

The VII. Forum: Bohemia EU Planners 3rd conference in DEMOCRATICALLY CORRECT (DEMOTIC) Project

**SME WEEK: Regional Development Support; Volunteering and “Youth in Action
Programme” Support, March 18 2015, Prague**

Conference under the aegis of the Czech Ministry of Regional Development

The VII. Forum was held in Orea Hotel Pyramida, Prague on 18th March 2015. This event was supported by Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic. Capacity of the conference room was overbooked. The main aim of the VII. Forum was to support Regional Development in the Czech Republic. It was organised by Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd. This 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. This project ends in the beginning of the 2015 and this conference was meant to be the final meeting organised by Bohemia EU Planners.



Picture 1: Panel of experts, VII.Forum 2015 Conference, 18.03.2015, Prague

PhDr. Vendulka Raymová, director and chief executive of Bohemia EU Planners, Ltd., introduced the results of DEMOTIC project. First of all, she underlined importance of active participation of young people in public social life. She said that we should encourage them in their effort. DEMOTIC project was considered as very successful. Its importance was mainly in the multinational and multicultural connection among the partners and their support to connect young people with voluntary sector as well as with politics. It brought excellent results.

International group of experts prepared great conditions for members of Pilot Groups of Young Europeans. Members of these Pilot Groups took their opportunity in the best way. They cooperate with each other very actively, mainly via social networks, which are getting so important in these days. Volunteering organisations as well as politicians provided their experience and knowledge to young people.



Picture 2: Dr.VendulaRaymová, Chief executive, Bohemia EU Planners during presentation, VII.Forum 2015 Conference, 18.03.2015, Prague

Many new networks and contacts were established. Project importance was proved by the results of European Parliament election in May 2014. Voter turnout was extremely low. It is the best motivation to keep working in these topics. Democracy thus should be supported and protected, especially in the Czech Republic, because freedom, democracy and other related issues are highly appreciated. These were main motivation factors for participation in this project. New “Model Demotic” was created and its three basic concepts were implemented

into practise. The project focused on way, how voluntary organisations work and how their role in the current world is.

The strongest part of whole project was its implementation in real life. Pilot Groups conducted surveys “The past” and “The future” based on interviews with experienced people from in-group. Interesting reports came from their effort. Members of DEMOTIC project used their experience and knowledge, and published Democratically Correct Glossary. This tool show which words are the most used by politicians before elections across the Europe, for example volunteering, solidarity, equality, democracy, European citizenship, etc. The strength of social networks and other on-line tools were showed very clearly in this part of project.



Picture 3: Participants, VII. Forum 2015 Conference, 18.03.2015, Prague.

Cooperation through participants was significant and very useful for the final result. They shared experience from 3 different European political systems. They could learn communication techniques used by experts in communication and European policies. By publishing their surveys, like on-line questionnaires, interviews, researches, reports, they improved their skills very well. Their enthusiasm was visible during all meetings with them. Website of project is source of further information for participants, specialized and general public. Participants perceive need of promoting their targets on public. For this reason, whole

project was visible on-line (website, social networks). For example, Mrs. Raymová participated live in the TV interview with the EU Parliament candidates and other Czech stakeholders, including politicians, members of voluntary organisations and students).

Dr. Raymová expressed her wish in continuing in this project even after its official end. She thinks there is always space for so well-organised projects. She thanks to Italian project leader and also to all participants. Many of the participants were included also in the VII. Forum and they expressed their opinions and own conclusions, which came up from the project for their political party (representatives of politics), voluntary organisation (representatives of volunteers) and further life (members of Czech Pilot Group).

Other speakers of the conference came up with their experience, mainly with project attendance. There were representatives of number of NGO's, political parties, public sector. They shared their own “good practise examples”. Networking during as well as after this event can bring very useful partnerships. Bohemia EU Planners plans to continue in organising of this kind of forums. According to very positive feedback we are glad to proclaim that VII. Forum was very successful event!

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/18_03_15.html

Additional documents

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

Appendix 2: List of participants