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Director

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CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. CAS 10th Anniversary

In 2011, the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia celebrated 10 years since its foundation. Board Members, high state-officials, representatives of partner and donor institutions, many CAS Fellows, Academic Associates and friends of the Centre attended the events on 13 May 2011. The festivities included a welcoming address for the official guests at the Centre's premises and an academic roundtable discussion entitled "Regions, Borders and Identity: Past Questions and Present Relevance" at the "Ivan Vazov" National Theatre. Fellows who had partaken, in various ways and different capacity, in the work of CAS since its establishment in 2000 took part in the discussion which was moderated by Prof. Vintila Mihailescu (University of Bucharest) and was meant to revisit the concepts and approaches which used to inspire the original research work of CAS. The round-table discussion, followed by a reception dinner, was attended by more than 70 CAS Fellows and guests.

The celebration was extensively covered by electronic and press media including some of the most authoritative academic journals in the humanities and the social sciences: "Critique & Humanism" journal, the "Sociological Problems" journal, the "Culture" weekly, Bulgarian National Radio, Sofia University Alma Mater Radio, Public Republic online cultural platform, etc. The occasion thus served to bring to the attention of a broad public the achievements of the Centre and reconfirm its important place in the national academic environment.

I.2. CAS External Evaluation

On the initiative of the CAS Board of Trustees, and with the financial support of the Kulturstiftung Landys & Gyr, Prof. Dr. Oliver Jens Schmitt (University of Vienna) and

Dr. Silvana Galassi (German Council of Sciences and Humanities) paid a three-day visit (December 5-7, 2011) to the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia to make an external evaluation of its academic and administrative management. Prior to their visit CAS had provided answers to a comprehensive questionnaire which the evaluators had prepared. At the premises of CAS Sofia Prof. Schmitt and Dr. Galassi conducted extensive talks with CAS Director Diana Mishkova and the CAS team. The evaluators had the opportunity to interview some of the current and former CAS fellows, various CAS partners from universities in Sofia and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, a CAS Academic Associate and a member of the CAS Board of Trustees. During their visit the evaluators made an in-depth analysis of and provided recommendations for the work of the Centre.

The general conclusions of the evaluators are very positive, emphasizing, among other things that, "More than other science organizations in Bulgaria, CAS is a real gateway into the European world of the humanities and social sciences. All in all, the significance of CAS as an institution free of the influence of third parties and the societally still effective networks of relationships, an institution that awards Fellowships in accordance with purely academic criteria of quality, cannot be judged highly enough. CAS creates trust in competitive procedures oriented to-ward personal achievement, which cannot be taken for granted in the region's science system and which also encourages the Southeastern European Fellows in particular to apply for stipends and project support from Western countries and the European Union."

Among the many important and substantial issues, which the evaluators discuss at length in their report, are the following observations and recommendations which deserve the attention of the CAS Board of Trustees:

- The institutional independence of CAS should be ensured also in the future. An important contribution to this is the diversity of its (institutional) donors, which should therefore be maintained.
- CAS should retain a balance between thematically focused research groups and individual research projects in the humanities and social sciences.
- The multidisciplinary, humanities and social science orientation should also be retained. It should be considered whether the proportion of systematic, present-oriented fields can be increased. But the precondition for this is that purely scientific quality criteria continue to decide the selection of Fellows and that a mutual impetus for the further development of the aforementioned fields as well as of the historical-hermeneutical fields can be expected.
- Essential for the reputation of CAS and its Fellowships is that the selection process, which is borne essentially by the internationally staffed Academic Advisory Board, takes scientific quality as its strict criterion. To unburden its members, the Board should be expanded by two to three additional well-reputed scientists. Its current rhythm of meeting once a year should be anchored in the Charter.
- To expand the stock of the library, agreements should be made with selected research institutions for a regular exchange of publications.
- To improve the library's offerings beyond that and to ensure that the administration of the increasing number of applications for Fellowships re-mains on the current high

level, the Board of Trustees should support CAS in its effort to increase its basic institutional funding by about 20 % – possibly by gaining another institutional donor. The additional funds should be used for accesses to online offerings of scientific literature and for an additional full-time position in the CAS business office. In the future, reliable commitment for basic institutional funding should be for a five-year period if at all possible; this would greatly improve planning security for the CAS.

- Of decisive importance for realizing the goals of a Centre for Advanced Study is the exchange among the Fellows. To ease this and further improve it, the Board of Trustees should support CAS in seeking donors to build accommodations and workplaces for the Fellows. Required are about seven apartments for foreign Fellows and up to ten workplaces in a site as close as possible to the CAS business office.
- The Charter of the CAS should define more precisely the position and function of the Academic Associates in order to institutionally secure their supportive effect for the institution’s management.

I. 3. Personnel

I.3.1. Academic personnel

The permanent academic personnel of CAS currently include four Academic Associates: Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology), Assoc. Prof. Georgi Ganev (Economy), Prof. Georgi Kapriev (Medieval Philosophy) and Assoc. Prof. Diana Mishkova (History). No changes have been made since the last Board meeting in this department. During the Board meeting CAS Director would like to discuss partial changes in academic personnel.

I.3.2. Administrative personnel

A new member of the CAS administrative team, Mr. Nikolay Kutsev, was employed to replace for Ms. Ralitsa Petrova, who had moved to another job. Mr Kutsev took over Ms Petrova’s responsibilities as Project Coordinator on a full-time basis, starting in May 2011. Since September 2011 part-time Project Coordinator Neliya Kolarska has been on maternity leave, her functions having been taken over by Dimiter Dimov. No increase of administrative personnel had thus been incurred during the last year.

I.4. Financial data

Total	€359 436
Research Expenses	€253 536
Institutional Expenses	€105 900

I.5. Fundraising strategy

At the last year’s CAS Board of Trustees, on the suggestion of Mr Martin Zaimov, it was decided that CAS should seek to develop a fundraising policy. Since hiring a professional

agency for this purpose would have exceeded the Centre's available funds and would have hardly brought success, it was decided to employ an experienced expert in the field to design a fundraising strategy for CAS. The financial resources for this were provided by the Kulturstiftung Landis & Gyr, Zug, Switzerland with the kind assistance of Dr. Katharina Biegger. Mr Boyko Todorov (Programme Director at the Centre for the Study of Democracy and Lecturer in Political Science and European Studies at the American University in Bulgaria) took up the task to elaborate such a document which will be one of the focal points of the Board's discussions during the coming meeting.

I.6. Partnerships and cooperation

In 2011/2012 CAS continued its collaboration with a number of local and international institutions, among them: Sofia University, the New Bulgarian University, the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Sofia), the Central European University (Budapest), EUR-IAS (especially New Europe College in Bucharest; IWM in Vienna). New prospects for cooperation with the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) were opened stepping on the agreements discussed further down. The long-term institutional partnership with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin kept its vital role and intense pace during the past academic year.

Starting in 2012 the Swiss state financial subvention will be channelled through the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland (the 2012 subvention will be payable following the endorsement of the CAS budget for 2012 by the CAS Board of Trustees; decision for the prolongation of the Swiss state grant until 2016 is pending a formal approval by the Swiss Parliament in the fall of 2012). The practical framework of this cooperation was charted in the second half of 2011, when Dr Benedikt Hauser and Dr. Katharina Biegger paid a special visit to CAS to discuss the details of the cooperation agreement between CAS and the State Secretariat for Education and Research, Switzerland.

In 2012 CAS strengthened its collaboration with the America for Bulgaria Foundation (AFB) which provides for the individual fellowships for Bulgarian scholars under the Advanced Academia Programme. In confirmation of this and building on the positive assessment of the results the America for Bulgaria Foundation decided to extend the programme until February 2016.

In 2011 CAS established working relations with the Berendel Foundation, London. The foundation provided the funding for a conference co-organized and hosted by CAS on the topic "The Role and the Responsibility of History Today".

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2011/2012 CAS had hosted **20 Fellows from 10 countries in the framework of 3 programmes and projects.**

II. 2. Ongoing and newly launched projects

II.2.1. Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe – Interim Progress

In April 2011 the *Negotiating Modernity* Project, funded by the European Research Council – Executive Agency entered its fourth year. The Project seeks to map the history of East Central European political thought from the late eighteenth to the early twenty-first century. In the previous three years the project team had already successfully established the routine of the project, agreeing on common methodological premises, compiling comprehensive research bibliographies, setting up the structure (chapters and sub-chapters) of the volume.

In 2011 the sketch of the volume chapters was prepared and the contents of the intended volume were built-up. In the beginning of 2012, the research team finalized its work on the chapter on Enlightenment, while several new associate researchers (Zsófia Lóránd, Alexandr Voronovici, Ostap Stepaniuk, Rytis Bulota) joined the project team in 2011 in order to assist the Core Group members with the completion of the remaining subchapters of the volume (critical turns and positivism, *fin-de-siecle* national question/federalism/supranationalism, conservatism, national agendas and social transformation during WW I, collaborationism during WW II, post-1945 exile, authoritarian rule, post-1989 postmodern politics).

In order to keep track of the overall project progress, six Core Group meetings were organized in Budapest, Prague, Berlin, Dreznica (Slovenia) and Tartu (Estonia), in January, March, May, June, August and October of 2011, respectively. Within the framework of these Core Group meetings several workshops took place, dedicated to different thematic foci - “Russian-Soviet” imperial and post-imperial contexts of Baltic, Ukrainian and Moldavian political thought of the 19th and 20th centuries; history of political thought in a transnational framework: The Baltics; Liberal Democracy, Authoritarian Past and the Legacy of 1989. These workshops provided the Core Group members as well as associated researchers, representing different national academic traditions in Europe, with the opportunity to discuss in depth the already drafted individual chapters. In April 2012 the project team will initiate a first round of negotiations with potential publishers of the planned synthetic volume.

II.2.3. Advanced Academia Programme

The programme provides thematically independent individual fellowships for Bulgarian and international scholars from the humanities and the social sciences. It was launched in 2009 with the help of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, and in 2010, thanks to the support of a donator within the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus Foundation), it could be expanded to include international researchers as well. The invited Fellows participate in the intellectual life and the scholarly community of the Centre while working on projects of their own choice. They take part in the weekly Fellow seminars, where they present and discuss their individual projects, and in the scholarly events organized by CAS. Due to the fact that CAS is currently in no position to provide its Fellows with a place for working and living together, it is seeking to complement the academic programme with various non-formal and community-building occasions, such as weekly fellow dinners, outings, etc., thus creating opportunities for informal communication and exchange of ideas.

The selection of Fellows is carried out on the basis of two major criteria: 1) the scholarly excellence and intellectual promise of the candidate and, 2) the quality of the research proposal (especially: innovativeness; expected contribution; interdisciplinary and/or comparative approach), while pursuing an optimal composition of the Fellow groups.

The 2010/2011 Call for Applications (at that time still limited to Bulgarian scholars only) yielded a total of 21 applications, out of whom 4 junior and 4 senior Fellows were selected, working in the fields of history, philosophy, sociology, law, theory of culture and mass communications.

The 2011/2012 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) rendered a total of 39 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 93 applications by international scholars from four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America). Among those, the Academic Advisory Council selected 10 Bulgarian Fellows and 5 international Fellows for 2011/2012. The addition of two more Bulgarian Fellows was made possible thanks to the support of Fritz Thyssen Foundation which granted its permission to use part of the savings under the *Regimes of Historicity* Project for the *Advanced Academia* independent fellowship programme. As a result, CAS was able to fund two additional fellowships for Bulgarian researchers, thus increasing the outreach and the impact of the programme (as a consequence the number Bulgarian Fellows for the pilot three-year period has grown from 24 to 26).

2012-2013 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) was published and widely distributed electronically in March 2011 with a deadline 1 October 2011. The call generated a total of 31 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 154 applications by international scholars from 34 countries and four continents (Africa, Asia, Europe and North America). Among those, the Academic Advisory Council selected 8 Bulgarian and 5 international Fellows for 2012/2013. The work of this group was launched at the beginning of March 2012 with an opening meeting that introduced the Fellows to the philosophy and the mode of operation of the programme.

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series: Starting in March 2012, CAS set off the second season of the *Public Lectures* series aimed at presenting the results from the 2011-2012 Advanced Academia Fellows' research to a wider academic and interested audience. The first four lectures from the series elicited great interest, gathering big audiences from various academic fields and institutions. By making this lecture series an ongoing event CAS seeks to increase the local visibility of both CAS Fellows (and their work) and the Centre itself.

Other related outcomes: As evidence for the opportunities generated by the Fellow exchange, we can mention the *Rule of Law* discussion series and the ensuing collection of papers, spurred by Dr. Ivo Hristov's presentation on the same topic (for more details, please refer to section **II.5.1. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series.**) The collective volume devoted to the problems of the rule of law in Bulgaria was submitted to CAS/RIVA Publishers in February 2012. The book is expected to be published in May 2012 with the financial support of CAS as part of *CAS Research Forums Series*.

Another book to be published as part of the CAS Research Forum Series includes Prof. Ivan Elenkov's research which grew into a monograph. The book, entitled "*Labour, Joy, Recreation and Culture. Studies under the Advanced Academia Programme of the Centre for Advanced Study*" will also contain substantial photographic material. The manuscript is expected to be finalized and submitted for publication at the end of the year. The book is a

result of the decision of the Academic Council to award with publication one of the projects under the Advanced Academia Programme which has served as a basis for and has been developed into a monograph. (Please, see *II.6.3 CAS Fellows Publication Series* in the Activity Plan for 2012)

II.2.3. European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History (2012 – 2013)

This is a newly-launched project, made possible thanks to the financial support of the Porticus Foundation. It is based on a focus-group investigation and aims at a joint publication on the ways European transnational historical (meso-) regions had been, and are being, conceptualized over time, across different disciplines and academic traditions, in different fields of activity (politics, economy, international order) and national/regional contexts. The aim is to reconstruct the historical itineraries of the conceptualization of regional frameworks in relation to political, historical, cultural usages or discursive practices. The project seeks to go beyond the local practices of regionalization and also reconstruct the usages of a given regional concept surpassing a given region (e.g. tracking the use of Central Europe by different interpretative communities over Europe) and also to pay special attention to the different logic of conceptualization characteristic of various disciplinary traditions. It also intends to pay special attention to the conceptualization of boundaries between these regions and how some of the regions themselves (e.g. Eastern or Southeastern Europe) are constructed as “border zones”. Thus, an important innovation of the project is that it seeks to describe the conceptualization of regions and boundaries not only from inside out (i.e. how given political and academic elites defined their own region) but in a more dynamic way focusing on the clashes and negotiations of regional imagination over inclusion and exclusion.

The research team is constituted by established scholars whose expertises represent various disciplines, historical schools, and regions. Two exploratory meetings were organized prior to the project approval in November 2010 and April 2011.

The first working meeting under the project was organized on March 23-24, 2012 in CAS Sofia when the participants made brief presentations (including a preliminary sketch of the most interesting turns in the history of conceptualizing the given region(s) and discipline(s) as well as preliminary bibliographies of primary and secondary sources) and important methodological and organizational issues were discussed.

The planned collective volume will be published as part of the European Conceptual History book series (Berghahn Publ.).

II.3. Other academic activities

II.3.1. Conferences co-organized with and hosted by CAS

"The Role and the Responsibility of History Today"

The annual Board meeting of the International Commission for Historiography and Theory of History (ICHTH) was hosted by the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia on October 27-28, 2011. It involved members of the ICHTH Board as well as distinguished members of the association, such as Prof. Hayden White, and scholars from several continents. The aim of

the conference was to reflect on the present situation of and new perspectives toward the history and theory of historiography, and on the future activities of the Commission. The general discussion evolved around brief position papers focusing on the issue of how historians conceive the role and the responsibility of history today. A first focus was related to the question of how historians could intervene to change the prevailing Globalisation discourse by underlying the ambiguity of the self-propelling market and its unquestioned domination in social, political and cultural spheres. A second one addressed the public role of history in an age when numerous forms of representing the past (in docudramas, fiction, cyberspace, etc.) exist, and when a mixture of democracy and identity politics (many more voices being heard) predetermines numerous competing accounts of “the” past. Finally, a third focus was introduced by historians living and working in countries with turbulent pasts where the legacies of dictatorships, authoritarian and totalitarian regimes confronted historians not only with the task of reconstructing a fair image of their past, but of responding to pressing questions about the way to deal with the legacies of these pasts.

The ICHTH Board also took important decision concerning the Commission's future activities, including the establishment of an International Prize for the History and Theory of Historiography was established which shall be awarded annually to either a Ph.D. candidate or a senior scholar with a book published in the field. (A visual survey of the meeting can be found on the CAS web-page under ‘Gallery’).

II.3.2. “Bulgarian Communism – Two Decades Later”

On the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the '89 political changes a coalition of Bulgarian NGOs (including the Centre for Advanced Study, the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, the Open Society Institute, the International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations, the Centre for Liberal Strategies and the Institute for Studies of the Recent Past) initiated an academic debate on the communist legacy and its media and public representations. Being provoked by the impression shared among professional historians and public activists that, twenty years later, Bulgarian society is permeated with nostalgia for state socialism, this gathering intended to discuss the historical, methodological but also ethical implications of this phenomenon. The first panel moderated by Prof. Ivaylo Znepolski (Director of the Institute for Studies of the Recent Past) focused on different historical, psychological and cultural incentives behind the complexity of interpretations of the communist past. In the afternoon Dr. Martin Ivanov (Director of the State Archives and former CAS Fellow) chaired a panel presenting a series of micro-historical analyses on important or unknown aspects of the communist period. The third and closing panel, moderated by Prof. Diana Mishkova, discussed the alleged life after death of communism and its subsequent mutations into economic, political and administrative corruption, collective memory, media and educational policies.

The forum received wide media coverage and a number of social and political commentators engaged in a follow-up debate on issues pointed during the debate. The Centre for Advanced Study and its Director took the initiative to publish the presented papers and those resulting from the ensuing debate in a separate volume.

II.4. CAS Discussion Series

II.4.1 Existential Socialism (Existential Politics under Socialism) Workshop Series

This newly launched discussion series is a continuation of the workshops on “Childhood under Socialism” (2008-2009), the best contributions to which were published in the CAS Research Forums book series *Childhood under Socialism: Political, Institutional and Biographical Perspectives*, ed. by Daniela Koleva and Ivan Elenkov (Sofia: CAS/Riva Publ., 2010). The new workshop series is an attempt to capture the divergences of ideological models and lived experiences under socialism. It seeks to focus on existential situations, lying ‘across the distinction between system and life world’ and dominant ideologies, such as ageing, inter-generational relations, certain aspects of gender, sexuality, death and mourning, illness and disability, deviant behaviours, marginality and difference, etc. These were either altogether absent from ideological exemplars or modelled in ways alien to the everyday practices of the population. Juxtaposing ideological, institutional and biographical perspectives, the workshops will set to find out how ideologically scripted roles were played by individual agents in these existential situations.

The first round of workshops took place in six consecutive sessions on a monthly basis, focusing on the social constructions of death. Each of the workshops included at least four presentations by scholars coming from different universities or institutions across the country. It evoked strong interest and attracted a large number of attendants: most of the workshops involved over 40 participants. A collective volume under the “CAS Research Forum” publication series, gathering the best contributions, is envisaged as an outcome of these discussion series.

II.5. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series

II.5.1. Rule of Law

The volume under the title “*Rule of Law That (Never) Was*” will be published by May 2012 as part of the *CAS Research Forum* series. This volume comes as a result of the CAS Discussion Series “Consolidation/Disintegration of Public Institutions and Political Process”, (2010-2011). The volume is genealogically related to a recently completed CAS international project, “Shaken Order: Authority and Social Trust in Post-Communist Societies – Case Studies in Law”. The volume includes papers by: Dr Ivo Hristov (Plovdiv University), editor of the volume and project convenor of the *Shaken Order Project* and the *Consolidation/Disintegration Discussion Series*, CAS’ former Fellows Petya Kabakchieva (Sofia University), Atanas Slavov (Sofia University), Martin Kanushev (New Bulgarian University), Daniel Smilov (Sofia University), Ivan Bilyarski (Institute of History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Venelin Ganev (Department of Political Science, Miami University, USA), Linka Toneva (Sofia University), and Diana Mishkova (CAS).

II.6. Public events

II.6.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series

Public lectures are an important element of the Advanced Academia project, as they contribute greatly to increasing the visibility of the Centre and of its Fellows’ researches. The series of public lectures provide a valuable forum especially for younger scholars to

bring their questions and accomplishments to a wide and diverse audience, thus contributing to the visibility of their work and career growth. This year the Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series was launched on 13 March and is being held on a weekly basis (every Tuesday, at 18:00 h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. So far the Advanced Academia Public Lectures Series has enjoyed great popularity and turned out to be a big success – each lecture attracts audiences of over 50 persons representing a broad array of academics coming from all major universities, human and social-science institutes and other research institutions in Sofia.

II.7. CAS Library

II.7.1. Development of book collections

CAS Library has a well established tradition of collecting books under already started CAS projects. Thus within the framework of the project Advanced Academia CAS Library has ran orders for books and has enriched its collections of monographs in the thematic filed of history and social sciences. CAS fellows and associates also donated considerable number of their publications. Among the newly acquired titles are: “Markets as Networks” by Tanya Chavdarova & Petya Slavova, “Les professions liberales pendant le socialisme: le cas des architectes en Bulgarie” by Petya Slavova, “A nep lelke: Nemzetkarakterologiai vitak Kelet-Europaban” by Balazs Trencsenyi, “Les images et les realites des frontieres en europe medievale: III-XI siècle” by Vesselina Vatchkova, etc.

Besides purchasing books, another means for the development of CAS Library collections is through exchange. CAS Library established partnership with the Library of the Institut für Ost- und Südosteuropaforschung. As a result both libraries exchanged publications of their institutes. Through purchases, donations and exchange altogether the Library acquired 102 **books** in the field of social sciences during 2011.

II.7.2. Databases

During the last several years CAS library has started offering access to electronic online collections, which proved to be a very useful and successful service. During the year 2011 CAS Library provided free access to the following databases: SAGE, JSTOR, EBSCO, Questia, Encyclopedia Britannica Online Academic, Voprosy Istorii, ACLS Humanities E-Book. As usual these were the most often consulted resources of the Library. The usage statistics proves this fact eloquently. For example, the database Questia was consulted by CAS Library users more than 3,517 times during 2011.

The subscription of databases for the year 2012 was secured thanks to a donation amounting to 5000 Euros made by *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft f.* The restricted financial resources for subscription of new databases, however, are a persistent problem. It was addressed by the evaluators of CAS as well. The evaluators have recommended securing additional amount of money for the database subscription, since this is of crucial importance for providing access to most recent, comprehensive, and high-quality electronic publications.

II.7.3. Library online services

During the year 2011 CAS Library continued offering its fellows and external scholars online services. The most often used ones was the Electronic Document Delivery Service. By this service library distant users order and receive articles from periodicals and pages from books in PDF format through e-mail. The librarian performs searches in the databases and sends the articles to the users, thus saving them a visit to the premises of the Library. During the year 2011 more than 30 articles were sent to the users. In addition, each month a list of the newly acquired books in the Library was sent to the e-mail addresses of the registered users of the Academic Gateway.

PhDGate (Integrated Electronic Database of the PhD Students in Bulgaria – www.phdgate.net) gives opportunity to young researchers from all scientific fields to present their personal and academic profile and provides them with virtual access to specialized information, creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. Three hundred new PhD students registered in the database (2300 active users in total). Monthly the average unique visits to the site are **3,500** and **11,300** pages are viewed. The project is currently provided for by CAS' institutional resources.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (www.gate.cas.bg) grants the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the fourth year of its existence the CAS coordinator, Dimiter Dimov, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are **415** registered users, all of them academics. The average unique visits are nearly **1,400** per month, and more than **4,200** pages have been viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (www.red.cas.bg) In addition to the catalogue of people, projects and institutions dealing with the critical reading of communist history and in addition to the adequate informational flux in this area CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the issues of communist legacies, their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography filed within different topics and genres (books, articles and archive documents – **820** titles). The web-page is regularly fed with news from the targeted research field. Statistics show that monthly it is visited by nearly **500** users and **1,300** pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

In 2011/2012 CAS will continue to pursue its visibility policies through its *Newsletter*. The next issue is expected to be published in June 2012 and will be widely distributed and uploaded on our website.

The popular *electronic projects* (see previous section) targeting different generations of scholars at home and abroad continue to contribute to the Centre's publicity and visibility among scholars.

Apart from these electronic dissemination channels, CAS has put special effort into pursuing as many *hardcopy publications of project research results* as possible. For this the

Centre can now rely on the Advanced Academia project budget for 2012-2016, which envisages additional financial resources (ca. 27 600 Euro) for pre-publication preparation, language editing and final hardcopy release of the Fellows' individual research papers.

The variety of *international public events* (workshops, conferences, guest-lectures) is yet another venue for promoting the work of the Centre.

The *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* should be mentioned here as yet another important public "outlet" for the intellectual yield of CAS. The series has become very popular, attracting many attendees and evoking a lively response from the audience.

CAS Sofia

April 2012