



ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS 2016

January – December 2016

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EVENTS 2016

8th
04

Youth Unemployment: Experiences and Future. *Bilbao, Basque Country*

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The IED organized the seminar in collaboration with the Sabino Arana Fundazioa and the Novia Salcedo Foundation (Basque Country).

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The session consisted of three round tables that approached the most important changes that must take place in our society to promote the youth employment of the future. The experiences of other European countries in the field of youth and the analysis of the policies that need to be developed in the Basque Country taking into account its socio-economic, business and educational characteristics were presented at the event. The seminar welcomed several significant emeritus professors, ambassadors, directors and presidents of political institutes.

In the order of speeches:

Juan Maria Atutxa, President of the Sabino Arana Fundazioa.

Luis Canada, President of the Novia Salcedo Foundation.

Luca Bader, Director of the IED.

Santiago Garcia Echevarria, Professor of Economy at the University of Alcalá.

Begona Etxebarria, Director of the Novia Salcedo Foundation.

Sabino Ayestaran, Emeritus Professor of Social Psychology at the University of the Basque Country.

Raquel Serrano, Sociologist. Prospektiker.

Johan Vibe, Norwegian ambassador.

Izaskun Bilbao, Member of the European Parliament

Virginia Mugica, Confebask.

José Luis Jimenez Brea jauna. Coordinator of the Basque group of the Club de Roma.

Sara de la Rica, Professor of Economy and Director of the Basque Employment Observatory.

Adolfo Alustiza, Managing Director at Lanbide, Employment and Social Policies.

Henar Alcalde, Researcher at the Orkestra Institute of the University of Deusto.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- It is urgent to implement more projects related to the inclusion of our young citizens in the professional market;
- The steps need to be taken to interconnect the education system, enterprises and trade unions;
- There should be a clear link between the education programs and the real necessity of the market;
- The states should upgrade their education systems and focus more on the social skills;
- It is necessary to make progress in the European project to avoid the creation of a “lost generation”.

13th
05

Schengen at Risk: Can We Keep the Freedom of Movement? *Bratislava, Slovakia*

— The IED organized the conference in collaboration with the Mladí Európania (Slovakia).

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The goal of the international conference was to reflect upon the unprecedented crisis of human beings – migrants and refugees – who have been massively reaching the borders of the EU via the Mediterranean and the Aegean route for past years. This has been followed by the renewed border controls and building of fences in many parts of the EU. Civil servants, politicians, university professors as well as young researchers came together to Slovakia to discuss the topic from different perspectives (Visegrad countries, challenges of the migration crisis, case-studies) in order to fill the gap of the lack of awareness about the topic and find possible solutions to avoid the abolition of one of the main achievement of the European project – open borders.

In the order of speeches:

Flaminia Baffigo, Coordinator of the IED.

Igor Hrasko, Former Member of the National Council of Slovakia.

Jana Vnukova, Head of the European Union Law Unit of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Zsuzsanna Szelenyi, Member of the Hungarian Parliament.

Václav Nekvapil, CEC Government Relations' Managing Director, Czech Republic.

Andrzej Potocki, Vice-President of Stronnictwo Demokratyczne and PDE-EDP, Poland.

Zuzana Vatrálková, Head of Office of the International Organization for Migration in Slovakia.

Berta Fernandez, Visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of Malta.

Monika Begovic, Vice-President of the Centre for International Studies, Croatia.

Martin Klus, Member of the National Council of Slovakia.

Katarina Kosmina, European Policy Centre, Belgrade.

Mihai Sebe, European Institute of Romania.

Antonios Nestoras, Institute for European Studies, Belgium.

Tommaso Emiliani, College of Europe, Belgium.

Joaquin Ferro, Policy Assistant, European Parliament.

Special intervention – **Gerard Deprez**, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the IED Board of Directors.

Moderator:

Slavomir Rudenko, Member of the Board of Director of IED, Director for International Affairs, Pan-European University, Slovakia.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- The EU must protect one of its core symbols – the freedom of movement – and go strictly against the idea of building of the walls which represents no solution to the migration wave to Europe;
- The EU must take over full responsibility over the management of the common EU borders, create legal access-corridors for refugees and establish the common European asylum policy;
- The EU must create a new and just system of allocation of refugees and migrants;
- More consistent engagement should drive the decision-making processes inside the EU;
- The media needs to inform about the migration objectively;
- The EU should focus not only on its interests but also on the *values* it is built upon.

The *special video intervention by Gerard Deprez*, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the IED Board of Directors was screened during the conference – [link for the video](#).

The event comprised of the presentation of the external research project of the IED on “*Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?*”. The result of the Call for Papers for this projects was overwhelming with a high quality of applications covering a broad range of topics. The Jury decided to grant 20 Fellowships – 5 authors were invited to the conference to present the outcomes of their research papers.

27th 05 — 20 16

The Future of the Energy Union: European Integration, Italian Opportunities and Regions’ Contribution. Cagliari, Italy

The IED organized the international conference in collaboration with the Centro per un Futuro Sostenibile (Italy).

The high level of speakers analysed thoroughly one of the top priorities of the Juncker’s Commission with a special focus on the Mediterranean and COP22. The speakers also discussed the main technological, economic and decision-making obstacles to the Energy Union and the new ways how to overcome these obstacles, contribute to sustainable development and come closer towards an European Energy Union.

In the order of speeches:

Massimo Zedda, Mayor of Cagliari.

Francesco Rutelli, President of the Fondazione Centro per un Futuro Sostenibile.

Samuele Furfari, Adviser to Director General, DG Energy, European Commission.

Francesco Pigliaru, President of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia and President of ENVE at the CoR.

Alessandro Lanza, ENEA, CMCC, IEFE Bocconi University.

Carlo Bagnasco, CEO of the Energetic Source S.p.a

Eloy Álvarez Pelegry, Head of Energy Department, Orkestra Basque Institute of Competitiveness, Deusto University.

Yann Wehring, Spokesman MoDem and former Leader of the political party Les Verts.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- The EU should focus more on the internal energy market, decarbonisation and energy security, solidarity and trust;
- It is necessary to invest more into research, innovation and competitiveness;
- The regions of the EU should be granted more responsibility considering the programmes of the Regional Specialization Strategies and the Competitiveness of the territories;
- The EU should identify more topics for regional cooperation related to energy;
- The EU should identify and confirm political interest and continue exploring the relevant issues related to assessing the role of regions in the Energy Union more in depth.

16th
09

Smart Cities: #DIGITOCRACY2016. Towards a Smart Mobility. *San Marino, Republic of San Marino*

— The IED organized the forum in collaboration with the Repubblica Futura (San Marino).

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The event followed successful forums about SMART CITY – a new model of democratic life – held in San Marino in 2014 and 2015. This year's forum focused on the sustainable mobility. The event aspired to be a support to the evolution process of this topic, hoping to achieve a better environmental, economic and social sustainability by implementing a series of virtuous practices which involve political, infrastructure and technology choices. Significant representatives of the regional governments from different parts of Europe and the directors and presidents of the European automobile and energy companies spoke at the forum.

In the order of speeches:

Antonella Mularoni, Secretary of State to the Territory and Environment, Agriculture, Telecommunications and International Economic Cooperation of San Marino and member of IED's scientific committee.

Flaminia Baffigo, Coordinator of the IED.

Fabio Toccaceli, Member of the Repubblica Futura.

Maurizio Melzi, Marketing, Communications and Public Relations Director of Mitsubishi Motors Italia.

Alessio Cogliati, Industry Expert of Linde Group.

Omar Vittone, President of Sitrasb.

Asier Abaunza Robles, Councillor of the governing Basque National Party for Urban Planning at Bilbao.

Rainer Gessler, Director of NAMOREG in Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Transport in Germany.

Jordan Kupelian, Expert in mobility and transport for Transdev Group of France and a member of YDE.

Moderator:

Daide Giardi, Journalist of "La Tribuna Sammarinese".



Main highlights and outcomes:

- It is important to invest into the promotion and implementation of the sustainable technologies so the sustainable mobility is more familiar to general public;
- There is an urgent need for the reorganization of mobility and public transport in the European towns and cities by investing into the sustainable infrastructure and the incentives which promote the use of alternative means of transport;

- The interaction between public and governmental bodies towards implementation of the sustainable transport in practice is crucially important;
- Smart mobility projects represent the economy which functions in favour of citizens in terms of environment, economy, stability, effectiveness, transferability and quality of life and therefore the governments and local authorities should inform about them as well as promote and implement them into practice to a higher level.

The IED registered the event as the part of the **European Mobility Week 2016**. Thanks to this initiative, San Marino has become one of 51 participating countries in the *European Mobility Week 2016* – [link](#).

28th 10 **The Rise of Nationalisms in Europe: Causes and Concerns.** **Warsaw, Poland**

— The IED organized the conference in collaboration with the Stronnictwo Demokratyczne (Poland).

**20
16** The conference debated the most serious aspects of the current nationalist and right-wing politics in Europe. The speakers discussed the historical parallels of nationalism, the sources of the current rise of nationalism in Europe and the implications of the rise of nationalist politics for the future of the EU. The special focus was dedicated to the discussion on the current political situation in Turkey and Middle East and their impact on the rise of nationalism in Europe. Politicians, political activists, journalists and experts on nationalism from Poland, Ukraine and Russia spoke at the conference.

In the order of speeches:

Flaminia Baffigo, Coordinator of the IED.

Adriana Ciefova, Project Manager of the IED.

Pawel Piskorski, President of Stronnictwo Demokratyczne.

Jacek Rakowiecki, Journalist of Gazeta Wyborcza.

Michal Kaminski, Member of the Polish Parliament.

Masza Makarowa, Leader of “Society for Free Russia”.

Natalia Panczenko, Member of Euromaidan Warszawa.

Roman Korbut, Member of Euromaidan Warszawa.

Andrzej Potocki, Vice-president of Stronnictwo Demokratyczne and PDE-EDP.

Kazimierz Woycicki, Journalist and for member of Solidarity.

Thomas Orchowski, Reporter for Radio RMF.

Artur Wroblewski, Professor at the University of Warsaw.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- We need to undertake all necessary steps to stop abusing of history and misinterpretation of historical events;
- Nationalism comes when something is missing and therefore the EU and its member states have to provide people with the things they miss that are usually employment, social security, proper health care etc.;
- The EU must respond to the rise of nationalism, populism and extremism more decisively promoting the benefits of democracy and the values and pillars of the liberal democratic society to all citizens;
- More focus should be invested into the education in general and the historical education in particular so the students can learn big lessons from the European history from last two centuries;
- It is important the media informs about the news objectively and people choose which media to follow carefully.

9th 11 **Brexit, Scotland and the Constitutional Future of Europe.** *Bilbao, Basque Country*

— The IED organized the seminar in collaboration with the Sabino Arana Fundazioa (Basque Country).

**20
16** The seminar welcomed three significant speakers who all specialize in the current European international affairs and European integration and who discussed the most important aspects of Britain's exit from the European Union. The speakers outlined the possible options for the EU-UK negotiations, when and how the Brexit would take place, whether there would be a "hard" or "soft" Brexit and what impact Britain's leave would have on the European Union and its people. The attention also focused on the possible alternatives which lie ahead for Scotland which population voted to stay in the EU by 62% in the June's referendum.

In the order of speeches:

Juan Maria Atutxa, President of the Sabino Arana Fundazioa.

Flaminia Baffigo, Coordinator of the IED.

Francisco Aldecoa Luzarraga, Professor of International Relations at the University Complutense of Madrid.

Antonios A.Nestoras, adjunct Professor of international affairs at the Vesalius College and researcher at the Institute for

European Studies of Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Michael Keating, Professor of Politics at the University of Aberdeen and the University of Edinburgh.

Moderator:

Jokin Bildarratz Sorron, Senator of the Basque Country in the State Parliament in Madrid.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- Brexit is a symptom of the crisis that is going on in Europe – this crisis has to be removed by reforming the EU, by solving the internal problems the EU is facing currently, by creating new relations, rules, simply a real reform;
- The EU needs to be optimistic and see the Brexit as a real opportunity because it was the UK which had always been an obstacle for the deeper European integration;
- The EU needs to stay the partner with the UK which is the immediate neighbour of the EU;
- For Scotland it is impossible to remain in the EU as well as the UK – the steps that Scotland will undertake depends on the actual Brexit process and Brexit negotiations;
- EU needs to be reformed urgently otherwise extremist political forces will change the face of Europe profoundly.



28th
11

Moldova between East and West. Chisinau, Moldova

— The IED organized the conference in collaboration with the Mladí Európania (Slovakia).

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This event aspired to reflect upon intensifying relations between the EU and Moldova after the EU-Moldovan Association Agreement entered into force on 1 July 2016. The conference analyzed the relationship between Moldova and the EU from three perspectives – international, domestic and from the view of youth. The conference assessed the positive and negative prospects of the Moldovan accession to the EU and broadened the discussion to the overall concept of the EU Neighbourhood Policy. Diplomats, politicians, academics and directors of NGOs coming from Moldova and several EU countries presented thought-provoking speeches during the event. The conference was attended by a high number of students from the Moldova State University, representatives of NGOs, Embassies and several Moldovan national TV and radio stations.



In the order of speeches:

Luca Bader, Director of the IED.

Antonio Parziale, Honorary Consul of Moldova in Slovakia.

Robert Kirnag, Ambassador of Slovakia to Moldova.

Monika Begovic, Project Manager for the Center for International Studies of Croatia.

Mihai Sebe, Expert on the European politics of the European Institute of Romania.

Veaceslav Ionita, Associate Professor at the Free International University of Moldova.

Dorin Chirtoaca, Mayor of the city of Chisinau.

Serghei Ostaf, Director of the Resource Center for Human

Rights of Moldova.

Serghei Anastasov, Mayor of the city of Comrat.

Natalia Stercul, Lecturer at the Faculty of International Relations at the Moldova State University.

Veronika Okata, Representative of Mladí Európania.

Miroslava Calejari, Representative of Young Democrats for Europe.

Moderator:

Slavomir Rudenko, Director for International Affairs of the Pan-European University in Slovakia and Member of the Board of IED.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- Moldova's presidential election will shape the country's politics and international orientation – Igor Dodon's promise to pursue closer ties with Russia rather than the EU is in direct conflict with the pro-European stance of the current government;

- The EU should involve itself in social policies that will increase the quality of life for the citizens from the countries of Eastern Partnership in order to decrease the fragmentation levels that are present in Moldova;
- EU Special Representatives and EU delegations in EaP countries should be given a stronger political mandate;
- The end of the illusions is the first step toward the healing process – neither the EU, nor the USA or Russia would risk antagonizing each other on the topic of Moldova nor they would massively invest in the support of the regime in place, Moldova has to reform on its own, the EU can only support it;
- Democracy and rule of law as well as prosperity cannot be exported but just supported and everyone must work for that – Moldova must continue to balance between its Eastern and Western neighbors and continue to carry out reforms.

7th
12

**Contribution for a didactics on the Exhibition
“Rising from Destruction. Ebla, Nimrud, Palmyra”.**
Rome, Colosseum, Italy

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The IED supported this Educational Day which was co-organized by the Priorità Cultura (Italy).

Meetings to confront East and West through outstanding vestiges of a great heritage of the past. The exhibition has been set up inside the Colosseum, a unique monument witnessing a great empire. Now it became also a symbol of a country capable of welcoming, incorporating and storytelling. Culture produces dialogue, dialogue leads to civil confrontation, the civil confrontation to conciliatory policies and thus to peace between peoples. The video on Palmyra Busts reconstruction was presented during the event.

The event was organized for the students of secondary high schools who were welcomed by the Syrian researcher Ahmed Kzzo; the students had also the opportunity to meet with the writer Luca Attanasio, the author of *Il Bagaglio*.



10th
12

Building Blocks of a Democratic and Functional State. *Nicosia, Cyprus*

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The IED organized the international conference in collaboration with the Citizens' Alliance (Cyprus).

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The speakers discussed the current situation of the compliance with human rights and democratic freedoms in Cyprus and presented the possible solutions for better prosperity, security and democratic principles for Cyprus. The speakers and participants of the conference were also trying to find the general recipe how a good state should operate and function so it is a fair, effective and functional state for its citizens. The conference gathered the representatives of Embassies, NGOs, universities and several Cypriot national TV and radio stations and newspapers.

In the order of speeches:

Yiorgos Lillikas, President of Citizens' Alliance.

Kostas Chrysogonos, Member of the European Parliament.

Andreas Angelides, Lawyer and Member of the Citizens' Alliance.

George M. Pikis, former Judge of the International Criminal Court in Hague.

François Pauli, Member of the Board of Directors of IED.

Andrzej Potocki, Vice-President of PDE-EDP and Stronnictwo Demokratyczne.



Main highlights and outcomes:

- The state has to be governed by the principles of democracy and protect the rights of all individuals in order to be a good, effective, fair and law-based state for its citizens;
- Functionality will secure the trust of citizens in the state and its bodies, only a functional state may be viable and provide stability and prosperity to its citizens;
- Cyprus needs to have a fair and just composition of the governments, parliament and senate between Greek and Turkish Cypriots so the interests of both communities are fully represented;
- The law of the EU continues to be violated because the part of the territory of Cyprus is still occupied – the EU should initiate more in the settlement of the Cyprus issue.



PUBLICATIONS OF 2016

All publications are available online on: www.iedonline.eu

Migration, Border Control and Solidarity: Schengen at Stake?

Call for Research Papers

Since its foundation, the main goal of the Institute of European Democrats has been promoting an in-depth discussion on the core aspects of the European integration process while playing an active role in strengthening the confidence of European citizens and furthering their understanding in the European institutions and common policies. With the current migration management's crisis and the consequent debate on the Schengen acquis, the EU is facing a challenge that will demand a more comprehensive approach. With a view to shed some light on this issue and better understand the solutions ahead, the Institute of European Democrats decided to launch an external research project on "Migration, borders control and solidarity: Schengen at stake?". The result of the Call for Papers was overwhelming with a high quality of applications covering a broad range of issues within the topic. For that reason the Jury decided to grant 20 Fellowships.

Our Researchers have different education background: law, political sciences, economics, and communication that have enriched the outcome. Furthermore, they have dissertated from the meaning of the word "crisis" to the EU-Turkey agreement and the role of non-Schengen members. Among other subjects: European identity, violation of human rights and gender violence, EU law transposition, rise of populism, Eurozone crisis lessons for Schengen or Arab Spring implications.

Are refugees the real threat to European identity?

by Serena Brugnola

The Schengen Agreement is on the move

by Kyriacos Christofides

The closing borders and refugees violations of human rights: vulnerable groups, rape and gender violence into the territory of European Union

by Kaiana Coralina Do Monte Vilar

Fortress Europe no more? Migration, border control and solidarity: a critical analysis of the EU discourse and policies in the wake of the Arab Spring – With a case study from Lampedusa

by Tommaso Emiliani

Paris, Berlin, Ankara: a deal driven by populism

by Joaquin Ferro Rodriguez

The refugee crisis in Europe: a political approach towards the implementation of solutions

by Begona Garteizurrecoa Azua

The EU facing migration challenges: the principle of solidarity as the necessary guiding light to manage the crisis

by Francesco Luigi Gatta

Schengen in times of pressure: a view from a non-Schengen EU Member State

by Yassen Georgiev

Carrots and sticks in a perfect storm: Can Schengen survive the crisis?

by Patrick Harris

No migrants, no Schengen: how right-wing political parties are increasing their popularity in Europe

by Dario Intini

Mapping the language of 'crisis': how discourse mismanagement impeded solidarity in the European Union?

by Katarina Kosmina

To what extent the current difficulties of Europe in managing the migratory crisis reveal the limits of the 'spirit of Schengen' in the advancement of the European construction?

by Jean Laussucq Dhiriart

What Schengen can learn from the Euro crisis

by Palma Polyak

The EU response to migratory pressures: the challenge of getting back to Schengen, the future management of the EU's external borders and turkey's role

by Deborah Presta Novello

Schengen at the crossroads between Dublin's failure and the rising populism in the EU. Constitutional and political scenarios in the context of the current refugee crisis

by Andrea Romano

Ensuring the principle of the best interests of the child: the case of transposition and implementation of the Directives 2013/32/EU and 2013/33/EU in Lithuania

by Mykolas Savelskis

Romania: migrants. Managing migrants and border control. How temporary is the temporary reestablishment of border controls?

by Mihai Sebe

Schengen, security and solidarity: sending the right message to EU citizens

by Mariya Shisheva

You can't have your cake and eat it: migration, borders control and solidarity

by Romain Su

The consequences of Schengen's collapse: populist shortsightedness and the future of European security

by Genevieve Zingg

[Link to all publications](#)

Free movement of people: Schengen at Risk.

IED Bibliography: Research Guide edited by **Eimys Ortiz**

The IED has edited a research guide on free movement of people and Schengen focusing on the migration crisis and the measures taken by the EU. Firstly, it contains a brief introduction of the topic: legal basis, objectives and relevant achievements. Secondly, it has been explored the treatment of the subject at the EU institutions: Parliament, Commission and Council. Thirdly, the main scientific and think-tanks publications been pointed out in order to provide guidance for further research. Finally, a specific section has been devoted to the current challenges of the EU: migration crisis and its impact on Schengen.

The aim of this Bibliography is to provide an useful tool to those interested in better understanding and discussing the issue.

[Link to the publication](#)

Die Another Day. Brexit and its impact upon the European Union.

A view from Romania.

by Mihai Sebe, an expert in European Affairs and Romanian Politics at the European Institute of Romania

The research paper tries to explain what Brexit is and its main impact on the Member States and the EU as a whole. Using open sources, the author presents a brief overview of the current European landscape and examines that at the EU level we are currently dealing not only with the crisis generated by the United Kingdom withdraw from the EU but also with a series of other concurrent crisis (economic, political, refugees, etc.) that tend to be mixed together by an overly passionate public opinion and political class. According to the author, Europe must try to find a common narrative that would counteract the already strong anti-European propaganda. Without a good story that has so many arguments there is a real risk of losing the battle for hearts and minds of the European in the context in which already many national politicians blame the Union for everything that is wrong. In the view of the author, we must emphasize in any occasion the "costs of non-Europe" and give Europe a chance to recover.

[Link to the publication](#) (Please note there will be an update to the publication at the end of the year)

The EU beyond Brexit: Towards a New Democratic Foundation.

by **Antonios Nestoras**, an adjunct professor of international affairs at the Vesalius College of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and a researcher at the Institute of European Studies of the VUB

The research paper examines the political landscape in Europe after 23rd June 2016. In the author's view, Brexit represents a historic event for the EU which will change the face of Europe profoundly. This is the first time that a member-state is leaving the Union and the consequences of this decision will be far-reaching on the economy, politics and security situation of both the UK and the EU. Consequently, the author argues that rest of the 27 capitals need to consider carefully their next steps because the UK's decision to leave the Union can either be a breaking point or a wake-up call for the rest of the bloc. The author provides a review of publications dealing with the impact of Brexit on the EU, explores the state of play in EU politics and offers a set of political recommendations for European democratic platform for the months and years ahead.

[Link to the publication](#) (Please note there will be an update to the publication at the end of the year)

For an Energy Union.

Publication of the Follow-up of the IED's Conference

Publication of the Follow-up of the IED's Conference *The Future of Energy Union* which took place on 27th May 2016 in Cagliari, Italy and the IED Bibliography on the Energy Union.

Stability and Democracy in Ukraine – Three years after the Euromaidan.

by **Mathieu Baudier**, an engineer, pro-European activist, member of the MoDem and a researcher on peace and stability of Europe and Western Asia.

IED's Newsletters

- ❖ January 2016 – [link](#).
- ❖ March 2016 – [link](#).
- ❖ July 2016 – [link](#).
- ❖ October 2016 – [link](#).



PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

January 2017 – December 2017

In 2016, the Institute of European Democrats has focused its activities on two main pillars: events and research activities. Accordingly to its structure, the Institute has carried out its reflections on the one hand through its events and on the other through its research activities. In particular, it has tried to grow in its capacity to reach a wider public through its second open public call for papers on the Migration management's crisis and the consequent debate on the Schengen *acquis* for 20 young research fellows and through its new website and newsletter.

In 2017, the Institute of European Democrats is keen to go further along this twofold strategy. The focus of its programme will be kept on the issue of governance and will be broaden to include other issues perceived as priorities.

The main areas of interest on which the Institute will be working on during the year 2017 will be the following FOUR PRIORITIES:

1. THE FUTURE OF THE EU:

- EU and Brexit: what kind of relations there will be between the EU and the UK after Brexit?
- The role of the Visegrad Group: reorientation of the European project or turn back to confederalism?
- The role of the Eurozone: necessity of a budget for the Eurozone based on its own resources.
- The new challenges for Europe: internal security and defence.

2. MIGRATION TO EUROPE AND DRAWBACKS ON DOMESTIC POLITICS:

- The impact of migration on the rise of populist political parties across the EU – how to tackle political extremism? How it will affect national elections that will take place in 2017?
- Migration to Europe and the EU-Turkey relations – Turkey as a partner in managing the migration flow to the EU?
- The Mediterranean route and the New Migration Partnership Framework.

3. EU REGIONAL GAP:

- Unemployment, economic and social policy – how to reduce the disparities in living standards, social conditions and unemployment levels among the EU member states?

- Young people and unemployment – how to tackle the youth unemployment?
- Equality and gender issues.

4. SAFEGUARD OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT:

- Environment and climate change – a new era in tackling climate change at global level?
- Safeguard of Cultural Heritage – steps the EU must take to identify, protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage in the EU members states and within the Mediterranean area. The challenge of the terrorist and Daesh destructions.

These priorities will be tackled partly through **conferences, seminars and roundtable discussions** organised in the EU Member states and/or other European countries and partly through **research activities**.

For more information, please visit the official website of the IED:

www.iedonline.eu

Stay connected and follow the Facebook page of the IED:

www.facebook.com/InstituteofEuropeanDemocrats



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