



Open Call for Participants

International Seminar

Hands off My (Civic) Space: Freedom of the Press & Free Expression

05-08 of November 2020

Athens, Greece

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to participate in the international seminar “Hands off My (Civic) Space: Freedom of the Press & Free Expression” which will be held in Athens on 5 - 8 of November 2020.

The Seminar in Athens will focus on more action-oriented aims and objectives linked to specific dimensions of shrinking spaces. At this event, participants will therefore tackle the issue of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. A crucial part of the local WP event is the active exchange with NGOs/CSOs. Lastly, participants will develop (ideally in cooperation with NGOs/CSOs) a video documentation of the project. This will enhance their skill set and the visibility of the topic.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- (a) Embed the dimensions of freedom of the press and freedom of expression in the conceptual framework of shrinking spaces
  - To gain conceptual understanding of the different dimensions of shrinking civic spaces (based on the initial drafts developed in Krakow)
  - To analyze and reaffirm the importance of freedom of the press and freedom of expression for public expression—and thus shrinking spaces
  - To identify the challenges these core pillars of public engagement are facing in the region.
- (b) Engaging with Local Civil Society: In Dialogue & Deliberation
  - To engage in dialogue with local NGOs/CSOs (e.g. writers’ association and the like) and Youth council in order to fully grasp the full scope of the challenges that they are facing.

→ to critically reflect on the needs of civil society actors in times of shrinking spaces—and whether expanding spaces can be more successful than merely reclaiming them?

(c) Develop a Video Documentation

→ To share and build the relevant skills in relations to storytelling, scriptwriting and video production for participants in order to bolster their capacity as change-making agents.

→ To create a video that will show the relevance and urgency of the problem of shrinking press and expression spaces. This should serve as a tool to motivate decision-makers (that we will meet in Brussels) to act.

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!

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Hussam ERHAYEL  
Executive Director

Please read about the application procedure below. If you still have any questions, please contact the office by email: [office@iflry.org](mailto:office@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: 18 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 Greek government are encouraged to apply.

Any late cancellations upon acceptance would be fined 50 EUR.

#### Date & Venue:

Arrival: Participants are expected to arrive at the venue on the 5th of November, before 16:00.

Departure: Participants are expected to depart on the 8th of November 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, upon approval of IFLRY office.

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.

#### 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.

## 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.