

EU Citizens' Rights Abroad: Know your rights and act upon them!

Bucharest, September 18, 2015

Speakers @ the policy debate hosted by NACAB Romania as a part of the project 'U-Impact! From Citizens Involvement to EU Policy Impact'



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Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union



The National Association of
Citizens Advice Bureaux
(NACAB)



Andrei Țărnea,
Executive Director, Aspen Institute Romania

Currently serves as the executive director of the Aspen Institute. He is a career diplomat having joined the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998. His diplomatic career includes working in bilateral affairs, serving with the ministry's spokesperson, and as head of the early warning unit in the policy-planning department. He has a master in international law and studies in European policy assessment at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government



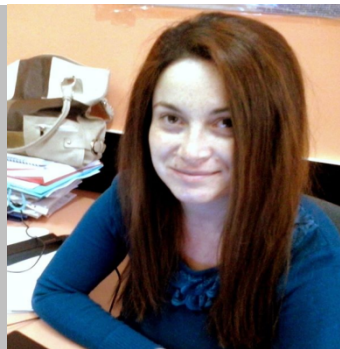
Andi Cristea
MEP – S&D

Andi Cristea is representing Romania, since 2014, in the European Parliament, as member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. Before joining the EP, he was an expert at the Chamber of Deputies, followed by parliamentary assistant at the European Parliament and parliamentary advisor to the Romanian Senate



Assya Kavrakova
Executive Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

Before joining ECAS in 2012, Assya served as the Director of European Policies and the Civic Participation Program at the Open Society Institute (OSI-S) in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 2000 to 2012. At the OSI-S in Sofia, Ms. Kavrakova was also responsible for leading the analytical and research activity of the European Policies Initiative. She personally authored the paper: "The Unfinished Business of the Fifth Enlargement Countries".



Ana Maria Oteanu
Network Development Coordinator, NACAB

Ana Maria Oteanu, has multi-years' experience in emergency, development projects and program management in Asia (India), Middle East (Turkey, Syria), East Africa (Ethiopia) and Caucasus (Georgia, Abkhazia). With a Ph.D in Sociology – Migration Studies and a strong humanitarian background, she is currently managing the development of NACAB network since July 2015.



Andreea Pietrosel
Journalist, RFI Romania

Journalist with over 10 years' experience, currently with RFI Romania, going from reporter to producer and news-anchor for the morning journals. Managing a radio show on European themes, financed by Brussels – Youth in Europe. Head of social media for RFI Romania and social media expert.



Claire Damilano
Senior Legal Manager, ECAS

Claire Damilano, who joined ECAS in 2001, is a qualified lawyer from France who specializes in International and European Social law. She previously worked in the Human Resources department of a French NGO called AFIJ, and has also worked as a researcher for the University Paris X. She is also Vice President of the « Maison de l'Europe de la Grande Thiérache » (North of France).



Elisabeta Dinu
Public Relations Coordinator, NACAB

With multi-year experience in communication and public relations, Elisabeta is now attending a MA in Comparative Politics. Her fields of interest involve political participation and representation, with focus on Egypt and Turkey.



Diana Filip
**Coordinator of Europe Direct Bucharest Information Centre ,
European Institute of Romania**

Diana Filip is the coordinator of Europe Direct Bucharest Information Centre hosted by the European Institute of Romania. Europe Direct is offering access to official EU publications and documents (online and print), help finding detailed information on European law, integration, policies and institutions and is offering training for students on EU-related fact-finding and research.

**Kenan Hadzimusic****Senior Manager, Programmes and Fundraising, ECAS**

Kenan began his career in the EU non-profit sector in Brussels in 2002 and has since worked in youth organizations, the network of humanitarian and development organizations VOICE, and the Brussels Office of the Club of Madrid. He joined ECAS in 2008 and has extensive experience in civil society development and capacity building in the Western Balkans and Turkey, technical assistance, EU visa regime liberalization, the free movement of EU citizens, participative democracy, citizen advice and access to legal aid.

**Maria Antică****Interim Executive Director, NACAB**

Maria Antică is currently the Interim Executive Director of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB) Romania. She covered foreign policy topics, energy, public policies and assistance for development in various positions at GlobalFocus, Centre for European Policy Analyses, Centre for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning. She contributed to openDemocracy platform and Foreign Policy Romania magazine and is interested in human rights, EU affairs, democracy and active citizenship.

**Norica Nicolai****Romanian MEP**

With a vast political experience, Norica Nicolai is at her second mandate in the European Parliament. She is Vice-chair of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Norica Nicolai is a member of the Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and an alternate member of the EP Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Besides her political career, she was a prosecutor and a legal adviser.



Daniela Quaggia
Senior Project Manager, Cittadinanzattiva

Daniela Quaggia, is a projects coordinator, graduated in Communication Science and with a 2nd level University Master degree in Institutional Communication. Has been working in Cittadinanzattiva for 4 years in the Institutional relation office; since January 2010 she is member of the Active Citizenship Network staff and project manager of EU project related on health and citizens involvement. He is also responsible of the networking activities and internal communication among the almost 100 EU partners of ACN, working for a exchange of information, experience and good practices, involvement in project and political activities.



Oana Popescu
Executive Director GlobalFocus

Currently she is the Executive Director at GlobalFocus Center and the owner of Mindset Media (USA). International affairs expert, Oana Popescu, has her academic background in international affairs (post-conflict reconstruction, democratization, transitions, emerging threats, conflict resolution) - Fulbright Scholar at Yale University, Harvard KSG Executive Seminar, Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance, American University in Kosovo.



Petko Georgiev
Chairman, ProInfo Bulgaria

Chairman of ProInfo Bulgaria and Manager of U-Impact – From Citizen Involvement to EU Policy Impact. Has a vast experience in media, communication and PCM.



Pilar Rodriguez,
President, Citizens Advice International

Founder member of CAI – Citizens Advice International, has a long term experience in providing information and counselling and directly working with beneficiaries.



Piotr Maciej Kaczynski

Lecturer, European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht & Fellow, EUROPEUM think tank in Prague.

Has a vast professional experience regarding the European Union apparatus (Political Advisor in the Polish Delegation of the Group of the European People's Party, Research Fellow & Head of Programme for the Centre for European Policy Studies). He is also an Associate Research Fellow for EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.



Ion M. Ioniță

Chief Editor, Historia and Foreign Policy Romania

Ion M. Ioniță is the senior chief editor for Adevarul newspaper and chief editor for Historia and Foreign Policy Romania. Journalist since 1990, his writings are focusing on internal politics and European policies. As a political analyst, he collaborated with the main TV and radios posts in Romania.



Simina Guga,

Sociologist, ADO SAH ROM

Simina Guga graduated in Sociology at the University of Bucharest and did her MA in Anthropology at the National School for Political and Administrative Sciences in Bucharest. In the last years her main focus was on the mobility of people, first emigration and later on immigration and forced migration. She worked in a few NGO's and for a trade union confederation, and is currently involved with ADO SAH ROM.



Sven-Joachim Irmer

Director of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Romania and Republic of Moldova

Currently working as Director of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Romania and Republic of Moldova. Involved in politics since the age of 14, Mr Irmer was assistant to a German Member of Parliament and political strategist. He has expertise in public relations, fund raising and political consulting.



Valeriu Nicolae,
Regional Director, Advocacy World Vision International

Currently as Regional Director for Advocacy at World Vision Eastern Europe, Middle East, South Caucasus, Valeriu Nicolae is a human rights activist and communications trainer with extensive experience in Europe and worldwide. He is the founder and president of the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, a Bucharest-based think tank; and co-founder of the European Roma Policy Coalition, which includes some of the most active NGOs in the field of human rights. During the last five years he has worked as a senior consultant for the Open Society Institute and European institutions, and director and advocacy director for a network of European Roma NGOs (ERGO). Holds a Masters in Contemporary Diplomacy from the University of Malta.



Oana Băluțescu
Coordinator, Europe for Citizens Point, Ministry of Culture

Oana Balutescu is the Head of the Europe for Citizens Point, Ministry of Culture Romania. She is going to talk about active European citizens on the European Union Agenda.



Miltos Pavlou
Programme Manager – Social Research, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Equality and Citizens' Rights Department

Miltos Pavlou is a member of the Agency's Roma and Migrant Integration sector. His areas of expertise with respect to the FRA's work include: social inclusion and integration of migrants and minorities, hate crime and extremism, racism and discrimination, migrant integration, asylum and migration policy. He has also worked as advisor and programme manager for institution building projects in Europe and Central Asia in cooperation with EU bodies and the Council of Europe.
