



Open Call for Participants

Local Seminar

“Diversity, Inclusion & Pluralism: Your Vision of Social Discourse”

June 13-16 2019, Tbilisi, Georgia

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the local seminar on “Diversity, Inclusion & Pluralism: Your Vision of Social Discourse” which will be held in Tbilisi from 13—16 June 2019.

This four-day local seminar is the second of the Work Plan series “*Changing the Norm: Youth's Vision of Diversity, Inclusion and Democratic Pluralism*” organized by the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in cooperation with the European Youth Foundation (EYF).

This local event in Tbilisi as part of the Work Plan will focus on one of the foundations of democratic pluralism and one of the core pillars of the Work Plan: identity. More concretely, we will look at the role that culture, socioeconomic background, religion, and/or ethnicity plays in shaping and defining our daily experiences—and determining the content of discourse.

Strategically located in (and aiming at participants from) a region with very homogenous conceptions of identity (and thus a lack of diversity, e.g. 95% of Armenians are Christians), strong adherence by national idea, as well as very traditional social norms (especially in terms of family, lifestyle and sexual orientation) that often tend to inhibit individual expression and self-realization, we believe that exploring this fundamental topic is an important next step in the change-making in the region and would increase social participation, especially for youth from a minority background.

The specific objectives can be described as follows:

(a) Establish a Firm Understanding of the Foundations of Pluralism

- To carve out why reasonable people disagree about important matters of social life, such as public morality or religion. Due to the highly abstract nature of the topic, participants will be given sufficient space to share their experience from their home communities—in order to get a better grasp of the subject through their everyday encounters.
- To recognize that peaceful coexistence is only possible if pluralism becomes a pervasive practice of political and civil discourse that grants individual rights and promotes freedom of expression, inclusion, and civility.
- To acknowledge the need for change-making initiatives that promote the goal of pluralism and inclusiveness in order to secure social stability and democratic legitimacy.

(b) Share Experiences and Best-Practices

- To exchange personal experiences (in an ideal case, we will have participants with diverse several minority backgrounds, see below) about the consequences of a lack of pluralism on individual self-realization.
- To share best-practices related to the topic from different countries—directly between the participants; but also with external experts and/or people from other work plan events.

(c) Develop a Comprehensive Vision of Social Discourse, incl. NFE and ICL

- To develop a “Vision Document” (in whatever form, this could range from a written document, to a collection of individual reports, to a video series) that will (a) inform the subsequent event of the Work Plan (especially the concluding event in The Hague), and (b) be distributed within IFLRY’s network (i.e. political youth organizations and civil society) to spark interest in the topic of pluralism—or more concretely: to put it on the agenda of political and social actors, such as IFLRY member organizations.
- To combine the insights that IFLRY and its MOs have gained in terms of Non-formal education and intercultural learning with the notion on social discourse

Given the nature of the topic, participants with a background and a keen interest in Social Discourse and Non-Formal Education (NFE) are highly encouraged to apply.

Below you will find further practical information. Please find [here](#) the Online Form through which you can apply. We are looking forward to receiving your application!

Hussam ERHAYEL | Executive Director



Application procedure:

The deadline for applying is: **20th of May 2019 (23:59 GMT).**

Applicants must register through our online form by following this [link](#)
All required fields must be filled in. IFLRY will not accept blank nominations.
Participants from the following countries are encouraged to apply:
Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus.
Any late cancellations upon acceptance would be fined with 50 EUR.
For any questions, please contact the office by e-mail: office@iflry.org

Date & Venue:

Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive at the venue on the 13th of June, as early as possible.

Departure: Participants are expected to depart on the 16th of June in the afternoon. Please note that full completion of the program is mandatory to qualify for reimbursement of travel expenses. There can be **no late arrivals or early departures.** The venue will be announced.

Funding:

This activity is implemented with the support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF).

Meals and accommodation of the participants during the activity will be covered. Visa costs will be covered upon presentation of the visa copy and receipt from the embassy. Travel costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of all tickets and receipts. Participants are required to travel in the most economical manner that is reasonably possible - and will need to check their preferred travel options with the office before booking them due to travel reimbursement limitations. Official acceptance and confirmation from IFLRY office are required for booking the tickets.

A participation fee of 20 euros is required in order to attend this event.

Organizers:

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) is the global umbrella organization of liberal youth and students organizations from all around the world. Its central mission is to globalize freedom.

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a division of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe—is part of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation. The Department elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming at the promotion of youth citizenship, youth mobility and the value of

human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans.

Language and Format

English is the working language of this study session.

The study session will be held using Non-Formal Education format and methodology. Non-Formal Education is participant-centered, action-oriented and value-based. It is instruction that is not obligatory and structured and is learned outside the context of a formal school. IFLRY has been an ardent advocate of Non-Formal Education and is using it as a leading approach in its events and activities.