

Democracies in Europe under threat

Vienna, 20-21 November 2014

SPEAKERS' BIOS

Thursday, 20 November 2014

[Welcome words at the cocktail reception](#)

Doraja Eberle, Board Chairwoman of ERSTE Stiftung



Doraja Eberle holds a diploma as a social worker and was previously member of the provincial government of Salzburg. In 1992, she founded an association called "Bauern helfen Bauern", which helps victims of the Balkan wars to return to their homes. Mrs. Eberle has received a number of awards for her social commitment.

Goran Buldioski, Director of the Open Society Think Tank Fund and Acting Co-Director of the Higher Education Support Program, OSF



Goran Buldioski is the Director of the Open Society Think Tank Fund and Acting Director of the International Higher Education Support Program. He has conducted and coordinated policy-relevant research on the democratization and role of independent research to policy processes, carried out strategic planning and capacity building for NGOs and policy research centers, and designed and delivered training on organization and project management in the nonprofit sector. Before joining the Open Society Foundations, Mr. Buldioski worked for the Council of Europe, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, and the National Youth Council of Macedonia. He has consulted for many international organizations and published numerous articles and research papers addressing think tanks, policy-relevant research, and democratic transition. Mr. Buldioski holds graduate degrees in public policy from Central European University and in organizational behavior from George Washington University.

Friday, 21 November 2014

[Opening of the conference](#)

Heather Grabbe, Director of the Open Society European Policy Institute



Heather Grabbe is Director of the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels. From 2004–2009, she was senior advisor to European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn, responsible in his cabinet for the Balkans and Turkey. Prior to joining the Commission, she was deputy director of the Centre for European Reform, the London-based think-tank, where she published widely on EU enlargement, foreign policy, democracy in Europe, and justice and home affairs. Her academic career includes teaching at the London School of Economics, and research at Oxford and Birmingham universities, the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House, London) and the European University Institute (Florence). Among her books are *The Constellations of Europe* (CER, 2004) and *The EU's Transformative Power: Europeanization through Conditionality in Central and Eastern Europe 1989-2004* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).

Boris Marte, Head of Erste HUB Innovation Center



Boris Marte has been a Member of the Board of ERSTE Foundation since June 2008. Before that he was the Managing Director of ERSTE Foundation (since 2005) and Director of Corporate Sponsoring of Erste Group Bank (since 2001). Prior to working for Erste Group Bank Boris Marte held various positions in the fields of politics as Member of the Cabinets of the Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Science and Research (1991-1995), and of the Cultural Commissioner of the City of Vienna (1997-2001). From 1998 until 2000 he was responsible for the installation of the Holocaust Monument in the city of Vienna.

In 1999 he published the book “Die Neue Ordnung des Politischen – Die Herausforderungen der Demokratie im 21. Jahrhundert” (Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York).

What are the deeper trends that are driving protest politics in Europe?

Jamie Bartlett, Director of the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos



Jamie Bartlett runs the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media (CASM), which is a collaboration between Demos and the University of Sussex. The Centre combines automated data extraction and sentiment analysis with social science statistics, analysis and ethics, to produce insightful and robust policy research. Mr. Bartlett has recently completed a major comparative research project of the online support for right and left wing populist parties in 12 European countries, based on a new data set of 20,000 Facebook fans of these groups. Mr. Bartlett’s current research areas include the dark net, crypto-currencies, extremists’ use of the net and the evolution of counter-surveillance measures. He has recently published *The Dark Net* (Random House). He is also a journalist for the UK’s Daily Telegraph.

Rainer Münz, Head of Research & Knowledge Center at Erste Group



Rainer Münz is Head of Research & Knowledge Center (Erste Group), Non-resident Fellow of the Migration Policy Institute, Washington DC, and Senior Fellow at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI). He studied at Vienna University, where he earned his PhD in 1978. In 1979 he joined the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Until 1992 he was director of the Institute of Demography at the Austrian Academy of Science. Between 1992 and 2003 he was head of the Department of Demography at Humboldt University, Berlin. He was visiting professor at the Universities of Bamberg (1986), University of California at Berkeley (1986, 1989, 1997-98), Frankfurt (1988), Klagenfurt (1996, 1998), Vienna (2001-02), and Zurich (1992). He was also Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Mathematics of Finance, Technical University Vienna (2001-2002). Since 2010 he teaches at the University of St. Gallen.

Nicolas Véron, Senior Fellow at Bruegel



Nicolas Véron is a senior fellow at Bruegel and a visiting fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington DC. His research is mostly about financial systems and financial reform around the world, including global financial regulatory initiatives and current developments in the European Union. He was a co-founder of Bruegel starting in 2002, initially focusing on Bruegel’s design, operational start-up and development, then on policy research since 2006-07. He joined the Peterson Institute in 2009 and divides his time between the US and Europe. Mr. Véron has authored or co-authored numerous policy papers issues that include banking supervision and crisis management, financial reporting, the Eurozone policy framework, and economic nationalism. He has testified repeatedly in front of committees of the European Parliament and US Congress.

Heather Grabbe, Director of the Open Society European Policy Institute (see bio above)

Hotspots in European politics: What will it be like to live in these societies in 2019?

Group A: Hungary

Balázs Váradi, Senior Researcher at the Budapest Institute for Policy Analysis



Balázs Váradi (1969) is an economist and public policy analyst at the Budapest Institute and at ELTE University in Budapest. He received his PhD from Yale University. He was an adviser to the prime minister of Hungary on education, healthcare, and socio-political affairs as well as a Council of Europe adviser to the Georgian government on education policy. At the Budapest Institute, he has participated in several policy formulation and evaluation efforts for the European Commission, the Hungarian Government, and different NGOs.

Kinga Göncz, Advisory Board Chair at OSF Roma Programs



Kinga Göncz is a Hungarian psychiatrist and psychotherapist. Between 2009 and 2014 she was the member of the European Parliament and vice chair of the LIBE Committee, dealing with democracy, fundamental rights, and rule of law issues in the EU member states. She served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2006-2009), Minister of Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (2004-2006), and was the Director of Partners Hungary (1994-2002), a member of an international NGO- network, with the goal of teaching democracy techniques, conflict management and mediation. She also worked as an assistant professor of the Social Policy and Social Work Department of the ELTE University in Budapest (1990-2002), teaching also at other universities, including a course on Social Psychology of Prejudices at the Central European University Human Rights Department.

Attila Mong, Board Member and Deputy Editor-in-chief at atlatszo.hu



Attila Mong is an award-winning Hungarian investigative journalist. He is a board member of Atlatszo.hu, an investigative journalism watchdog NGO focusing on anti-corruption issues and a journalism expert of MerteK, a media think tank in Hungary. His international projects include the Ashoka Foundation (Storyteller-in-Residence program) and the DW Akademie (journalism trainings in Bangladesh and Ghana). In 2013 he was a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University.

Goran Buldioski, Director of the Open Society Think Tank Fund and Acting Co-Director of the Higher Education Support Program, OSF
(see bio above)

Group B: France

Guillaume Liegey, Co-founder of Liegey Muller Pons



Guillaume Liegey is the Co-founder of Liegey Muller Pons (LMP), the first campaign technology start-up in Europe. Prior to LMP, he was National Field Director for President Hollande's 2012 campaign and worked as a consultant for McKinsey in France and the US. Mr. Liegey graduated from HEC Paris and Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Catherine Fieschi, Director of Counterpoint



Catherine Fieschi is the Director of Counterpoint. After ten years as an academic she moved in to the policy world: first as director of the London-based think tank Demos and then at the helm of the think tank of the British Council. Catherine holds a PhD in Comparative Politics from McGill University. She is the author of 'In the Shadow of Democracy' (MUP) and of numerous pamphlets and articles on extremism, populism, citizen engagement and social innovation. She has advised governments, businesses, and foundations on aspects of risk, strategy and policy. Catherine is also founder of the mentoring scheme 50ft Women, a Fellow of the Department of Government at LSE, and a trustee of the policy think tank IARS and of The Creative Society. She is a regular contributor to radio and television debates.

Thomas Klau, Chairman of Asylos



Thomas Klau is the Chairman of Asylos, a volunteer network set up in 2010 to assist lawyers representing asylum seekers with researching information to help their clients substantiate their case. From 2007 to March 2014, Thomas worked as the Head of the European Council on Foreign Relations Paris office. Prior to that, he worked as a journalist and foreign correspondent in Paris, Frankfurt, Brussels, and Washington. His areas of expertise include the politics of European integration, France, the UK, and Germany.

Group C: Greece

Dimitris Christopoulos, Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights



Dimitris Christopoulos is Vice President of the International Federation for Human Rights after having chaired the board of the Hellenic League for Human Rights for eight years (2003-2011). He is an associate professor at Panteion University in Athens where he teaches public law and human rights focusing on migration, minorities, and citizenship. His academic publications reflect par excellence his activist interventions. He has taught as visiting professor and has provided lectures at different universities in Europe and the US. Mr. Christopoulos has published in Greek, English, French, Portuguese, Hebrew, Albanian, and Serbo-Croatian in scientific reviews or journals in the field of legal and political theory focusing on issues related to human rights, minorities, migrants, and citizenship. He is frequently interviewed by international or Greek media, writes regularly in the Greek press, contributing to the promotion of a human rights awareness culture in the country, particularly within the current Greek financial crisis.

Apostolis Fotiadis, Freelance Journalist



Apostolis Fotiadis is a free-lance journalist based in Athens, Greece. He contributes as a correspondent for Inter Press Service (IPS) and various other national and international publications. His focus is on issues related to ethnic conflict, human rights, and population movements in the broader region and the politics of the European financial crisis. He received his education in history at the University of Aberdeen and has an interdisciplinary master's degree in nationalism.

Marilena Katsimi, Coordinator of Beat the Fear



Marilena Katsimi was born in Athens in 1970. She was the anchor woman of the morning program of the Greek public television (ERT) till its closure by the government in June 2013. She currently is the Director of the web-radio 'Portocali, the solidarity4all radio', which aims to promote self-managed solidarity structures rising within the current crisis, as well as the Secretary General of the Journalist Union of Daily Newspapers (ESIEA). During the pre-election period of 2014 and under the auspices of the Hellenic League for Human Rights, she founded Beat the Fear, a team which conducted a comprehensive anti-racist campaign hosted by the web-tv (www.thetoc.gr) from April till August 2014.

Jordi Vaquer, Director of the Open Society Initiative for Europe



Jordi Vaquer is the Director of the Open Society Initiative for Europe and the Regional Director for Europe at the Open Society Foundations. In these positions, he works to advance the values and institutions of open society in the cities and countries of the European Union and the Western Balkans. Mr. Vaquer writes a regular column about international affairs in *El País* (Spain's leading newspaper), provides commentary for other media, and often speaks at international debates and seminars on international affairs and EU politics. Before becoming director of the Open Society Initiative for Europe, Mr. Vaquer was director of the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), one of southern Europe's most influential International Relations think tanks. Mr. Vaquer graduated from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain; received an MA from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium; and completed a PhD in international relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

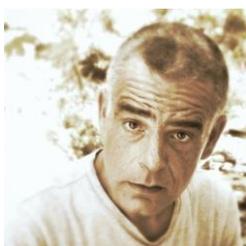
[Recap from the break-out sessions on 'Hotspots in European politics'](#)

Endre B. Bojtár, Editor in Chief of Magyar Narancs



Endre B. Bojtár has been the Editor in Chief of Magyar Narancs since 1999. He has also worked as a researcher specialised in ethnic conflict and the Balkans at the Central European Institute in Budapest (1989–1997) and as a journalist and editor at Magyar Narancs, a Budapest based liberal weekly political and cultural magazine (1990–1999). Mr. Bojtár, who speaks English, Polish, and Croatian, has authored *Gazdátlan bűnök* (Sins without a Master) (Budapest, 1999) and co-authored *Minden héten forradalom* (Every Week a Revolution, Budapest, 2014). Ever since 1996, he is an anchor at Tilos Rádió, a Budapest based community radio station.

Kostas Argyros, Editor of Ependisi



Kostas Argyros is the editor of the weekly newspaper 'Ependisi' and commentator for news247.gr. He has presented a variety of programs for the public Greek TV channel NET, including '27 of Europe' (2010-2013), 'The Correspondents' (2007-2010), and 'Hellenic Aid' (2005-2007). He also worked as the editor and moderator of the weekly program 'Greece-Europe' (2003-2005) and producer of documentary films about the 10 new EU member states (2002-2003). He also served as an editor at the foreign policy department of the daily newspaper Kathimerini (1999-2001) and a correspondent for the BBC News Greek Service in Vienna (1998-99) and the newspaper Kathimerini in Vienna (1989-99). Mr. Argyros has been awarded several prizes, including the Eleni Vlahou Prize 2007 for reporting on European topics, the Konstantinos Kalligas Prize 2011 awarded from the Association of European Journalists, the European Parliament Prize for Journalism 2011, and the Athanasios Botsis Foundation Prize 2013.

Jon Worth, Blogger



Jon Worth is Partner in techPolitics LLP, a small communications consultancy providing services for politicians, political campaigns and the public sector. Clients of techPolitics include the European Commission (DGs Connect, Regio, ECHO), the European Parliament, the EUSR in Bosnia, Mercator Stiftung, and Clear Europe Training. In a personal capacity, Mr. Worth is best known as a blogger about EU political topics. His blog - www.jonworth.eu - is one of the longest running and best referenced blogs dedicated to the intersection of technology, democracy, and the European Union. Numerous campaigns have started from his blog, from the Atheist Bus Campaign (“There’s Probably No God Now Stop Worrying and Enjoy Your Life”) in the UK in 2008-09, to more recent campaigns around Schengen and freedom of movement, and efforts to protect long distance railway services in Europe. Mr. Worth previously worked for the National School of Government in the UK, and he is a visiting lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International Affairs, Geneva, and the University of Maastricht. He is also a previous President of the Young European Federalists (JEF-Europe, 2003-05). He holds a MA in European Politics and Administration from the College of Europe, Bruges, and a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from the University of Oxford.

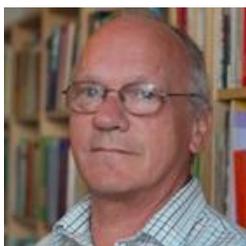
Tamsin Rose, Director of Tamarack



Tamsin Rose is a facilitator and trainer with two decades of experience in the European policy environment. She has worked in local government international cooperation, communication, and public health. In 2006, Tamsin became an independent consultant for the public, philanthropic and civil society sectors, working on a range of topics from public participation to strategy development. Her particular expertise is facilitation of events and processes, ranging from team building sessions to high level events featuring European Commissioners and Ministers.

[Beyond protest: How could the disappointed democrats and reluctant radicals get interested in politics again?](#)

Jørgen Nielsen, Honorary Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Copenhagen



Jørgen S. Nielsen was Professor of Islamic Studies at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Copenhagen until June 2013 and is now retired. He has previously held academic positions in Beirut, Birmingham (UK), and Damascus. His research has been focused on the situation of Muslims in Europe. Major recent publications include: *Muslims in Western Europe* (3rd ed. Edinburgh University Press, 2004); *Yearbook of Muslims in Europe*, vols. 1-6 (Leiden: Brill, 2009-14), chief editor; and *Muslim Political Participation in Europe*, ed. (Edinburgh University Press, 2013).

Paul Taggart, Professor of Politics at the University of Sussex



Paul Taggart is Professor of Politics and Co-Director of the Sussex European Institute at the University of Sussex. He is editor of the journal *Government and Opposition* and former editor of the journal *Politics*, as well as co-convenor (with Prof. Aleks Szczerbiak) of the European Referendums, Elections, and Parties Network (EPERN). He has been a visiting scholar at the Universities of Gothenberg and Sarajevo and is a visiting scholar at the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown University. His research is mainly on Euroscepticism and populism. He is the author/editor of five books on those topics.

Peter Vermeersch, Professor of Politics, University of Leuven



Peter Vermeersch is a Professor of Politics at the University of Leuven in Belgium (KU Leuven), where he is affiliated with LINES (Leuven International and European Studies) and the Centre for Research on Peace and Development. Previously he was, a visiting scholar at Harvard University (2007-2008). His academic publications cover topics such as minority politics, the Roma movement, nationalism, everyday citizenship, and democratic innovation. He is the author of two academic books and, most recently, a book of literary nonfiction on postwar memory in the former Yugoslavia. He is a board member of PEN-Vlaanderen, the Flemish branch of PEN International. In 2011 Peter Vermeersch was a member of the academic team of the G1000, a large-scale deliberative forum in Belgium.

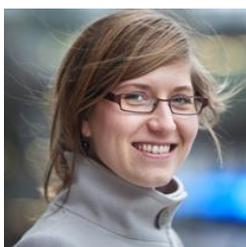
Ivan Vevjoda, Senior Vice President of the German Marshall Fund



Ivan Vevjoda is Senior Vice President for Programs of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. From 2003 to 2010 he was the executive director for the Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of GMF. He served in 2002-2003 as senior advisor on foreign policy and European integration to the Serbian prime minister – first to Zoran Djindjic and subsequently to Zoran Zivkovic. From 1998-2002, prior to his service in the Serbian government, Mr. Vevjoda was the executive director of the Belgrade-based Fund for an Open Society. He has held various academic posts in the United Kingdom and the United States, was a research fellow at the Belgrade Institute of European Studies (1984-1993), and has published widely on democratic transition, totalitarianism, and post-war reconstruction in the Balkans. In addition, he was active in the opposition movement in Yugoslavia in the late 1980's the 1990's. He was the co-founder of the Democratic forum (1989) and the Belgrade Circle – Association of Independent intellectuals (1992). He holds a Diplome from the Institut d'etudes politiques of Paris (1972) and accomplished postgraduate studies at the University of Belgrade. He has been awarded the French National Order of Merit and the Order of the Italian Star of Solidarity.

Organizers

Nadja Groot, Programme Coordinator for the Open Society European Policy Institute



Nadja Groot is a Program Coordinator for the Open Society European Policy Institute, coordinating research and pilot projects that look for new trends that affect the open society in Europe, and find ways to channel political energy, ideas, and resources into policy-making that supports the open society in Europe. Before joining the Open Society Foundations in May 2011, she participated in the Pat Cox Fellowship Programme at the European Parliament and worked with a Dutch NGO on education and minority relations in the Western Balkans. Ms. Groot is a board member of a youth exchange organization in the Netherlands. She holds a BA in Educational Science and Development Studies and an MA in International Relations from the University of Amsterdam.

Filip Radunović, Project Manager Europe at ERSTE Foundation



Born in Podgorica, Montenegro, Mr. Radunović, grew up in places with strong local dialects: Munich, San Antonio, and Vienna. Hardly surprising he chose to focus on semiotics in his doctoral thesis. His knowledge in media psychology is of great value in building up ERSTE Foundation Community, an initiative that gathers some 100 people from the fields of art, research, and NGOs, to exchange ideas, create synergies, and contribute with innovative impulses to the work of the Foundation in the framework of the European Forum Alpbach every year.

Zsófia Révay, Administrative Assistant, Open Society Initiative for Europe



Zsófia Révay is the administrative coordinator of the Open Society Initiative for Europe, responsible for events management, grant administration, and general administrative and financial support to the team. Ms. Révay joined Open Society in 2010 and worked for the Open Society Think Tank Fund as a program coordinator until December 2013. Before her work at the Open Society Foundations, she held team and personal assistant positions at Nokia and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Ms. Révay graduated as an International Relations specialist at the Széchenyi University of Győr, Hungary, and holds an MA in English literature and linguistics from the University of Pécs, Hungary.

Léonie van Tongeren, program coordinator for the director at the Open Society Initiative for Europe



Léonie van Tongeren works as the Program Coordinator for the Director of Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE). She coordinates the grant-making within the core team and provides programmatic support for the director's work at both OSIFE and as the Open Society's Regional Director for Europe. Prior to her position at Open Society, she worked as a researcher and assistant to the presidency of the International Catalan Institute for Peace. She has also done project and trainee program management at the Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom, and Security of the European Commission, the Human Rights Cluster of the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, and at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Geneva. Ms. Van

Tongeren received her BA (cum laude) and LLM (cum laude) in law from Utrecht University and an LLM in International Relations from the Barcelona Institute for International Studies.