

The V. Forum on behalf of Regional Development, Volunteering and “Youth in Action Programme” Support, 27.3.2014, Prague

Bohemia EU Planners conference in DEMOCRATICALLY CORRECT (DEMOTIC) project

The V. Forum was held in Orea Hotel Pyramida, Prague on 27th March 2014. This event focused on very wide scale of topics in its clear achievement - to support Regional Development in the Czech Republic. The event was organised by Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd. This organisation is a long-term supporter of the regional development and it leads and cooperates with the youth associations and groups in the field of volunteering. The company participates on number of educational programs granted by the European Union. Bohemia EU Planners Ltd. participates to the Erasmus programme for Young Entrepreneurs since 2010 and supports potential new entrepreneurs to develop their ideas and to cope with public administrations to set their own businesses. This conference was a part of project Democratically Correct (DEMOTIC), which aims to examine a participation of young people in the field of volunteering and a political participation and try to encourage them to be active the both ways. This event was the first under this project in the Czech Republic.



Picture 1: V. Forum 2014 Conference, 27.3.2014, Prague.

The Pilot Group (the Czech part) of project Democratically Correct participated in this event, not only as an audience, but as very active participants. The V. Forum took place under the aegis of Mgr. Věra Jourová, Czech Minister for Regional Development

(<http://bit.ly/1DqqWk1>). Her attendance showed importance of that meeting. Ms. Jourová was the first speaker of the event and she has started very active and curious debate. We are very pleased that one of the main role in that discussion played members of the Pilot Group (5 young participates) of DEMOTIC project. It is worth to mention that Ms. Jourová was later appointed the European Union Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality as a part of Juncker’s Commission in October 2014. She participated on discussion with students from the Pilot Group, which brought very exciting results and an enriching experience for all participants.



Picture 2: Vendulka Raymová (director, Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd.), Věra Jourová (Czech Minister of Regional Development) and Radim Sršeň (president, ELARD) on the V. Forum 2014 conference, 27.3.2014, Prague.

PhDr. Vendulka Raymová, director and chief executive of the Bohemia EU Planners presented her vision of “The next future” of elections, mainly coming election to European Parliament. She underlined a role of “new media” in the field of politics. Candidates use social media more and more to proclaim their attitudes and citizens have a great opportunity to be in touch with their candidates through these tools. Of course, European election was one of the crucial themes of the conference. Every single speaker of the conference mentioned in the speech importance of that election for the future of the European Union. Mrs. Raymová spoke about a weak interest of Czech inhabitants, including young people in the European elections in the past and expressed her wish to change it. It was one of the reasons, why she had participated in the project Democratically Correct with colleagues across the Europe.

She introduced whole project, which had started in March 2014 and seems to be very purposeful. Mrs. Raymová claimed the need to organize events, where the young people could meet the politicians and start their interest in politics (for example Festival Volunteers in Lucca, which will take place on 10th – 13th April 2014). She also highlighted importance of voluntary organisations in labour market today (she has a lot of experience as a project leader and lector in field of Labour market and volunteering). She supported her opinion with data in the presentation. According to the project participants, connection between work of voluntary sector and politics is missing. The society (including young people) does not trust politics neither institutions. Young people are losing interest in politics, which is even worse development for European democracy. Young people are isolated from the political system across the Europe, thus they need to be encouraged to be part of the politics. The one and important chance for young Europeans is an active participation in European elections 2014. They are responsible for future of the Europe and they should feel it this way. Otherwise, percentage of participation in elections will be still decreasing and that can be risk for whole European democracy. However, young people are quite active in voluntary sector in the Czech Republic to gain job experience, managing of their interests, etc. Ms. Raymová therefore recommended using voluntary sector as a connector between young people and politicians.



Picture 3: Panel discussion. V. Forum 2014 conference, 27.3.2014, Prague.

Next speakers of the conference went on in the exciting topics and supported the quality of the conference by their opinion and experience in different fields of topics: SME WEEK

2014, SMEs development in the regions as well the Cohesion policy approaching for 2014+; funded projects for regional development, for the profit and non-profit sector (NGO), new sustainable job opportunities to people 50+, transnational cooperation and partnerships, bourse of best practices examples.

Event was followed by a reception during which there have been many interviews between members of the Pilot Group and participated politicians. Young people, participated on Democratically Correct project were well prepared for this event and posed specific questions to each politician. During that reception were built much closer relationships between the both, voters and candidates. More information about the event online (European Commission DG ENTR Brussels) is available here <http://bit.ly/1zTtX4B>.

Next Forum will take place in Prague, in October 2014 and it will inter alia evaluate EU Parliament elections and progress report of Democratically Correct/DEMOTIC. The program will be published.

For further information about the DEMOTIC project please visit an official webpage <http://www.volontariatoggi.info/demotics/>.

Further photos from the event are available at http://bohemiaeuplanners.eu/27_03_14.html.

Additional documents

Appendix 1: Program of the Conference available here <http://bit.ly/1HvaPlo>.

Appendix 2: List of participants