

## Workshop Descriptions “A Soul for Europe” Conference 2017

Find links to relevant contributions from our online debate for each workshop and read [Volker Hassemer's introduction here](#).

Have a look at [Elmar Brok's article](#) ‘It is time for European citizens to take ownership of the European Union’ that serves as preparatory material for all workshops or find [Collected Key Statements from the Online Debate](#), that provides a summary of the whole online-debate.

### Topic 1: Cities for Europe

11:00-  
12:30

**A.**

**Organiser:** Cities for Europe

**Title:** How Can Cities and Citizens Strengthen Europe? (Part 1)

**Introductory statements and presentation of exemplary projects**

**Format:** Presentation & conversation

**Active participants:** Emil Boc, Mayor Cluj-Napoca and Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President Committee of the Regions, Volker Hassemer, Chairman Stiftung Zukunft Berlin; Hella Dunger-Löper, former state secretary, project representatives, Michael Cramer, MEP (tbc);  
**Host:** Brigitte Russ-Scherer, former Mayor

**Teaser:** This workshop starts with an input on “How do cities realize their responsibility for Europe and what changes do we need?” Selected initiatives will present their projects before the discussion is opened to the public.

#### Preparatory material:

**Klaus Lederer:** [A Soul for Europe](#)

- Civil society mobilizes in cities like Berlin for a stronger Europe.
- Those who only want to profit from the European Union, but do not want to help those in need, will end up destroying the EU.
- We need a strong civil society in order to be a voice for a strong Europe that has managed to find common ground.



**Petra Kammerevert:** Who will assume responsibility in Europe?

- What we need is a Europe that stands for its citizens—a Europe that is shaped and experienced directly in communities.
- In the medium term, every young European has to have the opportunity, at least once, to participate in one of the ERASMUS+ projects, regardless of the parents' financial situation.
- European citizens have to become more integrated in political processes and also become the focus of European policy



» In order to promote the citizens' consciousness of their identity as European citizens, they have to get involved in the policy-making at all levels «

**Petra Kammerevert**  
Who will assume responsibility in Europe?

**Michaela Kauer:** Experiment with potential for renewal

- The European Commission has to involve the local level of government in the context of partnership, (...), and the member states will have to relinquish powers in both directions, whether they wish to or not.
- The EU Urban Agenda must outgrow its project status.



» Cities have to let go of their engrained (and often justified) mistrust and become more European. «

**Michaela Kauer**  
Experiment with potential for renewal

**Jo Leinen:** Out of the Bubble! Europe's future is decided in cities and regions

- Political unification became possible because European culture and science had already been existing for centuries. Likewise, political unification can neither replace nor force the cultural process without which the European Union would only be a technocratic project.
- An agenda by urban areas for Europe can achieve more than any EU programme could ever do.
- To build a more democratic, stronger, and more successful Union, we need first and foremost to strengthen its fundament and build a new European consensus.



» Do we, as Europeans, have a shared destiny? Do we only want to cooperate or be united? «

**Jo Leinen**  
Out of the Bubble!

**Rüdiger Kruse:** The Europe of cities

- Cities face similar challenges, regardless of the respective nation. For instance, integration succeeds or fails in cities.
- Europe will not be a Europe of cities or of nations; it will have to be a Europe of citizens if it is to enjoy a future



» Opinions are formed in the cities. Connections between countries are connections between cities. «

**Rüdiger Kruse**  
The Europe of cities

**Michael Cramer:** [Europe and the future of mobility](#)

- More and more cities start to realise the great potential of an efficient public transport system and smart investments in bicycle infrastructure.
- The European Union has great potential to lead the world community on this path. If we succeed in becoming a credible role model for climate protection worldwide, we can motivate other states to follow our lead but also serve them with consistent best practice experience.



**Hella Dunger-Löper:** [Affirming one's history—towards a European identity](#)

- The future lies in cities with their economic power, productivity, potential and infrastructure for a knowledge society.
- It is only histories that are recognized and felt together and common traditions and experiences that lead to a shared sense of identity and solidarity, closeness, affinity and home.
- The responsibilities for the process to be successful involve an interplay between the local and the European.



02:00-  
03:30

**B.**

**Organiser:** Cities for Europe

**Title:** How Can Cities and Citizens Strengthen Europe? (Part 2)

**Format:** Parallel table talks with regard to four topics: 'Cultural Activities/ Sister Cities/ Cultural Heritage/ Pulse of Europe'

**Active Participants:** Project representatives (tba); Brigitte Russ-Scherer, former Mayor; Hella Dunger-Löper, former State Secretary

**Teaser:** Table talks will have a focus on the specific experiences and expertise that project representatives share with the conference participants. Sharing of experiences, dialogue and networking between citizens, artists, politicians and project representatives.

04:00-  
05:30

C.

**Organiser:** Advocate Europe & Actors of Urban Change

**Title:** European Cities From the Bottom Up - New Responses From Civil Society and Local Administration

**Format:** World Café

**Active participants:** Tamar Gurdikyan, 70 TK (Istanbul), Refugees for Co-Creative Cities (Oberhausen)

Martina Michels, MEP; Hella Dunger-Löper, former State Secretary; Brigitte Russ-Scherer, former Mayor; Joachim Zeller, MEP

**Hosts:** Julia Hoffmann, Program Manager Advocate Europe; Christina Nuhr, program manager Advocate Europe; Sebastian Schlüter, Program Manager Actors of Urban Change

**Teaser:** Civil society actors and local administration share the goal of wanting to improve the lives of the community. Yet, collaboration between these two groups often is disconnected. Today's turbulent world requires that we act together, in new forms of alliances and more committed than before in order to drive future change. This session explores exemplary cases of collaboration and looks on the pain points of cross-sector collaborations as well as the places of potential. Four activists from across Europe share their insights and experiences from working in partnerships across sectorial boundaries.

### Preparatory material:

**Julia Hoffmann:** [What does it take to respond?](#)

- "Responsibility" can be read as a connection between "response" and "ability"—the capacity to answer to something.
- Civil society is essential for bringing about positive social change in Europe. People in European initiatives are doing their work out of dedication—because they care.



**Ulrike Guérot:** [The place of citizens in the European project](#)

- It is time to discover the place of citizens in the European project and to remember that citizens—not states—are sovereign.
- The European citizens urgently need a learning experience to internalize their role as part of a political body.



**Verena Ringler:** [Time of the Citizens: We are the ones we've been waiting for](#)

- And, if we talk the talk of "people power" and "civil society", we also need to walk the walk. That means behavioral changes in daily life. Body care and democracy care would be part of the same daily routine



**Emil Boc, Rarita Zbranca:** [Five Ways to Build Europe from Within](#)

- There is no single way of being European. We think the time has come to tell Europe our story, so that, together, we might find new solutions for the challenges we face. Our story it is about building Europe from within.



## Topic 2: Europe from the Bottom Up

11:00-  
12:30

**A.**

**Organiser:** Das Progressive Zentrum

**Title:** #DialogueOnEurope - New Ideas for Migration Policy

**Format:** Working groups

**Active participants:** Martina Michels, MEP (tbc); Sir Graham Watson, former MEP (tbc); Joachim Zeller, MEP

**Host:** Maria Skóra

**Teaser:** Increased migration influx to Europe is a hot topic for politicians, journalists and experts, but so far, few satisfying solutions have found both effectively help refugees and to prevent fears of the unknown that propel the populist tide. You know how to strengthen European dimension of local governance? You have ideas for better migration and integration policy? You want to support European integrity? Join our workshop and share your thoughts for building Europe bottom-up!

**Preparatory material:**



### Maria Skóra, Das Progressive Zentrum: [Assuming citizens' responsibility](#)

- Crises can become catalysts for mobilizing citizens for self-help and solidarity.
- Europe needs strong social engagement to enhance civil participation in reforming the European project.
- There is a good chance that including the citizens in the policy-making process will improve its transparency and rebuild trust in the policy makers' intentions.



### Sabine Verheyen: [European Reinvention through culture and active citizenship](#)

- It is crucial, to further develop and reinvent our Union to make it a success story that lasts, taking every single citizen and city with us on this journey.
- An element that is often forgotten in the debate is that EU citizens as well as local and regional communities are the foundation of the European Union.
- Democracy cannot be “consumed” from home. It is not a one way street.



### Sir Graham Watson: [A New Congress of Europe](#)

- The people of Europe would be happier if they knew what the final destination was likely to be. And perhaps we need a new Congress of Europe to decide that



### Satu Kuitunen: [“My Culture, Your Politics” Introduction, Self-Reflection and Questions](#)

- (...) there are many who feel like the EU has not had any influence on their lives and how could it? This is not necessarily a fact but these are feelings, which matter. Why should, say, a Spanish Commissioner know exactly what matters most in Finland or does a Luxembourgian leader really care about what matters to people in East Midlands?
- Are there conditions for shared European culture to exist within EU/Europe where there is a great multiplicity of cultures and identities?



**Rasmus Udde:** [Europe—a concept filled with opportunities](#)

- What is Europe to someone who did not have the privilege to choose where to study and someone who is one specific location bound for one reason or another?
- Thus, I truly believe that I must assume responsibility for Europe. However, this is not enough. Because if people like me assume responsibility for Europe from an early age, we will purely shape Europe the way we see fit, through our eyes.
- Can Europe-wide education help bridge the gap between people and our culture?



02:00-  
03:30

**B.**

**Organiser:** Arts Research Institute of Georgia

**Title:** Civil Society in Georgia on the Way towards Europe

**Format:** Panel discussion

**Speakers:** Minister Viktor Dolidze; Minister Mikheil Giorgandze; David Sakvarelidze, Artistic Director of Tzsinandali Music festival; Giorgii Sharvashidze, rector of Javakhisvili Tblisi State University

**Active participants:** Levan Khetaguri, professor Arts Research Institute of Georgia  
Volker Hassemer, Chairman Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

**Host:** Steve Austen, Fellow Felix Meritis Foundation

**Teaser:** Georgian civil society witnessed their state transforming from a former Soviet republic to having an association agreement with the European Union. How can culture form the European identity of Georgians? The European choice is a citizens' choice – two participants from Forum Tblisi taking place in October will report on the outcomes.

**Preparatory material:**

**Ferdinand Richard:** ["Who is assuming responsibility for Europe?"](#)

- I consider that one of the main threats to the European dream is the obviously growing disequilibrium between peripheries and centers, and north and south Europe.
- Today's political situation in Europe forces us to remember that the ultimate goal of the European project requires an acceptable level of federalism, a consistent reduction of the Nation-States "domaines réservés" (Culture, Defense/Intelligence, Social Integration policies, Healthcare and Education), and certainly a complete revision of the European political power decision-making process.



**Levan Khetaguri:** [The Role of the EU in Georgia](#)

- Success for Georgia is equated with its political convergence to Europe and the European Union. It is equated with the assurance of our future development as free citizens.



04:00-  
05:30

**C.**

**Organiser:** GRAD & Felix Meritis Foundation

**Title:** Creating active citizenship: The Notion of Civil Society and Culture in Belgrade and Amsterdam

**Format:** Panel discussion

**Active participants:** Silke Gebel, MdA (tbc); Radomir Lazovic, activist; Hala Naoum Néhmé, Municipality of Amsterdam

Volker Hassemer, Chairman Stiftung Zukunft Berlin

**Host:** Steve Austen, Fellow Felix Meritis Foundation

**Teaser:** Where is the citizen? Now that the Treaty of Lisbon (2009) has come into force, the relations between the member states and the European Union are in favour of a transnational definition of citizenship. Let's start with the citizens position and have a look at the situation in Belgrade and Amsterdam: Do we have to change our lives? Let's talk about it

**Preparatory Material:**

**Silke Gebel:** [Europe—A Responsibility for My Generation](#)

- To this end, my generation holds a special responsibility: To us, distance has become secondary. We grew up in a Schengen Europe without border controls.
- If we in the cities, the smallest entity of democracy, raise our voices, we can become the chorus of Europe!
- We need to stand together for an idea that has brought our generation an unprecedented era of peace and prosperity—the European idea.





**Bernhard Schneider: Europeans of all nations unite!**

- The European Urban Agenda is long overdue. Its aims, however, cannot be achieved on this one-way track. It cannot be done unless the cities themselves start acting as European players. In the end, the complementary European Agenda of Cities channeling their citizens' European aspirations and competences will make the difference.



» Where will the **renewal** originate from? From **cities**.  
From **us**, the **people** of the  
European Union.  
The **sovereign**. «

**Bernhard Schneider**  
Europeans of all nations unite!

**Dina Čubrić: When binarism is not enough: reframing center and periphery**

- The question is not what a citizen is, but what a citizen can do!
- Culture itself becomes an inclusive field in which citizens do not spectate, but participate.
- Cities, citizens and culture are key pillars of modern democracy.
- Culture ceases to be property of elites and becomes a public good.

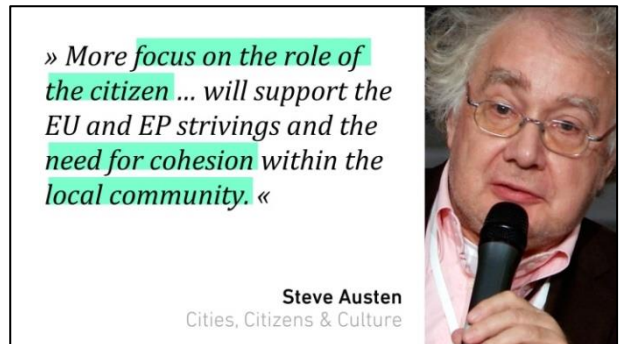


» We **never** know what a  
**culture** is until we experience  
what it can do «

**Dina Čubrić**  
When binarism is not enough

**Steve Austen: Cities, Citizens & Culture: the key pillars of European Identity**

- The civil society must take up the challenge to offer modes of identification, sharing and optimism in the direct surrounding of the citizens.



» More **focus** on the **role** of  
**the citizen** ... will support the  
**EU and EP** strivings and the  
**need for cohesion** within the  
**local community**. «

**Steve Austen**  
Cities, Citizens & Culture

### Topic 3: Arts and Politics- A Good Match?

11:00-  
12:30

A.

**Organiser:** internationales literaturfestival berlin (ilb)

**Title:** New Stories for Europe?

**Format:** Fishbowl discussion

**Active participants:** Priya Basil (author), Daphne Büllesbach (Executive Director European Alternatives), Ivana Sajko (artist and director)

Paul Dujardin, Artistic Director BOZAR; Juan Gabriel Vasquez, author; Simon Mundy, Vice-President of the Writer's for Peace Committee of PEN International; Nele Hertling, Spokesperson 'A Soul for Europe'

**Host:** Simone Schröder (internationales literaturfestival berlin)

**Teaser:** This fishbowl discussion brings together writers and intellectuals from different European nations. In an open dialogue with the audience, we explore possibilities for new narratives for Europe. It is inspired by a roundtable on the future of Europe, which took place at the International Congress for Democracy and Freedom as part of the 17th international literature festival berlin in September 2017.

#### Preparatory material:

**Juan Gabriel Vásquez:** [Letter to \(and from\) Europe](#)

- Values of the Enlightenment can easily be recognised: they are everything that the religious fanatics try to destroy. They are the secular, tolerant, liberal, open Europe, the Europe of empathy, the Europe that I call humanistic, by which I basically mean: on a human scale



**Priya Basil:** [Too Big to Fail! Time to Bail Out European Civil Society](#)

- A European Holiday will open up space for our unity as citizens.
- Conceived on the premise that closer trading ties between nations would reduce the likelihood of war between them, the EU has never been able to develop as much more than an economic bloc.
- If we as citizens want a more imaginative, inspiring Union, if we want different values to guide European politics, if we want the compassion, inclusion and mutual trust, that are the true foundation of togetherness, we have to agitate for it ourselves—even if that's uncomfortable.



**Simon Mundy:** [Forum Aberdeen: 'My Culture, Your Politics'](#)

- Cultural loyalty is claimed as the province of conservative nationalists. In the sense that it is used as a badge of obstruction it is—yet those in the other political groups view their culture with affection and respect too. Valuing the achievements of past generations, supporting the institutions that care for the artefacts and memories of those achievements, and backing the cultural activity of the present, is a positive virtue in any society.



02:00-  
03:30

**B.**

**Organiser:** Cafébabel & n-ost

**Title:** Creating a European Public Sphere

**Format:** Open dialogue

**Active participants:** François Famélie, Babel International; Katharina Kloss, Cafébabel Paris; Sébastien Vannier, Cafébabel Berlin

"We are Europe" group members; Anke Plättner, journalist

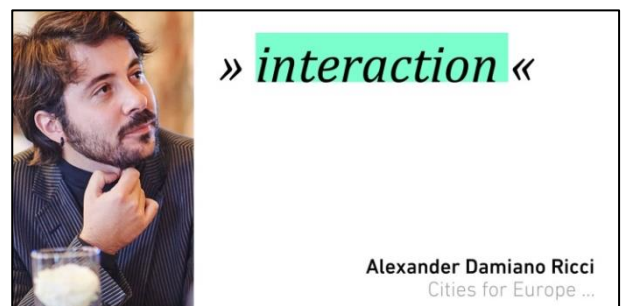
**Host:** Andreas Bock, editor, n-ost

**Teaser:** A European public sphere is a future necessity, but finds itself still in the foreign politics section of a newspaper. Although many political and social problems have a continental dimension, journalism only too focuses on the national level. We will take a look at the "European Newsroom" through the whole editorial process from a European perspective. The keyword of the workshop is "network". We will investigate together with the audience how European ideas, stories, and angles are developed, how research in a broad European context can be organized, how the writing - and translation - and the distribution in an European framework can be constructed. Can a European public sphere lead to a common European Narrative?

**Preparatory material:**

**Alexander Damiano Ricci:** [Cities for Europe: two suggestions and one \(big\) paradox](#)

- Fostering interaction among citizens and among cities becomes key to foster the European integration project
- To preserve the EU integration project the administrations of urban areas across Europe might prefer to put aside their international interactions and, instead, give priority to "actions" that foster economic and social cohesion with their rural surroundings.



04:00-  
05:30

C.

**Organiser:** Theater an der Parkaue

**Topic: What Can Theatre (for Children) Do for Europe?**

**Format:** Round table

**Active participants:** Karola Marsch, Dramaturge Theater an der Parkaue; Sarah Wiederhold, Dramaturge Theater an der Parkaue (tbc)

Paul Dujardin, Artistic Director BOZAR; Nele Hertling, Spokesperson A Soul for Europe

**Teaser:** A theatre stage is an opportunity to act out models of the world we want to live in: dominant discourses can be exhibited and questioned together with the audience. On stage we can create the unexpected and reinvent the habits of our societies. Young people today take Europe and its structures for granted: Borders have always been open and Rome, Lisbon or Berlin are just around the corner. But work and visions are needed to perpetuate the European project. We want to discuss how the freedom of our art form can be the starting point for an active European citizenship.

### Preparatory material:

**Nicolas Bertrand:** [A short story of a complex but accessible process](#)

- (...) a local cultural process that can transform a divided community and can lead to the creation of a common vision. The implementation of a "complex but accessible" process calls upon artistic practices, education and families.
- I believe cultural organizations should lead those cultural processes that transform inhabitants into active citizens



» *Cultural organizations should lead those cultural processes that transform inhabitants into active citizens* «

Nicolas Bertrand

A short story of a complex but ...

**Paul Dujardin:** [Imagining the Fabric of Citizenship](#)

- Let us insist here on the importance of art not only as a vehicle to deliver a message, a symbol or a story, but rather as a space, a method enabling people to learn and practice democracy through different experiences, from performances in public spaces to drawing or reading workshops.



» *the importance of art ... as a space, a method enabling people to learn and practice democracy through different experiences* «

Paul Dujardin

Imagining the Fabric of Citizenship



**Kay Wuschek: Urban society and theater in Berlin: A metaphor for Europe**

- In our imagination, we can transform anything into anything: a fork into a dog, a sentence into a playground. Because all we talk about in the theater is a human being. And we see all of us within that human being. In his desire, shame, rage, in his wishes, dreams, injuries and wounds. Playing with these emotions means getting to know us and the others from all sides..



11:00-  
12:30  
cont.  
02:00-  
04:30

**D.**

**Organiser:** Center for Fine Arts Brussels (BOZAR)

**Title:** Next Generation, Please!

**Format:** Artistic Workshop for young people

**Artist:** Leni Huyghe, actress

**Hosts:** Melat Gebeyaw Nigussie, BOZAR; Frédéric Meseeuw, BOZAR  
(in English)

**Teaser:** Populism is on the rise and the European project is in jeopardy. What role does rhetoric play in all of this? The workshop will use a political speech as a point of departure to embark on a critical reflection about the past and to express hopes and wishes for the future. The different parts of the workshop consist of the analysis of the speech, followed by a discussion between the students and a brainstorming session to discuss the topics that the students will address in their own speeches. The different speeches are presented at the end of the day. The story of Europe is best told by its citizens. What do you have to say?

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