

International Policy Fellowship Activity Report 2006

Maria Golubeva, Latvia

During the second part of the fellowship year, the following activities were accomplished:

- I. After the completion of fieldwork on the Romanian case in 2005, the first full version of Policy Paper was completed and submitted for revision by group advisor. After receiving the feedback from group advisor, the revised Policy Paper and the Research Paper were published on the fellow's website.
- II. Based on the project results, the following publication and advocacy activities were held during March, April and May 2006:
 - The findings concerning the impact of international funding and involvement in international projects on the development of democratic discourses in Humanities and Social Sciences were mentioned during discussions to the participants of Wilton Park Conference on *Higher Education and Development* in March 2006. The participants included higher education policy makers and practitioners from developing countries as well as the representatives of international donor agencies, and donor agencies of developed countries – such as the World Bank, the British Council, NUFFIC (the Netherlands), Norad (Norway), Department for International Development (UK), as well as international NGOs such as NORRAG. Representatives of some of these organizations expressed interest in the Policy Paper and received copies of it.
 - Full English texts of the Policy Paper and Research Paper were published, with a short Latvian summary, on the Public Policy Portal **politika.lv** – the Internet resource of the Latvian policy community.
 - Based on the concern raised by the Policy Paper about the ideological character of government funding for Humanities in Latvia, which prevents successful integration in the international academic environment, several influential academics from the University of Latvia and from the Latvian Academy of Sciences, as well as a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science were invited to a discussion about the role and functions of the Latvian Council of Science. The content of the discussion was published on the Public Policy Portal **politika.lv**.
 - A conference on *The Role and Responsibility of Opinion Leaders in Democratic Communication* was organized in Riga in order to attract the attention of public policy community and academic community to the

problems of intolerance and exclusionary discourses in the public speech and publications of academic and political elites. The conference was held on 19 May. The fellow's findings concerning the statist and nationalist discourses in the Humanities were presented at the conference together with the findings of several researchers from the University of Latvia concerning the public speech of Latvian politicians. The conference was attended by academics, policy researchers and journalists (including one Latvian TV channel), as well as several members of Parliament and one government minister, who expressed their opinion on the problems in public communication during the panel discussion following the presentation of research results.

- The main points of the Policy Paper were presented at the Advocacy Event organized by group adviser Vadim Volkov and CEU Center for Policy Studies at the Central European University on 12 May 2006.
- The Research Paper is currently being prepared for submission for publication in one of the international journals on higher education.