



NEWSLETTER

The fourth DSC session took place on January 26-27, 2019. The main topic of this working session was effective communication. We had two intensive workshops: one on PR and Communication, and another one on Fundraising, two lectures on pluralism in media and on effective crisis communication and four parallel workshops on how to apply for and pursue MA/PhD studies in Germany and how to publish in academic or non-academic book series, journals and other periodicals. Also, the DSC scholars presented their project proposals for the first time to the DSC Committee.

The first day started with the PR and Communication workshop led by **Mariia Artemenko**, founder of the Charity Organization *Klub Dobrodiiv*. Since communication has become the basis of conducting any business, it is very important to know how to communicate. Maria shared her views on how to prepare the message one wants to convey, how to work with media, and how to deliver arguments.



It was a great pleasure to see again at the Democracy Study Centre **Inna Pidluska**, Deputy Executive Director of the International Renaissance Foundation and co-founder of the Europe XXI Foundation, who spoke about pluralism in media. Ms Pidluska presented an interesting and highly revealing lecture on how Ukrainians perceive the news and media.



At the DSC, we encourage our scholars to share their already accumulated special knowledge, expertise and experiences. This year, our scholar from Georgia **Tamar Chapidze** conducted a workshop on fundraising and funding opportunities with various donors focusing on the Eastern Partnership countries. The information is of great value to the other DSC scholars, since many of them are members and founders of their own local NGOs.



For those scholars aiming at further academic qualification, a future job with a university or think tank, or/and publishing their thoughts and research results, we scheduled four specialized workshops conducted by the DSC Senior Fellow **Dr Andreas Umland** and **Dr Gisela Zimmermann**, Director of the Kyiv Office of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Dr Umland gave two workshops on how to publish in the West academic papers or books and how to publish in the West journalistic and analytic articles (in non-academic outlets), while Dr Zimmermann conducted two separate application workshops for how to get into German MA and PhD programs and for respective funding programs.



Due to sudden illness, the DSC friend and partner **Tamila Tasheva**, co-founder and Chairwoman of the Board of NGO “CrimeaSOS”, could not come to the Centre, as originally scheduled. Thanks to our Senior Fellow, the Inspiring Breakfast was instead conducted by **Andreas Umland** who led a curious and motivating discussion on Ukraine’s decentralization reform and its domestic as well as international repercussions.



Grigory Frolov, Vice President of the Free Russia Foundation, gave video-recorded presentations on his experiences with effective crisis communications and community relationships. He talked about the case of the Free Russia House in Kyiv established two years ago in Ukraine, what difficulties its activists and initiators have been facing since and the efficient and successful ways to overcome them.



The **DSC scholars** have been working on their group projects since the beginning of the DSC. In December, the scholars have submitted their project proposals. On this weekend’s Sunday, they presented their projects for the first time to the entire team. The DSC Committee consisted of **Iryna Chernysh**, the DSC Project Manager, **Andreas Umland**, the DSC Senior Fellow and **Andriy Yurychko**, media trainer and advisor of the DSC media working group.



The following four group projects of the DSC 2018-2019 are currently being implemented:

- 1) The **media** group is creating a new online platform for comprehensive coverage of various events and stories. The main aim is to create and publish material with ideas and reports that promote a better understanding of democratic standards and human values.
- 2) The **economic** group is developing a business board game for children and youth in order to train their business skills and teach them economic processes and entrepreneurship.

- 3) The **peace-mediation** group is preparing a written analysis of the abilities and limits of churches as actors promoting either conflict or peace. The main objective is to analyze the current potential of churches as a peacekeeper in three EaP countries and Russia.
- 4) The **women in focus** group is developing a project that will provide middle-aged women in Ukraine with training to improve their digital skills and skills of doing business. The main objective is to help unemployed women in Ukraine to gain new skills and to mobilize them to enter the labour market.

That is all news from the fourth working session of the DSC. We wish you a warm winter and we will keep you updated!

Warmest regards,

The DSC Team



Auswärtiges Amt


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