



SAPERE AUDE:

Civic Education for a Society of Citizens

Vienna, April 1-4, 2026

in partnership with:

DialogueBuro

This project is funded by the Swedish Institute (Detta projekt finansieras av Svenska institutet)

Venue: Dialogbüro office

[Esslinggasse 9, top 6, 1010 Wien](#)

April 1, Wednesday

Global World Disorder, Resilience and Civic Agency

9.30 - 10.30

Opening:

Lena Nemirovskaya, Founder, School of Civic Education

*Daniel Johansson Århem, Head of Section for Reform Support,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Eastern Europe/Central
Asia Dept*

*Michael Sohlman, Co-chair person, Board of directors, School of
Civic Education*

*Stefan Melle, Director, Dialogue Office for Civil Society
Cooperation, Vienna*

10.30 - 11.30

Ice-breaker

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee break

12.00 - 13.30

Key note: *Ivan Krastev*

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 15.30

Key note: *Mikhail Minakov*

Ukrainian Society: Everyday Resilience and its Limits

15.30 - 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30

Session:

Global World. The Outlook

Michael Sohlman

17.30 - 18.00

Coffee break

18.00 - 19.30

Talk to: *Sergei Petrov, Founder, ROLF*

April 2, Thursday

Civic Education and Steering towards Democracy and Sustainable Peace

10.00 - 11.30

Course 1 Lesson 1-2

The End of the Regime

Alexander Baunov

11.30 - 12.00

Coffee break

12.00 - 13.30

Course 2, Lesson 1-2

*The Battle for West: "Dark Enlighteners" against
the Classic Enlightenment*

Mikhail Minakov

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 16.00

Session:

Populism: Power or Radicalism

John Lloyd

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00

Project Rig with Anton Pominov

April 3, Friday

Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Memory

12.00 - 13.30

Session:

Gender and Arctic Security

Marc Lanteign

13.30 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 16.00

Panel:

History, Memory, Resistance

Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja

Clemina Antonova

16.00 - 16.30

Coffee break

16.30 - 18.00

Course 3. Lesson 1-2:

Transit to Democracy

Kirill Rogov

18.00 - 18.30

Coffee break

18.30 - 20.00

Project Rig with Anton Pominov

April 4, Saturday

Civics, Responsibility Agency

10.00 - 11.30 **Project Rig** with Anton Pominov

11.30 - 12.00 **Coffee break**

12.00 - 13.30 **Talk to** Yuri Senokosov

13.30 - 14.30 **Closing. Reflections**

14.30 - 15.30 **Lunch**

KEY EXPERTS AND GUESTS

Clemena Antonova (Bulgaria) art historian, based in Vienna, where she is the Research Director of the “World in Pieces” Programme at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna (IWM). She works on aspects of the art of the icon, Eastern Orthodox theology and Russian religious philosophy. She is the author of *Space, Time, and Presence in the Icon: Seeing the World with the Eyes of God* (Routledge, 2010), *Visual Thought in Russian Religious Philosophy: Pavel Florensky’s Theory of the Icon*, (Routledge, 2020), and, “IKONA: The Modernist Invention of the Icon in the Russian Art World, 1900s-1920s,” (forthcoming with Bloomsbury in Nov. 2026). Together with George Pattison, she is the editor of “The Russian Idea in Question: Politics, Philosophy, and Religion in Putin’s Russia,” (also coming out with Bloomsbury). The volume is the result of a lecture series at the IWM on “Reading Russian Philosophy in the Age of Putin.”

Alexander Baunov (Russia) is a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center. Baunov has written on a wide variety of international and domestic topics, including modern Russian ideology, Russian foreign policy, Russia’s place in the modern world, Ukraine, the European economic crisis, the Arab Spring, and the 2011–2012 Moscow protests.

Baunov worked with *Slon.ru*, and before that he was a reporter for *Russian Newsweek*, where he later headed the magazine’s team of international reporters. He has reported from a variety of places, including the polar areas of Norway, South Africa, Japan, and Chile.

Baunov turned to reporting after five years of service at the Russian Foreign Ministry, during which time he spent a number of years posted in Athens. This was in part due to his Master’s degree in Ancient Greek, Latin, and Classical Literature from Moscow State University in 1995. In 2013, he was on the short list for the PolitProsvet journalism award and headed the award’s selection committee the following year. Baunov is the author of *WikiLeaks: Backdoor Diplomacy* (Moscow, 2011), *Mif Tesen* (Moscow, 2015) and *The End of Regime* (Moscow, 2023). In 2016, he won a prestigious award from the Liberal Mission foundation for *Mif Tesen*.

Daniel Johansson Århem (Sweden) Deputy Director and Head of Division for Reform Support to Eastern Europe, Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

Mr Johansson Århem took up his current position in April 2023, after having joined the Eastern Europe and Central Asia immediately following the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. He has broad diplomatic experience, including as Deputy Head of Mission to Uganda (2018-21) and Jakarta (2011-14), Sahel desk and Head of the West Africa Division in the MFA Africa Department (2010-11), and adviser to Sweden’s Director-General for Trade (2008-10). Before joining the Swedish Foreign Service, Mr Johansson Århem worked in a technical assistance programme between the Swedish and Russian Ministries of Finance, funded by Sida (2001-06) and as a research assistant focused on democracy in Russia.

Ivan Krastev (Bulgaria) is chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia, Rector at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna (IWM). In 2019 he was awarded a Mercator Senior Fellowship and in 2020 both the Jean Améry Prize for European Essay Writing and the Lionel Gelber Prize for his book *The Light that Failed. A Reckoning*. Beyond that, is a founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the global advisory board of Open Society Foundations (New York) and a member of the advisory council of the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF). He is also associate editor of *Europe's World* and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Democracy*. From 2004 to 2006 Ivan Krastev was the executive director of the International Commission on the Balkans chaired by the former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato. He was the editor-in-chief of the Bulgarian Edition of *Foreign Policy* and was a member of the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

Dr Marc Lanteigne (Canada) is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Tromsø, Norway. He specializes in international relations, comparative politics, security studies and comparative political economy, with a particular focus on China, the Asia-Pacific region, Oceania and the polar regions. He has conducted extensive research and published numerous articles and books on these topics. Some specific examples of his contributions include: Research on China's engagement with the Asia-Pacific region: Dr Lanteigne has conducted extensive research on China's political and economic interactions with countries in the Asia-Pacific region. His work has shed light on China's growing influence in the region and its impact on regional dynamics. Expertise in Arctic and Polar Politics: Dr Lanteigne has a particular focus on the polar regions, including the Arctic. His research has explored the geopolitical, economic and environmental dimensions of the Arctic region and the role of different actors, including China, in shaping Arctic policy.

John Lloyd (United Kingdom), Journalist, presently contributing editor to the *Financial Times*. He is a member of the editorial board of *Prospect*, and a columnist for *La Repubblica* of Rome. Has got awards for journalism, including Specialist Writer of the Year in the British Press Award and Journalist of the Year in the Granada What the Papers Say Awards. His books include *Loss without Limit: the British Miners' Strike* (with Martin Adeney, 1985); *Rebirth of a Nation: an Anatomy of Russia* (1998), *What the Media are doing to our Politics* (2004), *Reporting the EU: News, Media and the European Institutions* (with Cristina Marconi, 2014), and *The Power and the Story* (2017). Co-author (with Andrei Kolesnikov) of the book "Learning to Live Free. Yuri Senokosov, Lena Nemirovskaya, and the Moscow School of Civic Education" (2022). He is writing a book on the rise of the New Right in Europe.

Stefan Melle (Germany) is the Director of the newly founded Dialogue Office for Civil Society Cooperation (Dialogbüro) based in Vienna with focus on Eastern and Southeastern Europe. He is an Eastern Europe specialist and journalist. From 2006 till 2023 he headed the Berlin based international NGO Austausch e.V. (formerly German-Russian Exchange) and multilateral

programs and projects in the realm of strengthening civil society, conflict resolution, education, remembrance, and ecological issues. He was a co-initiator and head of the civic education and research program “Transition Dialogue” in the 90-ies in the post-socialist countries (2015-2019). Also, he was one of the initiators, founders and co-coordinators of the EU Russia Civil Society Forum, the platform CivilM+ on peaceful reintegration of Eastern Ukraine, and the Platform of Russian Anti-war initiatives.

Mikhail (Mykhailo) Minakov (Ukraine) is a philosopher and political scholar. He is a Senior Advisor at Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and Editor-in-chief of Kennan Focus Ukraine, Ideology and Politics Journal, and Koine.Community. He was Professor of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine, 2001-2018) and visiting professor for Harvard University (2010, 2011, 2013), European University Viadrina (2017-19), Basel University (2019-20) and Pavia University (2022-23).

Lena Nemirovskaya (Russia) is co-founder of The Moscow School of Political Studies (in 1992) and The School of Civic Education together with Yuri Senokosov. Dr. Nemirovskaya received her PhD in Art Theory in 1974 and PhD in Philosophy from the Institute of Philosophy of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Between 1966 and 1978, she published over 100 articles on the philosophy of art in leading specialist journals while working at the Moscow Research Institute of Theory and History of Art. She was awarded the OBE in 2003 by the British government. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Dr. Walter Schwimmer, awarded the School the Council’s special Pro Merito medal in 2002. In 2006, Elena Nemirovskaya was awarded the Hiroshima Foundation Award for Peace and Culture. In 2008, she became an Officer of the French National Order of Merit. In 2010, she was awarded a Polish Bene Merito medal. In 2013, she received the Yegor Gaidar Award. In 2014, she was made a Chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Sergei Petrov (Russia) is a Russian politician and entrepreneur. A trained pilot-engineer, he was dismissed from the army in 1982 and expelled from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) for participating in a democratic organisation. He was elected twice as a State Duma deputy from the "A Just Russia" party. Petrov is known for his criticism of the government and for voting against laws that restrict citizens' rights. He founded the company "Rolf," which became one of the largest car dealerships in Russia. In 2019, a criminal case was initiated against Petrov due to his political views. He was forced to step down from the Board of Directors of "Rolf." In 2023, the company was placed under state control.

Anton Pominov (Russia), non-profit organisation manager and fundraising specialist for NGOs and media with experience in anti-corruption and business ethics. He is the founder and CEO of El Granto, a fundraising startup using artificial intelligence to support non-profit organisations.

Successfully raised over \$350,000 for clients in 2023-24, and over \$6 million in his career. As a partner at the Ethical Dilemmas Bureau, Anton implements ethics and performance improvement solutions for non-profit organisations and media. From 2007 to 2014, he worked at Transparency International Russia, and from 2014 to 2021, he managed the Russian office, providing valuable experience in leading a team of 50 people during a pandemic. From 2017 to 2022, he held an elected position on one of Transparency International's steering committees. Co-author of the TI movement's 2030 strategy. In 2010, he participated in the creation of the Laboratory of Anti-Corruption Policy at the National Research University

Kirill Rogov (Russia) Independent researcher, Founder, *Re:Russia*

Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja (Austria) born 1974 in Kiev, after her graduation in St. Petersburg in 1992 she studied Psychology, Sociology and Political Science in Gießen. She worked with the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt and on her dissertation about social changes in post-Soviet Russia. Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja works as an associate professor at the Department of Psychology at Sigmund Freud University Sigmund Freud Private University in Vienna. In 2021, her book "Post-truth" was published.

Yury Senokosov (Russia) Founder of the Moscow School of Political Studies and School Of Civic Education. Specialist in the history of philosophy and philosophy of history. Graduated from Moscow State University in 1962, faculty of history. Worked for the Main Library of Social Sciences, Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences, "Questions of Philosophy" magazine. In the years 1980-90 published a series of books under the title "From the history of Russian philosophical thought". Yury Senokosov started a foundation for philosophical and interdisciplinary research named after Merab Mamardashvili. Together with Lena Nemirovskaya founded Moscow School of Political Studies (1992) and School of Civic Education. Chief-editor at the School's quarterly journal "Obschaya Tetrad' ". Yury Senokosov wrote forewords to "How I understand Philosophy" and "Cartesian Meditations" by Mamardashvili. He also edited and wrote afterwards to "Meditation about Russia and Russians. Features of the Russian national character." He is also the author and visionary of the Berlin forum, being held since 2015 In Search of Lost Universalism (<http://www.berlinforum.online>) His recent books include: "Power as a problem. An Experience of Philosophical Consideration" (2005), "History Teaches. Letters about Civic Education" (2013), "In Search of Lost Universalism. 25 years of the School" (2017), "In Search of Lost Universalism. On the School of Civic Education" (2021), "Thirty Years of Civic Education. Trusting Universalism" (2022).

Michael Sohlman (Sweden), Co-chair person, School of Civic Education. Director of the Budget Department, Ministry of Finance 1985-1987; Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture (1987-1989); Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1989-1991), Executive Director of the Nobel Foundation (1992-2011). He is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,

former Chair of the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, a former chair of the Stockholm Institute of Transition Economics, and a former member of the International Crisis Group.