



IED-YDE WINTER ACADEMY 2017

“Youth Engagement in Building a More Efficient Europe”

24-25 November 2017, Brussels, Belgium

WORKSHOP “FOR A EUROPE OF UNITED DIVERSITY”

- Number of people attending the workshop: 31 people
- Number of workshop groups: 5

Iron Curtain Group
Crystal Curtain Group
Solidarity Group
Equality Group
Opportunities Group

- Number of people in each workshop group: 6-7 people
- Workshop supervisors (in alphabetical order):

Mathieu Baudier
Antoine Carette
Adriana Čiefová

- Each group will discuss its topic, try to make short analyses on distributed 5 Working Questions and 2 Interactive Questions and prepare suggestions how to address the problem in order to eliminate rising inequalities in Europe.
- After the lunch, each group will present the results of their debates, followed by the discussion.
- Participants are welcome to prepare (if they want) powerpoint presentations and other information material during the workshops which will be later presented during the presentations. Answers on the questions need to be written also on paper sheets provided.



I. IRON CURTAIN GROUP

- Main focus: **East-West cleavages**
- Working Questions for the group:
 1. Why does the Cold War stereotype to divide Europe into 'West' and 'East' still prevail? Why do Central and Eastern Europeans usually view the references to 'East' and 'Eastern' as insults?
 2. Why do so many citizens and politicians still marginalize Europe and refer to 'Western' and 'Eastern' Europe, even 28 years after the fall of the so-called Iron Curtain and 13 years after the 2004 enlargement round (followed by the enlargements in 2007 and 2013, respectively)?
 3. What are the most significant prevailing differences between the eastern and western European countries such as once defined by the Iron Curtain?
 4. The very recent scandal revealed that there are huge differences in the quality of food between the eastern and western parts of the EU – how is it possible that the double quality food exists within the EU?
 5. What is the prospect of the future EU enlargement rounds eastwards? How should the countries such as Ukraine or Moldova proceed in order to improve their prospects of entering the EU in the following decades? Is it possible that the EU will enlarge eastwards in the following ten years?
- Interactive Questions for the group:
 1. Imagine your group forms the group of advisors for the European Commission President – formulate at least 4 policies how to eliminate still prevailing East-West cleavages which will become the basis of the EU-2027 strategy.
 2. Use social media and ask your family/friends the following questions:
 - *“Why do so many of us still divide Europe to ‘East’ and ‘West’ and how to eliminate this habit?”*
 - *“Are there still big differences in living conditions between the eastern and western parts of the EU?”*Gather their responses and prepare the list of responses revealing public mood about the topic for the presentation.
- Members of the group (in alphabetical order):

1.	Aimilios Antoniou	Cyprus
2.	Asger Thieden Maarbjerg	Denmark
3.	Yurii Ohonovskiy	Ukraine
4.	Mickael Rigault	France
5.	Gloria Rusenova	Bulgaria
6.	Theodoros Spanos	Greece



II. CRYSTAL CURTAIN GROUP

- Main Focus: **North-South divide**
- Working Questions for the group:
 1. Although the North-South divide is not so significant in the EU as the East-West divide, to what extent the European Union's debt and banking crisis has made apparent a gnawing gap between the northern and southern parts of the EU?
 2. What are the most significant prevailing differences in social and living conditions as well as competitiveness between the northern and southern parts of the EU?
 3. What is the position of the countries such as Cyprus and Malta who entered the EU later than other southern countries, or a more remote EU region of the Canaries in the North-South divide? What is the position of North-European countries such as Iceland and Norway which are not EU Member States but important trading partners of the EU in the North-South divide?
 4. Why are there still poorer and richer regions, more socially secure and less socially secure regions within the EU despite over 60 years' long existence of the European project? Use the example of North-South divide.
 5. The gap between poor and rich is growing even larger and we are the witnesses of the public turmoils such as the recent scandal with Paradise Papers which exposed how politicians, multinationals, celebrities and high-net-worth individuals use complex structures to protect their cash from higher taxes, so the burden of paying taxes rests on ordinary citizens – how to address this extremely worrying issue in Europe?
- Interactive Questions for the group:
 1. Imagine your group forms the group of advisors for the European Commission President – formulate at least 4 policies how to eliminate still prevailing North-South cleavages which will become the basis of the EU-2027 strategy.
 2. Use social media and ask your family/friends the following questions:
 - *“Do you think there is a gap between the northern and southern parts of Europe and if yes, how do you think the EU can eliminate this gap?”*
 - *“Do you think the gap between poor and rich is growing in Europe and if yes, why?”*
 Gather their responses and prepare the list of responses revealing public mood about the topic for the presentation.
- Members of the group (in alphabetical order):

1.	José Batista	Portugal
2.	Kārlis Beļēvičs	Latvia
3.	Júlíus Þór Halldórsson	Iceland
4.	Anna Kosmala	Poland
5.	Gábor Névai	Hungary
6.	Desislava Nikolova	Bulgaria



III. SOLIDARITY GROUP

- Main focus: **Issues of globalisation, migration, development aid and climate change**
- Working Questions for the group:
 1. Why are some EU Member States more open towards accepting of migrants and refugees coming to Europe and why are other EU Member States more conservative and less open towards solidarity? What are the roots of non-solidary behaviour of the governments (and in some cases also majority population) of some Member States and how to challenge these roots?
 2. Why are so many people afraid of migrants in Europe and related globalisation challenges that we are experiencing in recent years? How to effectively explain to people that migration is not a threat to Europe and that migration is not the source of terrorism as populist and extremist politicians claim?
 3. The EU represents one of the most advanced, wealthiest and peaceful regions of the world – are the EU Member States solidary enough towards the poor and developing regions of the world, particularly in Africa and Asia? Is the EU’s global responsibility sufficient enough?
 4. How will the events such as the US turning point in climate policy, the Paris Agreement, and the recent China’s ambitions in climate policy impact the global climate and energy agenda for the next ten years? Will the EU be able to maintain the leadership role that led to the Paris Agreement?
 5. Are the challenges embodied in accelerating globalisation the main sources for the rise of popular support for populist and extremist politicians? What are other sources for the rise of support for political extremism?
- Interactive Questions for the group:
 1. Imagine your group forms the group of advisors for the European Commission President – formulate at least 4 policies how to address solidarity issues (migration, development aid, climate change) which will become the basis of the EU-2027 strategy.
 2. Use social media and ask your family/friends the following questions:
 - “Are you afraid of migrants coming to Europe or do you feel solidary towards them?”
 - “What policies you would propose in order stop the rise of populism and political extremism?”
 Gather their responses and prepare the list of responses revealing public mood about the topic for the presentation.
- Members of the group (in alphabetical order):

1.	Alvaro Castillo	Basque Country, Spain
2.	Luisa Theresa Dechert	Germany
3.	Anastasios Dimitropoulos	Greece
4.	Andreas Peratikos	Cyprus
5.	Simone Raimondi	San Marino
6.	Aldis Straume	Latvia
7.	Valentina Velić	Croatia



IV. EQUALITY GROUP

- Main focus: **Gender and LGBTI issues**
- Working Questions for the group:
 1. Why we had to wait for the launch of the worldwide campaign #MeToo in order to start publicly talk about highly inappropriate and dangerous sexual behaviour, sexual harassment and violence, and sexual stereotypes which still exist in our society?
 2. Analyse the reasons behind still prevailing inequality of men and women in the workplace (income disparities, promotion at work, maternity/paternity leave, sexism, gender discrimination, etc.). Why there are still so few female politicians or female directors of big companies in our society?
 3. Analyse the reasons behind still prevailing inequality of men and women at home (gender stereotypes in parenting and marriage, household work, etc.). How to reach the equality between men and women in taking maternity/parental leave?
 4. Why are the EU Member States still not united in their approach towards the issue of LGBTI rights? Why some Member States allow marriages and adoption to LGBTI people and some Member States still do not have even registered partnerships of LGBTI people in place?
 5. Despite all founding principles about equality the EU is based on, why all EU Member States still do not guarantee equality and equal and fair conditions for women and LGBTI people? What is the impact of religion on this issue?
- Interactive Questions for the group:
 1. Imagine your group forms the group of advisors for the European Commission President – formulate at least 4 policies how to address gender inequality and LGBTI rights which will become the basis of the EU-2027 strategy.
 2. Use social media and ask your family/friends the following questions:
 - *“What is your opinion on still existing inequality between men and women and what are the ways how to eliminate it?”*
 - *“Do you agree that LGBTI people should have the same rights in all EU Member States and how to reach the fair and equal rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation in the entire EU?”*
 Gather their responses and prepare the list of responses revealing public mood about the topic for the presentation.
- Members of the group (in alphabetical order):

1.	Michael Hanzalík	Slovakia
2.	Manuel-Andrei Lupu	Romania
3.	Sveva Piscaglia	San Marino
4.	Anita Velić Fabijanić	Croatia
5.	Iván Vega Moreno	Canaries, Spain
6.	Alessandro Zunino	Belgium



V. OPPORTUNITIES GROUP

- Main focus: **Youth employment and participation in politics**
- Working Questions for the group:
 1. Despite the European Union is one of the wealthiest and most economically and socially advanced regions of the world, the EU is still dealing with a crucial problem of high youth unemployment level across its Member States – what are the reasons behind the incapability of the EU to address this problem?
 2. Analyse the situation of youth employment within the EU – which countries have the lowest youth unemployment level and vice-versa, which countries have the highest youth unemployment level and why?
 3. Why is the majority of traineeships offered to students and graduates unpaid and how to address the issue of abusing of youth labour for free through the currently popular system of unpaid traineeships?
 4. To what extent do young people have the possibility to engage in public affairs? What are the easiest and most efficient ways how to enter politics for young people? Can only young people from ‘elitist’ background (young people with diplomas from prestigious and expensive universities, or young people from rich families, or young people with relatives who are politicians) enter politics or do also young people without elitist background have a chance to enter politics?
 5. Why is the average age of European politicians approximately 50 years? How to persuade the society that young age is not an obstacle to perform a public/political function successfully?
- Interactive Questions for the group:
 1. Imagine your group forms the group of advisors for the European Commission President – formulate at least 4 policies how to address youth unemployment and youth opportunities which will become the basis of the EU-2027 strategy.
 3. Use social media ask your family/friends the following questions:
 - *“Do you think it is fair that majority of companies offer unpaid traineeships?”*
 - *“Do you think young age is an obstacle to perform a public/political function successfully and why?”*
 Gather their responses and prepare the list of responses revealing public mood about the topic for the presentation.
- Members of the group (in alphabetical order):

1.	Arrico Delaria	Belgium
2.	Anna Lujza Füreková	Slovakia
3.	Begoña Garteizurrecoa Azua	Basque Country, Spain
4.	Santiago Gutiérrez Fariña	Canaries, Spain
5.	Domenico Mininni	Italy
6.	Anastasios Mitropoulos	Greece
7.	Piotr Olechowski	Poland