

## Encouraging Debate on Freedom



### Context/short summary:

The book "Principles for a Free Society" was written by Dr Nigel Ashford for the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation. It is widely used in the Foundation's seminars on ideology and political principles. The objective is to expose the connections between rule of law, individual freedom, market economy, human rights and a democratic social order. The book has been translated into numerous languages, including Spanish, Russian, Serbian, Azeri, Lithuanian, Turkish and, soon, Albanian. Over the years, 2500 individuals have so far participated in this program.

"Principles for a Free Society" is used as study guide in ideology education in countries where the Hjalmarson Foundation is "assisting center-right parties and organisations in building strong and democratic party structures". The book is also used at annual summer schools in Sweden. The latter are attended by youths from the Balkans and the former Soviet Union. In addition "Principles for a Free Society" is used in for instance Latin America in seminars encouraging women to claim their spot in the political lime light. In addition there is an annual winter school in Africa, based on "Principles for a Free Society", which is attended by

youths from various African countries.

### Partners:

- Democrat Union of Africa (DUA)
- Union of Latin American Parties (UPLA)/Unión de Partidos Latinamericanos
- Party of Democratic Progress (PDP)/Partija demokratskog progresna, Bosnia-Hercegovina
- Party of Democratic Action (SDA)/ Stranka Demokratske Akcije, Bosnia-Hercegovina
- Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)/ Hrvatska demokratska zajednica, Croatia
- VMRO-DPMNE/Vnatrešna Makedonska Revolucionerna Organizacija – Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edinstvo, Macedonia
- Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS)/ Demokratska Stranka Srbije, Serbia
- G17 Plus, Serbia
- National Independence Party of Azerbaijan (NIPA)/Azerbaycan Milli Istiqlal Partiyasi, Azerbaijan
- Peoples Union Our Ukraine/Nardodnyi Soyus Nasha Ukrayna, Ukraine
- United National Movemant (UNM), Georgia

### Objectives:

The objective of the Jarl Hjalmarson Founda-

### Europe: Sweden

tion is to assist center-right parties and organisations in building strong and democratic party structures. The aim is to promote co-operation and European integration on the basis of freedom, democracy, market economy, rule of law, human rights and tolerance. The goals of the ideology education are to raise questions and encourage debate. The participants should learn to give and take – to have their views examined by others, while at the same time challenging others constructively. Debating pros and cons -- in the process of developing a democracy -- contribute to a dynamic discussion which is, in itself, essential for developing a democratic society even further.

### Expected results:

Through this ideology schooling the participants are given the intellectual tools to contribute to the debate about the future of their country. At the same time the importance of dialogue with and mutual respect of other parties and organisations are infused, conveying the importance of strong coalitions and how to build democratic structures within society in general and a political party in particular. An important aspect of this is the respect of minority rights which is instilled through discussions in groups normally mixed in nationality. This is important not least in the Balkans where today's neighbor often was yesterday's enemy.

### Activities:

Education within the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation framework is primarily conducted abroad. In those cases education is carried out in co-operation with partner organizations and parties in project countries. The same goes, to some extent, for education carried out in Swe-

den, as partners select the participants that may attend for example summer schools on ideology in Sweden. Education/seminars most of the time run for two-four days. The number of participants varies from about 10-50. "Principles for a Free Society" is also presented and handed out at conventions and other activities where the Hjalmarson Foundation is participating.

### Target Group:

Most of the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation's efforts deal with knowledge transfer concerning the building blocks of democracy and the process of European integration. Women and youths are given high priority because of their vital role in shaping the policies of developing democracies in the future.

### Final beneficiaries:

In its realization the ideology education and distribution of the book "Principles for a Free Society" directly or indirectly support fragile democracies in their endeavor to develop a democratic society even further.

### Funding:

Activities are principally funded through the Swedish International Development Authority (Sida).

ENoP MEMBER  
FOUNDATION:

Jarl  
Hjalmarson  
Foundation



JARL  
HJALMARSON  
FOUNDATION