

Community Forum: Breaking Out of Bubbles

DOX, Prague, April 27 – 29, 2017

Call for workshops

Each of us lives in our own bubble of opinions, attitudes and habits. When we fail to see beyond our own bubble, we run the risk of becoming isolated and not understanding other people – and this can lead to divisions in local communities, as we often see in Central and Eastern Europe. Our second annual *Community Forum 2017*, subtitled *Breaking Out of Bubbles*, focuses on this issue. *Community Forum: Breaking Out of Bubbles* will bring together people working on various levels in local communities in the Czech Republic and other European countries to enable them to glean inspiration from different countries, share their best practices and approaches and support one another's efforts. The community forum will be an informal gathering with a combination of key note speakers, a set of workshops and open space discussions, all aiming to explore the issue of **polarization in local communities**.

By **local communities**, we mean groups of people who share an interest in the quality of their community and feel connected to each other. Those groups are living in a geographically bounded area (village, town, quarter of a city, etc.).

During our workshops we want to explore the following questions:

- Are there sharp divisions in our local communities?
- How do we work with a divided community on personal, interpersonal and community levels?
- How do we build bridges between different opinions in local communities?
- How do we build viable, communicative local communities that are open to different points of view?

The main event participants will be **community leaders** from the CEE region. NGO staff from the Czech Republic who work with community leaders will also participate.

What are our **learning objectives for the event**? We hope that through their participation, participants will:

The organizer of *The Community Forum: Breaking Out of Bubbles* is Via Foundation, which assists people who have taken the initiative to create positive change in their communities, mainly in the Czech Republic. This forum was developed as a part of the ViabilityNet 3.0 program which brings together and supports individuals and local communities committed to increase resilient, livable, viable communities in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. For more information please visit: www.nadacevia.cz/community-forum. The event is made possible through the generous support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

- Become more open to working towards development of viable, communicative local communities that are open to different points of view.
- Better understand their role as community leaders in leading divided communities towards positive changes.
- Establish new relationships with other participants to facilitate future support, cooperation and sharing about this topic.
- Gain new insights from case studies, appropriate tools and expertise that will inspire their work in divided communities.
- Reflect on application of gained inspiration, know-how and concepts in their community work.

We invite **individuals and teams** interested in organizing robust workshops addressing these questions to submit proposals fitting these parameters:

- Each workshop will last 1.5 or 2 hours (please specify your preference in your proposal).
- The working language of the event is English.
- Each workshop will have the capacity to accommodate 25 participants. We expect a max. of 120 participants at the forum.
- The event will be recorded.
- The workshops will take place on Thursday, April 27, but the workshop lecturers are expected to stay for the entire event.
- The compensation is **200 euro** per workshop plus travel costs and accommodation expenses.

Your workshop proposal should be submitted in **video form** and as a **PDF**.

The PDF should provide the following information:

- Title and topic of the workshop.
- Abstract about your workshop (max. 700 characters including spaces).
- Which learning objectives your workshop will fulfil and how (from the list above).
- Anticipated outcomes of your workshop for participants.
- Structure of the workshop and methods used.
- History of the workshop, if applicable (where past reiterations were held, number of participants, outcomes if any, references if any).

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- Short bios providing specific information about the workshop team members (each bio max. 300 characters).
- Main organizer contact details (e-mail, phone number, Skype name) and a profile photo (preferred format is .jpg or .png).
- Note stating the best way for you to receive compensation (invoice, grant, etc.).

The video will serve as a teaser for workshop participants. The video should be a max of one-minute long and provide brief information about yourself and an introduction to the workshop. Please, upload the video to Youtube. If you are selected, we will share this video via our website and Facebook page.

Please send an **e-mail** containing the **Youtube link to the video** to the following address: communityforum@nadacevia.cz. Please attach **your PDF** to the e-mail. **The deadline is January 19, 2017.** If you would like to submit more than one workshop proposal, submit each proposal separately. **We will notify applicants by February 7, 2017.** If your workshop is selected, the information from the proposal (abstract, bio, photo) will be provided to participants via our website and the forum brochure. Proposals that do not include both the text and the video link will not be considered.

The proposals will be evaluated by the forum organizers, with an eye towards selecting high-quality workshops on a diverse set of topics that will enrich the participants in practical ways. A total of **10 workshops will be selected.**

If you have any questions, please contact Veronika Bröcknerová at veronikabrocknerova@nadacevia.cz.

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