UNDERSTANDING HUMANITARIAN ACTION:

FINDING THE SPACE

12ᵗʰ November, 2013 - Vilnius

Lithuania holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second semester of 2013. The rotating Presidency is an opportunity to test country's competence and its reliability. It offers a great opportunity to increase the role and weight of civil society in the decision making process and strengthen citizenship.

Together with the Faculty of Law at Vilnius University, the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), organises an awareness raising seminar to discuss the challenges and scope of international humanitarian action, its potential and requirements. The main aim of the seminar is to raise public awareness on Lithuanian civil society, the NGO sector, media and government institutions about humanitarian action globally, at the European level, and regionally (in particular the Baltic region) focusing on challenges, requirements and opportunities for international humanitarian action.

The conference will focus on issues relevant to finding a space for potential new humanitarian aid actors in international humanitarian action and on possibilities for building regional capacity.

Venue: Vilnius University, Aula Parva – The Small Hall, Universiteto str. 3, Vilnius, Lithuania

Time	Topic	Speaker	Institution
8.30	**Registration**		
9.00	**Introduction**		
	Welcome address	**dr. Pat Gibbons** **assoc. prof. Kęstutis Dubnikas**	- NOHA, President - Vilnius University, Vice Rector
		Kyung-wha Kang	- OCHA, Assistant Secretary- General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator
10.00	**Understanding reality of humanitarian aid** *Chair: dr. Pat Gibbons, NOHA, President*		
	Role of the EU in delivering humanitarian aid	**René Guth**	- DG ECHO, Head of Unit C/1
	EU Member State's perspective in delivering humanitarian aid – Polish Perspective	**Wojciech Ostrowski**	- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Minister Counsellor
	EU Member State's perspective in delivering humanitarian aid – Hungarian Perspective	**Tamás Orosz**	- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, First Secretary
11.15	**Coffee break**		
11.30	**Understanding professionalism in humanitarian action** *Chair: prof. dr. Tomas Davulis, Vilnius University, Law Faculty, Dean*		
	Role of academia	**dr. Pat Gibbons**	- NOHA, President

	Quality standards	**Veronica Foubert**	- Sphere, Training and Learning Manager
	Initiatives to enhance professionalism in EU	**Sophie Borel**	- NOHA, General Manager
	Measuring effectiveness	**dr. Markus Moke**	- Aktion Deutchland, Head of Quality Assurance & Emergency Relief Coordination
13.00	**Lunch**		
14.30	**Understanding possibilities and constraints** *Chair: dr. Gabija Grigaitė, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Lithuania*		
	Public awareness and local capacity building	**Jovita Majauskaitė**	- Lithuanian national committee for UNICEF, Executive Director
	Working with donors - policy and operations	**Mags Bird**	- VOICE, Programme coordinator
	Lithuania in the context of humanitarian action	**Rosita Šorytė**	- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Councellor, Development cooperation Department
15.30	**Filling the space (working groups)**		
	<u>Reality</u>: Is there a place for regional humanitarian actors?	Chair: **Rosita Šorytė**	- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Councellor, Development cooperation Department
	<u>Possibilities</u>: What is the way for capacity building with existing financial constraints?	Chair: **Jovita Majauskaitė**	- UNICEF Lithuania, Acting Director
	<u>Future</u>: Sharing the roles in implementing the EU Aid Volunteer initiative?	Chair: **Sophie Borel**	- General Manager, NOHA
16.30	**Coffee break**		
16.45	**Working groups report and Q&A** *Chair: Renata Vaišvilienė, Vilnius University, Law Faculty, NOHA director*		
17.30	**Closing ceremony**		
		dr. Pat Gibbons	- NOHA, President