

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 (available only in Bulgarian). 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 was realized by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza", with the financial support of the Council of Europe. The results from the testing so far were recently presented at a forum for new instruments for civic and NGO participation, organized by BlueLink and Obshtestvo.bg. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/501-civilrightswatchwaspresented>

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 more effectively involve others in your fundraising initiatives** on http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/club_na_filantropa/PDF/Crowd_fundraising.pdf (the text is in Bulgarian, however the source is in English).

Take a look at the interviews with Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of International NGOs at the Council of Europe for the Dnevnik online newspaper - http://www.dnevnik.bg/intervju/2015/12/16/2667952_anna_rurka_v_polsha_veche_misliat_za_grajdanski_sektor/?ref=rss (in Bulgarian) and Anne Negre, Gender Equality

Expert at the Conference, for the Lady Today Magazine -

<http://www.jenatadnes.com/tema-na-broia/jenite-rabotim-dva-mesetsa-i-polovina-bezplatno/> (in Bulgarian) They gave them during the Fact-finding visit of the Conference to Bulgaria, which was from 23 to 25 November. The Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza" was a co-organizer of the event.

At the end of January, 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, will be organized. The meeting is 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 3rd course of the National Program 2015/2016, entitled "**National priorities and national decisions**", is to take place from 4 to 7 February. You could find more information after the event on our website or in the next bulletin.

The 10th issue of the **Newsletter of the Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe** is available on the Internet site of the Bulgarian School, in the Resources / Newsletter section, or on http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps/Newsletter/Newsletter_10.pdf



Recent activities

From 14 to 17 January the 2nd module of 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 on our website.

The 2nd course of the National Program 2015/2016, dedicated to regional development and local self-government, took place from 18 to 21 December. You could find more information on our website.

The mentoring programme providing support to young Roma leaders in the process of development of their non-financial projects started in December. The trained Roma leaders commenced their work on the concepts of their non-financial projects on issues important for the communities in which they live. A brochure of the project, which will be distributed among the project target groups, was also created. The initiatives are 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.



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