



Open Call for Participants
International Seminar

"Hands Off My (Civic) Space: BTW, What's a Civic Space? And What's it For?" 19th - 22nd of
March 2020.
Krakow, Poland

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the international seminar "Hands Off My (Civic) Space: BTW, What's a Civic Space? And What's it For?" which will be held in Krakow on 19th - 22nd of March 2020.

This four-day international seminar is the first event in 2020 that's part of the work plan series organized by the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the Swedish Centre Party International Foundation.

Traditionally, shrinking civic spaces have been referred to as restrictions of freedom of assembly or freedom of expression; however, what we now observe throughout Europe goes beyond this. It changes civil society in a more invisible way: through funding restrictions, the politicization of public funds, insufficient protection of minority expressions through authorities and police, increased bureaucracy, tightening of audit schemes or registration hurdles. All those dimensions are part of the new phenomenon of shrinking spaces. This is what participants during this international event in Krakow will explore, analyze, systematize and finally embedded in an updated conceptual framework that tries to capture all nuances that can be observed in the realities of young people across Europe.

This international event shall serve as a kick-off platform for the overall framework of our Work Plan this year. By gathering participants from all over Europe, we will be able to jointly map the different aspects of the topic of Shrinking Civic Spaces, putting together all the pieces of local experience and personal knowledge. This way, we can systematize the observations and perceptions and generate a new, credible output – which we believe is of high interest to a wider audience.

The highly interactive four-day seminar will allow the participants to not only build up the relevant knowledge and understanding of the topic—but also to actively create and influence the flow of the Work Plan. While having this outlook-oriented dimension, the event will also already equip its participants with some of the necessary skills and tools that will help them to work on defending civil space. The specific objectives can be described as follows:

(a) Mapping and Systematizing Local Experiences

- To share the local experiences with shrinking spaces in the respective societies of participants.
- To contextualize and analyze those local experiences by deriving certain patterns of attacks on civic spaces and how they are scaled back

(b) Developing a Conceptual Framework of “Shrinking Spaces”

- To analyze the phenomenon of shrinking spaces from a conceptual perspective. What are the common features? What are the conditions for spaces being shrinking? etc.
- To critically reflect on the conditions and assumptions of this preliminary analysis by engaging into dialogue with local NGOs/CSOs.

(c) Creating an “Activist Tool Kit” through sharing relevant skills

- To provide a platform to share one’s very own skills linked to activism and political/social youth work—ranging from general productivity to sustainable activism and through reflecting on various skills enhancing the *individual* capacities of the participants, e.g. NFE facilitation, networking etc.
- The organizing to create the “Activist Tool Kit” that includes the relevant skills reflected upon during the event and does not necessarily apply to a specific organization level but to be enhance individual capacities and be useful in other contexts.

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



Johannes MIETH | Project Coordinator

Please read about the application procedure below. If you still have any questions, please contact the office by e-mail: projects.events@iflry.org.

Application procedure:

The deadline for applying is: 20th of February 2020 (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: Hungary, Serbia, Germany, Turkey, Belgium, Netherlands, Ukraine, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Poland, Finland, UK, North Macedonia/FYROM, Sweden, Belarus, France, Croatia, Portugal.

Any late cancellations upon acceptance would be fined 50 EUR.

Date & Venue:

Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive at the venue on the 19th of March, before 12:00.

Departure: Participants are expected to depart on the 22th of March after 14:00.

Please note that full completion of the program is mandatory to qualify for a 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 Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

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 eligible for 80% of reimbursement from the total expenses of their travels, up to 250 euros for CoE, and 500 euros for non-CoE participants. 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.

An official acceptance and confirmation from IFLRY office is required to start booking

the tickets.

A participation fee of 50 euros is required in order to attend this event.

Organizers:

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

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.

The Centre Party International Foundation, CIF, is a Swedish Party-Affiliated Organisation established in 1995 by the Swedish Centre Party. It shares the same core values as the Centre Party, a social-liberal, green party with a strong emphasis on sustainability and decentralisation.

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.