

2-11-2022

PROGRAMME



Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2022

Programme Overview

Monday 7 November

- 09.30-10.30 [Time for Facts](#)
- 10.30-10.40 [Musical Interlude](#)
- 10.40-11.00 [Welcoming Words](#)
- 11.00-11.10 Address of Mr Simon Coveney
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland
- 11.10-12.30 [Plenary Session 1](#)
S.O.S. Democracy in distress
- 12.30-14.00 [Lunch Break](#)
- 14.00-15.45 [Plenary Session 2](#)
Can we swing back the pendulum?
- 15.45-16.00 Address of Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir
Prime Minister of Iceland
- 16.00-16.30 [Break](#)
- 16.30-18.00 [Plenary Session 3](#)
Democracy defended – from decline to renaissance
- 18.00-18.30 Musical performance: Les 3 Barbus ou presque
- 18.30 [Reception](#)

Tuesday 8 November

- 09.00-11.00 **FIRST SERIES OF LABS**
- [Lab 1](#): Youth Participation
[Lab 2](#): Civic Education
[Lab 3](#): History, Awareness, and the Power of Narrative
[Lab 4](#): Citizens' Engagement
[Lab 5](#): e-Democracy
- 11.00-11.30 [Break](#)
- 11.30-13.00 **FORUM TALKS**
- [Forum Talk 1](#): Youth to the rescue?
[Forum Talk 2](#): History and Education – Knowledge and Manipulation
[Forum Talk 3](#): Persuasion or Polarisation?
[Forum Talk 4](#): Discrimination and privilege – Are Inequalities unravelling our democracies?
[Forum Talk 5](#): Corruption and Accountability- keeping faith in democracy
[Forum Talk 6](#): Deliberation: a Booster for Democracy?
[Forum Talk 7](#): The Missed Opportunity of Democracy in Russia
[Forum Talk 8](#): The Impact of Impunity on Journalism and Democracy
- 13.00-14.30 [Lunch Break](#)
- 14.30-16.30 **SECOND SERIES OF LABS**
- [Lab 6](#): Social Inclusion
[Lab 7](#): Polarisation and Democratic Engagement
[Lab 8](#): Elections
[Lab 9](#): Protection of Activists and Human Rights' Defenders
[Lab 10](#): Fighting Disinformation and the Power of the Social Media
- 16.30- 16.45 [Break](#)
- 16.45-18.00 Story time by Nuala Hayes and Poetry Slam for Democracy
- 18.00-18.30 Musical performance: Umbra Ensemble
- 18.30 [Reception](#)

Wednesday 9 November

- 09.00-10.30 [Plenary Session 4](#)
Multilateral organisations and Democracy
- 10.30-12.00 [Plenary Session 5](#)
Reporting from the Forum and Agenda for the Future
- 12.00-12.45 [Closing Session and ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award](#)
- 12.45-13.15 [Closing Performance: Bandura Sound System](#)

Democracy: A New Hope?

Thirty years ago, many people believed that the spread of democracy was as inevitable as it was desirable. Those days are now far behind us. Instead, the public and policymakers have watched as the spread of democracy has slowed and, by some measures, gone into reverse. Those who believe that democracy is the best way to govern – and those who do not – know that democracy is in distress. Many wonder if it will survive. Others are determined that democratic decline is neither inevitable nor irreversible. The 10th World Forum for Democracy intends to get to the heart of what has gone wrong. It will look for the key contributing factors to democratic decline, consider how these might be addressed, and explore what kind of democratic future is desirable, and possible, in the interests of people across the world.

Key issues:

S.O.S. Democracy in distress

One recent study suggests that people are increasingly trusting of governments and experts to manage the most pressing issues facing their societies. However, they are also losing faith in the capacity of representative democracy to deliver more broadly. The implication is that democracies may be unravelling from within. Wars, oppression, and human suffering around the globe is making clear just how dangerous the loss of democratic values can be for a society, for a country and its neighbours, and for the broader international community. To understand we need to examine the evidence, on everything from respect by for institutions and the rule of law through to civil society participation and voter turnout. We also need experts, activists and participants to tease out the different causes of the strain. Are deepening social, cultural and economic divides fraying people's trust? Are democratically elected politicians failing to address citizens' concerns? Are traditional democratic models and processes simply too slow or inefficient to keep up in our fast-paced, tech-driven modern world? This is an opportunity to take a look at the full range of challenges and their root causes.

Can we swing back the pendulum?

If we are to avoid defeatism, we need to harness the energy and ideas required to address the weaknesses that have emerged in our democracies. No stone should be left unturned. We need to ask questions about the role that our cultures, identities and education might play in revitalising democratic life and citizenship. We need to think about how we can change democratic structures and institutions so that they address people's priorities – and are seen to address their priorities. We need to ask not just how government should adapt, but what role we might expect business, communities, civil society, individuals and the international community to play. The influence of each of these has changed over recent years, sometimes beyond recognition. So, whose responsibility is it really if we want to reboot democracy?

Democracy defended - From decline to renaissance?

History does not end, and though democracy is down, it is not out. Most people still believe in this system – count on it – but might not feel its relevance or impact directly in their lives. Where once there was local, civic activity, now there is a globalised world where our social, professional and commercial lives exist largely online, and often seemingly beyond the realm of democratic accountability. Should we change this? Can we change it? Is it possible that the relentless rise of the Internet, Artificial Intelligence and the Metaverse can conform to democratic principles? Might they in fact hold the key to making democracy fit for purpose in the twenty-first century? The international, rules-based order has had limited effectiveness in preventing democratic backsliding and its consequences, how could the Organisations and States promoting democracy address this? This 10th World Forum will look to what our ambitions should be for democracy today, over the next ten years, and far beyond.

The World Forum for Democracy is a unique platform for political decision-makers and activists to debate solutions to key challenges for democracies worldwide. By identifying and analysing experimental initiatives and practices, the Forum highlights and encourages democracy innovations at the grassroots and their transfer on a systemic level to strengthen the foundations of democratic societies. The 10th World Forum for Democracy will revisit the results of the previous editions and assess the impact of the most promising and innovative of the initiatives presented over the last decade. It will bring together diverse voices from around the world to discuss and debate visions for the future which might successfully counteract the erosion of democratic culture and galvanise the defenders of democracy to resist dangerous polarisation and reverse the global democratic decline.

Monday, 7 November 2022

09.30-10.30 **Time for Facts**

Council of Europe Hemicycle Interpretation EN/FR

Moderator:

Ms Claudia LUCIANI, Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe

Panel:

Mr Roberto FOA, Centre for the Future of Democracy, University of Cambridge

Ms Joan HOEY, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Editor, The Democracy Index

Mr Richard WIKE, Pew Research Center, Director of Global Attitudes Research

10.30-10:40 **Musical Interlude: Opéra National du Rhin**

The Plenary Sessions will be moderated by:

Ms Annette GERLACH, Journalist and TV Host, ARTE

Mr Alex TAYLOR, European journalist, France

10.40-11.00 **Welcome Words**

Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Words from **Mr Tiny KOX**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Panel:

Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Ms Marie FONTANEL, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Mr Christian DEBÈVE Councillor, Grand-Est Region, President of « Transborder, Europe and International Relations Committee

Ms Pascale PFEIFFER, Councillor of Alsace, delegate for strengthening democratic ties and European democracy, European Collectivity of Alsace

Ms Jeanne BARSEGHIAN, Mayor of the City of Strasbourg

11.00 – 11.10 **Address of Mr Simon COVENEY, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland**

11.10-12.30 **Plenary Session 1 – S.O.S Democracy in Distress**

Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Panel:

Ms Dita CHARANZOVÁ, Vice President of the European Parliament

Mr Tsakhia ELBEGDORJ, President of Mongolia (2009-2017), Member of the Club de Madrid

Mr Lucian ROMĂȘCANU, Minister of Culture, Romania

Ms Marcia TIBURI, Plastic artist, professor of philosophy and writer, Brazil

Ms Sviatlana TSIKHANOUSKAYA, Representative of the Belarusian democratic opposition

12.30-14.00 **Lunch Break**

14.00-15.45 **Plenary Session 2 – Can We Swing Back the Pendulum?**

Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Panel:

Mr Ankourao KALLA, Vice President of the National Assembly, Niger

Mr Oleksandr KORNIENKO, First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine

Mr Ben PHILLIPS, Author: "How to Fight Inequality (And Why That Fight Needs You)"

Mr Olivier VÉRAN, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister, in charge of Democratic Renewal, government spokesman, France

Ms Salome ZOURABICHVILI, President of Georgia

15.45-16.00 **Address of Ms Katrín JAKOBSDÓTTIR, Prime Minister of Iceland**

16.00-16.30 **Break**

16.30-18.00 **Plenary Session 3 – Democracy Defended- From Decline to Renaissance**

Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Panel:

Mr Colin CROUCH, Professor Emeritus, Warwick University, author "Post-Democracy:After the Crises"

Mr Ricardo LAGOS, President of Chile (2000-2006), Member of the Club de Madrid

Ms Patricia O'LYNN, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland, Alliance Party

Mr Leoluca ORLANDO, Mayor of Palermo, Italy (1985–1990, 1993–2000 and 2012–2022)

Mr Tomohiko TANIGUCHI, Professor, Keio University, Japan

Lt Col (Ret.) Alex VINDMAN, former Political-Military Affairs Officer, USA

18.00 - 18.30 **Musical performance** offered by the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe

18.30 **Reception at the Blue Restaurant**

www.wfdemocracy.org

Tuesday, 8 November 2022

09.00-11.00 **FIRST SERIES OF LABS**

Interpretation FR/EN

Lab 1 – Youth Participation

Lab 2 – Civic Education

Lab 3 – History, Awareness and the Power of Narrative

Lab 4 – Citizens' Engagement

Lab 5 – e-Democracy

11.00-11.30 **Break**

11.30-13.00 **FORUM TALKS**

Interpretation FR/EN

Forum Talk 1 - Youth to the rescue?

Forum Talk 2 - History and Education – Knowledge and Manipulation

Forum Talk 3 - Persuasion or Polarisation?

Forum Talk 4 - Discrimination and privilege – Are Inequalities unravelling our societies?

Forum Talk 5 - Corruption and Accountability- keeping faith in democracy

Forum Talk 6 - Deliberation: a Booster for Democracy?

Forum Talk 7 - The Missed Opportunity of Democracy in Russia (*Interpretation EN/RU*)

Forum Talk 8 – The Impact of Impunity on Journalism and Democracy

13.00-14.30 **Lunch Break**

14.30-16.30 **SECOND SERIES OF LABS**

Interpretation FR/EN

Lab 6 – Social Inclusion

Lab 7 – Polarisation and Democratic Engagement

Lab 8 – Elections

Lab 9 – Protection of Activists and Human Rights' Defenders

Lab 10 - Fighting Disinformation and the Power of the Social Media

16.30-16.45 **Break**

16.45-18.00 **Story time by Nuala Hayes and Poetry Slam for Democracy**, Council of Europe Hemicycle

18.00-18.30 **Musical performance Umbra Ensemble** offered by the incoming Icelandic presidency of the Council of Europe

18.30 **Reception offered by the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the Council of Europe**

Wednesday, 9 November 2022

09.00-10.30 **Plenary Session 4 – Multilateral Organisations and Democracy**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Moderators:

Ms Annette GERLACH, Journalist and TV Host, ARTE
Mr Alex TAYLOR, European journalist, France

Panel:

Mr Naji ABI ASSI, Chief of Mission, League of Arab States
Mr Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe
Mr Kevin CASAS ZAMORA, Secretary General of the International IDEA
Ms Christina KOKKINAKIS, Director for Values and Multilateral Relations, European External Action Service
Mr Oleksandr RESHETKOV, Secretary General, European Democracy Youth Network
Ms Kateryna RYABIKO, First Deputy Director of ODHIR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)

10.30-12.00 **Plenary Session 5 – Reporting from the Forum and Agenda for the Future**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Moderators:

Ms Marja RUOTANEN, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity
Ms Nedeljka IVOŠEVIĆ – Serbia, Bureau member of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth

General Rapporteur:

Mr Xavier ROMERO VIDAL, Research Associate at the Centre for the Future of Democracy, Bennett Institute, University of Cambridge

Discussants:

Ms Sylvie BOLLINI, Gender Equality Rapporteur, former Ambassador of San Marino to the Council of Europe, Senior adviser of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for migration and refugees
Ms Ijeoma OKEREKE-ADAGBA, Youth Rapporteur

12.00-12.45 **Closing Session and ceremony for the Democracy Innovation Award**
Council of Europe Hemicycle – Interpretation FR/EN

Moderators:

Ms Annette GERLACH, Journalist and TV Host, ARTE
Mr Alex TAYLOR, European journalist, France

Ms Marija PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

12.45-13.15 **Closing Performance Bandura Sound System, Ukraine**

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF FORUM TALKS – Tuesday 8 November

11.30-13.00 – SERIES OF FORUM TALKS

Forum Talk 1 - Youth to the rescue?

Room 1 Interpretation FR/EN

Youth have been a potent driving force behind social and political change since 1968. The energy and open-mindedness of younger people have often been an essential part of successful transitions away from authoritarian governance towards more democratic and inclusive societies. Democracies whose youth are engaged in civic life through voting, volunteering, protesting, or organising may also be more resilient over time. When youth lose interest and do not engage in political processes it cannot bode well for the future of a democracy. Young people are also on the forefront of technological change, which has an increasingly large impact on the way contemporary democracies work. What are the values of today's youth globally? What are the main concerns, hopes or fears of young people about democracy? How much are they willing to risk for a revitalised democratic society, lifestyle, or government? How much influence do youth really have in contemporary democracies? Which forms of youth participation can best support meaningful change?

Moderator:

Ms Alessandra CARDACI, Debating Europe

Panel:

Mr Helfried CARL, The Innovation in Politics Institute

Mr Adam NYMAN, Director of Debating Europe

Ms Manal BENANI, Youth Strategy Advisor, Africa Europe Foundation

Discussant:

The Advisory Council on Youth or Youth Delegation

Forum Talk 2 - History and Education – Knowledge and Manipulation

Room 11 Interpretation FR/EN

Learning about history and sharing a collective sense of the past contributes to a feeling of belonging and of community; it may also contribute to a better understanding of the present. The cynical glorification or vilification of the past has, however, been used many times to justify the unjustifiable. Historical revisionism has served as pretext for some of the worst episodes of human history and, unfortunately, for contemporary examples of democratic decay, human rights violations, and military aggression. Local and national history are important, but could more emphasis be put on educating ourselves about the history of other regions, nations, peoples, and cultures in order to develop a more well-informed and, possibly, peaceful international community? How can we better recognise the diversity and nuance of the past in our education systems? Can and should education be an essential component of the defence of democracy as a way of life and of governance?

Moderator:

Ms Beatrice NICOLINI, professor of History and Institutions of Africa and Religions, Conflicts and Slavery at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italy

Panel:

Mr Colin CROUCH, Professor Emeritus, Warwick University, author "Post-Democracy: After the Crises"

Mr Jasminko HALILOVIĆ, Founder and Director of the War Childhood Museum Foundation, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms Nuala HAYES, Chairperson of Storytellers of Ireland/ Aos Scéal Eireann

Dr Heidi TWOREK, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) and Associate Professor, jointly appointed at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and History

Dr Evert van der ZWEERDE, Professor of Political Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Discussant:

Forum Talk 3 - Persuasion or Polarisation?

Room 5 Interpretation FR/EN

Many political theories focus on explaining why States, societies or voters do what they do with their power, but it is democracy's everyday routines, the mechanisms of public institutions and behaviours of citizens which determine how political power is allocated. There can often be a real disconnect between political rhetoric or electoral campaigns and the imperatives of governance. In today's world it is not always clear whether public opinion drives political agendas or vice versa, nor is it clear if what politicians will do to get into office is indicative of what they will do when in office. What can the lived experience of democracy activists and political parties teach us? Why does the power of the "what or who we are against" argument seem often to overwhelm the impact of the "what or who we are for" argument in politics? What can we learn from the experiences of how politics is done in different societies? Does it remain true that in a democracy the most important task is to convince a majority to support your ideas?

Moderator:

Ms Valery PERRY, Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council

Panel:

Mr Samir BEHARIĆ, Reconciliation and anti-segregation activist, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr Tomislav DAMNJANOVIĆ, Founder and CEO of *Amedia* and *Mandat*, political strategist, advising political parties and movements in young democracies of Europe, Africa and Asia

Mr George KHELASHVILI, deputy chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Parliament of Georgia

Ms Patricia O'LYNN, Ph.D., MLA for North Antrim, Northern Ireland

Discussant:

Ms Dalit WOLF GOLAN, Eco Peace Middle East, Democracy Innovation Award Winner 2021.

Forum Talk 4 – Discrimination and privilege – Are Inequalities unravelling our democracies?

Room 6 Interpretation FR/EN

Human rights represent the agreed ethical guidelines for most democracies, but how equitably they are applied in practice is a matter for debate. The struggle against discrimination was one of the driving forces behind democracy's advances in the previous century. Today, however, growing disparities of wealth, of influence and of access to public or private resources, goods and services are undermining the very concept of equality which underpins democratic citizenship. Could strong antidiscrimination policies therefore make democracy more resilient? What level of economic inequality is sustainable in a free and democratic society? Can the free market/capitalism still be considered as a good faith partner to democracy? Can modern democracies survive in an environment of increasing distance between privilege and privation, discrimination and entitlement?

Moderator:

Mr Riccardo REDAELLI, Director of the Centre for Research on the Southern System and Wider Mediterranean (CRiSSMA), Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano, Italy

Panel:

Ms Edel McGINLEY, Director Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Mr Nils MUIŽNIEKS, Director, Europe Regional Office, Amnesty International. Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (2012–2018)

Mr Ben PHILIPPS, Activist organiser for justice, United Nations, author of "How to Fight Inequality"

Discussant:

Mr Fikret ADAMAN, Professor at the Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Türkiye

Ms Anne IRERI, Federation of Women Lawyers, Kenya, Democracy Innovation Award Winners in 2018

Forum Talk 5 – Corruption and Accountability- keeping faith in democracy

Room 10 Interpretation FR/EN

The rule of law is one of the fundamental democratic principles, as it safeguards the body politic from abuses of power or potential “tyranny of the majority”. The Council of Europe, with its European Court of Human Rights, has a rich case law, which has had a real role in preserving human rights, democracy and the rule of law in its member States. Nevertheless, every violation found by the Court in Strasbourg has first made its way through the full measure of domestic legal proceedings without adequate resolution. A deterioration in the quality of the rule of law is symptomatic of a general democratic decline: rights and liberties without accountability is both inimical to the common good and untenable in a democratic society. If corruption undermines public trust and confidence in the integrity of government is essential for good governance, then whistle-blowers and anti-corruption activists are on the front lines of democracy’s defense, yet they so often pay a very high price for their courage.

Moderator:

Mr Kurt BASSUENER, Senior Associate, Democratization Policy Council

Panel:

Mr Leoluca ORLANDO, Mayor of Palermo (1985–1990, 1993–2000 and 2012–2022)

Mr Drew SULLIVAN, Co-founder and publisher of Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

Lt Col (Ret.) Alex VINDMAN, retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, former Political-Military Affairs Officer

Discussant:

Mr Hamzat LAWAL, “Follow the Money” anticorruption initiative from Nigeria, Democracy Innovation Award Winner in 2019

Forum Talk 6 : Deliberation: a Booster for Democracy?

Sponsored by CDDG

Room 7 Interpretation FR/ EN

Despite current trends of democratic backsliding and downward trends in public trust and voter participation, innovative practices of citizen participation in policy and decision-making have been flourishing around the world spanning the spectrum from direct democracy, through various iterations of participatory platforms to carefully crafted deliberative exercises.

This Forum talk will showcase examples of deliberative initiatives from the national, regional and local level. It will explore what impact these practices have had on the overall democratic culture and how they interact and are interlinked with representative democracy? What is the potential of deliberative and participatory practices to motivate citizens to keep or renew their commitment and enthusiasm for democracy? How can deliberative practices move from experimental or performative experiences to genuine methods of democratic government? How can we ensure genuine democratic participation in time of war?

This Forum Talk, hosted by the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG). will be an opportunity to hear about several different experiences and discuss the added value, dos and don’ts of deliberative democracy.

Moderators:

Ambassador Svetlana GELEVA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of North Macedonia to the Council of Europe

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Chair of the European Committee on democracy and Governance (CDDG)

Panel:

Ms Claudia CHWALISZ, Founder and CEO, Democracy Next

Mr Yves DEJAEGHERE, Executive Director, Federation for Innovation in Democracy Europe

Mr Dominik HIERLEMANN, Senior Expert on citizen participation and European democracy, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany

Ms Yuliya HVOZDOVYCH, Former City Councillor of Lviv, Ukraine

Mr Art O’LEARY, Secretary General of the Electoral Commission, Ireland

Ms Gazela PUDAR DRASKO, Director Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Forum Talk 7 –The Missed Opportunity of Democracy in the Russian Federation

Room 9 Interpretation FR/EN/RU

Thirty years ago, it appeared as if Europe was at the threshold of a new era in which Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law would be firmly anchored as the fundamental common values of the whole continent. Recent events have shown that these hopes were not to be. Since at least the last century, Russia, the Soviet Union and then the Russian Federation all tended, for better or for worse, to set the pace of change for a large part of Europe. The much touted "transition" to democracy never seemed to arrive at its destination. Why did democratisation fail in Russia? The Russian Federation has been excluded from the Council of Europe and is increasingly isolated. Is this the best course of action for the international community? What kind of support should be given to democracy activists and human rights defenders, both outside and inside Russia? Is there still hope for the country's democratic future?

Moderator:

Ms Valerie HOPKINS, Moscow correspondent of the New York Times

Speaker :

Ms Elena NEMIROVSKAYA, Founder and Director of the Moscow School of Civic Education

Panel:

Ms Tatiana GLUSHKOVA, member of the Board of the newly created Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre

Ms Joan HOEY, The Economist Intelligence Unit, Editor, The Democracy Index

Mr Vladimir MILOV, Research Associate Martens Centre for European Studies, Brussels, former Deputy Minister of Energy, Russian Federation

Mr Lev PONOMAREV, Executive Director of the all-Russian movement "For Human Rights"

Discussant:

TBC

Forum Talk 8 – The Impact of Impunity on Journalism and Democracy

Room 8 Interpretation FR/EN

The murder of a journalist is the ultimate form of censorship, yet the perpetrators of such crimes are seldom held to account. Investigations may fail because the perpetrators or masterminds have the support of political power and are able to exert influence over the judicial processes and national calls for justice, resulting in impunity. In other cases, conflict and instability are coupled with weakened or failed institutions. From Mexico to India to the Philippines, the pattern is the same: where journalist killings go unpunished, violence repeats, and censorship becomes entrenched. Both independent and fact-based journalism are essential for democracy, their loss greatly accelerates the strengthening of authoritarian regimes. Impunity is representative of a much broader and varied wave of attacks against the press. These include online threats and harassment, spurious legal challenges and now - seemingly increasingly - digital surveillance. Where people access their information in media landscapes which are polarised, fed by disinformation, they are unable to make meaningful decisions regarding their lives, their community and their government.

Moderator:

Mr Matjaž GRUDEN, Director of Democratic Participation, Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

Panel:

Mr Tom GIBSON, EU Representative and Advocacy Manager, Committee to Protect Journalists, Belgium

Mr Jürgen HEISSEL, Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Ms Alejandra IBARRA CHAUL, Journalist, Mexico

Ms Geeta SESHU, Co-founder Editor, Free Speech Collective, Mumbai, India

Discussant:

Mr Mårten EHNBERG, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF LABS – Tuesday 8 November

09.00–11.00 FIRST SERIES OF LABS

Lab 1 – Youth Participation

Venue : Room 1 Interpretation : EN/FR

Sponsored by the Collectivité européenne d'Alsace

Young people are frequently excluded from mainstream politics and decision-making processes. When given the chance, however, youth often demonstrate tremendous motivation and capacity to promote constructive, long-lasting change. Do today's youth have real opportunities to take part in political processes and offer innovative solutions to the issues facing democracy? How can we ensure that the youth do not lose their interest in the democratization process? How do we better prepare them for what the future might hold for democracy?

Moderator:

Youth delegate

Discussant:

M. Nicolas MATT, Vice president of the CeA

Youth Combating Hate Speech - Liberal Alternative Institute NORTH MACEDONIA

Liberal Alternative Institute-LAI is an NGO established as a response to society's grassroots needs for an alternative voice based on liberal activism. Founded in 2012 in Tetovo, Macedonia, it provides an innovative approach to already much discussed topics in the lights of democracy, good governance and social activism. The alternative LAI offers stems from the international experience of the founding members whose ideas blend the western liberal thought with the traditional local values. The mission of the Liberal Alternative Institute is to encourage citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia to participate in creative activities through a variety of project programs, with the goal of educating, improving, and equipping them with knowledge on how to become engaged citizens in an increasingly diverse and changing world.

Presenter: Mr Orhan CEKA, Co-founder and program director for Human Rights and Culture at the *Liberal Alternative Institute*

East & West (Shark & Gharb) - Lebanon 2.0 LEBANON

Lebanon 2.0 is a start-up national political academy that develops, trains and educates youth and young professionals to promote democracy and to drive positive change for a stable, secure, and healthy society. The program gathers 30 diverse participants from different backgrounds, political parties, cultures and religions. It triggers a constructive dialogue aimed to bridge the gap between the "East" and the "West" that is dividing the local socio-economical and political scene. As a result, soft skills development is integrated into the programme to help train participants on conflict resolution, listening skills, team building, and negotiation

Presenter: Ms Tiffany GEARA, President and Co-founder of Lebanon 2.0

Empowering Young Changemakers - Young Agents of Change UKRAINE

The non-governmental organisation "Young Agents of Change" was founded in 2017. "Young Agents of Change" is a voluntary association of individuals, created to exercise and protect the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, to meet social, economic, cultural, educational and other interests of its members and other citizens. The main aim of the Organisation is to increase the level of engagement of the youth in social and political processes; develop their leadership potential, initiative, entrepreneurship and active civic position; promote the formation of civil society through the development of youth volunteering.

Presenter: Ms Maryna KRAVETS, Member of *Young Agents of Change*

Empowering for Inclusion (E4I) – Social Rights Department SPAIN

Empowering for Inclusion (E4I) is one of the projects benefiting from the call for Rights, Equality and Citizenship, an initiative to work with young people to eradicate racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination, in particular Islamophobia and anti-gypsy. It lasts for two years (2021-2022). The intervention begins in 20 Secondary Schools throughout Catalonia, through participation credits, five sessions carried out by community technicians in the tutoring time of each of the 4th grade classrooms, to design actions to help to improve coexistence and promote diversity in their school and among schoolmates. Once they have had this first practical experience at the school, they can continue with the socio-community course that takes place in the civic centre outside school hours

Presenters: Mrs Rebeca Alvarez Rivero, Superior Technician at Ministry of Social Rights at Government of Catalonia, & Mrs Pilar Rubio Espejo, Superior Technician at Ministry of Social Rights at Government of Catalonia

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Shrinking space - The Advisory Council on Youth

Last March, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes, in other words recommendations to combat the shrinking space for youth policy. In this workshop, the Advisory Council on Youth will look at the recommendation and discuss youth policy and how the recommendation can be effective with regard to the shrinking space. The goal of the workshop is to give an insight into the work of the Council of Europe youth sector, especially that of the Advisory Council on Youth, as well as give feedback on the recommendation.

Presenters: Anna KNOBBOUT, member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Netherlands ; Mr Marko LONČAR, member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lab 2 – Civic Education

Venue : Room 11 Interpretation : EN/FR

Sponsored by the City of Strasbourg

Civic education helps us understand the role that we, as active citizens, can play in shaping our own future. It teaches us how to protect democratic values and gives us the necessary tools to sustain our democratic form of government. What can we do to counter the declining trend of civic engagement in many countries across the world? Most people understand that they have individual rights in a democracy, but less so about the responsibilities of citizenship. Is civic education still a viable option to counter democratic backsliding? Which new methods can we use to adapt civic education to the modern problems that societies are facing today?

Moderator:

Ms Carole ZIELINSKI, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg responsible for local democracy, citizen initiatives and participation and European citizenship

Discussants:

Ms Özge ZENCİR AKÇAKMAK, participant in “Generation Democracy”, Democracy Innovation Award winner of 2014, Türkiye

Mr Armel LE COZ, co-founder of Open Democracy and coordinator of advocacy, mobilisation and innovation

Politize! Instituto de Educação Política - Politize!

BRAZIL

Politize! - Instituto de Educação Política (Politize! – Civic Education Institute) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to train and engage a generation of citizens conscious and committed to democracy. Our main objectives are to strengthen the culture of social participation in political processes and institutions of all kinds, in a purposeful and constructive way; To promote volunteering for civic education; To defend the fundamental political and social rights of Brazilian citizens; To promote democracy, political pluralism, citizenship and human rights based on ethics and human dignity.

Our organisation emerged from the realisation based on data that democracy has been going through a crisis around the whole world. In the Brazilian context, we perceived that people do not understand that politics is a vital part of their lives. That is what we consider one of the biggest political problems in Brazil: the lack of people’s capacity to practise citizenship and low attachment to democratic values itself. That is why we decided to act in order to change this reality, so we operate by promoting civic education for millions of people online and offline, bringing experiences that redefine citizenship through accessible, plural and practical learning.

Presenter: Mr Danniell BARBOSA, Master’s student in International Politics and member of *Politize! - Instituto de Educação Política*

Learning Electoral Process in schools to foster democratic values, skills and attitude of young citizens - Vote Le Ethiopiaye Charitable Organization (VLE)

ETHIOPIA

VLE, a proactive NGO, envisions new students, new Africa, new World who build the bedrock of sustainable peace, solid democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. The goal of VLE is to foster democratic values, skills and attitudes of young citizens that are fundamental to shape election outcomes and equitable, participatory, inclusive and well informed democracy in Ethiopia. The objectives are to nurture civic minded students who mount up their democratic values and significant participation in electoral processes in primary schools, and to advance female students in leadership, meaningful participation and decision making towards student’s governance in primary schools.

Presenter: Mr Simon KEBEDE TESSEMA, Executive Manager at *Vote Le Ethiopiaye*

LE MOUVEMENT « NOUVEAU TYPE DE CITOYENS » - ONG NOUVEAU TYPE DE CITOYENS (NTC)

BENIN

NTC is a Beninese non-governmental organisation established in January 2020. It is a secular and non-political organisation covering the whole national territory. The global objective is to contribute by 2030 to fostering a new generation of a new kind of citizens, who are not merely spectators, but the actors and co-producers of their communities’ and their country’s governance. NTC is made up of young Beninese volunteers who have decided to dedicate their time and their resources to the advancement of democracy in Benin through education (1) and citizen participation (2).

Presenter: Mr Romaric Matinou Boladji MOUFTAOU, Founder of the *New Type of Citizens Movement* and Public Policy Specialist

Lab 3 – History, Awareness and the Power of Narrative

Venue : Room 5 Interpretation : EN/FR

Many events of the past, either by human intervention or the natural flow of time, often get forgotten, even erased from the collective memory. Similarly, many minority groups and their contributions to society get overlooked. These gaps can have devastating consequences and can be used to manipulate history and to build closed-minded communities. How effective can storytelling be to impact awareness about forgotten historical events and forgotten communities? Is formal public education doing enough?

Moderator:

Ms Luna Lara LIBONI, Policy Officer, Irish Council for Civil Liberties

Discussants:

Mr Constantinos EFSTATIOU, Cyprus, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe-PACE

Mr Viktor SJOSTROM, Youth Leader for the department of culture and leisure of the municipality of Simrishamn

Concrete Jungle. Where the trap sounds powerful, democracy struggles to grow – Shareradio ITALY

Shareradio association aims to combine in its activities forms of citizen journalism, storytelling and media education, aimed at social change. Shareradio aims to support forms of social interaction by reducing processes of alienation of weak subjects in communities, offering a participatory and interactive approach to tell about oneself and one's territory, helping to activate paths of self-determination and social protagonism. The reportage is based on social issues and on the connection between the peripheries and urban cultures: the discomfort in the most hidden corners of cities is often compensated by the creative force of young artists and rappers who tell their difficulties, their dreams and their hatred of institutions. The aim is to underline the straightforward and direct approach of street culture combined with the gaze and perception of those who know little or do not know at all about the rise of trap in the European peripheries. Understanding a complex phenomenon such as music in the suburbs, with often violent and contemptuous contents, is the starting point for understanding the discomfort, entering it and using it as an element to flood the concept of democracy especially in problematic areas.

Presenter: Mr Marco GAROFALO, member of Share Radio

Tarikhi (Arabic for 'My History') - Sharq.Org ARAB WORLD

Sharq.Org is a non-profit registered in Lebanon and Cyprus. It has over the past decade focused on enhancing pluralism and representation in the Arab region through initiatives related to media, culture and collaborative action. Sharq.Org runs three core programmes amongst them **Tarikhi (Arabic for 'my history')**: centres around individual representation through the documentation and promotion of individual stories. Tarikhi encourages individuals to think critically by inviting them to reflect on and share their individual experiences. Over the past decade, Sharq.Org has documented hundreds of individual stories as told by people from diverse ethnic, religious, economic and social backgrounds in the Arab region. The stories have been packaged and presented within collections that relate to either broad themes (e.g. livelihoods in Lebanon) or specific events or periods of history (e.g. human rights abuses in Gaddafi's Libya).

Presenter: Ms Reem MAGHRIBI, Executive Director of Sharq.org

Makurt Dreams: The right for memory - Center Polis Asia KYRGYZSTAN

Public Association Center Polis Asia is an independent and non-governmental organization, established in 2007 in Kyrgyzstan. The group of researchers started the Center as a research platform, that provide independent, relevant, and compelling analysis of the socio-political processes in the Central Asian region.

Mankurt is the one who lost his memory. His/Her memory was removed. He/She continues living, it seems that everything suits him/her. But when Mankurt sleeps, he/she sees the dreams. Subconscious mind sends him/her signs of the past. And gradually, Mankurt tries to understand who he/she is. Considering the metaphor "Mankurt Dreams" as a kind of post/de-colonial discourse of modern Central Asia through the prism of memory studies, we invite everyone to think about ourselves and our past through our initiative – Esimde (In my memory). Esimde is a discussion platform for studying and understanding the events, facts, processes and "blank pages" that remain in the history and memory of the people in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

Presenter: Ms Elmira NOGOIBAEVA, Founder of the school of civic Education, Team Leader of Center Polis Asia, Founder of the Esimde discussion platform

**Mind the Gap - National Museums of World Culture (Statens Museer för Världskultur)
SWEDEN**

WE ALL LIVE WITH A GAP! MIND THE GAP!

We are a creative programme led by the National Museums of World Culture (Sweden) to facilitate inclusion, equality, intercultural dialogue and active citizenship through digital storytelling and performance arts. We investigate how our daily life gaps can bring us closer to each other.

We create a safe dialogue space for ordinary people from different cultural and social backgrounds to reflect on gaps in our daily life and help individuals become more active citizens. We ask ourselves "can our gaps bring us closer to each other?" We work with ordinary people and young creatives who are willing to share their story about what is missing in their lives and the society at large. Our regional scope has been Europe and mainly the Middle East.

Presenter: Ms Rasha SHAABAN, Founder of *Mind the Gap* and Cultural Projects Manager and Coordinator of the *Anna Lindh Foundation network*

Lab 4 – Citizens’ Engagement

Venue : Room 8 Interpretation: EN/FR

Sponsored by the Region of Grand Est

The citizens are the key when it comes to improving public institutions, making them accountable, more transparent, and therefore more effective in providing innovative solutions to the ever-growing problems. Citizens' engagement has proven to be especially important during times of crises such as pandemics, natural disasters, etc. Can the citizens enable real-time course correction in quickly changing circumstances? How did different communities encourage more citizens' engagement, and can these practices be transferred and implemented elsewhere?

Moderator:

Ms Sarah BENTZ, Chargée de Mission Strasbourg Capitale Européenne et Réseaux Européens

Discussants:

Ms Christine BORRAS-JOLY, Director of Youth, Sport and Engagement

Ms Élisabeth DEL GENINI, Vice-Présidente de la commission Territoires, déléguée à la citoyenneté et l’engagement

Mr Armen GEVORGYAN, PACE member (EPP/CD)

Sarv-anumati: 100% consent based decision - The Blue Ribbon Movement INDIA

The Blue Ribbon Movement is a registered charitable trust in India in operation since 2010. Its field of activities includes civic, youth leadership, deep democracy and peace building.

Community Connect aims to build active citizenship through participatory democracy in Mumbai. Its goals include amplifying citizen voice, civic problem solving, holding the administration accountable, building resilient local community, and improving the quality of life in the city through deep volunteers and citizen-led action. At the heart of this initiative is the alumni movement sarvanumati (100% consent of all) which takes the decisions. It initiates, manages and operationalises all the activities.

Presenter: Mr Abhishek THAKORE, Founder of the *Blue Ribbon Movement* and the *South Asian Youth Conference*

LevizAlbania – LevizAlbania ALBANIA

LevizAlbania is a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC implemented by a Consortium of three Albanian organizations, Open Society Foundation Albania, Partners Albania and Co-PLAN. The project is implemented through “Qendra LevizAlbania”, a formally constituted organization based in Tirana. Shrinking civic space has been a global trend also taking shape in Albania and further accentuated the last few years. Different developments have been raising red flags for continuous and steady decline in quality of democracy. This democratization relapse manifests through diminished citizens’ engagement and participation in decision-making, public consultations, a non-enabling environment for civil society and different setbacks on individual freedoms and rights. Acting from the demand side of local governance to promote democratic values has become an even more fundamental issue. LevizAlbania has contributed to strengthening local democracy in Albania by empowering different civil society actors to request, act, and proactively make proposals that encourage local governments to respond for the benefit of their citizens.

Presenter: Ms Anahi MARTINEZ, Monitoring, Evaluation and Civils Society Manager at LevizAlbania

The professional citizen media Madha Yahduth (What's going on?) - Tunisian Citizen Journalism Association TUNISIA

The Tunisian Citizen Journalism Association (ATJC) is an association that works for the development and dissemination of citizen journalism in Tunisia, by disseminating its culture and the ethics of its practice, and by training the activists of this system. “Madha-yahduth?” (ماذا حدث؟) is the first professional citizen media in Tunisia, Africa and the Arab world. The information is co-created with citizen journalists: coming from the heart of the event, the information is proposed by a citizen and verified by a journalist, in a 100% participatory and collaborative logic. This also allows citizens to contribute to discussions on public affairs in order to ensure the transparency of public action and encourage dialogue with political and economic decision-makers. The association is committed to fighting against the spread of fake news, thanks to the contribution of recognised experts in political, economic and social affairs that have aroused public opinion.

Presenter: Mr Nabil FELAH, co-founder of Madha Yahduth?

hors concours:

Re-Imagining the Building Blocks of Democracy – The Democracy and Culture Foundation WORLDWIDE

In 2022, the Democracy & Culture Foundation (DCF) launched an international three-year project aiming to produce specific recommendations on how to make democracies more resilient, to stress-test the proposals using the tools of deliberative democracy and then press decision makers for their implementation. The mission is to initiate a global exchange on the urgent ideas that can help democracy evolve and to establish a global center of democracy that will continue this work in the long term. This project will provide valid indications of the importance of involving citizens in deliberative democracy processes. It will also provide an indication of how citizens outside Europe view the tools of deliberative democracy.

Presenters: Mr Achilles TSALTAS, President of the Democracy & Culture Foundation and Mr Anthony KEFALAS, Vice-Chair, Economist and Co-Author of Mckinsey Strategy Plan

Lab 5 – E-democracy

Venue: Room 9 Interpretation: EN/FR

Sponsored by the Conference of INGOs

Fast-paced technology development and emerging media sources have allowed E-democracy to become an important component of the traditional concept of democracy. Today, it's easier than ever before to engage a large number of the public in democratic processes, decision-making, and exchanges of opinion. However, are we adequately prepared to face the challenges brought by technological developments? Are existing or forthcoming e-democracy tools really helpful or sufficient to have an impact on slowing down or eventually reversing democratic backsliding?

Moderator:

Mr Piotr Sadowski, Member of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Discussants:

Dr Tobias ERNST, Managing director of Kiron, Winner of the Democracy Innovation award 2016, Germany

Civic initiative platform – ManaBalss.lv – MyVoice LATVIA

The non-profit Organisation MyVoice, founded in 2011, works in the field of digital democracy and public engagement. MyVoice's mission is to develop and promote digital tools for better civic participation in decision-making processes. The organisation's mission is to create and strengthen the digital democracy ecosystem in Latvia. Behind the mission are essential elements, such as the security and sustainability of humanity, inclusive power, and participatory society. The biggest challenge for the organisation is to involve politically and socially passive citizens in civic activities. When developing new digital tools and improving existing ones, we always think about whether it will be interesting for every inhabitant of Latvia to use them and how we can encourage people to use them more and more actively.

Presenter: Ms Dace SEVCENKO, Member of *MyVoice*

Polltix.co – VšĮ Pilietinės Technologijos LITHUANIA

Polltix is a non-profit that tackles two global challenges: the declining trust in democracies and the decreasing rates of civic participation. We solve these challenges through our proprietary digital platform that facilitates direct and simple public consultations between the public sector and the citizens. Our public consultations consist of a single question, a brief description that presents the topic in a neutral way, response options and a place for a comment citizens can leave if they want to share specific arguments or ideas. What sets us apart is our focus on not only the polling infrastructure, but also audience-building, which we do by promoting the public consultations through social media ads, media and influencer partnerships.

Presenter: Ms Donara BAROJAN, Co-founder of *Polltix* and a counter-disinformation expert

Astrea Justice – Justice Code Foundation Trust ZIMBABWE

On a general basis, the Justice Code Foundation Trust uses modern and innovative ways to ensure that citizens' rights are protected, promoted, fulfilled, and remedied adequately in a timely manner. Therefore, it recognizes and acknowledges that for citizens to acquire a remedy, enjoy protection of some of their rights, it does not just end by empowering the citizen alone but it goes beyond to also ensure that other key players are equally empowered, such as government departments, private sectors. ASTREA JUSTICE (human rights remedy app), informs and educates the societies of their legal rights in three local languages: Shona, English and Ndebele. The solution educates the citizens on their rights to administrative justice, vote, demonstrate and petition, equality before the law, rights of the arrested persons and personal security inter alia in simple terms for easy understanding, informing citizens the contents of the right and going on further to inform them what to do in case such right has been violated.

Presenter: Ms Courtney TAKURA MUKOYI, Founder of *Justice Code Foundation*

hors concours:**European Capital of Democracy's Citizens' Jury – ECoD Gemeinnützige GmbH (ECoD NPO)
AUSTRIA**

ECoD gemeinnützige GmbH (ECoD NPO) is a non profit organisation based in Vienna with a Europe-wide network of partners. The purpose of the organisation is to promote democracy governance and strengthen social cohesion by promoting and expanding democratic participation and democratic awareness, and by strengthening established and new forms of democratic practice in Europe. The main activity of the ECoD NPO is the yearly designation of the European Capital of Democracy (ECoD) – as a Europe-wide initiative for strengthening participatory and deliberative democracy. In co-operation with civil society and citizens, the designated city will curate, organise, and implement a wide range of activities and events.

Presenter: Mr Helfried CARL, Founder and Chief Political Strategist at the Innovation in Politics Institute & Stefan SINDELAR, CEO of the European Capital of Democracy

14.30 – 16.30 SECOND SERIES OF LABS

Lab 6 – Social Inclusion

Venue: Room 8 Interpretation: EN/FR

Sponsored by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

In every society, every country, representatives of certain groups find themselves facing barriers that stop them from fully engaging in social, political, and economic life. This is often a function of discriminatory or stigmatizing attitudes towards these communities and it can represent a painful, unjustifiable and self-sabotaging loss of their potential for their communities and their societies as a whole. How all relevant actors, from local governments to the international level, ensure that all groups and individuals genuinely benefit from equal opportunities? Are the existing tools and mechanisms enough to eliminate social exclusion? How can we create a system that will be flexible to adapt to those challenges that the future might hold for us?

Moderator:

Mr Lorenzo VELLA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre

TBC

Discussant:

TBC

360-Degree Approach to Parliamentary Openness in Africa– Parliamentary Network Africa AFRICA (headquarters in Ghana)

Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) is an international NGO registered under the laws of the Republic of Ghana. We operate as a convener and connector of civil society parliamentary monitoring organisations across Africa, with the goal of promoting Open Parliaments on the Continent. Our thematic areas of operations include strengthening and supporting African legislatures to remain transparent, accountable and inclusive, and to promote citizens participation in the work of parliaments; promoting access to parliamentary information through building capacity of journalists reporting from various National Assemblies; connecting citizens to their national, sub-national and transnational parliaments; and convening non-state actors to understand and appreciate how parliaments work and opportunities to engage

Presenter: Mr Samuel OBENG, Executive Director at Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica)

BAGAGES A MAIN – LABORATORIO DEL CITTADINO APS ITALY

Laboratorio del Cittadino APS is an association for social promotion that pursues objectives of social solidarity and active citizenship to strengthen active community involvement and social interaction.

The Hand luggage initiative aims to mobilise citizens' democracy to revitalise the public square and re-launch active citizenship, calling on everyone to fulfil their duty of collective mobilisation for the good of the community. This is the beginning of an encounter (real or virtual) with people who are forced to flee war, civil strife, and the resulting human rights violations. With one question as a starting point for the process: what object(s) did they take before fleeing with their hand luggage?

Presenter: Mrs Mariella MORBIDELLI, at Bagages à Main

Integration of Refugees by Refugees– "Hilfe von Mensch zu Mensch" e.V. Munich GERMANY

Hilfe von Mensch zu Mensch" e.V. Munich is a NGO dedicated to facilitating the integration of refugees and immigrants.

It is an organization of, by and for refugees and immigrants that aims to empower others and themselves. Through HVMZM's services, refugees and immigrants learn to appreciate and work within Germany's democratic institutions and participate in the public sphere. Our approach is based on creating possibilities for rapid integration of newcomers, by immersing them into language learning and labour markets, without allowing time for a sense of isolation and abandonment to develop. We insist on continued cultural exchanges between members of non-German origin and German neighbours.

Presenter: Mr Naim ALADUZ, Head of Language Center of "Hilfe von Mensch zu Mensch e.V."

hors concours:

**Participatory approaches for improved local governance and social inclusion of Roma through ROMACT and ROMACTED Joint Programmes– Council of Europe / European Commission
Bulgaria and Romania; Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia and Türkiye**

Started in 2013, the ROMACT Programme aims at strengthening the capacity of local authorities to perform their roles and responsibilities in an effective and efficient manner, by helping them to design and implement more inclusive plans, policies and projects, to access resources that would support the active inclusion of Roma at local level, as well as to support the establishment and enforcement of mechanisms and processes for good governance at local level.

Presenters: Ms Marina VASIĆ + Ms Ana OPRIŞAN

** All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*

Lab 7 – Polarisation and Democratic Engagement

Venue: Room 5 Interpretation: EN/FR

Sponsored by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Many, if not most, conflicts erupt when two or more sides reach such a level of polarization that dialogue is perceived as impossible. Perhaps, therefore, future conflicts could be avoided by fighting the polarization itself and trying to bridge the gaps, particularly the communication and/or empathy gaps, an early stage. This, however, is often easier said than done. Who can play the role of the mediator in reducing polarization between conflicting sides? How can ordinary citizens contribute to these processes? What can we learn from previous successful and failed examples of conflict resolution and the fight against extreme polarization?

Moderator:

Mr Thomas ANDERSSON, Chair of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Discussants:

Mr Prodromos TZOUNOPOULOS, Youth Delegate to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Greece

Mr Andrew BOFF, Member of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Strategic Foresight to Prevent Conflict during Political Transitions - International Republican Institute USA

The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonpartisan US-based democracy assistance organization. From Ethiopia to Ukraine to Guatemala, in dozens of countries around the world, IRI works to support democracy, political inclusion, multi-party political systems and a free exchange of ideas

To advance democratic agendas and prevent conflict during political transitions IRI has developed a Strategic Foresight Toolkit to support local actors to create peaceful democratic foundations and avoid the risk of democratic backsliding.

The Toolkit's goal is to provide democratic actors (including civil society, political parties, citizens etc.) with opportunity to think about conflict actors and drivers in their context, to forecast potential peace or conflict scenarios, and to develop a roadmap to a democratic peace – guarding against potential backsliding events, as well as conflict triggers

Presenter: Mr Louis METCALFE, Conflict prevention and stabilization specialist at International Republican Institute & Ms Lauren MOONEY, Conflict prevention and stabilization senior specialist at International Republican Institute

BRIDGE - Understanding and addressing polarisation at the local level - reinforcing democracy - European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) FRANCE

The NGO European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) is the only European network dedicated to fostering discussion, co-operation and support among local and regional authorities in the field of crime prevention and urban security. Founded in 1987 it brings together nearly 250 cities and regions from 17 countries.

The EU Co-funded BRIDGE project aimed at raising awareness amongst local actors and strengthening their capacity to reduce individual and collective vulnerability to radicalisation while preventing and mitigating polarisation.

Presenter: Ms Julia RETTIG, Programme Manager at Efus

Citizens' Assembly - Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar- City of Mostar BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

The City of Mostar is a local government in Bosnia and Herzegovina whose organization is based on the legal framework (Law on the Principles of Local Self-Government in FBiH, Statute of the City of Mostar and Rulebook on Internal Organization of the City Administration of the City of Mostar)

The project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar" aimed to create opportunities for citizens to engage in a deliberative process and participate in local decision making, with the ultimate goal of revitalising citizens' confidence and trust in public authorities. The project was implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021 and in partnership with the City of Mostar.

Presenter: Mr Marin CULJAK, Head of Mayor's Office in the City of Mostar

Hors concours :**Get Inspired – BePart an new online tool for participatory democracy - Conference of INGOs / Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, DGII CoE**

The Conference of INGOs is the Voice of Civil Society in the CoE and comprises of 314 international NGOs who enjoy participatory status with the Council of Europe.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states and assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government.

The BePart Forum was created as a living tool to accompany the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation. As an online tool it allows Civil Society activists as well as public authorities to feed in their good practice examples on civil participation and give their view on common projects. The tool allows interested parties to find examples from their region or field of interest to learn from the experiences of others as well as to contribute themselves with their own projects.

Presenter: Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER, President of the INGOs Conference of the Council of Europe

**AER Summer Academy - Assembly of European Regions (AER)
BELGIUM**

The Assembly of European Regions (AER) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe, gathering regions from 30 countries – from Norway to Türkiye and from Georgia to Portugal.

The AER Summer Academy is an annual forum for exchange of experience in the area of regional development in Europe, which aims at bringing together youth and regional representatives. The main objectives of the AER Summer Academy are: To facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices between regions on issues of common interest; To promote regional democracy in Europe & implementation of the principle of subsidiarity; To provide an opportunity for regional representatives to build networks with their peers across wider Europe.

Presenter: Ms Nina BJÖRBY, Regional Councillor of Västerbotten (SE), Assembly of European Regions' Vice President for Democracy

Lab 8 – Elections

Venue : Room 9 Interpretation : EN/FR

Whether because of dissatisfaction with traditional electoral arrangements or due to technological advances, we are witnessing a new wave of innovative approaches to elections. These new approaches either slightly tweak the existing rules or offer an entirely new perspective on how electoral processes should work. How to test these new approaches before implementing them in real time? How to ensure the trust of the public in the new rules? Can these changes, in one way or another, affect the level of participation in elections or prevent democratic backsliding in individual states?

Moderator:

Nina NORDSTRÖM, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe

Discussants:

Ms Amuriat GORETTI, “Women of Uganda Network” (WOUGNET), Democracy Innovation Award winner of 2013, Uganda

Beyond the Binary Ballot - The de Borda Institute IRELAND + UK

Electoral systems vary from the simple binary ballot. There are also lots of decision-making systems, again from the simple binary ballot – “Option X, yes-or-no?” as in nearly every democracy, theocracy and autocracy – to the Borda and Condorcet rules. Binary voting has been (not *the* but) *a* cause of dysfunction in the USA, for example, and of mayhem in many pluralist societies: for instance, “all the wars in the former Yugoslavia started with a referendum,” (*Oslobodjenje*, 7.2.1999); in Rwanda, the 1994 genocide was initiated with the slogan “*rubanda nyamwinshi*” (‘we are the majority’); in Ukraine too, referendums have again been used as ‘false flags’. In contrast with majority voting, preferential decision-making, as per today’s modified Borda count MBC, can identify the option with the highest *average* preference; and an average, of course, involves *every* (voting) member of Congress/Parliament/society. Accordingly, if the MBC were the international norm, democracies could enjoy all-party power-sharing, and political decision-making could involve a process in which politicians had a vested interest in co-operation.

Presenter: Mr Peter EMERSON, Director of The De Borda Institute

Vote62: Safeguard Thai Elections with Citizen Engagement and Digital PVT – Opendream Co., Ltd. THAILAND

Opendream is an award-winning technology social enterprise in Bangkok, Thailand, founded in 2007. Vote62 enables Thai citizens to directly contribute to the health of their democracy through action. It is the first citizen-sourced project for independent Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) and electoral evaluation in Thailand. Vote62 was originally created by Opendream Co., Ltd. and launched in partnership with Thai NGOs, media groups, social enterprises, and civic organizations prior to the 2019 General Election. Building on the success of Vote62 in the 2019 General Election, 2021 Local Elections, and 2022 Governor Elections, we want to invest more resources into expanding the scope and accuracy of our initiative, and upgrade our approach for the next General Election in 2023.

Presenter: Mr Patipat SUMSUMPAO, Co-founder and product engineer at Opendream Co., Ltd

Ma France 2022 - Make.org FRANCE

Make.org is a neutral and independent European civic tech based in Paris, Berlin and Brussels, whose mission is to involve citizens and mobilise the whole of civil society to positively transform society.

Ma France 2022 is a massive and unprecedented citizen consultation conducted in the run-up to the French presidential election of 2022. This operation is supported by Make.org & France bleu, in partnership with France 3 Régions, and was launched in September 2021 around a large open question put to millions of French people: “Ma France 2022: what are the priorities for our country tomorrow? Throughout the campaign, Ma France 2022 initiated a conversation on the priorities of a million French citizens: the latter have placed subjects linked to democratic and institutional renewal at the top of their priorities.

Presenter: Ms Alicia COMBAZ, Founder and CEO of Make.org

**e-Voting in Wartime: Protecting Citizens' Participation - e-Democracy NGO
UKRAINE**

Originally an initiative of IT professionals united during the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, which was later transformed into a formal non-profit organization e-Democracy NGO ("e-" stands for "electronic"). The mission of the organization is to protect and promote human and citizen rights through the practical implementation of world's best practices in e-democracy. The Russia-Ukraine war coincided with one of the biggest anti-corruption reforms of recent years: the reform of the national anti-corruption bureau. The main function of citizens' participation and control in this process is provided by the Public Council, which is created using electronic voting. Our organization created the first system for e-voting, which has been used since 2015. But in the new reality of war we had to rethink this task in order to ensure safe participation of citizens and to unblock the anti-corruption reform.

Presenter: Mr Volodymyr FLONTS, Chairman of E-democracy NGO

Lab 9 – Protection of Activists and Human Rights’ Defenders

Venue : Room 11 Interpretation: EN/FR

Sponsored by France

Human rights defenders and activists often play a pivotal role in strengthening democratic institutions, keeping the decision-makers accountable for their actions, and, naturally, defending the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. Because of their important role, they often become targets themselves. Who can protect those who are protecting others? How do we ensure that the principles of the Rule of Law are respected and preserved, especially in relation to vulnerable groups?

Moderator:

Ms Marie FONTANEL, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Council of Europe

Discussants:

Youth Delegate representative

GCC Red Notice Program - Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain BAHRAIN, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar (USA)

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) fosters awareness of and support for democracy and human rights in Bahrain and Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC).

The INTERPOL Red Notice program provides governments across the world with an easy-to-use tool to extradite suspected criminals for trial. Over the last decade, autocratic governments have used the Red Notice program to retaliate against dissidents, political opponents, and human rights defenders (HRD) in exile. Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB) developed a program in 2016 to fight INTERPOL Red Notices on behalf of civil society activists from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The program seeks out and identifies persons who have been subject to red notices or diffusions. It then goes about collecting the evidence necessary to disprove the red notice, assembles that information into a 2 dossier, authors a complaint against the red notice in question, and files a request for removal with INTERPOL.

Presenter: Mr James SUZANO, Deputy Executive Director of Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain

Social Mediation Project to uphold the Rule of Law and Democratic Values - Interdisciplinary Centre for Law, Alternative and Innovative Methods (ICLAIM) CYPRUS

ICLAIM is a non-profit organisation based in Cyprus, established in 2017. It envisions a world where citizens, small businesses and the industry engage with applied research and creative legal solutions, widening access to rights and impacting society.

The aim of the Social Mediation project is to introduce SM as a conflict resolution tool to a broader audience, who can benefit from its application in their respective environment. It is applicable in social and professional settings, where large and diverse groups of people interact on a regular basis. The method is introduced through specially-designed training workshops, offered to the public, combining theory with practice, following a peer-to-peer approach, which offers participants a simple but robust introduction to tools that can be used to resolve social conflicts

Presenter: Ms Stéphanie LAULHE SHAELOU, Professor of European Law & Reform at *UCLan Cyprus* and Founder of *ICLAIM*

The Changemakers Program - The Hague Peace Projects THE NETHERLANDS

The Hague Peace Projects (HPP) is a peace and human rights organisation with no political, religious, or governmental affiliations. The foundation was established to empower the voice of human rights defenders and refugees from conflict areas around the world. The Changemakers Program provides a holistic approach to support influential changemakers around the world who represent a real step towards peace and positive change in their communities. Program beneficiaries are journalists, activists, human rights defenders, and environmental defenders in Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Presenter: Mr Carlos GUADAMUZ, Executive Director of The Hague Peace Projects in The Netherlands, Environmental and Human Rights Defender

Lab 10 - Fighting Disinformation and the Power of the Social Media

Venue: Room 1 Interpretation: EN/FR

The emergence of social media platforms as a tool for political activism has enabled many to make their voices heard. On the other hand, threats such as disinformation and fake news have become increasingly dangerous weapons targeting democracies. Is there a common theme as to how these large-scale disinformation campaigns are carried out? Is lack of access to the internet becoming an obstacle for active and informed citizenship. Can we use the power of social media to fight back against democratic backsliding?

Moderator:

Mr Sandy MOSS, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Council of Europe

Discussants:

Mr Roberto RAMPI, PACE Member (SOC)

Live Love Agora - Live Love Beirut LEBANON

Live Love is a social enterprise that focuses on creating communities around environmental, social and cultural issues. Live Love Agora is a space for discussion and debate on contemporary issues, with the primary aim of combating misinformation and bringing young people together with experts on social, environmental and cultural issues.

Presenter: Mr Mathias CHARLES, President of Live Love France & International

SEE Check network - UG Zasto ne? BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

CA "Why not" is an organization that works on creation of a safe, secure, healthy and active society in Bosnia & Herzegovina, through increasing civic participation, influencing government accountability and promoting the use of technology.

SEECheck is a network of fact-checkers from the SEE region that work on the promotion of media accountability, improving media literacy and fighting misinformation and disinformation.

Presenter: Mr Darko BRKAN, Director of *UG Zasto ne*, Board President of the regional network *ActionSEE* and Advisory Board Member of *OGP* in BiH

Global Digital Authoritarianism Index – Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies CANADA

The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (MIGS) is recognized as Canada's leading university-based think tank working on human rights, conflict prevention and emerging technologies.

While several organizations are currently documenting various forms of digital authoritarianism, we still lack a common platform that brings together this information, which is also why digital authoritarianism has been allowed to flourish. MIGS is currently developing the first global digital authoritarianism index with the aim of mapping which governments are using technologies to erode democracy; which tools are used; and which tech companies are involved. This collaborative initiative would permit governments, companies and civil society groups to be aware of the impact of digital authoritarianism on democracy and to take informed policy and business decisions

Presenter: Mr Kyle MATTHEWS, Executive Director of the *Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies* at Concordia University & Eric MEERKAMPER, fellow of the *Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies* at Concordia University

GASTARBAJTER: online community and platform for integration of the migrant workers in Germany - GASTARBAJTER social media marketing GERMANY

Gastarbajter is a social enterprise and a social media marketing company which aim is to overcome integration hurdles for ex-Yugoslav migrant workers and prejudice among different ethnic groups. The project led by Dino Klepo is operating via Youtube, Instagram and Facebook

Presenter: Mr Dino KLEPO, Founder of GASTARBAJTER

Rapporteurs' List

TYPE OF EVENT	RAPPORTEURS
Plenary Session 1	TBC
Plenary Session 2	TBC
Plenary Session 3	TBC
Plenary Session 4	TBC
Plenary Session 5	Ijeoma OKEREKE-ADAGBA
Forum Talk 1	Guillemette ARGUIMBAU DE SAINT-VIANCE
Forum Talk 2	Alexandre DUMON
Forum Talk 3	Clara GEOFFROY
Forum Talk 4	Juliette LASALLE
Forum Talk 5	Vincent TUPINIER
Forum Talk 6	Shadi ROCHARD
Forum Talk 7	Nicolas VISANICA
Forum Talk 8	TBC Sigurbór Maggi Snorrason
Lab 1	Kübra Begüm ŞİMŞEK
Lab 2	Daniele ERGINNI
Lab 3	Jack DRAPER
Lab 4	Claire FABRE
Lab 5	Audrey DESSOY
Lab 6	Delfine GAILLARD
Lab 7	Nikola XAVIEREFF-WECKWERTH
Lab 8	Francesca Celante
Lab 9	Giada CORSONI
Lab 10	Mahault JAMET
General Rapporteur	Xavier ROMERO VIDAL

Artistic Programme

What	When	Where
Les 3 Barbus ou presque	Monday, 7 Nov, 6:00PM	
Story time by Nuala Hayes and Poetry Slam for Democracy	Tuesday, 8 Nov, 4:45PM	
Umbra Ensemble	Tuesday, 8 Nov, 6:00PM	
Closing Performance: Bandura Sound System	Wednesday, 9 Nov, 12:45PM	Hemicycle
Made to Measure film project - Documentary	Wednesday, 9 Nov, 3:00PM	TBC

Democracy Innovation Award Winners 2013–2021:

2013	Ms Goretti AMURIAT	"Women of Uganda Network" (WOUGNET)
2014	Ms Özge ZENCİR AKÇAKMAK	Council of Europe (Generation Democracy, European Union, Council of Europe, in partnership with the Turkish Ministry of National Education and the Board of Education)
2015	Mr Viktor SJOSTROM	Department of Culture and Leisure of the Municipality of Simrishamn (initiative: More than One Story)
2016	Mr Tobias ERNST, Ph.D.	Kiron Open Higher Education gGmbH
2017	Mr Roman DOBROKHOTOV (TBC)	The Insider
2018	Ms Anne IRERI	FIDA (Federation of Women Lawyers)
2019	Mr Hamzat LAWAL	CODE (Connected Development)
2021	Ms Dalit Golan Wolf	EcoPeace Middle East