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**CONSTRUCTING THE ETHNIC GROUP AS A SUBJECT OF POLICY**

**Project Objectives**

The ongoing project has two underlying principles:

- in order to develop an effective policy in this sphere, we should gain a theoretical understanding of the ethnic group as a social reality in a liberal society;
- the efforts in this sphere that have been made so far both in Bulgaria and worldwide are not enough.

**Project Implementation Tools**

Open Society Institute – Sofia has invited eight renowned social scholars - Zhivko Georgiev, Maya Grekova, Antonina Zhelyazkova, Iliya Iliev, Petya Kabakchieva, Deyan Kyuranov, Stefan Popov and Krasen Stanchev, each of whom has gained experience in dealing with the problems of the minorities in Bulgaria. The experts will attend seminars together to discuss some possible approaches to the understanding of the ethnic group and the policies that should be adopted.

**Project Status**

In progress

**Project Development**

The expert group has attended several seminars so far in which every participant has presented his own materials/texts. The last two meetings are forthcoming. There will also be a conference with the participation of the experts as well as project mediation.

**Results**

Each expert is about to present a sample text within the group activities. The completed texts will be compiled in a collection, and the discussion results will be presented at a conference when the project has been carried out (May- June 2007).

**Experts and Partners**

- Zhivko Georgiev
- Maya Grekova
- Antonina Zhelyazkova
- Iliya Iliev
- Petya Kabakchieva
- Deyan Kyuranov
- Stefan Popov
- Krasen Stanchev

**Funding**

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