

PRESS RELEASE AND EVENT NOTICE

Berlin Conference 2021: Europe Bottom-Up!

#europebottomup

7 November 2021: Das TIETZ, Moritzstrasse 20, D-09111 Chemnitz

8 and 9 November 2021: Allianz Forum, Pariser Platz 6, D-10719 Berlin



„**Europe Bottom-Up!**“ is the motto of this year’s Berlin Conference, which Stiftung Zukunft Berlin is organising with a number of partner organisations in Berlin and Chemnitz from **7 to 9 November**.

Every year, the conference focuses on the responsibility of Europeans in shaping the future of Europe. It aims to show how citizens, cities and regions can get involved in Europe. "Europe Bottom-Up!" therefore not only describes our approach but can also be understood as an invitation to give some of one’s own creativity and commitment to Europe.

The 2021 edition of **Berlin Conference kicks off on 7 November in Chemnitz**, the European Capital of Culture 2025. Here, mayors and representatives of current and former European Capitals of Culture (ECoC) and candidate cities will discuss culture-driven urban development as well as the importance of the periphery for Europe using the ECoC experiences as an example.

In three plenary sessions and working groups on **8 and 9 November**, the **public conference days in Berlin** will bring together representatives of civil society, arts and culture, and politics to discuss the significance of the "bottom-up" approach for the future of Europe. Stiftung Zukunft Berlin will be presenting the digital platform project “Europe Bottom-Up” as an example of how this approach can be put into practice. By showing which role cities and regions can play, we will demonstrate how the platform can serve as a core instrument for information and cooperation.

The speakers and discussants of the conference include **Mariya Gabriel**, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, President of the European Committee of the Regions, **Gerry Woop**, Berlin State Secretary for Europe, **Gesine Schwan**, Political Scientist, ECoC experts such as **Ulrich Fuchs** (Marseille-Provence 2013), **Hugo de Greef** (Bruges 2002), **Nele Hertling** (Berlin 1988) and **Elisabeth Schweeger** (Bad Ischl 2024), current and former Members of the European Parliament such as **Gaby Bischoff**, **Lena Düpont**, **Hannes Heide**, **Niklas Nienaß**, **Elmar Brok**, **Jo Leinen**, **Doris Pack**, **Hannes Swoboda** and **Helga Trüpel**, Mayors such as **Emil Boc** (Cluj-Napoca), **Tanya Hristova** (Gabrovo), **Simone Lange** (Flensburg), **Laurent Riche** (Kingersheim), **Mohamed Ridouani** (Leuven), **Ines Schiller** (Bad Ischl), **Mike Schubert** (Potsdam), **Sven Schulze** (Chemnitz), **Maximilian Wonke** (Panketal) and **Thomas Zenker** (Zittau), and not least representatives of cultural and civil-society organisations such as **Yonus Muhammadi** (Greek Forum of Refugees), **Andreas Nachama** (House of One), **Ása Richardsdóttir** (International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts IETM), **Louisa Slavkova** (Civic Europe) and **Markus Vähälä** (Citizen Network).

As every year, a highlight of the conference will be **"The State of Europe Speech"**, given this year by **Charles Michel, President of the European Council, on the evening of 9 November** and followed by a discussion with young Europeans, which will be moderated by journalist Anke Plättner. As admission to the event is limited, please contact Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung at pressestelle@kas.de if you wish to participate on site (the 2G rule applies).

→ **Please find the full conference programme here.**

Conference languages are English and German, a simultaneous translation will be provided. The public programme will be streamed at stiftungzukunftberlin.eu.

You are cordially invited to attend the conference as a member of the press.

→ **Conference registration**

Please find further information on our events and current topics on our [website](#) (in German). Contact us via [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and follow the **"Europe Bottom-Up!" online debate** prior to the conference on [Medium!](#) **#europebottomup**

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