

Join the Civil Society Forum contest for young activists, students and journalists!

Being active is a state of mind, not of the physical body. Do you agree?

The Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe challenges you to show how civic activism can trigger positive change.

If you are between 18 and 30, a **student, journalist or activist** from **Central and Eastern Europe***, we are interested in your perspective!

The CEE Trust is organizing a contest as part of the Civil Society Forum – an international meeting of activists, academics and NGO professionals that will take place in Bratislava, Slovakia 16th -18th September 2009.

The competition has three categories: **essay, photo story and video** and you are free to choose your favorite form of expression. All entries should be related to civil society issues and should be inspired by the notions of **civic engagement and activism**.

You may describe a personal story of civic activism, present the issues that matter to you the most, or try to illustrate the civic engagement in your local community.

The choice of a specific topic is up to you – search for your own inspiration.

We want to see civil society as you see it!

Entries will be judged by an **international jury** including members of the CEE Trust team, independent activists and other professionals with experience in the field.

The prizes

The best three winners will be offered a **scholarship of up to 2 000 USD** to realize their plan for personal development, as outlined in the contest entry form. You are welcome to submit your ideas in any area, however preference will be given to ones that relate to civil society in some way.

The scholarship may for example be used for:

- an internship in a European NGO, international organization, or any other European institution,
- studies or courses taken abroad,
- a travel grant to visit an event or an organization related to the participant's field of study, work or activism.

All you have to do is to convince us of the importance of this scholarship for your future plans and your role in society.

Additionally, the top three candidates in each of the three categories will be invited to **join us at the Civil Society Forum** with the cost of flights and accommodation covered.

Winners will also have the option to simultaneously gain hands-on experience by working in an international team of young people documenting the forum in writing, photography and film. The documentary team's work will be used to create the Civil Society Forum post-event publication. Members of the documentary teams will be advised by professional mentors and will be offered a symbolic remuneration for their contributions.

All the best works in each category will be **published online**, on the CEE Trust website, the contest's MySpace and Facebook profiles, and the Civil Society Forum Vimeo channel. The best essays and selected pictures will also be published, acknowledging your authorship, in conference materials and in the **post-event publication**. Selected works will be shown in a special **exhibition**, taking place during the Civil Society Forum.

The deadline for submission of entries is **July 12, 2009**.

! Please read contest rules for more details and guidelines on submission.

* Our contest is open to legal residents of the following countries of Central and Eastern Europe: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.