

## KONFERENCJA ZAKOŃCZONA SUKCESEM

W piątek (18 listopada) odbyła się konferencja „**Voter Empowerment: VAA in May 2011 elections in the UK**” organizowana przez CEUW, Loughborough University i MyPolitIQ przy współpracy z Forum Europejskim i Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego. Konferencja, jak i cały projekt „VAA for Poles and Lithuanians in the UK” jest współfinansowana przez Komisję Europejską z programu Fundamental Rights and Citizenship oraz przez Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego.

Wystąpienia koncentrowały się na podsumowaniu wyników pierwszego roku projektu oraz postawieniu ich w kontekście porównawczym do innych Voter Advice Applications (VAA) działających w Europie. Konferencja zaowocowała bardzo żywą dyskusją i sformułowaniem rekomendacji do dalszego rozwoju projektu w 2012 r. Przygotowania do uruchomienia VAA na wybory w Wielkiej Brytanii w nadchodzącym roku ruszyły pełną parą.

Publikacja w oparciu o wystąpienia konferencyjne ukaże się w marcu 2012. Poniżej znajdują się tytuły wystąpień i noty biograficzne ekspertów zaproszonych do wzięcia udziału w konferencji.

### **Dr. Agata Dziewulska** "*Mycandidate.eu - short introduction*"

[After receiving her Ph.D. from the European University Institute, Florence, Agata Dziewulska joined Centre for Europe, University of Warsaw where she is Assistant Professor. Her research and publications focus on conflict management, political systems and voter participation. She directs an EU-funded project „VAA for Poles and Lithuanians eligible to vote in UK local elections”.]

### **Dr. Simona Guerra** "*Communicating with the Polish community in the UK? The VAA at the 2011 UK local elections*"

[Simona Guerra is a Lecturer in Politics at the Department of Politics, History and International Relations, Loughborough University. Her main research interests focus on the domestic politics of EU integration, Euroscepticism and Populism, and Religion and Politics. Amongst her recent publications, "Not Just Europeanization, Not Necessarily Populism: Potential factors underlying the mobilization of populism in Ireland and Poland", Perspectives on European Politics and Society (with John FitzGibbon). Simona is currently completing her first monograph, "Central and Eastern European Attitudes in the Face of the Union. A Comparative Perspective" (Palgrave Macmillan)]

### **Dr. Wojciech Gagatek** "*Activating the Electoral Participation of the Immigrants in the UK Local Government Elections: the Case of Voting Aid Application Mycandidate.eu*"

[Wojciech Gagatek is Assistant Professor in the Centre for Europe at the University of Warsaw. During academic year 2011-2012, he is SCIEX fellow at the University of Zürich. His main academic interests concern comparative political parties (with special focus on their organization); EU political institutions (with a special focus on the European Parliament) and the comparative method.]

### **Diego Garzia** "*Patterns of VAA-usage: integrating micro- and macro-level perspectives*"

[Diego Garzia is a PhD Candidate in Comparative and European Politics at the University of Siena. Previously, he studied at the Universities of Rome “Sapienza” (BA, MSc), Leiden (MA), and Oxford (Visiting Doctoral Student). His research is focused on the role of personality of both voters and

politicians in orienting political attitudes and behaviour, and his more recent works have been accepted for publication in Journal of Political Marketing, Political Psychology, Revista Española de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Rivista Italiana di Scienza Politica, and The Leadership Quarterly. He is co-editor (with Lorella Cedroni) of "Voting Advice Applications in Europe: The State of the Art" (2010).]

**Julien Fiechter** "*Trying to reach Citizens and Candidates with VAA's: Who's participating, who's not? And why? First findings from the coverage of the Swiss federal elections 2011 by smartvote.ch*"

[Julien Fiechter is project leader of the Swiss VAA smartvote.ch. He studied political sciences in Berne, Örebro and Karlstad (SE). Besides his work for smartvote.ch, he is currently doing a PhD on the subject of local assembly democracy at the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP) in Lausanne]

**Dr. Raphael Kies** "*Is smartvote a civic tool for foreign residents?*"

[Raphaël Kies is researcher in political science at the University of Luxembourg. In Luxembourg he is co-responsible for the national and European electoral studies, and for the introduction of innovative methods of political participation such as the voting advice application smartvote.lu and the European Citizens Consultation. He has published several articles and books on e-democracy, local democracy, and deliberative democracy.]

**John Oakes** "*Democracy in a multicultural society: recent voting patterns in the UK*"

[John Oakes graduated from Cambridge with an English degree 50 years ago after attending a State school, and has had extensive experience in Journalism and marketing; he also founded a classical music agency. Most recently he has been a local councillor in London for the Liberal Democrat Party, now part of the UK's ruling Coalition Government, where he represented an area with a significant number of Central and Eastern European migrants. He looks at their impact on British politics.]

**Dr. Chrysa Lamprinakou** "*Exploring new opportunities: VAA as a tool of political marketing in local government campaigning*"

[A Teaching Fellow in British Politics in the School of Public Policy, University College London. In the last five years the Editorial Assistant of the Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties. Holds a PhD and MRes degrees in Politics from Brunel University, a MA degree in Communications Policy Studies from City University and a BA (Hons) degree in Politics from the University of Essex. Her PhD research focused on developing an alternative conceptual framework of party campaigning integrating the traditional theories of party organisation with the modern approaches of political communication and marketing. Main research interests include parties and party systems, election campaigns and electoral behaviour, party professionalisation, political communication and marketing. Recently completed working on a research project on electoral system change across Europe as country specialist (Greece and Cyprus).]