Democracy: from Theory to Practice

IFES’ university-level civic education course

20 partner universities across Ukraine, and growing
IFES’ Global, University-Level Civic Education Methodology

— SEED —

Strengthening Engagement through Education for Democracy
IFES’ Civic Education Courses for Universities

“Democracy and Citizenship”  
2011

“Democracy: from Theory to Practice”  
fall 2018

30 universities

20 universities
the goal
to strengthen the knowledge, skills that are associated with students’ effective democratic citizenship, while fostering democratic values through an interactive classroom environment.
Three-pronged Learning Approach:

Knowledge
- the course curriculum and text materials

Skills
- interactive civic education teaching methodologies

Dispositions and Values
- student action projects
Interactive Teaching Methodology
The Course Curriculum & Text Materials

the knowledge-based components

- human rights
- democratic governance
- citizen engagement
- civil society

cross-cutting themes

- gender equality
- elections
- minority rights
- inclusion of and accessibility for persons with disabilities
- enfranchisement
- good governance

- rule of law
- media literacy
- digital participation
- diversity
- the role of money in politics
- the role of youth
- corruption
ДЕМОКРАТІЯ: від теорії до практики
Student Action Project

- Problematic issue in society
- Research
- Action plan
- Address the issue
Course in numbers, 2018

5 CITIES
8 UNIVERSITIES
25 PROFESSORS
800+ STUDENTS
Course in numbers, 2019

- 10 CITIES
- 20 UNIVERSITIES
- 50 PROFESSORS
- 2000+ STUDENTS
Impact

understandings of:

- the role of government in a democracy
- the rights of citizens
- processes to protect human rights
- the role of civil society

“...if some group of people wants to achieve something there is no limit for them.”

developed skills:

- the ability to critically analyze information
- consider issues from multiple perspectives
- make informed decisions
- work cooperatively with others to achieve a goal

“...I started thinking more about helping other people.”

“I am more than I was before. I am proud of the experience I got from the course.”

“...you don’t have to be a public official to change something.”