

The composition of the seminar participants changed somewhat depending on the topic under discussion; however, approximately 50-60 individuals were in attendance throughout the seminar. They included a wide range of government officials, politicians, scholars, journalists, and NGO representatives from various regions of Ukraine. For example local speakers included senior officials of the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration (Oleh Shamshur and Yuri Bilukha), some of the most respected leaders of the Crimean Tatar movement (Lenur Arifov and Nadyr Bekirov), deputies from Ukraine's parliament (Ihor Koliushko and Serhij Kyjashko), and representatives of the Administration of the President of Ukraine (Valentyna Polistchuk).

Prominent scholars involved in the seminar included Prof. Mykola Shul'ha (Institute of Sociology and former Minister, Ministry for Nationalities and Migration), Prof. Volodymyr Yevintov (Director of the Ukrainian Centre for Human Rights), and Prof. Valerij Vozgrin (Russian Academy of Sciences). NGO representatives included Leonid Finberg (Director, Institute of Jewish Studies), Miklosh Kovach (Head of the Association of Hungarian Culture, Uzhhorod), Vyacheslav Pokotylo (Executive Director, International Renaissance Foundation) and Oleksandr Piskun (Migration Problems Research Centre). Speakers from international organizations included Christoph Bierwirth (Senior Legal Officer, United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, Office in Ukraine) and Nicolaas de Zwager (Head of the Kyiv Bureau, International Organization for Migration).

A number of journalists, including some (e.g., Oleksandr Mayboroda) who write frequently on "ethnic" issues delivered presentations or attended the Kyiv seminar. In addition, several Canadians who were not part of the formal Canadian "team" were in Kyiv at the time of the seminar and participated in its proceedings. They included Prof. Orest Subtelny, a well-known historian of Ukraine at York University, Francoise Girard, a regional director at the Open Societies Institute in New York, and Natalie Mychajlyszyn, a Ph.D. candidate at Queen's University.

The Kyiv seminar was held at a time of considerable political turmoil in Ukraine (preparations for the visit of Russia's President Boris Yeltsin), and some individuals invited to participate in the seminar could attend. However, the level and quality of the turnout was gratifying, and there was a consistently high level of interest and participation in the seminar proceedings. It should be noted that an intentional effort was made to ensure that the seminar did not involve just the "standard" experts (usually from the older generation), from governmental or government-sponsored institutions, who normally attend such events. As a result, many speakers and members of the audience represented a new, younger generation of officials, scholars, journalists, and community activists who will have an increasing impact on the development of Ukraine's human/minority rights policies in the years to come.

This is of special importance since many of the elites of Ukraine and other East/Central European states have only gradually come to realize that there are no easy ways of dealing with the many difficult challenges which emerge in ethnically plural