

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *Activity of your organization is civil education. What are aims of your work, what is the method?*

**Igor Moroz:** I think in several countries it is difficult to work on civil education. It's difficult to overcome some nations because people think about things to be done for them - not to do things from themselves. If there is one culture having democracy or having self government than it's easier because people can see and understand how it works and what they can do. If there is no tradition of civil society it's much more difficult – you have to introduce new methods. For example: there is no democratic procedures of decision making and you have to introduce them. So we do it about some methods which are used in other countries. For example: one of projects we have in association of our civil education is an adoption of methods of Scandinavian studies circle. In Sweden there is a watch of movement of people hobbies or opinion about European constitution. People gather together to understand what this constitution really is and to discuss it. It is not like a lesson with a teacher but people simply discuss some topic. We are trying to implement this as a method in Belarus. Basically it is not about discussing some particular topics. You can even discuss about drinking tea, about differences in tea brands. But how long you discuss you are creating democratic environment. This gives an idea how people can communicate and make decision without hierarchical structures. You don't explain them what is democracy, you don't explain them how decision making procedure works. You put them in environment and there they just work on that. This the method we use regular to promote civil education. We work a lot with the local community development. This is I think, for years, the most important topic. Locally, with small groups, find effective people, to help them with resources, but not with financial resources – more with knowledge and management. I think community comes from little groups based on this effective persons. And what have to be done by non-government organizations is to help on crossroads in theirs movement.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *What communities you get across?*

**Igor Moroz:** It is a problem to reach some groups of people. You don't have access to media because media belongs to the state. It's very difficult to get to people who are not associate anywhere or who got no contact with educational environments. Its much more easier to get with it to people with high-level education base or with specific attitude in mind. Basically when you work with students or journalist they are much more easier in communication and you can attract them in your activities. Of course we try to reach also other groups. We've got social excluded groups. We have to help them as well, they are also our target group and we have to count on them and make some activities with them too. For example: when we are meeting with offences teenagers, they just don't know what we are for. They know charities organizations because those organizations help them. But they don't ask us for help because they don't even know we exist. But we still understand our help is needed and we have to say them that we are here, that we can do this and that – we encourage them in our activities saying: even if you don't need something we are working on at the moment, please participate because friends of yours may someday need it. Its quite a difficult situation.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *Which organizations in Belarus you cooperate with?*

**Igor Moroz:** Social sector right now is very sharp. In fact you know every organization from you field because you can count them on fingers. So of that nowadays there is more and more activities connected with partnership, help each other and integration. Environmental situation in our country for such sector is not very good and people in this organizations understand we

have to help each other, to show some solidarity. Even if there is no, I would say: direct partnership actions, there is still big solidarity in supporting or in sharing with some kind of information. That's why it's easier to me to say who we are not cooperating with because it's a small amount. Now social organizations in Belarus try to extend a partnerships as much as possible because we are all on the same boat and we realized that we need to keep together. But still this movement of consolidation of this sector is too slow however I think it have good perspectives in the future. We are part of the network of non-government organizations that work with civil education and we do have some positive movements right now.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *What about organizations abroad you would like to cooperate?*

**Igor Moroz:** First of all we are looking now for some new methods. We want to adopt some new methods of teaching civil education because what we are doing at the moment is not as effective as we would like it to be. We see that for activities were going for a few years like a seminars, now we need from the state some special permit. In this situation its much more difficult to help by the seminars. That's why we are looking now for some kind of "know-how" in work with civil education form other countries. We are probably most interested not in countries which have a long tradition of democracy – we are looking for some countries which had not a long time ago situation quite similar to those we have got now in Belarus. They know how, for example, build a strong student movement. However because of the long period of time, some of theirs solution might not work in Belarus. So the aim is to find some new methods, new forms of education which can help involve new target groups and spread our resources. We are looking for contact with organizations willing to give us some methodological help. We are not interested in a financial support – of course it's needed, but when you got money and don't know how to spent them effectively, its nonsense. So we have to build up some new idea, some way of common understanding how to work with this civil education in our situation. Than we can ask for some financial help. But at the moment we need ideas: how to work, explore, understand – maybe some sociological research? Because a lot of organizations at the moment focus on very practical activities, on work with people and they don't have time and resource both in intellectual and financial analysis – we need a view and some understanding in a bigger scale.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *What about the idea to enter into communication with organizations and people form countries like Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Slovakia by the Internet?*

**Igor Moroz:** Well, the Internet is already discussed question. The problem is not many people have an access to the Internet and those who have access have also quite good understanding of the situation – most of them are somehow active. So we can say that this group which uses the Internet is already covered. It's necessary to work with them but we must now aim more common groups of people: in a countryside, in smaller communities.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *The last question: what do you dream about?*

**Igor Moroz:** This days I would like to overcome the state propaganda which says that non-government organization is evil: that NGO's are against people. I want image of the state enemy to be change. For example: Americans are shown as enemy. Their politic can be of course shown as evil, but the propaganda shows proactive attitude as evil. Imagine - some men says: it's not good, let's change it. Than you can hear: he is a spy. All this ridiculous situations I would like to change. If you ask me about my dream linked with my social work,

this is it: to make a confrontation somehow with this state propaganda which begins to be too ridiculous sometimes.

**Stefan Wilkanowicz:** *Thank you very much.*