



## 4<sup>th</sup> Käte Hamburger Dialogue

### Engaging Crimea: Prospects for Conflict and Cooperation

**9th April 2015, 18:00–19:30**

**at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik(DIE), Tulpenfeld 6, 53113 Bonn**

A year ago on 16th March 2014 the Autonomous Republic of Crimea held a highly controversial referendum on its legal status. A translation of the referendum questions from Ukrainian and Russian to English indicated a choice between autonomy within Ukraine as per the 1992 constitution or joining the Russian Federation. Maintaining the status quo was not an option. In the referendum—regarded as unconstitutional by the Venice Commission and as invalid by a resolution of the UN-Assembly—an overwhelming majority of Crimeans voted for the latter option. At the time—and as recently confirmed by Putin in an interview—Crimea's absorption has been considered a military intervention by Russia. It was widely criticised and considered an annexation according to international law standards.

Now, a year after the referendum, Crimea is de-facto Russian territory, incorporated at both the political and societal levels of integration. However, with just over 2 million people and a weak dependent economy, no fresh water and lack of electricity, Crimea's future looks uncertain if not bleak. Despite this, a recent survey claims that a large majority of people, living in Crimea accept Russia annexation and moreover feel safe and secure there.<sup>1</sup> Controversially the Democratic Initiative Foundation (Kiev, Ukraine) published results, in which 68% of Ukrainians believed that Crimea remains part of Ukraine.<sup>2</sup>

To follow this unfolding situation, the fourth Käte Hamburger Dialogue brings together international academics and experts in the field to discuss the following questions:

- What is the reality? Is it the one held by the majority of Crimean people, or the one held by Ukrainians, who believe that Crimea is part of Ukraine?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-annexation-of-crimea-to-russia-opinion-poll/5430781>

<sup>2</sup> <http://dif.org.ua/ua/events/-krlitiki--sprijannja-.htm>



- With these two divergent perspectives what does the future of Crimea portend for Ukraine as a whole as it seeks deeper integration within Western Institutions?
- Can we expect even more sanctions against Russia and more conflict in the near future and with it a potentially wider role for regional organisations such as the OSCE, the EU and perhaps even NATO?
- Can a middle ground between the Ukrainian demand for reunification and the Crimean desire to be part of Russia be found?
- Who will lead the search for political compromise and how will it affect the unsettled conflict in eastern Ukraine and regional stability as a whole?
- What are the entry points for engaging Crimea's minorities who have views divergent from the majority populations?

## Programme

18:00-18:10 Welcoming and Introductory Remarks:

*Prof. Dirk Messner*, Co-Director of Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research; Director of the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

18:10-19:00 4th Käte Hamburger Dialogue

“Engaging Crimea: Prospects for Conflict and Cooperation”

Speakers: *Dr. Olga Dukhnych*, Associate Professor, Institute of Social and Political Psychology at National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, Journalist “Novoe Vremya”, Ukraine

*Dr. Elmira Muratova*, Associated Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Taurida National Vernadsky University (Crimean Federal University) Simferopol, Crimea

*Dr. Ivan Preobrajensky*, political scientist, columnist, News Agency “Rosbalt”, Russia

Moderator: *Prof. David Carment*, Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research and Carleton University, Canada

19:00-19:25 Discussion with the Audience

19:25-19:30 Wrap-Up

*Dr. Jörn Grävingholt*, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

19:30 End of the Dialogue and Get-Together