



Cities for Europe

Cooperating Partner:



# Working Groups, Berlin Conference 2020

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## Workshop 1                      The future of democracy in Europe

*Responsible: Emil Boc (mayor of Cluj-Napoca), Jörg Sommer (Coordinator of the Allianz Vielfältige Demokratie / Alliance Diverse Democracy in Germany, Dr. Volker Hassemer (Berlin Forum / Stiftung Zukunft Berlin)*

Civic participation and co-responsibility in the regions are a motor for democracy in Europe. Main Subjects of the workshop are best practices, criteria for good participation and opportunities for digitization. How can digitization help to support such efforts on a trans local level?

We will take a closer look at some practical examples and discuss the development of criteria for good participation at the municipal level. Furthermore, we will discuss opportunities and risks of digitization for democratic processes and will take a closer look at the development of content and structures for a common digital democracy.

## Workshop 2                      Performing Europe

*Moderation: Georg Blokus (Schule der politischen Hoffnung),  
Input: Georg Kentrup (Consol Theater), Manuel Moser (Comedia Theater Köln)*

We invite creatives and youth theatre groups across Europe to join us in founding an alliance of youth theater groups for Europe. Under the title "Performing Europe" we want to publicly stand up for the European values and stage various artistic actions and performances.

On Sunday we would like to start by formulating theses on which the alliance can build on. To spread the spirit, we want to use the second part of the Workshop to develop concrete ideas for performances, and as well on how to perform across borders in times where physical meetings are limited.



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## Workshop 3                      We are Europe

*Responsible: We are Europe Team*

The European Citizens' Initiative *We are Europe* discuss the question on how young citizens and local youth organizations in Europe have experienced the past months. After an exchange of experiences, they want to develop concrete starting points to promote cooperation, especially in times of crisis.

In the end they aim to develop concrete action guidelines for local initiatives and cities to strengthen Europe bottom-up.

## Workshop 4                      European Perspectives on local history

*Responsible: Hella Dunger-Löper (State Secretary ret.), Dr. Christian Johann (President of the European Academy)*

Keynote speaker:

Prof. Hartmut Kaelble, History Professor at Humboldt University Berlin  
Dr. Christian Johann, Director European Academy Berlin

Everyone who digs at his feet in Europe not only encounters local history, but inevitably European history too. Over the past centuries, there has been a distinctive mutual influence, be it in the darkest times of recent history, the Second World War, or in the striving of the countries for more freedom and independence in the Eastern Bloc. Nonetheless, these aspects are often not (yet) the focus of most long-standing history initiatives. If you want to develop Europe from below, you must link local initiatives and to discuss the European aspect of their work with them. Therefore, we would like to exchange viewpoints from various cities, understand them and develop European perspectives on local history.

**The main objective of the workshop is to develop a long-term and sustainable network of European history initiatives that cooperate and learn from each other, and even submit joint project proposals.**



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## Workshop 5 Cultural Capitals and Arts Festivals for Europe

**(workshops and online exchanges prepared prior to the Berlin Conference)**

*Responsible: Kathrin Deventer (Secretary General European Festivals Association EFA), Nele Hertling (Vice President Akademie der Künste / Spokesperson "A Soul for Europe"), both strategy group members of "A Soul for Europe"*

Arts and the artists are the matrix of each cultural program.  
As is the city and its community.  
There is no community without the arts.

A group of festivals and cities in the Festival Cities Initiatives, former, current, and future European capitals of culture and members of the Strategy Group of "A Soul for Europe" invite for a discussion. We are convinced about the importance of the relation and collaboration between a city and its cultural partners and civil society actors. We also assume that a city together with its cultural actors has a task to fulfill for Europe.

We will present proposals, demands, strategies and concrete formats and ideas how to use the creative power of art and culture to strengthen the possibilities and willingness of citizens to become active in the future development of Europe.