



**European perspectives
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7th Young Scholars Forum on Central and South East Europe

“European narratives – in search for common diversity”

03 – 04 December 2020

Online Forum

Europeans face Europeans. The national policies of the states making up the old continent continue to shape Europe's future at the expense of Europe as whole. The divisions among the countries are deepening, very often in a way that creates a crisis both internally and in a global context. The constant search of common narratives – as the basis for a common identity-based policy – seems to be increasingly difficult in the face of fragmented political spectrum and ever-more differing policy approaches in Europe. The purpose of the Forum is to provide space for young scientists to find what is common to all Europeans.

As part of the 2-day event, 20 young researchers from all over Europe are invited to present and discuss their research work on the topic, as well as to network among themselves. The conference will take place on the first two days under the direction of experts within four thematically different panels:

- ◆ Europe as an area of peace and stability
- ◆ Europe as a space of cultural diversity
- ◆ Europe as a global actor
- ◆ If not the EU, is there/has there been an alternative?



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Agenda of the Forum

Thursday, December the 3rd

9.00 - 9.15 Welcome address

Sebastian Schäffer, Managing Director of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe

9.15 – 12.00 Panel I “Europe as an area of peace and stability”

For a long time, Europe has been a symbol of peace and stability. After all, the European Union itself was founded to keep the continent from repeating the horrors of the wars Europe experienced in the first half of the twentieth century. However, the narrative of universal peace and stability may be applicable to Western Europe but is untenable for Eastern and South-Eastern Europe given the events of the 1990s, as well as the current conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Moreover, peace is a matter of course for a young generation who has experienced neither war nor totalitarianism.

Chaired by Sebastian Schäffer, Managing Director, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)

9.15 – 9.45 “Democracy: In Need of Relative Improvement”

Babrik Kushwaha, University of Lille & Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau, France & Germany

9.45 – 10.15 “Visegrad 4 – Stability in the EU or tip the scales on the stability of the EU?”

Stefan Lehrner, Andrassy University of Budapest, Hungary

10.15 – 10.45 “Everything in moderation? Institutions, economic inequality and demand for populism in Hungary and Lithuania”

Denis Ivanov, University College London, United Kingdom

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 11.30 “Transnational Remembrance, Reconciliation and Understanding Go European? The German-Polish Youth Office for cross-border exchange on historical matters”

Gregor Christiansmeyer, Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany

11.30 – 12.00 “EU and Russian hegemonic power in the shared neighbourhood: Foreign policy through coercion in the case of Moldova”

Isabell Burmester, University of Geneva, Switzerland

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch Break



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13.30 – 16.15 Panel II “Europe as a space of cultural diversity”

Identical cultural roots are frequent argument in the creation of common European narratives. Despite the existence of so-called European cultural heritage, growing cultural diversity – mainly due to migration – is causing scepticism about a common European cultural identity. The changing European cultural environment makes the cultural mixture of Europe more detrimental than ever before.

Chaired by Daniel Martínek, Research Associate, Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM)

13.30 – 14.00 “Why Sino-Yugoslav Cold War Cultural Links Still Matter?”

Jovana Bogojevic, University Ca’ Foscari of Venice and Heidelberg University, Italy/Germany

14.00 – 14.30 “Moving image – Moving Europe: Negotiating Cultural Histories“

Zerina Catovic, Historical Institute, University of Montenegro, Montenegro

14.30 – 15.00 “Re-public Policy: Religious Freedom and Religious security in Eastern Ukraine (2014-2019)”

Sergii Geraskov, National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine, Ukraine

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 – 15.45 “The landscape Narrative for Enhancing Common European Diversities”

Attila Toth, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia

15.45 – 16.15 “Mobile application as a welcoming guide: between digital mediation and culture”

Olga Usachova, University of Padua, Italy



Friday, December the 4th

9.30 – 12.45 Panel III “Europe as a global actor”

With the rise of China as an economic giant, Russia's increasingly assertive foreign policy and the unpredictable, Europe-distancing conduct of the United States, Europe (above all its Eastern and South Eastern part) is significantly influenced by external forces. The relative decline in economic importance and the projected demographic changes pose challenges to the EU and its neighbours both internally and externally, to which – due to fragmentation of European states and the lack of a common foreign-policy approach – the EU continues to be unable to respond effectively.

Chaired by Thomas Diez, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Tübingen

9.30 – 10.00 “How to Strengthen Europe’s Global position with Hegel’s concept of Recognition: a strategic approach to Europe’s with China”

Anneliese Rieger, Andrassy University of Budapest, Hungary

10.00 – 10.30 “The role of transnational counter-terrorism in the EU process of enlargement towards the Western Balkans”

Magdalena König, University of Groningen, Netherlands

10.30 – 11.00 “The relations between EU and Azerbaijan and the tensions between Europeanization and stabilitocracy”

Mirali Mirhashmli, Institute of Advanced Studies of Köszeg, Hungary

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 – 11.45 “The common agricultural Policy of the European Union and its possible future effects on the reduction of greenhouses gases of the agricultural industry”

Paul Philip Kowas, University of Applied Sciences of Wildau, Germany

11.45 – 12.15 “The role of strategic economic diplomacy in enhancing the role of EU as a global actor: the case of EU-Vietnam economic connectivity”

Phuong Pham, Queen Mary University of London, United Kingdom

12.15 – 12.45 “European Integration and Political Fragmentation after Covid19”

Urban Jaksa, University of York, United Kingdom

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch break



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14.00 – 16.15 Panel IV “If not the EU, is there/has there been an alternative?”

Despite being the most extensive project of political integration in the world, the European Union has experienced a series of crises in recent years such as the Eurozone debt crisis, the refugee crisis, the Brexit or the rise of populist, strongly nationally-oriented parties across the continent. On the one hand, the enlargement of the EU in Eastern and South Eastern Europe seems to be stuck, on the other hand, the deeper integration of the EU members is not evolving as previously expected, where there is growing scepticism about the European project in general. Brexit, the dismal socio-political situation and the resulting protests in some (non-)EU member states, and the democratic backsliding in Central Europe – all this creates the ideas of a different Europe: a Europe of sovereign nation states, a federal Europe or a Europe in the form of a republic.

Chaired by Bettina Rausch, President of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party

14.00 – 14.30 “Lessons from the backlash: steps towards a more equitable EU”

Mátyás Máté, Corvinus University of Budapest/University of Tartu, Hungary/Estonia

14.30 – 15.00 “The Visegrad group – a united front against a common European narrative?”

Filip Fila, Institute for Social research in Zagreb, Croatia

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 – 15.45 “EU and principle of double standard policies”

Stefan Rashkovski, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary

15.45 – 16.15 EU Integration – Is there an alternative to the EU?”

Brankica Todorovic, School of Economics, Uzice, Serbia

16.15 – 16.30 Final Remarks and End of the Forum

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