



EU Visa Policy: what neighbors could do? Example of Hungary

Discussion and presentation

Europe without Barriers
Hungarian Europe Society
Center for EU Enlargement Studies
Center for Arts and Culture

Supported by the European program of the International Renaissance Foundation

“Europe without Barriers” in cooperation with Hungarian Europe Society and Center for EU Enlargement Studies is pleased to invite you to the round-table discussion on: **EU Visa Policy: what neighbors could do? Example of Hungary**, which will be held on April 8, 2013 from 11.00 till 12.30 in the building of **Central European University** (Popper/Octagon room, 1051 Budapest, Nador u. 9, monument building).

This event is meant to generate a public discussion about the borders, visas and freedom of movement in Europe.

To animate our discussion there will be an art **photo exhibition “Visas? What’s the Reason?”**.

The photo exhibition will present personal stories of some famous Ukrainian individuals (journalists, writers, civic activists, academics and sportsmen) that were refused to obtain visas or faced serious difficulties being bona fide travellers. The participants will try to touch upon broader picture by looking at the lack of interaction between the EU and Ukraine and other non-EU societies.

During the event the following issues will be discussed:

- Visa issuance by the EU Member States in the Eastern Europe: comparative insight
- Visa “filter” of the EU travel/immigration policy: who is suffering, who is benefiting from them?
- Visa liberalization for the Eastern Partnership countries: the role of neighbors.
- Hungarian experience related to the implementation of internal reforms before the Schengen Area accession.

Civic initiative

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AGENDA

Welcoming remarks, introductory statements:

Prof. Péter Balázs, Center for the EU Enlargement Studies, Director, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Budapest, Hungary

Hegedűs István, Hungarian Europe Society, Budapest, Hungary.

Oleksandr Sushko, *Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Europe without Barriers, Kyiv, Ukraine;*

Iryna Sushko, Maryana Kuzio, *Europe without Barriers, Kyiv, Ukraine;*

Attila Melegh, Hungarian Europe Society, Budapest, Hungary.

Issues to be discussed:

- “Visas what’s the reason?”: project presentation. The EU visa issuance in the Eastern Europe;
- Successful case of Hungarian visa policy in Ukraine. Is it possible to extend this practice on other Schengen and EU Members States?;
- Ukraine’s progress towards visa liberalisation: status quo and what lies ahead?;
- Hungarian experience in implementing reforms before the Schengen Area accession. Practical lessons for Ukraine.

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