

UNITING IN VISION

TACKLING POPULISM: HOPE OVER FEAR

ANNUAL POLICY CYCLE
2017

WHO WE ARE

The 1989 Generation Initiative is an open think tank seeking to reinvigorate the European Project with the production of new policy proposals and innovative projects, arising out of universal public debate centred around Europe's younger citizens - the '89ers.

Our method of policy making is innovative in that it takes into account the views not merely of experts or researchers, but also the ideas of young citizens across various disciplines. Moreover, we go beyond the work of an ordinary think tank with the development of projects and enterprises that aim to have a practical impact on European affairs. Through these creative processes, we seek to mobilise, empower and inspire citizens from across the continent to contribute to the reform of the European Union.

Ultimately, our aim is to provide a beacon of hope for Europeans, at a time when crisis and pessimism increasingly dominate the discourse. Our activities encompass four major topic-areas in European affairs: **Politics and Institutions; Foreign Policy; Economics; and European Identity.**

The organisation is based at the LSE European Institute, where it was established in February 2015 and is an associate organisation of the LSE.

2015/16

The 1989 Generation Initiative

has already successfully completed one policy cycle: The Redefinition of the European Mission. This kicked off with the Conference on the Redefinition of the European Mission at the LSE on June 24th 2015.

After the Conference, 89ers worked for several months on its outcomes and prepared a Declaration containing eight policy proposals which was presented at the European Parliament in Brussels, during the event 89ers: Writing the Next Chapter.

BEGINNINGS

The impetus for the Initiative was originally provided by the internationally-renowned political commentator, Timothy Garton Ash. In an article written in the Guardian, he called on the 89er generation to emerge as the generation of change and speak out on its vision for Europe. He claimed that the future of the European Project should be determined by those who will live and be most affected by it, and lamented the seeming disinterest in European affairs of young EU citizens.

A small group of postgraduate students decided to respond directly to Timothy's challenge, establishing the 1989 Generation Initiative.



We need YOU to save Europe!

Timothy Garton Ash

Professor of European
Studies at Oxford University



TACKLING POPULISM: HOPE OVER FEAR

THE 2016/17 WORKING CYCLE will address the theme of populism with the aim of understanding its origins and appeal. By observing where traditional ruling elites have failed, we look at ways to supplant the rhetoric of fear and hate, with one of hope.

The proposals produced by the end of the cycle will be in this spirit, and seek, as always, to add dynamism to the European Project. The Conference will offer a unique opportunity for interaction and debate between accomplished professionals, policy makers, scholars, and young Europeans, citizens coming from all over the continent.

Guests will be divided into several roundtables, each moderated by the 89ers. The content of the Roundtables has been decided following the holding of a pan-European survey of 89ers' aspirations and concerns.

The 1989 Generation Initiative has refined and analysed the data, in order to determine the topics and issues to be tackled at the Conference.



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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

08.30 - 09.15: Registration and Welcome Coffee
09.15 - 10.00: Welcome Speeches
10.00 - 11.30: Roundtables Sessions
11.30 - 11.45: Coffee Break
11.45 - 13.15: Roundtables Sessions
13.15 - 14.15: Buffet Lunch
14.15 - 15.45: Roundtables Sessions
15.45 - 16.00: Coffee Break
16.00 - 17.00: Plenary Session
17.15 - 18.30: Keynote Debate (Speakers TBA)
18.30 - Onwards: Dinner & Social Activities

89ers selected to participate into the Conference will also attend a preparatory day:
15 February 2017 (89ers only)
14.00 - 14.30: Registration & Welcoming of the 89ers
14.30 - 15.00: Ice-Breaking Activities
15.00 - 16.00: Parallel Session of Workshops & Debates
16.00 - 16.15: Coffee Break
16.15 - 17.15: Pre-Roundtables
17.15 - 17.30: Coffee Break
17.30 - 18.30: Pre-Roundtables
18.30 - onwards: Dinner and Social Activities

ROUNDTABLES & CONTENT (I)

POLITICS & INSTITUTIONS

A Model of inclusion: Encouraging Participation and Enabling European Citizens to Shape Policy Directions Representing citizens' voices - How can the EU improve existing mechanisms that enable European citizens to participate in the decision-making process, and how can it efficiently ensure citizens' awareness and understanding of such participation frameworks?

Amplifying the citizens' voice in Brussels - What new tools and mechanisms should the EU implement in order to facilitate the engagement of European citizens with the EU decision-making process?

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

A Better Single Market: Fairness and New Perspectives European labour mobility – How can we improve fairness and economic efficiency regarding labour mobility and welfare schemes in the European Union? How can we create support from the public? Digital single market - How can we approach the future of a digital single market? Which requirements need to be fulfilled?

ROUNDTABLES & CONTENT (II)

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Restoring Hope and Security, at Home and Abroad: Addressing the Roots and Consequences of Instability in Europe's Neighbourhood Solving the refugee crisis - How can the EU reform its migration and asylum policy to respond to the refugee crisis in a sustainable way?

Security needs vs. humanitarian concerns. what immediate and longer-term policies would allow the EU to mitigate further conflict and instability in its neighbourhood and reconcile its security needs with its humanitarian concerns? Should these measures be of a civilian or military nature?

EUROPEAN IDENTITY & CULTURE

Knowledge is Power: Reconnecting with European Citizens Bringing the EU closer to its citizens - How can the EU create a more effective communications strategy to better inform and connect with its citizens, especially through new media and technologies?

How can the EU publicize the opportunities and advantages it offers and therefore reverse the current negative narrative?

Education for engagement - How can citizens be better educated about the EU in order to critically engage with current EU affairs? How can passive education be combined with active education (mobility, interactivity, fieldwork)? Can EU knowledge be instilled beyond

YOUR ROLE AS A LEADER

We would be delighted if you are able to join us at the Roundtable and share with us your expertise. We believe that your contribution will be extremely valuable.

At the roundtable, several other leaders will be present alongside 89ers who have traveled from across Europe.

The discussion will be guided by trained moderators.

We would ask you to engage in discussion with us and help shape the future together!

We thank you warmly for your consideration,

The 1989 Generation Initiative



I was attracted to the 89ers because of the 'initiative' you show. This is what Europe needs. I ask you to succeed!

Valery Giscard d'Estaing

June 26th 2015

AFTER THE CONFERENCE

A PAN-EUROPEAN CONVERSATION

Webinars:

After the Conference, weekly webinars will bring together Conference participants as well as other members that were unable to attend. The aim of these webinars is to develop the ideas which have emerged at the Conference, supplementing these with any new ones. Experts will also take part in the webinars, to provide quality input. These may be the same experts as at the Conference, or different individuals. This would be arranged on a relatively ad hoc basis.

Regional Events:

Events will be organised by the Initiative's regional communities or 'chapters' to provide further input on the areas discussed. Here we hope that a regional perspective on populism will be provided, serving to enrich the discussion. The broad conclusions to emerge from the webinar series and chapter discussions will be included in the final Declaration as policy proposals.

Dissemination Event:

The final Declaration will be completed by Fall 2017. It will be spread and publicised among all the relevant international institutions. 89ers will organise a dissemination event with the aim of involving EU and member state officials, NGO & Think Tanks representatives, and, naturally, young people from all over the European continent. Here, speakers will present the broad ideas enshrined within the Declaration, as well as an agreed number of policy proposals from the Declaration.

