

Department of Public Administration

School of International and Public Affairs



Building Democratic Institutions in a Young Democracy: The Case of Bulgaria

Lecture by **Georgi Bliznashki** and **Polya Katsamunska**

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During the past quarter century, countries not just in Central and Eastern Europe but in many parts of the world, have made the transition from authoritarian, centralized regimes to more democratic and open ones. In some cases, these transitions have appeared to be reasonably easy ones. In other cases, they have been much more complicated and characterized by varying degrees of political instability, corruption and popular protest. Bulgaria, by most accounts, falls into the latter category and thus looking at the "Case of Bulgaria" provides a useful opportunity, not just to learn about that country, but about these processes more generally.

Dr. **Georgi Bliznashki** is the former Prime Minister of Bulgaria (served recently in 2014). He has also been a member of European parliament from 2005 to 2007 and more recently, the Bulgarian Parliament. A law professor specializing in constitutional law, he has written several landmark books on the Bulgarian constitution, history and legal system.

Dr. **Polya Katsamunska**, the wife of Dr. Bliznashki, is one of the most prominent scholars of public administration in Bulgaria. She has written extensively on good governance and public administration in that country. She is a member of the Commission on the International Accreditation of Public Administration Education and Training Programs.

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