



Open Call for Participants

Study Session on:

“Yo, give me my space: You(th) reclaiming civic spaces and revitalizing democracy”

03 - 08 May 2020

Budapest, Hungary

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the study session on “Yo, give me my space: You(th) reclaiming civic spaces and revitalizing democracy” which will be held in Budapest on 03—08 May 2020. This five-day study session is organized by the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe—and is part of IFLRY’s bigger thematic focus on civic spaces and revitalizing democracy. The overall aim of the study session is to enhance political and civic participation of young people through bolstering the capacities to access their fundamental democratic rights, especially in regards to freedom of assembly and freedom of association. Considering recent rollbacks in the public provision of these civic spaces, the aim of the study session goes further to deliberate on and create conditions that counter such tendencies, reduce the barriers to political and social participation and ultimately secure long-term youth empowerment in the democratic space. Using the framework of non-formal education, we thus aim at fostering the necessary formal and informal institutional arrangements at the local, national, and international levels that could serve as a prerequisite to enabling individuals from all walks of life to successfully engage and participate in societal life as full-fledged members and to ensure peaceful coexistence and cooperation between groups within and across societies — with an emphasis on youth, and specifically youth from vulnerable and marginalized groups.



Hussam Erheyel

IFLRY Executive Director

The objectives of the study session are:

- To get a thorough understanding of the recent rollbacks in the public provision of civic spaces and the implications of this trend on democratic life and youth in the respective societies.
- To analyze the role and importance of civic spaces and the rights to freedom of assembly and association, especially in regards to their impact on sustainable youth participation, freedom of speech and successful social inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups.
- To identify the various barriers to youth participation in social and political life in order to build a holistic approach for their mitigation. For example, we will explore the differences between formal barriers to freedom of association as well as financial or informational barriers to social expression.
- using the tools of non-formal education to (i) raise awareness about the harmful effects of the absence of democratic spaces that enable social discourse in diverse societies; (ii) increase the level of multicultural competence and promote intercultural dialogue as a learning experience
- using the tools developed during the activity to identify entry points for self-organized implementation of activities in the participants' home countries and member organizations. In particular, to develop project ideas and action plans that address the issues discussed in the process of the study session in their respective contexts, including reclaiming democratic spaces through access to rights.
- to build capacities of the MOs through empowering individuals to (i) lead to further transfer of the experiences and knowledge into their respective local communities; and (ii) strengthen their advocacy efforts for promoting democratic citizenship and youth participation in democratic life.

In the study session the participants will receive theoretical knowledge and expertise from external experts and field visits. They will also engage in developing action plans to implement in their youth organizations. The action plans may be short or long term and can include a variety of activities, policy proposals and/or advocacy efforts.

Participants with a background and interest in civic spaces, freedom of expression and association 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!

Application Procedure:

The deadline for applying is: 15 March 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.

For any questions, please contact the office by E-Mail: office@iflry.org

Date & Venue:

- Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive on Sunday 3 May 2020 before 18:00 local time
- Departure: Participants are expected to depart Saturday 9 May 2020 at any time.

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 European Youth Center Budapest (Budapest, Zivatar u. 1, 1024).

Funding and Travel Costs:

This activity is implemented with the support of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

Participants are required to travel in the most economical manner that is reasonably possible.

Participants are expected to travel between their place of residence and the town in which the activity takes place and back.

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 - It is the participant's responsibility to contact the consulate or embassy and follow the procedures for visa request. The DDCP-YD can facilitate the visa request procedures.

Travel costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of all tickets and receipts, return tickets must be purchased before the start of the journey.

Travel insurance costs will not be covered by the reimbursement scheme.

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

The participation fee is 50 Euros and will be deducted from the travel reimbursements.

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 Youth Department of the Council of Europe is part of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation. The Department elaborates guidelines, programs 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.