



DRI STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Topic and background

Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv are organising an essay contest for Ukrainian students passionate about and dedicated to promulgating reforms. Students of undergraduate and graduate programmes from all over Ukraine are invited to submit short essays answering the following question **“Does Ukraine need decentralisation?”**

Decentralisation of state power and rights for local self-government are key topics on the government’s reform agenda. The reform has particular urgency in view of scheduled local elections in October and the commitments under the Minsk II agreement. The debate has gained traction with the launch of the Constitutional Commission in March 2015. Should, through decentralisation, greater powers be assigned to the regions and districts? If so, what specific powers should they be granted? What are the risks and advantages of the upcoming reform? And what are the implications for simple people?

DRI and Taras Shevchenko University are inviting essays addressing these questions and outlining concrete examples of student and youth engagement in the process of reforms.

Eligibility

The contest is open to any student of undergraduate or graduate degree programmes in law, political science, international relations or related social sciences across Ukraine.

The Prize

The author of the winning entry will be awarded the following:

- Invitation to present their essay at DRI’s conference in Brussels or Berlin in autumn 2015. The costs of the trip will be covered by DRI;
- Publication of the essay in a format to be chosen by DRI.

Contest rules

- The essay must be an original piece of work, free of any plagiarism. The essay must not have been previously published either in full or in part.
- All entries must be in English, Ukrainian or Russian.
- Sufficient knowledge of English to present an essay in Brussels or Berlin is an asset.

- The word limit should not exceed **2500 words** including references.
- Entries must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. The document must contain the entrant’s **full name, age, postal and e-mail address, course of study** and the **name and address of the institution**.
- The author of the essay retains the copyright of the respective work, but DRI and Taras Shevchenko University reserve the right to print, reprint, and distribute all essays in their entirety or in parts.
- The selection committee made up of representatives of Taras Shevchenko University and DRI will support entries that are well-researched, based on critical thinking, forward-looking and socially responsible. The committee will be particularly looking for originality of ideas, feasibility of outcomes and good presentation.
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Essay submission

Please submit your essay by email to: dri.contest@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions

15 September 2015

About the project

This contest is part of the project implemented by DRI together with Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv to contribute to a transparent legal reform process in Ukraine. The project explores reform design options based on international standards, comparative examples and Ukrainian context and highlights recommendations by international bodies, in particular the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission.

For more details please visit:

DRI’s website

<http://democracy-reporting.org>

DRI’s Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/DemocracyR.Ukraine>