

Diana Mishkova
Director (acting Roumen Avramov)

April 2015

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA
2014 ANNUAL REPORT

I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I.1. Personnel

I.1.1. Academic personnel and Academic Advisory Council

As of today, the academic personnel of CAS consists of its Director, Assoc. Prof. Diana Mishkova (History), its Permanent Fellow, Assoc. Prof. Roumen Avramov (Economic History; Economy), and four Academic Associates: Prof. Pepka Boyadjieva (Sociology), Assoc. Prof. Georgi Ganev (Economy), Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Anthropology) and Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History).

From September 2014 until July 2015 Diana Mishkova has been on research stays at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena. During her absence and in close consultation with her, her functions have been taken over by the CAS Permanent Fellow Roumen Avramov.

At the 2015 Board session CAS will propose the nomination of Prof. Rainer Forst as a new member of the CAS Academic Advisory Council. Prof. Forst, a political theorist and philosopher at the Department for Social Sciences of Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, will take the place of Prof. Bo Strath, whose mandate had expired at the end of 2013. (See **ANNEX I** for Prof. Rainer Forst's CV)

I.2.1. Administrative personnel

Since September 2011 CAS Project Coordinator Neliya Kolarska had been on maternity leave and most of her functions had passed to Dimiter Dimov. As of March 2015 Mrs. Kolarska has terminated her contract. For the time being no need for expansion of the administrative team is in sight.

I.3. Financial data

Total	€ 409.920
Research Expenses	€ 119.100
Institutional Expenses	€ 290.820

I.4. Fundraising strategy

The Swiss Government annual grant amounting to **100.000 CHF** has been contracted until the end of 2015. As of the end of 2015 the Austrian Government annual grant amounting to **€ 25.000** will be terminated following the decision of the Austrian Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (BMWF) will withdraw its member from the CAS Board. In March 2015 the America for Bulgaria Foundation approved an extension of the grant provided for individual fellowships for Bulgarian scholars within a three-year programme framework (2016-2019). The new grant envisages also institutional support for CAS at the amount of **€ 20.452** per year, which will partly compensate for the termination of the Austrian grant.

I.5. CAS Guesthouse

The efforts to acquire a guesthouse for CAS continued in line with the strategy agreed during the 2013 and reconfirmed by the 2014 CAS Board meetings. Due to a change in the position of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, however, the original offer is not any more in force. CAS does not abandon this goal and new possible arrangements will be considered with AFB and with other partners.

I.6. Partnerships and cooperation

In the course of 2014/2015 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 American University in Bulgaria, the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS), the Central European University (Budapest), EURIAS (especially New Europe College in Bucharest; IWM in Vienna), the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) and Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt (Germany). On 18-20 June 2014 Diana Mishkova and Roumen Avramov attended the conference “*The Eastern Enlargement of the EU: Effects – Challenges – Visions*” organized by the Center for Governance and Culture in Europe GCE-HSG Universität St. Gallen. (D. Mishkova was a discussant to the keynote speech by Prof. Günter Verheugen; R. Avramov talked on *Bulgaria in Europe – Societal Legacies, Models and Targets*.)

The long-term institutional partnership with *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* continues to be a fundamental element of CAS’ institutional sustainability and an effective link to German academic and funding bodies. For new joint initiatives on the project side, see the CAS Plan for 2015. During 2014/2015 the Centre continued its constructive collaboration with the *America for Bulgaria Foundation*.

Thanks to the Board member, Mr. Martin Zaimov, and in his presence, a meeting was organized in CAS between Roumen Avramov and Prof. Minko Balkansi, President of the *Balkanski-Panitz Institute for Advanced Study*. Mr. Zaimov was instrumental, as well, in establishing a contact to the Sofia Municipality – a venue of cooperation that CAS considers as promising. In this context he summoned a consultation at the Centre with Mr. Hristo Anguelichin (Deputy-head of the Sofia Municipal Council’s Commission for Culture, Education and Science) and Roumen Avramov. At both these meetings potential fields of common interest were discussed, details about which will be shared at the Board meeting.

I.6.1. Cooperation agreement with Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

In January 2014 CAS signed a cooperation agreement for fellow exchange with the Max-Weber-Kolleg at the University of Erfurt. This came as a result of some preliminary discussions between representatives of both institutes, and upon an invitation for cooperation that was extended to CAS by Prof. Dr. Hartmut Rosa, Director of the Max-Weber-Kolleg. This agreement seeks to strengthen the academic and cultural exchange of the Max-Weber-Kolleg with Institutes for Advanced Study from Eastern Europe (a similar agreement was signed simultaneously between Max-Weber-Kolleg and NEC Bucharest). It provides opportunity for scholars from both institutes to benefit from research stays at the other cooperating organization. For CAS in particular, the presence of researchers from Erfurt is expected to contribute to the further internationalization of the academic community in Sofia and provide basis for joint research undertakings with the Max-Weber-Kolleg in the future.

Within the framework of this agreement, in October 2014, a scholar from the Max Weber Kolleg, Dr. Yahya Kouroschi (Ph.D. in Literary Studies, University of Erfurt) undertook a one-week research visit to CAS. As post-doctoral fellow at the Max Weber Kolleg, Dr Kouroschi partakes in the work of the research group “Religious Individualization in Historical Perspective”. His project, "Typographia Medicea", explores the role of text and pictures as media within the context of cultural and scientific exchange between European and Oriental cultures around 1600. Dr. Kouroschi used the opportunity for such visit to study medieval manuscripts at the National Library.

II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

II.1. CAS Fellows

In the course of 2014/2015 in the framework of *Advanced Academia* programme CAS hosted **13 research fellows** from **5** countries. (Please, see **AR ANNEX V** for a complete list of 2014/2015 CAS Fellows and their topics). Another **6 researchers** from Bulgaria have been involved in the *RAGE* project and **8 academics** in the EUROBORDESCAPES project. Another **19 international scholars** participated in the project *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*.

II.2. Completed projects

II.2.1 *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*

The concluding phase of this project (January 2014 – January 2015) began with a final working session, which took place in Sofia on April 12-13, 2014 in line with the adopted time-table. In addition to presenting more complete versions of their contributions (chapters to the planned publication) and elaborating on the connections between them, the authors agreed on the schedule for the remaining part of the project duration and the submission of the final texts. By April 2015 most of the texts had been completed. The editing of the references and bibliographical notes is in progress. The project convenors Prof. Diana Mishkova and Prof. Balazs Trencsenyi plan to submit the manuscript to Berghahn Books Publ. in September 2015.

II.2.2. *Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe* – new audit commissioned by the ERCEA.

The ERC has commissioned a second audit of the Negotiating Modernity project, which expired in April 2013. The audit is expected to take place in Sofia by late June – early July 2015.

II. 3. On-going projects

II.3.1. *Advanced Academia Programme*

This programme provides individual fellowships for Bulgarian and international scholars from the humanities and the social sciences. Since its beginning in 2009, with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation, CAS has granted fellowships to 42 young and established Bulgarian scholars. With the assistance of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus Foundation)*, as of 2011, and of the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation*, since 2013, the programme has opened to international fellows: a total of 25 foreign fellows (junior and senior) were enrolled during 2011-2014. The invited Fellows work on their own projects, submit them for discussion in the frame of Fellow seminars and participate in the intellectual life and the scholarly community of the Centre.

The selection of Fellows is carried out by the CAS Academic Advisory Council on the basis of two major criteria: 1) scholarly excellence of the candidate and, 2) quality of the research proposal (especially: originality; innovative fundamental research proposal with significant contribution; interdisciplinary and/or comparative approach). An optimal Fellows group's dynamics is being sought.

2015/2016 Calls for Applications (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in March 2014 (with a deadline 1 October 2014). The calls yielded a total of 32 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 130 applications by international scholars from over 30 countries and five continents (Africa, Asia, Europe and North America). The Academic Advisory Council selected 6 Bulgarian and 7 international Fellows. The new group of CAS Fellows came together for the first time on 5 March 2015. At this meeting, which served to introduce the fellows to each other and acquaint them with the philosophy and operation of the programme, the schedule of the Fellow seminars and other events was also adopted. (Please, see **AR ANNEX VI** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects).

In addition to the habitually intense seminar discussions, CAS is seeking to complement the academic programme with various community-building activities, such as Fellow dinners, outings, cultural trips and events, thus creating various opportunities for informal exchange and .

Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series. In March 2015 CAS opened the fifth season of the series aimed at presenting the results from the research of the 2014-2015 Bulgarian Advanced Academia Fellows to a wider academic and interested audience. (For more details, please see below under **II.7. Public Events**; for the *Calendar of the 2015 Public Lectures*, please, see **AR ANNEX VII.**)

As part of its electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*, in 2014 CAS posted in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) the texts of 13 Bulgarian and international Fellows from the 2012-2014 cohort. In 2014 the total number of the downloads of the articles published in the CAS Working Papers Series was 7 396, which is more than a ten-fold increase in comparison to the previous 2013 year (612 downloads). The next issue of the *CAS Working Paper Series* is currently being edited and its publication is planned for mid-2015.

AR ANNEX VIII contains the report submitted in April 2015 to the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft/Porticus Foundation and to the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation (March 2014 – March 2015, International module); **AR ANNEX IX** presents the feedback from the Fellows participating in both modules of the programme.

Other related activities: For workshops convened on the initiative of Advanced Academia fellows, see further down under **II.4. Other Academic Activities**)

II.3.3. EUBORDERSCAPES

EUBORDERSCAPES (*Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World*) is a large-scale international research project that tracks and interprets conceptual change in the study of borders after 1989. The EUBORDERSCAPES project analyzes conceptual change in relation to the fundamental social, economic, cultural and geopolitical transformations that have taken place in the past decades and in light of the major paradigmatic shifts in scientific debate and in the social sciences of late. The approach to state borders as a frame of reference, rather than ethnographic/anthropological boundaries, emphasises the social significance and subjectivities of borders while critically interrogating “objective” categories of state territoriality and international relations.

The project consortium includes 22 partner institutions from 17 different countries, including several non-EU members, and is coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland (UEF). The project is financed through the EU’s 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and is running for four years (from 1st June 2012 until 31st May 2016). The total budget is €6,900,000, of which **€269,061** have been allocated to CAS as an EU contribution (€ 222,000 for research and related activities; € 47,061 for the institution’s project management expenses).

A group of eight scholars are involved in the project implementation on behalf of CAS (7 Bulgarian and 1 Serbian). In addition to carrying their research work the scholars involved contribute to all major related activities and events organized within the project framework. In June 2014 CAS researchers participated with papers in the 1st ABS (Association of Border Studies) World Conference that took place in Joensuu, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. In December 2014 Dr. Ivana Trkulja represented the CAS team and delivered a paper at the international workshop “*Borders at the Interface: Bordering Europe, Africa and the Middle East*” in Beer Sheva, Israel. In May 2015 CAS Director Dr. Diana Mishkova and Dr. Anna Krasteva will participate at the next EUBORDERSCAPES project meeting due to take place in Grenoble, France.

II.3.4. RAGE project

The *Hate Speech and Populist Othering in Europe: through the Racism, Age, Gender Looking Glass (RAGE)* is a comparative research project funded by the European Commission's Directorate General Justice, under the Scientific Programme "Fundamental Rights and Citizenship". Eight academic institutions from the UK, France, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Denmark, Austria, Finland and Slovenia participate in the project implementation. The coordinator of the project is the University of Leicester (UK). The project runs from 1st February 2013 until 30th April 2015. Its total budget amounts to € 1,200,000, of which € 90,074.21 are allocated to CAS (€ 84,181.5 for research and related activities, and € 5,892.71 for the institution's project management expenses).

The RAGE project examines 'populist' political campaigning, its effects on those who are 'othered' by such politics, and political mobilization against such politics. Taking recent debates on the limits of speech as a starting point, the research focuses on 'populist' parties, groups and social movements, and on those opposing them in this debate. At the same time, it remains attentive to articulations of the debate in mainstream politics. The project is being developed through three interlocking work-streams and an integrated methodological approach (content analysis of online sources, digital ethnography, participant-observation and biographical interviews).

Currently a group of six scholars are involved in this project hosted by CAS. In March 2015 several of these researchers, together with two external keynote speakers (Dr Alexey Pamporov from the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Yuliyana Metodieva from the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee), participated on behalf of CAS in the final project conference that took place in Brussels. The final project scientific and financial reports are to be submitted to the coordinating institution within the remaining two months of the project completion.

II.3.5. REVISITING COMMUNISM. Collectivist Economic Thought in Historical Perspective

In 2014 Assoc. Prof. Roumen Avramov, Permanent Fellow of CAS Sofia, was invited to lead the Bulgarian research team in the comparative project *REVISITING COMMUNISM. Collectivist Economic Thought in Historical Perspective* coordinated by Prof. Janos Matyas Kovacs from the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna: <http://www.iwm.at/research/projects/bukharin-balcerowicz-comparative-history-economic-thought-communism/>. The project intends to cover the evolution of economic ideas under communism in Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, GDR, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Russia, Yugoslavia) in a broad time- and cross-country frame. A series of country-based monographs will be published in 2018.

The launch workshop was held in Vienna on April 10-11, 2014. The Bulgarian team was constituted in September 2014 and includes scholars from Sofia University and the Institute for Economic Research at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. CAS hosts the activities of the group and on December 15, 2015 organized a small methodological workshop with the

participation of Prof. J. Kovacs. During the following months the members of the team prepared a 70-page pilot Position Paper exploring five topics of the project's research agenda. Together with the Position Papers of the other country teams, the Bulgarian report was discussed at the conference held in Vienna on 24-26 April 2015 where the future project activities have been outlined.

CAS applied for funding of this project to the Bulgarian National Science Fund (NSF). The application was considered ineligible by the Fund and was not submitted to peer-review on the grounds that the applying organization is not a university or an institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. This clearly discriminatory attitude has been protested by several research institutions. In view of the fact that, beyond this specific decision by NSF, such discriminatory interpretation threatens to impede future access to state funding by CAS, the Center decided to bring the case to the courts. Details on the development of the case will be presented at the Board meeting.

II.4. Other Academic Activities

II.4.1. Seminars by guest lecturers and former fellows

Following the recommendation of the 2014 Board of Trustees' meeting, the Center has paid special attention to the development of its guest lecture series.

II.4.1.1. "Linguistic Identities in Action - Exploring the Stories of Sephardic Jews in Bulgaria"

On 16 April 2014 Dr. Leah Davcheva (*AHA Moments, Society for Intercultural Learning, Education and Research*, Bulgaria) delivered a lecture, drawing on research carried out in collaboration with Prof. Richard Fay from the University of Manchester, UK. It dealt with aspects of the Jewish identity and interpersonal communication through the life experiences of Bulgarian Sephardic Jews. Dr. Davcheva has been also working on projects related to youth mobility, intercultural communication, and global citizenship.

II.4.1.2. "The State of the Art in Communism Studies"

On 12 May 2014, CAS hosted an international workshop "*The State of the Art in Communism Studies*". It was organized around the presentations of two invited speakers and a CAS Fellow: Prof. Mark Kramer, Harvard University ("*Revisiting the History of the Cold War*"); Prof. Daniela Koleva, Sofia University ("*Communism Studies beyond the Political*"); Dr. Bogdan C. Iacob, *Advanced Academia* fellow ("*History of Communism beyond the Nation*"). The workshop was attended by scholars from the Sofia academia and spurred heated debates on Cold War history, Soviet and East European history, political, economic and cultural change in post-communist Eastern Europe and other issues dealing with the recent past.

II.4.1.3. "Documentary Elements in John Updike's Story "The Bulgarian Poetess" (1965)"

On 28 May 2014, CAS housed Prof. Biljana Dojčinović's (Department for Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, Serbia) well attended lecture on "*Documentary Elements in John Updike's Story 'The Bulgarian Poetess' (1965)*". Prof. Dojčinović is a specialist in the field of modernism, literary theory, women's writing and digital humanities. The presentation at CAS was based on her joint research with Prof. Ward Briggs (University of South Carolina, USA). The lecture surveyed the influence of Updike's sojourn in Sofia in 1965 on the creation of this work of fiction. The lecture also gave a substantial account of the story's public reception and of the subsequent contacts between John Updike and the Bulgarian poetess Blaga Dimitrova.

II.4.1.4. "Greece in Crisis: What is the Case with the Far Right and Migration"

In June 2014 CAS invited Prof. Dimitris Christopoulos to deliver a talk on "*Greece in Crisis: the Case with the Far-Right and Migration*". Prof. Christopoulos was warmly recommended to CAS by Prof. Antonis Liakos (member of our Academic Advisory Council) whereby the Centre acted as connecting institution during his six-month research stay at the Sofia University last year. Prof. Christopoulos is a Lecturer at the Department of Political Science and History of the Panteion University of Athens, where he teaches Theory of State and Human Rights focusing on topics such as migration, minorities and citizenship, etc. He is also the vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights. The seminar looked into the origins of the far-right movement in contemporary Greece – one of the most extremist in Europe according to the lecturer – and into the current situation in the country.

II.4.1.5. "Transitional Trials and Master Historical Narratives in Post-Communist Bulgaria, Germany and Romania"

This seminar, held on 24 June 2014, was initiated and moderated by former CAS fellow Dr. Raluca Grosescu (currently an associate research fellow in the Department of History at the Exeter University, UK). The seminar served as an occasion for launching a new series of events – *CAS Re-link Workshops*, where former CAS fellows present their new research and ideas and thus resume their contact with the Centre's intellectual community. Dr. Grosescu's lecture explored the relationship between transitional criminal justice and master historical narratives about the communist past in post-1989 Bulgaria, Germany and Romania. She analyzed the different legal debates that framed the trials targeting the repressive policies from the late 1980s and their relationship to the official memory policies promoted by the states with regard to the communist regime.

II.4.1.6. "Encounters with the "State"

On the initiative of the CAS fellows under the *Advanced Academia* programme Dr. Mihai Olaru (history, Romania), Dr. Rory Yeomans (Southeast-European history, UK) and Dr. Grigor Boykov (urban and Ottoman studies, Bulgaria), on 25 February 2015 the Centre convened a workshop entitled "*Encounters with the "State"*". It looked into the state as a cultural artefact, whose unity, coherence, and separation from society have been discursively produced. The seminar exemplified recent research on everyday bureaucratic practices and representations whereby "the State" comes into being and is imagined as an ontologically objective and morally neutral entity. From an empirical point of view, "encounters with the State" were considered as a broad range of interactions between the representatives of the

State and the historical subjects. The three seminar conveners gave talks on the following topics: *“The Carrot & the Stick”*: *the Go-Betweens of Early Modern Ottoman Imperial Doctrine* (Grigor Boykov); *Before the Meter. Uniformization of Measures and State Power in Wallachia and Moldavia, 1775-1831* (Mihai Olaru); *Resistance in the Marketplace: How Black Marketeers, Social Parasites and Unscrupulous Traders Impeded the Construction of the National Economy in Fascist Croatia* (Rory Yeomans).

II.5. CAS Discussion Series

II.5.1 Existential Socialism (Ageing under Socialism) Workshop Series

The newly launched discussion series *Ageing under Socialism* is the fifth under the thematic umbrella of “Existential Policies under Socialism”, convened by CAS Academic Associate Daniela Koleva. Those workshop series have gathered Bulgarian scholars from different academic institutions across the country (Sofia, Plovdiv, Blagoevgrad and Veliko Tarnovo), as well as from different disciplinary backgrounds – sociology, history, anthropology, literary and cultural studies, psychology. The discussions have attracted a varied audience – professors, researchers, PhD students and university students. *Ageing under Socialism* inquisitively contrasts different ideologies, policies, everyday practices and representations in communist Bulgaria. In particular, this seminar focuses on *ageing* and *old age* as conceived and re-evaluated within medical, social, ideological, aesthetic, religious, and everyday discourses. Other topics of the seminar are related to the exploration of ages and their social roles, images of age and age stereotypes as seen in change and from the perspective of power relations; patterns of ageing as related to conflicting scenarios; generational clashes in their socialist variety, etc.

II.6. Publications resulting from CAS projects and discussion series

II.6.1. ‘Regimes of Historicity’ in Southeastern and Northern Europe, 1890-1945. Discourses of Identity and Temporality

The manuscript resulting from the focus-group research work under the *Regimes of Historicity* project (submitted for publication in 2013) was published by Palgrave Macmillan Publishers in May 2014. The volume undertakes a comparative analyses of the various discursive traditions, dealing with the connection between modernity and historicity in two ‘small-culture’ European regions – Southeastern and Northern Europe, and seeks to reconstruct the ways in which different ‘temporalities’ and time horizons produced alternative representations of the past and the future. The book was edited by Diana Mishkova (CAS), Balazs Trencsenyi (CEU, Budapest and CAS) and Marja Jalava (University of Helsinki, Finland). A review in the *Scandinavian Journal of History* and the *European Review of History* are forthcoming.

II.6.2. Publication resulting from CAS project “Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945)”

The fourth part under the above series, *“Anti-Modernism – Radical Revisions of Collective Identity”*, edited by Diana Mishkova, Marius Turda and Balazs Trencsenyi was published in the autumn of 2014 by the CEU Press. This is the final of a series of five volumes, which

constitute the outcome of the “Identity Reader” long-term project, whose roots go back to the first years of CAS and which presents the most important texts that shaped the processes of nation-building in Central and Southeast Europe.

II.6.3. Love under Socialism

This collective volume, comprising selected contributions to the *CAS Discussion Series Existential Politics under Socialism*, was compiled and edited by the workshop convener and moderator, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva. The book was published by CAS/RIVA Publishers under the *CAS Research Forum* publication series in February 2015 and was publicized at a book launch event in March 2015. The included articles reveal how the efforts of the Bulgarian communist regime, targeted at direct psychological engineering, were curbed not only by passive resistance or “buccaneering” tactics, but also by factors related to the system itself. The main focus of the book is on how communist society formed, encouraged, biased or confined expression of feelings and how they were depended on communist ideology, language, cultural practices, expectations and the moral norms of the respective community.

The volume *The Body under Socialism*, comprising selected papers from the last year’s seminar under the same title, is due for publication by the end of 2015. It is currently being edited by CAS Academic Associate Dr. Daniela Koleva.

II.6.4. “Natural Sciences, Technologies and Social Worlds”

The outcome of the CAS cross-disciplinary seminar “*Natural Sciences and Social Worlds*” convened by the former CAS Fellow Assoc. Prof. Dessislava Lilova was published under the *CAS Research Forum* publication series (CAS/RIVA Publishers) in January 2015. The presentation of the book is scheduled to take place in May 2015. The collection of articles analyzes the boundaries and the interface between natural and social sciences; re-examines the historical and social context of technologies and applied sciences; addresses issues such as “the geography of national identity” or “the human being living in the age of technical reproducibility”. The book is divided into three sections, focusing respectively on the sociological analysis of geographic space, technologies, and the biological body.

II.7. Public Events

II.7.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series

The public lectures are an important element of the *Advanced Academia* programme, as they contribute significantly to enhancing the impact of the Centre and its Fellows’ research work. The series provides a valuable forum, especially for younger scholars, by promoting the visibility of their work and contributing to their career growth. The fifth consecutive series of the *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* started on 10 March 2015 and is being held on a weekly basis (every Tuesday, at 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through April. So far the events have enjoyed great popularity and attention on part of scholars from various universities, human and social-science institutes and other research institutions in Sofia. (For the 2015 programme of the lecture series, please see **AR ANNEX VII**).

II.8. CAS Library

II.8.1. Development of book collections

The development of the library collections is based on the *just in time* method (obtaining books at the moment when they are needed). CAS Library building strategy follows this new trend by collecting books and materials related to ongoing CAS projects. Thus within the framework of the Advanced Academia programme and the EUBORDERSCAPES project, CAS Library has enriched its collections of monographs in the thematic fields of history and social sciences. CAS fellows and associates also donated considerable number of publications. Through purchases and donations the Library acquired 71 books in the field of social sciences in the course of 2014.

II.8.2. Library services

II.8.2.1. Interlibrary loan with Panitza Library AUBG

CAS Library catered for the research needs of the CAS fellows and permanent academic staff by providing access to information resources in traditional and electronic formats. For this purpose the Library continued its beneficial partnership with the biggest international library in the country, Panitza Library of the American University in Bulgaria. Thus by means of interlibrary loan the CAS fellows could make use of books, book chapters, copies of journal articles, conference papers, etc. Especially valuable has been the secured distant access to the various electronic collections of the Panitza Library. The various research databases (including Ebrary Academic Complete, JSTOR, EBSCO, Oxford Reference Online) provide CAS researchers with easy access to a wealth of full-text, science-oriented content. For the time being the agreement with the AUBG provides the only opportunity to offset the lack of funding for an independent CAS subscription to full-text electronic collections.

II.8.2.2. Availability of the catalogue online through NALIS

It has been already two years since the CAS Library has become an associate member of the National Academic Library and Information System Foundation (NALIS Foundation). Thus the CAS Library electronic catalogue of books has been made available through NALIS Union Catalogue (national catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria) and has increased the visibility of its collections and publications. This catalogue enables all library users to have free and simultaneous online access to the bibliographic data of 2 627 280 items (books, periodicals, maps, graphics, digital copies, etc.) integrated into the NALIS Union Catalogue.

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, provides them with virtual access to specialized information, and creates newsgroups and flexible mailing lists. 37 new PhD students registered in the database in 2014 (2,394 active users in total). The average monthly unique visits to the site are 1,553 and 3,964 pages are viewed. The project is currently sustained with CAS' institutional resources but in the forthcoming year we intend to widen its services

and outreach in cooperation with the Association of Doctoral Candidates in Bulgaria and with external funding.

The **CAS Academic Gateway for Humanities and Social Sciences** (www.gate.cas.bg) offers the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the six-year existence of the Gateway, Dimiter Dimov, its CAS coordinator, continued the accumulation of useful and targeted information and its regular distribution through weekly newsletters to all registered users. To date, there are 478 registered users from academia. The monthly number of unique visits averages 580, and more than 2,900 pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings (www.red.cas.bg) In addition to the access offered through this site to the catalogue of scholars, projects and institutions dealing with critical reading of communist history, CAS aims at stimulating a wider and more active debate on the communist legacies and on their interpretation in the present-day social and media environment. The portal contains regularly updated bibliography classified according to different topics and genres (920 titles of books, articles and archive documents). The webpage is regularly fed in with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to 289, while 730 pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

On 1 November 2014 (Bulgaria's official 'Day of the Enlighteners') the popular Bulgarian portal for Culture, Art and Society *Kultura*, bestowed its prize in the Humanities category to Prof. Ivan Elenkov for his book, *Labour, Joy, Recreation and Culture* (CAS/Riva Publishers, 2013). *Kultura's* annual awards were established in 2014 by the *Communitas Foundation* with the aim to encourage a sustainable civic society in Bulgaria and to stimulate an informed public position on topics of cultural and overall human significance. Prof. Elenkov, former CAS Fellow, was granted the award for his substantial contributions to the understanding of the ideological framework of everyday life under communism in Bulgaria. The book draws on the research of Prof. Elenkov in the frame of the CAS' *Advanced Academia Programme* (2010-2011).

In 2014/2015 CAS continued the publication of its *Newsletter*. The next issue is scheduled to appear by the end of May 2015 and will be widely distributed and uploaded on the CAS website.

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

Apart from these electronic channels, CAS emphasizes the dissemination of *printed publications*. To this end the Centre will continue to rely on the additional financial resources made available by the *Advanced Academia project's* budget for 2012-2016 which includes expenses for pre-publication preparation, language editing and final hardcopy release of the Fellows' individual research papers.

The already mentioned *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* constitutes another valuable venue for publicizing the intellectual yield of CAS.

CAS Sofia

April 2015