

UACES Scholarship  
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### **Outline of project**

In my research I look at how the EU and Russia influence Ukrainian and Moldovan foreign policies. Both the EU and Russia are expansionist and increasingly competitive in their shared neighbourhood. They advance alternative integration formats, economic models, policy templates and even worldview. However, neither - the EU wary of giving its European neighbours a membership perspective, and Russia resented for its 'imperialist' agenda – has been able to promote a unidirectional agenda in Ukraine and Moldova. Instead, Ukraine and Moldova have opted for 'multi-vector' policies. Here 'multi-vector' stands for the lack of strategic vision, pendulum-like oscillations in foreign policy and uncertainty over a future place in Europe. The purpose of my research is to identify how these 'multi-vector' policies came about.

Specifically, the objectives of my trip were 1) to determine the extent of the EU and Russia's influence on decision-making in Ukraine and Moldova; 2) to identify the main channels of communication; 3) to spot the examples of successful/attempted influence attempts on the EU and Russia; 4) and, finally, to make an in-depth research of several cases studies.

### **Academic achievements**

These objectives were successfully accomplished through interviews. I spent four weeks in Ukraine and two weeks in Moldova from May 2 to June 17, 2008. In total, I conducted 50 interviews with officials from MFA and Presidential Secretariat, members of parliaments and political parties; diplomatic representatives (EC's delegations, EU member states' and Russian embassies, OSCE); experts (in Ukraine: Razumkov Centre, Institute of Economic Research, International Centre for Policy Studies, Defense Express, SOFIA Centre, CIS Institute etc.; in Moldova: Foreign Policy Association, OSI, IRI, Expert Group, E-Democracy etc.); and, finally, journalists (*Expert; Profil – Der Spiegel, Democracy.md*).

The trip was essential for my PhD research, as there is general lack of empirical knowledge about Ukraine and Moldova. This is despite the fact that their share in the EU and Russian foreign policies is constantly increasing. Poor knowledge of Ukrainian politics, as well as almost inexistent knowledge about Moldova, make field trips to these countries necessary. In general, the trip has essentially increased my competence in the subject and allowed access to first-hand information. A part of my findings will be presented at the 2008 UACES Annual Conference in Edinburgh, 1-3 September 2008.

### **Use made of resources, facilities abroad**

Besides, I got access to local printed press, some expert databases and unpublished/rare academic materials. I greatly benefited from discussions with

my interviewees. I am grateful to everyone, who offered me his/her assistance during this trip, as well as to the UACES for this valuable opportunity.

### **Positive and negative aspects**

Apart from the mentioned above, I established good working and personal contacts with the people, which I share my professional interests with. I hope to keep in contact with them and further benefit from our communication.

As for negative aspects, political culture in these countries is far from open. There is a lot of disorganization and apprehension towards interviews. Initially I got only 15 positive responses to approx 50 e-mail interview requests. Someone might need to introduce you to the interviewee. Moreover, it is near to impossible to arrange interviews two weeks in advance, as many do not know their schedule and refuse to schedule interviews that far ahead. It takes 3-4 phone calls to arrange an interview 3 days before.