



Think Tanks in Central Europe: Helping Democracy Abroad

*Conference organized by the American Information Center
U.S. Embassy in Prague*

**September 6, 2006
Prague Woodrow Wilson Center
Trziste 13, Prague 1**

Think tanks in Central Europe are increasingly active in promoting democratic values and institutions beyond the region's borders. Having contributed to successful democratic transitions at home, these institutions are now using their unique expertise to help democracy not only in countries in their immediate neighborhood, such as Ukraine, Moldova or Belarus, but also in those farther afield such as Iraq, Cuba and Myanmar. Through conferences, media interviews, publications, advocacy efforts and training programs, Central European think tanks have supported many successful democratic endeavors abroad and made democracy promotion part of the foreign policy debate in their home countries.

The conference "Think Tanks in Central Europe: Helping Democracy Abroad" will address the remarkable evolution these think tanks have undergone since their inception and use that as a basis for evaluating democratization projects many of them have organized outside of the Central European region. It will also compare these projects with similar U.S. initiatives, with the goal of finding possibilities for partnerships and synergies.

Tentative Program:

9:00 – 9:05 Welcome by Ambassador Cabaniss

Panel A: Central European Think Tanks and their Role in Democratic Change at Home
(Moderated by Roman Joch, Director, Civic Institute, Prague)

9:05 – 9:25 Patrick Egan (Director for Central and Eastern Europe, International Republican Institute) – *A view from outside*

9:25 – 9:45 Petr Mares (Advisor, Association for International Affairs; former Czech Deputy Prime Minister) – *A view from inside*

9:45 – 10:00 discussion

10:00 – 10:20 ***coffee break***



Panel B: U.S. and Central European Think Tanks: Partners in Helping Democracy Abroad

(Moderated by Bretislav Dancak, Director, International Institute of Political Science, Brno)

- 10:20 – 10:40 Patrick Egan (Director for Central and Eastern Europe, International Republican Institute) – *U.S. and CE think tanks: cooperating on democratization projects in abroad*
- 10:40 – 11:00 Miroslav Dusek (Director, American Information Center, Prague) – *Central European think tanks and U.S. transformational diplomacy*
- 11:00 – 11:15 discussion
- 11:15 – 11:35 Taras Kuzmov (Director, Charter 4, a Kiev think tank) – *Receiving Western democracy assistance: successes and challenges*
- 11:35-11:45 discussion
- 12:00 – 13:00 **lunch**

Panel C 1: Central European Think Tanks and Democracy Promotion Abroad

(Moderated by Gabriela Dlouha, Director, Transition Promotion Unit, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

- 13:00 – 13:20 Ladislav Mrklas (Director, CEVRO, a Prague think tank), case study – *Czech elections as a basis for sharing transformational knowledge with Moldovan and Ukrainian politicians and students*
- 13:20 – 13:40 Jan Malicki (Director, Center for East European Studies, Warsaw University), case study – *Program for the placement of politically oppressed Belarussian students at Polish universities*
- 13:40 – 13:55 discussion
- 13:55 – 14:15 Lubos Vesely (Director for Research, Association for International Affairs in Prague) – *Working towards democracy in Belarus via EU institutions*
- 14:15 – 14:25 discussion
- 14:25 – 14:45 **coffee break**



Panel C 2: Central European Think Tanks and Democracy Promotion Abroad

(Moderated by David Kral, Director, Europeum, a Prague think tank)

- 14:45 – 15:05 Peter Brezani (Senior Researcher, Slovak Foreign Policy Association, Bratislava), case study: *Facilitating public debate on the EU in Serbia*
- 15:05 – 15:25 Stanislav Balik (Senior Researcher, Center for Democracy and Culture, Brno), case study: *Project for sharing Czech transformational knowledge with the Iraqi public*
- 15:25 – 15:40 discussion
- 15:40 – 15:50 ***coffee break***
- 15:50 – 16:10 Gergely Prohle (Senior Advisor, International Center for Democratic Transition in Budapest), case study: *Visegrad 4 as a model of democratic cooperation for the Balkans*
- 16:10 – 16:30 Kristina Prunerova (Program Officer, International Committee for Democracy in Cuba), case study – *Promoting democracy in Cuba through advocacy efforts in Europe and Latin America*
- 16:30 – 17:00 discussion and wrap up
- 17:00 – 18:00 ***reception hosted by U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Cameron Munter (attended by Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Mark Pekala)***

Working languages: English and Czech