

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, is holding a globe of the Earth. The globe is the central focus, showing continents and oceans. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Annual report 2008'.

Annual report 2008

EDUARDO FREI FOUNDATION

Annual Report 2008

MATRA Political Parties Programme

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MOLDOVA



Annual Report 2008

ARMENIA | BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA
BULGARIA | GEORGIA | CROATIA
MACEDONIA | UKRAINE | ROMANIA
KOSOVO | MONTENEGRO | SERBIA
MOLDOVA | TURKEY | BELARUS

‘Country in the Spotlight’: MOLDOVA

In 2008, Moldova was the EFF’s “Country in the Spotlight”. Moldova is a small country nestled between Romania and Ukraine. Although Transnistria is a disputed area, it proclaimed its independence in 1990. The situation remains unsolved since 1990. Since elections were scheduled for 2009, the EFF decided that Moldova would be the EFF’s Country in the Spotlight. Together with EFF’s partners PPCD NG, additional activities were organised: an extra training course and a study visit to the Netherlands for 10 PPCD NG members.

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MOLDOVA

A view on the Moldovan fortress in Soroca



1 | Preface



*Dr. Jan P.R.M. van Laarhoven
Chairman Eduardo Frei Foundation*

This annual report provides an overview of the activities of the Eduardo Frei Foundation (“EFF”) - the foundation for international solidarity of the Christian Democratic Appeal (“CDA”).

The EFF has set out three goals:

- Advocate Christian democratic thinking with regard to international co-operation in general and especially that of development co-operation and human rights;
- promote continuous awareness in above-mentioned fields among CDA members and affiliated organisations; and
- develop and support initiatives, especially in Central and Eastern Europe and developing countries, aimed at promoting Christian democratic thinking.

In 2008 the EFF was able to carry out a number of activities with several sister parties in Central and Eastern Europe as a result of its participation in the Societal Transformation Programme (“MATRA”) of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This annual report specifically will highlight the following noteworthy activities.

In the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Belarus, the EFF together with its Lithuanian partner organised three training courses for members of the opposition. One of the members officially stood as candidate. It is all the more regrettable that not a single opposition candidate was elected to the Belarus Parliament. Next to this, the EFF also became active in Turkey. Together with the International Republican Institute, two training courses were organised for youth from Turkey and Eastern Europe. Lastly, an important congress regarding socio-economic politics was held in Bosnia Herzegovina. EFF speakers as well as speakers from other organisations provided

the politicians with the necessary tools on socio-economic politics. In 2009 a follow-up to this congress will be held.

As of 2005, the new strategic plan 2005-2008 is in effect. Between 2005 and 2008, a deepening and broadening of policy content in order to successfully meet and/or improve EFF goals is key. The EFF strives to develop activities that are geared toward policy and ideology, especially in countries where the EFF has organised general skills training courses in the past. Over the years, requests from EFF partners in Central and Eastern Europe have changed from general skills training to topic-oriented, policy content or ideologically based requests. The demand for general skills training remains significant as attention is shifting to candidate member states and (new) EU neighbouring countries. The EFF regards this as a precursor to mutual collaboration, but requests for content-rich training courses from (new) EU neighbouring countries will remain the EFF's priority.

The EFF Board is grateful to the CDA Foreign Affairs Committee, the CDA Scientific Institute, the Steenkamp Institute, the CDAV (Women's Appeal), and the CDJA (Youth Appeal) for their contribution and commitment. Our compliments must be extended to the EFF trainers who admirably and voluntarily devoted themselves to promoting Christian democracy in Central and Eastern Europe in 2008. Without their efforts and support, the EFF could not exist.

In 2008 five EFF Board Members stepped down as their terms expired. We owe these Board Members our gratitude for their years of commitment, professional input and personal dedication.

MOLDOVA

Old Fountain in Chisinau city park, Moldova



2 | The Eduardo Frei Foundation

Introduction

2008 was a productive year for the CDA Foundation for International Solidarity “Eduardo Frei”. As in previous years, the EFF in 2008 was able to carry out projects on behalf of the development of Christian democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. This takes place on the basis of the subsidy scheme “General Training and Education of Political Officers in Central and Eastern Europe” of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This subsidy scheme forms part of the Societal Transformation Programme (“MATRA”) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which encourages and supports building democracies in Central and Eastern Europe. The Dutch political parties receive funds based on this subsidy scheme to support sister parties. The extent of the funding is based on the number of seats of these political parties in the House of Representatives. Below follows an introduction to the EFF’s working procedure within these fields, after which, in subsequent chapters, a more detailed report is presented of the activities and results of the past year.

Central and Eastern Europe: working procedure

The EFF Board of Directors acts on behalf of the CDA as receiver and custodian of the funds received. The EFF has a strategic, long-term policy plan (2005-2008) as well as an annual plan for 2008 in which priorities and policy have been set out. In addition, the EFF has established a collaborative agreement – pursuant to the MATRA scheme - with its partners for the period 2008-2010. Representatives of all CDA affiliated organisations are on the Board (Steenkamp Institute, CDA Scientific Institute, CDA Society of Municipal and Provincial Council Members, CDA Women’s Council, CDA Youth Appeal) as well as members of the CDA delegation in the EPP Parliamentary Party. In addition, the EFF is guided by the foreign policy as advised by the CDA Committee on Foreign Affairs and as determined by the party’s Executive Committee. The EFF Board convened seven times in 2008.

Pursuant to the conditions of the subsidy scheme, political parties from the following countries are eligible for subsidised schooling activities: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Jordan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The EFF secretariat receives project proposals from sister parties in

Central and Eastern Europe. For each project a goal description, a draft programme and a budget proposal have to be submitted. The proposals are either approved or rejected by the Board depending on the content, the goals and the budget. The Audit Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs subsequently requests extensive financial accounts.

Once each year, a consultation takes place between staff members of the so-called Eastern Europe foundations that are affiliated with Dutch political parties (including the EFF) and staff members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the EFF liaises with foundations for international solidarity which are affiliated with EPP member parties. This network is facilitated by the EPP working Group for Central and Eastern Europe. Foundations collaborate when possible, and, in certain situations, a focused policy may materialise.

Projects in Central and Eastern Europe

In order to facilitate collaboration with Christian democratic parties in Central and Eastern European countries, the EFF Board has determined six categories in which projects can be classified: education and training courses; conferences and congresses; regional projects; technical assistance; student exchanges; and orientation visits.

EFF Board of Directors - 2008

J.P.R.M. van Laarhoven (Chairman)
S. van Oostrom (Treasurer)
B.F.C. Pot (Secretary to the Board)
P. Bukman
Ms. C.J. Dekker
J.J.A.M. van Gennip
B.P.J. van Winsen
J.J.M. Penders
Ms. M.J.Th. Martens
A.N.J. Strijbis
Ms. H.J. van de Streek

The following Board Members have stepped down as their terms expired in 2008: Ms. M.J.Th. Martens, Mr. P. Bukman, Mr. J.J.M. Penders, Mr. J.J.A.M. van Gennip, and Mr. S. van Oostrom.

The following new members have been appointed to the Board in 2008: Ms. C.M. Wortmann-Kool, Ms. A.S. Uitslag, Ms. M. Keijzer, Ms. J.E. Nijman, Mr. D. Vriesendorp, and Mr. W.B. Hoekstra (Treasurer).

Encouraging the debate on development aid - projects

In the spring of 2008 the EFF, together with NCDO's support, started an ongoing dialogue series entitled "Beyond Borders". Seven topics on development aid will be researched over a three-year period: religion, 3D, globalisation, raw material shortage, new donors, democracy, human rights, and the MDGs. Each topic will be researched further during a select experts' meeting in order to crystallize each dilemma. Subsequently, the dilemma will then form the basis of a public meeting.

The first public meeting took place on 3 October 2008 in the "Grote Kerk" (the Great Church) in Breda. The Comprehensive Approach in fragile states – also referred to as the 3D policy: Defence, Development

"3D Conference" at Breda: lively working group discussion. "Over de Dijk" series



and Diplomacy – was the main topic. Prior to this public meeting, a meeting of experts held on 18 June 2008 showed that the various goals of the 3 Ds and the several jargons used are at the root of this dilemma. One hundred and fifty guests listened to the visions of the State Secretary for Defence (De Vries) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Verhagen). The participants had ample opportunity to participate in the debate during sub-pleenary sessions and the interactive “Lagerhuis debat” (a debate programme on Dutch television) facilitated by ICCO, the Netherlands Defence Academy, the Clingendael Institute, and the NIMD.

Religion and development aid - grouped together - was the second in-depth topic discussed in 2008. Continuing attention for the role of religion is of great importance for an effective development aid policy of the Netherlands government. This was the concluding and widely supported statement during a public meeting held in the Bijlmer (subdivision of the city of Amsterdam) on 13 December 2008. Approximately 100 representatives of political parties, social organisations, and institutes of learning took part. The former Minister of Development Co-operation, Van Ardenne, participated as keynote speaker and reiterated the need for a greater role of religion in the development aid policy of the Netherlands government.

Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy (“NIMD”): working procedure

The Netherlands Institute for Multi-party Democracy is an organisation headed by political parties in The Netherlands that supports political parties in emerging democracies. In addition to the CDA, the following six political parties take part as well: PvdA (Dutch Labour Party); VVD (People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy); GroenLinks (GreenLeft); ChristenUnie (ChristianUnion); D66 (Democrats 66); and the SGP (Political Reformed Party). The NIMD was founded in 2000 and collaborates with more than 150 political parties from 17 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs finances the NIMD’s projects. By providing assistance to political parties, the NIMD contributes to the rise of political democracy and social development in young democracies. The NIMD’s activities contribute to credible government in developing countries. Moreover, it is of great importance to actively involve political parties so that the link between government and society is reinforced.

IRI/EFF training course for youth from AK Parti and other parties from Eastern Europe – Izmir, Turkey



Each political party has been assigned a number of countries where to head the NIMD programmes. The following countries have been allocated to the CDA: Bolivia, Ecuador, Mali, Surinam, and Zambia. Individuals from several CDA divisions regularly impart their expertise on behalf of the NIMD on topics ranging from promoting political dialogue on constitutional reform or reinforcing the position of women in politics.

European Network of Political Foundations (“ENoP”)¹

The EFF is a member of ENoP. The ENoP, established in 2006, is a co-operation structure, serving as a communication and dialogue instrument between European political foundations and the Institutions of the European Union as well as civil society actors in the fields of democracy promotion and development co-operation. Further to that it provides services to its members to promote their integration into the respective programmes of the European Union. The network presently counts more than 50 member foundations from more than 20 countries (within the EU as well as candidate nations). The members are close to the five major party families (ALDE, EPP-ED,

¹ These two paragraphs taken verbatim from ENoP’s website: www.european-network-of-political-foundations.eu

GUE/NGL, Greens/EFA, SPE) represented in the European Parliament belonging to the democratic spectrum but independent of these in their decision making and financing of international projects.

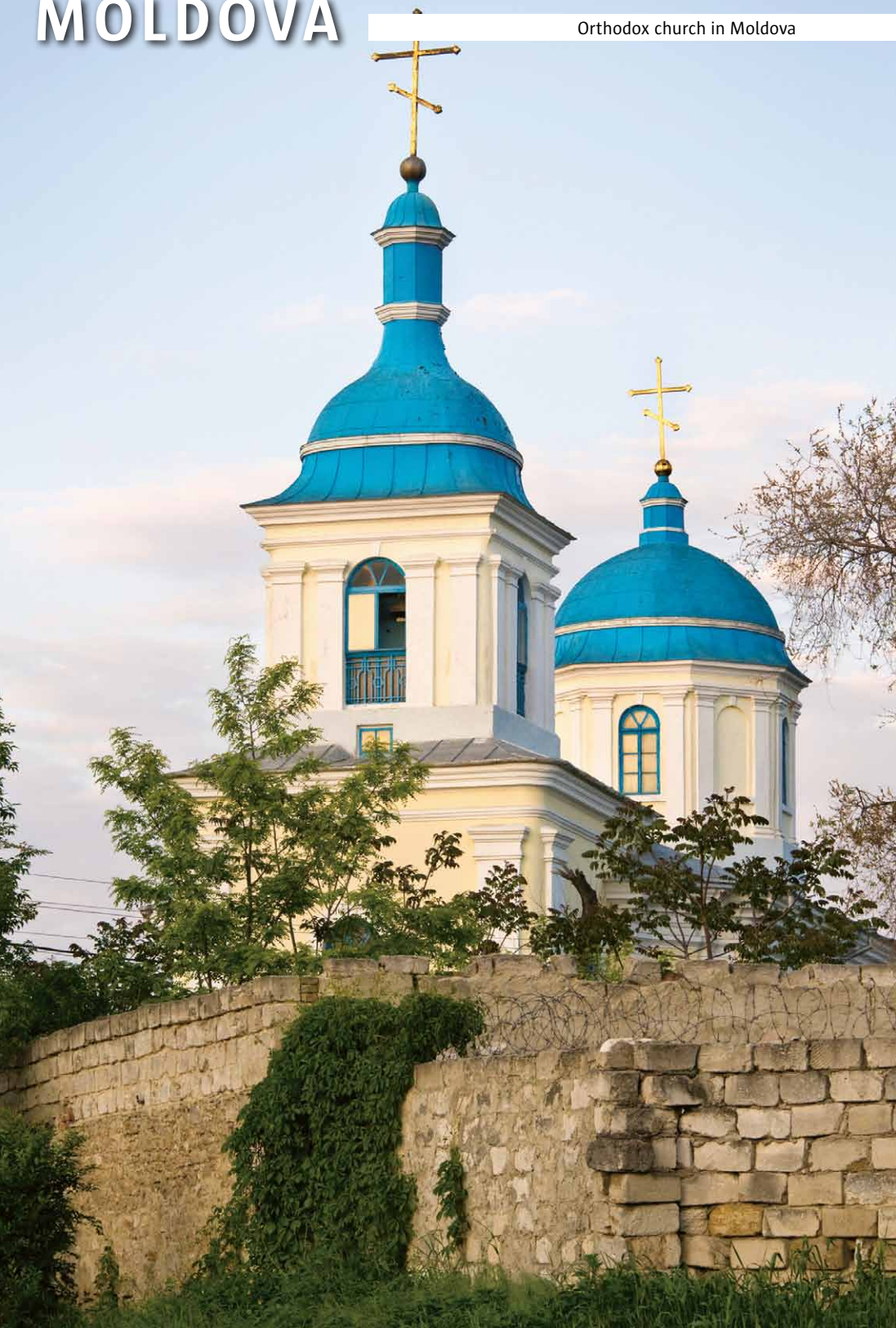
The activities of political foundations in the fields of democracy promotion and development include public campaigning and awareness building, advocacy, and lobbying political institutions and decision makers in their respective countries. The main focus, however, is on the implementation of democracy promotion and development projects with local partners in more than 100 developing and transition countries throughout the world.

Aliaksandr Milinkevich – former Presidential candidate for the opposition parties in 2006 – speaker on the Belarus conference in Vilnius, Lithuania



MOLDOVA

Orthodox church in Moldova



3 | Projects in Central and Eastern Europe

In the preceding chapters, the EFF's working procedure and in which countries the EFF may carry out projects were examined. In this chapter, the projects that were carried out in 2008 will be described per country. Please note that EFF trainers only are mentioned. Often, trainers from other countries are present who have been asked to attend on behalf of the fellow organising party.

3.1 - Armenia

The EFF has wanted to become active in Armenia for some time. To that purpose, it organised a fact-finding mission to Armenia in 2007. On the basis of this mission, the Board suggested to set up training courses for political youth organisations in Armenia starting in 2009.

Member of the European Parliament, Corien Wortmann, surrounded by Moldovan guests and members of the CDA's youth organisation during an informative evening meeting on Moldova



3.2 – Bosnia Herzegovina

Affiliate: Konrad Adenauer Foundation (“KAS”)

Participating political parties: Democratic Action (“SDA”), Croatian Democratic Party of BiH (“HDZBiH”), HDZ 1990, and the Party of Democratic Progress (“PDP”)

Trainers: Lukas van Fessem, Fenny Helfferich, Joost van Iersel, Peter Noordhoek, Frank Pynenburg, and Arnold van Velzen

Context

Bosnia Herzegovina continues to struggle with the process of reforms more than 10 years after the war has ended. Ethnic strife and mutual distrust make for a very fragmented government. The Bosnian Serbs demand more autonomy and strive for a confederal type of government. The situation blocks reforms that are of utmost importance to the development of the country.

Project: ‘Political Academy’ – youth seminars for EPP affiliated parties in Bosnia Herzegovina

In 2008 three training courses were held within the Political Academy’s framework. The courses taught practical topics such as campaign communication skills, general campaign skills and standard topics for centre-right political parties’ manifests. The participants were youth and senior members from political parties.

The first course held in Mostar featured campaign techniques. A Bosnian associate provided information on the new Elections Act. Polls and surveys are highly unusual in Bosnia Herzegovina and professional campaign managers are rare. A second course held in Banja Luka focused on the use of media. First, a discussion was held with a Bosnian associate on freedom of the media in Bosnia Herzegovina. Next, the trainers focused on the relationship between the media and politics and on using the media as a means in itself. The final course taught personal communication skills for youth and for the attending politicians.

The participants indicated they had been taught in-depth skills. The three courses facilitated a coming together of separate ethnic parties

that share a focus on centre-right politics. The programme and its positive outcome resulted in a steadfast goal to continue the activities.

Project: regional conference for young EPP politicians from BaH

Forty young politicians from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Slovenia attended the conference. The conference focused on the role of youth in politics in general, the role political parties can play for a stable Balkan region (emphasising the economy and demographic ageing) as well as the possibility of having the Balkan region join the European Union. Speakers and working groups imparted information to participants, who, in turn, shared their knowledge. The Dutch contribution highlighted specifically the CDA Youth organisation. An unmistakable difference that surfaced was that Dutch youth join political parties mainly to participate in the democratic process while youth from the Balkan join political parties in the hope of securing employment.

Jos Denissen heads a training course on Christian democratic values in politics for young politicians from the Balkan and Eastern Europe



Project: conference on economics

On 24 April 2008 a conference was held in Sarajevo on the role of dialogue on socio-economic issues to effect socio-economic development in Bosnia Herzegovina. The topic was brought forward during four sessions. First of all, the goal, purpose and structure of socio-economic dialogue were discussed. Subsequently, several socio-economic models of different European countries were examined. During the third session, the socio-economic situation at hand in Bosnia Herzegovina was discussed, and, in closing, priorities were set for further developing the dialogue.

The conference gave rise to a publication drafted by the conference's senior speakers on the topic of the current socio-economic dialogue in Bosnia Herzegovina as well as on the socio-economic dialogue as held in European Union member states such as the Netherlands and Slovakia. Also, the current situation in surrounding countries such as Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia were discussed and compared with the situation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Conclusion

Bringing together several political parties in Bosnia Herzegovina was important and worthwhile. The dialogue on socio-economic topics and its regional context are important to this country. The situation in Bosnia Herzegovina remains difficult, but the emphasis placed on training courses, the socio-economic dialogue and the bringing together of participants from various Balkan countries will continue to be a priority of the EFF.

3.3 – Bulgaria

Affiliate: Agrarian People's Union

Participating political party: Agrarian People's Union ("APU")

Trainers: *Geert Meijering and Bronne Pot*

Context

On 1 January 2007 Bulgaria and Romania acceded to the European Union subject to strict provisions. Both countries remain under supervision by the European Commission. In 2008 a highly critical report by the European Commission was published on corruption and the role of organised crime in Bulgaria. The European Commission has decided to freeze nearly Euro 1 billion in subsidies as a warning.

Project: policy conference on agriculture

On 18 and 19 October 2008 a conference was held on agriculture in Stambolijski, a city situated in the centre of an important agricultural region in Bulgaria. An additional reason for holding a conference in this city was to show that politics is not confined to the city of Sofia alone. More than 250 participants from political parties, parliamentary (agricultural) committees, agricultural and horticultural organisations as well as policy officers and students took part. The conference focused on two main topics: the actual political problems agriculture faces in Bulgaria and the socio-economic problems (financial crisis, fluctuating market forces) as well as the long-term outlook of agriculture in Bulgaria with regard to sufficient, secure food supplies, converting to sustainable agriculture, climate change, and reforms in European agricultural policies.

The conference's concluding statements indicated that, first and foremost, agricultural security issues should be more visible on the political agenda. Population growth, world trade, climate change, and speculative activity facing food supplies have rendered Bulgarian agriculture far more unstable than before. Second, a proper debate on European agricultural reforms has not started yet. Bulgarian politicians must make a concerted effort thereto.

Project: training course for young politicians

In November 2008, 60 youth took part in a two-day training course. The majority of the participants were from the APU party and one-third of the participants came from two other centre-right parties: LIDER and VMRO. The youth's goal is to enter elections jointly in the spring of 2009.

The course comprised two parts: the Dutch component of the course dealt with campaign techniques, campaign management and the role of youth. The Bulgarian component of the course consisted of an interactive workshop and teambuilding. The participants learnt how Dutch youth organisations co-operate on a number of topics and now are able to communicate and run campaigns methodically with the aid of SMART and SWOT analyses as well as better understand group processes and mutual co-operation.

The second day of training focused on teambuilding in order to solidify co-operation between different youth branches. By means of theory and practice, the participants gained insight into teamwork and decision making processes, which will serve them well during the elections in the spring of 2009.

Jeroen de Graaf heads a training course on socio-economic affairs for young politicians from various Eastern European countries



3.4 - Georgia

Affiliate: Georgian Youth Christian Democratic Association (“SAQDA”)

Participating party: SAQDA

Trainers: Arjen Berkvens, Titus Frankemölle, Jan Mulder, Meus van der Poel, Bronne Pot, Eiko Smid, Jeroen de Veth, and Lucie Wigboldus

Context

2008 was a politically turbulent year: both the parliamentary and presidential elections were held. The United National Movement won the parliamentary elections and was asked to form a government. With the exception of the new Christian Democratic Movement, most opposition parties denounced the elections’ outcome by not joining Parliament. The presidential elections were won by seated President Saakashvili. The opposition was not able to bring forward a candidate and consequently remained divided. From 7 to 12 August a war was waged in South Ossetia resulting in a decline of the population’s trust in the President. The opposition parties have called on him to resign; however, viable alternatives to his presidency are not at hand.

Remarkably, church-going youth are on the increase and progressive take religion more seriously, which indicates that religion offers a mainstay in uncertain times.

Project: series of content-rich seminars

Approximately two months after the August 2008 war in Georgia had ended, the EFF organised a three-day training course on NATO with a Dutch and Georgian trainer. The part of the course taught by the Dutch trainer comprised the following: principles and basic aspects of crisis management and co-operation; interregional organisations such as NATO, the European Union, the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the African Union; and the NATO and EU’s in-depth decision making and crisis management processes. Lastly, the Russian-Georgian conflict (August 2008) was discussed whereby the Dutch trainer adjusted the Georgians’ expectation of NATO’s role in this conflict. The general assumption is that membership in NATO is the solution, but focusing on internal matters is just as important: internal stability, democratic politics,

corruption, the role of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the region of south Caucasus and their relation with Russia. Heated, but also in-depth and academic discussions ensued. The trainers told the participants that young academics must show responsibility and pave the way for democratic solutions that will help stabilise Georgia's situation.

Series of afternoon seminars

In addition to the training courses, nine afternoon seminars were held in the fall of 2008 and in the spring of 2009. Debates on two consecutive Saturdays each month attended by 35 to 55 participants on topics ranging from state reforms, the economy, NATO, and the Russian-Georgian conflict were held as well. The war in Georgia hindered the start of the tenth seminar. A few well-known Georgian experts took part in the debates: Irakli Aldashvili (conflict expert) and Gia Jandieri (economics expert).

The much appreciated seminars allowed the participants to reflect, which is of great importance if one's country is embroiled in conflict situations and where democracy is being challenged on a daily basis.

Project: campaign training

In the run-up to the 2008 parliamentary elections, a two-day campaign training course was held that focused on the following topics: theory of political communication, day-to-day campaign situations, and how to apply new media techniques in politics. In addition to Dutch trainers, Georgian trainers honed in on specific Georgian situations.

Project: training course on multi-party systems

For a number of years, the Alfred Moser Foundation together with the VVD and the EFF organise "Leadership Academy" courses in Georgia that are attended by members of five political parties (opposition parties as well as the governing United National Movement) from Georgia and several NGOs. The mountain village of Bakuriani shows that, despite great differences, mutual co-operation is possible.

During a three-day period, a talented and dedicated group of participants received training in the following three European ideologies:

Liberalism, Christian democracy and Social democracy. Following that, the participants had to draft a political party programme based on each of the three ideologies.

Trainer Arjen Berkvens headed the second day of training on strategy and election campaigns followed by an exercise – accompanied by a remarkable degree of ground-breaking candour - during which the participants had to analyse their own party. In a separate exercise, the participants had to condense their party programme into a voter-friendly message by means of applying the theory of communication. The third day focused on presentation skills and saw each participant give a one-minute speech in front of the camera. The course's final, and highly successful, component was a mock election debate with a fictional Prime Minister who had to defend before three opposition parties (Social democrats, Christian democrats and Liberals) a 1 billion US dollar cut in national defence expenditures. The mock debate showed that the younger generation seems to be just as temperamental and intense as Georgian politicians.

The majority of the participants deemed the course very satisfactory, albeit that some participants indicated that it was too short. The course evaluation shows that the participants have more understanding for their political opponents and they hope that the future will prove that mutual co-operation is possible. Continuance of the training course is desirable.

Conclusion

In Georgia, politics forms a lively part of everyday life which is underlined by the fact that the EFF training courses in Georgia are popular among the participants. The EFF courses offer a well-balanced curriculum in skills training and content-rich seminars. In 2008, a new Christian democratic party was elected to Parliament. The EFF will investigate whether this new party warrants a dialogue.

3.5 - Croatia

Affiliate: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (“KAS”) - Croatia

Participating party: the Croatian Democratic Party (“HDZ”)

Trainer: Gerard van Wissen

Context

In the latest parliamentary elections, the HDZ gained the most seats. In 2008 Croatia continued the important selection processes for accession to the European Union and NATO. In 2007 the HDZ founded its own training institute: the “Political Academy”. This will enable the HDZ to train youth (and politicians) who are interested in becoming active in politics or aspire to become civil servants.

Project: summer and winter school

The three-day winter school courses focused on legislative, economic and educational reforms as well as on the use of the (print) media and the role of Christian democracy in politics whereby the relation between civil society and the government stood central.

The three-day summer school courses too focused on reforms – with specific emphasis on market economy – and use of the media and international politics.

Both schools form part of the HDZ’s Political Academy and offer participants the possibility to immerse and come across related topics such as necessary media reforms. Participants learn how to convey to the public (difficult) messages on reform via the media, gain a better understanding of Christian democracy, civics, the role of the government, and international organisations such as the EU.

Publication: Political Academy course manual

In 2007 a course manual was published after the Sipan Summer School courses on the complexity of the Balkan region, NATO, regional co-operation, and the rule of law with regard to accession to the European Union had come to a close. This 277-page manual comprises contributions from all the Political Academy’s speakers. The

four chapters address the following respective topics: the European Union; NATO; stability and peace in the region; and Serbia. The manual is a valuable reference book for participants of the Sipan Summer School and those who share an interest in the topics that were discussed during the summer school courses.

Conclusion

In 2008 HDZ members attended the first course at their own Political Academy. Party executives and members can attend these politics related courses. Over a six-month period, participants representing all of Croatia's regions attend classes in Zagreb - on every other Saturday - on topics ranging from HDZ ideology, communication skills and the English language. The EFF provided support for the summer and winter school courses.

Gerard van Wissen heads a training course on Christian democracy and civil society for members of the HDZ Political Academy in Croatia



3.6 - Macedonia

Affiliate: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (“KAS”)

Participating parties: VMRO-DPMNE and DPA

Trainers: Rijk van Ark, Annet Doesburg, Frank van den Heuvel, Meus van der Poel, Eiko Smid, Hester Tjalma, and Patricia Wouda

Context

The EFF has held training courses in Macedonia since 2006. Most often, the courses focus on specific skills and the workings of democracy. The courses’ topics - scheduled to be taught in 2008 - were the 2009 local and presidential elections. After NATO refused Macedonia’s bid for membership in 2008, the Macedonian Parliament dissolved itself. Consequently, parliamentary elections were held in 2008 instead of 2010.

Project: the ‘Political Academy’ – profiling political leaders

In 2008, four training courses – geared toward five different electoral districts - focused on communication and campaign skills for youth from VMRO-DPMNE and the ethnic Albanian DPA. After the elections, the new party “New Democracy” – a DPA splinter party - took part in the training courses. The participants highly appreciated the interactive dynamics, mutual communication and the competitive element that surfaced while working in teams.

Conclusion

Due to the fact that elections were held early, training courses could not be taught in all six electoral districts. By “combining” adjacent electoral districts, the six districts were covered after all. A total of 104 youth attended the training courses. The participants showed great interest and insisted there should be follow-up courses as neither these courses nor the specific content are offered by Macedonian institutions. Ethnically diverse participants that hail from the same electoral district made contact during the training course – otherwise unheard of in Macedonia - which underlines the added value of the EFF course. The participants made it known that they would like to stay in touch with fellow participants and improve mutual co-operation.

The 2007 evaluation shows that a number of participants have taken up executive positions within youth organisations or have become chairperson of a local or regional branch. Youth branches of Macedonian political parties will remain the EFF's focus in the years to come.

3.7 - Moldova

Affiliate: the Foundation for Christian Democracy - Moldova

Participating party: Partidul Popular Crestin Democrat ("PPCD")

Trainers: Rijk van Ark, Lukas van Fessem, Jan van Laarhoven, Harry van der Molen, Herman de Vries, Gijs Weenink, and Kilian Wawoe

Context

In April 2009 parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held in Moldova. The training courses in 2008 therefore dealt with communication skills, dealing with the press and the relationship between politics and the media. The training courses are geared toward youth from the PPCD: the "PPCD Noue Generatia".

Summer school: political campaign management (24 June - 1 July)

Thirty youth from all Moldovan regions attended the eight-day intensive course. An EFF trainer focused on the theory of communication on the first day of classes. Local trainers took over for the remainder of the week and focused on the following topics: campaign management; develop a campaign master plan; public speaking; internal and external party communication; and managing press conferences. Mr. Iurie Rosca – PPCD Party Leader – gave a presentation on the role of youth in Moldova. Mr. Vlad Cubreacov – PPCD Deputy Chairman – gave a presentation on Christian democracy in Moldova. Ms. Valentina Serpu – a Member of Parliament – gave a presentation on healthcare reform and socio-economic legislation. She provided a glance of the future necessary reforms Moldova must go through in order to meet European standards.

Summer school: political communication (24 - 31 August)

Twenty-six PPCD NG youth from different Moldovan regions attended the training course. The training course's main theme was akin to the course held in June. The participants handed in application forms with motivation letters beforehand.

During the first two days, elections management stood central. In groups of five, the participants had to establish their own political

party, select candidates and prepare elections for public office. Supporting flyers and newspapers had to be designed as well. Political ideology and autonomous PPCD organisations - such as the women's organisation - and communication skills were discussed during the following days. On the fifth day, Mr. Secareanu - Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Moldovan Parliament – discussed the PPCD's ideological values and the state and legislative reforms necessary to improve human rights in Moldova within the next 10 years. Subsequently, the EFF trainer provided useful, practical tips on (the theory of) public speaking. On the seventh (and final) day, practical training followed on drafting press releases, the role of the press officer and how politicians should liaise with the media.

Project: seminar on politics and the media

The first day of training focused on the media landscape in Moldova, the role the media play in democracies and setting up a proper press

Study visit to the Netherlands by 10 Moldovan members of the PPCD NG – Rotterdam Harbour



division within a political party. On the second day, Dutch trainers discussed the theory of political marketing and communication. Central to this second training were the following topics: dealing with the press; drafting a press release; the SMART method; and the SWOT analysis method. The training was interspersed with practical examples and exercises. Thirty PPCD NG members took part in the three-day training course.

Project: conference on the role of young people in democracy building and supporting Christian democracy in Moldova (28 September) - Chisinau

The conference was attended by 508 participants from 31 different Moldovan regions and each region was represented by a minimum of three to a maximum of 80 participants (from the capital). The participants were politically active members of the PPCD as well as “regular” members. The mean age was 20 years. The speakers were leaders from the PPCD NG, the PPCD as well as the EFF Chairman. The sessions dealt with elections in different countries; supporting Christian democratic values in politics; the role of women in politics; and the role of youth in supporting community spirit.

Project: ‘Christian Democratic Young Political Leaders II’ – series of seminars

In the fall of 2008, a series of afternoon seminars were held on political and communication topics from 1 October to 17 December 2008, following a series held in 2007. The seminars lasted six hours each and were held in the capital of Chisinau. Thirty participants took part. The following topics were discussed: Christian democratic ideology and the relation between the PPCD and the EPP; the Moldovan political party system; the Moldovan electoral system; election campaigns; international security issues; Moldovan socio-economic legislation; and good governance. On the final day, each participant received a certificate.

A select group of PPCD NG members attended the three successful afternoon seminars. The addressed topics were much appreciated by the participants and the intention is to offer the courses again in the future.

3.8 – Ukraine

Affiliate: the Institute of Political Education (“IPE”) - Ukraine

Participating parties: Our Ukraine and the CDU

Trainers: Nico van Buren, Jan van Laarhoven, Albert Schol, Arnold van Velzen, Herman de Vries, Christof Wielemaker, and Bart van Winsen

Context

The fall of 2008 proved to be a turbulent political season in Ukraine. In September, President Yushenko’s Our Ukraine party withdrew from the governing coalition - of which Prime Minister Julia Timoshenko forms part - as a law draft was submitted that would limit some of the President’s administrative powers. After a power struggle, Parliament was dissolved and new elections were called. The financial crisis halted the call for new elections. On 16 December 2008, both parties formed a new coalition together with the Lytvyn Blok. (The EFF focuses mainly on local politics.)

Project: training course for local councillors

For many years now, the EFF’s training courses in Ukraine focus on local government in particular. The Institute of Political Education and the EFF are of the opinion that they assist a specific target group by doing so. The great number of participants confirms the need of these training courses. In 2008 five training courses were held for councillors and assistants, of which three were held in Kiev, Lviv and the Krim region.

The structure of most training courses is identical and focuses on the work and responsibilities of local parties. The Dutch trainers pay particular attention to the division of power between the Municipal Executive and the Municipal Council; accountability to citizens; budget cycles and budget control; the relationship between the state and local government; and administrative transparency. The Ukrainian trainers focused on the situation in Ukraine and showed the link between Ukraine law and arising social situations.

Conclusion

After the training courses had ended, the participants were well informed of Ukraine's budgetary checks and balances system. Furthermore, they gained insight into the vertical and horizontal dimensions of state - such as the division of powers - as well as on ethics and good governance. The participants were appreciative of the successful training courses. In recent years, a number of participants have acquired high positions in politics on both regional and national levels. In addition to training council members, it is important to focus on (their) assistants as well as they "learn on the job" and receive no training in public administration.

Project: summer school for young leaders

The five-day summer school for youth 17 to 24 years of age was held just outside of Kiev. Approximately 35 participants took part in the training. The training courses focused on campaign methodology and campaign skills, new campaign techniques, public speaking, debating techniques, and the Netherlands' decentralised unitary government as opposed to the Ukrainian central government. The participants visited the Ukraine Parliament and Kiev's city hall. Furthermore, a speech was held on anti-corruption measures in Ukraine.

The study week was greatly appreciated by the participants. The demanding introduction to parliamentary democracy was remarkable taking the participants' relatively young age into account. They were taught communication skills and were introduced, in an interactive manner, to some of their own country's institutes.

3.9 – The Robert Schuman Institute

Affiliate: the Robert Schuman Institute (“RSI”)

Participating parties: several EPP-affiliated parties from Central and Eastern Europe

Trainers: Jos Denissen, Annet Doesburg, Jeroen de Graaf, Jan van Laarhoven, Peter Noordhoek, Peter Stein, Gijs Weenink, and Bart van Winsen

The EFF and the Robert Schuman Institute have co-operated since the early 1990s with regard to training courses for youth from political parties. Many youth have taken part in these courses. Initially, participants from countries that now form part of the European Union attended the courses, followed later by participants from the Balkan and Eastern Europe. The Young Leaders course is the longest running training course and has been taught 15 times. The participants represented the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, and Ukraine. The participants gather three times, for one week of training each time, to discuss a myriad of topics. During each ensuing week of training, the bar is raised. A substantial number of participants have since made a career in politics in their respective countries.

Project: Young Leaders XIV/3 – social and economic challenges

The third (and final) training course entitled “Young Leaders” was held at the beginning of 2008. This was the final of week of the Young Leaders course which started in 2007. The participants gained knowledge on the following topics: interpreting economic data; economies in transition; globalisation; privatisation; the banking system; the EU’s economic policy; welfare states; the importance of civil society with regard to reforming the social benefits system; the pension system; and population ageing. Specific attention was paid to personal growth and leadership qualities.

9b Young Leaders XV/1 – basics of democracy

The course entitled “The Basics of Democracy” will cover a three-week period during which participants will be taught the principles

of democracy. In the first week the importance of the following topics were discussed: co-operation; the workings of democracy; political party ideologies; politicians' roles; minorities; gender; dealing with special interest groups; public speaking; and the proper use of communication tools. On the final day, the participants gave presentations on the political situation in their own countries. Based on these presentations, they prioritized topics for the following two courses.

Project: Young Leaders XV/2 – international and security issues

The second course week started with a training course on debating skills, and then shifted its focus to international politics: the Cold War period; NATO and its future; the principles and the workings of the EU; the EU's foreign policy; the international energy policy; demographics and immigration; and the role of emerging countries such as China and India. The theoretical lessons were alternated with practical tasks during which participants had to apply their own country's national situation.

Conclusion

The participants who attended the above-mentioned courses are well informed of the principles of democracy, international politics and socio-economic developments. The variety of topics allows the participants to understand the relation between ideological values and fact-based topics and to communicate about these issues in public. These training courses are demanding and the participants are not spared. This course has turned exhaustive over the years and will remain to be taught in the future.

Added projects

Media and Politics VII/1 – media relations and political public relations Media and Politics VII/2 – public appearances and crisis situations

In addition to the usual contribution to the Young Leaders programme, the EFF co-operated with the Robert Schuman Institute with regard to the training courses on Media and Politics (VII/1 and VII/2). The EFF did not exceed its budget by adding these two projects.

The first day of training focused on team building, verbal and non-verbal means of communication and rhetoric. In the following days, training ensued on these topics: public speaking skills (training recorded on video tape); examining the transparency of political parties' websites; campaign management; media and ethics; independence; research; SWOT analysis; new media techniques; and analyses of the internet campaign in the recent US elections.

During the second week of training, the following topics stood central: the recent elections held in Austria, Hungary and the United States of America as well as campaign techniques. In the following days, training continued on these topics: television commercials; analysis of communication skills during the 1956 revolution in Hungary and during the unrest in Budapest in 2006; television and radio addresses; and press conferences. The week ended with a training course on how to communicate effectively during a political crisis situation.

Bart van Winsen during a Robert Schuman Institute/ EFF training course on NATO and international affairs, Budapest



3.10 – Romania

Affiliate: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Romania)

Participating party: the Democratic Liberal Party (“PD-L”)

Trainers: Ellettha Schoustra, Hillie van de Streek and Monique Vogelaar

The political party landscape in Romania is unruly. Although Romania acceded to the European Union in 2007, a number of changes to the Elections Act, (internal) political conflicts and the impeachment of the President in 2007 as the year’s high point, were followed by a referendum on the President’s electoral victory. The Romanian political parties are still reinforcing democracy. The Democratic Party - formerly a social-democratic party that has made a radical switch to a more centre-right party in keeping with the European People’s Party – searches for an ideological foundation and a more effective, internal party structure. A well-functioning political party with a clear programme is important as it adds to the stability of Romania’s democratic legal system. The PD’s internal organisations are the women’s organisation and the youth and students’ organisations. These organisations will be supported by the EFF and KAS’ programme from 2008 to 2010.

On 15 December 2007, the Liberal Party of Romania joined the Democratic Party. Hence the new name (while remaining a member of the EPP): the Democratic Liberal Party (“PD-L”). On 30 November 2008, the PD-L gained the most seats in the national elections.

Project: series of training courses for women

In 2008 the EFF dedicated all of its training courses to the DP-L’s women branch. Four training courses for 120 women were held in Cluj, Iasi, Mangalia, and Timisoara – spanning the entire country.

As a rule, the programme consists of two parts: a training course on presentation skills and a content-based training. Romanian lecturers headed the content-based training which focused on education policies. The presentation skills training focused on the institutional reinforcement of the women’s branch.

After each training course had ended, the women were able to better present themselves and had gained more knowledge on how to organise and profile their own organisation. In addition, they gained more self-confidence which will allow them to build a powerful base to counter the male-dominated political culture that bars women from entering politics.

3.11 – Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia

Affiliate: Konrad Adenauer Foundation (“KAS”)

Participating parties: DSS and G17PLUS (Serbia), LDK (Kosovo) and several Montenegrin parties (via the government’s Gender Equality Office)

Trainers: Nico van Buren, Jos Denissen, Gerda Kempen, Monique Vogelaar, Klaas-Jan de Vries, Kilian Wawoe, and Gijs Weenink

Context

On 17 February 2008, the Kosovo Parliament declared independence unilaterally from a perturbed Serbia. (The state union of Serbia and Montenegro was dissolved in 2006.) In the weeks before and after this event, much unrest was evident in both Kosovo and Serbia. This will take its toll on the EFF training courses for which youth from different Balkan countries gather in order to attend summer schools in Serbia and the youth conference in Bosnia Herzegovina. In July 2008, Radovan Karadzic was captured and handed over to the ICTY in The Hague. Serbia has been seeking closer ties to the EU since then.

Project: the ‘Regional Democratic School’ (Serbia)

The goal of the Regional Democratic School (“the School”) is threefold: contribute to the development of participating political parties within the interregional framework (the former region of Yugoslavia); add to the participants’ knowledge base of political communication skills; and motivate participants to co-operate on an interregional level.

The training course was held in Palic, Serbia, from 6 to 12 July 2008. Twenty participants from Serbia and surrounding nations took part. Three topics stood central during the training: teamwork, different political systems, and the interactive use of the latter two by the participants themselves.

The participants have gained more insight into group dynamics, teamwork and leadership qualities and improved their public speaking skills. In addition, they learnt about different political systems, the principles of democracy, the European integration process, the

role of Christian democratic parties in international politics, and electoral systems.

The School shows clearly the necessity of gathering youth from the former Yugoslavia and encourage regional co-operation. The training course on group dynamics in particular was much appreciated by the participants who are expected to apply the same training within their own organisations.

Project: seminars for women members of political parties (Montenegro)

Twenty-four women from the entire political spectrum took part in three two-day courses. The courses were organised together with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Montenegrin Gender Equality Office. Montenegrin society shows a stereotypical division of work between men and women: politics is a man's domain. Thus, many women are not aware of the fact - or lack confidence - that a political or civil service career is a distinct possibility. In this setting, three training courses were held in order to motivate the participants to take part in politics on a larger scale and to provide them with those skills necessary to make public appearances.

The topic of the first training course was "democracy and the role of political parties". Theoretical knowledge on the workings of democracy and multi-party systems was the central theme in this training course. The participants were challenged to explain their personal ideological motivation to one another. By means of a practical assignment containing several party ideologically based perspectives, a macro-economic plan had to be drafted for each of their respective countries.

The second training course dealt with political communication and rhetoric. The participants were handed theoretical and practical tools on public speaking. By means of video recording, each individual was trained separately.

The third course dealt with the topic of the European Union with regard to the "Stabilisation and Association Agreement" that was signed in 2007 by Montenegro and the EU. The workings of the European Union were discussed by means of theory alone. The second

part of the training combined the topical lessons along with debating skills. First, the participants each had to give a speech, after which a debate followed that incorporated skills learnt in a previous course.

Conclusion

The participants gained more insight into the background of political movements and the policies that are born from party ideology. They are better equipped to organise public appearances and communicate in a political setting. Moreover, the training course adds to building a multi-party network for women.

This leaves unaddressed the fact that applying political values remains an abstract idea as was shown during the first training course. The participants' level of knowledge with regard to implementing concrete ideas, drafting policy analyses and applying methodology and techniques is low. Appreciation for the training courses was evident, but the need for these courses remains obvious. Thus, the training courses will be repeated - this time for women - in 2009.

Project: training course for young LDK politicians (Kosovo)

In November and December 2008, two training courses were held for LDK youth in Kosovo. Central to these training courses were the principles of democracy, as was the case in previous years when Kosovo formed part of Serbia. Now that Kosovo is a young democracy, the principles of democracy remain an important topic. The first course focused on the significance of a political party, political ideology, and the notions of freedom, sovereignty and human rights within a nation state. The political situation in Kosovo was analysed – and solutions sought in groups – by means of topics of discussion initiated by the participants: an independent justice system and better implementation of existing laws.

The second training course taught communication skills. The theory of communication stood central resulting in the following practical communication skills being taught: verbal and non-verbal communication, debating techniques, persuasiveness, disproving arguments, providing feedback to opponents' arguments, and recapping a debate.

Conclusion

The practical and active aspects of the training courses solicited appreciative remarks from the participants. They have become more knowledgeable about the workings of democracy, and are able to communicate effectively and convincingly within a political context. The EFF and KAS are of the opinion that they are able to contribute significantly to political education and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Project: training course for LDK women (Kosovo)

The LDK has many women members. However, this fact is not reflected in the positions these women members take up within the LDK party. This is inherent to the traditional culture as well as the fact that social structures and the educational system are not sufficiently adapted to motivate women to go into politics. The two workshops were designed to motivate women members and change the role of women within the party. The trainers provided inspiring examples and best practices about women’s participation in Germany and the Netherlands. The women were taught the following with regard to debating and communication skills: drafting concise statements and managing opposing viewpoints.

The women participants appreciated the practical, active and foreign content aspects of the training course. A follow-up to these training courses is necessary in order to motivate the LDK women to turn the women’s organisation within the LDK party into an (autonomous) organisation which will serve as a springboard.

Training sessions in Kosovo



3.12 – Turkey

Affiliate: the International Republican Institute

Participating political parties: AK Parti (“AKP”) and alternating EPP-affiliated parties from Eastern Europe

Trainers: Jeroen Altingh von Geusau, Jeroen de Graaf, Jan Jaap van Halem, Hans Janssens, and Bronne Pot

Context

Following a fact-finding mission in 2006, training courses were started in 2008. The EFF focuses in particular on youth from the AKP Party, but youth from surrounding Eastern European nations can attend as well. In 2008, the EFF held two training courses instead of the single course that had been planned originally.

The AKP has been in power since 2002 and holds a majority in Parliament. Their majority representation increased after the 2007 elections. However, in recent years the secular political groups’ suspicion of the AKP has grown. During the first course, the EFF dedicated a morning session to the history of secularisation in Western Europe. The participants’ diverse backgrounds with regard to religion and nationality made for an extended discussion on the separation of state and church and on religious inspiration and politics.

Project: two training courses for youth from the AKP and surrounding nations

The three-day training course taught participants communication and campaign skills. Participants from Albania (Democratic Party), Bulgaria (GERB), Croatia (HDZ and HSS), Macedonia (VMRO-DPMNE and New Democracy), Montenegro (Movement for Changes), Romania (PD-L), Serbia (G-17 and DSS) and Turkey (50% of participants) took part. The first course emphasised the importance of the voters survey, collaborating with focus groups and why election messages succeed or fail to deliver. The second day of the course dealt with secularisation and the theory of political communication during elections. On the third day, the participants were taught how to form an election team and rebrand a political party.

The second course was nearly identical to the first course, albeit it for the different trainers and participants. Both courses were attended by an AKP party committee member who elaborated on his motivation to enter politics.

The participants' evaluation forms indicated that they greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend the training courses. They gained a better understanding of different electoral communication techniques and campaign management techniques. As a result, they are better equipped to contribute constructively to their own party's campaigns.

Participants of both courses indicated that their main interest lies in learning practical skills that allow them to work in politics. They regard these skills as indispensable for political leadership. In the following courses, the EFF however will endeavour to use more thematic topics as was the case in the first training course. In addition to the Turkish participants, the groups will continue to be made up of participants from other nations, such as the Balkan. These courses add to a better understanding of different (political) cultures of the respective countries. Also, several participants are affiliated with opposition parties or the ruling party, which, in turn, further encourages the in-class debate and the learning process when training is in progress.

Youth from AK Parti and other parties from Eastern Europe – Izmir, Turkey



3.13 – Belarus

Affiliate: Jaunieji Krikščionys demokratai (“JKD” – the Christian democratic party of Lithuania)

Participating parties: the Belarusian Popular Front Party (“BPF”), Youth Christian-Social Union “Young Democrats” (“YCSU”), Malady Front (“MF”), and the Belarusian Association of Young Politicians

Trainers: *Aart van Bochove, Michiel van Butselaar, Douwe Gerlof Heeringa, Gijs Weenink, and Patricia Wouda*

Context

Due to the perilous situation in Belarus, training courses for Belarus members of the opposition are held in Lithuania. These training courses are organised together with the JKD, a long-time EFF partner. The JKD itself has participated in EFF-MATRA training courses, and, as a result, now heads training courses for Belarus opposition members.

In 1994 President Lukashenko took presidential office in Belarus. During the first years of Lukashenko’s administration, there was ample opportunity for opposition members to form a true opposition. Since 2000, the situation with regard to the opposition members has deteriorated, and, since 2004, not a single member of the opposition has been elected to Parliament. Consequently, the opposition has weakened significantly.

On 26 September 2008, parliamentary elections were held in Belarus. It was of great importance that the opposition would gain seats in Parliament. In light of the upcoming parliamentary elections, the EFF held three seminars before the summer recess so that the parties’ campaigns and candidates could still benefit from the seminars. One of the participants – Aleksandr Shumkevich – officially stood as candidate.

Project: a practical seminar on elections

Three seminars, instead of two, were held for opposition members with each seminar being held for opposition members from different districts. The seminars’ topics: Campaigns and Marketing (March 2008), Values and Politics (April 2008) and Public Speaking (May 2008).

In the first seminar, participants were taught how to formulate an effective campaign message and how to draft a campaign plan. Christian democratic ideology in particular and several additional ideologies were discussed during the second seminar. The actual goal was to teach the participants how to differentiate between an ideologically based message and a message that incorporates factual information pertaining to the importance of change for voters as well as the pursuit of democracy. The final seminar focused on public speaking skills for candidate members of parliament as well as on communicating a message effectively during a campaign.

The course taught the participants that it is possible to run a campaign independently, involve colleagues and share their newly acquired knowledge with their close contacts. In addition to pursuing democracy, they also learnt about the difference between ideology and the necessity to deliver a fact-based message that serves as an alternative to the present regime. The training courses helped reinforce the opposition's coalition. A united front is more effective than competing for the voter's favour separately.

Project: youth conference on Belarus

From 4 to 7 September 2008, a youth conference was held in Vilnius in which 80 youth from Eastern Europe, the European Union and Belarus took part. The conference's two central topics were the concept of establishing an Eastern Europe Partnership (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) and the political situation in Belarus in the run-up to the parliamentary elections.

The congress' organisation committee succeeded in securing the participation of four members of the opposition: Aleksandr Milinkevich, former presidential candidate in 2006 of the entire opposition; Anatoly Lebedko, Chairman of the United Civil Party; Leonid Barshchewskiy, Chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front Board; and Pavel Severynets, former political prisoner and leader of the Belarusian Christian Democratic Party. The four panel members indicated that it was important to appear as a united opposition as was the case in 2006. Also, they indicated that the regime will be facing difficult financial times and eventually become more dependent on the European Union. In turn, this would mean that the European Union would have to involve itself with Belarus. The opposition is far from

optimistic with regard to the upcoming elections. In the coming years, they will make a genuine effort to have a successful run-up to the presidential elections in 2011.

Project: training course on human resources for opposition parties

In November 2008, the EFF held an additional training course for the four opposition parties. The results of the elections were disappointing. The next elections will not be held until 2011. In consultation with the JKD party, agreement was reached to reinforce the base of the political parties. The participants received training in human resources management: identifying capable candidates, recruiting volunteers, and interviewing and training candidates.

The participants now are better equipped to recruit and educate individuals, and, as a result, improve the political parties' human resources policy.

Aliaksandr Shumkevich – official candidate in the 2008 Belarus parliamentary elections and former EFF training course participant – during a short television address for the Minsk news station



3.14 - EFF Country in the Spotlight: Moldova

In 2008, the EFF Board decided to select Moldova as the EFF's "Country in the Spotlight".

Project: exchange programme for 10 Moldovan youth

According to news sources, Moldova is listed at the top of the category of countries where the free media is suppressed. The chief problem is that the media self-censor. Although Moldovan law stipulates that government ministries must adhere to set time frames in which questions must be answered, those time limits as a rule are stretched. With regard to urgent political events, answers are never provided within an acceptable time frame. In February the EFF organised a media training course for PPCD members. The deeper focus of the field trip was to have the participants become acquainted with the media within the political domain. The 10 participants were selected based on their position within the youth organisation at both local and national levels. Two participants had also a background in journalism.

From 24 to 31 October 2008, ten Moldovan youth of the NG PPCD party took part in a field trip to the Netherlands. On 25 October, the group participated in the NCDO conference "Politiek 2015". One workshop entitled "Conflict Areas and Separatist Regions in Georgia and Moldova" examined the situation in the latter two countries. The group leader headed a presentation on Moldova and Transnistria and afterward took questions from those present. The workshop's participants appreciated the fact that a speaker from Moldova was present. An interpreter provided simultaneous translation for Moldovan participants. The remainder of the week was taken up by training courses and working visits. On the evening of 30 October, a second informative seminar was held on Moldova. Again, Ms. Wortman-Kool – group leader and member of the European Parliament – gave a speech to an audience of approximately 40 guests.

The participants were thoroughly informed of how the media operates in the Netherlands after the eventful weekend had ended. Also,

they felt more confident to raise their own profile within the party as well as to the media in order to test the notion of freedom itself. Each of the participants had come up with ideas to improve their respective organisations. Furthermore, they presented their findings of the field trip during evening meetings once they had returned. In November, Mr. van Laarhoven (EFF Chairman) discussed with the members of this group how the practical knowledge they gained during this field trip could be put to practice.

Translated publications for EFF partners

In the fall of 2008, the EFF together with the NIMD published “A Plea for Democracy”. This brochure deals with the importance of democracy, the many obstacles on the road to democracy and the fact that democracy affects positively economic growth and life expectancy as opposed to authoritarian regimes. This publication was handed out in training courses by the Robert Schumann Institute - to serve as informative background material - as well as during a training course in Georgia. The brochure will be used for future, relevant training courses.

EFF Partnership Days

Trainer: Peter Noordhoek

From 25 to 28 September 2008, twelve EFF partners took part in the EFF Partnership Days. On 26 September, the twelve EFF partners visited the Parliament buildings and held a discussion with Mr. Haverkamp who is a Member of Parliament as well as a spokesperson on Foreign Affairs. Next, Mr. Noordhoek headed a training course for EFF trainers on the tasks these EFF trainers perform in the respective countries. The trainers and the EFF partners appreciated this particular training as it allowed them to discuss what it means to head and organise a training course. Lessons learnt from this training course vary from the level a trainer must have attained in order to teach specific groups or teach in a specific country to the importance of local partners’ instructions for the trainers. On 27 September, the partners’ annual plans for 2009 were examined, amended where needed and subsequently approved. Lastly, an afternoon discussion session was dedicated to the role of religion in the public domain in Eastern Europe, which, ultimately, led to the conclusion that a conference should be held on this topic.

MOLDOVA

Horse grazing at meadow with beautiful view



4 | Publications **Eduardo Frei** **Foundation**

PUBLICATIONS EDUARDO FREI FOUNDATION

Since its founding in 1990, the EFF has published (and translated) several publications, which, for example, are used in education and training courses. A summary of some of these publications that have been published since 2000 are listed below.

“This is the CDA”, *translation by T. Brinkel, October 2000*

“Christian Thought and Applications on European Politics, *WI /EFS 2001*

“Europe: what to do next, A Christian democratic point of view”, *CDA Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 2001*

“Women and Violence from a European Perspective”, *compilation report of EFF/ CDAV/ NCDO conference held in 2001, December 2001*

“The soft-spoken inspiration; International co-operation and the Christian social tradition”, *Jos van Gennip, 2002*

“CDA 2002-2006 Election Programme”, *June 2002*

“The EU Expansion, Who Are the New Member States?”, *december 2003*

“Education Freedom”, *Jos van Gennip, 2003*

“The Enlargement of the European Union, Who are the Candidate Member States?”, *December 2003*

“In a world which has no use for God”, *Jos van Gennip, 2004*

“America Allmighty”, *Jos van Gennip, 2005*

“International Co-operation”, *CDA Foreign Affairs Committee, October 2005*

“Election Programme 2006 – 2011, Confidence in The Netherlands, Confidence in Each Other”, *CDA election programma, 2007*

“Political Party Building in Eastern Europe”, Jan van Laarhoven in:
“European View, Transition to Democracy”, *volume 7, number 1,*
2008

“A Plea for Democracy Beyond Borders: Defence, Development,
Diplomacy, and Democracy”, *Martin van Vliet, Jan Jaap van Halem*
c.s., 2008

MOLDOVA

Baskets of ripe Moldova grapes



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**5 | Eduardo
Frei Foundation
Annual Accounts**

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EDUARDO FREISTICHTING

JAARREKENING 2008

TOELICHTING OP DE STAAT VAN BATEN EN LASTEN OVER 2008 - MOE PROJECT

Bedragen x 1 euro	2008 werkelijk	2008 begroot	2007 werkelijk
BATEN			
Bijdragen derden			
Subsidie min. Buitenl. Zaken	525.316	576.000	547.074
Totaal bijdragen derden	<u>525.316</u>	<u>576.000</u>	<u>547.074</u>
Totaal baten	<u>525.316</u>	<u>576.000</u>	<u>547.074</u>
LASTEN			
Apparaatskosten			
Apparaatskosten	91.647	90.000	81.939
Bestuurskosten	5.115	6.000	11.218
Totaal bijdragen derden	96.762	96.000	93.157
Projecten MOE	428.554	480.000	453.917
Totaal lasten	<u>525.316</u>	<u>576.000</u>	<u>547.074</u>
Saldo van baten en lasten	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

MOLDOVA

Hydroelectric power plant on Dniester river



6 | Auditor's Report

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To: The board of Eduardo Frei Stichting (foundation)

Auditor's report

Introduction

We have audited the annual account of the MATRA Programme of Eduardo Frei Stichting (foundation), The Hague, which comprise the profit and loss account for the year 2008. The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the annual account. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the annual account based on our audit.

Scope

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch and the 'controleerichtlijnen voor het MPPP van DZO' (audit protocol issued by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs). This law and audit protocol requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the annual account is free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts in the annual account

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the 2008 annual account of the MATRA Programma of Eduardo Frei Stichting have been prepared, in all material respects in accordance with the 'controleerichtlijnen voor het MPPP van DZO' (audit protocol issued by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the subsidy grant.

The Hague, 25 May 2009

Ernst & Young Accountants LLP

Signed by M.E. Westerhout-van Kimmenade

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MOLDOVA

Wine fountain in Moldova's biggest wine cellar



7 | Programmes and Activities

Programmes and Activities

The list below provides an overview of the EFF's programmes and activities in chronological order, including those that do not form part of the MATRA-PPP.

January

- 21-27 Training course on socio-economic policies - Robert Schuman Institute

February

- 7-9 Winter school for HDZ members - Croatia
- 8-10 Campaign skills and media training for PPCD youth - Moldova
- 15-17 Communication skills and campaign training for SAQDA youth - Georgia

March

- 7-9 Communication and presentation skills training for Belarus opposition members - Lithuania
- 14-16 Training course for DP women on political party ideology and presentation skills - Romania
- 14-16 Training course for local government officials from Our Ukraine - Ukraine
- 28-30 Training course on political party ideology for women of several political parties - Montenegro
- 28-30 Communication skills training for VMRO-DPMNE and DPA youth - Macedonia

April

- 14-16 Conference on the role of political foundations in Eastern Europe – Robert Schuman Institute
- 4-6 Training course on local government for Our Ukraine members - Ukraine
- 4-6 Communications skills training - Bosnia Herzegovina
- 11-13 Training course on political party ideology for Belarus opposition members - Lithuania

- 18-20 Presentation skills training for PD women - Romania
- 24-25 Conference on socio-economic policies - Bosnia Herzegovina
- 18-21 Training course for youth on campaign skills and the theory of secularism - Turkey

May

- 9 Experts' meeting on development aid co-operation and religion
- 9-11 Debating skills training for Belarus opposition members - Lithuania
- 16-18 Media training, politics and the press - Bosnia Herzegovina
- 30-31 Communication skills training for women - Montenegro
- 30-31 Local government and finances training course for Our Ukraine members - Ukraine

June

- 5-8 Summer school for HDZ youth - Croatia
- 13-15 Local government skills training course for council members of Our Ukraine - Ukraine
- 14-15 Communication and campaign skills training course - Bosnia Herzegovina
- 22-27 Debating skills training course for PPCD youth - Moldova

July

- 6-11 Summer school for youth from the region of Serbia
- 11-15 Summer school for Our Ukraine youth - Ukraine
- 17-20 Training course for youth on multi-party systems - Georgia

August

- 24-31 Summer school for PPCD youth - Moldova

September

- 8-13 Basic skills training on Christian democracy and politics - Robert Schuman Institute
- 26-28 Communication and campaign skills training for VMRO-DPMNE and DPA youth - Macedonia

- 28 Congress on youth and women in politics for the PPCD - Moldova
- 26-28 EFF Partnership days - The Hague

October

- 3 Public meeting on 3D and development aid co-operation - Breda
- 6-7 Debating skills training for women - Montenegro
- 10-12 Communication skills training for DP women - Romania
- 17-19 Training course on communication skills and Christian democracy for DP women - Romania
- 20-25 Training course on the media and politics - Robert Schuman Institute
- 24-26 Conference for youth from Bosnia Herzegovina and surrounding region
- 31-2 Local government skills training for Our Ukraine members - Ukraine
- 18-19 Conference - Bulgaria
- 23-26 Communication and campaign skills training for youth - Turkey
- 24-26 Communication skills training for VMRO-DPMNE and DPA youth - Macedonia
- 24-26 Training course for youth on International politics and NATO - Georgia
- 24 NCDO congress on fragile states and workshop on Moldova - Utrecht
- 24-31 Exchange programme in the Netherlands for PPCD youth from Moldova
- 27 Evening debate on Moldova - The Hague

November

- 8-13 Training course for youth on international politics - Robert Schuman Institute
- 21 Training course on principles of democracy for LDK women - Kosovo
- 22-23 Training course for LDK youth on political party ideology and democracy - Kosovo
- 22-23 Strategy and communication skills training for APU youth - Bulgaria

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- 22-23 HRM and volunteerism policy course for members of the opposition - Belarus
 - 22 Training course on Christian democracy for PPCD members - Moldova
 - 26 Experts' meeting on Ukraine - The Hague

December

- 5 Presentation skills training course for women of the LDK party - Kosovo
- 6-7 Communication and debating skills training course for LDK youth - Kosovo
- 6-7 Communications skills training course for VRMO-DPMNE and DPA youth - Macedonia
- 13 Public meeting on religion and development aid co-operation - Amsterdam

Annual report 2008

The [Eduardo Frei Foundation](#), linked to the Dutch Christian Democratic Party (CDA), was founded in July 1990. Eduardo Frei was one of the founders of the Christian Democratic Party of Chile (Partido Demócrata Cristiano) and president of Chile from 1964 to 1970. President Frei has become a symbol to a great number of people who work towards the goals of democracy, the maintenance of respect for human rights and social justice.

The CDA is proud to have named its foundation after this eminent Christian Democrat. Through its activities, the Dutch Eduardo Frei Foundation seeks to contribute both to consolidating existing Christian Democratic institutions and to nurturing peaceful transitions to democracy.