

Please apply to:

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Application deadline: 5th August, 2016

Travel directions:

Bad Bevensen is located on B 4 between Lüneburg and Uelzen and a train stop on the route Hannover-Hamburg. Closest airports are Hamburg and Berlin.

Our seminar center is located in Medingen (a district of Bad Bevensen) directly neighboring the monastery on the banks of the Ilmenau River. Walking distance from train station: 20 minutes. You can order a taxi on (05821) 3012 or 1010.



Cooperation partners and sponsors

- **Germany: Gustav Stresemann Institute, Bad Bevensen** is an independent center for democracy and tolerance education. Dialogue and diversity are major tasks of its training programs. Located in Northern Germany GSI cooperates with local, national and international networks.
- **Poland: ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) in Wroclaw** is the Polish branch of the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its projects focus on democracy and citizenship education, human rights, sustainable development and volunteering.
- **Lithuania: the Vilnius University Students Representation (VUSA)** has a general focus on students' activities and representation. This includes international exchange programs with EU member states, Baltic States, and Scandinavia.
- **Egypt: St. Mena Forum for Peace and Development in Beni Suef** is a center of the Coptic Church. It engages in peace building programs, leadership training for youth workers, and supports the construction of civil society.
- **Jordan: Debate Foundation, Amman**, works on spreading the culture of dialogue and debate in the community, enhancing the acceptance of other's opinions. Its methods include interactive meetings, simulation, and social media.
- **Tunisia: The Club Culturel Ali Belhouane Tunis** is a non-government organization running cultural programs and projects with young people. It supports them in engaging in intercultural dialogue and building up civil society as part of a better future.

This project is sponsored by



THE DIFFERENT FACES OF DEMOCRACY



Seminar for activists of civil society
from Germany, Poland, Lithuania,
Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia.
Bad Bevensen and Berlin

10th – 20th September, 2016

The Idea

There is a lot of talk about democracy; in Europe and in Arab countries. But do we mean the same when speaking of democracy? Did the concept change – in our minds, in different periods of history? In this project, the participants – “activists of civil society” – will find answers to those questions. We will focus on four aspects: 1. The concept of pluralism: What is the idea behind it? Which groups are meant? In practical exercises – based on the Betzavta democracy training concept – we will learn about managing diversity. 2. Religion: What’s religion got to do with it? In many countries, religious groups play(ed) an important role in implementing political change. We will speak with dialogue experts, go to churches and mosques, share impressions from back home in order to assess the role of religion in local and international politics. 3. Extremism: How can we confront the forces that threaten democracy? We will analyze political radicalism and religious fundamentalism and look for ways to stabilize democracy. We will compare concepts of democracy education and learn from practical tasks of civic intervention in situations of conflict. 4. Civil Society and migration: How can we strengthen civil society in our countries? How can we stabilize the situation in Northern African countries in order to prevent emigration and implement concepts of long-term integration in European countries? Visits to NGOs and model projects will inspire us to develop further activities and concepts. This will be a key issue for creating sustainable results of this project.

Topics of the seminar program

- The different faces of reality – from theory to practice: how to make democracy work
- The different faces of democracy: pluralism and change in European and Arab societies
- The different faces of religion in society: its impact on politics
- Diversity and district development: strengthening civil society (with visits to projects in Hamburg)
- Democracy-building: a training concept (practical training on diversity, decision making and dialogue; to whom we talk and how we talk; the limits of talk)

- The challenge of extremism in democratic development
- The different ways to strengthen democracy: advocacy work and civic empowerment (visit to grassroots projects and discussion with decision makers of the Federal Government)
- Civil society in times of migration: new approaches on international challenges
- The challenge of change: from inspiration to action



Our methods will be designed for train the trainers needs: inspiring, intercultural and integrative. **Suggestions for further input and changes are most welcome.**

Project Design & Technical Details

- **costs:** 190,- € including full board in Bad Bevensen and half board in Berlin; program costs, round-trip to Berlin and excursions
- **travel expense refund:** up to a maximum of 100,- € actual travel costs within Germany.
- **Target group:** youth workers and students from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia
- **Date of the seminar:** 10th – 20th Sept., 2016
- **Seminar language:** English
- **Accommodation:** double rooms in Bad Bevensen, triple rooms in Berlin
- **Participation certificates:** will be provided in English with details on program and sponsors

Application form

*Send your application to Gustav Stresemann Institute:
E-mail: ina.buelow@gsi-bevensen.de
Fax: (0 58 21) 955-299*

Application deadline: 5th Aug., 2016

I hereby sign up for the Seminar
DIFFERENT FACES OF DEMOCRACY
10th – 20th September, 2016

Last Name:

Fist Name:

Date of Birth:

Street
Address:

City:

Zip/Postal
Code:

Country:

Phone:

Email:

the level of my English is:

very good good sufficient rather low

date, place and signature