



***Embedding Democratic Values:  
The Role of Civic Education and Media in Democratization***

**Venue:** Regency Hotel (Strada Sfatul Țării 17, Chișinău 2012)

**Date:** March 21 (Monday), 2016

**Language:** English / simultaneous translation to Romanian

Democratization is a complex process that entails both critical choices of new institutions, and most importantly, the rooting of those institutions in the societal ethos. Most of the literature on democratic transition and consolidation has been dominated by the study of institutional crafting, especially in post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, where not only political but also economic and social institutions had to be created in the aftermath of the fundamental transformations starting to occur after 1989. However, the footprint of a healthy democracy cannot only be measured in terms of institutional performance, but it has to include citizens' engagement with the new institutions, and, in fact, a change of mentality that reflects their attachment to the new system.

Thus, the process of embedding democratic values and creeds in a pre-existing belief system marred by features of mistrust, fear and corruption created by totalitarian communist regimes and hardships of transition is a difficult task. We consider that the construction of a democratic political culture – one that reflects interest in and understanding of the new system, and also the desire to participate, motivated by political efficacy – is a process worth exploring, from both academic and practical points of view. During these unstable times, it is the people's attachment to democratic values that may keep governments in check and preclude them from slipping into populist and anti-democratic measures.

**Participation is free of charge.**

**Due to limited seats, registration is required by March 18 (Friday) at Zsuzsanna Végh ([veghzs@ceu.edu](mailto:veghzs@ceu.edu)).**

***PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP***

**10.00 – 10.15 Opening remarks**

Bogdan Radu, Visiting researcher, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Hungary; Senior Lecturer, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

**10.15 – 12.00 Panel 1. – Democratic demos and the role of civic education**

This panel aims to explore the relationship between civic education and democratic political culture. Education is one critical factor in the creation of a democratic demos, and different models of offering civic education have been employed in different contexts. By citing practical examples from the participant countries (Visegrad Group, Moldova and Ukraine), we will touch upon the following points:

- + The role of civic education in creating democratic political culture
- + Civic education and the school: formal civic education, different curricula, inclusion of civic education items in other subjects (history, economics, etc.)
- + Civic education projects by the civil society (NGO projects, voluntarism, church and religious organizations) and by international organizations (e.g. EU, CoE)
- + Civic education and the media

**Chair:** Rebecca Murray, Research fellow, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Slovakia

**Panelists:**

Olga Budnyk, Head of Political Education Program, Center for Political Studies and Analysis, Ukraine

Tomasz Horbowski, Director, Information Center for Local Authorities in Moldova, Moldova/Poland

Bálint Juhász, Head of Education Program, Krétakör, Hungary

**12.00-13.00 Lunch**

**13.00-15.00 Panel 2. – Media in the context of democratization**

This panel focuses on the roles played by media in recent democracies and aims to unravel different models of media functioning in the contexts of the countries included in the project. By citing practical examples from the participant countries (Visegrad Group, Moldova and Ukraine), we will touch upon the following points:

- + The constitutional/legal status of media outlets, especially from the point of view of freedom of the press; media censorship
- + Politicization of the media/political ownership of media and its impact on the state of democracy
- + The relationship between media and democratic political values: mass-media as a constructor of democratic values; media as discourse creator; media and hate speech
- + Style and content of media reporting: regulated (by the state) vs. competition/rating driven
- + Media consumption patterns by socio-economic categories (classical (print) media, Radio/TV, online, social media)

**Chair:** Victoria Bucataru, Program director, Foreign Policy Association, Moldova

**Panelists:**

Petru Macovei, Executive director, Association of Independent Press, Moldova

Martin M. Šimečka, Author and journalist, Respekt, Dziennik N, Slovakia

Václav Štětka, Senior researcher and head, Political Communication Research Group, Charles University, Czech Republic

**15.00-15.15 Concluding remarks**

Zsuzsanna Vég, Research fellow, CEU Center for EU Enlargement Studies, Hungary

*With this event, the Center for EU Enlargement Studies continues the series of discussions around various aspects of democratic change in order to study the phenomenon of social transition and how democratic values become embedded in societies in transition. The discussions are organized in the framework of the project entitled “Frontiers of Democracy: Embedding Democratic Values in Moldova and Ukraine”, but their scope of enquiry reaches beyond and encompasses democratic change in the wider Central and Eastern European region. The project “Frontiers of Democracy: Embedding Democratic Values in Moldova and Ukraine” is supported by the International Visegrad Fund and is part of the “Frontiers of Democracy” initiative of the Central European University.*