Lectures in Democracy and Human Rights Promotion: The Visegrad Experience

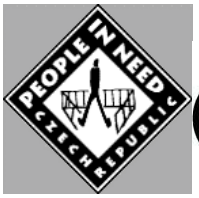
organized by
The CEU Human Rights Students' Initiative
People in Need
Pontis Foundation

with the generous support of the International Visegrad Fund

Visegrad Fund

Central European University
1051 Budapest, Nador u. 9
Auditorium

November 2007



About the Event

By inviting Czech, Polish and Slovak NGO speakers to the Central European University (CEU) for a series of lectures and roundtable discussions, the aim of the event is to raise awareness and encourage discussion among the CEU community and beyond about the human rights and democracy promotion activities carried out by Visegrad NGOs. The project aims to reveal connections between the various countries' own transition experiences and the increased role of local NGOs in human rights and democracy promotion projects abroad. It will also expose CEU students and faculty members and Hungarian NGOs to the experience of Czech, Polish and Slovak NGOs in their work on protection and promotion of human rights, and thus provide for the transfer of know-how and the establishment of cooperation networks.

Dates and Speakers

November 5th: Slovakia
Guest Speakers: *Martin Pasiak*, Pontis Foundation

November 12th: Czech Republic
Guest Speakers: *Kristina Prunerova*, People in Need, Secretary of International Committee for Democracy in Cuba (ICDC)
Jan Marian, Civic Belarus

November 19th: Poland
Guest Speakers: *Wojciech Tworkowski,* Stefan Batory Foundation
Mikolaj Pietrzak, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland, Coordinator of "Human Rights and Settlements with the Past" Program.

November 20th: Hungary
Guest Speakers: *Andras Racz*, Hungarian Institute of International Affairs
TBA, Freedom House Europe
Amb. Istvan Gyarmati, International Centre for Democratic Transition

Time and Venue

All lectures will take place at the **Central European University** (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary (1051 Budapest, Nador u. 9, www.ceu.hu). Lectures will begin at **6 p.m.** and will be followed by a discussion as well as a reception.

On the Air

The Hungarian Civil Radio show ***Everybody's right*** will be airing live and recorded interviews (in English and in Hungarian) with the participants on **November 12th and 26th**, from **10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** *Everybody's right* is a 2 hours long live radio show on human rights which is aired every second Monday on Civil Radio 98 FM. We invite everyone to listen to the show, either on the radio or online (www.civilradio.hu). For more information, please contact the host, Balazs Nagy Navarro, at nagynavbal@yahoo.com.

Organizers

The **Human Rights Students' Initiative** (HRSI) is an organization based at CEU, whose mission is to promote social engagement through awareness raising and capacity building. **People in Need** (PIN) is a Czech non-profit, non-governmental organization that implements relief and development projects in crisis regions around the world and supports human rights and democracy. An integral part of the work of People in Need is support of dissidents, opposition activists and the development of civil society in Cuba, Belarus, Burma, Moldova and Ukraine (www.peopleinneed.cz). **Pontis Foundation** is one of the largest grant-making and operational foundations in Slovakia, and has as its mission to build a democratic Slovakia by bridging borders and engaging citizens (www.nadaciapontis.sk).

About the International Visegrad Fund

The International Visegrad Fund (IVF) was established in 2000. The mission of IVF is to promote development of closer cooperation among the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and to strengthen the ties between these states. The fund promotes regional cooperation among the Visegrad countries through the support of common cultural, scientific research and educational projects, exchanges between young people, promotion of tourism and cross-border cooperation. The budget of the Fund comprises equal annual contributions of all member states. Since 2007, the member states agreed to contribute EUR 1,250,000 each, providing a total annual budget of EUR 5,000,000. For more information, please visit www.visegradfund.org.