

WEEKLY UPDATE

11 - 15 April 2016

Week 16

General

The [One World Human Rights Film Festival in Brussels](#) is taking place the upcoming week! A few examples of the movies featured are “My Jihad”, “A Haunting History” and “Democracy”.

As for OSEPI...

Updates (11-15 April)

• External Policy

11 April: Neil moderated and Iskra participated in a closed-door roundtable with EU officials and diplomats on “Turkey–Russia–Syria: A New Strategic Triangle?”, organised by OSEPI and Carnegie Europe as part of the Global Europe 2030 initiative sponsored by OSEPI.

13 April: Iskra participated and gave input to the debriefing on the EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue (Yerevan, 17 March) and a pre-briefing on the EU-Georgia Human Rights Dialogue (Brussels, 20 April).

13 April: OSEPI and the Centre for European Reform co-hosted the 4th meeting of the Amato group “Ariadne's thread: Can Greece and Turkey solve the refugee crisis?” The members of the group exchanged views with Selim Yenel (Ambassador of Turkey to the EU), Gerald Knaus (Founding chairman of the European Stability Initiative) and Andreas Papastavrou (Ambassador of Greece to the EU) on solutions to Europe's refugee crisis and the EU-Turkey deal. Srdjan gave a welcoming speech and Annalisa and Loïca participated in the meeting.

13 April: Bram followed the ISS Africa briefing on the landmark South African Constitutional Court judgment, which ruled that President Zuma failed to uphold, defend and respect the Constitution. ISS researchers provided insights on possible consequences for the African National Congress.

14 April: Srdjan hosted the 1st coordination meeting of Brussels-based foundations and think tanks working on Western Balkans and EU Enlargement “EU Enlargement and the Berlin Process: Prospects for the 2016 Western Balkans Summit in Paris.” OSF colleagues, including representatives of OSF national foundations in the Western Balkans, joined remotely.

• Internal Policy

11 April: The oral question on anti-Gypsyism, coordinated by Villy during the Roma week, was discussed in the European Parliament plenary. As a result the Council, the Commission and all leaders of political groups recognise that anti-Gypsyism is an issue the EU needs to tackle.

14 April: In the wake of the new Commission's proposal on disclosure obligations for companies (CBCR), Anca hosted a strategy meeting with transparency CSOs to coordinate advocacy efforts. They discussed positions of various stakeholders and strategies of engagement to ensure the directive will enable genuine public country-by-country reporting.

15 April: Villy initiated and coordinated a joint submission of a list of indicators to be sent to the European Commission on the Slovakian infringement case on Roma school discrimination.

- **Organisational activities**

12 April: Antonia Zafeiri may be based in London; she is a true member of our team. We were shocked when she announced at our team meeting that she will be leaving the organisation. Fortunately, she is visiting us, so that we can say our goodbyes in person.

12 April: The OSEPI team had a session with Greg Taylor, Budget director, on the OSF budget. Greg clarified the OSF data model, the 2016 OSF budget and the 2017 processes.

13 April: The A&Ops team undertook a training on “influencing skills” led by Gina Hayden, Sphere Consulting. The training offered a mix of theory and role playing using real-life examples. The outcome is a more confident team, with more understanding of one another and, therefore, better equipped to communicate their messages to the wider team. This will benefit OSEPI as a whole. We highly recommend it!

13-14 April: Neil attended the Global Board meeting in Berlin. Marta gave a presentation alongside Chris Stone on security governance.

14 April: The external policy team had a media training to practice on-camera interview skills.

Upcoming OSEPI Events (18-22 April)

19 April: Kersty and Villy are participating in the launch of the OSJI publication “[Strategic Litigation Impacts: Roma School Desegregation](#)” at the event co-hosted with Péter Nedermüller (S&D Group) on “Discrimination in Education: Efforts to Ensure Equal Opportunity for the Education of Roma Children.”

Upcoming Events of Interest (18-22 April)

19 April: The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung EU office event “Albania’s way to the EU.” Srdjan is participating.

19-20 April: The 2016 edition of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development [Integrity Forum](#). Anca is participating in this event and in the discussions of the Open Government Partnership Anti-Corruption Working Group.

20 April: [ALDE Hearing: State of Play of Press and Media Freedoms in the Western Balkans](#). Pamela is participating.

22 April: EuroMed Rights Seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) “What space for civil society in the implementation of the ENP-South?” Srdjan is participating.

22 April: FutureLab Europe Annual Forum on “[Ways to make Europe a model of participatory democracy](#)”. Anca is a speaker at the event and will touch upon restoration of trust and increasing participation in member states and in the EU.

Feel free to reach out to colleagues attending these events for additional information.

Media Update

Talking down on the European Union only adds to the problem, argues Neil in his latest OpEd “[The disintegration factory](#),” featured in E!Sharp.

As always we encourage you to share your feedback with ellen.mulder@opensocietyfoundations.org.