



Open Call for Participants

International Seminar

“Hands Off My (Civic) Space: BTW, What’s a Civic Space? And What’s it For?”

15th - 18th of October 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 15th - 18th of October 2020.

Amidst the pandemic caused by COVID-19, we proceed transforming our activities into online and hybrid formats. Our first hybrid activity in 2020 will be this four-day international seminar 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 (EYF) and the Swedish Centre Party International Foundation (CIS).

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.

We will be able to jointly map the different aspects of the topic of Shrinking Civic Spaces, putting together all the pieces of personal experience and 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.

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 email: projects.events@iflry.org.

COVID-19 MEASURES: Please read carefully

We will do everything in our power to limit the risk of infection during this event. Participants will stay in single rooms and keep the distance as much as possible during the whole training. We will also provide hygiene equipment on the ground. Yet, we encourage participants to bring a sufficient number of face masks and/or face shields for yourself.

You **CAN NOT** participate in the event if you have been in contact with a person who got tested positive on Covid-19 less than 7 days before the event or if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Before the event, you therefore ask you to submit a declaration form stating your acknowledgement of these criteria.

We encourage all participants to book a direct flight to reduce exposure to different people. Also please check for an additional insurance or flexible flight ticket. As long as you stay within the general limits of travel costs we will reimburse the price for such options.

We can not reimburse your costs, if you can not attend for personal reasons or due to changes in regulations from any official side.

Application procedure:

The deadline for applying is: 02nd of October 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 European Union member states that are not facing travel restrictions from the side of the Polish government are encouraged to apply.

(A list of restrictions in Poland can be found here:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/coronavirus/temporary-limitations>)

Any late cancellations upon acceptance would be fined 50 EUR.

Date & Venue:

Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive at the venue on the 15th of October, before 16:00.

Departure: Participants are expected to depart on the 18th of October 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 reimbursement from the total expenses of their travels, up to 350 euros.

Participants are required to travel in a reasonable and safe economical manner (direct flights are encouraged).

An official acceptance and confirmation from the 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.