

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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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 the inspirational story of Radoslav Asenov (Class 2015) “From toys to notebooks” on http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/club_na_filantropa/PDF/Ot_igrachki_kam_tetradki_Radoslav_Asenov_2015.pdf (in Bulgarian).

From 17 to 21 November the **World Forum for Democracy** is taking place in Strasbourg and representatives from Class 2015 of the Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitry Panitza” will participate in it. This year’s topic is “Freedom vs control: For a democratic response”. You could find more information on <http://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy> or in the next bulletin.

From 23 to 25 November the **Conference of International NGOs at the Council of Europe** organizes its fact-finding visit to Bulgaria. Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitry Panitza” is a co-organizer of the event. The delegation, headed by the President of the Conference Ms Anna Rurka, will have meetings with members of Parliament, at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and Ministry of Justice, as well as with Bulgarian NGOs working in the fields of social issues and equality and non-discrimination. The visit is shortly after Bulgaria took over Chairmanship of the Council of Europe (November 2015 - May 2016). The Conference is the voice of civil society and its main focus is on sustaining the role of non-governmental organizations as partners in the decision making process at European level. **On 25 November the newest online tool of the School - “Grajdanomer” (Civil Rights Watch) will be**

launched. This is an interactive Internet site about the main civil and political rights, guaranteed by the Bulgarian legislation. Under a series of tests, each user will be able to measure the level of their knowledge, to improve them and through this, to increase their willingness to actively participate in the decision-making process. The "Grajdanomer" online tool is implemented by the Bulgarian School of Politics "Dimitry Panitza", with the financial support of the Council of Europe. More information could be found on <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/projects/477-civilrightswatch> or in the next bulletin.

From 3 to 6 December, the **first module from the training for local leaders on developing public policies at local level** will take place. It is 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 <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/projects/470-lifechangingchallenges> or in the next bulletin.

In the first week of December, 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. More information will be available on our Internet site or in the next bulletin.

On 11 December, the traditional Christmas party of the alumni of the Bulgarian School of Politics and the Graduation Ceremony of Class 2015 will take place.



Recent activities

The new National Program “Governing Skills” started in November. The first course entitled “Leadership, Organization, Communication” was held from 12 to 15 November. More information will be available on our Internet site and in the next bulletin.

Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitry Panitza” and the French Embassy in Bulgaria organized a round table entitled “How private and public actors can work together for innovation and economic growth to fight against climate change?” The event took place on 12 November at the French Cultural Institute. The aim was to present and discuss the opportunities and challenges of a low carbon development for Bulgaria. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/Herve-Le-Treut/index-en.html>

From 5 to 8 November, the final third module of the **Programme for active civic involvement and leadership skills development for young Roma** took place. The training 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. More information will be available soon on our website.

On 31 October, a new training for alumni working on different philanthropic causes took place. The topic was “How media can become our partners”. The trainer was Maria Cherneva, who is an experienced journalist from the Bulgarian National Television and initiator of different social causes. The event was within the project “Inspiring Others, Generating Change and Transforming Society - Philanthropy as a Core Value of the Leaders”, financed by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. For more information please visit

<http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/488-bsopalumniweretrainedhowtoestablish>

From 27 to 30 October, the Executive Director of the Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitry Panitza” - Dr. Irina Alexieva and two alumni - Hristo Panchugov from Class 2010 and Peter Karaboev from Class 2014 participated in an **international seminar of the Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe**. The event was in Berlin, Germany and the topic was “In Search of Lost Universalism”. For more information, please visit <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/eng/index.php/news/489-germanfederalminister>

Bulgarian School of Politics “Dimitry Panitza” developed a **handbook “Guidelines for civic participation”** and a **leaflet for the opportunities for citizens’ inclusion in the decision making process**. Both papers are within the project “**Models and Good Practices for Legitimate Civic Representation**”, funded by the NGO Programme under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. More information about the project is available on <http://www.schoolofpolitics.org/norwegian-grant/index-en.html> The handbook and the leaflet are in a process of distribution among the stakeholders, and their electronic versions will soon be uploaded on the School’s Internet site.



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