

Mapping the Policy Process in Eastern Europe

Fellows

The six fellows, countries and policy cases in "Mapping the Public Policy Process" are:

- **Elena Krastenova - Bulgaria** (Policy Processes Regarding Social Assistance and the Role of NGOs):
Elena is an Attorney at Law with the Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development, Sofia, Bulgaria. She is a Researcher on SME development, regional and local economic development, foreign direct investments, legal reform, gender equality and job creation. She is also an Evaluator and monitoring expert for national / international programs and projects (EU Phare Partnership, Leonardo da Vinci, Phare Access, Europe Program, DemNet program / USIAD) Elena also engages in course design and lecturing on entrepreneurship, European Integration; project development and management, etc. provided to public administration, NGOs and private sector, students. Another of her activities has been participating in working bodies in the field of social dialogue, drafting of legislation, approximation of laws, equal opportunities.
- **Vanja Mladineo - Croatia** (Communication Between the Formulation and Implementation Stages of the Policy Process):
Vanja is currently the Chief of Staff/Head of Cabinet at the Ministry of Science and Technology. Previously, she worked at the Government Office for Public Relations managing a World Bank Grant with the aim of improving government communications. Hold a B.A. in Politics and French from New York University. Her areas of professional interest include improving governance, transparency and accountability, political communications and election politics.
- **Nino Gerkeuli - Georgia** (Policy Processes in Urban Planning):
In addition to her MPA degree, Ms. Nino Gerkeuli holds an architecture degree from the Georgian Technical University. It follows that her public administration and governance interests revolve around city planning and urban policy issues. She has completed a post-graduate thesis entitled, "The Influence of New Social and Economic Mechanism on the Process of Urban Integration." She has worked as an architect, an office manager, and a specialist with the Tbilisi Land Management Department.
- **Daiga Ermsome - Latvia** (The ways that Professional Organizations could Enhance their Impact on Policy):
Daiga is a Project Manager at the Latvian Employers Confederation. She holds LL.M. in the International and European Law, Riga Graduate School of Law (2001) and LL.B., Faculty of Law, University of Latvia (1990). Her academic interests include labor law, social security law, social and economic rights, issues of non-discrimination.
- **Margareta Nikolovska - Macedonia** (Decentralization in Education: Improving policy Formulation):
Margareta is an Education and Training Policy Expert in the Ministry of Education and Science in the Republic of Macedonia. She has devoted her career to seeking and implementing suitable solutions for reform in sector of secondary education in Macedonia in perspective of lifelong learning and sustainable human resources development strategies. Working more than 10 years in the sector, she has performed various assignments in the area of educational reform in Macedonia and in the SEE

region. Her background being a computer science engineer allowed her to work as a teacher not only in Macedonia, but also at the Institute for Academically Advanced Youth at Johns Hopkins University, USA for 6 summer sessions. She is an author of the text book for secondary school students in Republic of Macedonia:

“Implementation of new instructional technology – Using Internet as a resource for learning: INFO course”, published by the Ministry of Education and Science in 1996; she started for the first time to help the teachers in Macedonia how to use this powerful technology in the classroom as learning tool. She is currently pursuing MSc in MPPM, Master of Public Policy and Management, at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Policy and International Affairs - Center for Public Policy and Management in Macedonia.

- **Marius Tita - Romania** (Enhancing the Media's Influence on Policy Processes): Marius holds a PhD in Economics, an MA in International Relations and European Affairs, and has fulfilled academic studies in Political Sciences. He works as senior editor with Radio Romania International and different think tanks from Romania. He is a former NATO research fellow and has been given an award for the best Romanian Radio Talk Show in 2000. His areas of interest are: economic and political analysis, international relations, European integration, defense and security and transition in Central-Eastern Europe.