



## **Invitation to express interest to participate in the Erasmus+ programme: Democracy and Media Freedom (DEMEDIA)**

The Centre of International and European Economic Law participates as a partner in the Erasmus+ programme titled Democracy and Media Freedom (DEMEDIA – ID:2020-3-BG01-KA105-094882EDIA) which is already in place and organised under the auspices of the Human resource development centre – HRDC, Bulgaria) by the Public Policy Institute (PPIF). The University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bitola (Republic of North Macedonia) is also a partner in the programme.

The main goal of the project is to increase the skills for critical thinking, information analysis and skills for civil dialogue, on democratic values and governance, and media freedom. The project activities will focus on the negative trends observed in Bulgaria, Greece and Northern Macedonia, as well as the direct and indirect effects on the youth environment of this. Fixed asset to achieve the goal of the project will be a combination of formal and informal educational techniques in the context of intercultural dialogue between three youth groups.

The Specific objectives of the programme are the following:

- i. Development of critical thinking among the youth in the direction of increasing the related civic competencies with democratic processes of governance and values, and media freedom
- ii. Increasing the capacity of three organizations with different profiles and active youth presence for the development of key skills such as critical thinking, information analysis and citizenship from Bulgaria, Greece and North Macedonia
- iii. Increase cooperation and exchange of good practices in the European South East for skills development in the youth sector
- iv. Strengthening youth empowerment and putting active young people in focus of dialogue on democratic change, values and media freedom.
- v. Raising community awareness about the urgency of problems such as disrespect for personal and common democratic rights and values, deterioration of the democratic process of governance, disregard for and non-application of the rule of law, media freedom and inability to express an opinion
- vi. Improving the national context by promoting information analysis skills, structured dialogue and critical thinking among young people

In the context of this programme, CIEEL invites persons willing to participate in the programme on its behalf to express their interest. The participants shall fit the following profile:

1. Age between 18 and 26 years.
2. Have an interest in the themes of the project and are willing to take an active part in the civil dialogue related to the democratic one's values and media freedom.
3. Have a strong motivation to participate in intercultural exchange and to communicate with young people from Eastern Europe.
4. Have a desire to upgrade competences / skills related to critical thinking, information analysis and civil dialogue.
5. They are interested in participating in social processes and campaigns aimed at raising public awareness of current issues related to democratic principles (governance) and freedom of the media.
6. Have an interest in developing the capabilities of youth empowerment.

The participants in the programme will meet in Sandanski (Bulgaria) during the course of 6 days (the implementation of the project is scheduled for the period of **July 21st to July 28th**, with the possibility of a postponement depending on the course of the pandemic). Public Policy Institute will cover the transportation and accommodation costs and will take all measures necessary to ensure the safety and health of the participants.

The deadline for potential participants to express their interest, by filling and emailing the attached document (selection card) to the email address [programs@cieel.gr](mailto:programs@cieel.gr), is **July 5<sup>th</sup> 2021**.