

Local Government and Civil Society

Local Government and Civil Society are key elements of the liberal understanding of a political system.

Local Government as one part of the political system of any country guarantees that there will be a distribution of power among different political players and not the accumulation of power in the hands of a central, often authoritarian government.

Civil society by liberal standards means that the citizen act self-responsible for and in their living environment in a democratic structure, not negating that there has to be a minimal state with rules and laws to guarantee democracy, human rights and freedom.

This seminar wants to provide the knowledge for a better understanding of the importance of local politics within a governmental framework to either build up or stabilize democracy and liberal individual freedom.

The seminar is divided into 3 phases:

Phase I (10.09. - 08.10.2007), held online, teaches the basics and prerequisites of local politics like decentralization, democratic and financial structures. Out of this group of online participants there will be selected up to 22 to continue with phase II and III.

Phase II (15.10. - 22.11.2007) again held online is mainly a preparation for the participants for phase III, a 1-week-seminar held in Gummersbach in November 2007.

Phase III (23. - 30.11.2007), the international seminar, taking place at the IAF in Gummersbach, Germany intensifies the knowledge of local government by introducing, how local government functions, how citizen get involved in it discusses limits to it, deals with the concept of lean management within a local government. And last but not least introduces to the liberal ideal of a working civil society.

seminar