

International Conference

**1989 – 2009: Ukraine on the era threshold –
Discharging communism and the difficult way towards democracy**

27 October 2009, Teacher House, Kyiv

- 09.30** **Salutatory**
Kyryl Savin, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Kyiv office
- 10.00** Keynote: **Ivan Dzjuba**, former dissident, Member of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- 10.30 – 12.30** **Panel I:**
Ways from post communism to 1989 – different experiences of Central and Eastern European countries and the role of dissidents

1989 and the dismantlement of the communist systems mark a new era of the European History. The eastern European countries disengaged themselves from the soviet dominance and in 1991 the Soviet Union disappeared from the map. And after 1989, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania and other countries disbanded communism in different ways. Both the anticommunist positions and the development of civil society varied from one country to another. Why have democratic transformations after 1989 proceeded in different countries in such different ways? Which roles have played dissidents in these processes? Where they ready for the transformation challenges of 1989-1991? Why have dissidents agreed to the cooperation with the old system in most post communist states and why have they lost in other countries, however, all power and influence on social processes? Why do former dissidents belong today to different political camps? Why do some dissidents work for the construction of a “Liberal Empire” by Russia? Has the Orange Revolution of 2004 become the “Ukrainian 1989”?

- **Jevhen Zakharov**, Head of the Human Rights Protection Group, Kharkiv
- **Anatolij Dnistrovj**, author, journalist, host of the discussion club of the magazine “Ukrainian Week”, Kyiv
- **Andrej Tikhomirov**, Historian, Minsk
- **Przemyslav Sadura**, Sociologist and Publicist, Warsaw

Moderation: **Andrij Portnov**, Historian, Kyiv

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 15.30 **Panel II:**
Culture and Art in the political processes (retrospective 1989 – presence 2009)

Artists and art creators were one of the driving forces in the overthrows in 1989-1991, while having quite different views of their own role. They combined freedom of art and national culture and hence opposed themselves to the official soviet political art. How were the national spirit and the striving for political autonomy brought together? Which different styles and techniques found the artists to express their critique? In what differs the artists' political commitment at the end of the 1980's from today's? How was the public perception of politically committed art at that time and how are such art forms perceived today?

- **Serhij Proskurnja**, director, Lviv-Kyiv-Odessa
- **Vikotoria Narizhna**, author, Dnipropetrovsk
- **Pavlo Gudimov**, musician-artist, Kyiv

Moderation: **Larissa Denysenko**, author, journalist, Kyiv

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30

Panel IV:

Times of change in Ukraine and Eastern Europe through the eyes of women

The idea as well as the strong will of the citizens of the former Eastern Bloc to fight for their human and national rights were one of the reasons for the crisis and fall of the communist regimes. In Ukraine the emancipation of the civil society was strengthened by the Orange Revolution in 2004, but the transformation process of the society is still persisting. Although women – such as Alla Gorska or Lina Kostenko – have stood up, just as men, for freedom, independence and human rights during the times of dissidence in the 60's and 70's their role is marginalised in the memories of the dissidence period and in today's political life in Ukraine. How do women see their role in the fight for democracy? Which role have women played in the events of the Orange Revolution? What has changed for women as a result of the democratic transformation in Ukraine? How do other women's experiences from other countries of the former Eastern Bloc differ? Can a woman in Eastern Europe self-actualise today in the socio-political process? Why do too few women get involved in the political sphere in Ukraine?

- **Natalia Snjadanko**, author, Lviv
- **Irina Schtscherbakowa**, lawyer, Memorial, Moscow
- **Wanda Nowicka**, Federation for Women and Family Planning in Poland, Warsaw
- **N.N.**, author, Prag

Moderation: **Jurko Prochasjko**, translator-journalist, Lviv- Ivano-Frankivsk

17.30

Closing speech

18.00

Buffet reception