

Diana Mishkova

Director

April 2014

**CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDY SOFIA**  
**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

**I. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**I.1. Personnel**

*I.1.1. Academic personnel*

During the 2014 Board session CAS Sofia will welcome a new member to the CAS Board of Trustees - Dr. Christian Gollubits from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research (BMWF). Dr. Gollubits is nominated for this position by BMWF and will take the place of Dr. Heribert Buchbauer, the former representative of the Austrian Ministry in the CAS Board of Trustees. His nomination is pending the formal endorsement by the CAS Board.

As of today, the composition of the academic personnel of CAS includes 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 Ganey (Economy), Assoc. Prof. Daniela Koleva (Anthropology) and Assoc. Prof. Balázs Trencsényi (History).

*I.1.2. Administrative personnel*

No changes in the administrative staff have been introduced since the last Board meeting.

**I.2. Financial data**

<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 441.970</b>
<b>Research Expenses</b>	<b>€ 322.938</b>
<b>Institutional Expenses</b>	<b>€ 119.032</b>

**I.3. Fundraising strategy**

The Swiss Government annual grant amounting to **100.000 CHF** is contracted until the end of 2015. The Austrian Government annual grant amounting to **€ 25.000** is subject to approval by the Austrian Government on an annual basis.

#### **I.4. CAS Guesthouse**

The efforts to acquire a full-fledged guesthouse for CAS continued in line with the strategy agreed during the 2013 CAS Board meeting. The generous offer by the America for Bulgaria Foundation is in force and the staff of the Foundation, together with CAS, has tried to identify a suitable building in the relatively scarce Sofia real estate market. Several proposals have been considered and a promising opportunity is currently under scrutiny.

#### **I.5. Partnerships and cooperation**

In the course of 2013/2014 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 Central European University (Budapest), EURIAS (especially New Europe College in Bucharest; IWM in Vienna) and the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). The long-term institutional partnership with Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin continues to be a fundamental element of CAS' institutional sustainability. In 2013/2014 the Centre continued the close and fruitful collaboration with the America for Bulgaria Foundation (AFB). Given the thematic convergence between some fellows' projects at CAS and at the American Research Center in Sofia (ARCS) (in particular those related to the Ottoman and the socialist period), the fellows of both institutions are regularly invited to each others' seminars.

##### ***I.5.1. 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 cooperation 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 almost simultaneously between Max-Weber-Kolleg and NEC Bucharest as well). The agreement 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 could contribute further to the internationalization of the academic community in Sofia and provide the basis for participating in joint research projects with the Max-Weber-Kolleg in the future.

## **II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

### **II.1. CAS Fellows**

In the course of 2013/2014 CAS hosted **15 research fellows** from **7** countries in the framework of *Advanced Academia* programme. (Please, see **AR ANNEX IV** for a complete list of 2013/2014 CAS Fellows and their topics). Another **6 researchers** have been involved in the *RAGE* project and **8 researchers** in the EUROBORDESCAPES project. **19 scholars** have been involved in the project *European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History*.

## **II.2. Completed projects**

### **II.2.2.1. *Negotiating Modernity: History of Modern Political Thought in East-Central Europe***

The *Negotiating Modernity project* was completed in April 2013, following the one-month extension of its term agreed with the ERCEA. The amended Grant Agreement introduced, as well, a modified scheme for calculating the working time and the remuneration of the participating researchers in line with the new ERC rules. This was the most difficult point to negotiate with the ERCEA officials, taking into account the prerequisites of the research and the obligations of the participating scholars to the institutions of their permanent affiliation.

In 2013 the researchers focused on the improvement and editing of the final chapters of the prepared two volumes, as well as on increasing the visibility of their work and its outcomes. Two consecutive conferences took place at CAS in Sofia: on 17-21 January and 15-18 March 2013. The March 2013 concluding project conference was addressed to a broader international academic audience. A number of renowned scholars from the US, Canada, UK, the Netherlands and Germany participated in both events as discussants of the manuscript.

Additional outreach activities have been undertaken by Dr. Trencsényi and his team upon the project completion. The project's outcomes were presented and discussed at a workshop at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM) in Vienna on 13 September 2013. The research team has continued to work on smaller follow-up activities and is currently organizing a workshop on the political discourse of experts and technocrats in 20<sup>th</sup> century Eastern Europe.

The Principal Investigator Dr. Trencsényi has concluded his work on the manuscript and submitted it for language editing, whilst negotiating the publication of the planned two volumes with several high-profile publishers.

Meanwhile, in July 2013 CAS Sofia submitted to the ERCEA the final scientific and financial report on the completed project. With a letter dated 20 September 2013, the ERCEA officially accepted the final scientific and financial reports submitted by CAS and approved the transfer of the final payment to CAS in accordance with the project budget.

On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) published an article about the European Research Council and its new Horizon 2020 programme signed by Dr. Joachim Nettelbeck, former Secretary of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. In his text Dr. Nettelbeck presents the problems encountered by CAS in the realization of the *Negotiating Modernity project* as an emblematic case for the inefficiencies and the lack of flexibility of the existing legal framework of administering the ERC grants. Another problem highlighted by Dr. Nettelbeck is the unequal regional distribution of the ERC grants which has resulted in underrepresentation of researchers from Eastern Europe in the programmes financed by the Council. In light of the Horizon 2020 programme, Dr. Nettelbeck analyzes the rules governing the implementation of research projects funded by the ERC and how these could be simplified in order to guarantee better conditions for European scholars to conduct high-quality research during the next programme period.

## **II. 3. On-going projects**

### ***II.3.1. Advanced Academia Programme***

*The 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 34 young and established Bulgarian scholars. As of 2011, with the assistance of the *Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft (Porticus Foundation)* and, since 2013, the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation*, the programme has opened to international fellows: a total of 16 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 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.

*2014/2015 Calls for Applications* (for Bulgarian and international scholars) were published and widely distributed electronically in March 2013 with a deadline on 1 October 2013. The call yielded a total of 31 applications by Bulgarian scholars, and 73 applications by international scholars from over 30 countries and five continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America). The Academic Advisory Council selected 8 Bulgarian and 9 international Fellows. The new group of CAS Fellows came together for the first time on 6 March 2014. At the opening meeting they were introduced to the philosophy and the functionality of the programme; a schedule for the Fellow seminars and other events was worked out. (Please, see **AR ANNEX V** for the list of the selected Fellows and the summaries of their projects).

CAS is seeking to complement the academic programme with various community-building activities, such as Fellow dinners, outings, and cultural events, thus creating opportunities for informal communication.

*Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series.* In March 2014 CAS opened the fourth season of the series aimed at presenting to a wider academic and interested audience the results from the research of the 2013-2014 Bulgarian Advanced Academia Fellows. (For the *Calendar of the 2014 Public Lectures*, please, see **AR ANNEX VI**.)

As part of its electronic *CAS Working Paper Series*, in November 2013 CAS posted in the Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) the texts of a 13 Bulgarian and international Fellows from the first two years of the programme. The next issue of the working papers is currently being proofread and its publication is planned for mid-2014.

**AR ANNEX VII\_A** and **AR ANNEX VII\_B** contain the report delivered in April 2014 to the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft/Porticus Foundation and to the *Fritz-Thyssen Foundation* (March 2013 – March 2014, International module); **AR ANNEX VIII** presents the feedback collected from the Fellows participating in both modules of the programme.

*Other related activities:* On the initiative of Dr. Mariya Ivancheva (Social Anthropology, Bulgaria) and Dr. Simone A. Bellezza (History, Italy), current CAS fellows under the Advanced Academia programme, CAS convened a fellow workshop on 20 March 2014 on the topic: “*Venezuela is not Ukraine? Reflections on the Emergent Protest Movements in the*

*Post/Socialist World*". The workshop provoked a vivid discussion on the current global wave of protests.

For information regarding the forthcoming lecture "*Transitional Trials and Master Historical Narratives in Post-Communist Bulgaria, Germany and Romania*" by Dr. Raluca Grosescu, former CAS fellow under the Advanced Academia programme, please refer to section **III.5. Seminars by guest lecturers** of the CAS Plan for 2014.

### ***II.3.2. European Regions and Boundaries. A Conceptual History (January 2013 – April 2014)***

*European Regions and Boundaries: A Conceptual History* is a two-year interdisciplinary comparative research project, based on a focus-group investigation and aimed at a joint publication elaborating on the conceptualisations of the European regions and boundaries by a wide range of social and human sciences. A key objective of the project is to go beyond the usual discussions on the heuristics of historical regions and expand the toolkit of conceptual history by not just following the conceptual itinerary of regional terminology per se, but contextualizing this itinerary in terms of changing political, cultural and especially disciplinary contexts. This helps "temporalize" the spatial terminology implied in the social sciences, and in turn, analyse the ways historical change is encapsulated in spatial categories.

The reported year started with the opening of the second working session which took place in Sofia on January 11-12, 2013 in accordance with the agreed time-table. The project team was extended with three newly invited scholars filling in some thematic gaps in the disciplinary module of the project.

The next interim meeting convened on 7-8 September 2013 when the team overviewed the research progress and solved pending methodological issues. The venue in Old Plovdiv provided an inspiring background for intellectual exchange among the contributors. The authors who did not attend the Plovdiv workshop submitted eventually extended drafts of their chapters.

The project conveners' difficulties in identifying and recruiting competent researchers in the fields of linguistics, economy and political science were overcome in September-November 2013. Thus the remaining gaps within the project thematic focus were filled. Those authors presented their final drafts at the 12-13 April, 2014 Editorial Meeting in Sofia. In accordance with this schedule and with the agreement of the funding organization the financial framework of the project was extended with six months (final reporting is due in July 2014).

The final manuscript should be ready by November 2014. It will be published as part of the European Conceptual History book series of Berghahn Publishers. (Please, see **ANNEX IX** for more information).

### ***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. 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. In addition, major paradigmatic shifts in scientific debate and in the social sciences in particular, are also taken into consideration. The approach to state borders as a frame of reference, rather than ethnographic/anthropological boundaries, emphasises the social significance and subjectivities of state 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 until 31<sup>st</sup> 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).

Currently a group of six scholars are involved on behalf of CAS. In 2013 these scholars, in addition to carrying their proper research work, took part in the project-related workshops and conferences in St. Petersburg (February 2013), Berlin (March and December 2013), and Bergamo (July 2013). Moreover, members of the team contributed to the international promotion of the project and to CAS visibility by presenting their researches at different academic fora: CAS Director Dr. Diana Mishkova delivered keynote speeches at scientific conferences in Budapest in June 2013 and in Leipzig in September 2013. Dr. Anna Krasteva, one of the other participating researchers, presented a paper at the conference in Bergamo in July and organized a seminar on the topic “Cities and Borders” at New Bulgarian University in December 2013.

In January 2014 CAS submitted its first financial report, which was approved by the coordinating institution and forwarded to the European Commission in February 2014.

#### **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 covering nine EU member states (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. The project runs from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 until 31<sup>st</sup> January 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 mobilisation 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 January 2014 CAS submitted a mid-term financial report, which was approved by the consortium coordinator and forwarded to the European Commission.

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

Assoc. Prof. Roumen Avramov, Permanent Fellow at CAS Sofia, accepted the invitation to lead the Bulgarian research team in the comparative project *REVISITING COMMUNISM. Collectivist Economic Thought in Historical Perspective* conceived by Janos Matyas Kovacs, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna. 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. The work is still in its incipient phase and the details will be discussed during the launch workshop to be held in Vienna on April 10-11, 2014. An important organizational issue will be the institutional interface with CAS.

## **II.4. Other academic activities**

### ***II.4.1. Seminars by guest lecturers and former fellows***

#### ***II.4.1.1. "Assimilation and Circulation. A Universalistic Model of Knowledge in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century"***

On 8 October 2013 CAS welcomed Prof. Andreas Kilcher, expert in literature and cultural studies, for his well attended seminar on "Assimilation and Circulation. A Universalistic Model of Knowledge in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century". Prof. Kilcher is a lecturer at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland. His presentation touched upon issues of the Jewish intellectual and literary influence on German thought. The presentation dealt with the rise of dynamic concepts of knowledge in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the gradual corrosion of metaphysical constituents (such as truth, world, reason, subject, origin), which used to dominate the 18<sup>th</sup> century knowledge.

#### ***II.4.1.2. "Traces from the Ottoman Era in Bulgaria: a Personal Encounter with a Small Library in Fourteen Languages in Chirpan"***

Boris Deliradev, an independent scholar, was invited by CAS to make presentation on the topic: "Traces from the Ottoman Era in Bulgaria: a Personal Encounter with a Small Library in Fourteen Languages in Chirpan" on 11 February 2014. Mr. Deliradev gave an account about his discovery of 182 volumes of books in fourteen different languages which have been left unattended over a century in the attic of the public community centre in the small town of Chirpan. In the course of a couple of years these books (written in various European languages, including Turkish and Arabic) have been identified, analyzed and highly evaluated by specialists from the Bulgarian National Library.

### **II.4.1.3. *Metamorphosis and Catastrophe***

The international workshop “*Metamorphosis and Catastrophe*”, organized by the Center for Philosophy at the University of Tokyo, the Institute for Critical Social Studies (ICSS) in Sofia and the Sofia Literary Seminar (SLS) in cooperation with the Cultural Center of Sofia University and CAS Sofia took place at the conference hall of the Centre on November 1-2, 2013. The idea for this joint Japanese-Bulgarian-French event came from two former CAS fellows, Dr. Darin Tenev (Sofia University) and Dr. Boyan Manchev (New Bulgarian University and Collège International de Philosophie, Paris) and the leading Japanese authority in contemporary philosophy Prof. Yasuo Kobayashi. The lecture by Prof. Kobayashi served as a conceptual introduction to the workshop. He introduced part of his recent work on the notion of catastrophe and pointed the discussion in the direction of Boyan Manchev’s key concept of metamorphosis. This line of thought was followed by current CAS Fellow Dr. Kamelia Spassova, Prof. Enyo Stoyanov, Dr. Riyako Yamaoka, Dr. Kei Kiritani, Dr. Hanako Takayama and Dr. Darin Tenev who tackled the issue of catastrophe by focusing on Blanchot, Derrida and Jean-Luc Nancy. The last two papers were delivered by the Bulgarian philosophers Prof. Deyan Deyanov (Plovdiv University) and former CAS fellow Prof. Miglena Nikolchina (Sofia University). The lively discussions and the opening of new perspectives for investigation turned the workshop into an exciting experience and into one of the important events of the Bulgarian academic life in 2013.

### **II.4.1.4. *Digital Creativity in Times of Crisis: Bulgarian Networked Culture in Global Contexts***

On 15 November 2013 CAS Sofia hosted the International Workshop *Digital Creativity in Times of Crisis: Bulgarian Networked Culture in Global Contexts*. The workshop was organized by Assoc Prof. Vlad Strukov (University of Leeds, editor of the electronic portal *Digital Icons*) and the former CAS fellows Dr. Henrike Schmidt (Free University of Berlin), and Assoc Prof. Orlin Spassov (Sofia University). The discussions centred on the digital and networked communication technologies that have evolved into a global mass phenomenon during the past two decades. The workshop, which brought together several former CAS Fellows and a broader academic public, aimed to investigate the significance of digital creativity at times of crisis, both in the historical and contemporary contexts, and considered Bulgaria as its main case study. The workshop successfully combined academic and artistic contributions: Krassimir Terziev presented his new works from the cycle *Intimate Distance* and Luchezar Boyadjiev discussed the topic *Native Resolution: Questions of Time and Truth in Digital Photography*.

## **II.5. CAS Discussion Series**

### **II.5.1 *Existential Socialism (Body under Socialism) Workshop Series***

The newly launched discussion series *The Body under Socialism* is the fourth under the thematic umbrella of “Existential Policies under Socialism”, convened by CAS Academic Associate Daniela Koleva, after *Childhood under Socialism*, *Death under Socialism*, and *Love under Socialism* (2012-2013). *The Body under Socialism*, which set off at the beginning of 2014, takes place in five consecutive sessions on a monthly basis from January

through May 2014. Each of the workshops consists of at least three presentations by both prominent and junior Bulgarian scholars coming from different academic institutions across the country (Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Veliko Tarnovo and Rousse), as well as different disciplinary backgrounds – sociology, history, anthropology, literary and cultural studies, psychology and medicine. So far, the discussions have provoked strong interest and attracted audiences of at least 30 participants from the Sofia academia. A volume of the *CAS Research Forum publication series* will include the contributions to the seminar.

## **II.6. Publications resulting from CAS projects or discussion series**

### ***II.6.1. Death under Socialism***

*Death under Socialism*, 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 in October 2013 and presented at a book launch event at CAS in January 2014.

The volume *Love under Socialism* comprising selected papers from the last year's *CAS Discussion Series* is expected to be published by mid-2014 by the same publisher. It is currently being edited by CAS Academic Associate Dr. Daniela Koleva.

### ***II.6.2. "Bulgarian Communism – Debates and Interpretations"***

This collection compiles the presentations from the round table discussion *Bulgarian Communism - Two Decades Later* (2011), organized by several leading Bulgarian NGOs and representatives of the academia. The papers reflect the current stage of the research and of the public reflection on the communist regime in Bulgaria. The volume is edited by Mihail Gruev and Diana Mishkova and published by CAS/Riva Publishers. The book came out of print in June 2013 and was publicly presented on 9 October 2013. The event took place at the Sofia City Library and was attended by more than one hundred participants. Sociologist Prof. Maya Grekova (Sofia University) and historian Prof. Roumen Daskalov (New Bulgarian University) presented substantive reviews of the book, underscoring above all the grave methodological issues involved in the interpretation of the recent traumatic past.

## **II.7. Public events**

### ***II.7.1. Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series***

The public lectures are an important element of the *Advanced Academia project*, as they contribute significantly to enhancing the impact of the Centre and of its Fellows' research projects. The series provides a valuable forum, especially for younger scholars, thus promoting the visibility of their work and contributing to their career growth. This year the *Advanced Academia Public Lecture Series* was launched on 4 March and, as previously is being held on a weekly basis (every Tuesday, at 18:00h) at the Sofia City Library from March through May. So far the events have enjoyed great popularity and are a major success – each lecture attracts audiences from various universities, human and social-science

institutes and other research institutions in Sofia. (For the 2014 programme of the lecture series, please see **AR ANNEX VI**).

## **II.8. CAS Library**

### ***II.8.1. Development of book collections***

CAS Library has a well established tradition of collecting books in the framework of CAS projects. Thus within the *Advanced Academia project* the Library has ran orders for books and has enriched its collections of monographs in the field of history and social sciences. CAS fellows and associates also donated **46** publications. Besides purchases and donations, the CAS Library develops its collections through exchange. Altogether, during the last year the Library has acquired **101 new books**.

### ***II.8.2. Databases***

For several years the CAS library has been offering access to electronic online collections, which proved to be a quite successful service. During 2013 the Library provided free access to the following databases: JSTOR, EBSCO, Questia, ACLS Humanities E-Book. As usually, those were the most often consulted resources: EBSCO for instance has been consulted 908 times by CAS Library users in 2013.

The restricted financial means for subscription to new databases, however, are a persistent problem. CAS Library was not able to prolong its subscription for SAGE, Encyclopaedia Britannica Online Academic, EBSCO, JSTOR, ACLS Humanities E-Book and Voprosy Istorii. The Library tried to partly offset the lack of funds for databases' subscription by having concluded a contract for interlibrary loan with Panitza Library of the American University in Bulgaria and thus gaining access to JSTOR and EBSCO.

### ***II.8.3. Library services***

#### ***II.8.3.1. Interlibrary loan with Panitza Library AUBG***

In order to cope with the research needs of its fellows, CAS Library managed to offer a wide range of additional resources via interlibrary loan (document delivery) service for books, book chapters, copies of journal articles, or conference papers. The Library established an extremely fruitful partnership with the Panitza Library of the American University in Bulgaria. Besides, CAS Library provides to its users distant access to the various electronic collections of the Panitza Library. Thus valuable electronic books (included in the database Ebrary Academic Complete, which consists of over 80,000 titles in all subject areas), journals and encyclopaedias were made available for the users of CAS Library.

#### ***II.8.3.2. Availability of the catalogue online through NALIS***

CAS Library became an associate member of the National Academic Library and Information System Foundation (NALIS Foundation). Through this cooperation CAS

Library electronic catalogue was integrated in the NALIS Union Catalogue of the academic libraries in Bulgaria which enables all library users to have free online access to the bibliographic data of more than 2,200,000 items (books, periodicals, maps, graphics, digital copies, electronic databases etc.). By joining the NALIS Union Catalogue CAS Library increased the public visibility of its collections and publications.

**PhDGate** (Integrated Electronic Database of the PhD Students in Bulgaria – [www.phdgate.net](http://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. **93** new PhD students registered in the database in 2013 (**2,361** active users in total). The average monthly unique visits to the site are **1,927** and **5,700** 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](http://www.gate.cas.bg)) grants the academic community an internet space for their publications, statements and information exchange. During the fifth year of existence of the Gateway Dimitar 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 **444** registered users from academia. The monthly number of visits averages **652**, and more than **3,476** pages are viewed. The project is funded by CAS' institutional resources.

**Bulgarian Communism: Critical Readings** ([www.red.cas.bg](http://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 (**885** titles of books, articles and archive documents -). The web-page is regularly fed with news. The average monthly number of visits amounts to **317**, while **856** pages are viewed. This online project is also supported via CAS' institutional funds.

### III. VISIBILITY AND PUBLIC IMPACT

In 2013/2014 CAS continued the issuing of its *Newsletter*. The next issue is expected to be published at the beginning of June 2014 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. The number of downloads of *CAS Working Papers* from the CEEOL database during the past year was 612.

Apart from these electronic channels, CAS emphasizes the dissemination of *hardcopy publications of its research projects' results*. For this goal the Centre relies 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.

On 28 September the Flying Summer School of the Leipzig University Programme "The New Europe" met with Roumen Avramov at the Centre. The seminar, devoted to the topic "Europe's New Macedonian Question," was organized by Prof. Stefan Troebst (University of Leipzig) and was attended by graduate students of the same University.

A forthcoming visit of Prof. Oliver Schmitt – one of the experts involved in the external evaluation of the Centre in 2011 – and a group of faculty and students from the Department of History of Eastern and Southeastern Europe, University of Vienna on 13 May 2014 has been envisaged with the explicit aim to introduce Austrian researchers, who deal with the region of Southeastern Europe, to what Prof. Schmitt presented as "an unique place of scholarship in Bulgaria." The variety of *international public events* (workshops, conferences, lectures by guest professors) is yet another opportunity for promoting the work of the Centre.

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

CAS Sofia

April 2014