

"Transitions to Democracy: Ukraine and Beyond" Seminar for V4 University Students

Visegrad Platform for Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights, and Civil Society | Student Seminar

Annotation

This seminar intends to provide students with a unique experience of drafting a joint V4 policy paper focused on providing democracy assistance in Ukraine. As the events in Ukraine led to a change of political and economic relations, as well as security issues in the region, the V4 governments need to take a nuanced but active approach in supporting democratic initiatives in the country, for their engagement could play a vital role in consolidating a democratic political system. Stability and good governance in Ukraine remains a goal of the V4 governments – not only because of Ukraine's proximity to the Visegrad region, but also due to historical and cultural ties. Yet the Visegrad states have not found much common ground in providing a unanimous reply to the ongoing developments and to Russia's involvement in the crisis.

The seminar has two key components: a series of meetings with experts from/on the region accompanied by Q&A sessions, and a series of workshops with a tutor that will take place over a 3 day period at the 19th Forum 2000 Conference. It will aim to formulate a joint policy paper that will approach Ukraine as a case study for V4's democracy assistance in the Eastern Partnership with focus on foreign policy, civil society, media, economy, and security. In between the sessions, the seminar participants will attend conference panels thematically linked to the seminar.

Aims of the seminar

The main mission of this project is to bring young talented students from the Visegrad countries and to give them an opportunity to grow in their professional lives. The students will be able to familiarize themselves with necessary background information, attend conference panels, and take part in discussions leading to the creation of a policy statement. They will be guided in their efforts by a tutor. Additionally, they will improve their active presentation, communication, and argumentation skills. The project will also provide a unique space for networking among the students and delegates from the Visegrad countries and other regions.

Topics to be discussed during the seminar

- How can the Visegrad group countries support civil society in Ukraine?
- How does media affect the developments in the country?
- In what way does the political situation in EaP impact security in the V4 countries and EU?
- What will be the most effective democracy assistance tools after the end of the war in Ukraine?
- What steps should the V4 states collectively take to address the war in Ukraine?
- Was the V4's support for Ukraine's democracy prior to the crisis sufficient?
- Should the V4's approach to Ukraine be different than its approach to other Eastern Partnership countries, given current developments?
- What are the motivations of the Visegrad Group members?

Admission Requirements

- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter (500 words)
- Policy paper submitted prior to the seminar focusing on assessment of one of the following areas: foreign policy, civil society, media, economy, and security (approximately 1000 words). Please indicate your topic preference when submitting the motivation letter

Additional Requirements

- Active participation in the seminar sessions (this is a 100% mandatory participation requirement)
- Group policy statement after the seminar (approximately 2500 words)

Accommodation and Transportation

Lodging for the seminar participants is provided by the Forum 2000 Foundation in Prague. The transport to Prague is provided by the organizers.