

Application form: Preparatory Study

1. Basic Information

Types of projects

Type of project to be subsequently applied for:	Pilot Project	X
	Partnership Project	

Preparatory Study information

Project title	Kick off the future (cooperation)
Applying DUF member organization(s)	DSU - Danish Socialdemocratic Youth
Partner organization(s)	SD Platform
Preparatory Study locality	Kiev, Ukraine
Preparatory Study period	26 - 30 of March
Amount applied for (max 50.000 DKK)	21.383 DKK

Summary of the preparatory study and the proposed project (5-10 lines)

This is an application for a preparatory study in Kiev, Ukraine. The study will be conducted by three project members of DSU and they will study ways of making a sustainable partnership between SD Platform and DSU. The overall objective is to study and develop future projects, as well as getting a better understanding of the context of youth engagement in Ukraine. The study will contain a mix of getting to know the context of SD Platform and how they are working, and later on the two project groups will get down and formalize their partnership and develop a pilot project together. Our aim with this preparatory study will be the beginning of a long partnership between DSU and SD Platform, that mutually benefit both organizations.

2. The Partners

The Danish member organization

2.1 Vision and work of the Danish member organization

This project aims to be the first project in the partnership between SD Platform of Ukraine and DSU. DSU has a long history of international cooperation and perspective. In DSU we see this project as a continuation of our previous international commitments, where we have worked with democracy and capacity building for example in the Philippines and Palestine.

2.2 The capacity and experience of the Danish member organization

DSU have previously had partnership with different organizations all around the world. Right now, DSU has active partnerships with organizations in the Philippines, and previously DSU has had partnerships in both Lebanon and Nepal. DSU has within our organization an international board, which together with the Secretariat, have collected experience in managing and implementing international projects over a long period of time.

In order to help and monitor the project, the International committee of DSU and the Secretary of DSU will assist the project.

2.3 Learning and anchoring of the project in the Danish member organization

We will at our Eastern Seminar have a course about Ukraine and the political situation there. Here members of DSU will learn about the political situation in Ukraine, the geopolitical situation and the youth engagement challenges. We will also use the course to recruit participants to the project group. Our aim is to make this a broader partnership, with some of it founded by DUF, but also to seek other funding for projects like study trips and joint seminars.

The partner organization

2.4 Vision and work of the partner organization

SD Platform is All-Ukrainian non-governmental youth organization that enhances the development and endorsement of social-democratic values in the Ukrainian society by educational, political and research-related means. Founded in 2012, SD Platform has developed from a local organization to a national one with around 150 active members and over 5,000 activists that participate in its activities from the majority of Ukrainian regions. Core activities of SD Platform are:

- educational seminars on politics, economics and civic engagement;
- social events and conferences in support of gender equality and eco-friendly environment;
- international projects on setting intercultural dialogue with sister organizations, getting new knowledge in politics and learning new ways of political participation;
- political campaigns and activism in support of social-democratic values.

The vision of SD Platform is to have a fair and democratic society in Ukraine, which is based on sustainable and strong institutions. Extensive experience of SD Platform in international project coordination and peer-to-peer education perfectly matches the project expectations of Danish Socialdemocratic Youth and sets a reliable ground for further cooperation.

2.5 The capacity and experience of the partner organization

SD Platform has developed its capacity of project management and implementation through a series of past projects and campaigns. The main of them are: International Summer Academy on Social Democracy, Women's lobby, Platform of Progressive Teachers, Training of Trainers, SD Campus and political guidance seminars.

SD Platform project group

From the side of SD Platform, the project will be coordinated by Liliia Lutsenko, who is the International Secretary of the organization. Her assistants in project communication will be Kateryna Davydkova and Ilona Bulbakh, social-media support will be provided by SD Platform's specialist in SMM Maria Samoilenko. The project group from the previously selected coordinators of SD Platform will be formed in order to participate in the preparatory study. Management responsibilities will be performed by Liliia Lutsenko.

To prepare for the preparatory study, SD Platform will involve its volunteers. These are the members of the coordination board (Bohdan Ferens, Igor Iltyo). With a high level of expertise, they will help with study planning and structuring. Branch coordinators (Liliia Lutsenko, Ilona Bulbakh, Mariia Samoilenko) will be responsible for more operational tasks, such as project management, communication and highlighting in social media.

2.6 The structure and the organization of the Partner Organization

SD Platform is managed by the Coordination Board, which consists of seven democratically elected members (currently - 3 women and 4 men). The composition of the Board is annually reviewed by the organization's election committee (coordinators of regions and specific areas). Board members are elected through voting process by activists of SD Platform

SD Platform has members (Board members and coordinators) and volunteers that deploy its activities on a pro-bono basis. Board members are responsible for strategic planning and development of SD Platform. Coordinators develop local communities with their teams in regions, and line coordinators organize activities in a specific direction (SMM, PR, International relationships, Journalism, Political Analytics etc). Volunteers initiate, participate and assist in the implementation of organization's activities.

2.7 Learning and anchoring of the project in the partner organization

From the preparatory study, SD Platform will learn the foundations of building a successful and sustainable political organization like DSU, its structure and ways of cross-functional cooperation within organization. Strengthening organizational capacity and implementing team-building initiatives like the ones of DSU will be anchored in SD Platform with the help of practical workshops and activities.

Another area of learning for SD Platform from DSU is vast experience of DSU in political campaigning and youth activism. SD Platform will document new knowledge on innovative ways to engage young people deployed by DSU and verify the learnt knowledge in practice at the local elections campaign in October.

Partnership and cooperation

2.8 Previous cooperation

Our two organizations want to enter a partnership after having met each other through the DUF Cross Youth Political Network. Here we recognized each other's foundation in the root of the Social Democratic ideology, and wanted to learn a lot more from each other. Our organizations share the same political ideology and values, but we are very different in the ways of how our organizations are organized and through our activism, and we know that it would be mutually beneficial for both organizations to be a part of this international cooperation. To give perspective and reflection about the future cooperation between the two organizations, we have developed a SWOT-analysis.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths: One of the strengths in this project is DSU's experience in working with international projects. We currently have partnerships in the Philippines and we see it as a great strength to be able to get support from this. At the same time SD Platform has experience in working with international organizations and organizing common projects, in particular, summer academy of social democracy with Westminster Foundation and Eastern European social-democratic organizations, training for trainers with Max von der Stoel Foundation etc. Another great strength is that we already have a relation through the DUF Cross Youth Political Network, where we became aware of the mutual interests in having this partnership. The last strength is that the two countries are relatively close geographically towards each other. With direct planes between Copenhagen and Kiev and only one hour of time difference it makes communication and planning easier.

Weaknesses: One of the weaknesses is that none of the Danish members from the project group have before been in charge of an international project. We therefore seek help and guidance from DSU's international board to help and guide us through the process.

Opportunities: We see this project as a possibility to create a very sustainable partnership between DSU and SD Platform. We hope by broadening our project group, we will be able to anchor this partnership between our two organizations in a way which make it long-term and prosperous. Our organizations are based on the same values, but we have two very different ways of practicing social-democracy. Therefore we have an opportunity to learn from each other, as well as working toward strengthening the youth participation in Ukraine.

Threats: One of the threats to this project is the overall political situation in Ukraine, which right now is not very clear in which way the newly elected president wants to take Ukraine. At the same time the project is right now based on a few members of DSU and SD Platforms personal relations, and therefore we need to include more members of both DSU and SD Platform to make this partnership more sustainable.

2.9 Perspectives of the cooperation

Area of analysis	Danish Socialdemocratic Youth	SD Platform
<i>Organizational structure and capacity</i>	<p>DSU is the national youth party for the Social Democratic party in Denmark established in 1920. DSU has around 2000 members and has a lot of experience working in election campaigns and policy development. It is organized with three layers of activities. A local level, with around 50 local branches, a regional level with 10 districts organized around the electoral districts, and a national level where the international board is placed.</p>	<p>SD Platform has a horizontal organizational structure with Coordination Board responsible for strategic planning and regional divisions that work closely with young people and organize youth-related activities. Established for only 7 years, SD Platform has progressed from a movement of a few like-minded people to the All-Ukrainian organization with representative branches in the majority of Ukrainian regions. Due to its young age and NGO status, organization has little experience in real political participation and campaigning</p>
<i>Experience in youth education</i>	<p>DSU has a national education system, where there are being conducted three weekend seminars and one eastern seminar each year. In total DSU are educating around 500 members pr. year, in different political topics and skills in stuff like advocacy, campaigning and leadership. All our seminars are based on four educational values: New political knowledge, concrete tools, new social relations and personal development. At the same time all seminars must also contain an element of change, where the participants have to use what they learn in a product outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Organization has conducted more than 10 SD Campuses with over 300 participants, aimed to teach youth political ideologies and orientation; each summer we co-organize summer academies on social democracy and also have experience in conducting campaigns like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "#Beatpopulism" campaign aimed to draw attention of young people to populism in politics and teaching how they can resist (beat) populism; - "Decent Work" campaign aimed to popularise blue-collar and working class people and develop effective tools to protect their interests - "Bleeding: why young people are leaving Ukraine" campaign aimed to figure out the reasons for youth migration and ways to prevent it
<i>Cross-organizational partnership</i>	<p>DSU has partnerships with sister-organizations in the Philippines. We are at the same time members of YES (Young European Socialist) and IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth).</p>	<p>Through commonly conducted events, seminars and exchanges, SD Platform has developed strong partnership relationships with Westminster Foundation and the Labour Party, Max van der Stoel Foundation, SPD, PES, S&D Group, YES, IUSY</p>

<p>Areas to match / complement each other</p>	<p>DSU will gain new knowledge of how other social democratic organizations are working with democracy and youth engagement. We will learn about political work in a different setting and how to gain practical experience in working with international projects.</p>	<p>SD Platform will gain new knowledge on management within experienced political organization, DSU's methods of youth engagement and political campaigning, strategic planning, building a sustainable educational system and its adaptation towards specific needs of young people</p>
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3. The project to be studied

3.1 Description of the project to be studied

Vulnerable political system

Vulnerability of political system in Ukraine, the absence of strong judiciary system and low level of political education of the Ukrainian citizens have caused the establishment of oligarchs and elites on top of local and state politics. Present young generation has grown up with distrust of ruling politicians and disbelief in their own power to change the situation. This leads to the rooting of old regimes and autocratic politics in the Ukrainian society, making a vicious circle and impossibility to bring changes. Accordingly, SD Platform focuses its activity on empowering young people to participate in local and state-level life of their communities, engage in politics and gain real-life political experience. Upcoming local elections in the autumn of 2020 in Ukraine make an outstanding opportunity for both local organizations and young individuals to gain practical experience in campaigning and local decision-making.

A new beginning

After the Revolution of Dignity, the political environment in Ukraine is more dynamic and favorable for the creation and development of democratic organizations. However, due to the lack of funding, the majority of them are not popular nationwide and lack capacities to spread their ideas. By learning from the strong experience of DSU and its well-developed organizational capacity, SD Platform will become more competitive and stable towards fluctuations of institutional sector and also more skilled in teaching young people on how to make their voices be heard.

The problems of youth engagement into the life of their communities and motivation of young people to contribute to decision-making process in politics directly impact the rights and freedoms of young people. The target audience of organized campaigns is 18-25 years old, both men and women. These are the people that do not have permanent jobs yet, they stay undecided about staying in Ukraine or migrating abroad. They are also especially vulnerable to changes in the society and susceptible to manipulation during election campaigns. Accordingly, they need to be engaged into unbiased campaign before local elections to vote objectively and initiate not just observe changes.

During Parliamentary elections in spring 2019, the members of SD Platform have produced educational videos on how to deal with voting lists and how to keep to the rules of a voting process. Importantly, SD Platform has conducted internal education seminars on proper observation of the election process for its activists. Therefore, the organization has a solid experience to develop out-of-organization campaigns for different people. SD platform is not a political party or a classical youth party with a mother party. But they do a lot of political education and some of their members run for offices as independent.

The potential pilot project

Our aim is to create a pilot project which will educate local members of SD Platform to engage in the debate about why young people in Ukraine should be engaged in upcoming local elections. Here this preparatory study will make the project group able to get to know each other and each other's organizations better, so our pilot project will suit the needs of SD Platform. The preparatory therefore needs to uncover in which

areas the pilot project and the partnership with DSU can help SD Platform in their organizations development, and design an effective project that would engage young people toward the upcoming local elections. Therefore this study will contain these three elements; teambuilding between the two project groups, workshop with local SD Platform brands, and working on an application for a pilot project.

3.2 Questions to be investigated during the preparatory study

This preparatory study has three goals. The first goal is to get a joint understanding and analysis of the challenges toward youth engagement in Ukraine. The second goal is to let the project groups meet and formalise our project group. The third goal is to work on the future of the partnership.

Local Workshop

The first goal the study wants to do is to make a joint understanding of the youth engagement challenges in Ukraine by working with one of the local branches of SD Platform. Our partnership is new and the DSU have not before been working in Ukraine, so we want to go deep down into the challenges to get a deeper understanding of the youth in Ukraine and SD Platform, which will make it easier to contribute in designing our pilot project and our future partnership. The questions we want to investigate is:

- What does local activities in SD Platform look like?
- How do SD Platform attract new members?
- What way is there to be a volunteer in SD Platform?
- Why do young people become active in SD Platform?

Formalising the project group

The second goal is to formalise our project group and our partnership. In this project we want to spend time together with team building exercises, where we will get the opportunity to find ways on how we want to cooperate. Here we want to investigate:

- How do we want to communicate?
- How should we divide responsibility?
- How do we make this partnership sustainable, and not depending on individuals?

Future of the partnership

The third goal is to create a framework for the future of our partnership. We want to spend some time on developing a pilot project which will be conducted in the fall of 2020, and in connection to the upcoming local election. At the same time we want to have some discussion about where we could see this partnership headed toward and what possible project we could see our two organizations cooperating on. These projects could both be inside the framework of DUF, but also seeking to expand our partnership with funding from others elsewhere. Therefore we want to investigate following:

- How can DSU and SD Platform partnership help engage young people in Ukraine towards the upcoming local election?
- Who will be our target group?
- How can this partnership support the organizational development of SD Platform?
- Where do want to take this partnership in the next couple of years?

4. The preparatory study

4.1 Objectives and expected results of the preparatory study

This preparatory study is being conducted to strengthen the relations between SD Platform and DSU, as well as developing and writing a pilot project to be carried out in the fall of 2020. We hope to gain further knowledge about the social and political situation about youth engagement in society as well as SD Platforms work and how our partnership can help improve SD Platforms work with youth engagement.

The objectives is therefore:

- To gain knowledge about SD Platform ways of working
- To gain a joint understanding of which problems there is located toward engagement of youth into politics in Ukraine

- To develop a common framework and project that can help solve those problems for the upcoming local election.

4.2 Activities and working methods

During the stay in Ukraine we will be most of the time in Kiev as the city with core activists of SD Platform and residence place for members of SD Platform's Coordination Board. In terms of the preparatory study visit, the project group will commit a one day trip to SD Platform's branch in Vinnytsia to conduct the workshop with the local brand of SD Platform.

The preparatory study will contain the following activities:

- Workshop: To get to know the SD Platform better and get an impression on how their local branches work, we will conduct a workshop with the local branch of Vinnytsia. In the workshop we will do a SWOT analysis of the youth engagement in Ukraine, and use the circle model to get a better understanding of SD Platform and where our partnership can make a change for youth engagement.
- Team building activities: Our second goal of the preparatory study is to get to know each other better and learn how to work. Therefore we will incorporate some team building activities where we will have to work together, because we believe that a strong personal connection will help to prevent conflicts and make our partnership and cooperation more effective.
- Meeting at SD Platform headquarter: To have a better understanding of SD Platform, we will visit the headquarter of SD Platform during our study. Here we will have a meeting and get to know the administrative side of SD Platform.
- Project group seminar: For reaching both goal two and three, we will have a project group seminar together. Here we will discuss both how we see us working together, the vision and mission of our partnership and develop a pilot project (if we have time also starts writing on the application).

Both project groups will participate in all of the activities, so we will get most out of the time we have together and to create a common point of view in which we can build our partnership on.

Please attach a detailed programme and time frame for the preparatory study as annex.

4.3 Composition of the study team

The project group for new consists of three members (2 men and one women). We are all active members of DSU. These people are all also members of the DSU group in the cross youth political network between Denmark and Ukraine, facilitated by DUF, and two of them have been participating in these seminars where they have met Liliia and other members of SD Platform. To make this project more sustainable and make sure that our early discussion about our vision and mission we want all three members of our project group to take part in the preparatory study. We will argue that these discussions will benefit from having three persons from each organization to participate in them, because it will help anchoring the discussion and make them more sustainable.

The preparatory study is governed from DSU by a project group consistent of three members:

- Simon Bjørnholdt Eriksen will be the overall responsible for this project, besides that he is responsible for applications, budget and economy, and auditing. He has previously been part of the DSU executive board, an employee at DSU Secretary and a former member of the international board. Simon will also be teaching at a course about Ukraine during the DSU Easter Seminar in April.
- Sofie Amalie Stage who has the responsibility anchoring the project in DSU. Sofie is a member of the DSU national board and a member of DSU international board.
- Kasper Enevoldsen has the responsibility for coordinating with our partnership organization SD platform. Kasper is a member of the DSU international board.

Our group is backed by the international board of DSU, and has different competences which makes the team able to conduct this preparatory study. But we are also new in leading international projects and therefore we seek guidance from the DSU international board. But we also seek to have more members of the

project group, so that the partnership will be more sustainable and have a natural flow, where new people will come in, and over time, get more and more responsibility in a way that makes them able to handle that responsibility.

4.4 The process leading towards development of a project

After the preparatory study we want to develop and hopefully start to write on a pilot project. This project will be in connection with the local elections in Ukraine (in October 2020). So we want to reach the deadline for DUF at latest 1 of June. After the study is finished we will continue to meet up over conference calls to plan the pilot project and future partnership. Here Simon will be in charge of the Danish project group and Liliia for Ukrainian. Inside these groups we will organize different responsibilities as they are needed.

4.5 Risks and challenges

Risk	Importance	How to prevent or handle the risk
Communication between project group	High	We are trying to have regular communication with each other over different forms of conference calls. But we still need to pay attention to the fact that the information between our two project groups flow smoothly and that problems that would come up, is being dealt with collectively. We aim to do this by having our regular conference calls and by using Facebook messenger to secure a good communication between our two project groups.
Security: Conflict in Ukraine i getting more serious and spreading towards Kiev	High	We keep orientated about the conflict, and the project will be delayed if the situation turns dangerous. We are especially using the Danish Foreign ministry's travel guide. However, if there is some security threat while Danish participants are in Ukraine, the group will immediately be evacuated to Denmark by international airlines
Lack of experience in the project group	Medium	As of right now the project group is new to making international projects and securing the right monitoring and reporting. But we are backed and guided by DSU Secretary and DSU international board and seek help and guidance when needed.