

Michael Svetlik, *Vice President, Programs*, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)



Michael Svetlik currently serves as Vice President of Programs for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, providing policy and programming guidance to IFES' international operations that currently include electoral assistance and democratic institution building in over 30 countries. He is the IFES representative on the steering boards of both the ACE Project and BRIDGE partnerships, as well as participates in a variety of international fora to promote and support comparative best practices and international standards within the democracy support community.

Areas of expertise include political change, institutional development, election system design, civic awareness and activism, and project management, evaluation and design. He has actively contributed to democracy and governance programming in the Americas, Central and Eastern Europe, South Asia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

Svetlik previously served as Senior Director of Programs and Regional Director for Europe & Asia at IFES. He directed overseas IFES projects in both Georgia and Azerbaijan from 1998-2000. In 1998, Svetlik was awarded a U.S. Department of State Professional Development Fellowship to conduct research in Tbilisi, Georgia, at the Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development. He was also a Senior Lecturer at the National School of Public Administration in Warsaw (1994-1995) and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Poland from 1992-1994.

He holds a master's degree in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in English and Italian from the University of Texas-Austin.