

Berlin Conference 2022

Co-Creating Europe from the Bottom Up!

8/9 November 2022

Allianz Forum Berlin



Executive Organisation

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#europebottomup

Berlin Conference 2022

Co-Creating Europe from the Bottom Up!

Stiftung Zukunft Berlin and its civil society initiatives *A Soul for Europe*, *Wir sind Europa* and *Cities for Europe* implement the Berlin Conference 2022 titled “Co-Creating Europe from the Bottom-Up!” at Allianz Forum next to the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. Over the course of two days, we are hosting concentrated debates with cultural practitioners, artists and intellectuals, committed mayors and local civic initiatives, as well as citizens and the European youth in particular, to bring about new narratives and innovative approaches to co-create the Europe of tomorrow.

The debates at this year’s Berlin Conference are centring around the responsibility of Europeans themselves to help shape the future of Europe. To kick off the conference, we address the role of cities and regions as key bottom-up participants in this endeavour. For it is the lives and achievements of cities and regions as well as their citizens that determine the success or failure of Europe’s social as well as economic, cultural, and societal reality. The commitment of the cities and regions in their responsibility to contribute to the success of the common European project is therefore the focus of our panel discussions.

Impetus from the Middle (and South) of Europe

8 November, 4 – 6 p.m.

The first discussion is dedicated to the potential and difficulties of the simultaneity of national peripheries and European centrality. What can be learned from the experiences made in these regions, and what can be transferred to a future perspective of Europe?

Our example: with their unique location in the centre of Europe, cities like Frankfurt (Oder), Zittau and Timișoara can be centres of competence for a central task of the European Union – cooperation and togetherness across national borders. Yet such regions receive little European attention. We want to use these examples to speak concretely about their impulses and experiences for Europe.

The Unique Responsibility of European Capitals of Culture

8 November, 6 – 7.15 p.m.

Cities that have had or will have the honour of being European Capital of Culture should – beyond their primary task of organising the year to be as impressive as possible – permanently play a pioneering role as "Cities for Europe". They should combine the privilege of being a European Capital of Culture with a special responsibility for the development of Europe.

In this session, we therefore invite European Capitals of Culture to question them about their stance on the fundamental challenge of being Cities for Europe and how they intend to live up to it. We will discuss the potential of the title, the sustainability of the project and the associated obligation of the cities to contribute to Europe beyond the period of their Capital Year.

RETHINKING EUROPE, A Soul for Europe

9 November, 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We are living in a drastically changing world: a threatening time, a wake-up call for Europe, its citizens, and institutions. The current situation demands a rethinking of duties and responsibilities. As this goes for society as a whole, the cultural sector is also challenged. It becomes even more important than before to foster artistic activities and cultural work across borders as a strong tool against antidemocratic tendencies, against desperation and destruction.

A Soul for Europe calls on artists, cultural and political practitioners as well as intellectuals to reflect on our common responsibility and to take an active role in the creation of a prosperous and human Europe, a citizens' Europe.

The invited speakers will be asked to share their experiences, proposals and visions, starting with three basic topics: "East/West", "Youth/Citizenship", "Periphery/Cross-Border". The different political, social, and cultural developments in eastern and western Europe, the missing interest from the West for the East have become more visible due to the war in Ukraine. Was there, or is there a real European identity? What is the view from 'outside' Europe?

Although we see strong initiatives in a young generation as for climate change or other threatening developments, we also realize a growing percentage of young people turning to more conservative issues, or not caring for social/political developments at all. How can this

generation and citizens in general be encouraged to take responsibility to get active for the development of their cities, regions countries, for Europe? The war in our backyard has also changed the notion of periphery. Regions as the Baltic States or the Polish-Czech-German border are now the centre of European awareness. How can cross-border activities react?

The Power of Europe Bottom-Up

9 November, 1.45 – 4 p.m.

Europe needs and deserves the participation and joint responsibility of Europeans themselves, their cities and regions: Europe Bottom-Up. This effort for the future of Europe must be made visible. Cooperation, networks, and mutual exchange must be facilitated.

This is the motive for and the goal of the “Europe Bottom-Up” platform, funded by the Federal Foreign Office and launched by Stiftung Zukunft Berlin. The platform is a digital instrument that brings together different initiatives, project groups, cities and regions seeing themselves as actors “from below” for a common Europe. It gives them the opportunity to come together digitally, to present their projects, to learn from each other and to make better use of their shared potential. In this way, a digital instrument can also support an analogue community at grassroots Europe, which not only commits itself to the European project, but also strengthens and develops it with its own diverse activities.

In this session, we discuss the relevance of Europe Bottom-Up and the role of the platform as well as its state of development. We also speak about the expectations of initiatives and associations that wish to use this platform for their purposes. What unites the different actors and their activities? How important are such formats for the common European project?

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, 8 November

4 – 4.15 p.m. Opening and welcome:
Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board,
Stiftung Zukunft Berlin
Michelle Schmitz, Head of Berlin Office, Allianz SE

4.15 – 4.40 p.m. Welcome Keynotes:
Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions
Anna Lührmann, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office
Gerry Woop, Permanent Secretary for Europe at the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe

4.40 – 6 p.m. **Discussion Round 1: Impetus from the Middle of Europe**
Moderation: **Volker Hassemer**, former Senator in Berlin, and **Michael Müller**, Member of Parliament, former Governing Mayor of Berlin

The strategy of René Wilke, Mayor of Frankfurt (Oder)

The strategy of Thomas Zenker, Mayor of Zittau

The strategy of Dominic Fritz, Mayor of Timișoara

Comments by:

Rosa Balas Torres, Director-General for External Action of the Regional Government of Extremadura, and Alternate Member of the Committee of the Regions of Europe

Anna Cavazzini, MEP

Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary General, Association of European Border Regions

Yuriy Vulkovsky, former Deputy Minister of Culture of Bulgaria

6 – 7.15 p.m. Discussion Round 2: The Unique Responsibility of European Capitals of Culture

Moderation: **Anke Plättner**, International Journalists' Programmes

Marko Filipović, Mayor of the City of Rijeka, ECoC 2020

Robert Piaskowski, Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Krakow for Culture, ECoC 2000

José Ribau Esteves, Mayor of Aveiro, ECoC applicant 2027

Dagmar Ruscheinsky, Mayor for Social Affairs, Youth, Health, Culture and Sport of Chemnitz, ECoC 2025

Neda Rusjan Bric, Artistic Adviser Nova Gorica, ECoC 2025

Comments by:

Ulrich Fuchs, Programme Director Marseille-Provence, ECoC 2013

Hannes Heide, MEP

Wednesday, 9 November

9.30 – 9.35 a.m. Welcome Day 2: **Markus Dröge**, Spokesperson of the Board Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

9.35 – 9.50 a.m. Welcome: A Soul for Europe Strategy Group: **Nicolas Bertrand, Kathrin Deventer, Zane Estere Gruntmane, Nele Hertling**

9.50 a.m. – 1 p.m. **RETHINKING EUROPE, A Soul for Europe**
Moderation: **Farid Tabarki**, Researcher and Writer, A Soul for Europe and **Andreas Bock**, European Council on Foreign Relations, A Soul for Europe

Rethinking Europe 1: East-West

Introduced by **Rarița Zbranca**, Programme Director Cluj Cultural Centre

Alicja Gescinska, Philosopher
Haris Pašović, Theatre Director
Yuriy Vulkovsky, former Deputy Minister of Culture of Bulgaria

Rethinking Europe 2: Youth, Citizenship

Introduced by **Mahir Namur**, Cultural Manager, Lecturer, Psychological Counsellor

Robert Piaskowski, Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Krakow for Culture

Ada Mukhina, Artist and Theatre Maker

Rusudan Petviashvili, Artist

Rethinking Europe 3: Periphery, Cross-border

Introduced by **Miguel Ángel Martin Ramos**, Head of European Affairs and Brussels Delegation, European Academy of Yuste Foundation

Aiva Rozenberga, Public Relations Adviser to the President of Latvia

Arkadi Zaides, Choreographer and Visual Artist

Matilde Seabra, Head of Education and Public Programmes at the Department for Contemporary Art – Porto City Hall

1 – 1.45 p.m.

Break

1.45 – 3.45 p.m.

The Power of Europe Bottom-Up

Keynote: **Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Democracy and Demography

Moderation: **Marion Döring**, Board Member Wim Wenders Foundation, and **Kathrin Deventer**, Secretary-General European Festivals Association, A Soul for Europe

Keynote: The importance of Europe Bottom-Up, **Volker Hassemer**, former Senator in Berlin

Discussion:

Ansgar Klein, Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (National Network for Civil Society)

Volker Schlöndorff, Film Director

Hannes Swoboda, former MEP, Member of the Europe Bottom-Up Board

Europe Bottom-Up platform

Beate Stoffers, former State Secretary for Education (State of Berlin), Managing Director Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

Claudius Brodmann, Creative Director and Board Member xailabs GmbH

Christian Johann, Director Europäische Akademie Berlin

Barbara Gessler, Division Chief Creative Europe/European Commission

Niklas Nienaß, MEP, Member of the Europe Bottom-Up Board

Community of the platform

Wolfram Korr, Managing Director Brandenburgische Sommerkonzerte

Annigje Kruytbosch, President Douzelage Europe

Christiane Lötsch, European Alliance of Academies, Artists and Cultural Initiatives for Europe

Daryna Sterina, moveGLOBAL e.V., Empowering Migrant Voices on Integration and Inclusion Policies (EMVI)

3.45 – 4 p.m. Consequences for the Future

Markus Dröge, Spokesperson of the Board, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

7 p.m. The State of Europe Speech by **Werner Hoyer**, President of the European Investment Bank (*separate invitation*)

Speakers' Biographies

Vasco Alves Cordeiro

President of the European Committee of the Regions. He holds a postgraduate degree in regional law and first practiced law in the Azores from 1995 - 2003. In 1996, he was elected member of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores for the Socialist Party and led the socialist group there between 2000 - 2003. He has held several positions in the regional executive, including Regional Secretary of Economy (2008-2012), Regional Secretary of the Presidency (2004-2008), responsible for European and External Affairs, and Regional Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries (2003-2004). In 2012 and 2016 he was elected President of the Regional Government of the Azores. He has been a member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2013 and, previously, an alternate member from 2004 to 2008. Cordeiro was the First Vice-President of the institution from 2020 to 2022 before being elected President in June 2022.

Rosa María Balas Torres

Director-General for External Action of the Regional Government of Extremadura (Spain) since August 2015. Member of the European Committee of the Regions. Responsible for the region's participation in the institutions and bodies of the European Union and the coordination of cross-border cooperation with Portugal. Law graduate and Master degree in European Union Law.

Andreas Bock

Head of communications at the pan-European think tank European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Previously, he headed the editorial department of the daily European press review eurotopics at the journalist network n-ost. He also worked as project manager for the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) in Budapest and as a freelance journalist for various media outlets.

Claudius Brodmann

Creative Director and Board Member at xailabs GmbH and responsible for leading the creation, business development and integration of innovation topics. His expertise includes consulting, conception and development of digital strategies and digitisation projects, visitor journeys and interactive applications. As a storyteller and knowledge broker, he draws on many years of experience with digital media scenographies, media in space, interactive exhibits and reactive installations for exhibitions, museums, and trade fairs. With his team, he advises clients primarily from the arts and culture sector and manages the implementation of these projects.

Anna Cavazzini

is from Germany and has been a Member of the European Parliament for The Greens/EFA since 2019 (constituencies: Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt). She fights for a sustainable EU internal market and fair globalisation – in short, for fair and sustainable economic structures inside and outside the EU. Since November 2020, she has been Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. She is also a substitute member of the Committee on International Trade and vice chair of the Brazil delegation. Before becoming an MEP, she worked in the European Parliament, for the Federal Foreign Office and the UNO and was an advisor to various NGOs.

Kathrin Deventer

is the Secretary General of the European Festivals Association (EFA). Kathrin is a co-founder and board member of the European House for Culture, an initiative of EFA, a member of the Strategy Group of A Soul for Europe, co-initiator and board member of The Festival Academy and launched with EFA the new programme for arts festivals EFFE – Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe including its FestivalFinder.eu, EFFE – the European Festivals Fund for Emerging Artists, as well as Perform Europe with a consortium of partners under the lead of IETM.

Marion Döring

studied French and Portuguese before starting her professional career as trainee and later editor at the daily newspapers Fuldaer Zeitung and Hessische/Niedersächsische Allgemeine. From 1985 to 1988 she worked as a press attaché for the "750 Years Anniversary Berlin 1987" and "Berlin – European Capital of Culture 1988". She has been connected to the European Film Academy since its foundation in 1988; first as PR manager of the European Film Awards, later as project manager for the Academy's activities and publications and, from 1996 until 2020, as the Academy's director and producer of the European Film Awards. Since January 2021 she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Wim Wenders Foundation.

Markus Dröge

Spokesman of the Board of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin, Protestant theologian, 1986-2009 pastor, superintendent, lecturer in Koblenz, 2009-2019 Bishop of the Protestant Church Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz, member of the Council of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) until 2021, member of the National Monitoring Committee – Endlagersuche, member of the Board of

Trustees TAKE OFF AWARD, member of the Board of Trustees SCHULTER AN SCHULTER – Stiftung gegen Rassismus.

Marko Filipović

Mayor of the City of Rijeka. He started working as a supervisory engineer after graduating from the Faculty of Civil Engineering in 2004. Mr. Filipović began his political career in 2000, as a member of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia, holding various positions in the city of Rijeka. He was International Secretary of SDP Croatia Youth Forum from 2008 - 2010. Within the City of Rijeka, Mr. Filipović was a member of the Commission in charge of development, urban planning, ecology and land management, 2008 – 2009, and a member of the Urban Development and Planning Board from 2002 – 2005. In 2013 he became deputy Mayor of the City of Rijeka, which he was until 2021, when he was elected Mayor, for until 2025. Since 2018 Mr. Filipović has been President of the local organisation of the Social Democratic Party, Rijeka. Mr. Filipović is a Vice President of the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia, and Vice President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

Dominic Fritz

is the Mayor of Timișoara and one of the few European citizens to serve as mayor outside of their native country. Dominic Fritz has previously worked for the Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), as well as an advisor and chief of staff for former Federal President Horst Köhler. As the starting place of the Romanian Revolution of 1989, Timișoara represents Romania's first step on its European destiny. The city will hold the title of European Capital of Culture in 2023 under the motto "Shine your light – Light up your city!"

Ulrich Fuchs

holds French and German citizenship. He was born in Bavaria and lives in Marseille. 2005 – 2010 programme director of Linz 2009 – European Capital of Culture 2009. 2010 – 2014 deputy managing director and programme director of MarseilleProvence 2013 – European Capital of Culture 2013. 2014 – 2019 member of the European Commission panel selecting and monitoring the European Capitals of Culture. Lecturer at several European universities.

Alicja Gescinska

is a Polish-Belgian philosopher, novelist, poet, and playwright. As an academic, her main areas of expertise are political theory, continental philosophy, and the history of ideas. She obtained her PhD at Ghent University and was previously affiliated to Warsaw University, Princeton

University and Amherst College. She is currently the director of the Philosophy by Research Programme at the University of Buckingham and VUB Fellow. Apart from her academic work, Gescinska is also one of the leading public intellectuals in Belgium and the Netherlands and has written books on a wide variety of topics, including freedom, music, political responsibility, and truth.

Martin Guillermo Ramírez

Bachelor of Medicine and Master in Humanitarian Medicine with more than three decades of experience in international cooperation and relations. Since 2006, he has been Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR/ARFE/AGEG), founded in 1971 to represent the interest of European border and cross-border regions.

Barbara Gessler

Having lived and studied in Konstanz, Paris, Buenos Aires and later Bruges, she first worked in the European Parliament for an MEP before joining the European Commission in 1994, first in the Directorate General's Unit for Audiovisual Policy, then Environment in 1996. From 1998 she worked at the representation of the European Commission in Berlin, advised the umbrella organisation of German cultural organisations Deutscher Kulturrat on European affairs in 2003/04 and then became Head of the Regional Representation of the Commission in Bonn. In 2009, she returned to Brussels as Head of the Press Unit of the European Economic and Social Committee. From 2011 to 2016, she ran the Culture Unit at the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency which implements the EU's funding programmes in these areas. Responsible for the culture sub-programme at Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture since 2017.

Volker Hassemer

Co-Founder of A Soul for Europe and president of the Board of Management of the A Soul for Europe E.E.I.G. Doctor of laws. Former Senator for Urban Development and Environmental Protection in Berlin, former Senator for Cultural Affairs in Berlin. Chairman of the Managing Board of "Partner für Berlin" (1996-2002). Founder of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin (2006) and Chairman of its Board until 2021.

Hannes Heide

is a Member of the European Parliament (S & D) from Bad Ischl, Austria. He was Mayor of his native city from 2007 until 2019, winning the European Capital of Culture title for 2024 for Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut.

Christian Johann

Being the director of the NGO European Academy Berlin, he is constantly looking for new partnerships to improve citizenship education all over Europe. Christian Johann was born in Berlin. He is a father of three and holds a PhD in American history. His main interest lies in the fields of narrative practices and citizen education.

Ansgar Klein

Founding managing director of the Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement (BBE). Private lecturer in political science at Humboldt University in Berlin (Chair of Political Theory) and publicist. Main fields of activity: Politics of engagement and democracy, civil society, civic engagement, political sociology of civil society, history of political ideas. 2000-2002 scientific coordinator of the SPD parliamentary group for the commission of inquiry "Future of Civic Engagement". Co-founder of the Forschungsjournal Soziale Bewegungen (De Gruyter, Berlin) and managing editor of the book series "Bürgergesellschaft und Demokratie". Advisory board member in the Alliance for Non-Profit, in the German Open Government Partnership movement, in the science policy platform "Forschungswende" and in numerous other advisory bodies of the state and civil society.

Wolfram Korr

is managing director and artistic director of the Brandenburgische Sommerkonzerte, one of the biggest music festivals in Brandenburg and Berlin with more than 40 events in the whole region during the summer period. He started his career as violin musician with his last position being first concertmaster at the Brandenburg State Opera in Cottbus. As an artistic director, he subsequently built up the entertainment department of TUI Cruises, Germany's second biggest cruise line brand, with more than 9000 theatre seats on seven cruise liners and more than 500 artists on board. He has been running the Brandenburgische Sommerkonzerte since 2020.

Annigje Kruytbosch

is president of the town twinning organization Douzelage, that connects 28 towns within the EU (the UK town is still active within the organisation). Annigje was elected in 2016 together with three vice presidents from Denmark, Slovenia and Romania. Douzelage initiates exchanges and projects between the 28 partner towns on all kind of subjects that concern EU citizens. Best practices are exchanged on the subjects of education and culture and, for example, on sustainability, elderly care and integration. In daily life, Annigje is a graphic designer and runs a Bed & Breakfast in the South of the Netherlands.

Christiane Lötsch

works with passion in European projects that promote art and culture as a means of European understanding. She currently coordinates the network "European Alliance of Academies" initiated by Akademie der Künste and is a member of the project group "Artists and Cultural Initiatives for Europe" on the Europe Bottom-Up platform.

Anna Lührmann

is Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office and Member of the German Bundestag for the constituency Rheingau-Taunus – Limburg. Until 2021, she worked as a junior professor and democracy researcher at the University of Gothenburg.

Ada Mukhina

is a nomadic artist and theatre-maker. After completing her law training, she received a master's degree as a Chevening Scholar from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. Her political, participatory, and investigative theatre performances have been presented internationally, including at Camden People's Theatre in London, Deutsches Theater in Berlin, and Meyerhold Theatre Center in Moscow. She is the recipient of the German Chancellor Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Fellowship of the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics from Georgetown University (Washington DC), and Berlin fellowship from the Academy of Arts (Akademie der Künste).

Michael Müller

was Member of the Tempelhof district council for seven years before serving as a Member of the Berlin House of Representatives for 25 years. In 2011 he was appointed as Senator for Urban Development and Environment. In 2014 he was elected to Governing Mayor by the Berlin House of Representatives and re-elected in 2016. Since 2021, Michael Müller has been a Member of the German Bundestag.

Niklas Nienaß

is Member of the European Parliament for the Greens/EFA. Growing up in Germany's far west, only a few kilometres from the Belgian border, he now divides his time between Brussels and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. A child of the German reunification and a committed European, Niklas aims for a strengthening of European solidarity and cohesion, both on a material as well as on a cultural level. Niklas is coordinator in the Committee on Regional Development, member of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, and substitute member of the Committee on

Institutional Affairs. He is the chair of the parliamentary group of the Europa Union Deutschland in the European Parliament, initiator of the Cultural Creators Friendship Group, founding member of the RUMRA & Smart Village Intergroup and the youth interest group.

Haris Pašović

is a theatre director who also writes plays and directs documentaries and visual arts works. Artistic leader of the East West Theatre Company in Sarajevo and professor of Directing at the Performing Arts Academy in Sarajevo and Arts and Leadership at the MBA programme of the IEDC Bled School of Management in Slovenia. During the Siege of Sarajevo, he was directing the international theatre festival and established the Sarajevo Film Festival. His artistic works have been shown worldwide. Recently, he has directed the Italian Mittelfest for three years. Works in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and internationally. He is currently preparing an international theatrical co-production (involving theatres from Poland, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Kosovo) with the subject of Europe today.

Rusudan Petviashvili

started painting early and had her first exhibition at the age of six with huge success. Due to this, by the recommendation of the director of the House of Artists Temo Gotsadze, she was accepted directly as a second-year student at the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts. Petviashvili works with different material — pencil, water colours, oil paints, tempera, cardboard, silk, etc. Recent works are mostly graphics and paintings. Rusudan Petviashvili's paintings stand out as those of excessively complex structure. She is listed in the book published by the Cambridge Biographical Centre — 2000 Famous Persons of the XX. Century. Petviashvili has been collaborating with luxury Swiss watch brand Jaquet Droz since 2019. and with luxury German ceramics and tableware brand Villeroy & Boch, which released porcelain decorated with her artwork “Love and Harmony” on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the brand’s entry into the Georgian market.

Robert Piaskowski

is the plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Kraków for Cultural Affairs and director of strategic development in the Department of Culture and National Heritage of the City of Kraków. He studied literature, sociology, social sciences, and cultural diplomacy. He is a co-author of the Krakow Culture policy and is responsible for the implementation of flagship industry programmes for specific cultural sectors. He is a member of the Program Boards of the city's most important museums.

He is chairman of the Integrated Center for Cultural Heritage Management of Kraków and a member of the advisory board of the Institute of Cultural Strategy of the City of Lviv.

Anke Plättner

is an independent television journalist, presenter and media trainer. She hosts the current affairs political talk show "Phoenix Runde" from Berlin, regularly interviews top politicians for the ARD morning show "Morgenmagazin" and conducts in-depth interviews with public figures for the WDR programme "eins zu eins". Until she went freelance in 2013, she was a political correspondent for WDR and Phoenix at the ARD Hauptstadtstudio. Before moving to Berlin, she worked in various editorial departments at WDR. Anke Plättner studied journalism in Utrecht and completed a traineeship at WDR. She was a fellow of the Arthur Burns Fellowship in Denver, Colorado and deputy director of the Media Academy of the European Forum Alpbach in Austria.

José Ribau Esteves

Mayor of Aveiro and the president of the Intermunicipal Council of the Aveiro Region Community. He also serves as Vice-president of the ANMP Governing Board and Member of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. In the Municipality of Ílhavo he served as a Councillor from 1990 to 1993 and later as Mayor (1998-2013). He was President of the Association Oceano XXI (managing entity of the Cluster of Knowledge and Economy of the Sea).

Aiva Rozenberga

is the Public Relations Adviser to the President of Latvia. She has previously served as the Director of the Latvian Institute and was also a member of international juries of the Baltic Culture Fund and the European Capitals of Culture selection process. In 2008, she took a position on the project of Riga as the European Capital of Culture and headed the Artistic Council of "Riga 2014" Foundation. She has also served as the spokesperson for former President of Latvia Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga and Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma. In 2007, she studied at the ZEIT-Stiftung Bucerius Summer School on Global Governance for Young Leaders.

Dagmar Ruscheinsky

Mayor for Culture, Social Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Health in Chemnitz (since 02/2022); State examination in German studies and history; Newspaper editor in Regensburg and Chemnitz (1988 - 2007); Book author; Head of the Management Staff of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in Berlin (2015 - 2022).

Neda Rusjan Bric

was born in Slovenia, in the town Šempeter pri Gorici on the border with Italy. She received her BFA in theatre acting and master's degree (MA) in theatre directing both from the Academy of the Theatre, Radio, Film and TV in Ljubljana. She works as actress, author and theatre director in national and international coproductions in Slovenia and abroad. Neda Rusjan Bric writes for TV and radio, theatre plays, children's books and screenplays. She is a professor for screenwriting at the School of Arts, University of Nova Gorica and has been a general and artistic manager of Slovenian National Theatre in Nova Gorica. She was an initiator and since 2016 head of the candidacy team for European Capital of Culture Nova Gorica – Gorizia, which won the title in late 2020. Since then, she has been artistic director and currently is artistic adviser of the European Capital of Culture GO! 2025.

Matilde Seabra

With a background in architecture, she has expanded her field in art-mediation. Thinking like an architect, she designs, in co-authorship with artists and thinkers, the cultural programmes collectively building from the specificities of each territory. Matilde believes that erudition is at the intersection of academia and ancestral knowledge. The Talkie-Walkie company, founded in 2012 with Ana Vieira, has contributed to the recognition of tourism specialisation in architecture and heritage. Currently, Matilde is in charge of PING!, the educational and public programmes at the Department for Contemporary Art – Porto City Hall which invites different publics to eco-thinking based on nature, for the visibility of more inclusive narratives of history and for the dissemination of young artists and makers in the city.

Volker Schlöndorff

is an internationally renowned film director. His early films, *Young Törless* and the television production *Baal*, won critical acclaim. His later film *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*, which he co-directed with Margarethe von Trotta, is a searing indictment of police and media injustice in Germany. In 1979, Schlöndorff's most celebrated film *The Tin Drum* won both the Palme d'or at the Cannes Film Festival and the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Subsequently, Schlöndorff has directed numerous films including *Swann in Love*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Homo Faber / Voyager*, *The Ninth Day*, *Diplomacy*, *Return to Montauk*. *The Forest Maker* is his first feature-length documentary.

Daryna Sterina

coordinates the EU-funded project "Empowering Migrant Voices on Integration and Inclusion Policies" (EMVI) in the umbrella organisation for migrant associations moveGLOBAL e.V. Her area of expertise is the political participation of migrants at the municipal level in Berlin and at the EU level.

Beate Stoffers

has been Managing Director of the Stiftung Zukunft Berlin since May 2022. From 2019 to 2021, she was State Secretary for Education in Berlin and in this office coordinated the topics of digitalisation and school construction, among others. Previously, the political scientist worked for Deutsche Kinderhilfe Direkt, Wall AG and several senate administrations, often with responsibility for public relations.

Dubravka Šuica

The Vice-President of the EU Commission and Commissioner for Democracy and Demography is from Croatia. She studied modern philology in Zagreb and Buffalo (USA). From 1981 she taught German and English in Dubrovnik. She was active early on in local politics in the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), founded in 1989, including in the Dubrovnik municipal council. Šuica was mayor in Dubrovnik from 2001-09 as well as Member of the Croatian parliament 2000-11. From 2004-14 she was Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. 2013-19 she was MEP (EPP Group) and temporary Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. In December 2019 she became Vice-President of the EU Commission.

Hannes Swoboda

Former Member of the European Parliament from Austria. He is the President of different institutes and NGOs dealing inter alia with international relations, international economics, education, and architecture.

Farid Tabarki

is the founding director of Studio Zeitgeist and a sought-after keynote speaker, debate moderator and event host. He has been researching the (European) zeitgeist since 2000. Farid is a regular contributor to Het Financieele Dagblad, a Dutch daily newspaper focusing on finance and economy. In 2017, his first book 'The end of the middle - What a society of extremes means to people, businesses and government' was published in English. Farid received the Trendwatcher of the Year Award for 2012-2013, and since 2013 he became the youngest person on the list of the 200 most influential people in the Netherlands

according to Dutch daily morning newspaper de Volkskrant. He also presented the parliamentary election edition of MTV Coolpolitics. More recently he presented the television program Dare to Think, from Socrates to Sartre. Farid sits on various supervisory boards and committees. He is a member of the supervisory board of Stadgenoot Prince Bernhard Culture Fund and International Theatre Amsterdam. In 2015, he was a member of Platform Onderwijs 2032: commissioned by the Dutch government, the platform presented a vision on Dutch education policy moving towards the year 2032.

Yuriy Vulkovsky

was Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria in the period December 2021 – August 2022. He has over 20 years of experience in the cultural sector, both in Bulgaria and at the European level, including extensive experience in project management, capacity building of cultural organisations, trainings, advocacy campaigns and applied research in the cultural sphere. He was executive director of the Bulgarian Festival Association, of the "Change" Foundation, of the Foundation for Urban Projects and Research, and professor for cultural policies at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and New Bulgarian University. Yuriy Vulkovsky participated in the writing of the Strategy for the Development of Culture in Sofia, 2013-2023. From 2015 to 2017, he was a member of the Advisory Board of the Fund for Innovations in Culture, and 2017–2019 the deputy chairman of the Creative Council of the Sofia Municipal Program "Culture". He was a participant in the Salzburg Global Seminar (2007), a Marshall Memorial Fellow (2011) and a recipient of the European Young Leader 40 under 40 award (2014).

René Wilke

studied cultural, political studies and management from 2005 to 2012. He then did an apprenticeship as a management assistant for office communication. He worked at the office of members of the German and European parliament. Since 2000 he has been a party member of the PDS, 2005 Die Linkspartei.PDS and since 2007 DIE LINKE. In 2014, he entered the City Council in Frankfurt (Oder). From 2014 to 2018, he was Member of the State Parliament of Brandenburg which he exited when he became Mayor of the City of Frankfurt (Oder) in 2018.

Gerry Woop

has been Permanent Secretary for Europe at the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe since 2017. He holds a master's degree in Peace and Security Studies (M.P.S.) and studied at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH) at Universität Hamburg.

Arkadi Zaides

is an independent choreographer and visual artist from Israel and of Byelorussian origin, currently based in France. He performed in several companies such as the Batsheva Dance Company and the Yasmeen Godder Dance Group in Israel before embarking on an independent career in 2004. He holds a master's degree from AHK Academy of Theatre and Dance in Amsterdam (NL) and is currently obtaining his practice-based PhD degree at Antwerp University. He is a member of CORPoREAL research group at the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp and a member of S:PAM (Studies in Performing Arts & Media) in the Ghent University. His performances and installations have been presented in numerous dance and theatre festivals, museums, and galleries across Europe, North and South America, and Asia. He is a recipient of numerous prizes, among them a prize for demonstrating engagement in human-rights issues, awarded to Zaides by The Emile Zola Chair for Interdisciplinary Human Rights Dialogue (IL).

Thomas Zenker

was born and raised in Zittau. He studied German studies, medieval and modern history, communication, media studies, journalism, project management, and engineering in Leipzig, Paris, Berlin and Zittau. He worked as a language and communication trainer as well as freelance employee for the Sächsische Zeitung and as a project leader for the NetzWerkStatt – Zeitgeschichte und Zivilgesellschaft, Hillersche Villa. Since 2014, he has been member of the county council of the district Görlitz and since 2015 Mayor of Zittau.

Conference Partners

A SOUL FOR EUROPE

A Soul for Europe works for the creation of a Europe of the Europeans, rather than a Europe of institutions and regulations. We see it as our responsibility to participate in Europe's political mechanisms. We fully believe in the catalyst role that culture – in all its diverse forms – can play in the development of the European society. Since its beginnings in 2004, A Soul for Europe has developed into a network that spreads across all of Europe, with offices in Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels and Porto, as well as associated offices in Belgrade and Tbilisi. A Strategy Group of over 40 professionals from more than 20 countries in Europe is responsible for the conceptual development and dissemination of the idea of A Soul for Europe. *asoulforeurope.eu*

CITIES FOR EUROPE

"A Soul for Europe" and the cities of Berlin and Guimarães launched the "Cities for Europe" initiative in 2012. The initiative is supported by committed citizens, artists, players from the cultural sector and mayors from across Europe, whose common goal is to be involved in building a "Europe from the bottom up" and to create a "Citizens' Europe". The initiative assumes that the way to a "Citizens' Europe" must converge with culture in the broadest sense and that cities must play a key role. Europe's cities and citizens share responsibility for Europe. All individuals should ask themselves which contribution they can make in their cities to build up Europe. The initiative wants to build a network of cities, initiatives and active citizens committed to Europe who engage for Europe in their city. *citiesforeurope.eu*

EUROPE BOTTOM-UP

The "Europe Bottom-Up" Platform is a digital platform for action and cooperation, which is meant to encourage awareness of our responsibility for Europe and to encourage it. It is open to organisations, groups and initiatives that want to contribute to Europe's success in a wide variety of fields. All of us, including our towns and regions, have the potential for making such contributions. And Europe needs them. For, in the reality, it is the lives and actions of many people on the grassroots level that is decisive for the success or lack of success of Europe in social and economic and also cultural terms. *europebottomup.eu*

STIFTUNG ZUKUNFT BERLIN

Stiftung Zukunft Berlin is a place for exchange and reflection on solutions for the future: a driving force, a balancing forum and a dedicated source of inspiration all at the same time. Committed people can get involved here. Proposals are developed from within civil society and then taken forward in a dialogue at eye level with those with political responsibility. The foundation bundles broad civic engagement and gives it a voice. The commitment of Stiftung Zukunft Berlin is based on the conviction that active civic responsibility is an essential pillar of liberal democracy. *stiftungzukunftberlin.eu*

WIR SIND EUROPA

We are a group of individuals from academia, politics, culture, and the media with one thing in common: we want Europe to succeed. We talk to ordinary people in different towns and cities to find out what each individual can do for Europe. We are particularly interested in what the cultural sphere has to offer. We want to understand Europe better and share our knowledge. We organise meetings and debates around the annual “State of Europe” Speech in Berlin and the Humboldt Lectures on Europe. We work to help people and politicians get more involved in Europe. We want more Europe, but from the bottom up. *wir-sind-europa.eu*

Exhibition Partner

ONBOARDING MEMORIES

The Onboarding Memories project is dedicated to an essential and at the same time often overlooked dimension of National Socialist crimes. Ten digital exhibition rooms present victims, places, and memories of Nazi forced labour from different European countries. 360° videos and photos make the places immersive experiences. The transnational dimension of central elements of German National Socialism such as racism, exploitation, extermination will become clear here. The digital exhibition invites for a lively discussion about the transnational places of remembrance that are perceived as European and thus to discuss a European culture of remembrance.

The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future as part of the education agenda NS-injustice. With local partners in France, Italy, Poland, and Germany, it promotes linkages among local European

history associations and initiatives in order to strengthen Europe from below.

A project of European Academy Berlin in cooperation with Centre Européen Robert Schuman Scy-Chazelles, France, Fundacja Krzyżowa dla Porozumienia Europejskiego, Poland, Istituto Comprensivo n.4 Stefanini Treviso, Italy.

Technical support: Blickwinkel Tour Nuremberg.

Media Partners

ALEX BERLIN

As a non-commercial TV and radio station, ALEX broadcasts content of social relevance beyond the mainstream and offers space for the innovative energy of its location. ALEX enables people to experience and shape media themselves, offers the chance to publish content on TV, radio and online and is a meeting place for ideas, creativity and exchange. In addition, as an educational institution and event broadcaster, ALEX accompanies events relating to local politics, society and culture and provides committed young media professionals with a qualified entry into the media industry. ALEX is an institution of the Medienanstalt Berlin-Brandenburg (mabb) and is financed by the licence fee in Germany. ALEX reaches around 1.64 million TV households (analogue and digital), has a technical reach of around three million FM listeners in the broadcasting sector and distributes its content via all popular social media channels. alex-berlin.de

EURACTIV

EURACTIV promotes open policy debates between governments, businesses and civil society. Its Media Network consists of independent and integrated offices in over a dozen European capitals and provides constructive, free localised policy news in many languages. Every month, EURACTIV reaches over two million readers across Europe and beyond. EURACTIV Germany's transnational work focuses on both bringing EU-related issues closer to the German readership and making news from the German level visible in Brussels' political bubble. Read us on euractiv.de for the latest EU policy news!



Statements

What contribution can cities, can culture make to Europe, and what contributions are already being made?

Read what our speakers have to say!

Rosa María Balas Torres

Europe is built from every corner: all municipalities, wherever they are, must be protagonists.



Picture: EU

Marko Filipović



Picture: City of Rijeka

We find ourselves in difficult, challenging times; stability seems to be on the verge of collapsing. This is why cooperation between nations and cities of Europe is needed more than ever: cooperation to implement the democratic values within our societies, be it through education, cultural programmes or some other kind of local level interference. The City of Rijeka decided to achieve it from the bottom up as the first City in the Republic of Croatia that implemented Civic Education in our Elementary Schools.

Dominic Fritz

As a city with a rich multicultural history, Timișoara sees the title year for the European Capital of Culture as an opportunity to promote the role that cities play in the challenges that our European project is currently facing. Cities are where we can find answers on how to live diversity, how to build communities that are both inclusive and vibrant. Cities are where we find answers to technological challenges, innovation, people living together and working on new solutions.



Picture: City of Timișoara

Ulrich Fuchs



Picture: U.F.

Marseille is probably one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Europe. Migration has belonged to the city's DNA for 2600 years. Marseille was European Capital of Culture in 2013. Ten years later, everybody can see the impacts as well as the still-existing challenges.

Martin Guillermo Ramírez

EU policies and initiatives are implemented in regions and cities and their active participation and commitment are crucial for an effective bottom-up integration.



Picture: AEBR

Christian Johann



Picture: C.J.

We have an opportunity to develop a new cultural ecosystem that can connect Europe at a higher level, because culture speaks the same language everywhere.

Ansgar Klein

Civil society in Europe is made up of many millions of committed citizens who put their concerns into practice on the ground and at the same time make them public. To play its important role, civil society needs spaces for action and access to the public. But these are increasingly under threat in Europe (shrinking spaces). Therefore, good framework conditions in the EU (such as a European law on associations) and funding programmes that also strengthen civil society in its critical functions of criticism are essential.



Picture: A. K.

Wolfram Korr



Picture: Paolo Risser

Civil society engagement, together with the thousands of individual threads of connections, meetings, events, and contacts between people, form the great ropes that really connect Europe. Culture can achieve a lived naturalness of a common Europe through its immanent internationality and constant exchange.

Christiane Lötsch

Art holds up a mirror to society and politics, draws attention to grievances and questions sovereignties of meaning. This power can change us and drive us forward.



Picture: C.L.

Niklas Nienaß

Picture: EU



Europe without civil society cannot exist in the long run. The people on the ground have to fill Europe with life. My favourite example is the EU LEADER programme, where local citizens can directly decide what and how they want to use EU funding. The conference on the future of Europe also showed how valuable the knowledge and experience of citizens is.

49 proposals emerged from the year-long process and show how citizens envisage a common European future in a variety of thematic areas. Now it is up to the EU institutions to show that the proposals have been heard and are being translated into reality.

Haris Pašović

There is no Europe without culture. Europe is Culture.



Picture: Simon
Murphy

Robert Piaskowski

Picture: Robert
Stusznjak



Civil society is a prerequisite for mature democracies. A mature democracy is a reality in which citizens are aware of their rights and use them to influence authorities, but also have their significant and tangible participation in the creation of a broader social reality. It involves the notion of rights to cultural diversity, respect for differences, human rights, and the issue of building social cohesion, and inclusion of underrepresented groups. Civil society is about building the connective tissue at every level: local, regional, and Pan-European. It requires balanced and non-discriminatory access to resources and inclusion in civil dialogue and should have a serious say in European policymaking.

Dagmar Ruscheinsky

We share the challenges that characterize our life in the heart of Europe with many regions of Europe. Chemnitz is representative of other cities in Europe whose development potential has been redefined during contemporary historical upheavals, positioned as a traditional part of Europe, and has benefited from earlier virtues. The Capital of Culture wants to rediscover pride in a major European city and bring back the self-confidence of the population.

This includes using art and culture to expand perspectives on the rapid transformation of the post-reunification period and to share the experiences gained with others in Europe for future challenges.



Picture: City of Chemnitz

Neda Rusjan Bric

We have an opportunity to develop a new cultural ecosystem that can connect Europe at a higher level, because culture speaks the same language everywhere.



Picture: Nada Zgank

Volker Schlöndorff

Europe is the cradle of individualism. Only what each one of us does changes the life of the collectivity.



Picture: V. S.

Daryna Sterina

Promoting an inclusive society on a democratic basis is in line with the EU's fundamental values. Still, European societies and governments are not yet able to deliver on the promise of integration, as migration is still closely linked to discrimination. This is where civil society steps in and advocates for an inclusive way of policymaking.



Picture: D.S.

Hannes Swoboda

Europe must also be built also from the bottom up, and a close link should be established between European institutions and citizens.



Picture: H. S.

Farid Tabarki



Picture: F. T.

We should forget about the physical boundaries of the continent, and instead realise that by cultural exchanges with others – inside or outside the continent – we understand who we are and how we can fulfil our role.

René Wilke

Building bridges every day.



Picture: City of Frankfurt (Oder)

Gerry Woop



Picture: Senate Department for Culture and Europe

Europe is a continent of cities! They are the place where European political goals will be achieved, including jobs, affordable housing, education, innovation, energy and climate protection goals, social cohesion, poverty reduction, and housing, as well as the integration and support of refugees. I am convinced that the cities and their citizens will play a key role in meeting Europe's challenges. The current problems cannot be solved without the social solidarity among European cities.

Berlin is strongly connected with European Integration. European history has been written in Berlin time and again, where both world wars and the murder of millions of people were planned and where the fall of the Berlin wall was a turning point for all of Europe. With Germany's re-unification, the decades of division during the Cold War in Europe were ended. Europe started getting closer to each other. This is what our commitment will be and has been: strengthening European Integration and the EU's social dimension.

Imprint

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Pariser Platz 6
D-10117 Berlin

Conference languages are German and English; simultaneous translation will be provided. A wireless internet connection is available through a Telekom hotspot.

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Stay committed to Europe!



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Cities for Europe



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