

[www.my-europe.org](http://www.my-europe.org)

# My Europe

An initiative of the Frankfurter Zukunftsrat  
(future think tank)



# The Project

The Frankfurter Zukunftsrat (future think tank) is coordinating a unique series of **"My Europe" workshops** in 30 European countries.



## "Preparing the youth for their future role in European politics and economics"

Students aged 15 to 20 come together with representatives from media and business as well as politicians and academics. After discussing European affairs with the experts, the students are trained by the editors of the respective media partners on how to express their visions of the future through writing. All contributions are part of a **writing contest**, whose winners become members of the pan-European **Youth Council for the Future**.

Since the first workshop in 2011, a strong **network of students, academics, politicians, business leaders and journalists** from throughout Europe has evolved. Subsequent intercultural and cross-generational dialogue between these five groups is maintained through the network.

*"I am hopeful that it is not merely a case of us being able to show young people the work of the past and the tangible successes of the present, but that they can help us to reach new heights, to shape the European future."*

*Dr. Angelika Niebler  
Member of the European Parliament*

# The Goals

The project encourages cross-generational Europe-wide dialogue between students, politicians, academics, business leaders and journalists.

By talking and writing about European topics, the students gain new perspectives on Europe and reflect on their role within it.

- ★ **Encouraging future-oriented thought and action**
- ★ **Fostering a common European identity**
- ★ **Shaping the future of the European Union**
- ★ **Promoting active citizenship**

In order to uphold Europe's strength, we need an understanding of European structures among the teenagers of today, who will shape our continent tomorrow.

"My Europe" creates a transnational network and sense of belonging as young Europeans work together on common issues and exchange their views. Europe thus becomes a single entity for which we all share common responsibility.

★  
*"It is with these young people, Europe's next generation, that the future of Europe will be created. They should discover Europe – its identity, its values and its purpose – and help to make these accessible and understandable for their peers. "Europe is an old lady – The world should pay her more respect" (Pavel Kosorin, Czech Author). This is exactly what the initiators of the My Europe project are doing, and I wish the project much success."*

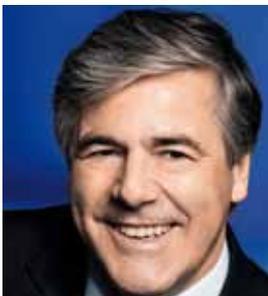
*Elmar Brok  
Member of the European Parliament*

# The Board of Patrons

The Board of Patrons for European Youth unites all "My Europe" patrons from the participating countries as well as executives of partner companies and renowned academics. Under the presidency of Viviane Reding, these respected high-profile figures from the fields of business, politics and academia provide local support and carry the initiative and its outcomes forward into the future.



**Viviane Reding**  
**Chairwoman**  
Member of the  
European Parliament



**Dr. Josef Ackermann**  
Former Chief Executive  
Officer of Deutsche Bank  
AG



**Egemen Bağış**  
Former Turkish Minister  
for EU Affairs



**Pat Cox**  
Former President of the  
European Parliament



**Carlos da Silva Costa**  
Governor of  
Banco de Portugal



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Chief Executive Officer of  
Deichmann



**Peter Englund**  
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Professor of European  
Studies at University of  
Oxford



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Governor of the National  
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**Wolfgang Kirsch**  
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**Dr. Hariolf Kottmann**  
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of Clariant International  
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Foreign Affairs and  
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**Henri Lachmann**  
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**Prof. Dr. Dr. Jörg  
Monar**  
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College of Europe



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Directors Millennium bcp



**Santiago Iñiguez de  
Onzoño**  
President of IE  
University



**José Ignacio Wert  
Ortega**  
Spanish Minister of  
Education, Culture and  
Sports



**Prof. Manfred Pohl**  
Founder and President of  
the Frankfurter  
Zukunftsrat



**Rudolf Scharping**  
Former German Minister  
of Defense



**Prof. dr. Dirk  
Schoenmaker**  
Dean of Duisenberg  
school of finance



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National Education



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European Council



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Chief Operating Officer  
of BNP Paribas



**Prof. Walther C.  
Zimmerli**  
Endowed Senior Professor  
at Humboldt University of  
Berlin



**Arturas Zuokas**  
Mayor of Vilnius

# The Workshops



A **"My Europe" workshop** consists of two 6-hour days. On day one – Europe Day – the students have the unique opportunity to meet renowned experts on European affairs. High-profile figures from politics, economics and academia share their personal and professional perspective on Europe and engage in discussion with the students afterwards. Day one results in students choosing a European topic of personal interest. On day two – Journalism Day – representatives of the partner media present their profession and share their knowledge of news writing. The students learn how to effectively communicate their European topics.

# The Prizes

Judged by a jury of the partner organisations, the five best submissions from each workshop are awarded with prizes. Selected contributions are published in the partner newspapers and thereby given broad exposure to the readership. Winners are invited to attend the 'Get2Gather' event.

# The Get2Gather

The 'Get2Gather' event brings together all winners of the national workshops face-to-face with each other. The teenagers present their European Youth Manifesto to the international press and guests from politics, business and society.

*"I feel that the initiative plays a vital role assuring the health of the European Union by enabling the youth of Europe to become more actively involved in the pursuit of our shared goals and our shared purpose."*

Federico Ghizzoni  
Chief Executive Officer,  
UniCredit



# The Youth Council for the Future



**Alessandra Maffettone**  
Chairwoman  
*Italy*

The Youth Council for the Future unites all “My Europe” winners from the participating countries. All members act as ambassadors of the initiative and deal with economic, political and social topics in the follow-up to the workshops. Through their commitment they foster intercultural dialogue and a European identity.



**Davide Cannata**  
Deputy Chairman  
*Italy*



**Smaranda Vedrasco**  
Deputy Chairwoman  
*Austria*



**Georgi Kirkov**  
Secretary  
*Bulgaria*



**Cosmina Simona Mihalca**  
Social Media Representative  
*Romania*



**Anatea Cristea**  
*Romania*



**Maximilian Czeschka**  
*Germany*



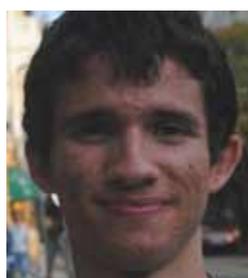
**Elena Draghici**  
*Romania*



**Marta Figueredo  
Cantalejo**  
*Spain*



**Julia Fuentes Álvarez  
de Buergo**  
*Spain*



**Bogomil Gospodinov**  
*Bulgaria*



**Sophia Guermi**  
*France*



**Clara Hachmann**  
*Germany*





**Nicolás Hernando de Larramendi Enjuto**  
*Spain*



**Marie Claude Hykpo**  
*France*



**Ana Ilinca Ilie**  
*France*



**Magdalena Jarolin**  
*Poland*



**Semih Karadeniz**  
*Turkey*



**Anissa Asli**  
*Germany*



**Katarzyna Kujawa**  
*Poland*



**Paulina Lewitsch**  
*Austria*



**Suzanne Angliviel**  
*France*



**Federica Basile**  
*Italy*



**Maria Carmela Minonna**  
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**Lukas Oberberger**  
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**Marta Prędko**  
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*Switzerland*



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*France*



**Marilou Rouja**  
*France*



**Matas Grunskis**  
*Lithuania*



**Benedict Winkler**  
*Austria*



**Aurora Ruiz de la Puente**  
*Spain*



**Jeannie Schneider**  
*Switzerland*



**Alex Sieber**  
*Switzerland*



**Jakub Sieradzan**  
*Poland*



**Alessia Tavarone**  
*Italy*



**Rüya Tekce**  
*Turkey*



**Rokas Stasiulis**  
*Lithuania*



**Carla Urbano Valero**  
*Spain*



**Vitautas Žarskus**  
*Lithuania*



**Martin Velichkov**  
*Bulgaria*



**Silvija Kalinauskaitė**  
*Lithuania*



**León von Fournier**  
*Switzerland*



**Karl Maximilian Weber**  
*Austria*



**Gediminas Goda**  
*Lithuania*



**Morris Wolf**  
*Switzerland*



**Ece Yilmaz**  
*Turkey*



**Marlena Żórawicka**  
*Poland*

# The Network

With an increasing amount of workshops taking place throughout Europe, a network of students, business representatives, politicians, academics and journalists is growing.



## European Excellence Network:

**Students  
Politicians**

**Businesses  
Journalists**

**Academics**

This network unites all young participants of the workshops across Europe. The Frankfurter Zukunftsrat provides a pan-European community in which they can exchange their views, visions and dreams of the future. The network is a medium for discussion, new ideas and initiatives as well as an opportunity for youth to explore their personal ambitions.

*“Each one of the students who submitted their articles is the seed for a better future of Europe. They have been and continue to be an inspiration for us.”*

*Alina Vlad  
Head of World News Department,  
Libertatea*

# The Schedule

## Press conferences

06 September 2011  
in the European Parliament  
with the Vice-President of the European  
Commission, Viviane Reding

## My Europe Workshops

### 2011

Frankfurt, Germany (15 & 16 February)  
Bucharest, Romania (10 & 11 October)

### 2012

Milan, Italy (17 & 18 April)  
Sofia, Bulgaria (25 & 26 April)  
Istanbul, Turkey (17 & 18 May)

### 2013

Munich, Germany (06 & 07 February)  
Paris, France (06 & 07 May)  
Vienna, Austria (28 & 29 May)  
Madrid, Spain (25 & 26 September)  
Zurich, Switzerland (30 September & 01 October)  
Warsaw, Poland (07 & 08 October)

**GET2GATHER**  **in Frankfurt**  
**(14-16 November)**



*“Europe needs to be self-confident. The “My Europe” project will contribute to this and develop the self-confidence of young Europeans both in rational and emotional terms. This means unleashing the political, economic, social and cultural potential for a future-safe Europe: a Europe that distinguishes itself as a historically unique project of peace, which strikes a unique and intelligent balance between economic performance, cultural diversity, social security and the protection of resources.”*

Rudolf Scharping  
Former German Minister of Defence and  
former President of the Party of European  
Socialists (PES)



## 2014

Vilnius, Lithuania (17 & 18 March)  
Dublin, Ireland (7 & 8 October)  
Amsterdam, Netherlands (21 & 22 October)  
Lisbon, Portugal (3 & 4 November)  
Stockholm, Sweden (25 & 26 November)

## 2015

Brussels, Belgium (24 & 25 February)  
Berlin, Germany (15 & 16 June)  
London, United Kingdom  
Helsinki, Finland  
Luxembourg, Luxembourg  
Bucharest, Romania  
Sofia, Bulgaria

**GET2GATHER in Madrid**  
**(23-26 April)**



## 2016

Zagreb, Croatia  
Bratislava, Slovak Republic  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Nikosia, Cyprus  
Valetta, Malta  
Athens, Greece  
Tallinn, Estonia  
Budapest, Hungary  
Prag, Czech Republic  
Riga, Latvia  
Copenhagen, Denmark



*“The participants will transcend national borders and the barrier of language, and regardless of age, gender or social class will express the challenges of our time in their own words. Young people from all over Europe will seek and formulate answers, and in doing so will reach a new interpretation of current developments. Behind each and every text lies an individual perspective and an original idea, from the very people who live in Europe and who make Europe what it is.”*

Annette Schavan  
Former German Federal Minister of Education  
and Research

# The Launch

Press Conference in the European Parliament on  
06 September 2011

*"I am eager to learn from the young participants from all over Europe about their dreams and hopes for the future".*

With this dictum, the former Vice-President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding, gives the starting signal for the "My Europe" initiative. Europe is about peace, freedom, living together in and sharing power.

The international youth project will give a voice to young people in Europe and Commissioner Reding will be listening to them.

As representative of the young participants, Anissa Asli, the runner-up of the first workshop in Frankfurt, read her article during the press conference.

*"Every teenager in Europe is destined to be elite. Everyone is elite in their individual way"* underlines Professor Pohl. Recognizing and bringing forward every teenager's individual skills is indeed a worthwhile and sustainable goal. Through "My Europe", the students can exchange their views, but also find information and help for their own future. The success and uniqueness of this project lies in the fact that schools, newspapers, politicians and business people work together in all European countries.

During the discussion under the direction of Knut Pries, chief correspondent of WAZ Media Group, the panellists and MEPs Elmar Brok, Dr. Angelika Niebler and Dr. Wolf Klinz agreed that "My Europe" strengthens the identity and significance of Europe in a globalized world.



*Viviane Reding and Prof. Dr. Manfred Pohl officially launch the international youth project "My Europe".*



*The runner-up of the first workshop reads her article to give an example of the students' visions.*



*Anissa Asli, Elmar Brok, Prof. Dr. Manfred Pohl, Viviane Reding, Knut Pries, Dr. Wolf Klinz und Dr. Angelika Niebler during the discussion.*

# Impressions of the Workshops

After a presentation of their job, journalists from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung invite the students to be, for a few minutes, the editor-in-chief of their own (hypothetical) magazine.



Also in Milan, research lays the groundwork for a good newspaper article.



Interactive Working Session with Dr. Tabea Scheel, Work and Organisation psychologist, University of Vienna.



# Impressions of the Workshops

Prof. Grzegorz Mazurek, Vice Rector for International Relations at Kozminski University, speaks about megatrends in marketing.



Santiago Iñiguez de Onzoño, President of IE University, welcomes the Spanish students and tells them about higher education in Europe.



Award ceremony in the Parisian historic town hall upon invitation of Pierre Schapira, Deputy Mayor and Head of the International relations and French speaking countries.



# The organizers



## **Frankfurter Zukunftsrat e.V. (future think tank)**

The Frankfurter Zukunftsrat (future think tank) is a not-for-profit organisation based in Frankfurt, Germany, addressing topics that are relevant for the future well-being of societies and individuals. Convinced that the foundations for a sustainable future for everybody need to be laid today in the present, it encourages an interdisciplinary, non-partisan approach to future-oriented dialogue and action.

The future think tank's main way of operating is via five so-called 'Future Councils'. In these working groups the following major fields of interest are addressed:

- 1) Economics and Politics
- 2) Global Change
- 3) Communication and the Media
- 4) Education
- 5) Aging and Health

### **Board of Directors:**

Sylvia von Metzler, Kristina Countess Pilati, Gerhild Börsig, Prof. Manfred Pohl, Björn Count Bernadotte, Dr. Ralf Vogt, Heinrich Deichmann

### **Frankfurter Zukunftsrat e.V.**

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