



SALZBURG  
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28 January 2014

Anton Burkov  
Member  
Urals Center for Constitutional and International Human Rights Protection  
Sutyajnik  
Ekaterinburg, Russia

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THE YELTSIN FOUNDATION

**YELTSIN**  
**CENTER**

Dear Mr Burkov,

On behalf of Salzburg Global Seminar, it is with great pleasure that I write to invite you to join us for a special program, in cooperation with the Yeltsin Presidential Center, *Russian Civil Society Symposium: Building Bridges to the Future*. The program will be convened at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria from **April 1 to 4, 2014**.

The Symposium will consider the challenges and opportunities currently facing civil society in Russia as a means to understand the needs and perspective of Russian civil society groups, and to consider new approaches to international engagement with Russia. We are inviting a cross-section of civil society leaders, opinion-makers, policy-influencers, informal actors, donors, businesses, academia, and new media to engage in a strategic analysis and to articulate ways in which a vibrant civil society can be more effectively expanded and sustained.

With over half of the participants coming from Russia and the rest from other parts of the world we will advance cross-sector dialogue on current challenges and opportunities in this area. The Symposium will provide a platform through which participants can share knowledge and expertise, consider more creative responses, and identify opportunities to deepen cooperation. We believe your experience and perspective will be a valuable addition and hope that you will agree to join us. A description of the Symposium is attached to give you a better idea of what we have in mind.

The program will include panel presentations, featured speakers, small group discussions, and time for networking and exchange around critical issues. The Symposium will open following lunch on Tuesday, April 1 and conclude the evening of Thursday, April 3 (departures the morning of April 4).

Please note that Salzburg adheres to Chatham House Rule. While we will be capturing ideas and information and identifying ways to further disseminate them,



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specific remarks will not be attributed to any individual without her/his direct permission. We find this is a critical element for engaging in truly open and candid dialogue.

For reference, the Salzburg Global Seminar is an independent non-profit institution founded in 1947 with a distinguished track record of convening emerging and established leaders to address global challenges and drive progress based on Imagination, Sustainability and Justice. Salzburg Global has a long history of supporting and catalyzing new cooperative activity around civil society and philanthropic development.

The home of the Salzburg Global Seminar is Schloss Leopoldskron, formerly owned by Max Reinhardt. The facilities provide a creative atmosphere and energy in a setting of unmatched beauty. Experience has shown that innovative ideas can emerge when participants have the time and space for reflection and creative thinking.

Lastly, through generous support from the Yeltsin Presidential Center and select donors, the Salzburg Global Seminar is able to off-set many of the costs associated with the program for those who need financial support. We would ask that each participant *contribute as s/he can to their costs* (in particular, travel, room and board, if possible) in order to enable us to support as many participants as possible. Please contact us regarding financial support.

We very much hope you will be able to join us. Please confirm your interest by contacting Ms. Ginte Stankeviciute at the Salzburg Global Seminar by Monday, January 27 (this is especially critical if you require a visa). You can reach her via e-mail: [gstankeviciute@SalzburgGlobal.org](mailto:gstankeviciute@SalzburgGlobal.org) or fax: +43 662 839 837. Should you have any questions, please also contact me at any time.

Best regards,

Nancy R. Smith  
Program Consultant  
Salzburg Global Seminar