

European Think Tank School

Building Management Capacities of CEE Think Tanks

LECTURER BIOGRAPHIES



Zilvinas Silenas, Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Zilvinas Silenas joined the Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) in 2006 after graduating from Wesleyan University, USA. Having started as a Junior Analyst on Economic Policy and International Trade, Z. Silenas became Senior Analyst at LFMI in 2009. On December 12, 2011 he was appointed LFMI's President. Besides his active involvement in Economic Policy, Z. Silenas has broadened LFMI's scope of activities to include Energy, Transportation and other sectors in need of privatization and deregulation. Zilvinas has experienced inner workings of the Establishment through his active involvement in the governmental "Sunset" and "Sunrise" commissions that focus on sizing down state functions and expenditures. Z. Silenas contributed to LFMI's key role in revealing the origins of the crisis to the society and formulating the anti-crisis action plan to the national authorities.

Having a passion to pass on his knowledge to youngsters, Zilvinas teaches IB Economics at his former high-school and educates teenagers through the LFMI's interactive economics program



Richard Durana, Institute of Economic and Social Studies

He is director of the Institute of Economic and Social Studies (INESS). He works in INESS from the beginning of its operation in 2006, after graduating from the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Bratislava postgraduate studies at the Institute of Chemistry SAS, where he worked as a researcher – a biochemist. He is an expert of economic policy, public finance and intellectual property.

INESS began its activities in January 2006 as non-governmental and apolitical civic association. As an independent think tank, INESS monitors the functioning and financing of the public sector, evaluates the effects of legislative changes on the economy and society and comments on current economic and social issues.



Corina Hendriks, Mr. Hans van Mierlo Foundation, ELF Member

Corina studied political science at the University of Amsterdam and journalism in Zwolle. She has a PhD (01/2011) at the University of Amsterdam on her thesis entitled "The story behind the Dutch model: the consensual politics of wage restraint". Corina is editor of the political science journal Idea, an edition of the. She also coordinates a long-term projects aimed at developing a vision around the themes of market, sustainability and development company.



Svetla Kostadinova, Institute for Market Economy

Svetla is Executive Director of Institute for Market Economy, the first and oldest independent economic policy think tank in Bulgaria.

Svetla Kostadinova works in the IME since 2001 and has held the position of Senior Economist since 2004. On January 2007 Svetla Kostadinova was appointed IME's Executive Director.

She was born in Varna, where she studied at the specialized economics high school. In 2001, Svetla finished her Bachelor's degree, and in 2005 she also completed a Master's degree in Finance at the UNWE, Sofia.



Remigijus Simasius, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania

From 2008 Remigijus Simasius is Minister of Justice of Lithuania. From 1995 until 2008 he was a member of the team of the Lithuanian Free Market Institute: from 2006 until 2008 he was president of LFMI, since May 2004 he has lead the LFMI's analytical team as vice president, until then he worked as a legal expert and a senior policy analyst.

Remigijus received lawyer's qualifications at Vilnius University. He studied at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary and at the Mises Institute in Alabama. He did an internship with the Heritage Foundation in Washington D.C. In 2002 he was awarded a PhD from the Law University of Lithuania for a thesis on legal pluralism in which he combined, as in his other writings, economic, legal and sociological knowledge.

As an expert on the Austrian School and legal theory, he has gained recognition in Lithuania and overseas. He is a member of the Property and Freedom Society, uniting the most prominent intellectuals of the free market thought from around the globe.

Having profound knowledge of the operational principles of NGOs, Remigijus participated in creating the legal foundations for the non-governmental sector. From 1996 until 2004 he cooperated with the NGO Information and Support Centre, provided consultancy for NGOs and analysed their legal basis. Remigijus has published a book "Non-Governmental Organizations: Lithuanian Regulation and Western Experience" (1999). In 2006 a new book on non-governmental organizations of Remigijus was released. Owing to Remigijus consistent efforts, a number of regulatory restrictions on non-governmental organizations have been lifted.



Matthew Elliot, Taxpayers' Alliance

Matthew Elliot is the chief executive of the TaxPayer's Alliance (TPA). He recently co-authored the book, The Bumper Book of Government Waste, which sold 20,000 copies. In an effort to provide positive incentives for politicians to lower taxes and carry out other sound policies the TPA provides polls, advocacy and media exposure. Their group now has 15,000 supporters at the grassroots level advocating for reform and lower taxes!



Ruta Vainiene, Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Ruta has been working at LFMI since its inception in 1990 and was its first employee. In 2008-2011 Ruta served as LFMI's President. Currently, she works at LFMI as a senior fellow. From 1999 until May 2004 Ruta led LFMI's research team. She has provided a marked input to developing conceptual frameworks for monetary, banking, tax and deregulation reforms. She was a member of governmental task forces preparing a legal and institutional basis for the securities market, commercial banking, and the monetary system.

Since January 2006, Ruta is F. M Sands Fellow in Political Economy at the Centre for Global Economic Growth of Freedomworks Foundation.



Karin Zelano, FORES

Karin Zelano is Programme Coordinator migration of FORES. She has a MS in Political Science from Uppsala University, Sweden, including studies at SciencesPo, Paris and Universidad de Complutense, Madrid. Since joining FORES Karin has been active in projects involving migration and integration policy, such as effective responses to populist xenophobia, and strategies to harness the potential of immigration, on the labor market and elsewhere in society.



Edita Maslauskaitė, Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Edita joined LFMI in 1999. In May 2006 she was appointed vice president to head LFMI's fundraising and administration. Since 2002 she has served as development officer. Until then she worked as public relations officer and administrator.

Edita Maskauskaitė is responsible for developing and maintaining contacts with LFMI's supporters and the business community. She is also responsible for the Institute's administrative affairs.

Edita holds an MA in business management from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University.



Tim Evans, Libertarian Alliance, The Corben Centre, The Adam Smith Institute (UK)

Dr. Tim Evans is President of the Libertarian Alliance, Chief Executive of the Cobden Centre, a Consultant Director with the Adam Smith Institute and Chairman of the Economic Policy Centre. A former President and Director General of the Centre for the New Europe (2002-2005) in Brussels, between 1993 and early 2002, he was the Executive Director of Public Affairs at the Independent Healthcare Association in London where he oversaw the political affairs and public relations of the UK's independent health and social care sector. In this role he was widely credited as being the major driving force behind the '2000 Concordat' which was described by the Financial Times as the most "historic deal in 50 years of British healthcare". Prior to that, in 1991, he was the Head of the Slovak Prime Minister's Policy Unit in Bratislava where he worked alongside Dr. Jan Carnogursky. In the late 1980s he was the Assistant Director of the Foundation for Defence Studies. In 1993, he was awarded his PhD from the London School of Economics.