

Europe Bottom-Up: Civil Society as Political Culture?

In 2016, the notion of Europe is in deep trouble. The effects of the financial and economic crisis and the handling of the influx of refugees from conflict areas in Europe's neighbourhood have presented a challenge to European solidarity and cohesion. Populist national movements and positions are gaining strength everywhere in Europe. Our political culture, defined as a set of attitudes, beliefs and sentiments which give order and meaning to a political process and provide the underlying assumptions and rules that govern behavior in the political system, is in need of a new approach. The values and prospects of a European civil society should be introduced into this debate. But do we understand this in the same way all across Europe?

Please join us at a seminar of civil society stakeholders, academics, observers, and policy makers from Poland, Germany and other European countries on 20-21 October, 2016 in the German Library at Rynek 58 in Wrocław, Poland.

[Please register here for the event](#)

The seminar will be an opportunity to exchange experiences and to make a case for civil society as part of a political culture. The event is hosted by Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement, Das Progressive Zentrum, Europejski Instytut Demokracji and Maecenata Stiftung, with friendly support of The Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, Goethe Institut and Wrocław2016 European Capital of Culture.

Please find attached the preliminary agenda of the seminar. The event will be held in English. Please register not later than **Thursday, 13th October 2016**. The organizers provide accommodation and travel costs reimbursement (for terms and conditions please contact [Fides Sachs](#), Maecenata Stiftung).

We are looking forward to an inspiring debate!

Europe Bottom-Up: Civil Society as Political Culture

20-21 October 2016

Biblioteka Niemiecka, Rynek 58, Wrocław

Thursday, 20/10/2016

- 13.00 Registration and Light Lunch
- 14.00 **Opening**
Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Maecenata Stiftung
- 14.30 **Civil Society as Political Culture?**
- Adam Chmielewski, Professor, University of Wrocław
 - Jaroslaw Fret, Grotowski Institute Director and Curator for Theater, European Capital of Culture Wrocław 2016
 - N.N.
- 15.00 **Discussion**
Moderator: Ansgar Klein, Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement
- 16.00 Coffee Break
- 16.15 **Civil Society in Regional Comparison – Empirical Evidence**
- Mapping Civil Society in the Visegrád Countries
Anna Domaradzka, Uniwersytet Warszawski
Boris Strecansky, Centrum pre filantropiu
 - CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2016
Oliver Henman, CIVICUS
- 16.45 **Discussion**
Moderator: Maria Skóra, Das Progressive Zentrum
- 17.30 **Lessons Learned**
Moderator: Tobias Dürr, Das Progressive Zentrum
- 18.00 Evening City Walk
- 20.00 Dinner

Friday, 21/10/2016

9.00 Europe and the Integration Challenge

- Integration as a task for the civil society in Europe. Presentation and discussion of contemporary study results
Mirko Schwärzel, Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement
- “Dialogue on Europe”: Rebuilding trust and redefining Europe in tough times
Maria Skóra, Das Progressive Zentrum
- N.N.

Moderator: Jochen Roose, Freie Universität Berlin

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 The Way Forward

Among others [TBC]:

- Agnieszka Curyło (Europejski Instytut Demokracji)
- Tobias Dürr (Das Progressive Zentrum)
- Ansgar Klein (Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement)
- Katarzyna Młyńczak-Sachs (Wrocław2016)
- Cornelius Ochmann (Fundacja Współpracy Polsko-Niemieckiej)
- Jochen Roose (Freie Universität Berlin)

Moderator: Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Maecenata Stiftung

13.00 Lunch