

# The Governance E-Gazette



Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

20 June 2006

**unicef**  Maastricht Graduate School of Governance selected by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for an ambitious assignment

As part of UNICEF's commitment to support high-impact approaches to achieve sustainable results for children, more than 300 senior UNICEF staff will take on cutting edge issues in public policy, advocacy and partnerships at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University. UNICEF staff will convene in Maastricht over the next weeks to participate in this programme. It is the first time that a European University, in this case Maastricht University, has been given the responsibility to set up such an ambitious learning programme.

In this innovative partnership, the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance and UNICEF are working together to strengthen organisational capacity to leverage resources and scale up the impact of programmes for children and women. This tailor-made learning programme focuses on key concepts in public policy analysis, evidence-based advocacy and partnerships for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It combines e-learning and face-to-face sessions engaging UNICEF staff working in over 128 different countries in a dynamic exchange with leading scholars, policy makers, economists and development practitioners.

The Learning Programme on Public Policy, Advocacy, and Partnerships for Children's Rights complements UNICEF's distinguished track record as a highly goal- and results-oriented organization committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It represents the beginning of an academic partnership between UNICEF and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.



## As Russian as it gets

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, Lina Salanauskaitė and Britta Augsburg visited Moscow for an EU-project that the MGSoG is working on in cooperation with Arcadis. The main goal of the project is to assist in further implementation of the ongoing pension reform in the Russian Federation. The assessment of the labor market impact of the pension reform is one of the five major project activities. Next to the work on the project, the researchers had a unique opportunity to encounter numerous experiences of the local lifestyle.

To start with, the stay with the hosting family headed by the working pensioner (!), gave a unique opportunity to taste the treasures of Russian kitchen, to explore the diversity of house decorations, to get acquainted with the true Russian hospitality, and, of course, to listen to the endless life stories (even if time for interruption with the Russian – English translation was scarce and perspectives of the science theories (including the historic development of nations and a unique theory of how potentially Germans might have lost their true Slavic identity).

Turning away from the Talkative Pensioners, here are a few more tips for those who would like to explore and survive in the Russian capital: - Carrots, egg, sour cream, ham, basil, potatoes and BEER make a soup!!!- As people have a hot temperament, food is served cold. - When a Russian policeman stops a car that makes a left turn (a serious assault in the city center!), the following question "And, what should we do now?" should be interpreted as a sign of a goodwill and thus followed by a kind monetary contribution. In that sense, cheers!- People creativity has no boundaries, therefore rules are a rudimentary element of the evolution. - Everyone is equal, but foreigners pay 10 times more. Besides a long list of survival tips, it must be added that Moscow is a challenging, but fun city, running its daily life with amazingly clean, deep and fast metro system, countless number of street performances, suspicious looks of the passing policemen and vast opportunities of cultural activities.

## DEMOS

### Study association, set up by and for MGSoG-students

De-mos (dē'mōs) *n.* 1. The common people; the populace. 2. The common people of an ancient Greek state. And also the name the first study association of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance. The mission of DEMOS is to promote the integration of students from all courses within the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance into a friendly and tightly knit community. Due to the often rigorous and incompatible schedules within the various post-grad programmes, is the School and the founders of this organisation have recognized a lack of interaction between groups. DEMOS will be aimed to bridge this unfortunate gap. Through academic and non-academic activities, our website, and in due time, the DEMOS Student magazine, it is our intention to give participants the opportunity to exchange ideas, make new friends, and hopefully to take with them memorable experiences from their time at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.

### Nice to meet you... Rally Schwachöfer (PR, recruitment & events and student adviser)



Two years ago, I joined the School of Governance to become part of the PR, recruitment and events team.

From day 1 at the School, my life took a drastic turn by landing in a rollercoaster ride of meeting up with my charming and dynamic colleague, Charlotte Groven. Organising open days, master meetings, brochures, websites, the Yalta conference, flying to Sleepless in Seattle for the NAFSA conference, our enthusiasm and drive had no boundaries. Together with the entire team of the School, I think we have made a genuine attempt of putting the School on the map. Next to pr activities, I also manage the poli-clinic at the School, tending after the students' writing skills and recently I have become the student adviser.

What do I do with the free time which is left? (is there any?) I love going to the movies (a true movie-fanatic), travelling, dancing flamenco and i love reading Shakespeare, Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf and basically anything which captures my attention. The pr team has quite a few new projects coming up to teach and delight , so keep an eye on us!

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via [info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl](mailto:info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl)  
Also we would appreciate your comments and recommendations.

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