

SPEAKERS AND GUESTS

OPENING

Welcome and key note



ANNA RURKA

President of the Council of Europe's Conference of INGOS

Since 2015, Anna Rurka holds the position of elected President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. She is a Senior Lecturer at the University Paris Nanterre, Vice Chairwomen of the European Committee for Home-based Priority Action for the Child and the Family (EUROCEF, INGO with participatory status with the Council of Europe). Her professional and social engagement activities focus on participation of vulnerable people, access to rights and services, as well as systemic and institutional analysis of the power relations in public policies.



ZOLTAN TAUBNER

Director of External Relations, Council of Europe

Mr Taubner began his career at the International Law Department of the Ministry of Justice of Hungary in 1990 before moving to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has been Director of the Hungarian Foreign Minister's Cabinet. He has been Deputy and Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Since 2008, he has been Director of External Relations, taking on the role in 2017 of Director of the Council of Europe Office in charge of liaison with the European Union in Brussels at the same time.



RICHARD YOUNGS

Senior Associate at Carnegie Endowment, Professor at University of Warwick

Richard Youngs is a senior fellow in the Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program, based at Carnegie Europe. He works on EU foreign policy and on issues of international democracy. Youngs is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick. Prior to joining Carnegie in July 2013, he was the director of the European think tank FRIDE. Youngs has authored thirteen books. His most recent works are *Civic Activism Unleashed: New Hope or False Dawn for Democracy?* (Oxford University Press, 2019), *Europe Reset: New Directions for the EU* (I.B. Tauris, 2017), and *Europe's Eastern Crisis: The Geopolitics of Asymmetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).



JADE GLENISTER

Moderator - Member, Expert Council on NGO Law of the Conference of INGOs

Jade Glenister is a member of the Expert Council on NGO Law. She is an Australian qualified lawyer, currently working in an independent organisation which inspects the treatment of and conditions for detainees in the UK. She has worked across Europe providing legal and policy advice through projects on human rights, focussing on equality and non-discrimination and the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. Co-author of "Justice or complicity? LGBT Rights and the Russian Courts" and previous Assistant Editor of the Equal Rights Review. She has provided training on equality law to lawyers, paralegals, journalists and NGO and government staff.



ADAM BODNAR

Commissioner for Human Rights, Poland

Adam Piotr Bodnar is a Polish jurist, human rights activist, vice-president of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (pl) (Helsinki Committee) from 2010 to 2015, since September 2015 Ombudsman for Civil Rights (pl) of the Republic of Poland.

SANDRA BOUDJOULIAN

Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna

Sandra Boudjoulian is Programme Officer in the Institutional Cooperation & Networks Unit of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). She facilitates and maintains FRA's cooperation with civil society and the Fundamental Rights Platform. The Platform is the Agency's core mechanism for engaging and sharing information with a variety of civil society actors, currently over 700. Her academic background is in sociology, political sciences and demography.



VALERIE HOPKINS

South East Europe Correspondent, Financial Times

Valerie Hopkins is the South-East Europe correspondent for the Financial Times, covering Hungary, Romania, Albania and the former Yugoslavia. Before joining the FT, she worked as a freelancer as well as with the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. She has a Master of Arts in Political Journalism from Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and a B.A. in International Relations (focus on Russian and Post-Soviet Studies) from the College of William and Mary.



HANNA SURMATZ

Senior Legal Affairs Officer, European Foundation Centre

Hanna Surmatz has been working towards a favorable operating environment for institutional philanthropy in the context of wider civil society space since May 2004. Her main responsibilities include monitoring and mapping/analysis of relevant national and European and international developments that affect foundations' operating environment; coordination of benchmarking exercises; and facilitating information exchange on foundation law matters through publications and events.



BIRGIT VAN HOUT

Regional Representative for Europe, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Birgit Van Hout is the Regional Representative for Europe of the UN Human Rights Office since 2017, leading the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe in Brussels. Previously, she worked to advance human rights, the rule of law, democracy and equality in Guatemala, Timor Leste, Bosnia, Central Asia, Palestine, Venezuela and Togo with various departments of the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organisation for Security and cooperation in Europe. She holds an LL.M., a M.A. in International Politics, and a postgraduate degree in International Human Rights Law.



SUSAN WILDING

Moderator - Head of Geneva Office, Civicus

Susan Wilding is the Head of the Geneva Office for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations and individuals dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society for a more just, inclusive and sustainable world. Susan is a South African citizen, who previously worked for the South African government in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) as an assistant Director in the Human rights and humanitarian affairs Unit. Prior to joining DIRCO, Susan worked in the private sector doing Public affairs for large corporates and philanthropic foundations. Susan holds her MA in Politics.



ALFONSO ALIBERTI

Policy and Advocacy Team Leader, European Youth Forum

Alfonso is currently working as Policy and Advocacy Team Leader at the European Youth Forum. He advocates for a stronger and more recognised youth civil society in Europe. He works specifically on advocating for a stronger and more accessible EU Programmes in the field of education, training and youth. He has extensive experience in the civil society sector and has been particularly active in promoting sustainable civil society models in Europe.



LEJLA ŠEHIĆ RELIĆ

President, European Volunteer Centre

Lejla Šehić Relić (born 1971), civil society activist since 1993, President of European Volunteer Centre, CEO of Croatian Volunteer Development Centre, founder and managing director of Volunteer Centre Osijek, expert for the development of volunteerism and civil society organisations in policy and practice, trainer and consultant for organizational development, co-author of several publications on volunteering, civil society and conflict management. Lejla holds university degree in public administration.



ANNA DAROCZI

Voluntary Service Coordinator, Phiren Amenca International Network

Anna Daroczi has been the coordinator of the voluntary service program of the Phiren Amenca International Network since 2016 where she is responsible for the exchange of young Roma and non-Roma between mainstream and Roma placements, and non-formal educational activities about various aspects of antigypsism. Earlier she was a program manager at a minority rights organisation in Hungary. She has an MA degree in Critical Gender Studies and a BA in Social Education.



KRZYSZTOF IZDEBSKI

Policy Director, Lawyer and activist, ePaństwo Foundation

Krzysztof Izdebski is Board Member and Policy Director of the ePaństwo Foundation (EPF) and a Board Member of the Consul Democracy Foundation. He is a lawyer specialised in access to public information, re-use of public sector information and anti-corruption. He has wide expertise in relations between public administration and citizens. He is the author of publications on freedom of information, technology, public administration, corruption and public participation including "Transparency and Open Data Principles: Why They Are Important and How They Increase Public Participation and Tackle Corruption" and recently published "alGOVrithms. The State of Play. Report on Algorithms Usage in Government-Citizens Relations in Czechia, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Slovakia."



MARYNA KHROMYKH

Civic activist, co-ordinator of the initiative "Who ordered Katya Handziuk's death?"

Maryna Khromykh is a communication consultant and project manager in the NGO sector in Ukraine. She is one of the founders and active member of the initiative group "Who is Behind The Murder of Katia Handziuk?"



PRISCILLIA LUDOSKY

Activist, Yellow Vest, France

Priscillia Ludosky, owner of a small organic cosmetic e-shop, co-founder of the yellow vests movement, co-founder of the Citizens League (association), member of the "Gilets Citoyens" collective initiator of the French Convention for Climate.



ALEXANDRINA NAJMOWICZ

Director, European Civic Forum

Alexandrina Najmowicz has been working for more than fifteen years in the third sector and not-for-profit organisations in France and at European level. She is currently Director of the European Civic Forum, a transnational network of over 100 associations across Europe, working to protect civic space, enable civic participation and build civil dialogue for more equality, solidarity and democracy in Europe. In this role, she leads different campaigns and initiatives aiming to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to stand and act for these values, defend citizens' rights and become influential in the decision making process. She represents the European Civic Forum in different stakeholders' groups within the European Commission, FRA and EESC.

**SANDRA PERNAR**

Moderator - Senior Regional Coordinator Europe, Open Government Partnership

Sandra Pernar is a Senior Regional Coordinator in the Open Government Partnership. She provides guidance and assistance to governments in Europe, facilitates exchange and learning between governments, as well as support to civil society organizations to push for open government reforms. Her previous work experience includes working for the Government and in the civil sector on democratisation, anti-corruption, good governance and civic participation.

RAPPORTEURS



MĂDĂLINA MOCAN

Mădălina Mocan is a civil society professional associated with the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD Cluj) at the Political Sciences Department of Babes Bolyai University. With a long experience in developing, coordinating and advising civil society initiatives, she maintains an academic and civic interest in human rights issues, particularly human trafficking, inequality, and public participation. She coordinates international partnerships such as LSE Ideas CSEEP Desk at FSPAC. She is an Aspen Institute Romania moderator, MMF Fellow (2014), and serves as a proud board member of Techsoup Romania and ELiberare.



ROBERT NESIRKY

Robert Nesirky, 23, is a 1st Class Honours law student in Dublin, Ireland, currently undertaking a dissertation exploring the institutional frameworks for civil society within the Council of Europe and the European Union. A believer in an essential role for youth in the safeguarding and strengthening of civil society, Robert is the National Youth Council of Ireland's European Representative and Vice-President of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs.