



World Forum  
for  
Democracy

FREEDOM

PROGRAMME  
OF SPECIAL EVENTS  
FOR THE SCHOOLS  
OF POLITICAL STUDIES

FROM 18 TO 20  
NOVEMBER 2015  
Strasbourg



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# OVERALL FORUM STRUCTURE

	Wednesday 18 November	Thursday 19 November	Friday 20 November
AM	<p>9.30-10.15 <b>SPEED NETWORKING BY PROFESSION</b></p> <p>10.30-11.15 <b>DIPLOMA CEREMONY</b></p> <p>11.30-13.00 <b>THEMATIC SESSIONS</b></p>	<p>9.00-10.30 <b>PLENARY SESSION 3</b></p> <p>11.00-12.30 <b>LAB SERIES 1</b></p>	<p>9.00-11.00 <b>PLENARY SESSION 4</b></p> <p>11.30-12.30 <b>CLOSING SESSION AND DEMOCRACY INNOVATION AWARD</b></p>
Lunch	<p>13.15-14.30 Restaurant of the European Parliament</p>	<p>12.30-14.00 Restaurant of the European Parliament</p>	<p>12.30-14.00 Restaurant of the European Parliament</p>
PM	<p>15.30-16.45 <b>OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE WORLD FORUM</b></p> <p>16.45-18.15 <b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b></p> <p>18.30-19.45 <b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b></p>	<p>14.00-15.30 <b>LAB SERIES 2 (SPS LAB No. 13)</b></p> <p>16.00-17.30 <b>LAB SERIES 3</b></p> <p>18.00-19.00 <b>DIALOGUE WITH INTERNATIONAL LEADERS</b></p>	<p>14.00-14.15 <b>FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH</b></p> <p>14.30-16.00 <b>THEMATIC SESSIONS</b></p> <p>14.30-15.30 <b>BILATERAL MEETINGS</b></p> <p>16.30-17.30 <b>BILATERAL MEETINGS</b></p>
Evening	<p>Welcome reception Blue Restaurant of the Council of Europe</p>		

SPS SPECIAL PROGRAMME

FORUM CORE PROGRAMME



**T**he Secretariat of the Schools of Political Studies warmly welcomes the 500 participants from the twenty-one Schools who are here in Strasbourg for the Fourth World Forum for Democracy.

■ The Forum intends to be a place where you – young democratic leaders – are exposed to cutting-edge ideas and first-rate discussion on issues relating to democracy. At the same time, built into the architecture of the Forum, is the ambition and space to hear about your experiences and address your questions on the topics under review. We encourage you to share your knowledge, thereby making this event a mutual learning experience.

■ In addition to the main Forum events, a comprehensive series of events and meetings has been designed specifically for the Schools. This brochure provides information on these events:

- ▶ Speed networking by profession;
- ▶ The Diploma ceremony;
- ▶ Five Thematic sessions;
- ▶ The “family photograph”;
- ▶ Bilateral meetings between Schools;
- ▶ Biographies of the key speakers;
- ▶ Contact information of the Schools’ Secretariat;

■ You will also find inserts indicating the time of your School’s visit to the European Court of Human Rights and a list of the Schools’ participants at the Forum – please use this to network and meet people from other Schools.

■ The Schools’ Secretariat looks forward to meeting you and hopes you will take full advantage of all these events as well as the Forum itself. Enjoy, network, and help build a brighter future!



# PROGRAMME

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**WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015**

## 9.30-10.15 Speed networking by profession

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To begin the Forum, this short ice-breaking exercise in the form of a speed networking provides an entertaining, structured and professional environment for people to connect in their respective fields. All Schools' participants are invited to join one of the five professional groups. Networking will be conducted as brief one-to-one meetings *in lingua franca*. Come and meet your colleagues from other Schools and exchange contacts and business cards!

- Room 7 ▶ **Politicians and public sector from national level**  
Moderator: **Katarzyna Pisarska**,  
Director of the Visegrád School of Political Studies
- Room 10 ▶ **Representatives of local and regional authorities**  
Moderator: **Valentina Djureta**,  
Programme co-ordinator,  
Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence
- Room 2 ▶ **Media professionals**  
Moderator: **Armen Zakaryan**,  
Director of the Yerevan School of Political Studies
- Room 3 ▶ **Civil society representatives**  
Moderator: **Armaz Akhvediani**,  
Director of the Tbilisi School of Political Studies
- Room 11 ▶ **Business leaders**  
Moderator: **Erjon Tase**,  
Director of the Academy of Political Studies, Albania

## 10.30-11.15 Diploma ceremony

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The diploma ceremony will take place in the presence of Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe in the Hemicycle, *Palais de l'Europe*.

## 11.30-13.00 Thematic sessions

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### Room 9 **The human rights dimension of migration in Europe**

EN-FR

#### **Chair:**

**Mark Neville**, Head of the Private Office, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

#### **Speakers:**

**Amina Bouayach**, Secretary General, International Federation for Human Rights

**Catherine Lalumière**, President of the Association of Schools of Political Studies

**Despina Syrri**, President of Symbiosis, Director of the Civic School for Political Studies in Greece

Human rights issues have not always been sufficiently prominent in Europe's migration policymaking arena and there is a strong and urgent need to address the rights of refugees and other migrants. Over-restrictive migration laws and policies applied in many European countries not only tend to legitimise xenophobic and discriminatory reactions among the populations, but also raise serious concerns about their compatibility with international human rights standards. Human rights should be fully respected in the management of migration both when it comes to integrating those who qualify to stay under international law and those who do not and have to return. How can we ensure that the existing legally-binding rights of refugees are respected? How can we effectively bring human rights law and practice from the margins into the heart of migration policy? And who is responsible for ensuring this?

Room 5

## Democratic security in Europe, regional perspectives

EN

**Chair:**

**Matjaž Gruden**, Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe

**Speaker:**

**Sonja Stojanovic Gajic**, Director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policies

Many European countries are facing growing polarisation, manifested through intolerance and confrontation and fuelled by the belligerent viewpoints of populist and extremist political leaders exploiting these tensions. Moreover, the extremist and terrorist threat in the Middle-East is being echoed from within European societies with a small segment of the population rejecting the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Whilst the state is called upon to protect people from violence, it is also beholden to guard their liberty. For many people the trade-off between security and individual liberty has become imbalanced. The concept of “democratic security” seeks to explore the approaches and tools necessary when “hard security” alone can no longer guarantee stability. One of the main aims of the Secretary General’s Annual Report on the State of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe is to assess the capacity of Europe’s nations to guarantee security for their citizens through their commitment to democratic norms. How can we respond to the global threats and promote the importance of democratic norms in maintaining secure societies? How should different European regions address democratic security issues and respond to these challenges?



Room 1  
EN-RU

## **The future of liberal democracy and civil society activism in Europe**

### **Chair:**

**Jack Hanning**, Secretary General, Association of Schools of Political Studies

### **Speakers:**

**Hakan Altınay**, Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul, Senior fellow at Brookings Institution

**Anna Rurka**, President, INGO Conference, Council of Europe

**Steven Wagenseil**, Acting President of the Council for a Community of Democracies, USA

Global tectonic shifts such as the growing Asian economies, a lessening of power disparities between world regions and other fundamental changes might herald the end of Western dominance, commonly associated with the notion of liberal democracy. At the same time, liberals and liberalism are now often considered to be complicit with elites who seem unwilling to respond to grassroots exasperation and anger. In order to address this disconnect, liberal democracies need to recognise their failings, such as the practices which have led to economic and financial crises. Some recent political measures have reduced the democratic freedoms that were thought to be deeply rooted in European societies. However, while there is agreement that liberal democracies have to respond in a robust manner to autocratic tendencies, illiberal methods cannot be used to preserve liberal democracies. Another worrying trend is the seemingly shrinking space for civil society. How serious are such threats to liberal democracy? What do these illiberal trends signal about the changing political and ideological landscape in Europe? Does the paradigm of liberal democracy have to be adapted to new realities? How can civil society and the international community address these challenges?

## FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2015

### 14.00-14.15 Family photo

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The group photograph will be taken on the steps in front of the *Palais de l'Europe* (or on the staircase in the entrance hall of the *Palais de l'Europe* in case of bad weather).

### 14.30-16.00 Thematic sessions

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Room 9  
EN-FR

#### **Decentralisation and democratic local governance: exchange of best practices and perspectives**

##### **Chair:**

**Michael Remmert**, Deputy to the Director of Policy Planning, Council of Europe

##### **Speakers:**

**Alain Delcamp Villefranche**, Expert with the Venice Commission and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, France

**Denis Huber**, Head of the "Co-operation and External Relations" Department of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

**Daniel Popescu**, Head of the Division on Good Governance, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

##### **Discussants:**

**Igor Kohut**, Director of the Ukrainian School of Political Studies

**Youssef Laaraj**, Director of the Moroccan School of Political Studies

In a world of accelerating globalisation and apparent demands for more participatory democracy, the traditional roles of governments are being challenged. Decentralisation and local governance are increasingly recognised as providing an enabling environment, able to offer a greater degree of accountability, responsiveness and participation. Re-inventing government requires revisiting the nature and role of the state: its division of power and distribution of responsibilities. In countries undergoing democratic transitions, decentralisation could offer a means to strengthen democratic culture – a prerequisite for a successful democratisation process. How can decentralisation best be addressed in these environments?



How can broad based participation best be fostered? How should political, administrative, fiscal and legal issues be balanced in the process of decentralisation? Could an exchange of best practices in the field of decentralisation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle-East & Northern Africa (MENA) region help identify effective models of local self-governance?

Room 5  
EN-RU

## Paradoxes of self-identification of people in the post-soviet space

Chair:

**Alexander Dabravolski**, Director of the East-European School of Political Studies

Screening of the film **GaraSH** followed by a debate with the Belarus film director and scenarist **Andrei Kureichik**, participant of the East-European School of Political Studies

This dark comedy about car mechanics working in the legendary Shabany district on the outskirts of Minsk reveals a clash of civilisations. The young hero has lived in the United States, adopted that lifestyle and made the "American dream" his formula for happiness. On his return to Belarus he works in a Shabany garage which has its own philosophy; a different view of reality, closer to that of the Soviet Union. Are people in the post-Soviet space ready to embrace western values? What are the main characteristics of their mentality? Will the protagonist be able to understand and defeat the Soviet principles or are they indestructible?



Screening  
of the film *GaraSH*

### **14.30-15.30 Bilateral meetings between the Schools from:**

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- Room 2 ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro
- Room 6 ▶ Bulgaria and “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
- Room 10 ▶ Croatia and Serbia
- Room 11 ▶ Greece and Turkey

### **16.30-17.30 Bilateral meetings between the Schools from:**

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- Room 5 ▶ Armenia and Belarus
- Room 6 ▶ Moldova and Romania



Working session

# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Hakan ALTINAY**

Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul,  
Senior Fellow at Brookings Institution

As a Senior Fellow at Brookings, Hakan Altınay works on issues of normative frameworks for an interdependent world. His book, *Global Civics*, was published in 2011 and reflects work he conducted as a Yale World Fellow in 2009. Previously, Hakan Altınay was the Executive Director – and later, Chairman – of Turkey's Open Society Foundation. In that role, he encouraged Turkey's evolution toward a more open society by focusing on European Union accession and the aspirations of the middle class. He is the founding President of the Global Civics Academy and Director of the European School of Politics in Istanbul.



## **Amina BOUAYACH**

Secretary General, International Federation for Human Rights

Amina Bouayach is Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), a founding member and former president of the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights, and has written widely on women's rights in Morocco, Spain, and France. As part of her activities, Amina Bouayach has extensive experience on public protests for economic, social, political or cultural reasons, in Morocco, but also on an international level. She constantly raises the need for the respect of human rights, democratisation and development.



## **Alain DELCAMP VILLEFRANCHE**

Expert with the Venice Commission  
and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, France

Alain Delcamp Villefranche is a former member of the French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (2013-2015) and former Secretary General of the French Senate (2007-2013). He has also been Professor at the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence (1986-2006) and Associate professor at University Aix-Marseille III (2001-2006). For several years, Alain Delcamp Villefranche has worked as Honorary President and representative with the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) and as an expert with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. From 1996 to 2003 he served as Chairman of the Group of Independent Experts on the European Charter of Local Self-Government.



### **Denis HUBER**

Head of the “Co-operation and External Relations”  
Department of the Congress of Local and Regional  
Authorities of the Council of Europe

After embarking on a (French) diplomatic career, Denis Huber joined the Council of Europe Secretariat in 1993. He spent ten years in the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers before being posted to Belgrade in 2006/2007 as Special Representative of the Secretary General in Serbia. Between 2008 and 2012, he was Director of the Council of Europe North-South Centre, based in Lisbon. Since October 2012, he is Head of Department and Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in Strasbourg. Denis Huber is the author of “A decade which made History: the Council of Europe 1989-1999”, published in 1999 by the Council of Europe Publishing.



### **Andrei KUREICHIK**

Film director and scenarist,  
participant of the East-European School  
of Political Studies, Belarus

Andrei Kureichik graduated in Administrative Law and Political Science and has a master’s degree in Journalism. In 2002 he completed the Producer Masterclass at the Moscow Art Theatre (MXT). In 2002, he worked as Editor in Chief of the second Belarussian national television station “ONT”, where he participated in the creation of the socio-political talk show “Choice” and was in charge of several media projects. He has published numerous articles in leading newspapers and magazines in Belarus on law, culture and the arts. In 2003, on the basis of the Belarusian State Academy of Arts, he founded the Centre for Contemporary Drama and Direction, as well as the International Festival of Modern Theater “Open Format”. Andrei Kureichik performed in the films “Dounechka” and “Okupazia. Misterii.” and co-authored the scripts for about twenty films and series (e.g. “Lubov-Morkov”, “Lubov-Morkov 2”, “Elki” and “Yulenka”). He wrote 25 plays staged in 9 countries.



### **Catherine LALUMIERE**

President of the Association of Schools of Political Studies

Catherine Lalumière, former Secretary General of the Council of Europe and former Vice-President of the European Parliament, has presided over the Association of the Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe since 2008. She is also the President of the Maison de l'Europe of Paris as well as of the French Federation of the Maisons de l'Europe. She was the Vice-President of the European Movement International. For many years, Catherine Lalumière has been involved in building Europe, always looking to establish contacts and to maintain dialogue between Europeans.



### **Daniel POPESCU**

Head of the Division on Good Governance, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Daniel Popescu graduated from the French National School of Administration (ENA). He has more than 20 years experience with numerous European countries that have undergone the process of territorial reforms and decentralisation. He is Head of the Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, which is the operational arm of the Organisation in the field of multi-level governance, supporting central, regional and local authorities to improve their institutions, regulations, capacity and action.



### **Anna RURKA**

President, INGO Conference, Council of Europe

Anna Rurka is President of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe. A graduate of the University of Warsaw, she is now Senior Lecturer in Educational Science at the University Paris Ovest Nanterre La Défense. Within the Conference of INGOs, she represents the European Committee for Home-based Priority Action for the Child and the Family in their Environment (EUROCEF). Through her professional and volunteer activities, she connects social work, human rights and democratic governance, including the experiential perspective of people living in the context of vulnerability.



### **Sonja STOJANOVIC GAJIC**

Director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policies

Sonja Stojanovic Gajic is the Director of the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, an independent security think tank. She is the author of the methodology for measuring security sector reform (SSR) in transitional societies from the perspective of civil society which has been tested in seven countries of the Western Balkans. From 2006 to 2011, Sonja Stojanovic Gajic worked part-time as a teaching assistant for security studies subjects at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Belgrade. Prior to taking up her current appointment, she worked with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro as a co-ordinator of the strategic management programme for the Serbian and Montenegrin police services.



### **Despina SYRRI**

President of Symbiosis, Director of the Civic School for Political Studies in Greece

Despina Syrri has worked with International Organisations and NGOs in Southern Africa and South-Eastern Europe on post-conflict development, migration, refugees and borders. She has taught Political Science and Anthropology, published articles and book chapters in Greek, South Slavic and English as well as authored research papers and documentaries. Since 2011, Despina Syrri has been the President of Symbiosis (Thessaloniki, Greece) and in 2014 became the founding Director of the Civic School for Political Studies in Greece.



### **Steven WAGENSEIL**

Acting President of the Council for a Community of Democracies, USA

Steven Wagenseil is a retired American diplomat with service in African and Multilateral affairs (including a posting in Strasbourg). Since 2002, he has worked in regional and international organisations (OSCE/ODIHR, UNDP and UNEAD, and the Community of Democracies) on the promotion and protection of human rights, elections, and democracy. He is currently working with civil society organisations in the diplomatic context to ensure that governments are listening to – and acting on – the grassroots concerns of their citizens. He is also active in support of Education for Democracy, helping to develop National Action Plans in several countries to explain the importance of voting.

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For twenty years the Schools of Political Studies have developed to constitute a unique and growing network of young public leaders. Embracing diversity as well as educational and technological innovation, the Schools relay in an effective manner fundamental democratic values and standards as well as practical leadership skills. Today they are active in more than twenty countries in Europe and beyond

[www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps](http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/sps)  
[www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu](http://www.schoolsofpoliticalstudies.eu)

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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