

THE GRANT FROM THE US EMBASSY IN POLAND TO THE OPEN DIALOGUE FOUNDATION – ITS PRESIDENT CANNOT ENTER THE COUNTRY

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The Open Dialogue Foundation, headed by Lyudmyla Kozlovska, received PLN 71,000 from the U.S. Department of State to promote the idea of the rule of law in Poland. However, the Ukrainian President of the Foundation cannot return to Poland as her name is included in the national list of undesirable people.

The document presented by the Open Dialogue Foundation reads that the project "[Demokratyczny fitness: przekształcamy obywateli w aktywnych uczestników życia publicznego poprzez ćwiczenia z demokracji](#)" ["Democratic fitness: we transform citizens into active participants of public life through exercises in democracy"] is financed by the State Department through the US Embassy in Warsaw.

During the online classes, the lecturers will include former spokesman of the National Council of the Judiciary, Waldemar Żurek, and spokesman of the Themis Association, Dariusz Mazur.

Kozlovska banned from entering Poland

Lyudmyla Kozlovska was expelled from the European Union territory on 14 August 2018, after her name was entered by Poland in the Schengen Information System (SIS). The entry was made by the Head of the Office for Foreigners on the basis of a secret opinion of the Internal Security Agency. The basis for Kozlovska's expulsion was a provision stating that it was required for reasons of state defence or security, or the protection of public security and order.

"This is a personal revenge of [the coordinator of secret services] Mariusz Kaminski on my husband Bartosz Kramek. The ISA's report is secret because they have nothing to show," Kozlovska told Onet at that time.

Currently, Lyudmyla Kozlovska lives in Brussels. Less than a month after she was expelled from Poland and the European Union, she was invited to the German Bundestag, and then invited to Brussels two weeks later, as well as other European countries. Today, she has received a five-year Belgian residence card from the district office in Brussels, where she currently lives. The document entitles her to travel throughout the Schengen area. However, she cannot return to Poland as long as her name is included in the national list of undesirable persons.

Kozlovska: the project is fully non-political

The grant awarded by the U.S. Department of State was commented on by the President of the Open Dialogue Foundation. "The project is fully non-political and serves to promote the rule of law through education, including practical classes for high school students. It is difficult for us to assess the extent to which the state of the rule of law in Poland in recent years has contributed to particular decisions of the funder," Lyudmyla Kozlovska told Onet.

“This is not support for us, but for the rule of law and Polish society, which will be the ultimate beneficiary. In our opinion, the situation with the rule of law in Poland is a serious challenge and the problem is broader than just the so-called reform of the judiciary carried out in recent years, as there is hardly any high-quality education in this area,” Kozlovska believes.

The President of the foundation’s board and the husband of Lyudmyla Kozlovska, Bartosz Kramek, also spoke about the money donated to the foundation through the US Embassy in Poland.

“Just today, I am going to Łódź for a hearing, where the local prosecutor's office is investigating the abuse of power to the detriment of the Open Dialogue Foundation in connection with the violation of tax secrecy. This is related to the customs and treasury inspections that have been going on for three years now, and have so far not shown any practice that confirms the accusations made against us by the Polish authorities,” Kramek stated in an interview with Onet.

“It transpired, however, that information from these proceedings leaked to the media supporting the Polish government, and the office running them had been previously managed by the brother of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Witold Waszczykowski. Furthermore, it was Waszczykowski who, at the request of Mariusz Kamiński, asked that these inspections be initiated,” he added.

“Thus far, we have won all court disputes with the Polish authorities, and yet, my wife cannot return to the country, because the judgements in her case are not yet final,” Bartosz Kramek stated.

Link: <https://wiadomosci.onet.pl/kraj/grant-od-ambasady-usa-w-polsce-dla-fundacji-otwarty-dialog-jej-szefowa-nie-moze/f1rcjve>

The original title: “Grant od ambasady USA w Polsce dla Fundacji Otwarty Dialog. Jej szefowa nie może wjechać do kraju”