

**EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS – 2009 Multi-Nation Program**  
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**Elena Panfilova**  
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Elena Panfilova is Director of the Center for Anti-Corruption Research and Initiatives Transparency International – Russia. As a current member of the Council on Civil Society Development and Protection of Human Rights formed by the President of the Russian Federation, Ms. Panfilova plays an active role in her country's transparency discussions. During her fellowship, she visited agencies at both the federal and state level as well as leaders at media and nonprofit organizations to learn about administrative, political, and civic participation efforts that have advanced anti-corruption efforts in the U.S. She also explored potential bilateral anti-corruption endeavors between Russia and the United States.

Ms. Panfilova commented that almost every meeting she had provided her with valuable information on some aspect of institutional transparency on the federal, state and/or local levels. She noted that these issues were particularly intriguing to discuss at the onset of President Obama's administration with its emphasis on open government as a major administrative priority.

She noted several meetings as highlights of her program. Her visit with John St. Croix, Executive Director of the San Francisco Ethics Commission, to discuss the instruments and methods for public oversight of public officials was especially enlightening. In Washington, DC, Ms. Panfilova was the key speaker at a luncheon hosted by Transparency International USA and the Center for International Private Enterprise. She noted that this was one of her most exciting days as more than 50 individuals from a wide range of organizations and agencies such as the U.S. Department of Commerce, World Bank Institute, and U.S. Department of State attended to hear her speak and engage in discussion.

Ms. Panfilova looks forward to implementing several projects inspired by her fellowship program. Among other things, she intends to work with Open Society Institute on developing a project around investigative journalism, and will pursue creation and implementation of a joint project on anti-corruption within the judiciary with the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training at the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Panfilova was also excited to be invited to present lectures on the anti-corruption agenda of Russia at both Harvard University and Stanford University.

As for the fellowship as a whole, Ms. Panfilova commented that she found it to be extremely useful and productive and stated that "within the framework of the Eisenhower Fellowship Multi-Nation Program I had a chance to observe the life and operation of the American society from the inside, as well as to meet people I otherwise would never meet and to learn about their vision of the issues which concern me the most: transparency, accountability, integrity."