



## WORLD DEMOCRACY FORUM SIDE EVENT

Brussels, September 23rd 2016

# YOUNG PEOPLE & DEMOCRACY: NEW CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONING WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Organised in the Framework of the Graduate **ENLIGHTEN** - **GEM** Summer School

Hosted by the **European Trade Union Confederation** @

International Auditorium Conference Center Boulevard du Roi Albert II, No. 5 / 2, 1210 Brussels, Belgium



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## WORLD DEMOCRACY FORUM SIDE EVENT LEAD



### **INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE - [www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)**

International IDEA is a global intergovernmental organization grouping 28 Member States. It is a Permanent Observer to the United Nations. Headquartered in Stockholm (S), it has offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Asia and North Africa. Its main mission and sole mandate is to support sustainable democracy worldwide. Its vision is to be the primary global actor in sharing comparative knowledge and experience in support of democracy. International IDEA's objectives are to support stronger democratic institutions and processes, and sustainable, effective and legitimate democracy. In particular, it aims for: (1) Increased capacity, legitimacy and credibility of democracy; (2) More inclusive participation and accountable representation; and (3) More effective and legitimate democracy cooperation.

To pursue these objectives, IDEA develops, shares and enables the use of comparative knowledge in its key areas of expertise: electoral processes; constitution building; political participation and representation, and democracy and development. It also addresses the important issues of gender, diversity, and conflict and security as they relate to democracy. Gathered comparative knowledge is then used to: (1) advance global, regional and national debates on democracy; (2) facilitate and substantiate dialogue among global, regional, national and local actors to support democratic change; and (3) partner with stakeholders working for democratic reform at the country level.

## ENLIGHTEN - GEM SUMMER SCHOOL SPONSORS



### **HORIZON 2020 ENLIGHTEN RESEARCH IN ACTION PROJECT - [www.enlightenproject.eu](http://www.enlightenproject.eu)**

ENLIGHTEN is collaborative research project funded by the European Commission Horizon 2020 Research Framework programme. Led by Pr. Leonard Seabrooke at the Copenhagen Business School (DK), it brings together 4 world class universities and 4 leading non-academic partners. Together, they explore how the European governance architecture (modes of governance; expert networks; policy instruments and legitimizing narratives) born from the recent crisis shaped: (1) Short and Long- term dynamics of stability and change in ideas; (2) Forms of knowledge applied to fast and slow-burning crises; and (3) Discourses developed in response to fast and slow-burning problems? 3 specific policy fields (case studies) were chosen to meet this challenge: (1) Banking crisis and fiscal sustainability; (2) Deficit Reduction and continuity of public services; and (3) Youth employment and inclusive growth.

### **ERASMUS MUNDUS GEM PhD SCHOOL - [www.erasmusmundus-gem.eu](http://www.erasmusmundus-gem.eu)**

GEM is an international social sciences and humanities PhD training initiative funded by the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus 2007-2013 programme. It brings together 10 leading international universities from 4 continents led by Pr. Mario Telo at the IEE-ULB (BE). Together, they seek to foster research on the challenges facing the global system from within a European Higher Education and Research Area. GEM is the largest Erasmus Mundus funded PhD program on EU and the world topics. It includes 51 PhD students.



## ENLIGHTEN - GEM SUMMER SCHOOL ACADEMIC LEAD



### **UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM - [www.uva.nl](http://www.uva.nl)**

UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM

UvA has its origins in the Athenaeum Illustre (founded in 1632). With nearly 30,000 students, over 5,000 employees and an annual budget of almost 600 million euros, it is one of the largest general research universities in Europe. It belongs to the League of European Research Universities and maintains intensive contact with universities all over the world. UvA's academic research is at the top of the international league in many respects and UVA aims to offer an inspiring, broadly oriented international academic environment where both staff and students can develop their capacities to an optimal level. The UVA is characterised by a critical, creative and international atmosphere, open-minded and strongly engaged with society. In the ENLIGHTEN project, UVA will oversee the research on Banking Crisis and Financial Stability and is partly in charge of the Summer School.

## ENLIGHTEN - GEM SUMMER SCHOOL NON-ACADEMIC LEAD & HOST



### **EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION - [www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org)**

ETUC was founded in 1973 to represent and promote worker interests at a European level. It consists of 89 national trade union federations in 36 countries, plus 10 European trade union federations. The European Union, the Council of Europe, and the European Free Trade Association all recognize the ETUC as the only cross-sectoral trade union organization representing workers at European level. This official status is enshrined in the Treaty of Maastricht (1992). The ETUC is working for a Europe with a strong social dimension, which focuses on workers' interests and well-being. The ETUC defends fundamental social values such as solidarity, equality, democracy, social justice and cohesion. In the ENLIGHTEN project, ETUC co-leads research on Youth Employment Crisis and In-clusive Growth with CBS.

## ENLIGHTEN - GEM SUMMER SCHOOL COORDINATION



### **INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES - [www.iee-ulb.eu](http://www.iee-ulb.eu)**

Founded over 175 years ago upon free-thinking principles, the ULB has consistently committed itself to the defense of democratic and humanist values and has developed into a leading research and teaching university of global prominence with 21,000 students. The University's pioneering European engagement was crystallized by the foundation of one of the continent's oldest interdisciplinary and autonomous research and teaching institutes wholly dedicated to EU studies: the Institut d'Etudes Européennes (IEE). The IEE born in 1964 is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence that relies on a hundred affiliated academics/researchers and promotes EU research carried out within the research units and centres of its partner faculties (Philosophy and Social Sciences, Law and Criminology, Solvay Brussels School Management). As for its high quality teaching offer in close interaction with research activities, over 7,500 students have graduated in the past 50 years. The IEE-ULB ENLIGHTEN team, led by Pr. Ramona Coman, oversees the global research on Legitimacy of European modes of Governance but also contributes to research on Deficit reduction and Continuity of Public Services, as well as on Youth Employment Crisis and Inclusive Growth. The IEE-ULB furthermore leads all activities related to impact and dissemination.





# WORLD DEMOCRACY FORUM SIDE EVENT DESCRIPTION

## YOUNG PEOPLE AND DEMOCRACY: NEW CHALLENGES OF DEMOCRATIC FUNCTIONING - WHAT IS AT STAKE

### **CONTEXT:**

This interactive exchange, led by the Office of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) to the EU in partnership with the European Youth Forum and the Council of Europe, bases on the fact that many initiatives have been taken to facilitate intergenerational dialogue, but insufficient emphasis has, so far, been placed on the need for an inter-generational dialogue on democracy.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

This WS will thus provide a platform to openly and informally exchange views on this issue, with the following specific objectives:

- Identify the main challenges of an inter-generational dialogue on democracy;
- Explore ways to facilitate the emergence of suitable environment and space for such a dialogue;
- Identify measures aiming at the promotion of the importance and need for an inter-generational dialogue on democracy;
- Explore avenues of enhancement for young people's participation and representation in political life in Europe & maximize their contribution to the building of sustainable democratic societies.

### **FORMAT:**

Participating MA students and Young Leaders will engage in conversations with a view to explore intersectional and comprehensive approaches to reinvigorate democracy by greater participation and representation of young people. To allow for fruitful exchanges, background material and references will be provided to participants beforehand.

### **OUTPUT:**

The **conclusions of this WS will be pulled in the form of a joint statement which 2 summer school participants will be selected to present at the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy (WFD)** held in Strasbourg (France) from the 7th to the 9th of November 2016. Said statement is expected to include recommendations on possible changes to the democratic system and policy measures to address the above mentioned issues – the electoral process, participation, institutions, and governance.

### **OUTCOME OBJECTIVES:**

- Maximize young people's participation in, and contribution to the building of sustainable, democratic societies;
- Address the intergenerational democratic deficit (young people becoming disenfranchised relative to older people);
- Address the opportunities and challenges that the inter-connected, globalized and constant changing environment hold for democratic functioning.

### **FURTHER CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY IDEA:**

Globally, one of the greatest challenges to democracy is how to address the expectations and needs of all citizens, and preserve their freedom and dignity while securing a sustainable future for generations to come. Democracy is fundamentally about people – people's participation in democracy, and democracy delivering development and welfare for the people. The role of the citizen in improving the quality of democracy is fundamental, and all generations have an equal responsibility to participate and to be represented in a dialogue to support democracy that delivers for future generations.

In consolidated and nascent democracies alike, the ability of democratic institutions to deliver development outcomes is a crucial determinant of citizen's long-term satisfaction with democracy. In all cases, responding to citizens' aspirations of socio-economic welfare, good governance and stewardship of public funds requires that increased attention be paid to the design of transparent and accountable political institutions capable of delivering on sustainable development.

Increasingly, people are losing trust in political parties and politicians – cornerstones of traditional political processes. The obstacles to meaningful participation and representation are complex and sometimes contextualized - from a growing demographic imbalance and inter-generational values gap, to paternalistic and oligarchic systems where formal political structures are unwilling to share power and respond to the aspirations democratic renewal.

In an inter-connected, inter-dependent and digitalized world, many innovative practices of democracy, often using new ICTs, are emerging. This leads to the question, "Is democracy evolving enough to benefit from these innovative practices and respond to the needs and demands of citizens around the world?"

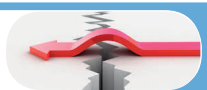
Democracy needs the participation of all citizens. This inclusive participation calls for an inter-generational dialogue on democracy, which could contribute to addressing the many challenges of democracy in a sustained and innovative manner. Globally, young people feel alienated from political processes due to various obstacles to meaningful participation and representation.

The European Youth Forum stated in 2009 that, "Young people can learn from the experience of older people, seniors can pass on their experience and share their knowledge with the younger generation, while the older generation can profit from the young people's knowledge and skills as well as from their energy and dynamic force". In many countries, steps have been taken to enforce the integration of inter-generational dialogue within social policies, which could contribute to the establishment of a new solidarity between generations. This can be further complemented by the establishment of a platform for dialogue on democracy between the younger and older generation that is necessary to develop inclusive transformative strategies and perspectives.



**Lead:** M. Andrew Bradley  
Director of IDEA office to the EU

### **A PARTNERSHIP WITH:**





## CONTACT

H2020 ENLIGHTEN Brussels Office ;

Institut d'Etudes Européennes de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles

39, av. F.D. Roosevelt B-1050 Brussels - Belgium

**M. Johan Robberecht** (ENLIGHTEN "Impact and Dissemination" Work Package Lead) : jorobber@ulb.ac.be // T: +32(0)2 650 33 85

**Ms. Alexia Samuel** (ENLIGHTEN "Impact and Dissemination" Officer): alexia.samuel@ulb.ac.be // T: +32 (0)2 650 49 69



**MORE ABOUT THE ENLIGHTEN - GEM SUMMER SCHOOL :**

[www.enlightenproject.eu/impact/summer-school/](http://www.enlightenproject.eu/impact/summer-school/)



**MORE ABOUT THE WORLD DEMOCRACY FORUM :**

[www.world-forum-democracy.org](http://www.world-forum-democracy.org)

