

Berlin Conference 2015 - Programme

PROGRAMME

Last update: 21 Oktober 2015

8 and 9 November 2015

Allianz Forum Berlin

Pariser Platz 6, 10117 Berlin, Germany

8 November 2015

1.00 – 6.00 pm

Cities for Europe. Cities take a stand.

Challenges with regard to the flow of refugees and growing right-wing extremism

Opening

Welcoming addresses

Borderland Europe – “Cities are our hope”

Karl Schlögel

historian, Viadrina University Frankfurt

Right-wing extremism in Europe – current trends

Presentation of examples of good practice

World-Café (parallel discussions and presentation of results to the plenum)

- Which concrete lessons can we draw from the presented examples?
- What can cities contribute against xenophobia and right-wing extremism?
- How does integration succeed?
- How do we create a European sense of togetherness?

Final debate

Conclusions and closing remarks

7.00 pm

Welcome Drinks

Embassy of Luxembourg (upon invitation only)

9 November 2015

9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Opening

Welcoming address

Birgit Grundmann

Former State Secretary and Head of Regulatory and Political Affairs at Allianz Deutschland AG

Keynote

Martin Schulz

president of the European Parliament and Chair of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board

Welcoming addresses

State Secretary Hella Dunger-Löper

Commissioner for European Affairs and for Active Citizenship at the Berlin Senate Chancellery

Doris Pack

co-chair of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board

Intervention

Gianni Skaragas

writer

Part I: The periphery as an inspiration for Europe

Moderator

Kaspars Ruklis

member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Introductions

Hannes Swoboda

member of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board

Georgi Gospodinov

writer

Panel A

The periphery of Europe is not only a geographic category with strong sociocultural characteristics and it serves as a laboratory for all kinds of creative civil society movements: Despite all prejudices countries like Albania or Bosnia today show how religious and ethnic coexistence can work. Citizens in the Baltic countries strongly confess to their integration into European alliances by initiating creative projects. And while southeastern and southwestern countries face severe economic and structural problems, civil society organizations, artists and intellectuals tackle the crisis by implementing experimental ideas and initiatives. How can a creative spirit help to establish open and democratic relations, a true dialogue and cultural cooperation between the periphery and the rest of Europe?

Antje Contius (managing director of S. Fischer Stiftung)

Alen Kristic (theologist und journalist)

Mirela Kumbaro (Minister of Culture of Albania)

Hannes Swoboda (member of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board)

Rarita Zbranca (director of AltArt Foundation and member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group)

Panel B

Despite economic and structural difficulties the periphery is one of Europe's richest assets, a source for creativity for the integration process. However cultural activities in the peripheral countries often do not meet with appreciation and respect. They are rarely perceived in the mass media/public spheres of the "centre" and are lacking partners for dialogue and exchange. We have to open up and create new opportunities, work against disappointment and revive decreased EU enthusiasm so the periphery can serve as a laboratory for a creative civil society in Europe. The panel outlines challenges and develops ideas as well as proposals for this necessary process that should be increasingly in

the responsibility of the citizens

Lirak Celaj (member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group)

Thierry Fabre (author and curator)

Tanja Fajon (MEP member of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board)

Georgi Gospodinov (writer)

Gianni Skaragas (writer)

Welcoming address

Michael Roth

Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office

Part II: The City as a Spot of Innovation, inclusion and of new models for citizens involvement

Moderator

Farid Tabarki

member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group

Introduction

Peter Vermeersch

writer, scholar, civic activist

Panel A

Sharing a direct responsibility for Europe: cultural performance, social creativity and innovation in cities and urban areas. By established cultural institutions and grass roots initiatives.: Based on their European heritage, their social entrepreneurship, pragmatic approach and their creative power urban areas have an outstanding role for the European process beyond the local and regional competences

The role city museums can play

Paul Spies (director of the Amsterdam Museum, director of Stiftung Stadt Museum, Berlin, and chief curator of Welt.Stadt.Berlin at the Humboldt Forum)

The role social and cultural network activities can play. Three reports from practical examples.

1) Amalia Zepou (vice-mayor for civil society initiatives of Athens)/**Charlot Schans** (Project leader of New Europe - Cities in Transition)

2) Daphne Büllesbach (Citizenship and Democracy Director at European Alternatives)

3) Mahir Namur (member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group)

Panel B

How to strengthen cultural and civil society networks of European cities and regions to take over responsibilities locally and from the bottom-up. How to validate the expanding practise of cultural routes and the validation of cultural tourism to the cities? In other words: how to include all this phenomena into a coherent democratic policy, effective and attractive for the citizens of Europe?

Peter György (director of the Institute for Art Theory and Media Studies at Eötvös-Loránd-University, Budapest)

Volker Hassemer (president of the Board of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin and president of the Board of Management of the E.E.I.G. ASFE)

Arne Lietz (MEP, member of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board)

Miguel Angel Martin Ramos (Councillor of the European Academy of Yuste Foundation, Route Charles V and member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group)

Jens Nymand Christensen (Deputy Director-General for Education and Culture at the European Commission)

Conclusions and Outlook

Johannes Ebert

general secretary of Goethe-Institute

Volker Hassemer

president of the Board of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin and president of the Board of Management of the E.E.I.G. ASFE

Jo Leinen

MEP, member of the A Soul for Europe Advisory Board (tbc)

Michael M. Thoss

managing director of Allianz Kulturstiftung

Moderator: Nele Hertling (member of the A Soul for Europe Strategy Group)

7.00 pm

The State of Europe Speech

Allianz Forum

by the President of the EU Council, **Donald Tusk**

An event initiated by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

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