

IDEA House Workshop
IDEA Exchange 2007
Workshop facilitator: Marcin Zaleski

One of the most recent programmatic initiatives in IDEA is development of a concept of *IDEA House*.

The concept of *IDEA House* is similar to a concept of *youth centre* and it is comprised of a few vital components: it is a safe, accessible place for young people who choose to meet and socialize in an informal setting; it provides opportunities to participate in discussions and debates on the issues affecting the lives of young people and their communities (through public debates, round-tables, open community forums, etc.); offers opportunities to develop skills and confidence through a variety of youth-centered interactive programs (adapted and developed to meet the specific needs of young people) as well as positively affect change in the local community.

As envisaged by IDEA, *IDEA Houses* could operate a number of informal education programs for young people with a special focus on disadvantaged youth and communities (often minority youth). The main focus of the programmatic activity would be youth debate and *IDEA Houses* could provide training and instruction in debate to young people and support organization of regular *public* debates in the neighborhoods.

IDEA has developed a working paper on IDEA House which is available at: http://www.idebate.org/wiki/index.php/Idea_House.

IDEA is currently working on establishing the first experimental IDEA Houses in Budapest and Bucharest and the long term goal is to assist interested partners and member organizations in developing similar initiatives elsewhere. In the future it may be possible to link the existing IDEA Houses in a network and develop a virtual (on-line) space for young people from different IDEA Houses to exchange ideas, debate and develop joint youth projects.

The proposed workshop on IDEA House is aimed at being more of a brainstorming and an exchange session rather than instruction. The workshop would assist IDEA in determining the interest of its membership in pursuing the development of the concept further as well as assisting in its development. The workshop will last approximately 4 hrs and will include the following objectives:

- Present participants with the concept of IDEA House;
- Offer opportunity for exchange of ideas on the Concept;
- Initiate the planning process for the next steps in the Concept's development

The workshop will include the following sessions:

1. Brief presentation on the IDEA House (PowerPoint)
2. Discussion on the following elements:
 - a) Structure and form
 - b) Programmatic aspects
 - c) Sustainability
 - d) International cooperation

3. Next steps

There will also be ample opportunity to discuss any debate or non-debate issues with Marcin after the workshop (taking advantage Kaunas' famous *alus* scene☺)

Note on the trainer:

Marcin has been with IDEA since its inception and “has worn many hats” with the organization. Marcin conducted debate trainings in over 30 countries, developed debate curriculum and a number of projects with IDEA and its members and partners. Marcin has also been involved in grant writing part time for IDEA and its members for the last 6 years and has managed to obtain grants worth over 1,000,000 Euro. Marcin developed the first concept note on the IDEA House and is currently working on compiling a set of resources for the IDEA House.