



Advancing Democracy U.S. Alumni Trip 2019
Alumni Short Bios



Roman Jakič

Former Minister of Defense and MP
Republic of Slovenia

Roman Jakič began his career as a student leader in the 1980s, when organizing/protesting was banned by the Communist party. He was first elected as the youngest MP in the first free and democratic Parliament of Slovenia in 1990. He was re-elected four times as an MP, and served one mandate as a Member of European Parliament. In 2012 he was appointed as Minister of Defense of the Republic of Slovenia. Since 2013 he is the Founder and CEO of the consultancy company “Galitija.” He is an active volunteer in Alpine skiing for disabled people, serving as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for Disabled Sport at Slovene Ski Federation.



Tinatin Khidasheli

Former Minister of Defense
Georgia

Tinatin Khidasheli is a Georgian jurist and politician. She was elected as Member of Parliament representing 11th electoral district in the October 2012 general elections. In 2015, she was appointed Georgia’s Minister of Defense. As a leader of the Republican Party, she strived to eradicate state corruption in Georgia, while fighting for human rights, democratic reforms and respect for the constitution and laws of Georgia. She was involved in numerous independent anti-corruption investigation projects, supporting journalists and NGOs in information gathering, disclosure and reporting. Previously, as president of the Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association, Tinatin played an important role in observing parliamentary elections, uncovering electoral fraud, creating dispute-resolution programs, and lobbying for the creation of state-run legal aid services for the poor and disenfranchised.



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Emir Kovačević

Attorney
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Emir Kovačević is an Attorney at Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, practicing through his own law office since 1999. In 2016, Emir was appointed to the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief for a three-year term. In 2013, he wrote the book, “Freedom of Religion in the Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg,” published by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. He’s an editor for the book, “The Right to Freedom of Religious Practice in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (1998, WCRP, New York) and is a contributor to the publication, “Relations between State and Religious Communities.” (2003, Institute for State-Church Relations, Slovakia)



Eszter Nova

Lecturer, CEVRO Institute
Hungary

Eszter Nova is a professor of political science and political economy at the CEVRO Institute in Prague and at the ELTE Institute of Political Science in Budapest. She is a Political Economy Fellow at the Financial Research Institute since 2009. She is a freelance journalist and blogger for 168 óra and Meanwhile in Budapest. She’s authored several publications, including, “Demand for Populism as a Symptom of Learned Helplessness” (4liberty.eu Review #4, April 2016: 5-17) and “Can the Law Rule? The Need to Consolidate Third and Fourth Wave Democracies During Economic Recession” (Legatum, 2013, London) She also co-edited the books, “The Economic Crisis and its Consequences” (Lengyel-Nova eds., Budapest, Pénzügykutató, 2010) and “On Consolidation – Theoretic and Historic Studies, (Gombár-Nova eds., Bratislava, Kalligram, 2012)