



Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood

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1st International Alumni Seminar of the Council of Europe Schools of Political Studies

“Harnessing young people’s potential for building a democratic future”
19-20 June 2014, Strasbourg
Palais de l’Europe, Room 13

PROGRAMME

Thursday 19 June 2014	
14.00-14.30	<p>Opening of the meeting by Ambassador Piotr ŚWITALSKI, Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe</p> <p>Welcoming address by Thorbjørn JAGLAND, Secretary General of the Council of Europe</p>
14.30-15.30	<p>“The marginalisation of today’s young generation: Is the pact between the generations broken?”</p> <p>Everywhere in Europe, the proportion of young people in the population is declining. At the same time, it is becoming increasingly difficult for young people to find durable employment and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Young people who are excluded from education and employment tend to be also marginalised politically and socially. For this and other reasons, there is a disparity between the needs of young people and families and the priorities of political and democratic decision-making.</p> <p>Session 1: Making youth concerns a top priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>How the concerns of the young generation could be better integrated into the political agenda?</i>- <i>What new solidarity measures are required to confront demographic change?</i>- <i>Is there a need for a new pact between generations to counter the growing distortion of intergenerational resource distribution and justice?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Ms Tina MULCAHY-PERRIER, Head a.i. of the Youth Department, Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Discussants :</u> Ms Veronika DELIBALTOVA, Chair of the Youth Union of Bulgarian Socialist Party, Sliven Municipal Council, Bulgaria Mr Vladimir SHABARDIN, Children’s ombudsman for Kirov region, Russian Federation Mr Mirza USTAMUJIC, Member of the Federal Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, House of Representatives, President of the Committee for Youth</p>

15.30-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.30	<p>Session 2: Creating opportunities for young people in the labour market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Is immigration of young people from elsewhere a sound solution to Europe's demographic challenge?</i> - <i>How can young people express their economic and social needs more effectively and be better equipped to cope with the expectations of the labour market?</i> - <i>How could entrepreneurship and self-employment be better supported to face youth unemployment?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Mark NEVILLE, Head of the Private Office of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Discussants :</u> Mr Florin ALEXE, Member of Parliament, President of the National Liberal Youth, Romania Ms Mirjana SAKIC, EU Office Co-ordinator, Erste Bank, Serbia Ms Mariya TEREKHOVA, Entrepreneur, Ukraine</p>
18.00-18.45	Welcome drinks at the 'Lieu d'Europe' hosted by the City of Strasbourg in the presence of Ms Nawel RAFIK ELMRINI , Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of European and International affairs, Vice-President of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies (1 Allée Kastner, Strasbourg)
20.00	Dinner at the restaurant 'La Victoire' hosted by the Directorate of Policy Planning of the Council of Europe (24 Quai des Pêcheurs, Strasbourg)

Friday 20 June 2014	
9.00-9.30	Address by Ms Catherine LALUMIERE , President of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe
9.30-10.30	<p>"Can young people bring about an agreed set of common values for the future?"</p> <p>Young people feel particularly strongly about the long-term challenges and strategic orientations facing societies such as environmental sustainability, social justice, the fight against corruption, and equal opportunities. These aspirations are underpinned by values such as empathy, tolerance and respect for diversity, and a certain distrust of traditional hierarchies and concentration of power.</p> <p>Session 1: Youth participation in democratic life: a driving force for change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How can the younger generation find its rightful place in democratic institutions and processes?</i> - <i>How can youth protests be channeled towards constructive action for change?</i> - <i>Are online media and social networks significant tools in this respect?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Ms Snezana SAMARDZIC-MARKOVIC, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Discussants :</u> Ms Sabine GHoubantini, Member of the National Council, political party "Call for Tunisia" Ms Edlira GJONI, Media analyst and co-ordinator, Swiss Agency for Technical Cooperation, Albania Mr Oleksandr IAREMA, Advisor to the Head of Kyiv City Administration, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Foundation for Support of Reforms</p>

10.30-11.30	<p>Session 2: Sharing democratic values: youth empowerment through education for democratic citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Can a consensus be forged on a set of values for a common democratic future?</i> - <i>What role do educational systems play in creating and transmitting these values to young people?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Josef HUBER, Education Practice and Capacity Building, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Discussants :</u> Mr Costel BERCUS, President of the Board, Roma Education Fund, Romania Mr Edgar GHAZARYAN, Governor of Vayots Dzor region, Armenia Ms Ralitsa KIRILOVA, freelance researcher, deputy chair of the Commission of Education and Culture, political party ‘Democrats for strong Bulgaria’</p>
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12.00-13.00	<p>Brainstorming Round Table on the development of the Schools’ Alumni Network</p> <p>The round table will provide an opportunity to hear participants’ suggestions regarding the kind of activities that would be the most attractive for the Schools of Political Studies alumni network. They will also be invited to consider their role in developing a strong alumni community and engaging it in a sustained way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How could the impact of the Schools of Political Studies be reinforced in their respective countries?</i> - <i>How could the Schools’ Network and the Council of Europe help alumni become steadfast long-term partners of the Organisation?</i> - <i>How could the European Association of Schools of Political Studies strengthen the Alumni Network?</i> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mr Jack HANNING, Secretary General of the European Association of Schools of Political Studies</p> <p><u>Discussants :</u> Ms Maja JURISIC, Co-founder and President of Youth Association “Healthy Life Promotion”, Member of the Board of the Academy for Political Development, Croatia Mr Igor KOVALEV, Owner and Managing Director of KWELL LLC, Member of the Board of the Alumni Association of the Moscow School of Civic Education, Russian Federation Ms Hedvig MORVAI, Executive Director, European Fund for the Balkans, Member of the Board of the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, Serbia</p>
13.00-13.30	Concluding remarks by Ambassador Piotr ŚWITALSKI , Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe