Eastern Europe is at a crossroads. The prospect of membership in western organization such as the European Union and NATO for the states in the region is fading while Russia is showing renewed interest in forging closer links with former Soviet states.

The shadow of past conflicts continues to hang over the region, posing the risk that internecine strife will reemerge in the future. Reconciliation between states, ethnic groups and actors in once totalitarian regimes in the region remains a very live issue.

The future economic and democratic model for the region is still unclear as undemocratic practices and corruption seem to be gaining the upper hand. Is the region moving towards a western style model as reformers would like or rather towards a set of hybrid regimes where authoritarian rulers and corrupt business people set national agendas?

The conference “Eastern Europe – The Challenge of Modernization” organized by the Villa Decius Association in cooperation with the Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation and Res Publica Nowa will provide an opportunity for European intellectuals and leaders from the region to discuss the various models of reconciliation and reform, and examine prospects for the future of the Eastern Partnership, a major EU initiative designed to spur reform in the region.

The conference will also become a platform for presenting these actors in public sphere for whom dialogue between cultures, religions and communities is not merely a political declaration but a real challenge, undertaken frequently within the existing political system. Organized since 2004, the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize will have its special, 7th edition during the conference and will bring together those organizations and individuals who work for the realization of the ideals which Vieira de Mello has come to symbolize.
7 October 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>WELCOME ADDRESS: Danuta Glondys, Aleksander Koj</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>OPENING LECTURE: Adam Daniel Rotfeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>DEBATE 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>MODELS FOR RECONCILIATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Panel discussion with leaders of transformation on the various past models of reconciliation and reform. The aim will be to point out critical factors which have facilitated or slowed the processes of transition to a democratic state and the rebuilding civil society.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Speakers:</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Janusz Onyszczewicz</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Stanislau Shushkevich</td>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>Borys Tarasyuk</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>Moderator: Krzysztof Bobiński</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>DEBATE 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>CAN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP UNDERPIN THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE REGION?</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>The debate will aim at examining the potential of the Eastern Partnership and prospects of democratic transformation of Eastern Europe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Speakers:</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td>Grzegorz Gromadzki</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td>Jan Koehler</td>
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<td>14.00</td>
<td>George Tarkhan-Mouravi</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00</td>
<td>Moderator: Jan Piekło</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.00</td>
<td>“THE SHADOW OF AN EMPIRE” – Introduction to the exhibition by Tadeusz Boruta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIAL EVENT

CEREMONY OF AWARDING THE SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE

In 2003, the Villa Decius Association established the Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize, in honour of the past United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Since then The Prize has been awarded to a person and an organization for their active involvement in the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and denominations, and cultures.

(Detailed programme of the event is presented separately)

8 October 2010

DEBATE 3

EXPERT ROUNDTABLE (by invitations only)

The debate will focus on three critical problems and issues which Eastern European countries face:

1. Eastern Europe’s Prospects: Integration with the EU or a New Division of the Continent?
2. Security Challenges Facing the Region.
3. Rapprochement with Russia and the Eastern Partnership – How to Deal with this Dilemma?

Speakers:
Adam Brzeziecki
Bogdan Szlachta
Cornelius Ochmann
Grzegorz Gromadzki
George Tarkhan-Mouravi
Iryna Solonenko
Jan Koehler
Jan Pieklo
Janusz Kahl
Janusz Onyszkiewicz
Krzysztof Bobiński
Łukasz Adamski
Michał Sutowski
Rafał Kocot
Rafał Lisiakiewicz
Raluca Raducanu
Robert Klaczyński
Stanisław Szuszkiewicz
Wojciech Przybylski
SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO PRIZE

Honorary patronage:
Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to Poland
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Following the initiative of the Villa Decius Association, Sergio Vieira de Mello Prize was established in the year 2003 with an aim to promote democracy and tolerance, and to pay tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Prize is awarded to a person and an organisation for their special merits in peaceful coexistence and cooperation of communities, religions and cultures.

The Prize might be awarded to individuals and institutions from Poland and abroad.

The Prize is awarded by the Award Committee composed of the High Representatives of: the President of the Republic of Poland; Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, HE Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil, HE Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Chairman of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance; consulates and foundations cooperating with Villa Decius Association in matters related to human rights and Founders of the Prize, the Chairman and the Director of the Villa Decius Association.

The Laureates are given a statuette by Andrzej Renes and a personal Diploma; the award might also have a financial dimension.

Laureates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Laureate</th>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Tadeusz Mazowiecki</td>
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<td></td>
<td>One World Association</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Rev. Marian Żelazek SVD (1918-2006)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Krzyżowa Foundation for European Understanding</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Alaxandr Milinkevich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jewish Culture Festival</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Maryna Hulia</td>
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<td>Magurycz Association</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Krystyna Pryjomko-Serafin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Szewach Weiss, Michał Żejmis</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Fatos Lubonja</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Leopold Unger</td>
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</table>
SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO (1948-2003)

Born in Rio de Janeiro in 1948, he studied philosophy and humanistic studies at the Pantheon Sorbonne University of Paris. Being still a student, he started to cooperate with the United Nations, to become fully involved in the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. He participated in numerous humanitarian and peacekeeping actions including Bangladesh, the Sudan, Cyprus, Mozambique and Peru.

In 1981 he became Senior Political Advisor of UN peacekeeping forces in Lebanon. In the period 1983-91, he was the Chief of the Cabinet of the High Commissioner, the Head of Regional Bureau of Asia and Oceania and the Head of Section of International Relations. In the years 1991-96 he acted as a Special Envoy of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Cambodia.

In 1996 he became the Assistant of the High Commissioner for Refugees of UN and in 1998 took his post in New York as the General Undersecretary for Humanitarian Actions. Then he acted as the special Envoy of UN to Kosovo and in the years: 1999-2002 as the Chief Representative of UNTAC in East Timor.

On September 12, 2002 he was nominated to the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In May 2003, acting as the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations, he went for a mission to Iraq.

He was killed in a bomb attack on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August 2003.

Paying a tribute to Sergio Vieira de Mello:

UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, said: there was no-one we could less afford to spare, or who would be more acutely missed throughout the UN system.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell called Mr Vieira de Mello: a hero who dedicated his life to helping people in danger. (...) Sergio never shirked the most difficult assignments... Where others saw obstacles or despair, he created options and solutions.


World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Lee Jong-Wook, said: Throughout a long and impressive UN career, Sergio has served the people who needed him most with skill, compassion and good humour. This single act of terrorism deprives the Iraqi people, and people everywhere, of a great advocate and a fine man. He will be sorely missed.

Cambodia’s King Norodom Sihanouk said: Mr Vieira de Mello helped and served the peoples of every country in the world, including Cambodia, with self-sacrifice, efficiency and limitless devotion and without seeking any personal gain or glory.

East Timor President Xanana Gusmao, whose country Mr Vieira de Mello helped steer to independence, said: Our nation mourns the death of a unique and unforgettable friend. He fought tirelessly for democracy, human rights and sustainable justice for the people of East Timor.
LAUREATES OF THE PRIZE 2010

In the category of Person:
Nagy El-Khoury and Mohammad al-Nokkari

Nagy El-Khoury, a Maronite, director of the Association of Graduates of College of Notre Dame de Jamhour, and Sheikh Mohammad al-Nokkari, former General Director of Dar Al. Fatwa and the head offices of Sunni Mufti of the Lebanese Republic are the initiators of Christian-Muslim dialogue in Lebanon.

Both winners have greatly contributed to the rapprochement of representatives of various religions in Lebanon (totaling 17 confessional groups - 13 Christian and 4 Muslim). Thanks to their efforts, since 2007, on the Day of the Annunciation (25th March) special meetings of Christians and Muslims are held in Lebanon, which are an inspiration for interreligious dialogue in the region. Special guests of the meeting were representatives of the Sunnis, Shiites and Eastern Churches. Annunciation Day, an event described in the Bible and in the Koran, has been recognized in 2010 as the official Christian-Muslim feast in Lebanon.

The guest of honour at the ceremony on 25th March 2010 was former President of Poland Lech Walesa. Nagy El-Khoury and Mohammad al-Nokkari put a large and substantial organizational effort in the preparation of this visit and the promotion of Polish experience as an example of peaceful transition, and spiritual values in politics. They emphasized that Poland, with the pontificate of John Paul II and the Solidarity movement secured a permanent place in the history of the struggle for dignity and human freedom. It was emphasized that President Lech Walesa, played a leading role in these changes, while giving evidence of his Christian attitude and his trust in Mary, who is greatly revered within Muslims countries.

The participation of President Lech Walesa in the ceremonies on March 25th became the perfect opportunity to build a positive image of Poland and the Polish people in Lebanese society, looking for partners in Europe for interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The visit also brought many benefits for bilateral relations and has contributed in increasing interest in Poland in Lebanese economic and investment circles. It was also seen as an expression of gratitude for the help given by the Lebanese society to six thousand Polish refugees and Polish General Anders’ Army during World War II. Lech Walesa met with President Michael Sleiman, Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali-Shami and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir. The visit met with great interest in the Lebanese media. But the most important result was the confirmation of Polish willingness to support the peaceful coexistence and cooperation of various religious groups in Lebanese society as a message to the entire world.

The success of this year’s celebration and the initiative of reconciliation in Christian-Muslim relations is the undoubted merit of the two winners, who often had to face with the voices of criticism and opposition from various religious communities in Lebanon. Their determination and vision of the dialogue centered around the person of Holy Mary was supported by major authorities in the country, headed by the president and prime minister, who personally informed the Pope Benedict XVI about the establishment of sacred Christian-Muslim dialogue in Lebanon.

Nagy El-Khoury and Mohammad al-Nokkari are currently working on extending the meetings on March 25th, combined with a common prayer for Christians and Muslims. They also raised the idea of building Christian-Muslim Marian Center in Beirut, which will become a forum for the exchange of views on the Culture of Marian in the Muslim and the Christian world, acting as a place of meeting of cooperation between NGOs, advocating the peaceful coexistence of societies and the dialogue of civilizations.
Memorial is an independent international association striving to preserve the memory of the victims of Stalinist repression and the subsequent political repression and human rights violations in countries of the former USSR. The association started official activities in 1989, and its initiators were: Andrei Sakharov, Yevgeny Yevtushenko and Andrei Wozniesienski. Memorial currently operates a documentary archive, historical research, legal and educational policy on imprisonment, exile and human rights violations.

Thanks to Memorial, universally accessible exhibitions, collections of documents and special libraries collecting materials related to political persecution in the totalitarian communist system were created. In 1991, from the initiative of the Memorial, the Act on Rehabilitation of Victims of Political Repression to restore the honor of the thousands of citizens of the former Soviet Union was enacted and October 30th was set as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Political Repression.

It should be noted that the Memorial Association provides not only legal, but also material assistance to elderly people who were prisoners of Soviet prisons and camps in the past. Looking at historical and contemporary social problems in parallel is an important part of the educational activities of the Association, calculated on the formation of citizenship in a democratic state of law built on the basis of understanding and respect for human rights.

A significant part of the Memorial Association is the study of Polish victims of repressions, including the victims of the Katyn massacre. The Polish Commission of Memorial Association operates to this end, coordinated by Alexander Gurjanow. In addition, the Memorial Centre is working closely with the KARTA center, creating Index of the Repressed since 1992, containing a comprehensive documentation of the names of Polish citizens persecuted by the Soviet authorities in the years 1939-1956. The revised data are published in consecutive volumes containing information on various categories of victims of repression.

A very important area of the Association's activity is monitoring human rights in countries of the former Soviet Union. With the support of groups of observers in the conflict regions (so-called "hot spots") within the Commonwealth of Independent States, Memorial collect, verify, archive, and then publish the collected evidence of human rights violations.

Memorial's activities gained a high international rating. In 2004 the Association was awarded by the Right Livelihood Award prize founded in 1980 by Swedish writer and philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, awarded to those who worked on practical solution to the most urgent challenges facing the world today. In 2009, three of Memorial's activists (Ludmila Aleksejewa, Sergei and Oleg Orlov Kowaljow) received the Sakharov Prize awarded since 1988 by the Parliament of the European Union to persons of particular merit in promoting freedom and human rights.
Andrzej Przewoźnik was born on May 13, 1963. He graduated in history from the Jagiellonian University and finished postgraduate studies in the field of Defense of the State at the Department of Strategic National Defence at the Defence Academy in Warsaw. In the years 1981 to 1989 he was involved in the activities of the Solidarity movement. In 1990, he received the mandate of District Councillor for Zwierzyniec Council in Krakow on behalf of the Citizens’ Committee. In the same year he began working at the Provincial Office in Krakow.

From 1 September 1992 he served as Secretary General of the Council for the Protection of Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom. Since the taking this role, he worked actively for the commemoration of the victims of Katyn Massacre. Was involved, among others in the construction of Polish war cemeteries in Katyn, Kharkov and Mednoye, the construction of a cemetery and a monument commemorating the victims of the crime in Jedwabne, the reconstruction and re-opening of the Cemetery of the Defenders of Lviv, and other cemeteries to commemorate the Polish people – the victims of totalitarianism in the years 1939 to1956 – in Poland and abroad. He was Vice Chairman and Secretary to the Commission for the Commemorations of the Victims of Katyn Massacre of the Prime Minister (1994-1998).

Andrzej Przewoźnik was also a member of the State Museum in Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Independence Museum in Warsaw, Central Museum of Prisoners of War in Ląminowice-Opole, vice chairman of the Polish Army Museum, a member of the Warsaw Uprising Museum Programme. On April 30, 2009 has been designated a member of the first term (2009-2013) of the World War II museum in Gdansk by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and has been elected its secretary.

Andrzej Przewoźnik died tragically on April 10th, 2010, in the plane crash near Smolensk as a member of the official delegation of the Republic of Polish, on their way to the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre. He was buried at the Military Cemetery in Warsaw on April 27th.

Posthumously awarded to Andrzej Przewoźnik, the Sergio Vieira de Mello Award is a tribute and recognition of all his activities, in particular - the unyielding desire to restore the memory of the victims of crimes, regardless of their nationality and religion.
Łukasz Adamski

Political scientist and historian, currently employed in the Polish Institute of International Affairs as a programme coordinator for bilateral relations in Europe. The main area of his expertise is the internal situations and foreign policies of Ukraine and Belarus. He has contributed essays to leading newspapers: “Gazeta Wyborcza”, “Rzeczpospolita” and “Süddeutsche Zeitung”. Mr Adamski also conducts historical research devoted to Ukrainian political thought and the history of Polish-Ruthenian and Polish-Ukrainian relations. Currently he is finishing work on a book about Mykhailo Hrushevsky. He speaks Polish, English, German, Russian and Ukrainian.

Krzysztof Bobiński

Krzysztof Bobiński is the president of The Unia & Polska Foundation and a board member of The Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation PAUCI. He occasionally writes for ‘openDemocracy’, ‘European Voice’ and is an associate editor of the Europe section of the ‘Europe’s World’. Bobiński studied Modern History at Oxford and obtained an M.A. in Regional Studies at London University. He was the Warsaw correspondent of the ‘Financial Times’ from 1976 to 2000 and contributed to other publications such as ‘The Observer’ and ‘Washington Post’ as well as the BBC. He is the co-founder and publisher of the Polish ‘Unia & Polska’ magazine.

Andrzej Brzeziecki

Journalist, editor-in-chief of "Nowa Europa Wschodnia" bimonthly (NEW), he also contributes to "Tygodnik Powszechny" weekly. He was a "Tygodnik Powszechny" correspondent in Ukraine and Belarus. He is an author and co-author of the following books: “Białoru-kartofle i dżinsy” (Kraków, 2007), “Ograbiony naród. Rozmowy z intelektualistami białoruskimi” (Wrocław, 2008), "Lekcje historii PRL w rozmowach" (Warszawa, 2009). Member of Polish-Ukrainian Forum of Partnership.

Danuta Glondys

PhD of Humanities, M.A. in English Philology and in Political Sciences. In the period of 1993-1999 Glondys was the director of the Culture Department of the Municipality of Krakow and formerly the Regional Director of the USAID programme in Poland. Director of the Villa Decius Association since February 2001. She is the European Commission expert in the European Capital of Culture programme since 2007. Her research is devoted to the relations between culture and politics and to European integration.

Grzegorz Gromadzki

Independent analyst working on EU and NATO relations with their neighbours and as well as energy issues. He was a journalist at the foreign desk of ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ a leading Polish newspaper, a senior analyst at the Centre for Eastern Studies, Warsaw and director of the International Cooperation Programme at the Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw.

Janusz Kahl

Since 1996 the Honorary Consul of Denmark in Krakow and since May 2006 the Honorary Consul of Sweden in Krakow. Consultant for Nordic companies, counties and institutions. Since 2001 the CEO of Nordic House which coordinates interregional cooperation between two Danish counties Copenhagen and Funen and the region of Małopolska in Southern Poland as well as cooperation between Århus County and Swietokrzyskie Region.
Rafał Kocot
Working at the Office of International Cooperation in the Marshall Office of the Małopolska Region. Robert Bosch Foundation scholar, President of the Alumnus Association CF Goerdeller for R. Bosch Foundation, a representative of Małopolska in the Polish - Bavarian Committee of Experts and the Committee on Interregional Cooperation, the German-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Regional Cooperation and Border Initiator of the South Caucasus security forum, the organizer of internships for young Ukrainians in Poland. A member of the "Centre of Theory and Practice of Democracy" and the Polish-German Society in Krakow.

Jan Koehler

Aleksander Koj
Medical doctor and scientist working in the field of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, author of approximately 200 papers, full professor at the Faculty of Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University, member of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Letters (Krakow) and Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw). Laureate of the annual award of the Foundation for Polish Science in 1996 in the field of Biomedical Sciences, awarded by the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation in New York in 1998, annual award of the City of Krakow in the Field of Science and Technology in 2005, holder of an honorary PhD from three US State Universities (Cleveland, Hartford, Buffalo). Elected three times as the Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow between the 1987 and 1999. Currently Koj is a member of the Council of the Foundation of Polish Rectors, member of the Board of Directors of Polish-American Freedom Foundation and President of the Villa Decius Association in Krakow.

Robert Klaczyński
Graduate of the Jagiellonian University (Faculty of Law and Administration) and the Pedagogical University (Faculty of Political Science). Lecturer at Bogdan Janski University. He is interested in issues of international relations with particular emphasis on matters relating to the post-Soviet area.

Rafał Lisiakiewicz
PhD – lecturer at the Chair of Political Science at the Cracow University of Economics. He graduated from the Pedagogical University in Cracow and the Jagiellonian University. In June 2010 he defended his dissertation on Russian politics towards Poland during the presidency of Wladimir Putin (2000-2008). His research interests include: Polish-Russian relations, Russian foreign politics, EU-Russian relations and political situation in the post-Soviet zone.

Cornelius Ochmann
Studied Political Science, History of Eastern Europe and Slavonic Languages in Mainz. Former co-worker for the Bertelsmann Stiftung responsible for overseeing the International Bertelsmann Forum. Senior expert for Eastern Europe at Bertelsmann’s Berlin office. Visiting professor at the Free Russian-German Institute for Journalism at the Moscow State University. His publications included several works on the transition processes in Eastern Europe, in particular about the European Union’s Eastern policy and EU-Russian relations.
Janusz Onyszkiewicz


Jan Piekło

Since May 2005, Director of PAUCI (Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation), which manages various trans-border projects. Until May 2005 he worked as a program director for ZNAK Foundation in Krakow, supervising international programs and heading the Bridges to the East Institute. As a journalist, he covered the Romanian Revolution and the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. He worked for the Polish and international media. As a conflict resolution journalism trainer and media consultant he cooperated with the European Journalism Centre, Rutgers University of New Jersey, MU Columbia School of Journalism, Jagiellonian University of Krakow, IREX Pro Media, Groningen University and other institutions. Until the end of 1990 he was an editor of ‘Tygodnik Powszechny’, a leading weekly of the Polish anti-Communist opposition. From 1982 to 1988 he contributed to clandestine Solidarity publications. Until December 13, 1981, he was with ‘Gazeta Krakowska’, a Krakow daily, working as an editor at the news desk.

Wojciech Przybylski

Editor in chief of a cultural magazine ‘Res Publica Nowa’ and coordinator of the Tischner Debates at the Warsaw University, together with the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna - a series of public debates with top international intellectuals and polish political and academic elites. He holds a M.A. in History of Ideas and as a research assistant is working on a Ph.D. with a focus on the 19th century theories of conservatism. He has also worked on the theme of think tanks in Europe. This year he has undertaken a project of Poland-wide deliberative debates on culture in 7 cities entitled ‘City's DNA’.

Adam Daniel Rotfeld

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland (2005); Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (until 2002). In 1992 appointed as Personal Representative of the CSCE Chairman-in-Office to elaborate the political settlement of the conflict in the Transdniester region of Moldova; Member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, Co-Chairman of the Polish-Russian Group on Difficult Matters (2009/2010); Member of the NATO Group of Experts on new Strategic Concept of Alliance (“Wisemen Group”); Commissioner of the Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative Commission. Member of many other boards and scientific councils in Poland and abroad.

Stanislaw Shushkevich

Professor, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, author of many books, monograph research papers and manuals in physics, electronics and politics. Dr. sc. (physics and mathematics), dr. h. c. (politics), professor, corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, State and Ministers Council Prize Holder of the USSR, Honorary Scientist of the BSSR. Honorary Researcher at Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, USA, since 1998 chairman of the Central Council of political Party “Belarusian social-democratic Gramada”.

11
Iryna Solonenko

Iryna Solonenko has worked as the Director of the European Programme at the International Renaissance Foundation (Open Society Network) since May 2004. The goal of the Programme is to promote Ukraine’s European integration via initiating and providing financial, expert and organizational support to relevant civil society initiatives in Ukraine. During 2000 – 2004 Iryna worked for the EastWest Institute, Kyiv Centre and dealt with the implications of EU enlargement on Ukraine’s relations with its Central-European neighbours and regional development in Ukraine. Before that Iryna was involved into the work of USAID and CIDA funded projects in Ukraine. Iryna is a PhD candidate at the Department of European Integration, National Academy of Public Administration in Ukraine.

Kinga Starzyk

Studied International Relations at the Tischner European University in Krakow and obtained a M.A. from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen as well as from Jagiellonian University, specializing in human rights and their application in political discourse in the international arena. She has been working for Villa Decius as project coordinator since 2008.

Michał Sutowski

Political scientist, graduate of the Collegium of the Interdepartmental Individual Studies in the Humanities at the Warsaw University, two-time Ministry of Science and Higher Education scholar, translator (including: M. Castells’ and P. Himanen’s book: The Information society and the Welfare State). Scientific interests: philosophy of politics (esp. post-Marxist thought, decisionism and theories of agonizing democracy), modern Russia’s political system, and the history and ideology of Polish dissident movements of the communist era.

Bogdan Szlachta

Lawyer, philosopher, professor at the Jagiellonian University, historian of political thought, the editor of Politeja magazine (Political Studies at Jagiellonian University). A member of the Centre of Political Thought.

Borys Tarasyuk

Ukrainian politician. Twice served as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Graduated international relations and international law at National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, Doctor Honoris Causa of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. He is founder of the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation (IEAC), a political action committee established to campaign for NATO and European Union memberships in Ukraine. Fluent in English, French and Russian.

George Tarkhan-Mouravi

Co-director of the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), a small think tank in Tbilisi, Georgia. Works in the areas of social policy, democratic transition, conflict resolution, and regional development.