

General Election Study Visit to the Czech Republic

Short summary:

The objective was to organise an international study visit that aimed to enable youth representatives from democratic political powers from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and the former Yugoslav countries to examine at first hand the electoral process in a country which successfully overcame the anti democratic legacy of a communist regime to achieve membership of the EU and NATO. At the same time we wanted to set a platform where all the participants can share their experience and communicate their achievement in political campaigning and politics in general. The participants met with representatives of political parties and organizations from other EU countries which enabled them to establish new contacts which can be useful for their further development.

Program of the project included: participation at on-street campaign, visit to informa-



Political campaign on street

tion centre of ODS (Civic Democratic Party), TV discussion, visit to both chambers of the Czech Parliament, visit to the polling station, lectures of political marketing and party management and meeting with partners from EU member states political foundations as an important networking element.



Partners:

- CEVRO
Liberálně-konzervativní akademie
- Conservative Party Westminster Foundation for Democracy Programme
- International Republican Institute

Objectives:

- Democracy promotion, support of democratic power in East European countries and Balkan States
- Capacity building, share of experience on electoral processes, party systems, campaigning and party management
- Networking among participants and EU member political foundations

Final beneficiaries:

Inquiry made among participant their return home on concrete outcomes of the stay towards participants' parties and organizations and here are some replies:

EUROPE: Participants from Belarus, Bosnia, FYROM, Moldova, Serbia in the Czech Republic

- We had a meeting with the chairman of our Christian Democratic People's Party and with the chairman of the youth wing of the party "New Generation". We shared all the information we got during our stay in Czech Republic and discussed possible way of cooperation with the participants we met in Prague. We also tried to plan some of our further activities in accordance with the innovative ways of campaigning used by candidates of ODS party. We would also like to be host of such kind of events, to find place for a small Informational Center and organize a debate show on TV as the one we participated in. (Moldova)



Political marketing and campaigning

- We referred to our colleagues about party organization in Czech Republic, FYROM, Moldova, Serbia and especially Belarus. In few next days we expect final lists of candidates for elections which should take place in October and I am sure that the things we have learned in Prague will be helpful in

campaigning for our candidates, especially young ones. (Bosnia)

• I'm doing verbal presentation about leading campaign, based on your suggestions and organisation and we distribute the example promotional material (Serbia)

• I will use the gained experience from Prague for the education of our local branches for the implementation of campaigns within our internal education centre. There are plenty of useful things that I can use as examples of good practice during my trainings such as great PR event near the town of Melnik, excellent printed materials and other political ads that ODS was using in campaign, the organization of ODS info centre etc. (Serbia)

• And, in my conversation with my superiors in our Party, we came to a conclusion that there are many things from your Party's campaign that could be very useful for us here. We have already started with a practice to present one of the Party programs every week, and, every Friday we organize regular press conference. (Bosnia)

ENoP MEMBER FOUNDATION:

