



Europa eine Seele geben
A Soul for Europe
Une âme pour l'Europe

Forum Pécs – A Soul for Europe 10 November 2007

Concept Paper

Berliner Konferenz

Klingelhöferstr. 7
D-10785 Berlin
Tel. +49 (30) 26 39 229-40
Fax. +49 (30) 26 39 229-22
mail@berlinerkonferenz.eu
www.berlinerkonferenz.eu

Concept

The Forum Pécs – “A Soul for Europe” will bring together representatives of civil society, culture, business and policy-making at the regional level and representatives of European society from other countries, including members of the European Parliament.

The speakers will include European Parliament members **Doris Pack** and **Elmar Brok**; the writer **György Konrád**; Transparency International's Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, **Miklós Marschall**; the Mayor of Pécs, **Péter Tasnádi**; and the Director of Working Table I, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, **Marijana Grandits**.

In line with the goals of the initiative “A Soul for Europe”, the meeting will seek to promote innovative forms of cross-border cooperation and sustainable structures between civil society, the cultural sector and policy-makers. It is about discussing the “culture of democracy” on the practical example.

Organizers

The Forum Pécs is being organized by the Berlin-based initiative **A Soul for Europe** and the Amsterdam-based **Felix Meritis Foundation** with the support of **Pécs – European Capital of Culture 2010** and the active involvement of local civil-society initiatives: the **Közéletés Gallery**, the **Mediátor Association**, **PLUSZ Munkacsoport**, the **Retextil Foundation** and **Tanac**.

International Background of the Forum Pécs

The Forum Pécs will build on experience gained at the *Forum Belgrade “A Soul for Europe”*, a conference held in March 2007 and attended by over 250 participants from 18 different countries. In other European cities, too – Skopje, Vilnius, Prague, Ljubljana, Tbilisi, Istanbul – there are civil-society initiatives that are also seeking to establish a forum along the same lines.

What does “A Soul for Europe” mean?

Europe is a cultural project, which means that it is primarily a challenge facing civil society, especially the cultural sector and the arts. Only if the political decision-makers succeed in integrating the creative potential of culture in all areas of political life will a united and open Europe of the Europeans be able to emerge. This requires a continuous, partner-like dialogue between policy-makers and civil society. And this, in turn, means that those involved in the cultural sector must assume the responsibility they share for Europe, and that those who are responsible for Europe at the local, regional, national and European level must recognize the cultural dimension of their work and implement this in practical terms.

Culture must become effective in areas other than the cultural sector, from foreign to regional policy, from the business to the social sector. And this process must be initiated by civil society, which is more flexible than the political

Kuratorium

Hedy d'Ancona
Dieter Berg
Göran Blomqvist
Erhard Busek
Jérôme Clément
Jacques Delors
Dimitris Dimitriadis
Dario Disegni
Timothy Garton Ash
Hans-Dietrich Genscher
Manfred Gentz
Bronislaw Geremek
Meglana Kuneva
Catherine Lalumière
Carlo Ossola
Oana Radu
Anne-Marie Sigmund
Emílio Rui Vilar
Richard von Weizsäcker

Initiatoren

Steve Austen
Roland Berger
Hans-Erich Bilges
Volker Hassemer (Sprecher)
Nele Hertling (Sprecher)
John C. Komblum
Klaus-Dieter Lehmann
Wolf Lepenies
Peter Raue
Bernhard Schneider

Steering Committee

Elmar Brok
Ján Figel
Bronislaw Geremek
Erna Hennicot-Schoepges
Jo Leinen
Doris Pack
Hans-Gert Pötering
(Vorsitzender und Schirmherr)
Alojz Peterle
Hannes Swoboda
Jacques Toubon
Helga Trüpel

Projekträger

S T I F T U N G
ZUKUNFTBERLIN



sector but must, for its part, develop new forms of committed cooperation with policy-makers to this end.

**Two Topics:
Substance and
Methods**

The Forum Pécs is to serve as a practical example here and therefore focuses on two main topics:

- Fleshing out the cultural dimension of Europe's development at all levels, from local to EU institutions, from foreign to regional to economic and social policy
- Developing innovative forms of cross-border cooperation and sustainable structures between civil society, the cultural sector and policy-makers

**Workshop
"Culture for
Structural
Development"**

At the Forum Pécs, initiatives from Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and other Western Balkan countries involved in the project "Culture for Structural Development" will be coming together for an internal workshop. This project is concerned with how cultural activities can help stabilize social, economic, cultural and political structures in the region and the rest of Europe.

The workshop provides the opportunity to exchange ideas on methods and best practices, which will then be used to develop guidelines for making better use of culture in structural and regional development.

Results

The success of the Forum Pécs depends on the following questions:

- Are the participating cultural initiatives working in a European context?
- Have they agreed to a further exchange of experience and projects?
- Do policy-makers appreciate that the initiatives' work benefits regional development?
- Has the societal impact of their work increased?
- Have cultural actors and policy-makers worked out or agreed upon ways to make culture an integral part of their respective areas of policy-making outside the cultural sector?
- Have new contacts been forged to this end between the actors involved – both within the cultural sector and between the cultural sector and other areas?
- Was it possible to win the support of those representing local, regional and national policy-makers and the business and administrative sectors for the idea of "A Soul for Europe"?
- Have those representing local, regional and national policy-makers and the business and administrative sectors acquired better access to civil-society initiatives, and vice versa?
- Have new forms of interaction between citizens and decision-makers been agreed upon?
- Has the Forum increased young people's interest in European issues?
- Is the active involvement of European policy-makers in this process planned and anticipated?
- Has the Forum Pécs produced usable results for forums in other cities?