

Letter of Support to Nordic Summer University
from European Humanities University

NSU-02
March 12, 2015
Vilnius

European Humanities University is aware of the situation surrounding the Nordic Summer University as it pertains to the latest decisions concerning cutting the NSU's funding and finds it unfortunate since EHU has begun working with NSU on several projects with hopes of developing them further.

European Humanities University started its partnership with NSU in 2013 (Summer session in Norway) where it was decided by the NSU Assembly that EHU would become part of a long-term project on "International Relations and Human Rights." The first ad hoc joint session (NSU and EHU) was organized by EHU in Vilnius in the spring of 2014 (please, find more information here: <http://www.ehu.lt/en/events/show/international-seminar-on-human-rights-and-international-relations>) and that session became the starting point for the preparation of a three year study Circle on "International Relations and Human Rights" which was announced in Summer of 2014 in Iceland. It also has been announced on the EHU official web-site that this cooperative venture is supported by the NSU. (EHU website: [EHU strengthens cooperation with Nordic Summer University](http://www.ehu.lt/en/news/show/ehu-strengthens-cooperation-with-nordic-summer-university))

The study Circle on "International Relations and Human Rights" became the central platform for the European Humanities University's development of Human Rights practices and ideas in the region. It gathers scholars and human rights activists from the Nordic and Baltic countries and Eastern Europe. This project is related to EHU's activities in its Center of Constitutionalism and Human Rights <http://www.ehu.lt/en/research/research-centers/center-for-constitutionalism-and-human-rights/activities> and the Academic Department of law, which is joining with NSU research activities in the field of HR (EHU Journal on Constitutionalism and Human Rights is connected with the sessions activities).

The 2015 Summer session in Druskininkai (Lithuania) is being prepared with extensive cooperation with EHU representatives and ARKKOM members. The partnership of EHU and NSU is the central focus of the planning session since it is focused on the prospect of cooperation between differing fields of the Social Sciences and Humanities, which are EHU's primary emphases.

The mission of NSU is both important and unique since it is directed at scholarly interdisciplinary Study Circles gathered around particular topics which create the possibility inter-Circle cooperation and networking across disciplinary boundaries. As such, this provides the perfect environment for the development of further research project activities.

For the European Humanities University which, as a result of its Belarusian roots and identity, must face the processes of integration within the wider European community, it is very important to work with such partners as NSU which open opportunities for new cooperation in the field of interdisciplinary research and contribute to partnerships within the Nordic-Baltic Academia. For the EHU and its priorities, it was a significant benefit to be able to work with NSU and create a fully-fledged joint Study circle in a single year. Clearly, this cooperation is important to EHU and the building of a partnership network in the region while increasing interest in Nordic values.

EHU encourages the further support of NSU in fulfilment of its mission in the future.

Sincerely,


David Pollick
Acting Rector