Dear Colleagues!

The Mediation and Dialogue Research Center, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and the Center for Peace Mediation, European University Viadrina Frankfurt/Oder, have the honor to invite you to a Peaceland Talk by Anne Holper and Tetiana Kyselova on the findings of their new study “Inclusion Dilemmas in Dialogues: Is Inclusion of Ukrainians Holding ‘pro-Russian’ Political Views Impossible?” The draft paper is downloadable at the link.

Professor Karina Korostelina of the Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University will be a discussant for the paper. The talk will be followed by an interactive facilitated discussion.

The event will be held on Monday 9th of November 2020, 17:00-19:00 Kyiv time online via Zoom, in English, without translation.

This is a closed-door event by invitation only. Please feel free to send the invitation to trusted colleagues but we kindly ask not to post this information on Facebook or other open sources. To get the link for the event, please register at https://forms.gle/aFyoSysEVti6MShe9 We will send you confirmation and the link a few days before the event.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Anne Holper & Tetiana Kyselova, Inclusion Dilemmas in Dialogues: Is Inclusion of Ukrainians Holding “pro-Russian” Political Views Impossible?

This study aims to elucidate the reasons underlying the lack of inclusion of Ukrainians with “pro-Russian” political views in peacebuilding and dialogues in Ukraine. Based on an analysis of empirical data from interviews and focus groups, we argue that the following 4 factors contribute to patterns of willful and unwillful exclusion during facilitated dialogues: (a) the absence of a political will and a societal agenda for inclusion of people holding “pro-Russian” political views, (b) high security risks connected with Russian hybrid warfare, (c) difficulties in identifying this group and the loss of their agency after 2014, and (d) the risk of their identity being transformed, thereby again de facto excluding “pro-Russian” views. By providing a first mapping of the observed factors and underlying dilemmas, the article aims to raise critical awareness of these difficulties in the field. By formulating the key open questions, it seeks to stimulate honest and constructive reflection among dialogue practitioners, civil society organizations, international donors, policymakers, and scholars in order to scrutinize and redesign inclusion approaches in Ukraine with the aim of better responding to the realities of the conflict and the dialogue system of this country.

Dr Anne Isabel Holper is Co-Director of the Center for Peace Mediation at European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany. As conflict researcher and head of
Tough Choices Research Cluster of Viadrina, ETH Zurich, swisspeace and Kyiv Mohyla Academy, her research focuses on developing constructive methodologies for dealing with dilemmas in peace processes. As a practitioner, she provides mediation support and supervision/coaching to third party actors such as the German Federal Foreign Office, ForumZfD NGOs and individuals. A regional focus lies on Ukraine, where she supported a network of insider dialogue facilitators in Odessa, Ukraine, and engaged in a series of research projects on track III dialogue. She teaches mediation and decision-making at Viadrina, the Federal Foreign Office, Humboldt University and other academic and policy institutions.

Dr Tetiana Kyselova, Associate Professor at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; Director and founder of the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. She holds an LLM from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), kandydat jurydycznych nauk degree (PhD) from the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and a DPhil from the University of Oxford (UK). She was trained as a mediator by the Search for Common Ground and as a business mediator by the IHK Academy Munich and Upper Bavaria. Dr. Kyselova teaches courses in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Conflict Resolution and Methodology of Research.