

Program

Connecting Cultures: Empowering Citizens

A conference on European cultural, political and citizenship education

Format:	Conference, panels, presentations, dialoguing & networking opportunities
Date:	August 30 – September 1, 2023
Place:	Conference House of the European Academy Berlin Bismarckallee 46/48, 14193 Berlin

Underlying Ideas

What is the current state of affairs? Can we truly understand the historical trajectory, conceptual framework, and societal transformations occurring in our contemporary era, particularly in Europe? We are faced with challenges to fundamental European values, a disillusioned youth, and decision-makers grappling with reconciling sweeping changes, a need to come from profit seeking mentalities to foster continuity and established political mechanisms. In light of this, we must ponder the instructive role of artists in shaping the lives of citizens. How does the artist, the cultural institution and the interaction with the academic world contribute to citizenship education, the building of communities and the formation of social spaces? To engage in a meaningful discourse on strengthening European identity, we must place civic education and culture at the heart of our deliberations.

Amidst a fast-paced world, shrinking temporal horizons, and growing polarization, how can we forge ahead? The answer lies in acceptance of civic responsibilities and dialogue, the antidotes to fundamentalism and exclusion. Unfortunately, genuine communication and understanding are often truncated to mere exchanges and condemnations. This predicament stems from our collective uncertainty surrounding European identity. Neither fear-driven self-assurance through demarcation nor hate-filled ideologies nor the rejection of any discourse or argumentation lead to the authentic development of one's identity. This principle holds true not only for Europe but for the entire world. Such approaches may offer temporary unity at best. However, a sustainable path forward emerges when rooted in an identity centered on culture and foundational values. Only when the citizens of Europe cultivate and embrace a European value orientation guaranteed by the European Treaties and the umbrella of the European Court of Justice can they effectively position themselves vis-à-vis others and view otherness as a source of enrichment. Rather than striving for a European ideology, what the cultural, educational and artistic world can contribute is a practice of dialogue that

acknowledges and promotes the diversity, especially the quality of to be found in Europe's regions, ideas, and people while the joined European values units them through reciprocal exchange.

Transparency, comprehension, coherence, and verifiability form the bedrock of fruitful dialogue. Another essential aspect involves direct engagement with culture. Like dialogue itself, culture highlights the mutually enriching dynamics between one's own heritage and that of others. The key to the success of Europe's nature being a union of member states and citizens lies in fostering informal and permanent exchange of ideas and practices, prioritizing (civic) education and culture, through facilitating European Citizenship

The assembled expert panel seeks to ignite precisely such a transformative process. Going beyond national boundaries and disciplinary confines, it aims to inspire subsequent initiatives, projects, and discussions. It takes into account the distinct demands, expectations, and limitations of each partner organization from the outset, fostering equitable collaboration from the conceptual stage onwards.

Contact

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The Conference Connecting Cultures: Empowering Citizens is made possible by the European Union, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the city of Berlin.



With the editorial assistance of our partners:



Wednesday, August 30, 2023 | Day ONE

08:45 AM	<p><i>For participants arriving on August 29th</i> Breakfast at the Wiener Café am Hagenplatz <i>Meeting in the entrance hall with Kira Kromrey</i></p>
Until 12:30 PM	Arrival and Check-In
01:00 – 01:10 PM	<p>Welcome at the EAB CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director EAB</p>
01:10 – 01:30 PM	<p>Welcome Address The implicit role of arts & heritage, citizenship education developments, community building aspects.</p> <p>STEVE AUSTEN President Felix Meritis Connecting Cultures, Amsterdam</p>
01:30 – 02:00 PM	<p>Keynote 1 Demcult: Horizon Europe as a necessary innovation of cooperation in science and presentation practices in arts and heritage.</p> <p>CLAARTJE RASTERHOFF Director Maastricht Centre for Arts & Culture, Heritage and Conservation, University of Maastricht</p>
02:00 – 03:00 PM	<p>Cultural Literacy and Active Citizenship <i>Panel 1: Explorations</i> Exploring how artistic, cultural, and social knowledge and understanding can enrich citizenship education and vice versa, equipping individuals with the tools to navigate an increasingly diverse and interconnected world.</p> <p>KRZYSZTOF CZYŻEWSKI Founding director Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p> <p>DYLAN AHERN Founding Director De Kiesmannen & DE/MO, Amsterdam</p> <p>PAUL SPIES Chief Curator Berlin Global at Humboldt Forum</p> <p>Moderation: ANNELIES VAN RIJEN Programme editor at Studio Europe Maastricht</p>
03:00 – 03:15 PM	Coffee Break
03:15 – 03:30 PM	<p>Keynote 2 From cultural networks to artistic & scientific nets: new perspectives.</p> <p>STEVE AUSTEN Founder Observatory for European Citizenship in Culture & Business (in formation)</p>

03:30 – 04:00 PM	<p>Reflections: tba</p> <p>EMIKO GEJIC Artist, Activist, board member Clubcommission, Berlin</p>
04:00 – 05:30 PM	<p>Impulse Presentations – First Round (3 x 30 min.)</p> <p>1. How European is Berlin? PAUL SPIES Chief Curator Berlin Global at Humboldt Forum</p> <p>2. Nothing is what it looks like: the freedom of interpretation IZABELLA AGÁRDI Researcher at Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK)/Institute for Social and European Studies (ISES), Kőszeg, Hungary</p> <p>3. The missing ingredient in European Modern Art Exhibition & Education: the empty page. Shaping a more inclusive practice. The Western postwar Art History has been predominately manifested by iconic works of art often related to traditional Christianity. A critical reading and (re) interpreting of the relationship between Judaism and Christianity as sources of Western art, culture and politics; the work of modern artists and their context and the role of the museum as mirror of our time.</p> <p>JOSEPH SASSOON SEMAH Artist & philosopher, Amsterdam</p>
05:30 – 06:00 PM	Networking
06:00 – 07:00 PM	Dinner at EAB

Thursday, August 31, 2023 | Day TWO

Until 09:00 AM	<p>Breakfast at the EAB</p> <p>Impulse Presentation – 30 min.</p>
09:00 – 9:30 AM	<p>4. The cultural center as distributor of European values by creating (new) local communities WERONIKA CZYŻEWSKA-PONCYLJUSZ International programs coordinator at Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p>
09:30 – 10:00 AM	<p>Keynote 3 Shaping a more inclusive Europe; fortifying European identity, viewing otherness as an enriching force. Can Germany be seen as a leading advocate for cultural and citizenship education in Europe and abroad?</p>

	<p>CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director EAB</p>
10:00 – 10:45 AM	<p>Inclusive Education for All <i>Panel 2: Addressing needs</i> Addressing the urgent need to develop inclusive pedagogical approaches that embrace diversity, ensure equal opportunities, and empower marginalized communities, fostering social cohesion by exploring tested platforms outside the usual for civic education.</p> <p>EMIKO GEJIC Artist, activist, board member Clubcommission, Berlin</p> <p>KRZYSZTOF CZYŻEWSKI Founding director Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p> <p>GABRIELÉ ŽAIDYTĖ Advisor to the Prime Minister on Culture, Vilnius</p> <p>LEVAN KHETAGURI Director Arts Research Institute of Georgia (ARI), Tbilisi</p> <p>IURI MGBRISHVILI Board member Arts Research Institute of Georgia (ARI), Tbilisi</p> <p>Moderation: tba</p>
10:45 – 12:00 AM	Coffee and Tea and Networking
12:00 – 01:00 PM	Lunch at EAB
01:00 – 2:30 PM	<p>Arts, Culture, and Social Spaces <i>Panel 3: Analyzing</i> Analyzing the transformative power of art and culture in shaping social spaces, strengthening community bonds, and promoting intercultural dialogue, while nurturing a sense of belonging and pride in European heritage including (local) community building.</p> <p>OEDS WESTERHOF Strategic advisor, director Leeuwarden Fryslân European Capital of Culture 2018, interim director Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam</p> <p>WERONIKA CZYŻEWSKA-PONCYLJUSZ International programs coordinator at Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p> <p>DEJAN UBOVIC Director KC Grad, Belgrade</p> <p>IZABELLA AGÁRDI Researcher at Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK)/Institute for Social and European Studies (ISES), Kőszeg, Hungary</p>

	<p>LEVAN KHETAGURI Director Arts Research Institute of Georgia, Tbilisi</p> <p>ANNELIES VAN RIJEN Programme editor at Studio Europa Maastricht</p> <p>Moderation: DYLAN AHERN Founding Director De Kiesmannen & DE/MO, Amsterdam</p>
02:30 – 03:00 PM	Coffee Break
03:00 – 03:30 PM	<p>Keynote 4 Developments in teaching methods</p> <p>CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director EAB</p>
03:30 – 04:15 PM	<p>Innovative Teaching Methods <i>Panel 4: Showcasing</i></p> <p>Showcasing groundbreaking approaches, technologies, and methodologies that integrate artistic and cultural perspectives into citizenship education, ensuring engaging and relevant learning experiences for students as well as life-long learning practices for adults.</p> <p>OLEKSANDR BUTSENKO Senior Researcher at National Academy of Arts of Ukraine, Kyiv</p> <p>GABRIELÉ ŽAIDYTĖ Adviser to the Prime Minister on Culture, Vilnius</p> <p>DYLAN AHERN Founding Director De Kiesmannen & DE/MO, Amsterdam</p> <p>Moderation: STEVE AUSTEN Founder Observatory for European Citizenship in Culture & Business (information)</p>
04:15 – 04:45 PM	<p>Impulse Presentation – 30 min.</p> <p>5. Why am I a European? Live interview of Levan Khetaguri by Linda Bouws</p> <p>LEVAN KHETAGURI Director Arts Research Institute of Georgia, Tbilisi</p> <p>LINDA BOUWS Founding director Metropool International Arts Projects, Amsterdam</p>
04:45 – 06:00 PM	Networking
06:00 – 07:00 PM	<p>Dinner at EAB</p> <p>Special Guest: MARKUS DRÖGE President Stiftung Zukunft Berlin opens the dinner</p> <p>Introduction: CHRISTIAN JOHANN</p>

Friday, September 1, 2023 | Day THREE

Until 09:00 AM	Breakfast and Check-out
09:00 – 09:30 AM	<p>Keynote 5 The role of the arts and its implications on civil society, democracy & the rule of law in Europe.</p> <p>AKUDO MCGEE PhD researcher at Studio Europa Maastricht and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Maastricht University</p>
09:30 – 10:30 AM	<p>Policy Implications and Collaborative Solutions <i>Panel 5: Encouraging</i> Encouraging dialogue between policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to forge effective policies and collaborative initiatives that embed European citizenship education at the core of European educational systems sharing a responsibility with cultural practices.</p> <p>KRZYSZTOF CZYŻEWSKI Founding director Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p> <p>IZABELLA AGÁRDI Researcher at Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK)/Institute for Social and European Studies (ISES), Kőszeg, Hungary</p> <p>LEVAN KHETAGURI Director Arts Research Institute of Georgia (ARI), Tbilisi</p> <p>IURI MGEBRISHVILI Board member Arts Research Institute of Georgia (ARI), Tbilisi</p> <p>GABRIELÉ ŽAIDYTĚ Adviser to the Prime Minister on Culture, Vilnius</p> <p>Moderation: CHRISTIAN JOHANN Director EAB</p>
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Coffee and Tea
10:45 – 12:15 AM	<p>International Best Practices <i>Panel 6: Drawing Inspiration</i> Drawing inspiration from successful models and initiatives worldwide, exploring best practices that enhance European citizenship education and promote global citizenship, paving the way for a more interconnected and harmonious world.</p> <p>EMIKO GEJIC Artist, activist, board member Clubcommission, Berlin</p> <p>WERONIKA CZYŻEWSKA-PONCYLJUSZ</p>

	<p>International programs coordinator at Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland</p> <p>DEJAN UBOVIC Director KC Grad, Belgrade</p> <p>N.N. - tba</p> <p>Moderation: OEDS WESTERHOF Strategic advisor, director Leeuwarden Fryslân European Capital of Culture 2018, interim director Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam</p>
12:15 – 12:45 PM	<p>Wrap-up STEVE AUSTEN President Felix Meritis Connecting Cultures, Amsterdam</p>
12:45 – 01:15 PM	<p>Lunch at EAB</p>
01:15 – 02:45 PM	<p>Group Discussions How to move on?</p>
02:45 – 03:10 PM	<p>Coffee, Tea, and Goodbye</p>

The terms and conditions of the European Academy Berlin apply, see www.eab-berlin.eu. It is recommended to obtain travel cancellation insurance that includes educational trips.

PROGRAM

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European Academy Berlin (EAB)

Understanding Europe. Shaping Europe. With this motto, the European Academy Berlin embodies its commitment. Since 1963, the EAB has been working successfully as an independent and non-partisan educational institution with a focus on "Europe." The EAB is a recognized actor in European political education, a competent service provider and partner in international educational, seminar and project management, and a place for learning, encounters, and events with a special atmosphere.



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