



NDI/Serbia Youth program Debate

PRESS RELEASE

On Saturday, March 13, the National Democratic Institute organized a debate at Guarnerius Hall, sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), among youth political activists representing leading democratic political parties. As a component of its overall assistance to Serbian political parties, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) assists future political leaders to build the skills they will need for debating, public speaking, teamwork, negotiations and political and election organizing.

The debate saw youth leaders taking positions in support of and against positive discrimination. This was the second debate organized by NDI. Each debate showed a different debate format and challenged participants to persuade and negotiate their positions toward reaching compromise on a final agreement. The winning team reached agreement among the widest range of participants using negotiation skills and compromise.

The first debate held in January examined the positive and negative aspects of preserving the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Certificates were presented on March 13 to the winning team of the first debate as well as for the best point of order and point of information.

The debaters were chosen primarily based on the recommendations of senior party officials and youth party leadership.

“These debates are an excellent way to promote the orderly discussion of issues on their merit. If issues are debated in a manner that is fair and consensus reached, then it is easier accept the result, no matter which side prevails,” states NDI Serbia Country Director Mary O’Hagan.