



5TH INTERNATIONAL MAYORS' CONFERENCE

Organised under the Auspices of the Austrian Federal President

Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen

"SHAPING THE FUTURE – SOCIAL COHESION IN OUR CITIES"

29 – 30 JANUARY, 2018 – VIENNA, AUSTRIA

This conference will address social cohesion on communal levels - with a special emphasis on children and young people using a human and children's rights based approach. It will focus on sharing community based promising practices in the field of social cohesion from Europe and the MENAT region in order to make them accessible and available for the participants' respective area of responsibility, on learning how to best implement existing legislation, on developing the dependable Act.Now network further as well as on ensuring the continued transfer of knowledge and expertise into the future.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

LOCATION: ÖBB-WERKSTÄTTENHALLE, SPITTELAUER LÄNDE 33, 1090 VIENNA

Monday, 29 January 2018

- 08.30 Registration
- 09.30 Opening with André Heller
- 10.20 VOICES OF MAYORS: SOCIAL COHESION IN OUR CITIES –
CURRENT REALITIES AND CHALLENGES IN MUNICIPALITIES
HOST: Muna Duzdar, MP, Austrian Parliament, Austria
- Halil Ibrahim Akinci, Director of the Strategic Development Dpt., Sultanbeyli, Turkey
Abbas Almaharmeh, Mayor, Sahab, Jordan
Kenat Hot, Mayor, Tutin, Serbia
Merhej Najm, Expert for Education, Culture, Information, Habbariyeh, Lebanon
Dieter Posch, Mayor, Neudoerfl, Austria
Manolis Vournous, Mayor, Chios, Greece
Maurizio Zavaglia, Assistant Mayor, Gioiosa Ionica, Italy
- 11.10 Coffee Break
- 11.40 PANEL 1: SOCIAL COHESION - TOWARDS NEW POLITICAL DEBATES AND POLICIES
HOST: Viola Raheb, Conference Curator, University of Vienna, Austria
- Jürgen Czernohorszky, Vienna's City Councillor for Education, Integration, Youth and Personnel, Austria
Yuri Kazepov, Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna, Austria
Elena Mavromichali, Lead for Community Engagement and Entrepreneurship, SolidarityNow, Greece
Tarek Mitri, Director, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, Lebanon
Reinhard Schiefer, Founder, Association Papa Bär, Austria
Mikael Stigendal, Professor of Sociology, Malmö University, Sweden
Josef Weidenholzer, MEP, European Parliament
Rossalina Latcheva, Senior Programme Manager, Statistics and Surveys, Fundamental Rights Agency
Nicholas You, Director Global Partners and Programmes, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, Kenya
- 13.15 Lunch





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- 14.15 PRESENTATION OF NOW WORKING GROUPS
EDUCATION & DIVERSITY: Viola Raheb, NOW Working Groups' Curator, University of Vienna, Austria
EXPLOITATION: Shams Asadi, Head, Human Rights Office, City of Vienna, Austria
GENDER EQUALITY: Meera Jamal, Journalist, Germany
TRAUMA SURVIVING: Barbara Preitler, Psychotherapist, Hemayat, Austria
- 14.55 INSPIRING LOCAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS WORKING ON SOCIAL COHESION ON MUNICIPALITY LEVEL
Interactive Presentations and Space for Networking
Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) - UNICEF: Louise Thivant, CFCI Advisor
European Cities Against Racism (ECCAR): Benedetto Zacchiroli, President, Italy
Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project - ICMPD: Ana Feder, Project Manager, Malta
International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN): Helge Lunde, Executive Director, Norway
Mediterranean Hope - Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy: Federica Brizi, Coordinator, Italy
- 16.20 Coffee Break
- 16.45 THE FUTURE WE SEEK – BUILDING SOCIAL COHESION
MODERATOR: Robert Misik
Georgi Dragolov, Research Associate, Jacobs University Bremen, Germany
Gilda Johne, Project Manager NachbarINNEN, migrare, Austria
Gianluca Solera, Policy Advisor, COSPE, Italy
Philipp Ther, Researcher, University of Vienna, Austria
- 18.00 CULTURAL EVENT
- 18.45 Dinner

Tuesday, 30 January 2018

- 08.30 Registration and Coffee
- 09.00 MUSIC – A BRIDGE TO SOCIAL COHESION
Concert presented by the Mobile Music School with children from the Oskar Spiel School, Vienna
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Marwan Abado
- 10.00 VOICES: CHILD AND YOUTH RIGHTS – A ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTATION – BARRIERS AND BRIDGES
HOST: Anna Sporrer, Vice President of the Austrian Supreme Administrative Court, Austria
Amer Bani Amer, Head, Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development, Jordan
Ronan Mangan, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR Regional Representation for Western Europe
Astrid Winkler, Director, Ecpat, Austria

Standards for the protection of human rights of children, most notably the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, have created a powerful framework and call for action to make the world fit for children. These standards are accepted by almost all countries in the world. It is widely recognized, however, that the implementation of these commitments remains deficient and fragmented, failing legitimate interests and expectations by children, families and those working in their support. Attention is often focused only on central government level action and developments at the national level. This is problematic, as it leaves efforts in the affected regions and on local ground out of the picture.

- 10.45 Coffee Break
PRESS ROUND TABLE FOR JOURNALISTS



- 11.15 PANEL 2: THE MAGIC WAND TO CHILD PROTECTION – EMPOWERING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS
 HOST: Helmut Sax, Key Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Austria
- Monica Gutierrez, Research Support Officer, Fundamental Rights Agency
 - Alireza Halimi, Refugee and Student, Afghanistan/Austria
 - Rüdiger Luchmann, Country Coordinator, UNICEF Austria
 - Nikolina Milic, Legal Officer, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Serbia
 - Elisabeth Schaffelhofer-Garcia, Coordinator, National Coalition Children's Rights, Austria
 - Maria Semaan, Child Protection Program Coordinator, KAFA, Lebanon
 - Margaret Tuite, Commission Coordinator for the rights of the child, European Commission

Children are constantly being faced with situations which challenge their rights to protection from violence and exploitation. Mitigating risks and preventing threats to their best interests, while at the same time strengthening children's resilience while empowering stakeholders to create a protective environment for children cannot be considered the responsibility of only one duty-bearer, be it local child protection authorities, service providers or law enforcement. The Panel will discuss experiences from the field about how interagency cooperation contributes to such an environment and how it can lead to a better protection of children's rights, even without the need to resort to the „magic wand“.

- 12.45 Lunch

- 14.00 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

EDUCATION & DIVERSITY

Maurice Crul, Professor of Sociology, Chair: Diversity and Education, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Heidi Schrodt, Chair, Education Initiative „BildungGrenzenlos“, Austria

GENDER EQUALITY

Besnik Leka, Young Men Initiative, Kosovo

Katharina Payk, Executive Editor, an.schläge - Feminist Magazine, Austria

VULNERABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Irina Todorova, Senior Specialist on Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants, IOM

Jihane Essaid, Program Manager Emergency Safe Housing, ABAAD, Lebanon

FOSTERING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Katharina Glawischnig, Expert for Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers, Asylkoordination, Austria

Elisabeth Brainin, Psychoanalyst and Psychiatrist, Austria

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Geneviève Colas, Trafficking in human beings, Unaccompanied minors, Juvenile Justice, Secours Catholique-Caritas, France

Daniela Gruber-Pruner, Leader of Education, Kinderfreunde, Austria

MAYORS

George Antoun, Country Director, Mercy Corps, Lebanon

Uta Zeuge-Buberl, Project Manager, Act.Now, Austria

- 16.00 Coffee Break

- 16.30 CLOSING CEREMONY

- 17.15 End





5TH INTERNATIONAL MAYORS' CONFERENCE

CONTRIBUTORS - TEAM - ORGANISATION

INTERNATIONAL MAYORS' CONFERENCE NOW VIENNA 2018

initiated by **Act.Now** | André Heller, Patricia Kahane, Elke Zuckermann

in cooperation with the **Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue** | Gertraud Auer Borea

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