

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 Vienna

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 “**Young Generations for the New Balkans 2030: Towards Alternative Horizons**”. 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.

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**

SAMIR BEHARIC, University of Vienna & Leipzig University

MAXIMILIAN BENNER, Senior Project Manager at the Centre for Social Innovation,
Vienna

ILIR GEDESHI, Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Tirana

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, Representative of the European Commission 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

DONA KOSTURANOVA, Youth Educational Forum, Skopje

DAFINA PECI, Albanian Youth Forum, Tirana

TARA TEPAVAC, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research, Transparency and
Accountability (CRTA), Belgrade

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, European Institute at the London School of Economics and
Political Sciences

NEVEN BUDAK, University of Zagreb, Department of History

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

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 / Senior Fellow at the Centre
International de Formation Européenne, Nice/Berlin

12:30

LUNCH

The conference is ending at approx. 14:00.

PARTICIPANTS

SAMIR BEHARIC, University of Vienna & Leipzig University

MAXIMILIAN BENNER, Senior Project Manager at the Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna

DJORDJE BOJOVIC, European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences

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

TANJA FAJON, MEP, S&D Group, Slovenia

STEPHANIE FENKART, Director of the International Institute for Peace (IIP), Vienna

ILIR GEDESHI, Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Tirana

CHRISTINA KOULOURI, University of Political and Social Sciences, Athens; History Education

Committee of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE), Thessaloniki

DONA KOSTURANOVA, Youth Educational Form, Skopje

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

FLORENT MARCIACQ, Deputy Secretary General and Research Fellow at the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna / Senior Fellow at the Centre International de Formation Européenne, Nice/Berlin

ARMELA MAXHELAKI, Fellow at the European Fund for the Balkans

MARIJAN PAVLOVIĆ, Junge Generation SPÖ Vienna

DAFINA PECI, Albanian Youth Forum, Tirana

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

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

HANA SEMANIC, Central European University, Budapest

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

MAGDA STUMVOLL, Project Coordinator and Research Fellow at the Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe, Vienna

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

TARA TEPAVAC, Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA), Belgrade

NIKOLAUS TISCHLINGER, Social-Media & Innovations Manager at Shabka, Vienna

VUK VELEBIT, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade

ALIDA VRACIC, Popolari, Sarajevo

LUKAS WANK, Co-Director of Shabka, Vienna (tbc)

JÖRG WOJAHN, Representative of the European Commission in Austria

MICHAEL ZINKANELL, Secretary-General of Shabka, Vienna