

Invitation to the Conference

BEYOND EMIGRATION, TOWARDS ALTERNATIVE HORIZONS: YOUNG GENERATIONS FOR THE NEW BALKANS

Date

Monday, 5 November and Tuesday, 6 November 2018

Venues

Workshops:

International Institute for Peace – IIP
Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Wien

Public Discussion:

Haus der Europäischen Union
Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna

Caught in a vicious circle between old-fashioned backwards oriented politics and nationalisms on one hand side and the lack of economic, educational and social perspectives on the other, young generations in the Balkans seem to be losing patience and when possible emigrating to the West in a search for a better life. UN agencies and experts speak about a massive demographic revolution going on in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, changing societies more than many other developments in their younger history. In parallel, democracies in the region are vulnerable, EU integration process is not delivering fast results, and alternative horizons are not easy to find. Our initiative on turning the flashlights on youth, their progressive stances and hopes for the future wants to ask tough questions about the region, about educational opportunities and limits, about reconciliation, EU hopes and possible illusions. Based on sound and sober assessments of the situation, we want to look forward, sketch alternative horizons, and look for alternatives for South-eastern Europe's way beyond emigration.

This conference is the second part of the initiative / series “**New Horizons for the Young Generations in the Balkans**”. As a next step, the discussions and results of the Viennese 2018 conference will be taken further to European capitals and the region. Visits and events in other European Cities – among others also in the context of EU-presidencies – will prominently feature young participants from the region as ambassadors representing the fresh and alternative view on and of the Western Balkans. By the means of continuous engagement throughout 2019 and beyond we will keep working on promoting alternatives to the status quo and also embarking upon the real and tough work and action to make alternative horizons possible.

There will be

Registration

Karl-Renner-Institut
post@renner-institut.at

With kind support of

PROGRAMME:

Monday, 5 November 2018

14:00 WELCOME

14:15 WORKSHOP I:

Beyond Emigration: Education, Circular Migration and other alternatives

HERIBERT BUCHBAUER, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Department for International Research Cooperation (tbc)

RICHARD GRIEVESON, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)

AULONË MEMETI, DOIT, Priština

THOMAS PFEFFER, Danube University Krems, Department for Migration and Globalisation (tbc)

SENADA SELO SABIC, Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb

ALIDA VRACIC, Popolari, Sarajevo

17:00 *Transfer to the Haus der Europäischen Union*

18:00 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

European Alternatives for the Western Balkan Youth 2030

Education, Reconciliation and Social Equality

Welcome

JÖRG WOJAHN, Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria

HANNES SWOBODA, President of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), MEP ret.

GERHARD MARCHL, Karl-Renner-Institut, Department for European Politics

Keynote

CHRISTINA KOULOURI, University of Political and Social Sciences, Athens; History Education Committee of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE), Thessaloniki

Inputs

ADI CERIMAGIC, European Stability Initiative

TANJA FAJON, MEP, S&D Group, Slovenia

JOHANNES HAHN, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (tbc)

DONA KOSTURANOVA, Youth Educational Forum, Skopje (tbc)

DAFINA PEĆI, Albanian Youth Forum, Tirana

TARA TEPAVAC, European Movement in Serbia (EMinS)

Moderator

VEDRAN DZIHIC, Senior Researcher at the oip and Lecturer at the University of Vienna

Refreshments will be served after the event.

Tuesday, 6 November 2018

09:30

WORKSHOP II:

**(N)ever-ending Reconciliation? Education and Civic Engagement as
Precondition for the New Balkans**

DJORDJE BOJOVIC, Former program director at European Grassroots Antiracist
Movement (EGAM), Belgrade

NEVEN BUDAK, University of Zagreb, Department of History

EMIN EMINAGIĆ, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Sarajevo (tbc)

JÜRGEN SCHICK, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research,
Department for EU Coordination and Multilateral Affairs (tbc)

HANA SEMANIC, Central European University, Budapest

DANIJEL TADIC, Foundation Max van der Stoep, European Forum for Democracy
and Solidarity

VUK VELEBIT, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade

Concluding remarks

FLORENT MARCIACQ, Deputy Secretary General and Research Fellow at the
Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

12:30

LUNCH

PARTICIPANTS

SAMIR BEHARIC, University of Vienna

DJORDJE BOJOVIC, Former program director at European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM), Belgrade

HERIBERT BUCHBAUER, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Department for International Research Cooperation (tbc)

NEVEN BUDAK, University of Zagreb, Department of History

MIRZA BULJUBASIC, Socialist Youth Austria Lower Austria (tbc)

ADI CERIMAGIC, European Stability Initiative

VEDRAN DZIHIC, Senior Researcher at the oip and Lecturer at the University of Vienna

BOJAN ELEK, Belgrade Center for Security Policy (BCSP) (tbc)

EMIN EMINAGIĆ, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Sarajevo (tbc)

TANJA FAJON, MEP, S&D Group, Slovenia

VURMO GJERGJI, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Tirana (tbc)

SNJEŽANA KOREN, University of Zagreb, Department of History (tbc)

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VUK VELEBIT, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade

ALIDA VRACIC, Populari, Sarajevo

BARBARA WEITGRUBER, Director General for Scientific Research and International Relations in the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Vienna (tbc)