



# Report to the EFA association

Highlights and activities between May 2021 and 2022

## Contents

1	European Forum Alpbach 2021	2
2	European Forum Alpbach 2022	10
3	Internal changes and organisation	10
4	Report of the Foundation	12
5	Report of the Forum Alpbach Network	16
6	Other activities	18
7	Appendix	18



# 1 European Forum Alpbach 2021

## 1.1 Summary

From August 18 to September 3, 2021, more than 4,100 participants from 90 countries attended this year's European Forum Alpbach – on-site and digitally in approximately 240 sessions.

The focus was on contributions to securing and financing the future of Europe, as well as the current climate crisis and the potential to use it as a stepping stone.

Three thematic focal points – The Climate Opportunity, Securing Our Future and The Financing of Europe's Future – shaped not only the economic, political and scientific discussions that took place starting on August 24, but also the seminar week that has marked the beginning of the Forum for some time now. Some of the participants had already been working on the main topics since March, developing ideas and presenting solution-oriented project approaches in Alpbach. The best of the so-called “Alpbach Challenges” were honoured by a jury in Alpbach on September 2 and prepared for possible realisation.

### **Involving tomorrow's generation**

The voice of young people in the discussion on European issues of the future was also clearly visible: in “Mondays for Markets”, for example, young adults confronted decision-makers, scientists and entrepreneurs from various fields with new approaches to financing Europe. The decision to set three thematic focal points, to be addressed throughout the entire period, has stimulated new, increasingly interdisciplinary dialogues, strengthened the diversity of perspectives and enabled constructive discourse.

### **Beyond the congress events: Pride Parade & Fridays for Future**

Beyond the congress events, the first Pride Parade in Alpbach as well as the Fridays for Future movement in front of the Congress Centrum and a first-time cooperation of the cultural team with Die Tagespresse caused quite a stir.

### **Covid prevention measures**

The organisers responded successfully to the Covid pandemic with a comprehensive prevention concept, which included a limited number of participants, the presentation of a PCR test upon entering the congress premises and the wearing of FFP2 masks. Due to the comprehensive testing on-site, the total of seven Covid infections were quickly detected, appropriate measures were taken and a spread of the virus was prevented.

### **Excerpt of international participants**

Contributions from academia included Alberto Alemanno (EU Law and Policy, HEC Paris), Antje Boetius (Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven), Amanda Chisholm (Senior Lecturer in Global Security, School of Security Studies – King's College London), Lucy English (Reader in Creative Writing, Bath Spa University), Judith Heepe (Nursing Director, Charité Medical University) and Astrid Hopfensitz (Professor, Toulouse School of Economics and EM Lyon).

As an important part of the European Forum Alpbach, art was represented by the attendance of Helga Davis, Justin Vivian Bond, Olga Neuwirth and Anna Artakter, among others.

On the political level, the heads of government Albin Kurti (Kosovo), Zoran Zaev (North Macedonia) and Eduard Heger (Slovakia), the EU Commissioners Margaritis Schinas, Mairead McGuinness and Johannes Hahn, as well as numerous ministers from different



sectors and countries participated: Andrej Šircelj (Minister of Finance, Slovenia), Judit Varga (Minister of Justice, Hungary), Fuad Hussein (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iraq), Michał Kurtyka (Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland), João Leão (Minister of Finance, Portugal), Monika Navickienė (Minister of Social Security and Labor, Lithuania), Sophie Howe (Minister of Future, Wales). Michelle Bachelet (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Mathias Cormann (Secretary General OECD) were also part of the event.

In addition, Marian Cramers (Director of Development, Democratic Society), Ivo Degn (Co-Founder of Climate Farmers), Kirsten Dunlup (CEO, EIT Climate-KIC), Sven Egenter (Managing Director Clean Energy Wire & klimafakten.de), Alexander G. Soros (Open Society Foundation), Emi Mahmoud (UNHCR Good Will Ambassador) and the Governors of the National Banks in Holland, Klaas Knot, Denmark, Per Callesen, Austria, Robert Holzmann and Croatia, Boris Vujcic, participated.

## 1.2 The European Forum Alpbach 2021 in documents

- **Hundreds of pictures of the European Forum Alpbach 2021:**  
<https://2021.alpbach.org/more/press/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/europeanforumalpbach/albums>
- **PANORAMA – the conference magazine**  
[https://issuu.com/forumalpbach/docs/2021\\_efa\\_panorama\\_einseitig](https://issuu.com/forumalpbach/docs/2021_efa_panorama_einseitig)
- **The European Forum Alpbach in the media (see appendix)**

## 1.3 The public programme

### 1.3.1 Seminar Week

After a pandemic-related break, the Alpbach Seminar Week once again became a hub for innovative knowledge exchange and new personal experiences for a young and enthusiastic audience.

In August 2021, 395 scholarship holders from all around the world had the chance to participate in the European Forum Alpbach either digitally or on-site and to experience intellectual as well as emotional enhancement in a unique way. Under the umbrella of the European Forum Alpbach's tracks scholarship holders chose seminars from a wide range of different scientific fields.

### **Europe inside out – seminars on-site in Alpbach**

The interplay between scientific seminars in the morning and artistic and practical seminars in the afternoon prepared and empowered scholarship holders to actively participate in discussions to develop concrete ideas together with speakers and other participants and make an active contribution to strengthen Europe. 12 seminars were offered – 6 of them took place in the morning and 6 of them in the afternoon.



## Europe outside in – digital seminars

Online scholarship holders chose a workshop of their choice from a colourful abundance and diversity of both scientific and artistic or practical e-seminars. They had the opportunity to interact directly with experts, discuss and learn new things in the process. Newly learned content could directly be carried into the digital conference to work on Europe's role in active discussions and possibly generate new ideas and impact. 9 e-seminars were offered and took place via Microsoft Teams.

### 1.3.2 Security Track

To secure a positive future for Europe and the world bold ideas, clear objectives and practical capabilities are needed. What kind of future Europe do we want, what do we need to make it happen and what obstacles will we encounter on the way? These questions provided a structure for all thematic activities within the Securing Our Future track. The following two examples showcase highlight sessions of this year's forum: EU membership and the dynamics at play for accession countries were brought on stage in a session titled "Sticks and Carrots still? Relationship Management for Western Balkans and the EU" where the Prime Ministers of North Macedonia and Kosovo respectively were partnered with an EU Special Representative to tackle the practical hurdles for bettering cooperation. "O Europe, Where Art Thou? - Defining a Future for Europe and Beyond" offered viewpoints from foresight experts and those charged with representing future generations on how Europe needs to evolve and reprioritize its own agendas to do justice not only to the current electorate, but the next generations' needs as well.

As we decide on what kind of future Europe we want, what we need to make it happen and what obstacles we will encounter on the way. These guiding questions structured the selection of sub-topics for this year's Forum. To name just a few examples, under the header of Securing Our Future we proposed a second look at the preconceived future of Europe and sessions such as "O Europe, Where Art Thou? - Defining a Future for Europe and Beyond" offered viewpoints from foresight experts and those charged with representing future generations on how Europe needs to evolve and reprioritize its own agendas to do justice not only to the current electorate, but the next generations' needs as well. "Tracking Europe – A European Debate like no other" put the status quo as well as predictive deliberations into a historical context, linking Europe's past to its future and overing broader understanding of why we are finding us with what kind of prospects.

### 1.3.3 Green Track

Johan Rockström (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) kicked off the Climate Opportunity track by underlining the urgency of the climate crisis, detailing planetary boundaries, and calling for action in line with the European Green Deal.

Central to the track stood the question on how to best mobilize a European and global response to climate change. 40 exceptional thought leaders came together in Alpbach to explore solutions to bring about concrete action. Aside from an intensive 2-day retreat, the group stayed on and led hikes and discussions, creating a wonderful serendipity for everyone interested.

With Antje Boetius (Alfred Wegener Institute) the programme explored the strong relationship between microbiology and climate change and learned of the importance of microbes in the carbon and nitrogen cycles remain, which is greatly underestimated.

An exceptional discussion with Joseph Stiglitz (Columbia University), Kirsten Dunlop (Climate-KIC), Indy Johar (Dark Matter Labs) and Sandrine Dixson-Declève reflected on

how to make our economy resilient for tomorrow. A systematic approach with a strong focus on people and prosperity, but also with a global institutional architecture could lead the way ahead.

#### 1.3.4 Finance Track

This year's programme touched upon multiple angles ensuring that Europe will be able (re-) build the economy and mobilise the financing for a greener, digital, and internationally competitive Europe - from economic recovery and the EU's geo-economic potential to capital markets, sustainable public debts and impact financing over to financial literacy and cryptocurrencies.

Some of the highlights included the High-Level Retreat on Financial Literacy, where 25 interdisciplinary European experts, among others Annamaria Lusardi (George Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center) and scholarship holders proposed concrete actions to foster financial education and health in Europe. Commissioner Mairead McGuinness, UBS Chairman Axel Weber, Maria Demertzis and Thomas Wieser (both Bruegel) stressed the urgent need to develop a Capital Markets Union so as to set foundations for the much-needed mobilisation of private sector investment in Europe's future.

In a lively debate and thereafter exchange with scholarship holders, EU central bank governors Per Callesen (Denmark), Klaas Knot (The Netherlands), Boris Vujčić (Croatia) and Robert Holzmann (Austria) discussed the overall strategy and each country's role in shaping a flourishing and coherent Eurozone that works for all. Thereafter, OECD Secretary General Mathias Corman provided a compelling call to business leaders, policy makers and the younger generation to continue collaborating, shaping, and investing in opportunities for a just and sustainable economy. And finally, young emerging leaders confronted decision-makers, scientists, and entrepreneurs in the session "Mondays for Markets" with new, bold ideas to finance Europe – from developing a vibrant entrepreneurship ecosystem to a socially designed financial system.

#### 1.3.5 Arts and Culture

At the European Forum Alpbach 2021 artists created spaces for inspiration and critical reflection and got vivid responses.

For all visible the installation OUTSIDE | INSIDE transformed the Congress Center into an art intervention itself. Around 3300 women's names could be read from outside and 13000 men's names from inside on the glass walls - all EFA participants from the last 75 years. Beautiful to look at, but clearly in the message when it comes to power and gender relations.

On Artists in Discourse Day composer Olga Neuwirth - with the support of journalist Ingrid Brodnig - pushed genres and gender boundaries with her guests Vivian Justin Bond (artist), Helga Davis (performance artist), Guillermo Martínez (writer), Fatima Moumouni (spoken-word poet), Mavi Phoenix (musician), and Niki Popper (scientist) and invited to a sound environment for eight hours on the terrace: Olga Neuwirth's Coronation IV: whoever brought me here performed by Robyn Schulkowsky and Joey Baron.

At the opening of the EFA 21 jazz musician Vincent Pongrácz surprised with the world premiere of Hy Cotyl, an art piece of concentrated Alpbach spirit and power, played by Klangforum Wien. The three art interventions gave radical and different perspectives on this year's tracks. Sarah Vanhee and Brit Hatzius created the dark-comical short film NO CURE FOR LIFE about death in a global capitalist society. The artist duo

honey & bunny transformed with Eat the Coal the discussion venue into an “eat art” installation and questioned the personal and economic access to coal. Teresa Distelberger and Simon Mayer declared in their multimedia performance Home – A State of being Moved breath as home and home as a state of being moved.

And with the Tyrolean Chamber Orchestra InnStrumenti we approached the invisible changes in our life reality from different perspectives in an inspiring contemporary concert.

### 1.3.6 Alpbach Hubs (coordinated by the EFA Foundation)

2021, the “Alpbach Hubs” offered a stage to the young generation at the European Forum Alpbach for the second time. The event series gave Clubs and Ambassadors of the Forum Alpbach Network and the Africa Alpbach Network the opportunity to host own panel discussions and fireside chats as part of the official EFA21 programme. From more than 50 events submitted by 22 Clubs and Networks, 19 were selected for implementation. The digital events – 10 panel discussions and 9 fireside chats in total – were curated and organized by a junior programme manager at the EFA Foundation, in coordination with the track managers. The events complemented the three programme tracks with young and regional perspectives, i.e., by shedding light on “Sustainable Urban Mobility in Latin America” or by discussing “Public Debt: A Burden For Future Generations or a Necessary Boost?”.

As the only fully digital programme component, the Alpbach Hubs added to the hybrid conference setting by offering a high degree of interactivity to the remote audience.

On average, 30-40 participants visited each session, with peaks of up to 65 participants during the fireside chats with Ban Ki-moon (hosted by the Africa Alpbach Network) and Jeffrey Sachs (hosted by the USA Ambassadors Network).

Hub organizers received support from the European Forum Alpbach Foundation in planning and implementing their events, e.g. by connecting them with relevant stakeholders or by offering them moderation and digital communication workshops.

### 1.3.7 Tyrol Days, August 21-22, 2021

The working groups of the young researchers and the young innovators were again held on Saturday and their results were presented during the Tyrol Day on Sunday.

Tyrol Day itself traditionally began with Holy Mass. The discussion of the provincial governors was well attended. In the afternoon, a session on the appreciation of honorary office took place, during which deserving young persons were honoured.

### 1.3.8 Technology Symposium, August 26-27, 2021

The complex transformation processes in our societies and economic systems must have a central focus point – man and the environment. This is especially important in the development of sustainable technologies and their applications for the future. “Human Centricity” is essential in this respect, and therefore this was also the motto of the yearbook accompanying the Technology Symposium in 2021.

“Green Transformation” is a highly complex theme, posing big challenges for research, societies and industry but also providing big opportunities. In Alpbach, we investigated this

theme from all perspectives. We presented fundamental contributions for securing our future from materials research, digitalization, and quantum technologies.

An important requirement for the necessary changes is an “upgrade” of the political framework conditions to promote technological and social innovations. This requires a holistic approach as offered by the arts – a special session under the motto “Planet Love” took that into account.

#### 1.4 Closed programme points (Retreats, Campus programme)

Retreats through the closed group working sessions as groups bond, interact and exchange views. Composing just the right group might not be always without hiccups but as this year’s retreats on Securing Alliances, Financial Literacy, Climate Leadership and partner retreats on the Future of Europe held by the Austrian Chancellery and on Transatlantic Relations held by the Austrian Foreign Ministry showed, it is well worth it. The group members varied from political decision makers to academic pioneers and civil society representatives and offered up not only their personal experiences and lessons learned but combined their insights in order to propose comprehensive solutions for the challenges ahead.

##### 1.4.1 Security retreat: Securing Alliances – Retreat of the initiative ‘ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE’ at the European Forum Alpbach, August 23-25, 2021

From August 23-25, 2021, 22 actors from civil society, foundations, arts and culture, media, public administration, politics and associations gathered in Alpbach for the Securing Alliances retreat. The retreat was organized by ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE, an initiative launched in 2021 by the Stiftung Mercator, Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Mercator Foundation Switzerland, ERSTE Stiftung, and the European Forum Alpbach Foundation. The initiative is managed by the iac Berlin.

The retreat in Alpbach intended to bring together actors from different fields of society, all actively engaged in shaping democratic culture and willing to contribute to strengthening the foundation of ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE in their respective fields of work. During the three days, the group not only discussed existing challenges to and concrete opportunities for democratic culture, but it worked on developing the vision of ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE towards a decentral hub by and for pro-democracy actors in the DACH-region. Concrete outcomes included:

- Several participants of the retreat joined the ongoing process of ‘ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE’, e.g. the SGG - Schweizerische Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft.
- One participating organisation, the German ‘Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung’ joined the initiative as one of the key funding partners (200.000€ out of the total project budget of 600.000€).

##### 1.4.2 Climate Opportunity Leaders Retreat, August 27 – September 3

As integral part of the Climate Opportunity Track a group of 40 exceptional Climate Opportunity Change Leaders gathered from August 27 - September 3 in Alpbach to work on the question on how to best mobilize a European and global response to climate change.

The first two days were spent in form of an intensive retreat, exploring possible solutions to bring about concrete action. It became clear that the need and consequent burden of systemic

change cannot be borne by the individual but needs collective action. Developing a collective vision or narrative and the communication thereof must take center stage. Nevertheless, the commitment and impact of individuals cannot be underestimated. The group also raised the question of how to keep youth movements, such as Fridays for Future from either dissolving or become radical.

After the retreat, the group stayed on and become active players during the Forum's Climate Opportunity Track programme. Climate Opportunity Change Leaders led hikes, panel discussions and networking events, creating a wonderful serendipity for everyone interested.

### 1.4.3 Retreat on financial literacy, August 27-29

#### EXCERPT FROM THE OUTCOME PAPER OF THE RETREAT ON FINANCIAL LITERACY

Between August 27 and 29 2022, the European Forum Alpbach invited interdisciplinary European experts and young talents under the age of 30 to work on concrete solutions to foster financial literacy in Europe. How can we effectively deliver financial literacy on a broad scale in Europe? How can we best support each citizen in building economic resilience and prosperity? These are only some of the questions that shall be discussed and tackled within the group.

The deficit of economic and financial literacy hinders economic performance, causes serious welfare losses and has a negative impact on personal freedom and societal participation. In August 2021, the European Forum Alpbach invited interdisciplinary European experts and young talents to work on concrete ideas on how to effectively foster financial literacy in Europe. Some of the points below present the main agreements and outcomes of the High-Level Retreat on Financial Literacy with the **aim to move from evidence to action**.

Overall, the participants agreed that:

- **#1:** Financial literacy should be part of school an early age.
- **#2:** Financial competency is a 21st century life skill and should be trained as close to life as possible.
- **#3:** A focus should be set on increasing the participation rate in capital markets.

Outcomes:

- **Prevent poverty through financial education.** Financial Literacy is a key to prevent poverty.
- **Empower the adult population through financial education.** The conscious and informed participation in capital markets of people from all walks of life should be promoted through financial education to prevent real loss of money for individuals and to promote financial inclusion.
- **Incentivise financial education.** Education and training is not a default for most people. Several measures should be taken by the public (e.g. financial education embedded in school curricula) and private sectors (e.g. educating customers on certain issues, like loss of money on savings accounts) to incentivize engagement in financial education.

The retreat was organised by EFA in cooperation with Three Coins (facilitation) and the Erste Group. Participants of the retreat stayed in touch long after the event and are still part of the programming committee of the ensuing retreat on financial literacy at the European Forum Alpbach 2022.



#### 1.4.4 Retreats by partner organisations

The Austrian Federal Chancellery (BKA) and the Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) organised two high-level working meetings in the Security Track of the European Forum Alpbach.

During the POLITICS symposium (31 Aug to 2 Sep), the Austrian Minister for European Affairs Karoline Edtstadler (BKA) invited high-level guests to discuss next steps on the Conference on the Future of Europe, including the following guests and their entourage: Margaritis Schinas (European Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life), Barbara Thaler (MEP), Thomas Byrne (Minister of State for European Affairs of Ireland), Johannes Hahn (European Commissioner for Budget and Administration), Miltiadis Varvitsiotis (Alternate Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic), Judit Varga (Minister of Justice of Hungary), Ivan Krastev (Chairman, Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia).

The retreat organised by the Ministry for European and International Affairs took place between September 1 and 2 and focused on the transatlantic relations.

#### 1.4.5 Alpbach in Motion

From August 29 –September 1 Alpbach in Motion took place for the 8<sup>th</sup> time this year. Given the success of the programme and the strong community that has built up around it, we had decided to assign the Alpbach in Motion association and its members a stronger role in both the programming process and facilitation of the programme in Alpbach. With this in mind, we have aimed to gradually evolve the leadership programme to become even more relevant to the needs of our young professionals.

This year 38 young professionals from start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises, social enterprises, and the creative industries joined to engage in a solution-focused leadership dialogue around much-needed change for Europe's economic future. The group engaged in discussions alongside our three thematic tracks with mentors joining the group during hikes and discussions. Sid Efromovich (Generation Pledge), Gonzalo Munoz (COP 25) and Mairead McGuinness are a few of the mentors joining in.

#### 1.4.6 FEMtrepreneurs (organised by the EFA Foundation)

FEMtrepreneurs is the networking programme of the European Forum Alpbach for female entrepreneurs and founders. The 2021 programme gave the opportunity to up to 120 women to attend an interactive 3-day digital workshop series, which focussed on different aspects of social entrepreneurship and personal development. Additional 20 tickets were given to selected applicants to attend one symposium of their choice in Alpbach. A network event at the beginning of October 2021 in Vienna allowed all participants to meet in person and continue the discussions that were started in August.

## 2 European Forum Alpbach 2022

Basic structure:

- The Tyrol Day on August 21 marks the regional prelude to the event, the official opening is on Monday, August 22. The closing takes place on Friday, September 2 2022.
- The two weeks will differ as follows: During the first one, the so-called Conference Week, there will be a varied range of formats appealing to people from German-speaking countries (DACH region). We are preparing a general programme from August 22 to 25 anchored on 4 stage events. The tech days by AIT take place from August 25 to 27.
- During the second week, the Lab Week, the focus will be on eight retreats, with each track providing 2 retreats. The week will be divided up in two blocks with 4 retreats each, from August 27 to 30 and from August 30 to September 2. At the opening day of the first block on August 28 we will host the Next Generation Day, where young contributors will lead the way.
- In order to better integrate scholarship holders and their views into the overall programme, the Alpbach Seminars will be incorporated into the morning programme from 9-12am of the entire 14-day event.

Basic programme:

- In addition to the three tracks of last year (Security, Climate, Finance), we have added the new track “The Future of Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe”.
- At the opening, we will host a keynote speaker, a representative by the EU, a member of the Austrian government and a foreign state guest.
- The next generation day will probably host the Austrian Federal President and a state guest.
- The four main stages of the first week have the provisional titles:
  - “The Future of the European Experiment”
  - “How to Link the Energy Transition with European Strategic Autonomy”
  - “The EU’s Geopolitical Awakening: Better Late Than Never?”
  - “Disrupting Economic Dependencies”
- The second week will host eight retreats (prov. titles):
  - “The Road to COP27” (Climate)
  - “Towards an Intergov. Council for Planetary Transformation” (Climate)
  - “Security in Europe in 2022” (Security)
  - “The European Future of the Western Balkans” (Security)
  - “Financial Literacy” (Finance)
  - “Hackathon on Financial & Economic Literacy” (Finance)
  - “Reimagine Politics in Europe” (Democracy)
  - “Rebuilding Rule of Law and Civic Space” (Democracy)

## 3 Internal changes and organisation

### 3.1 Summary of achievements

- ❖ **Income** from 2019 to 2021 has increased by 39% to €4.600.000,00
  - Income from sponsoring was increased remarkably with the 2 largest sponsors: ERSTE Group and Open Society Foundation
- ❖ **Expenses** from 2019 to 2021 have increased by 33% to €4.400.000,00

- Most of which increased for staff and IT & digitalization (incl. the new website)
- ❖ Many activities and investments took place in the first half of 2021 for urgently necessary structural improvements. All of which needed additional financing, such as
  - New server infrastructure and IT infrastructure
  - A CRM database as solid basis for programme development, ticket sales and holistic communication
  - New contracts and salary structures for employees
  - New cost accounting and implementation of financial planning and forecasting.
- ❖ 2021 the event planning needed additional attention regarding:
  - COVID implications and strong risk mitigation planning.
  - Digital Conference infrastructure (Hopin)

## 3.2 Achievements in detail

### **IT & Digitalization**

The overall IT infrastructure had to be refurbished urgently with new server structures, new external partners and new hardware including a new phone system. Microsoft CRM system was implemented and broadly elaborated to support the event organization which was based on too many manual processes before. For the hybrid conference a digital conference infrastructure was implemented. The whole EFA communication has been based on Microsoft Office 365.

### **Organization, structure and team management**

In order to develop a process structure and project management organization was designed and implement with new roles and responsibilities. Salary structures have been adopted and all employee contracts had to be we re-worked and signed. The overall staff has increase to cope with the high workload.

Process structures were implemented in a project organization format in January 2021. A milestone plan was developed for the overall event planning and for each separated project function. Project monitoring and controlling was implemented on a weekly basis. Support tools for process management were delivered.

To manage the change in leadership and to balance the uncertainty regarding Covid several team activities have been held to form the new team and co-create the Forum 21 target picture. A weekly team meeting has been established and project management, process and personal coaching have been offered.

### **Finance**

In the past, all event expenses were booked to one account without option to distinguish between different types of costs. In 2021, we set up a new accounting structure, re-grouped expenses from 2019-2021 and delivered a new reporting structure including forecasting liquidity projections.

### **Communication**

A new programme webpage was designed and launched for the Forum 2021. Communication and social media strategy has been developed and deployed while a new communications team was formed.

## 4 Report of the Foundation

### 4.1 Extending the Forum Alpbach Network and establishing rules of procedure (Baseline Agreement)

Main achievements:

- ❖ **Registration of AAN** – Alpbach Africa Network in Ghana as the first network outside of Europe. The 70+ members are active in 17 African countries.
- ❖ First steps taken in forming a Latin American Network (currently only loose cooperation in ca. six Latin American countries)
- ❖ Decision taken to reactivate FAN in Western Balkans 6 countries and Croatia (strategy meeting held with regional stakeholders during the Forum Alpbach 2022)
- ❖ **Baseline Agreement outlining roles and responsibilities** of EFA and FAN negotiated (will be voted on by FAN at EFA22).
- ❖ **Scholarship programme** takes place again in 2022 (after break in 2021) with 3.000 applications – see below.

### 4.2 Scholarship Programme 2021

Starting the new EFA season with an optimistic estimation of 300-350 scholarship holders that could be invited to join the EFA 2021, this number had to be dramatically reduced due to covid safety regulations. Scholarship holders are the most vulnerable group when it comes to Covid-19. They are the last to be vaccinated and the most international group.

Sadly, there were only few scholarship holders from outside of Europe joining the EFA in 2021, for the exception of international students that reside in Europe.

Because of travel regulations imposed by the Austrian Government in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the cap of 1,000 participants per day in Alpbach introduced by the EFA, the overall number of scholarship holders at the Forum 2021 was reduced to 150 available seats for students per day, while options for digital participation of young people were expanded.

Digital formats included multi-day workshops led by seminar chairs during the Seminar Week, the Alpbach Challenges, the Alpbach Hubs, and funded tickets for the Forum's online conference.

Two scholarship types for people under 35 years of age were offered:

- On-site Scholarship: covering the participation fee to the European Forum Alpbach, accommodation costs, a small board allowance and access to the online conference (priced at 1,600 Euro)
- Online Scholarship: covering the participation fee of a 3-day online workshop with seminar chairs and a ticket for the EFA online conference (priced at 390 Euro)
- Funded tickets for the online conference (priced at 90 Euro)

Considering the concerns of the Forum Alpbach Network for heightened flexibility with regards to the distribution of scholarships in 2021, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation developed a participation model that allowed 245 young people to attend the Forum, many of them alternately. Most scholarship holders were sent by Clubs and Initiative Groups of the Forum Alpbach Network to ensure the succession of a new generation of leading club members.

The EFA Foundation sent 247 scholarship holders from its 2020-applicants' pool, including the top members of the 8 best Challenges teams.

In total (some of them stayed for an overlapping duration):

- 130 scholarship holders during the Seminar Week, including the Opening Day
- 150 scholarship holders from August 25 – 28
- 150 scholarship holders from August 29 – September 3

The pricing for Clubs was 350 Euro for each of the above packages (or 800 Euro for fulltime attendance)

### 4.3 Scholarship Programme 2022

After a break in 2021 of the official call for applications in 2021, the scholarship programme was launched according to the standards established up until 2020. Around 3.000 candidates applied for an EFA scholarship, and several hundreds more with Alpbach clubs. The applications are currently under review.

By awarding more than 300 scholarships, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation enables young talents from around the world to attend the EFA event each summer. We are looking for students, recent graduates and/or smart change-makers (also open to non-academics) who engage in extra-curricular activities and think outside the box. Each application is reviewed by two members of the jury of 80 members (2 heads of the jury and others involved in the preselection) in order to ensure an objective selection.

All in all, the EFA Foundation and the FAN will award 450 first-time scholarships. An extended returners' programme will mean that up to 600 young people will again be involved in the Forum.

### 4.4 Alpbach Hubs

With the Alpbach Hubs, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation is coordinating a diverse and decentralised programme hosted by the young generation. Clubs, Initiative Groups and Ambassadors from the Forum Alpbach Network (FAN) and the Africa Alpbach Network (AAN) were invited to submit proposals for digital events that will be part of the official European Forum Alpbach 2021 programme. This year's focus of the programme is to give selected Hubs the opportunity to host panel discussions and fireside chats that will explore complementary and unusual perspectives on the three EFA-programme tracks.

A total of 22 events (11 panel discussions, 11 fireside chats) have been selected to take place during this year's Forum Alpbach. Some highlights include the panel discussions "Overcoming the Pandemic: Africa's public health response to the Coronavirus" hosted by the AAN and "A Tale of 3 Cities: Sustainable Urban Transition in Latin America" hosted by the Latin America and Caribbean Network, or the fireside chat with Elif Bilgi Zapparoli, Managing Director of the Bank of America, hosted by the USA Ambassadors Network.

### 4.5 Alpbach Challenges

With the Alpbach Challenges, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation has designed and coordinated a new digital learning initiative to engage members of the Forum Alpbach



Network, as well as members of selected partner networks with the Forum's programme tracks, and to provide them with a platform to collaboratively work towards finding solutions to some of the most pressing challenges of our times. In the pilot year, the community focused on the four challenges linked to the EFA tracks and the topic of Urban Transformation.

Between the kick-off in March and the deadline for submissions on May 1, around 400 young people from 62 countries registered on the Challenges crowd innovation platform. Most of them formed teams, got inspired in a total of four ideation workshops, and refined their drafts during a co-working sprint. Participants and experts continuously supported the teams' ideas by sharing their thoughts and advice, thereby working jointly towards impact-oriented solutions.

From 50 ideas submitted by teams from 49 countries, 8 were shortlisted by the Challenges Jury (one fell out later due to personal reasons). For the shortlisted teams, we offered three high-level digital workshops (prototyping, lean canvas, pitching) to aid them in working towards the objectives of the Challenges: carry out initial market validation and pitch their prototype in Alpbach. Additionally, all teams received a tailored pitch training prior to the Forum.

In the summer months as well as during the Forum, each team was assigned a mentor to support them in clearly defining their idea. 24 Challengers came to Alpbach with a full scholarship. On 02.09.2021, all teams pitched their ideas in a hybrid format session in front of an international audience and interdisciplinary jury (Mr. Winfried Kneip, Mr. Anton Schilling, Prof. Shalini Randeria, Minister Alma Zadic). Three teams were selected to receive a prize money of € 10.000, € 7.000, and € 5.000 respectively: "Solarity", "Greenie" and "A New Reality".

Since then, the Forum has provided two mentoring workshops for the top three Challenges teams, led by Werner Wutscher and New Venture Scouting. To monitor the progress of the teams' projects, a monthly jour fixe between New Venture Scouting and the three teams was agreed on. While "Solarity" and "Greenie" entered an advanced prototyping and business modelling phase, "A New Reality" focuses on methodological questions and will be provided with additional mentoring by the Impact Hub. The goal for 2022 is to invite the three teams to the EFA and present a refined prototype, as well as their insights and findings regarding the co-creation process.

Overall, the feedback received by the end of 2021 was predominantly positive, with the focus that this programme offered new perspectives to its participants. However, one recurring note was that the challenge questions should have defined in a co-creative manner with the participants, and that the programme should have been more structured and hands-on and offered more support to its participants.

#### 4.6 Re:think Alliances & ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE

The EFA Foundation's project "Re:think Alliances" aims to build diverse networks between different actors in order to strengthen democracy, an open society and social cohesion in Europe. By hosting joint discussions and working groups, the Foundation brings together actors from different sectors of society and showcase best-practice examples of democracy-strengthening initiatives across Europe:

- The **Monthly Community Call** provides a regular exchange and networking platform for the Alpbach community. Once a month, we meet online and discuss relevant questions on how to strengthen democracy and promote civic engagement. Past calls in 2021



engaged with pro-democracy network-building, citizen participation and lobbying for a more democratic Europe as well as social entrepreneurship and innovation diplomacy.

- In February 2021, Re:think Alliances hosted a **panel discussion** at CIVA, a contemporary immersive visual art festival exploring the potential of new technologies. Together with four actors from science, civil society and business, we explored strategies to make the Internet a Safer Space.

As part of Re:think Alliances, the European Forum Alpbach Foundation is supporting the establishment of ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE, a new initiative that aims to build strategic networks and harness collective knowledge to strengthen democracy in German-speaking countries. Its aim is to build new alliances across Austria, Germany and Switzerland which strengthen democratic culture in the context of technological change, disinformation and other threats.

The initiative is currently in its incubation phase (until end 2022), during which a later coordinating structure (Hub) and its fields of action are being developed. This process is coordinated by the International Alumni Center - iac Berlin.

ANSTOSS DEMOKRATIE is an initiative launched in 2021 by the Stiftung Mercator, Robert-Bosch-Stiftung, Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Mercator Foundation Switzerland, ERSTE Stiftung, and the European Forum Alpbach Foundation. More information: <https://anstossdemokratie.net/>

## 4.7 Community Calls

Community Calls aim to strengthen the network of the Alpbach Community through enhancing exchange on a regular basis.

From December 2020 to July 2021, a monthly Community Call allowed the Alpbach Community to regularly meet online and discuss relevant issues on the future of Europe and democracy, the climate crisis, the economy and the promotion of civil society engagement. Starting from May 2021, the calls were specifically tailored to the topics of the #EFChallenges, so that participants could deepen their knowledge on specific topics they were working on. Invited guests included, among others, Alberto Alemanno from The Good Lobby (“Citizen Participation and Lobbying For a More Democratic Europe”, February 25), Melina Sanchez from the Alfred-Landecker-Foundation (“How to measure impact and innovation?”, July 8) or Maria Demertzis from Bruegel “Europe Should Not Neglect its Capital-Markets Union”, June 10).

Starting in December 2021, the European Forum Alpbach together with its partner ERSTE Group offers a monthly reunion in which young, outstanding Europeans and gamechangers who have the courage to change Europe will present their ideas and initiatives.

- Community Call on Monday, May 9 2022, 6-7 pm (CET): The Path to Digital Transformation: a Chance to Address Digital Inequality and Digital Power Concentration?
- Community Call on Monday April4, 2022, 6-7 pm (CET): Social Entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans.
- Community Call on Monday, March14, 2022, 6-7 pm (CET): Tackling Climate Change through AI
- Special Edition Community Call on Monday, February 28 2022, 6-7 pm (CET): United with Ukraine



- Community Call on Monday, January 31 2022, 6-7 pm (CET): Democracy in the making: Why civic education matters
- Community Call on Thursday, December 16 2021, 6.30-7.30 pm (CET): Debates in Polarizing Times – Initiatives from Civil Society

An overview and further details on the calls can be found at:

<https://www.alpbach.org/en/fanvoices-community-calls/>

## 5 Report of the Forum Alpbach Network

### 5.1 FAN 2020/2021, Report by Johannes Stangl

The Forum Alpbach Network is still too young to know a “normal mode of procedure” that it could compare the exceptional situation of the past two years to. Yet the Corona crisis changed the alumni network of the European Forum Alpbach in many ways that might constitute a “new normality” for the workings of the network – for the better in many ways, I will suggest in the following. As EFA20 came to an end and Covid restrictions tightened again all over Europe, a major event was approaching: the election of the new EFA board and its new president Andreas Treichl. The FAN was anticipating the renewal of the board with great interest, as it would set the course of the EFA for the upcoming years.

It soon became clear that the focus of the EFA would be set to Europe and on having a positive impact on the very continent the forum derives its name from. The new board challenged the FAN to rethink its role in the wake of the new purpose it wanted to breathe into the European Forum Alpbach. The FAN gladly took up the challenge and initiated three working groups that would work on the most important topics it had identified: first, creating scenarios on how EFA21 could be conducted in a good manner, regarding restricted access to the forum due to Covid regulations; second, rethinking the Forum Alpbach Network and creating visions for its development; third, rethinking the European Forum Alpbach and creating visions for its future. What followed was an intense time of thinking and discussing, writing and drafting that involved more than 40 people across Europe and the world. The process created community and friendships in months of solitary confinement and it brought the network to work together as closely as it never had done before. Since the beginning of the Corona crisis many organisations struggled heavily with the engagement of their volunteers and some failed altogether. But the FAN thrived in working towards the common goal of creating those proposals and vision papers and ultimately grew closer and more resilient than it had ever been.

Finally, EFA21 arrived and with great effort we managed to have it physically and bring a decent amount of new scholarship-holders that could immerse themselves in the spirit of Alpbach and grow into a new generation of FAN members. The highlight for many must have been the small FAN conference that was held in Alpbach to reconnect the network. For most it had been one and a half years since they had last seen each other in real life. Since many new people joined in the mean-time it was the first time at all for some. This was a truly remarkable encounter and the long time of hardship was brushed aside in no time, when we finally met each other. Being there together – physically – was the spark that was needed to re-ignite the fire that had almost faded throughout the network. More confident than ever, we felt the purpose of our network: to shape the world, by shaping and transforming the young people we bring to the European Forum Alpbach each year.



## 5.2 Alpbach Hubs

This year for the second time, the “Alpbach Hubs” offered a stage to the young generation. The event series gave clubs and ambassadors of the Forum Alpbach Network and the Africa Alpbach Network the opportunity to host own panel discussions and fireside chats as part of the official EFA21 programme. The digital events – ten panel discussions and nine fireside chats – were curated and organised by a junior programme manager at the EFA Foundation, in coordination with the track managers. The events complemented the three programme tracks with young and regional perspectives, i.e., by shedding light on “Sustainable Urban Mobility in Latin America” or by discussing “Public Debt: A Burden For Future Generations or a Necessary Boost?”. As the only fully digital programme component, the Alpbach Hubs added to the hybrid conference setting by offering a high degree of interactivity to the remote audience. On average, 30-40 participants visited each session, with peaks of up to 65 participants during the fireside chats with Ban Ki-moon (hosted by the Africa Alpbach Network) and Jeffrey Sachs (hosted by the USA Ambassadors Network). The feedback from the Hub organisers and the audience was very positive and the team could observe that the Alpbach Hubs were an important element in the EFA’s commitment to intergenerational dialogue and the strengthening of the Forum Alpbach Network.

## 5.3 Africa Alpbach Network (AAN), Report by the AAN Board

The Africa Alpbach Network (AAN) was founded in Alpbach, Austria in 2019. AAN has 77 members from at least ten African countries. 2021 has been an active and a productive year for the network beginning with the virtual Thrive Sessions. The sessions aimed to equip our members with skills for their professional advancement, through knowledge sharing sessions. The sessions were Secrets to Winning Funding Opportunities (April 23 2021) and The Triple Bottom Line of a Start-up (July 1 2021). AAN also hosted a virtual summit (May 27-29 2021), funded by the Bosch Alumni Network’s Regional Activity Grant. The summit aimed to reconnect alumni of AAN through online events. These events included 2 plenary sessions, speed networking, 3 breakout sessions, virtual games and a live reading. Participants with the highest attendance were awarded an e-certificate and Udemy courses were awarded to winners of the virtual games. The summit attracted approximately 150 participants over three days, 27 of whom were AAN members. Finally, AAN hosted 3 events at EFA21 – 2 hub sessions and one fireside chat. The hub sessions brought together experts from various parts of Africa to discuss Africa’s Public Health Response to Covid19 and the meaning of a just transition in Africa. Together with the Ban Ki Moon Centre, AAN hosted a fireside chat with the former UN Secretary General, and former President of Austria, Heinz Fischer, discussing Ban Ki-moon’s memoir Resolved.

## 6 Other activities

### 6.1 Archives of the European Forum Alpbach

As part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forum, archive materials that are held by the Forum Alpbach were analysed. First steps in saving the material, opening the archives and making the cultural heritage accessible for scientific use could be achieved.

#### **Audio-visual Archive**

Audio and video recordings of the Forum Alpbach could be handed over to the [Österreichische Mediathek](#) (Austrian archive for sound recordings and videos on cultural and contemporary history) for digitization. The process of digitizing was completed in August 2021. The material is now integrated in their archive and accessible for the public. The Forum got digital copies.

#### **Analogue Archive**

The analogue archive of the Forum consists mostly of documents, letters, photographs and printed materials (programmes, posters, folders) and is stored in the EFA office. To prevent the deterioration of the material as well as making the contents accessible, there are ongoing negotiations with the *wienbibliothek* (Vienna City Library) to integrate the Forums archive into their inventory. The wienbibliothek also houses the achival estates of Otto Molden and Paula von Preradovic, which makes it an appropriate place for the Forums history.

#### **Forum Alpbach Library**

With the remodelling of the Congress Centrum Alpbach in the 1990's, the old library of the Forum Alpbach was temporarily moved to the Austrian State Archives (Öster. Staatsarchiv). The library holds 150 shelf metres of books that have accumulated over the years, consisting of scientific books as well as novels. With the termination of the contract by the State Archives, selected books will be kept by the Forum while the majority will be given away to interested organisations and antiquarian bookstores.

## 7 Appendix

### 7.1 Feedback report of the European Forum Alpbach 2021

Attached as PDF.

### 7.2 Evaluation of participants of the European Forum Alpbach 2021

Attached as PDF.

### 7.3 Media presence of the European Forum Alpbach 2021

Attached as PDF.