

“EuroMaidan: Views from the Ground and Future Perspectives”

Speakers’ Bios

Iryna Bekeshkina, PhD, is director of the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation – one of the eldest and the most authoritative think tank in Ukraine (founded in 1992). DIF has a mission to support Ukraine's transition towards a fully functioning democracy, better governance, market economy, and the development of civil society in Ukraine. She is senior fellow at the Institute of Sociology of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. She holds a PhD in Philosophy (“The Structure of Personality”) at the Institute of Philosophy of Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.



Iryna Bekeshkina led several research projects on the role of public opinion polls, democratization, European integration, and various social issues. She is the author of more than 100 research papers and publications in media, especially on the issues of democratization in Ukraine and elections. She lectures a course on quantitative methods in sociology at the High School of Sociology at the Institute of Sociology. She is an editor of the bulletin “Political Portrait of Ukraine.” Iryna Bekeshkina works intensively with media, often participates in the popular TV shows. In 2006-2013 Iryna Bekeshkina was on the list of the “100 the most influential women in Ukraine” (№48 at 2013).



Kateryna Kruk is a political activist and social media journalist covering events on EuroMaidan in Kyiv. She holds a master degree in political science from Wroclaw University (Wroclaw, Poland). During her studies, she received an Erasmus LLP scholarship and spent a semester at the Central European University (Budapest, Hungary). Currently she is doing an internship at Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Kateryna Kruk is an active participant of EuroMaidan protest in Ukraine, working as a volunteer interpreter for foreign journalists and providing news about EuroMaidan in English and Polish on Twitter. Together with other protesters she was a founder of the World Maidan Forum, a group of activists working on setting independent media resource for the EuroMaidan movement. Also she is cooperating with members of the European Parliament from the Committee on Foreign

Affairs regarding the creation of a think-tank for development of social movement of EuroMaidan.

László Póti, PhD, is a senior research fellow at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs. He specializes on the post-Soviet space, Russian and Ukrainian foreign and security policy as well as Russian energy policy. He holds a master degree in international relations from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (1984) and a Ph.D. in international relations from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (2000). He wrote his doctoral thesis on Soviet policy toward Eastern Europe in the Gorbachev-era (1985-91).



András Rác, PhD, is Assistant Professor at the Department of International Studies of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University. Besides, he is Associate Fellow of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs in Budapest. His main research interests cover the post-Soviet region, the Eastern neighborhood policy of the EU and the foreign and security policy of Hungary and of the Visegrad region. He was research fellow of the EFSPS Program of the Volkswagen Foundation, and also visiting fellow of the Transatlantic Academy of the German Marshall Fund.