue.

Contact: IAPSSADV@gmail.com

CALL FOR CANDIDATURES

Deadline: for the Leadership Summer School is the 15th of April but priority will be given to the first ones who will show their interest.

The ExCom presents the Call for Candidates for the positions in IAPSS for the mandate October 2008 - September 2009. The elections will take place at the General Assembly in Thessaloniki.

Information: www.iapss.org

NEWS FROM THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

SCHOLARSHIPS

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Master In Public Policy (MPP) Programme, National University of Singapore

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CALL FOR PAPERS

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The University of Essex, Colchester, UK

The University of Essex is delighted to announce that it will be offering Essex Opportunity Scholarships for students from Poland, Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, who enrol at the University of Essex in October 2008. An Essex Opportunity Scholarship is available to any student from Poland, Romania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who:

a) meets the initial entry requirements of the University and is made an offer of a place at the University

b) holds Essex as their firm choice institution

c) registers on an undergraduate (bachelor) degree programme.

The undergraduate scholarship is available to Polish, Romanian, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuania nationals and other EU citizens who are residing in one of the above-mentioned countries prior to the start of their course (excluding UK nationals)

Official website: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/prospective/finance/scholarships/opportunity.html>

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This short course is organized in three meetings and designed to offer to the students a basic understanding of the field of Conflict Resolution and its application to peacekeeping intervention in contemporary international conflicts. The lectures will cover the following topics: The nature of conflict; Key concepts of conflict resolutions; Contemporary conflict dynamics; Conflict mapping; Early warnings and conflict prevention; Peacekeeping and conflict resolution in war zones; Peace settlements and post-conflict peace building; The role of culture in conflict resolution; Gender issue. The scholarships will cover only the tuition fee of the course.

Contact: account@eastweststudies.org

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Deadline: 31 May 2008

Master in Public Policy (MPP) students benefit from the School's growing network of exchange arrangements of up to 1 year with public policy schools worldwide. The School also conducts an active programme of seminars and public lectures by political, not-for-profit and business leaders to enable all students to complement their formal learning with the opportunity to interact with distinguished individuals who are shaping the future. Master in Public Policy (MPP) Programme provides a strong foundation in conceptual and analytical skills for future public service leaders and individuals with an interest in understanding and influencing how public policy choices are made.

Contact: LKYSPPmpp@nus.edu.sg

Website: <http://www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/> or http://www.lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/degree_prog_1.htm

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Weimar, Germany

Scholarship: limited number of full scholarships are available

Date: 22nd June - 5th July 2008

Deadline: 30th April 2008

Weimar and Jena are not only known for the "Classics" Goethe and Schiller, but also for the early romanticists Tieck and Novalis, the philosophers Schelling, Hegel und Nietzsche and musicians Johann Sebastian Bach and Franz Liszt. The founding of the Bauhaus in 1919 in Weimar heralded a worldwide revolution in architecture and design. The failure of the "Weimar Republic" and later the concentration camp Buchenwald finally also refer to the darker periods in German history. For this reason, the Weimar Summer Courses intend to stimulate active exposure to cultural heritage: What can poets, philosophers and artists say today? Which directions and thought-provoking impulses can be derived for contemporary challenges? The Summer Courses also offer an intimate insight into the world of well-known heritage sites, from the National Goethe Museum and Nietzsche-Archives to the Bauhaus Workshops. They also give you the opportunity to experience the vibrant cultural life in Weimar. The total fee is 750 € (250 € course fee, 280 € for accommodation, 220 € for board). For students and participants who do not earn any income of their own, the course fee may be waived if appropriate proof is provided (the participant's contribution is then 500 Euro). In the case of particular financial hardship **a limited number of full scholarships are available** providing full support for the total fee (the participant need not contribute).

Information: <http://www.weimar-summer-courses.de/>

2008 ACUNS/ASIL SUMMER WORKSHOP

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Scholarship / Financial aid: available

Date: July 23 to August 2, 2008

Deadline: 14 April 2008

Each year, ACUNS hosts a summer workshop on international organization studies, teaching, and research for advanced graduate students, younger scholars, lawyers, and UN practitioners, sponsored with the American Society of International Law. "Building the Knowledge Base for Global Governance"

The Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) and the American Society of International Law (ASIL), in cooperation with the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana (which is part of the Centre for Social Innovation Vienna), with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia, are pleased to announce the eighteenth ACUNS-ASIL Summer Workshop on International Organization Studies. Contingent upon funding, the workshop will run from 23 July-2 August 2008, in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Contact: <http://www.igloo.org/community.igloo>

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ACADEMY ON HUMAN SECURITY

Graz, Austria

Scholarship / Financial aid: full or partial scholarships available

Date: 20 – 30 July 2008

Deadline: **15 April 2008**

The Summer Academy is part of the project HUMSEC – Human Security in the Western Balkan region: the impact of transnational terrorist and criminal organisations on the peace-building process of the region realised in the 6th Framework Programme. The project is designed to contribute to a better understanding of the relationship between transnational terrorist and criminal organisations in the peace-building process of the Western Balkan region. Through the organisation of an annual summer academy, the HUMSEC network aims to bring the scientific discourse closer to civil society, to strengthen democratic principles and to raise awareness by means of human rights education and education for democratic citizenship of the threats that transnational terrorist and criminal organisations bring for the peace-building and reconstruction process in the Western Balkan region.

Further information at: <http://www.humsec.eu/cms/>

PHD SUMMER SCHOOL IN EUROPEAN PARTIES

Florence, Italy

Deadline: **15 May 2008**

The Summer School will be taught by a team of leading European academics specialising in comparative research into European politics, political parties and party systems. It will comprise two weeks teaching, each containing five 3-hour and five 4-hour teaching sessions. The total 70 hours of class contact will be made up of roughly equal proportions of staff lectures, student presentations and seminar discussion.

Contact: Alex Wilson, Summer School in Parties, European University Institute, Via dei Roccettini 9, I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy, Telephone: +[39] 055 4685210/217

Fax: +[39] 055 4685201

Email: alex.wilson@eui.eu

Webpage: <http://www.eui.eu/SPS/Research/SummerSchoolPartySystemsSep07.html>

CONFERENCES

THE HUMAN PERSON, THE HEART OF PEACE FIRST UN WORLD HERITAGE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE ON HOLY SEE DIPLOMACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

The Hague, Netherlands, Netherlands

Date: 25 to 30 April 2009

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **30 August 2008**

The First UN World Heritage Conscience of Humanity Summit to give the global human family the opportunity to critically assess the state of affairs of the Holy See's Diplomatic Service with respect to international human rights compliance. Organized by: The UN World Heritage Institute for the Study of Holy See/Vatican State Affairs (w/ UNESCO)

Contact: The John Paul II Vatican Affairs World Scholar

FOURTH CEU GRADUATE CONFERENCE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Budapest, Hungary

Date: 20-22 June, 2008

Topic: Global Transformations: Integration, Transition, and Development

Deadline for proposals: **April 15, 2008**

The aims of the conference are to encourage an interdisciplinary academic debate and to contribute to developing knowledge networks among peers in their respective fields of research. At the same time, we hope to connect different perspectives and approaches in order to produce high standard academic works. We encourage graduate students and young faculty to contribute with papers and participate in the proposed workshops and panels. Each panel will include approximately 4 papers.

Information: www.gradconf.ceu.hu

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF TRADE MARKS AND BRANDS

Alicante, Spain

Date: June 5th – 6th, 2008

Deadline: **14th April, 2008**

The EPIP Association will hold a workshop on the economic analysis of trade marks and brands at the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) in Alicante, Spain. Analysis of trade marks has been largely neglected in the economics and business studies literature. Work on brands and brand building is more common, but this remains unconnected to analysis of the underlying property rights. Recently a growing number of researchers have become interested in empirical research on trade marks. This workshop will bring together those interested in the analysis of trade marks and brands from a theoretical and an empirical perspective. Scholars from economics, business studies, law and the intersection of these disciplines are invited to submit papers.

Information: <http://www.en.inno-tec.bwl>, <http://www.en.inno-tec.bwl.uni-muenchen>

THE PATTERNS OF CORRUPTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The CRIISEA Research Center, University of Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens - Institute of International Economic Relations

Athens, Greece

Date: 6-7 September 2008, Athens, Greece

Deadline: **9 of June, 2008**

Interested persons should submit an abstract between of about 250-350 words by 9 of June 2008. It should include: the paper argument, its theoretical approach, its findings and its methodology. The Programme Committee might confirm acceptance of submissions before the deadline. Therefore, early submission is recommended. The conference fee is 130 (euro). For Ph. D candidates the fee is 50. The fee is inclusive of refreshments, documentation, two lunches and one dinner.

Contact person: Stella Miliotis, sae@hol.gr, <http://www.idec.gr/iier>

CALL FOR PAPERS

VOX

The next edition of VOX will be on the topic "EAST AND WEST". If you want to write on the possible shift of global dominance from West to East, Asian philosophy, democracy, environmental issues, emerging economies, prospects for social revolution, the Olympic games, politics of development. Undergraduates, post-graduates and academics are all welcome to write.

Website: <http://voxjournal.co.uk>

Contact persons: Ilaf Scheikh Elard and Paul Mertenskötter, Editors vox@clubofpep.org

USEFUL LINKS FOR THE TOPIC OF MONTH

- [Approved article on Citizendium](#)
- CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation www.civicus.org
- Civil Society – New Super Power <http://ipsnews.net>
- Civil Society in demography in rural Central Europe <http://mek.oszk.hu/03900/03990/>
- [Civil Society in the Post-Communist Context: Linking Theoretical Concept and Social Transformation The Western Concept of the Civil Society in the Context of Chinese History](#) by [Thomas Metzger](#)
- [EU relations with Civil Society](#)
- [Global civil society \(PCDF\)](#).
- [International Society for Third-Sector Research](#)
- [LSE Centre for Civil Society](#)
- Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe - CEE Trust www.ceetrust.org
- UBUNTU – World Forum of Civil Society Networks www.ubuntu.upc.edu
- [UK DFID relations with Civil Society](#)
- [UN relations with Civil Society \(Businesses\)](#)
- [UN relations with Civil Society \(NGO's\)](#)
- [UNEP Global Civil Society Forum](#).
- World Social Forum - www.forumsocialmundial.org.br

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



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