

# Journalism Training in Poland

## The new European Centre for Communication and Culture

Building *Bridges to Europe* is the overall aim of the new journalism training centre in Poland, to be opened in autumn this year. The *European Centre for Communication and Culture (ECCC)* is run by the Jesuits with its provincial Fr. Andrzej Koprowski; the journalistic section is directed by the radio and TV producer, Grzegorz Dobroczyński SJ. The *ECCC* was built up with the financial aid of two German funding organisations – *Renovabis* and *Church in Need*.

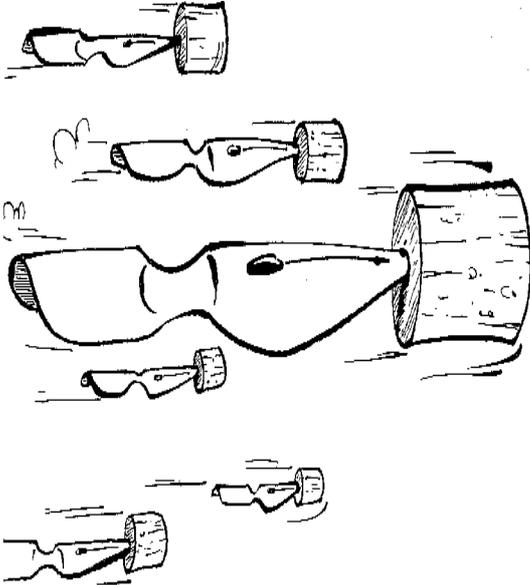
Warsaw is considered a location on the crossroads of Europe, where young professionals from east and west, from north and south, should be brought together not only to improve their knowledge in different professional fields but also to analyse current problems and developments in the key areas of European societies, such as education, media, economy, policy and religion. And of course the reflection of Christian values i.e. personal and social responsibilities, solidarity, tolerance and orientation towards Europe, is considered as important as a solid professional training.

*Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine – three countries between the East and West Bloc* will be focussed on during the first workshop from 25<sup>th</sup> of September to 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2000. The sub-title already emphasises the centre's area of specialisation. Whereas most of the so-called "European" institutions are situated in the western European cities and concentrate entirely on those countries which are already members of the European Union, the responsables in Warsaw wish to expand our mind-maps of Europe, which are still narrowed from the Iron Curtain time, when the geographical image of Europe shifted tremendously to the west, and contacts between both blocs were limited and controlled and societies drifted more and more apart. Western-centric attitudes became "normal" and widespread.

This is more than one good reason to go east for a training centre for media people, who shall contribute much to public opinion, and to the perceptions and images of neighbours in their countries of origin.



Source: EPD Entwicklungspolitik 1/2000



Source: The UNESCO Courier 4/2000

Excursions to different Polish cities, to the Russian enclaves Kaliningrad, to Lithuania and the western Ukraine, will provide the media professionals with various contacts to learn more about peoples' lives on the fringe of the EU.

(For additional information see the „workshop advertisement“ below.)

The *ECCC* workshops will be closely linked to the professional as well as the social and cultural background of the participants. Concrete programmes will be adapted to the needs of the respective groups, involving a high level of flexibility. Therefore, every single course has to be prepared carefully and evaluation measurements play a major role in the process of the development of the programmes. An advisory board with media experts from all over Europe will contribute with topical news on the different media landscapes and proposals for training needs.

The *ECCC* has its own studios for video and TV and a computer room for the practical work of participants. A wide range of lecturers and senior practitioners from all over Europe will contribute to the theoretical reflections and the practical conversion of topics. Experienced Polish “coaches” will particularly support the investigations and information gathering in the foreign languages to aid the individual investigations and production.

Accommodation and catering will be provided on the Centre's premises, which is situated in one of the recreation areas of the Polish capital.

*A. Sofie Jannusch*

## WORKSHOP FOR EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS

The European Centre for Communication and Culture (ECCC) will organise its first Workshop for European Journalists:

### **Bridges to Europe**

Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine — three countries between the East and West Bloc

The Workshop aims to provide a forum for young journalists from all over Europe

- to expand their “mind-map” of Europe
- to experience important facets of contemporary social, cultural and political life in Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine
- to meet colleagues from all over Europe for discussions and exchange
- to experience a part of contemporary life in the three countries of concern
- to reflect and discuss their own professional and ethical orientations as well as the role of the media in foreign reporting.