

Direct democracy and e-democracy as a means for fostering transparency, civic engagement and participation

P2P study tour

51922

Brussels,

19 – 22 March 2013

Meeting venue:

Europe Info Europa – RP 14

Rue Archimède 1 – 1000 Bruxelles

For more information on the People 2 People Programme, please go to:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/p2p/index_en.htm

To download presentations of this event, please go to:

**<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix><http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix>
[click on "Library" and select this study tour.](#)**

AIM OF THE EVENT:

The P2P Programme intends to offer to civil society organisations from the beneficiaries the possibility to visit EU institutions, as well as relevant EU platform organisations, or whenever relevant for the topic of the study tours, also other European, international or national organisations, in order to familiarise themselves with EU structures, policy making process, programmes, policies and best practices.

The aim of this study tour is to give participants the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the EU policies and programmes related to civic engagement and transparency, as well as to offer them exchange and networking opportunities among themselves and with other European-level civil society organisations active in this field. National and, if possible, regional examples of actions in this field could also be presented to the participants.

The study tour is open for the participation of several representatives (up to five per beneficiary) from each of the candidate countries and potential candidates to EU accession. Participants will represent mainly CSOs active or interested in civic engagement and transparency.

Tuesday 19 March 2013

Chair: Panos Gredis
European Public Law Organization

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| 09:00 | <i>Arrival and registration of participants.</i> |
| 09:30 | Welcome note: introduction on the purpose of the People 2 People Programme (P2P) Karl Giacinti, People 2 People Programme, Unit D3 – Regional Programmes, DG Enlargement, European Commission |
| 09:45 | Tour de table: brief verbal presentation, accompanied by materials if available, max. 2 minutes per participant. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-introduction by participants The work of the organisations represented |
| 10:45 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:15 | Enlargement Policy and Process Presentation, followed by time for questions and answers Detlev Boeing, DG Enlargement, European Commission |
| 12:15 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:30 | The EU institutions and decision-making process Bela Beres, Legal Service, European Commission |
| 14:30 | Questions and answers |
| 15:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15:45 | European Commission support to civil society in candidate countries and potential candidates: the Civil Society Facility (CSF) Nicola Bertolini, Head of Section for civil society, media and research, Unit D3 – Regional Programmes, DG Enlargement, European Commission |
| 16:15 | Questions and answers |
| 17:00 | <i>End of the first day</i> |

Wednesday 20 March 2013

**Chair: Panos Gredis
European Public Law Organization**

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| 09:15 | <i>Arrival of participants</i> |
| 09:30 | Europe for Citizens Programme Cécile Le Clercq, Head of Sector - "Europe for Citizens" Programme Manager : civil society, European Commission |
| 10:00 | Questions and answers |
| 10:45 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:15 | Member State perspective of the ECI Emily Oyama, Policy Advisor, Constitution Group Cabinet Office, United Kingdom |
| 11:45 | Questions and answers |
| 12:15 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 14:00 | Active Citizenship and Representation in Europe: Towards Transnational Democracy Bruno Kaufmann, President, Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe |
| 14:30 | Questions and answers |
| 15:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15:30 | Social media and their potential for facilitating participation of civil society Tony Venables, Director, European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) |
| 16:30 | Title tbc Robert Bjarnason, President, Citizens Foundation, Iceland Presentation followed by discussion |
| 17:00 | <i>End of the second day</i> |

Thursday 21 March 2013

Panos Gredis
European Public Law Organization

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| 8:45 | <i>Arrival of the participants</i> |
| 9:00 | Implementation of the right to access public information: the experience of a member state Kristina Kotnik Sumah, Deputy Information Commissioner, Slovenia |
| 9:20 | Questions and answers |
| 10:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10:15 | Civil society perspective Nienke Palstra, EU Policy Officer, Transparency International, EU Liaison Office |
| 11:00 | Questions and answers |
| 11:15 | Consultation mechanisms of the European Commission Gérard Legris, Head of Unit B5- Transparency, Relations with Stakeholders and External Organisations, Secretariat General, European Commission |
| 12:15 | Group discussion: opportunity for participants to present and discuss projects of their organisations |
| 13:00 | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 13:30 - 14:15 | Delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina meet with the Desk Officer within DG Enlargement - <i>Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi</i> |

*Venue: European Parliament,
Rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60, Brussels*

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| 14:45 | <i>Arrival and registration of participants at the visitor's entrance</i> |
| 15:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An introduction to the European Parliament• Meeting with MEP(s) working on the ECI, transparency (tbc) |
| 16:30 | <i>Departure to DG Enlargement</i> |

Venue: Charlemagne Building, de la Loi/ Wetstraat 170

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| 16:45 – 17:45 | Meeting of each national delegation with the relevant Desk Officer within DG Enlargement (European Commission) – Albania, Iceland, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| 17:15 – 18:15 | Meeting of the delegation from Kosovo* with Desk Officer |

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Friday 22 March 2013

Panos Gredis
European Public Law Organization

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| 09:00 | <i>Arrival of participants</i> |
| 09:15 | E-democracy and e-participation Nele Leosk, e-governance academy, Estonia |
| 09:45 | Questions and answers |
| 10:00 | Empowering citizens in the digital world Andrea Halmos, Policy Officer, Unit H3 Public Services, DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology |
| 10:30 | Questions and answers |
| 11:00 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 11:30 | How civil society organizations foster transparency, civic engagement and participation”- an example from the Slovakia Karolína Miková, Executive Director, PDCS, o.z., Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia |
| 12:00 | How to overcome barriers to political participation? Presentation and discussion Daniela Kolarova, Executive Director, Partners for Democratic Change International, Brussels office |
| 12:30 | Feedback and evaluation session |
| 13:30 | <i>End of the study tour</i> |

**This meeting is being organised by
the People 2 People Programme (P2P), Civil Society Facility, DG Enlargement,
in the organisational framework of the
Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument - TAIEX**

of the European Commission

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Web sites: <http://taiex.ec.europa.eu/>
<http://taiex.ec.europa.eu/services/services.htm>
Leaflet: http://taiex.ec.europa.eu/P2P-Programme/P2PLeaflet_EN.pdf

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