



Federal Foreign Office



## Conference with German and Ukrainian Civil Society

3 May 2016

### After Euromaidan: Off to New Horizons

## Present and Future of Civil Society in Ukraine and Germany

### PROGRAMME

#### **Venue:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Weltsaal  
10117 Berlin

Language: English

# AGENDA

**10 – 10.30 a.m. Registration of participants; coffee**

**10.30 a.m. Plenary**

## **Opening**

**Stephan Steinlein**, State Secretary at the Federal Foreign Office  
**Dr. Thomas Paulsen**, Member of the Executive Board at the Körber Foundation

**10.45 a.m. Germany and Ukraine – what can civil society in the two countries do to foster dialogue, consensus and integration?**

Conversation with **Dr. h.c. Gernot Erler**, Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership Countries, and **Andrij Melnyk**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Federal Republic of Germany

**Chair: Michael Thumann** from the German weekly ZEIT.

**11.15 a.m. Panel discussion (plenary)**

## **Civil society in Germany and Ukraine – similarities and differences**

Ever since the Maidan protests, if not before, civil society has been called upon to play its part in the restructuring of Ukraine's political system. But what is civil society? What are the conditions required for civil society to work well, and what are its specific functions in a changing society? What are the differences between German and Ukrainian civil society, what can we learn from one another, and what elements of the experience of furthering civil society in Germany can Ukrainian players make use of? Where does the involvement of civil society reach its limitations, and what new opportunities have been opened up by political shake-up and reform in Ukraine?

## **Panellists**

**Dr. Katrin Böttger**, Deputy Director of the IEP and head of project on Ukrainians in Poland and Germany – Civic and Political Engagement, Expectations and Courses of Action

**Sergei Loznitsa**, film director (tbc)

**Tanja Dückers**, author (tbc)

**Dr. Kateryna Smaglyi**, Director of the Kennan Institute in Kyiv, who concerns herself with new social movements

**Chair: Michael Thumann** from the German weekly ZEIT.

**12.45 p.m. Buffet lunch**

**2 p.m. Concurrent working group sessions**

**Working group 1: Rule of law and civic participation – cornerstones of a functioning democracy**

**Hypothesis:** Civic participation forms part of the foundations of democracy, but it has limits.

**Questions for the working group:**

1. What are the major shortcomings in the rule of law in Germany and Ukraine, and what can civil society do to tackle them effectively?
2. How can civil society be encouraged to get actively involved in public affairs? What methods have proven effective in Germany and Ukraine?
3. Are there limits to transparency in a democracy? If yes, what are they?

**Speaker (Germany):** Gregor Hackmack, [abgeordnetenwatch.de](http://abgeordnetenwatch.de)

**Speaker (Ukraine):** Andrei Marusov, Chairman of the Board of Transparency International Ukraine (tbc)

**Chair:** Stefan Melle of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

**Working group 2: Press freedom and the democratic significance of independent media**

**Hypothesis:** The media have to be free from all state influence; only then can independent reporting take place.

**Questions for the working group:**

1. What role does the independence of the media have in the development of a democracy?
2. How independent are the media in Germany and Ukraine?
3. Do social media present a threat or an opportunity with regard to a balanced public opinion?

**Speaker (Germany):** Olaf Steenfadt, Reporter ohne Grenzen

**Speaker (Ukraine):** Natalya Gumenyuk, journalist, Hromadske.tv (tbc)

**Chair:** Hanno Gundert of n-ost (Network for Reporting on Eastern Europe)

### **Working group 3: The familiar and the foreign – on dealing with refugee movements, minorities and integration**

**Hypothesis:** Diversity is a reality. Integration in part depends on the active involvement of civil society.

#### **Questions for the working group:**

1. What are the prerequisites for long-term integration work?
2. How does the effect of internal displacement as a phenomenon differ from that of other refugee movements?
3. Is the state relying too heavily on civil society with regard to assistance for and integration of refugees?

**Speaker (Germany): Markus Kreßler**, Kiron University (an online university for refugees)

**Speaker (Ukraine): Maksym Butkevych**, co-coordinator of the No Borders projects at the NGO Social Action Centre in Ukraine

**Chair: Maria Slesazeck**, head of project at DRA (German-Russian Exchange)

### **Working group 4: Shaping society on the ground – interaction between the state and civil society in local communities**

**Hypothesis:** Local communities form the heart of a society. People find it easiest to get involved in what is happening on their doorstep.

#### **Questions for the working group:**

1. What are the advantages of civil society being active at a local level in Germany and Ukraine, and what are the disadvantages?
2. Where does civil society need to take the initiative, and where does that responsibility fall to the state?
3. What forms does the organisation of civil society take at the local level? Which have proved effective so far?

**Speaker (Germany): Anja Böllhoff** of the European Community Foundation Initiative

**Input (UKR): Yehven Bystrytsky**, Executive Director, International Renaissance Foundation, Kiev

**Chair: Annegret Wulff**, MitOst e.V.

## **Working group 5: The role of education in the development of fully fledged citizens.**

**Hypothesis:** Education is the key to developing one's own personality and taking part in democracy.

### **Questions for the working group:**

1. What role does education have in a changing society's search for its new identity?
2. What pivotal flaws are there in the German and Ukrainian education systems?
3. From the perspective of civil society, what educational provision does a modern democracy need?

**Speaker (Germany): Sven Tetzlaff**, head of the Education Department at the Körber Foundation

**Speaker (Ukraine): Polina Verbytska** of Nova Doba, the Ukrainian association of history and social studies teachers

**Chair: Monika Seidel**, Project Manager European Youth Parliament at Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe

**4 - 4.30 p.m. Coffee break**

**4.30 p.m. Closing panel discussion (plenary)**

### **Framework conditions for healthy civil society in 2030**

How can stakeholders in German and Ukrainian civil society develop their network of ties as a means of sustaining civil society in the long term? What subjects have the potential to foster dialogue between German and Ukrainian civil society? What steps need to be taken now to ensure the future health of civil society?

### **Panellists**

**Susann Worschech**, PhD on networks in Ukrainian civil society and their external support at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder

**Olesya Ostrovska-Lyuta**, former First Deputy Minister of Culture in Ukraine

**Gregor Hackmack**, [abgeordnetewatch.de](http://abgeordnetewatch.de)

**+ a free seat for contributions from working groups and audience members**

**6 p.m. Summary and Conclusions**

**Johannes Regenbrecht**, Special Envoy for Ukraine and  
Head of the Ukraine Task Force in the Federal Foreign Office