

Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and the Institute's personnel (in particular, Dr. Tetyana Klinchenko) played an important role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Kyiv seminar.

A number of individuals also volunteered their time and expertise during the Crimean seminar. Mr. Nadyr Bekirov, Head of the Department of Law and Politics, Crimean Tatar Mejlis, and his assistants, must be singled out for special thanks. No monetary value can be placed on their assistance, which played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the Crimean seminar.

The executive committee of FEE has consistently emphasized that its seminars should encourage a genuine exchange of views and experiences as well as audience participation, and that follow-up activities should ensure a concrete, long-term impact for the seminars. For example, discussions held during the seminar in Latvia led to the development of the MINELRES (Electronic Resources on Minorities) homepage and listserv, which now provide an important forum for the free exchange of ideas and information on the situation of minorities in the post-communist societies of Central/Eastern Europe.

In the case of the seminars held in Ukraine, the primary follow-up activities consist of the elaboration, in cooperation with colleagues in Kyiv and Crimea, of specific proposals for projects (see the recommendations in this report) which address some of the distinctive problems faced by various ethnic communities in Crimea.

The Kyiv Seminar

The Kyiv seminar provided a wide-ranging perspective on the ethnopolitical situation in Ukraine. Comparative insights were emphasized, especially those based on the Canadian experience. Following a presentation which addressed the relevance of the Canadian multicultural experiment for Eastern Europe, and Ukraine in particular, the seminar then focussed on topics (e.g., language and migration issues) which were of special interest to the Kyiv audience given the current ethnopolitical situation in Ukraine. The seminar concluded by providing Canadian and comparative perspectives on the situation of groups claiming the status of indigenous peoples, a topic of particular interest to the Crimean Tatars and several other minorities (e.g., Karaites, Krymchaks) in Ukraine.

Each introductory presentation by a member of the Canadian team consisted of an overview of the Canadian and general comparative context for a particular topic, providing a framework and stimulus for further discussion. This was followed by several concise presentations, directly addressing the main issues and controversies relevant to a given topic, delivered by local officials, scholars, or NGO representatives from Ukraine. Brief commentaries by selected members of the audience and a discussion period followed.