



ICPS

International  
Centre for  
Policy  
Studies

# ICPS Annual Report for 2010

*Progress of Strategic Plan*

*ICPS Ideas and Messages*

*ICPS Projects and Events*

# 1. Progress of Strategic Plan

In March 2010, the Centre's Strategic Plan for 2010-2012 was presented to the Supervisory Board and discussed. Additional consultations and meetings were held with individual members of the Board. Based on the feedback provided, a revised version of the Strategic Plan was posted on the ICPS site. Since that time, the Centre has been actively pursuing the goals of this Plan.

The Strategic Plan designates the Centre's mission as establishing democratic order and discipline through the building of democratic institutions capable of putting together a national strategy and ensuring a high quality of life for ordinary Ukrainians. The Centre's mission also includes changing public attitudes towards reform in Ukraine from negative to positive.

To achieve its mission, the Centre has established six strategic priorities:

1. A European quality of life
2. Proper democratic governance
3. Energy security
4. Foreign policy
5. Foreign aid
6. The Association Agreement

## *ICPS's Strategic Objectives through 2012:*

- ◆ Instituting strategic reform in Ukraine that is understood and supported by ordinary Ukrainians by engaging all interested parties from the very start and at every stage of the process;
- ◆ Mobilizing young Ukrainians and business to support reforms as two powerful social groups with whom no one has engaged in this area to date;
- ◆ Establishing new socio-political internet networks and resources.

## *The ICPS Team*

By concentrating on carrying out these objectives and strategic priorities, ICPS moved from a system of experts who were more-or-less given the same status to a tripartite structure: advisors, senior analysts and junior analysts.

*Advisors* – These are highly placed government officials or business professionals, top analysts and journalists from both Ukraine and abroad. These individuals are responsible for one or more strategic priorities designated by ICPS and consult with analysts.

*Associated analysts* – These are prominent Ukrainian and Foreign analyst, which are involved in the project implementation at ICPS.

*Senior analysts* – These are permanent ICPS experts who are responsible for carrying out ICPS strategic priorities, manage projects, cooperate with donors and train junior analysts.

*Junior analysts* – These are young specialists who assist senior analysts in carrying out ICPS strategic priorities.

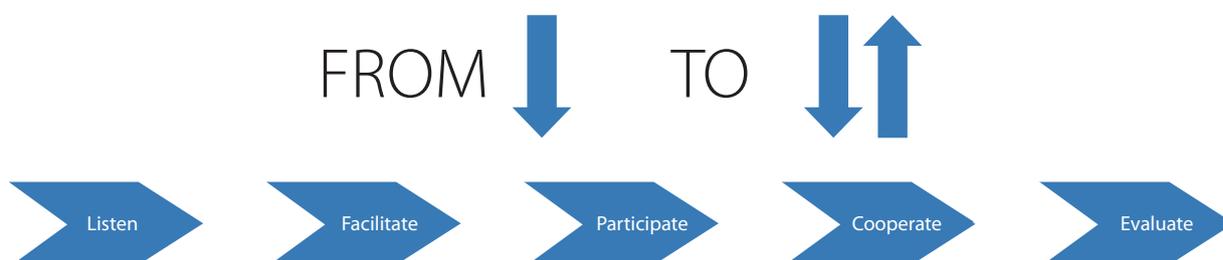
*Vira Nanivska as ICPS Director for the third time was included into TOR-100 the most influential women in Ukraine, according to Focus-2010.*

## *Our communicative concept so far*

The communicative concept was a basic element of the ICPS Strategic Plan. This involved using new media technologies and undertaking a major expansion in ICPS's internet presence.

In this area, the Centre was able to reach all its objectives in the Strategic Plan for 2010.

### *✓ Instituting a new model of internet presence*



### *✓ Optimizing the communication team*

To ensure that the ICPS communicative concept was effectively enacted and the broadest dissemination of the Centre's ideas and messages, ICPS expanded the staff and optimized the work of its communication team. These are the people who promote ICPS ideas in three forms: publications, events and multi-media internet communications. The communication team includes:

- ◆ The publishing team—consisting of the publications coordinator, English and Ukrainian copy editors, and publication designer—is responsible for the preparation of ICPS periodicals and thematic publications.
- ◆ Public event manager organizes and runs all ICPS public events.
- ◆ Internet dissemination managers—the content manager and multi-media designer—are responsible for filling the ICPS website, setting up and expanding the ICPS social network, maintaining the ICPS promotional page in Facebook, its profile on Twitter and its presence on YouTube.

### *✓ Expanding the ICPS internet presence*

A number of steps were taken to expand ICPS's internet presence:

- ◆ A corporate profile was established for ICPS on Facebook and Twitter, the two most popular social networks in the world. These profiles are regularly updated with fresh information.
- ◆ Internet profiles are managed using an open conversation aggregator called Mozilla Raindrop. This makes it possible to collect various profiles in one location, manage them, and change their links and interconnections.
- ◆ Resources have been added to Russian- and English-language social bookmarking services such as Delicious.
- ◆ Video hosting has been added through YouTube, so that video content can be created and disseminated through social networks.
- ◆ An ICPS page and a page on the Centre's priorities have been set up in Wikipedia. Both are regularly updated.
- ◆ The structure and design of the ICPS website has undergone a social media optimization (SMO) procedure in order to make it easier to disseminate content.

### ✓ *Instituting procedures for disseminating ICPS products*

The communication team is responsible for producing and disseminating ICPS ideas and messages based on a procedure reflecting new media and communication technology.

Based on this procedure, every ICPS publication is prepared in Ukrainian and English and, in some cases such as with the new foreign policy, in Russian. The ready publication is accompanied by a press release and a multi-media presentation.

Using the multi-media format, ICPS presents all publications to the public at open events. The resulting discussions and dialogs are recorded on video and posted to YouTube as a 10-minute clip.

Each publication is posted on the ICPS site, along with its multi-media presentation and a video of the discussion, and the links are sent to all the participants in the discussion, partners and experts with whom the Centre cooperates. A press release with links to the publication, presentation and video is also distributed to the press. News and updates on all products are posted with hyperlinks on the ICPS social network, Facebook and Twitter.

*In 2010, ICPS was named the top think-tank in Ukraine in the Global "Go-to Think-Tanks" ratings by well-known third sector analyst James McGann (USA).*

## 2. ICPS Ideas and Messages

### *Missing Out: Civil society and ENPI*

This study showed that NGOs in at least four former soviet states are excluded at key points in the European Union's planning and executing economic aid programs. ICPS was strongly critical of how the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) works with NGOs in Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine. The authors charge that the European Commission, which oversees the 12 billion ENPI, squanders money in relying too much on national authorities when planning aid packages, a practice that unwittingly pushes non-state actors (NSAs) out of the process.

*ICPS's study called "Missing Out: Civil Society and ENPI" was awarded top place in the first PASOS Think-Tank Awards in 2010.*

"The political cultures of many former soviet states are not conducive to NSA participation in policy-making and, in any case, their unreformed institutions are generally unable to translate civil society involvement into effective policy inputs," the report states. "The EC has not recognized that its ENPI partners are not completely ready for the type of aid it wishes to offer. To offer policy-driven assistance to countries with closed and unreformed policy-making institutions is to build on quicksand."

The study caught the attention of EU officials who administer the ENPI. They have promised to act on the report's findings and recommendations as they plan future rounds of economic aid to the EU's eastern neighbors.

The report also drew praise from a panel of five award jurors consisting of international experts in policy-making with think-tank and government experience, including jury chair Thomas Carothers, Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington DC.

"It is an innovative topic, deftly handled," says Mr. Carothers. "The report helps the NGO community bridge the gap between with relevant European institutions by highlighting the issue in a clear way and providing an accessible analytical breakdown of the input process."

## *How foreign assistance can effectively support civil society*

The concept of civil society is very different in post-soviet countries than in European practice, where it implies:

- ◆ the defense of the interests of various social groups, an opportunity to have a voice, and the government's commitment to listen to this voice;
- ◆ self-governing, everyday associations that have no links to the government or politics, such as a block choruses, backyard football team or neighborhood green groups.

This is the kind of organizations that Robert Putnam wrote in his book, "Making Democracy Work: Civic traditions in modern Italy" (1993). He distinguished the emergence of such organizations as the main spur for development in Northern Italy.

Post-totalitarian countries were given plenty of recommendations about undertaking forms of activities that work well in a democratic country and yield results. But nobody took the trouble to analyze how the soviet past might affect the perception of such concepts as democracy and civil society. The USSR treated civic activism and good works that were independent of the state and state policy as criminal and punished individuals who dared to engage in them with prison, the Gulag or even death.

The need for people in this region to understand and internalize the very alien concepts and practice of democracy and civil society was never an objective in reform or technical assistance programs. A classic example of the foreignness of democracy in the USSR is the "most democratic constitution in the world"—Stalin's Constitution.

The difference in day-to-day governing between totalitarianism and democracy was never taken into account, let alone a subject of analysis in understanding the reasons for the lack or failure of reform. Everything was chalked up to mystical concepts like "mentality" and "political will."

Civil society support programs never offered support to informal community organizations. Only political community organizations were formed, to play the role of teachers and leaders to influence the Government. But these were not actually part of any community and had few direct, close links with their communities. They tended to focus constantly on new projects, which gave them their living, without sustaining any efforts they might have started on a previous project.

Projects to develop civil society have not focused on reforming the government by helping it establish the structures, procedures, standards and skills of working with civil society. To foster the development of civil society in Ukraine, all foreign aid programs need to switch from consultations with civil society to consultations with interest groups following a standardized procedure.

Every NGO working in European integration and civil society should very clearly establish its specific niche. TA beneficiaries should not concentrate on a specific sector (farming, the arts) but on bringing about transformational changes and reforms in the country.

## *A pro-active Ukraine in the post-soviet arena*

Today, Ukraine is being torn in two directions: European and Russian integration. The opposition continues through inertia to talk about "Eurointegration towards full membership in the EU." Meanwhile, the EU is experiencing "Ukraine fatigue," pointing out the country's unreadiness and continually changes its format for cooperation. At the same time, Russia continues to insist on Ukraine's deep, comprehensive integration into a unified Slavic region and is keen to persuade politicians in the Euroatlantic community in its indisputable right to a "historic sphere of influence."

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry is faced with a seemingly impossible task: fixing relations with Russia in a way that doesn't threaten Ukraine's own sovereignty. This means that Ukraine's foreign policy goal must be pro-active integration in the Eurasian region based on European principles.

To preserve its own sovereignty, Ukraine must take on a set of integrational terms of reference. This means forming relations with the EU on solid ground, demystifying the Russian factor, and establishing a consolidated foreign policy.

Ukraine is located at the border between two centers of power: Europe and Russia. If Ukraine begins to name things by their proper names and consistently plan and carry out all the necessary steps, it will become a regional leader and an attractive partner to Russia, the EU and NATO alike. The territorial center for such projects should be Kyiv, which is politically, geographically and historically "equidistant" from Russia and the EU.

Ukraine can integrate pro-actively because all the conditions for this are already in place: a strong President with ambitious goals, a consolidated government, readiness for reform, capacity to develop a new post-conflict ideology, and support among both voters and other democratic countries.

### *Ukraine's energy sector and EU environmental standards*

Ukraine has driven itself into isolation with regard to both energy and the environment. In every country in the world, the smallest bit of energy that is produced, transported and consumed brings the state profit. This is the key criterion for energy efficiency. In Ukraine, the entire nation—people and economic sectors alike—works on behalf of a loss-making energy business. The most ineffective energy consumers are municipalities. Ukraine's roads, hospitals, schools and modernization in general are literally going up in smoke as a result.

The energy sector is one of the most important and inseparable components in Ukraine's economic complex. At the same time, energy security is one of the weakest links in Ukraine's national security. At this point, energy has changed from being an economic factor to being a political one in Ukraine, which prevents the country from becoming competitive on international markets where energy means energy conservation and environmental protection.

Today, there is a risk that Ukraine will fail to meet the conditions for caps on thermo-generated emissions in its Agreement for Membership in the Energy Community (EnC). Ukraine's heat generation is ecologically hostile and upholding EU standards could reduce the impact on the environment and on the population of Ukraine.

The state must intervene because:

- ◆ a major share of the FEC is still in state hands;
- ◆ environmental policy is within the competence of the state;
- ◆ reforming the energy sector is a government priority in economic reforms;
- ◆ there is a risk that Ukraine's Eurointegration will stall;
- ◆ talks with the EU on easing the conditions for Ukraine need to be continued.

### *Association Agreement: A market review*

In signing the Association Agreement with the EU, Ukraine takes on a commitment to institute a European system of market oversight. However, Ukraine has an existing system of oversight and supervision of goods and products that come onto its market that is deep and many-branched. At the foundation is DSTU (known as GOST in Russian), the State System of Standards of Ukraine, a quality control system it inherited from the USSR.

Using the DSTU system, the state established not only clear requirements as to quality and production processes, but also the selection of goods that could be produced and then allowed onto the soviet market. Manufacturing was subject to very strict norms that limited the selection of products: only three types of boiled sausages (bologna-type meats) were available—doctorska, molochna and dytiacha—and all dishes in restaurants followed the same recipes.

Everything in the Soviet Union was 100%, from employment to product control, so the introduction of a new product on the market was a matter for politics at the highest level. Such products as mayonnaise and ketchup only found their way onto soviet shelves because of a decision approved at the XX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—the same Congress at which Nikita Khrushchev debunked the personality cult of Stalin.

DSTU established procedures for preparing every good and product, including its safety requirements. For instance, a tool with low power requirements had to have a designated level of resistance and maintain an established heating temperature. When the number of products and goods on the market was clearly established, all the products were made following a single procedure from the same raw materials, and quality control automatically guaranteed safety.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, a market system that did not limit the quantity or variety of goods that entered the market in any way replaced the command, centrally-administrated system. Yet the procedures for DSTU to operate remained unchanged from soviet days, except to slip from the level of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to officials in the state standards committee, Derzhstandart. The quality of thousands of varieties of boiled sausages on the market is still being checked based on the standards governing the original three.

The European system of market oversight, despite its superficial similarity—name, accreditation, control and inspection functions—is primarily intended to protect consumers. It emerged in the context of a free, unlimited market where the concept of quality may be subjective, but the safety of goods and products is objective.

*In 2010 ICPS was announced by the Credit-Rating Agency the winner in the ranking for accuracy of predictions or the hryvnia-dollar exchange rate over 2009 made by analytical company.*

### 3. ICPS Projects and Events

#### 3.1 ICPS Projects in 2010 (according to ICPS priorities)

#	Name	Donor	Term
<b>Proper Democratic Governance</b>			
1	Open Budget	Center on Budget and Policy Priority (US)	01.12.2009 – 31.07.2010
2	Open Budget Study 2010	Center on Budget and Policy Priority (US)	01.06.2009 – 31.01.2011
3	Independent international expert commission on a reform program for the new President of Ukraine	Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the Netherlands	30.11.2009 – 30.06.2010
4	Local government reforms in Ukraine	The Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR)	15.03.2009 – 01.09.2011
<b>European Quality of Life</b>			
5	A Strategy for the City of Kyiv	Voluntary donations	01.10.2010 – 31.12.2010
6	Economic studies	Embassy of Japan in Ukraine	01.04.2010 – 30.09.2010
7	Economic reforms for Moldova	UNITER/ PACT	22.02.2010 – 15.10.2010
<b>Energy Security</b>			
8	An Energy Security Strategy	The Embassy of Great Britain in Ukraine	15.04.2010 – 01.08.2010
9	Preparing a strategy for realizing Ukraine's potential for energy efficiency and environmental protection in the energy sector	Voluntary donations	01.10.2010 – 31.12.2010
<b>Foreign Policy</b>			
10	A New Foreign Policy for Ukraine	UNITER/ PACT	01.11.2009 – 30.10.2010
11	4SEAS	European Commission	01.01.2009 – 31.12.2011
<b>Foreign Aid</b>			
12	Final report on "Monitoring the ENPI"	Open Society Institute	01.12.2009 – 31.08.2010
<b>The Association Agreement</b>			
13	Preparing Ukraine to carry out the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine: Analytical and methodological support	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)	01.01.2009 – 31.08.2011
<b>Institutional Support</b>			
14	OSI Institutional Grant	Open Society Institute	01.05.2009 – 30.04.2010
15	OSI Institutional Grant	Open Society Institute	01.07.2010 – 30.06.2011
16	Academic Fellowships Program	Open Society Institute	01.01.2010 – 31.12.2010

### 3.2 ICPS Events in 2010

During the course of the year, the Centre carried out a number of events in line with its priorities:

Event and date	Key idea and achievements
<b>Proper democratic governance</b>	
Roundtable: <b>“The unfinished desovietization of the top-down central command hierarchy is the main obstacle to decentralization”</b> 2 April 2010	During the roundtable, there was a discussion of the political crisis, the reasons for which can be blamed neither on “mentality” nor on cultural or political history, nor on a bad elite or a conflict between East and West. The only reason for the current chaos in Ukraine is the incomplete, fragmented “desovietization” of the country and the fact that it is not underpinned by European standards of governing.  Key participants: Volodymyr Yatsuba, Minister of Regional Development and Construction; Daniel Caron, Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine; Oles Dovhiy, Deputy Mayor of Kyiv and Secretary of Kyiv City Council.
<b>Energy security</b>	
Roundtable: <b>Strategic priorities for strengthening Ukraine’s energy security through 2030</b> 8 May 2010	The event included a presentation of a study called “Ukraine’s international commitments in the energy sector.” Energy security is one of the key areas that determine the economic development of a country and its role on the international stage. One major means of reaching these goals is proper strategic planning, including the revival of relevant conceptual documents in energy security and taking into account best international practice.  Key participants: Ivan Plachkov, Minister of Fuel and Energy 2005-2006; Mykhailo Honchar, Director of Energy Programs, Nomos Center; Borys Kostiukskiy, correspondent member of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine; Valeriy Borovyk, Director of the Nova Energia alliance; Janosz Zakonyi, Director of the “Additional Technical Assistance for Budget Support in Instituting Ukraine’s Energy Strategy Financed by the EU” project (ESBS); and representatives of fuel and energy companies in Ukraine, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Business Association (EBA), the EC Delegation in Ukraine, and embassies.
Roundtable: <b>“Challenges to Ukraine’s Energy Security: Progress report”</b> 21 July 2010	Presentation and expert discussion of an analytical brief called “Challenges to Ukraine’s Energy Security: Progress report for 2010,” prepared by ICPS analysts after a roundtable called “Strategic priorities in strengthening Ukraine’s energy security through 2030.” Participants: Ivan Plachkov, Minister of Fuel and Energy 2005-2006; Hans Rein, Director of Third Department of the EC Delegation in Ukraine; Stefan Gulgren, Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine; Mikael Borg-Hansen, Ambassador of Denmark to Ukraine; Oleksandr Narbut, independent energy expert; and representatives of fuel and energy companies in Ukraine and other embassies.
Roundtable <b>“Energy efficiency in municipal infrastructure”</b> 29 July 2010	The most inefficient consumer of energy is municipal administrations. Ukraine’s roads, hospitals, schools and overall modernization prospects go up in smoke as a result. Why are they engaged in mending holes rather than proper modernization? How might this modernization be financed? How effectively does existing legislation foster modernization? How is the work of municipal community enterprises and utilities changing under market conditions?  These questions were discussed by local government officials, diplomats and community organizations at a roundtable on “Energy efficiency in municipal infrastructure.” The goal of this event, organized jointly by ICPS and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was to raise the most painful issues and determine what steps need to be taken to improve the energy efficiency of municipal infrastructure.
<b>Foreign Policy</b>	
Press conference <b>“Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy: Expert views”</b> 3 March 2010	ICPS and the World Policy Institute (WPI) presented a joint report called “Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy: Expert views,” which launched a qualitatively new level of debate on serious foreign policy challenges facing the new President. Leading Ukrainian foreign policy specialists were involved in preparing recommendations for the new President. This publication was the result of an innovative approach that combined complex analysis and many consultations with large numbers of government and non-state actors.

<p>Roundtable:  <b>“Ukraine’s new foreign policy”</b>  11 March 2010</p>	<p>ICPS and WPI organized this roundtable, at which Ukraine’s foreign policy prospects were discussed at a high level. Both analysts and politicians were engaged in a lively debate about the greatest challenges facing Ukraine today, from relations with the European Union to the need for deep reforms. The discussion focused on an analytical brief called “Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy: Expert views,” prepared as a guide to future debates. This report includes concrete recommendations for President Yanukovych and his foreign policy team.</p> <p>Participants: such authoritative and influential individuals as Borys Tarasiuk, a former Foreign Minister; Oleksiy Logvynenko and Serhiy Shevchuk, VR deputies; leading Ukrainian analysts; the ambassadors of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Romania, Serbia, and Spain, and other top diplomats.</p>
<p><b>International seminar</b>  <b>“The 4 Sea Basins and the Global Economy: Are the EU’s four freedoms working?”</b>  9-10 June 2010</p>	<p>During the course of this seminar, analysts from Ukraine and the EU discussed the role of the four maritime regions—the Baltic, Black, Caspian and Mediterranean basins—in relation to the Four Freedoms of the European Union and the global economy. The first day was dedicated to the Four Freedoms. During the second day, experts discussed the role of the EU in integrating these four maritime regions and the effectiveness of international organizations in managing global economic processes. After the conclusion of the seminar, the project’s Supervisory Board met, drew its conclusions from the event and established key priorities for further steps under this project.</p>
<p>Roundtable  <b>“Pro-active Ukraine in the post-soviet arena”</b>  23 September 2010</p>	<p>Discussion at this roundtable centered on levers of influence that Ukraine has today on the quality of its integration with Russia. An active position, naming things as they are, planning and executing all the necessary steps carefully and consistently would benefit both sides the most. For Ukraine and Russia to draw closer to both Europe and the US will only be possible if regional integration follows Euroatlantic principles.</p> <p>Participants: Ireneus Fidos, political counselor to the Delegation of the European Union in Ukraine; Daniel Caron, Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine; Vsevolod Loskutov, counselor and emissary from the Russian Federation’s Embassy in Ukraine; Oleh Rybachuk, Director of Center UA, a community organization; Oleh Hrytsayenko, Deputy General Manager of the Center for International and Comparative Studies; and Yevhen Sharov, Director of Foreign Policy at the National Institute for Strategic Studies.</p>
<p>Conference  <b>“Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy: The year in review”</b>  2 November 2010</p>	<p>Over the year, the International Centre for Policy Studies worked on a project called “Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy.”The project began with a joint study by ICPS and the World Policy Institute called “Ukraine’s New Foreign Policy: Expert views,” which was based on recommendations from the leading foreign relations experts in key foreign policy areas: security, regional partnership, energy security and environmental protection, and relations among Russia, the US, the EU and key regional players. With the conclusion of this project, ICPS invited the authors to review their recommendations to the newly elected President in the light of what had happened over nearly nine months.</p> <p>Participants: Borys Tarasiuk, a former Foreign Minister; Aliona Hetmanchuk, Director of the World Policy Institute (WPI); Serhiy Solodkiy, Deputy Director of WPI; Tetiana Sylina, international observer for Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, a top Ukrainian newspaper; Vadym Triukhan, ambassador-at-large from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.</p>

<p>Roundtable <b>Monthly presentations of <i>Inside Ukraine</i></b></p>	<p>The last six issues of <i>Inside Ukraine</i>, ICPS's analytical monthly, roused considerable interest among Ukrainian and foreign top officials thanks to its analysis of urgent themes that no one else has been picking up on:</p> <p>Integrational Terms of Reference: Ukraine, the EU and Russia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eurointegration: Reboot</li> <li>• Ukraine's regional integration</li> <li>• Russia's Customs Union: Integration of colonization?</li> <li>• Ukraine has a choice</li> <li>• Russia's agenda on Ukraine</li> </ul> <p>The presentation of each new issue of <i>Inside Ukraine</i> led to active and high-quality debate involving ambassadors from the EU, officials from the Euroatlantic community, a broad circle of Ukrainian analysts, and officials from Russia, which made it possible to understand just how serious foreign policy issues are for Ukraine. The high-quality analysis and broad discussion of the results of these studies gained the attention of such key individuals as Kostiantyn Hryshchenko, Foreign Minister of Ukraine; Pavlo Klimkin, Deputy Foreign Minister; and Yevhen Perelyghina, Director of the Bureau for European Integration under the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, who acknowledged the importance of such research and expressed interest in seeing this work continue. The EU side has provided support through Stefan Fuhle, EU Commissar for EU Expansion and European Neighborhood Policy and Douglas Carpenter, representative of the European Commission's General Directorate for Expansion.</p>
<b>Foreign Aid</b>	
<p>Roundtable <b>"How to direct European aid towards the reform process in Ukraine?"</b> 23 March 2010</p>	<p>During this roundtable, ICPS analysts explained what the EU budget is and how it is put together. They also discussed what possible paths there are for EU partner countries to become engaged in this process. An ICPS brief called "Additional Resources for Reform: Thinking ahead" and an analytical report called "Financial Prospects in the EU for 2014-2018: Means of influence" formed the basis for this discussion.</p> <p>Oleksiy Rozhkov, Deputy Director of the Department for EU Cooperation under Ukraine's Ministry of Economy and Oleh Rybachuk both commented on the need for Ukraine to be pro-active and to lobby its interests right until spending caps and line items are finalized in the 2011 EU budget. They also evaluated Ukraine's previous efforts to defend its priorities before the European Union. All sides in the debate agreed that undertaking serious reforms would be the best way for Ukraine to lobby its interests in Brussels.</p>
<b>European Quality of Life</b>	
<p>Press conference <b>"Demographic policy in Ukraine: Is it worth paying more?"</b> 29 March 2010</p>	<p>It would be hard to find a Ukrainian who has not heard about the country's demographic problem, a journalist who has not written about it, or a politician who has not tried to deal with it. Clearly, Ukraine's shrinking population is not an issue that can be ignored. Still, to come up with the best solution, it is necessary to understand the nature of this problem and its roots, to evaluate the effectiveness and possible impact of any steps that are taken</p> <p>The ICPS team worked on this issue and prepared a number of recommendations as to more effective demographic policy and optimizing related budget expenditures. These were presented at the press conference.</p>
<p>Press conference <b>"Results of an evaluation of the Open Budget Index in Ukraine for 2010"</b> 20 October 2010</p>	<p>The results of an international rating of the openness of Ukraine's budget were analyzed and presented at this press conference, along with an analysis of the quantity and quality of information that the Ukrainian Government publishes regarding eight key budget documents, and recommendations for increasing the openness of the country's financial process. According to the Open Budget 2010 study, the Verkhovna Rada does not have enough powers to approve changes to the budget made by the executive branch during the fiscal year and does not hold open budget hearings. The General Accounting Office lacks the necessary channels of communication with the public and does not, in practice, report on steps taken by the executive branch in following through on audit recommendations.</p>