

Information letter

Project: Empowering youth: democracy in action

The international project *"Empowering Youth: Democracy in Action"* is an initiative aimed at promoting youth empowerment and advancing global skills development. Co-financed by the governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia through the International Visegrad Fund's Visegrad Grants, with additional support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the project supports the mission of fostering sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

The project is organized by NGO *"Educational and Social Innovation"* in partnership with West Ukrainian National University, the University of Rzeszow, and the Czech Technical University in Prague. Activities will take place in Rzeszow (Poland) and Prague (Czechia), engaging young participants in two distinct mobility programs.

Program Structure:

First Mobility - Foundations of Democracy, Prague, CZ – 7-10 December 2024: Focuses on deepening understanding of democratic principles and practices, cross-cultural communication, and civic engagement.

Second Mobility - Advancing Societal Engagement, Rzeszów, PL – 10-13 December 2024: Emphasizes practical societal engagement and fostering global awareness through collaborative problem-solving.

Renowned speakers will lead lectures and interactive sessions, providing participants with valuable insights into democratic systems and equipping them with practical tools for active participation in their communities.

Project Objectives:

- To inspire and empower young people to actively engage in democratic processes.
- To promote democratic values, active citizenship, and youth participation.
- To facilitate youth-led initiatives addressing shared challenges in their local communities.

Anticipated Outcomes:

The project seeks to lay the groundwork for future youth-driven initiatives and research in areas such as:

- Sustainability of community-led projects.
- The role of cross-border collaboration in promoting democracy.
- Long-term impacts of civic engagement training on community development.

By fostering collaboration among young participants, the project aims to build a generation of active citizens capable of shaping democratic and inclusive communities.

Mobility programme (TBC)

1. Foundations of Democracy, Prague, CZ

Objective: empower participants with practical knowledge of democratic processes, fostering cross-cultural understanding and civic engagement skills.

Day 1:

- Poles and Ukrainians arrive to Prague.

Day 2:

- Opening ceremony and interactive icebreaker ("What is democracy for you?")
Z10:00-10:30 – Liliia Krysovata
- Expert lecture/workshop. Topics: "Effective communication for civic engagement"
10:30-12:00 – Prof. Dr. Tsaryk
- Energizer/debate/problem-solving activity 12:00-12:30 – Elyzaveta Bubenko – rhetoric

Lunch 13:00-14:00

- Team challenge: "Bridge of collaboration" (mixed-country teams): each team is given limited materials (e.g., paper, tape, straws, string) and tasked with building a bridge that can span a certain distance and support a small weight. 14:00-15:30 – Liliia Krysovata
- Project explanation (4 mixed teams): "Creating youth action plans for community engagement" - informal pitching of social project ideas 15:30-16:00 - Liliia Krysovata

Day 3:

- Expert lecture/workshop. Topic: "Leadership in democratic societies" 10:00 - 11:00 – Prof. Dr. Heidu
- Expert lecture/workshop. Topic: "Future of European democracy" 11:00 - 12:00 – Prof. Dr. Sokol

Lunch 13:00-14:00

- Democracy in action: a tour of Prague's democratic landmarks (TBC)
- Closing ceremony, reflection.

Day 4:

- Departure from Prague to Rzeszow 11:00 (TBC).

2. Advancing Societal Engagement, Rzeszów, PL

Objective: equip youth with practical skills for effective societal engagement, emphasising local action and global awareness.

Day 1:

- Arrival to Rzeszow
- First meeting in the evening (ice breakers and presentation of the mobility plan) – Liliia Krysovata

Dinner 19:00-20:00

Day 2:

Breakfast 09:00-10:00

- Expert lecture/workshop 10:00 – 11:00 - Project management for social impact - Prof. Dr. Magdalena Trinder
- Expert lecture/workshop 11:00-12:00 - Local solutions for global issues: volunteerism for social change - Prof. Dr. Donald Trinder
- Project preparation 12:00-13:00

Lunch 13:00-14:00

- Games/project preparation 14:00-15:00

Dinner 17:00-18:00

Day 3:

Breakfast 09:00-10:00

- Expert lecture/workshop 10:00 – 11:00 - Youth-led social innovations - Prof. Dr. Marta Dick-Bursztyn
- Expert lecture/workshop 11:00-12:00 - Community leadership and advocacy - Prof. Dr. Arkadiusz Pietluch
- Games/project finalizations 12:00-12:30

Lunch 12:30 - 13:30

- Project showcase: presentations - The winning team will have the opportunity to disseminate their ideas: the prepared material will be launched in Facebook/Instagram ads to spread useful ideas for young people's civic engagement ("Youth Engagement Toolkit") 13:30 - 15:00 – Teamwork
- Closing ceremony, reflection.

Dinner 17:00-18:00

Day 4:

Breakfast 09:00-10:00

- Departure from Rzeszow.