

VI. Forum 2014 SME WEEK

Conference to promote Regional Development in the fight against social exclusion and poverty. Instrument of change – the process of education. Volunteering and “Youth in Action Programme” Support, October 23 2014, Prague

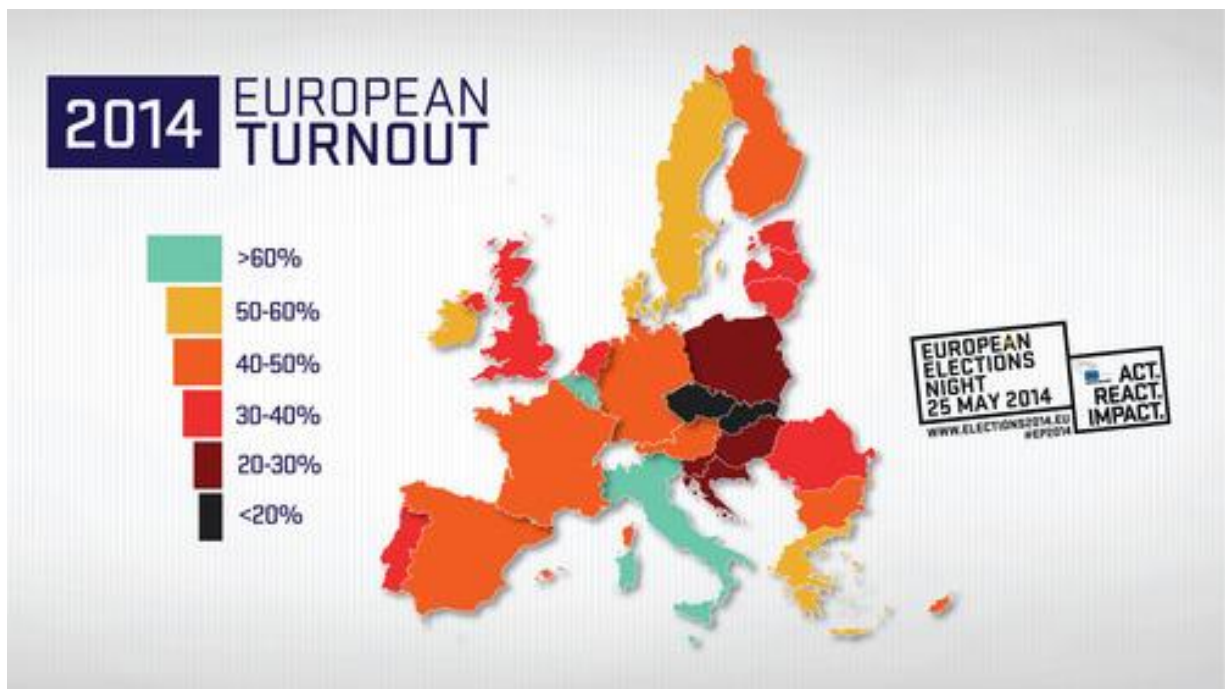
Bohemia EU Planners conference in DEMOCRATICALLY CORRECT (DEMOTIC) project

The VI. Forum was held in Orea Hotel Pyramida, Prague on 23th October 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. The 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 another part of the project Democratically Correct (DEMOTIC), which aims to examine and encourage the participation of young people in the field of volunteering and a political participation. It was the second public event organised by the Czech partner in this project. The VI. forum was held under the aegis of Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.



Picture 1: Panel of speakers. The VI. Forum 2014 Conference, 23.10.2014, Prague

PhDr. Vendulka Raymová, director and chief executive of Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd., presented progress of project Democratically Correct. Her company participates by representing the Czech Republic in this project. She expressed her shock from the very low voter turnout in the European elections in the Czech Republic (only 18,20 % in the CR; overall turnout in the EU was 42,61 %) in May 2014. The Czech Republic had the second lowest turnout among all EU members, which was embarrassing in the opinion of Mrs. Raymová.



Picture 2: Turnout in European Parliament elections 2014. Source: <http://bit.ly/TKW0Vv>

She then expressed an importance of voting for European democracy. She claimed to be very disappointed because she had done her best in the previous months to spread around awareness of EU elections importance. Nevertheless, the overall turnout in the EU was the lowest in the history (<http://bit.ly/1u12TBf>).

Bohemia EU Planners and Mrs. Raymová personally spent a lot of time promoting the elections by discussion with young people about future of the Europe, by cooperation with non-profit, especially voluntary sector, by encouraging of young people to be involved in decision making, by getting connections between voluntary sectors, politicians and young people, etc. Nevertheless, she believes that it is very important to continue in this effort. She underlined advantages of project Democratically Correct and its results and expressed her wish to continue in this project even after its official end. One of the results of this outgoing project is also this conference. The main aim was to connect non-profit organisations (volunteers), politicians and young people (voters) in one, well-functioning system.



Picture 3: Participants. The VI. Forum 2014 Conference, 23.10.2014, Prague

Pilot Group of 30 young people was created and among which there was 5 Czech members. They have started with great communication and created very useful tools in the field of voter-candidate relationship. Young people across the Europe, voluntaries, politicians etc. use modern technologies to be in touch. Great community of multiple partners consisting mainly of young people was created and it is necessary to continue in this cooperation and to find new forms of supporting people to be political active. Communist era still maintains in the people’s mind, therefore, it is necessary to support democracy, which is so special for the Czech nation. Mrs. Raymová is proud to be part of the expert group, which prepared “Model Demotic”, that was a responsible work by skilled lectures. More important and also more difficult is implementation of this model into real life. Members of Pilot Group are working very hard on their outputs from project. They are focused on communication in the field of politics. Their surveys already showed interesting results and further are expected soon. The most important might, however, be non-formal results of our work – achievement of a positive contact with politicians and members of voluntary sector, NGOs etc.

Mrs. Raymová underlined the role of media in current world. She participated in live TV discussion in the European Parliament just before EP elections. Main topics of this live-streaming interview were: turnout estimates; participation of young people in elections; role of democracy in today’s Europe; European citizenship etc. (The complete video is available here <http://bit.ly/1DXq3vk>). The courses organised by Bohemia EU Planners can be also very

useful for young people to achieve their goals, because they also focused on success on the labour market. Next Forum, will take place in Prague in March 2015. There should be presented, inter alia, results of the Democratically Correct project. Scheduled end of this project is at the end of 2014.



Picture 4: Questions & Answers section. The VI. Forum 2014 Conference, 23.10.2014, Prague

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/23_10_14.html.

Additional documents

Appendix 1: Program of the Conference available at <http://bit.ly/1z0pH8o>.

Appendix 2: List of participants