>> IDEAS.REVIEW

LPBACH NIEDERÖSTERREICH

DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH 2019

15 years CEE Enlargement of the EU How do we interact tomorrow?

16 - 17 May 2019 | Althof Retz www.club-alpbach.at

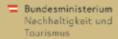


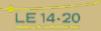






Mit Unterstützung von Bund, Land und Europäischer Union

























Foreword

Dear Sir or Madam,

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Central Eastern European Enlargement of the EU. An anniversary that motivates to reflect and act: Which possibilities have opened up? What needs to be done? How can we shape our common future?

In order to contribute to a successful and sustainable development of the European Union, Club Alpbach Niederösterreich (Lower Austria) initiated its DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH for the second time after its success in 2014. In an interdisciplinary, intergenerational and international setting at the border between Austria and the Czech Republic, participants discussed their ideas on the future of Europe. During the IDEAS.LAB at Althof Retz regional and international leaders of today and tomorrow from economics, politics, science, diplomacy, social affairs, health, culture and media connected. The results, including diverse perspectives, have been presented to high-level policy makers during the event and afterwards at the IDEAS.GALA.

The ideas shall not remain silent: Let us spread the word about the created common visions on European interaction!

Michael Höfler

President | Club Alpbach Niederösterreich

Veronika Wüster

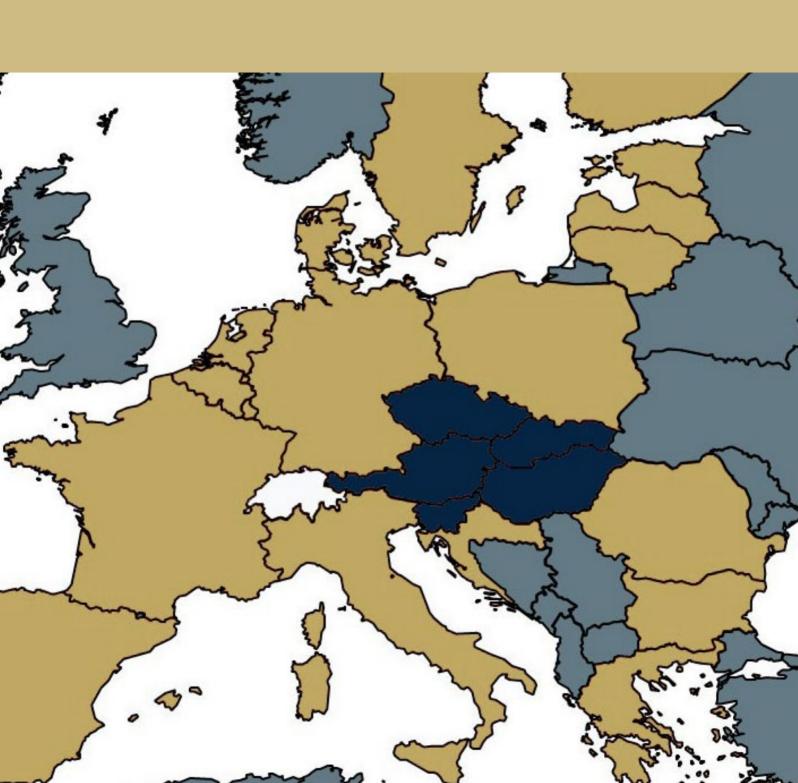
Chairwoman | Junge Industrie NÖ

Sales asing

Christian Koudela Smart Organisations

Martin Eichtinger

International Affairs | Lower Austria President | Europaforum Wachau



>> Patrons



"I truly believe in Europe and support the initiative of Club Alpbach Lower Austria to foster a forward-looking European dialogue in Austria, based on the anniversary of the Extension of the European Union."

Sebastian Kurz | Federal Chancellor of Austria



"When we prepared the CEE Enlargement in 2004 I was representing Slovakia and cooperating with representatives of the European Union and neighbouring countries. On the occasion of its 15-year anniversary I welcome the opportunity through the DIALOG.FORMAT. NIEDERÖSTERREICH to reflect and act together, mainly with the focus on family policy, solidarity among generations and protection of life to ensure a better future for our countries and citizens."

Anna Záborská | European Parliament, Slovakia



"The topic of the DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH creates a strong connection with the Europa-Forum Wachau. Cross-border cooperations are the heart of European cohesion and integration."

Martin Eichtinger | Minister for International Affairs, Government of Lower Austria & President of Europa-Forum Wachau



"Club Alpbach Niederösterreich is the platform of our European Forum Alpbach to spread the "spirit of Alpbach" in the largest federal state of Austria. Core is the facilitation of interdisciplinary dialogue, including young experts and enabling diverse engagement."

Franz Fischler | President European Forum Alpbach

>> RETZ

The City of Retz

Retz, located in the north-west of the Weinviertel region in Lower Austria, is an example of European border regions. The Czech town of Znojmo, which is the cultural centre of the southwestern Moravian Region, is only a little more than 10 km away.

Thirty years ago, Retz was a town situated at the border to the "Eastern Bloc". Today you can explore the former "Iron Curtain" region by bike: The "Iron Curtain Trail" gives cyclists the opportunity to find out more about the historic divisions within the European continent.

The DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH took place at the seminar hotel Althof Retz which is located at the foot of the idyllic vineyards, two minutes from the main square and close to the town's landmark: one of the last operational flour mills in Austria. Retz is also famous for its viniculture and has the largest historical wine cellar in Austria.







Happy without borders. For decades Aurelia Koch lived next to the Iron Curtain.

"We lived at the end of the world"

Thirty years ago, Retz was an isolated town next to the Iron Curtain. Today, cooperation with the Czech Republic is essential for the region of "Retzer Land" and its people. 88-year-old Aurelia Koch knows her home town: with borders and without.

From her balcony, Aurelia Koch can see the vineyards and also has a good view on what is going on in the streets. Obernalb next to Retz is where she was born, grew up and later on raised her seven children. Aurelia Koch knows what her home village looked like during war. And she knows about borders. "During war my brother and I used to go to Znojmo by bike to buy sugar, because back home we didn't get anything anymore", the 88-year-old remembers, "also my family used to buy agricultural machines for our farm there. And some of my friends crossed the border every day to go to secondary school." Znojmo, the centre of the southwestern Moravian Region in today's Czech Republic is only a little more than ten

kilometres away from the Lower Austrian town of Retz. "When I was a child, Znojmo was much more important for us than the Austrian neighbouring city of Hollabrunn", says the white-haired old lady.

In 1948 pro-Soviet communists took control of Czechoslovakia's democratic government. The Iron Curtain followed. And Retz became a very isolated place. "It was terrifying", Aurelia Koch says, "it felt as if our home town had become the end of the world, the very last corner of Europe". Fort the next forty years she never went to see the border again. "I didn't dare to. I avoided the Iron Curtain." Only once Aurelia



Out of service. Strict border controls between Mitterretzbach and Hnanice belong to the past.

Koch happened to see Czech people working next to the border river Thaya. "It all looked very military. I secretly waved at them."

"For today's young generation free movement feels like something natural. For our senior citizens it once was unimaginable that they would ever see the border open again", says Helmut Koch, who is



Close neighbours. From Retz it only takes five minutes to reach the Czech border by car.

Aurelia Koch's son and the mayor of Retz. When the Iron Curtain fell in 1989, it was a historic moment. "People welcomed each other as if they had not seen each other for a hundred years. And suddenly we became the center of Europe", Helmut Koch remembers.

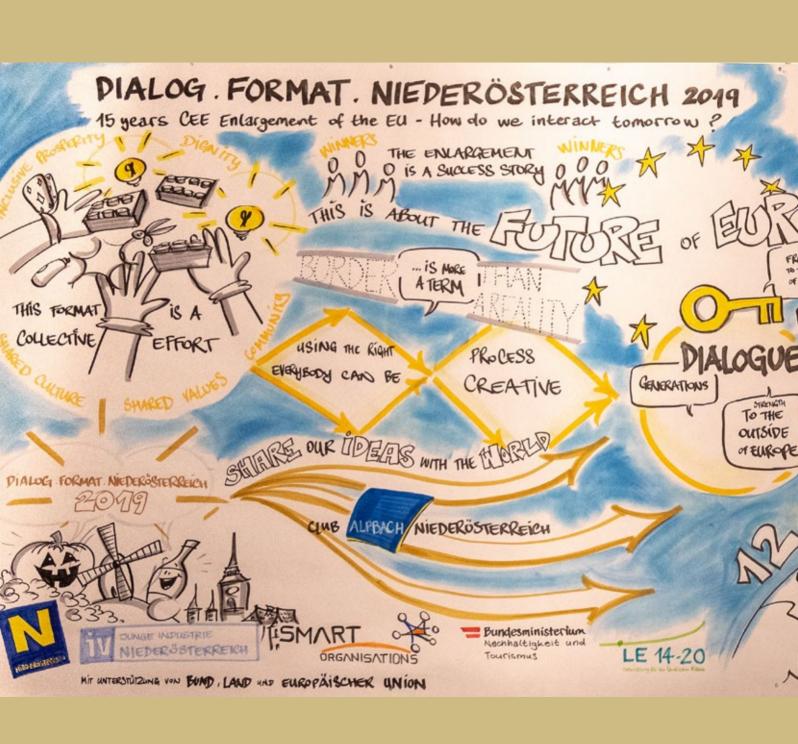
With the CEE enlargement in 2004, the border became even more open. Today, there is lots of cooperation between Retz and its Czech neighbouring towns - from cultural festivals and transborder hiking trails to intercultural schools and rail connections: "Nobody would have thought that there would ever be a train that goes directly from Znojmo to Vienna", says

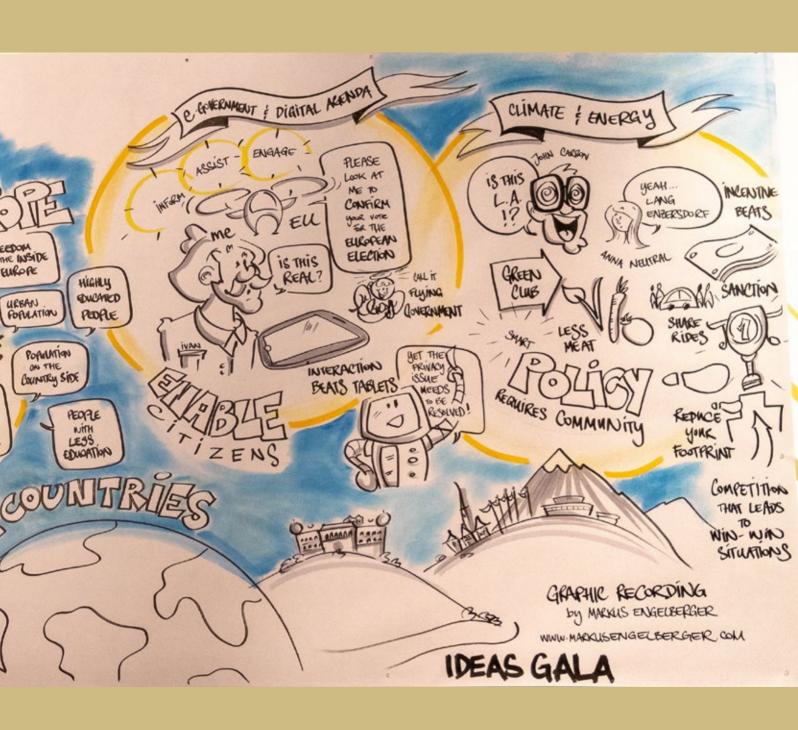
Reinhold Griebler, head of tourism in Retz. Due to the CEE Enlargement, the outflow of young people could be reduced and the open border has become essential for the region's economy: "Our vine-growers sell their wine to the Czech Republic", says Reinhold Griebler, "and without Czech workers we wouldn't have enough employees, especially in the care system, the catering and the tourism industry." Retz and Znojmo have become partner cities in the meantime. Their cooperation is going to be even more intensified in the future.

Also 88-year-old Aurelia Koch has started to cross the border again. "When the Iron Curtain fell, it felt as if we could finally breathe again." Now she and her cousin go to the Czech village of Hluboké Mašůvky every first Saturday in order to attend the holy mass in the local pilgrimage church. Afterwards, there is time to eat and chat. Aurelia Koch enjoys her trans-border weekend-trips: "I've already made new friends in Mašůvky".



Open day and night. Today, the border unites Austria and the Czech Republic instead of separating the two countries.





>> IDEAS.LAB

70 participants from twelve nations developed innovative ideas for the future of European cooperation at the DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH in Retz. In five working groups – led by experts from business, politics and science – they created various ideas and solutions. The processes were accompanied by graphic recorders, who visualized the participative sessions. Ideas on European interaction were created with the help of a "Design Thinking" approach: Participants first focused on defining a problem and in a next step worked on goal-oriented solutions and their implementation. On the following pages you will get an overview of the IDEAS.LAB and its outcome.









IDEAS.CREATION

"Cooperation provokes a very fruitful ideas finding process", says "Design Thinking"-Coach Christian Koudela, who designed DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH's IDEAS.LAB. "We were very happy to welcome people from different origins, various cultural backgrounds and business sectors in Retz in order to create new perspectives on topics of European interaction." Not only the heterogeneity of a group supports creativity, but the setting also plays a vital role: "It's good to leave your work desk", Christian Koudela explains.

Building on the ideas of others

An inspirational impulse, the kick-off at the IDEAS.LAB, assisted the participants to trigger the flow of ideas. "In a first step it's important to focus on quantity before quality and to build on the ideas of others", says Christian Koudela, who moreover points out: "Paradoxically, a very structured process helps us to be most creative and find as many ideas as possible." In order to create concrete and new solutions it is then important to define a goal and a direction. In the end, you can be sure to have found new approaches, says Christian Koudela, however, you might be in for a surprise: "A Design Thinking process always leads to new ideas and prototypes – but it's only at the very end of the day that we know what they look like."



"Design Thinking"-Coach Christian Koudela

>> EXPERTS



What are the ideas for e-government and digital agenda in the CEE region?

> Dr. Denisa Žiláková | Director General of the Investments Management Section for the Slovakian Vice Prime Minister, Slovakia



How can regions cooperate to minimize the negative and maximize the positive effects of capital mobility and labor mobility?

> Prof. Béla Greskovits | Professor of International Relations and Political Science, Central European University, Hungary



How can European cities learn from Brno, a unique Central-European laboratory for changes in culture and ending homelessness?

> Mgr. Miriam Kolářová | Vice-Mayor of Brno-Sever, Czech Republic



Employee retention & corporate culture – how can companies in CEE keep their best employees in times of labor shortage?

> MMag. Gerhard Schlattl | Deputy Head of ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA in Prague, Austria



How can European energy and climate strategies be most effective?

> Dr. Angela Köppl | Vice-President Club of Rome (Austrian Chapter), Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Austria

>> MODERATION AND GRAPHIC FACILITATION

What are the ideas for e-government and digital agenda in the CEE region?



> Moderation Jutta Grabenhofer | Bundesrechenzentrum GmbH > Graphic Facilitation Lisa Hasenöhrl | GIZ



How can regions cooperate to minimize the negative and maximize the positive effects of capital mobility and labor mobility?



> Moderation Katja Haslinger | CANOE* > Graphic Facilitation Andreas Brandstätter | CANOE* Karin Groll | CANOE*



Employee retention & corporate culture – how can companies in CEE keep their best employees in times of labor shortage?



> Moderation Verena Gruber | King's College London > Graphic Facilitation Julius Geiger | il Institut



How can European cities learn from Brno, a unique Central-European laboratory for changes in culture and ending homelessness?



> Moderation Elke Pichler | Impactory.org > Graphic Facilitation Sandra Krempl-Spörk | Sandra Krempl-Spörk



How can European energy and climate strategies be most effective?



> Moderation Maria Rath | RIOCOM Philipp Kamaryt | CANOE*

> Graphic Facilitation Maria Baierl | Austrian Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism



>> PARTICIPANTS

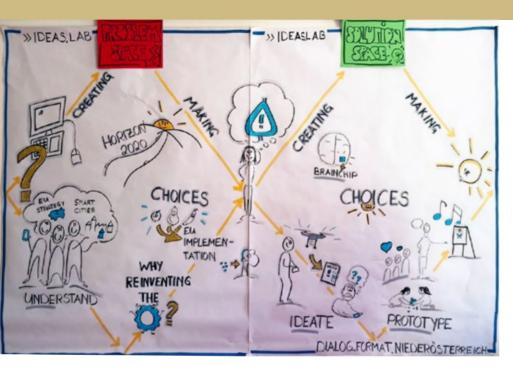


- > Gábor Belák | Forum Alpbach Network
- > Helena Blažinčić | A1 Croatia, part of Telekom Austria Group
- > Gregor Danzinger | Klima- und Energie-Modellregion Retzer Land
- > Jasmina Đapo | Club Alpbach Croatia
- > Fritz Dimmel | eFriends Energy

- > Mircea Dobocan | Parliament of Romania
- > Jakob Etzel | Tsetinis Software
- > Walter Fallheier | Stadtgemeinde Retz
- > Marlies Felfernig | Vetmeduni Vienna
- > Markus Fischer | Sciences Po Paris
- > David Freudl | Nationalpark Thayatal GmbH
- > Manuel Gahn | Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

- > Clemens Gattringer | Ökosoziales Forum
- > Reinhold Griebler | Retzer Land Regionalvermarktung
- > Tina Gruber-Muecke | IMC Fachhochschule Krems GmbH
- > Barbara Haberova | Future Generation Europe
- > Matthäus Haider | Herr
- > Pamela Hniliczka | P.A.M. Solutions e.U.
- > Matěj Hollan | Zit Brno, Czech political party
- > Igor Jašurek | Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Information of the SR
- > Matthias Katt | eFriends Energy GmbH
- > Alice Königstetter | University of Vienna
- > Terezia Kramolisova | University of Economics in Bratislava
- > Renate Mihle | LEADER Region Weinviertel-Manhartsberg
- > Veronika Moeller | Red Bull GmbH
- > Maria Petrosyan | Armenian State University of
- Economics
- > Josef Pöschl | Consultant
- > Odessa Primus | Global Arena Research Institute

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- > Mariella Schreiber | Ökosoziales Forum Österreich
- & Europa
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- > Kateřina Šrámková | Brno City Municipality
- > Jovana Stajić | Club Alpbach Belgrade
- > Maria Stern | JETZT-Liste Pilz, Austrian political party
- > Michael Stibi | Technische Universität Wien
- > Teresa Stummer | Lower Austrian Provincial
- Government Department for International and
- **European Affairs**
- > Tudor Tanase | Initiative Group Alpbach Romania
- > Gerti Wallner | Junge Industrie Niederösterreich
- > Claudia Wehner | Federal Ministry for
- Sustainability and Tourism
- > Benjamin Weiser | JETZT Liste Pilz, Austrian political party
- > Jakob Wiesbauer-Lenz | Federal Ministry for
- Sustainability and Tourism













What are the ideas for e-government and digital agenda in the CEE region?

The Idea: meEU – the government drone

Governmental information and active participation should be available to every European citizen – independent of the location and personal setting. Smart chatbots connected to drones could provide significant benefits for residents in rural areas in the future: Especially where there is low population density and mobility, this technology is ready to help. The device solves the issue of immobility other elderly, low awareness and engagement. It provides a wireless solution for people without smart devices. Drone technology can help people to stay informed, vote and participate in the political discurse.









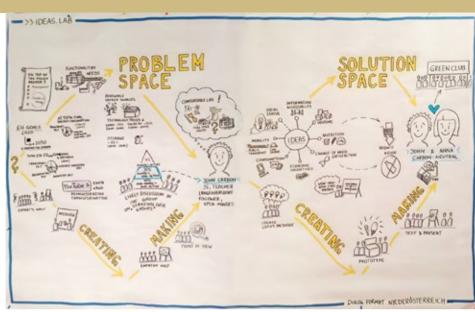
How can regions cooperate to minimize the negative and maximize the positive effects of capital mobility and labor mobility?



The Idea: Regional cooperation to increase mobility

EU regional cooperation can maximize the positive outcomes of capital mobility and can diminish the negative effects of labor migration. By fostering regional cooperation, a context can be created in which free movement, instead of being a necessity, becomes a choice. EU grants shall support employees to work abroad and return to their home country with increased experience and enough starting capital to invest in their own region. Consequently, brain drain decreases, and less developed regions can grow. By working together across borders, it is possible to enhance regional stability, increase social security and achieve a higher standard of living.











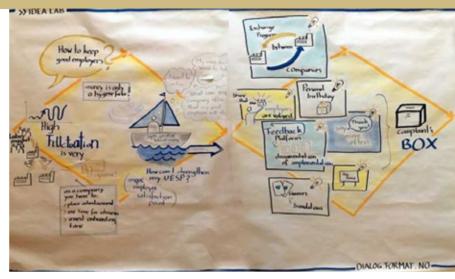


How can European energy and climate strategies be most effective?

The Idea: The Green Club

A project called "The Green Club" can motivate society to honor and incentivize a carbon neutral lifestyle - by encouraging the consumers to compare their carbon footprint to their peers and motivate each other. The demand of the community facilitates a policy mix of regulatory and fiscal measures. "The Green Club" makes people strive for a sustainable way of living and a reduced ecological footprint. Members are aware that this is a benefit for themselves and society. Members of "The Green Club" are role models for society and inspire others to aim for joining this community as well.











Employee retention & corporate culture – How can companies in CEE keep their best employees in times of labor shortage?

The Idea: The most annoying issue meeting

In order to get and keep the best employees, companies not only need fair payment but also need to create a good working atmosphere. There are different non-salary-related ways to retain good employees. This could be achieved by creating a deliberate space and time where employees gather to discuss issues they struggle with. The "most annoying issue meeting" offers a culture of attentive listening and a common solution brainstorming. Participation in this meeting is voluntary for employees (employers have to be represented mandatorily) and can be accomplished also anonymously by putting an issue in the "complaints' box". In the meeting itself, a culture of attentive listening, common solutions brainstorming, selection of topics to be tackled, and team building for implementation is actively practiced due to the provided agenda adhering to these valuable steps.













How can European cities learn from Brno, a unique Central-European laboratory for changes in culture and ending homelessness?



The Idea: My house – my star

Providing homeless people with housing is a typical not-in-my-backy-ard problem. The proposal is to create positive meeting situations in houses where homeless people move in with the help of celebrities. They should, as testimonials, appreciate the patience of neighbours by follow up mailings and presents. This will increase the acceptance of neighbours to live next to previously homeless people. Additionally, meetings between neighbours help to get to know each other and, thus, reduce the fear of the unknown. Furthermore, the usage of Instagram is suggested to communicate helpful information for young homeless people to help them find an appropriate place to live.

>> WHERE DOYOU SEE THE EU IN 15 YEARS?

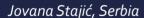
2004 - 2019 - 2034



In 15 years I see all the Western Balkan countries in the EU. The job market will be even more open and even more people will have access to education. We will have become a digital society, focused on sustainable development.

Helena Blažinčić, Croatia

I want it to still be united. I see it expanded, I hope that it will have accepted more member states. And I think that digitalisation might still be one of the biggest problems the EU must deal with.





I think there will even be more mobility of young people, there will be even more exchanges and countries will have become more diverse. People are going to speak more languages.

Jasmina Đapo, Croatia

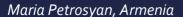




I hope that the European Union will be marked by mutual respect and a spirit of cooperation. I hope that helping each other will have become a priority and that people started seeing all the positive things in their neighbours, the things that can be of value for the community. I think that in 15 years nobody will doubt anymore that we need to shape our future together.

Walter Fallheier, Austria

I am very positive about the EU, because people are open-minded and ready to create. I think that in 15 years the countries will have reached a common level. Countries who are a bit behind now will have come closer to reach the development goals and social issues will have been solved.











200 guests – from Armenia to Sweden – celebrated their ideas on European interaction at Club Alpbach Niederösterreich's IDEAS.GALA at Alphof Retz. Two out of five ideas created at the IDEAS.LAB were picked to be presented in front of representatives from politics, business and science: "The Green Club", a programme to support European energy and climate strategies and a "government drone" that could in the future provide benefits for residents in rural areas. "With the DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH the City of Retz really has seen a firework of ideas", says Michael Höfler, President of Club Alpbach Niederösterreich, "now it's on us to further spread them."





IDEAS.GALA

- > Moderation: Rosa Lyon | ORF
- > Music: Ensemble "Flutefun" | Musikschulverband Retzer Land

WELCOME

- > Michael Höfler | President Club Alpbach Niederösterreich
- > Matthias Unger | Chairman Junge Industrie









OPENING

- > Franz Fischler | President European Forum Alpbach
- > Lukas Mandl | Member European Parliament
- > Helmut Koch | Mayor Retz
- > Jakub Malačka | Vice-Mayor Znojmo

REALITY-CHECK

- > Martin Eichtinger | International Affairs Lower Austria
- > Sonja Jöchtl | Managing Director European Forum Alpbach Foundation
- > Alexander Schallenberg | Director General of Federal Chancellery Austria

>> SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY



Scholarship Holders 2019

- > Sarmad Abdulraheem | Renewable Energy, Vienna University of Technology
- > Viktoria Arnold | Public Policy, Hertie School of Governance
- > Manuel Gahn | Strategy, Innovation and Management Control, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- > Carolina Gerstacker | Law, University of Vienna
- > Matthias Glanz | Energy and Automation Technologies, Vienna University of Technology
- > Philipp Grüll | International Relations, Vienna School of International Studies
- > Dorina Marlen Heller | Chinese Studies and German Literature , Heidelberg University
- > Sebastian Lembacher | Betriebswirtschaftslehre & Wirtschaftsrecht, WU Wien
- > Anna Pölzl | Environmental Technology and International Affairs, Vienna School of International Studies
- > Viktoria Schwab | Psychology, University of Vienna
- > Paul Stockert | Finance, HEC Paris
- > Magdalena Strauch | Leadership, Politics and Management, University of Applied Sciences Campus Vienna
- > Paul Szyszkowitz | Machine Engineering, ETH Zürich
- > Andreas Wabro | Law, University of Vienna and Santa Clara University (USA)
- > Judith Wenzina | Molecular biology, Medical University of Vienna
- > Roman Zöchling | Technical Physics, Vienna University of Technology

>> EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH



Every summer, the Alpine village Alpbach turns into the village of thinkers. At the European Forum Alpbach, international and Austrian key players from fields such as health, technology, politics, law and economics meet in Tyrol to discuss current and future issues. The aim is to find ideas and solutions in an interdisciplinary way.

Forum Alpbach Network

Each year 700 young national and international students participate at the European Forum Alpbach. Clubs and initiative groups all over Europe, which were founded by former participants of the European Forum Alpbach, organize respective scholarship programs. Additionally, they send representatives to program committees of the European Forum Alpbach and organize projects and events in the "Spirit of Alpbach" in their region.

Club Alpbach Niederösterreich

In Lower Austria the Club Alpbach Niederösterreich provides students and young professionals with a scholarship to participate at the European Forum Alpbach and organizes side events during the forum. Through all these activities, European connections are formed and great new friendships evolve. Throughout the year, Club Alpbach Niederösterreich organizes events to keep the "Spirit of Alpbach" alive: talks with inspiring people, workshops, cultural events, a Christmas party, excursions and meet ups. In this way, Club Alpbach Niederösterreich fosters a think tank for the region.

Check out the website for more information: www.club-alpbach.at

>> TEAM



András Gálffy Lead, Partners



Johanna Grames Moderation, Experts



Verena Kamtner Organization



Christoph Kerschner Communication



Andrea Bredl Young President



Andreas Brandstätter Information Technology



Sandra Simeonidis-Huber Media



Marlene Groihofer IDEAS.REVIEW



Katharina Haller Design



Monika Zahnt Design



Valerie Hengl FAN Conference



Philipp Bohatschek FAN Conference



Robert Grünberger Film



Katja Haslinger Organization



Christian KoudelaEvent Design



Gerti Wallner Junge Industrie NÖ



Theresa Edtstadler Europaforum Wachau



Michael HöflerPresident



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Katharina Klug Social Media



Lukas Trybus Social Media



Alexandra PalkowitschOrganization



Georg Klöckler On-Site



Michael Tschiedel
On-Site



Elisabeth Drach On-Site



Tobias Neugebauer Photography



Stephanie SladekContracts



You want to get some more insights on what happened at DIALOG.FORMAT.NIEDERÖSTERREICH in Retz? We captured the whole one-and-a half days on video. Have a look and spread the word!

https://www.club-alpbach.at/dfnoe2019/



>> PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Lower Austrian Sponsors support young talents

The genuine partnership between the Club and its sponsors was clearly visible during the IDEAS.GALA at Althof Retz. Many sponsors attended the ceremony and took the opportunity to get to know this year's scholarship holders. Sponsoring Club Alpbach Niederösterreich means contributing to the development of high potentials and therefore investing in the future of Lower Austria. It is due to its sponsors that Club Alpbach Niederösterreich is able to represent Lower Austria at the European Forum Alpbach each year.





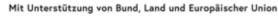












































We also thank the sponsors of Club Alpbach Niederösterreich!

























Club Alpbach für Europäische Kultur Niederösterrereich

Hauptstraße 9 3141 Kapelln an der Perschling

info@club-alpbach.at www.club-alpbach.at

ZVR: 706442889

IBAN: ATo7 5300 0011 5509 2498

Text: Marlene Groihofer
Pictures: Tobias Neugebauer
Layout: Monika Zahnt

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