

Dear partners and friends,

It is a great pleasure for us to share with you current and recent activities of the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza"!

In this issue you could find information about:



Current activities and initiatives



Recent activities



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Test your knowledge about the basic civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria! You could do this with the **new interactive tool** "CivilRightsWatch" ("Grajdanomer") - www.grajdanomer.bg. In your journey you will be accompanied by Grajdanko, who takes different roles - of mayor, member of Parliament, voter or just a citizen who wants, can and should govern and change his or her life and that of the country. The project is realized by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza", with the financial support of the Council of Europe. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/496-thecivilrightwatchisanonline>

The 2nd course of the National Program 2015/2016, dedicated to regional development and local self-government, is to take place from 18 to 21 December. You could find more information after the event on our website or in the next bulletin.

Have a look at the **newest materials on philanthropy** uploaded on the Internet site of the Philanthropist Club on http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/club_na_filantropa/. You could find interesting ideas how to improve your giving practices on http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/club_na_filantropa/PDF/Ways_to_maximize_your_arity_donations.pdf (the text is in Bulgarian, however the source is in English).



Recent activities

On 11 December the **traditional Christmas party of the alumni of the Bulgarian School of Politics and the Graduation Ceremony of Class 2015** took place. A new cohort of 40 young Bulgarian political and civic leaders received their certificates at a special ceremony and joined the School's alumni community. They also hosted the traditional Christmas party of BSoP alumni where more than 120 representatives of all cohorts met together and had fun. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/495-class2015graduated>

From 3 to 6 December the **first module from the training for local leaders on developing public policies at local level** took place. It was part of the project "**Life Changing Challenges**", which is jointly implemented by Platform AGORA - Active Communities for Development Alternatives and the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" and is financed by the NGO Programme under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. More information will be available in the next bulletin.

On 26 November the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" and the Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation organized a **discussion with weather presenters from all major electronic media**. The aims of the meeting were to exchange information and experience, to discuss opportunities for collaboration and to convert the leading weather presenters into ambassadors of climate change and the consequences of it. The event was part of the project "**Collaborative Action for Enhancing Public Awareness and Motivating Local Governments and Communities for Response and Adaptation to Climate Change**", financed by the NGO Programme

under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/490-climateambassadors>

From 23 to 25 November the **Conference of International NGOs at the Council of Europe** organized its Fact-finding visit to Bulgaria. The Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" was a co-organizer of the event. The delegation, headed by the President of the Conference Anna Rurka, had meetings with the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy - Lazar Lazarov, Deputy Minister of Justice - Petko Petkov, National Ombudswoman Maya Manolova, Sofia Municipality Ombudswoman Lilia Encheva - Hristova, as well as with Bulgarian NGOs working in the fields of social issues and equality and non-discrimination. The main focus of the discussions was on the opportunities for the non-profit sector in Bulgaria to actively participate in the decision-making processes. On 25 November **the newest online tool of the School - "Grajdanomer" (CivilRightsWatch) was launched**. Special guest at the event was the Minister of Justice - Hristo Ivanov. More information could be found on <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/projects/477-civilrightswatch> or <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/496-thecivilrightwatchisanonline>

From 17 to 21 November the **World Forum for Democracy** took place in Strasbourg and representatives from Class 2015 of the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" participated in it. This year's topic was "Freedom vs. control: For a democratic response". The final product, developed at the Summer Academy for Strengthening Democracy in the Euro-Med Region between Bulgaria, Tunisia and Morocco, was presented during a special panel. You could find more information on <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/491-representativesofnationalprogram2015participatedintheworldforumfordemocracyinstrasbourg> and <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/493-bsoppresentedthefinalproductofthesummeracademyforstrengtheningdemocracyintheeuro-medregionattheworldforumfordemocracyinstrasbourg> .

At the beginning of November, a **meeting of mentors**, supporting young Roma leaders in the process of developing non-financial projects on issues important for the communities in which they live, was organized. The meeting was within the project **"Encouraging Civic Participation of Young Roma"**, which is jointly implemented by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" and the Association "New Road - Hairedin" and financed by the NGO Programme under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.

The Bulgarian School of Politics continues its work on the analysis of the social environment and its deficits for stimulating moral and ethical debate and social transformation of public values in the country. Based on the results, key areas, which are problematic for Bulgaria, will be defined and thoroughly studied. The analysis is part of the project **"Stimulating moral and ethical debate as a basis for social transformation of public values"**, implemented by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" with the financial support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

Since November Nikola Krushovenski - student in Sociology at the Sofia University - has been having his traineeship at the Bulgarian School of Politics. During it, he got introduced to the scope of work of the organization and will be gaining experience with doing online researches on different topics and processing tests and evaluation forms.



Please join our Facebook page where we publish regular updates on our activities and initiate discussions on different topics!