

MOMENT OF TRUTH



European
Forum
Alpbach
2024

PROGRAMME DRAFT

EFA24

17.08.2024 TO 30.08.2024

Status: 10 June 2024

For the whole EFA24 programme please visit: www.alpbach.org

17 August 2024 08:30 - 13:00 | Stage

Euregio Young Researcher Award 2024

Hosted by: Euregio

Six finalists from different scientific disciplines will present their high-level research work on the topic of artificial intelligence (AI). With various research questions ranging from the topics of general aspects of AI to ethical and administrative issues, the winners will be awarded by the jury from the Euregio Universities at the evening event.

17 August 2024 08:30 - 13:00 | Stage

Euregio Innovation Award 2024

Hosted by: EUREGIO

During the Euregio Days, enterprises from the Euregio region Tyrol/South Tyrol/Trentino; will present their innovative products, processes and services concerning the field of artificial intelligence. The best projects are selected by a top-level jury led by Josef Margreiter and will be awarded at the evening event.

18 August 2024 09:00 - 09:45 | Ritual

Holy Mass

18 August 2024 11:15 - 12:45 | Stage

Tyrol Day 2024: Euregio Summit on Artificial Intelligence

The people of the Tyrol/South Tyrol/Trentino Euroregion gather in Alpbach. Outstanding research and innovation will be awarded. The "Tyrol Day" marks a festive highlight.

18 August 2024 18:00 - 19:30 | Stage

Welcome of Scholarship Holders

The European Forum Alpbach 2024 kick-off for scholarship holders and participants of the Alpbach Seminars: Meet your peers, see an art performance and inform yourself about everything you need to know to successfully navigate through the days ahead.

22 August 2024 20:00 - 23:00

LAB Days: Welcome

Celebrate the start of the EFA Lab Days with us. Meet old friends and new acquaintances in a relaxed atmosphere. Come and have a chat over a drink. We look forward to meeting you!

23 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Lab

Labs: Three-Day Working Sessions

Labs are three-day working sessions in curated groups of 30 to 40 invited participants. A Lab's goal is to develop ideas for a specific issue and new approaches to a precise question. The topics are chosen by EFA, sometimes in collaboration with a partner.

23 August 2024 15:00 - 18:00 | Lab

Labs: Three-Day Working Sessions

Labs are three-day working sessions in curated groups of 30 to 40 invited participants. A Lab's goal is to develop ideas for a specific issue and new approaches to a precise question. The topics are chosen by EFA, sometimes in collaboration with a partner.

23 August 2024 19:00 - 20:30 | Stage

Alpbach Seminars - Closing

Join the European Forum Alpbach 2024 Alpbach Seminars closing ceremony! A group of young talents from all over the world celebrates the successful completion of the Alpbach Seminars, shares insights into their learnings and takeaways, and gives inspiring art performances.

23 August 2024 20:00 - 20:30 | Ritual

Open Air Concert Alpbach Brass Band

On Fridays during the summer months, the Alpbach brass band hosts their open-air concert on the village square. All Alpbach residents as well as national and international guests are cordially invited!

24 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Alpbach IDEAS Kick-Off

Join us for the Alpbach IDEAS programme 2024/25! Alpbach IDEAS is a one-year journey that bridges the gap between theory, and offers a space to experiment, learn and co-create ideas for a more democratic and sustainable Europe to aspiring changemakers and innovators. Learn more about the programme and participation at Alpbach IDEAS 2024/2025.

24 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Lab

Labs: Three-Day Working Sessions

Labs are three-day working sessions in curated groups of 30 to 40 invited participants. A Lab's goal is to develop ideas for a specific issue and new approaches to a precise question. The topics are chosen by EFA, sometimes in collaboration with a partner.

24 August 2024 14:00 - 16:00 | Happening

Alpbach Pride

Hosted by: Initiative Group Alpbach Wien

Alpbach Pride celebrates its fourth edition! Join the parade and raise your voice against social exclusion. As prejudices and discriminating practices against the LGBTQIA* community are on the rise in Europe and beyond, it remains necessary to continue this newly established tradition. Feel free to come in your best Pride outfit and get the glitter shining for a joint celebration of diversity.

24 August 2024 16:30 - 18:30 | Stage

Opening: Europe in the World Days

The opening of the Europe in the World Days will revolve around the annual theme of this year's European Forum Alpbach "Moment of Truth" and the module focus of Europe's role in the world. It will pave the way for the subsequent discussions.

Fischer, Joschka; Former Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs; Federal Republic of Germany; Speaker

Pope Francis; Head of the Catholic Church; (via Livestream); Speaker

Treichl, Andreas; President; European Forum Alpbach; Speaker

24 August 2024 18:30 - 21:00 | Social

Starry, Starry Night – ERSTE Foundation Zeltfest

Supported by: Erste Stiftung

Under the principle “What do we want to achieve together?” – an evening of music, dialogue, and culinary interventions. Topics that concern us all - be it in Alpbach, Tyrol or elsewhere in Europe - will be addressed in an active and participatory manner. New forms of community and co-operation are needed: an evening for sharing what is truly important, and to celebrate together!

25 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

25 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Chat

Is Economic Inequality Inevitable?

Since the 1980s, wealth and income inequality has started to rise again in many countries. While some, such as the US, have seen a significant increase in inequality, others, such as Sweden, have maintained relatively stable levels. Explore the reasons for these divergent trends: What are the roots of inequality and which policies can make a real difference?

Felbermayr, Gabriel; Director; Austrian Institute of Economic Research; Speaker

Meierkord, Anja; Labour Market Expert; OECD; Moderator

Stiglitz, Joseph E.; Economist, Public Policy Analyst and Professor; Columbia University; Speaker

Weber, Andrea; Professor of Economics; Central European University; Speaker

25 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Winds of Radical Change in European Politics?

European politics is witnessing unprecedented shifts, challenging established structures and giving rise to new movements. This two-part debate will initially investigate whether a radical change in the European political landscape has in fact occurred, dissecting election results and the driving forces behind them. We will then discuss the broader implications, whether there will be a radical change in the trajectory of Europe and Europe's role in the world.

Krastev, Ivan; Permanent fellow; Institute for Human Sciences IWM Vienna; Speaker

Oertel, Janka; Director, Asia programme; European Council on Foreign Relations; Speaker

25 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

The Elephant in the Room: Goodbye, Cognitive Dissonance

It is an intellectual contradiction, an unbearable gap between personal aspirations and reality: Cognitive dissonance confronts us with the discrepancy between what we know and how we behave as we face major crises. The transformative potential of artistic and psychological approaches will help you find new ways to move beyond feelings of powerlessness and discomfort, and allow for utopian thinking.

Brudermann, Thomas; Associate Professor; University of Graz; Speaker

25 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Let's Talk to Each Other: Impulses in a Speechless World

Supported by: Federal Ministry for Defence

In a world of rapid change, fragmentation and polarisation mark society and politics. Although contemporary challenges require close international cooperation, the willingness and ability to engage in dialogue are dwindling. Democracy is under pressure, alternatives are appearing and Europe has to explain itself. How can defence policy support a stable space for discussions?

25 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

No Nature, No Business

All human economic activities rely on natural resources and ecosystems. Yet, the state of nature and biodiversity is critical all around the globe. Hear different concepts and strategies about how businesses can integrate nature and biodiversity goals into corporate strategies. It is explored how to achieve long-term prosperity and economic resilience, by becoming not only climate-neutral but climate-positive. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and sufficient water.

Dunlop, Kirsten; CEO; EIT Climate-KIC; Speaker

Ottacher, Gebhard; Managing Director; Climate Lab; Moderator

Rycroft, Nicole; Founder & Executive Director; CanopyPlanet; Speaker

Schumacher, Tim; Co-Founder; Ecosia.org & World Fund; Speaker

25 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Risky Business: Europe's Economic (In-)Security

The pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shown Europe's dependencies in critical areas. Since then, there has been a lot of talk about "de-risking": mitigating risks and limiting strategic dependencies. However, it's still not clear what this would mean for Europe. How much de-risking is necessary to safeguard Europe's economic security and when does de-risking itself become a risk to the economy? //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Gehrke, Tobias; Senior Policy Fellow; European Council on Foreign Relations; Speaker

Hahn, Svenja; Member of the European Parliament; European Parliament; Speaker

Herlitschka, Sabine; Chief Executive Officer; Infineon Technologies Austria AG; Speaker

Zettelmeyer, Jeromin; Director; Bruegel; Speaker

Zinkanell, Michael Gabriel; Director; Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES); Moderator

25 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Chat

The Geopolitics of Enlargement: A Way to Safeguard the European Space

Supported by: European Council on Foreign Relations

The EU Enlargement is increasingly seen as an effective foreign policy tool to diminish the influence of external powers in the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans. Reframing European integration as a strategy to provide security for the neighbourhoods, as well as make EU Member States safer, will certainly strengthen the EU's standing as a geopolitical actor - for example through a sustainable peace settlement for Ukraine and sound security arrangements for Moldova.

Buras, Piotr; Head ECFR Warsaw; European Council on Foreign Relations; Moderator

25 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Harnessing AI in the Service of Democracy

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to advance, there is growing interest in leveraging its capabilities to enhance democratic processes and governance. We aim to nurture a nuanced understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with harnessing AI in the service of democracy and of its potential for improving democratic engagement. Join the dialogue on best practices, ethical considerations and policy implications.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Mayer, Katja; Elise Richter Fellow; University of Vienna; Speaker

Nkonde, Mutale; Founder & CEO; AI for the People; Speaker

Simic, Ana; CEO | Supervisory Board Member; Engage Technology | ASFINAG | EuroTeleSites AG;

Moderator

Villani, Cédric; University Professor; University Lyon I & IHES; Speaker

25 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Making Pension Systems Fit for the Future

Global demographic changes, such as declining birth rates and increasing life expectancy, are challenging the sustainability of many European pension systems. Explore how successful pension models can provide valuable lessons. It is critical to act now and implement policies that ensure a secure future for all, preventing old-age poverty for future generations. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Meierkord, Anja; Labour Market Expert; OECD; Moderator

25 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

New African-European Ambition: Ways Forward in Energy, Climate and Tech

Supported by: Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Africa and Europe have the unique opportunity to work together in the context of emerging tools and technologies and to co-create climate and energy policy solutions. Those have to be just and effective for both sides on the path towards climate neutrality. Leading policy makers, activists and experts discuss the ambitions, potentials and hurdles the African-European partnership is facing.

25 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Engaging the Private Sector for the Social Good

Supported by: Friends of Europe

Businesses are pivotal to Europe's social contract, driving growth and innovation while impacting societal well-being. Despite public mistrust of their profit-led motives, their capacity for rapid, scalable innovation is undeniable. Explore how governments and the EU can harness this potential for the social good, rethinking interactions between the private sector, public institutions, and citizens to forge a new relationship.

Kanani, Dharmendra; Chief Operating Officer and Chief Spokesperson; Friends of Europe; Speaker

25 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

The Future of Multilateralism

The world is far from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Extreme poverty and hunger are increasing, violent conflicts are multiplying and global emissions are at their highest levels ever. In September, the UN will convene a "Summit of the Future" to reinvigorate multilateralism. How should the system be adapted to better meet current challenges? Hear perspectives from different countries, and share your ideas for the future of multilateralism.

Wehler-Schöck, Anja; Head of the International Politics Department; Tagesspiegel; Moderator

25 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

The End of the World as We Know It: Big Oil's Final Countdown

If the global community is to be true to its commitments, carbon emissions need to be reduced by at least 45 % globally and by at least 55 % EU-wide by 2030. Fossil fuel use and production need to be scaled down, yet the industry remains heavily subsidised. It is time to explore the most effective ways of bringing movement into the stuck system of 'big oil' power. What can (shareholder) activism, (financial) regulation, investment stewardship, or other actors achieve?

Campanale, Mark; Founder & Director; Carbon Tracker Initiative; Speaker
Vanizette, Christian; Co-Founder; chilli.club & makesense; Speaker

25 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Stage

Financing the Green Transition: Who Is Going to Pay the Bill?

The transition that lies ahead is unprecedented. Achieving a climate-neutral economy requires political commitment as well as substantial investment and rapid action. It is vital to ensure a just and equitable transition for all stakeholders, leaving no one behind. Explore how to unlock the necessary investment, both from the EU and national public sectors, and from the private sector.

Dixson-Declève, Sandrine; Co-President; The Club of Rome; Speaker
Hamers, Ralph; Former CEO; UBS and ING; Speaker
Rosen, Monika; Vice President; Austro-American Society; Moderator

25 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Chat

Finding Common Ground in a Polarised World

Against the backdrop of growing polarisation, the complexity of national identities, diverse cultures and opposing ideologies, ways must be found for meaningful dialogue and common ground. How can we bridge divides in politics and society? Can shared values or goals serve as a foundation?

Füredi, Frank; Executive Director; MCC Brussels; Speaker
Szyszkowitz, Tessa; Author, Journalist and Columnist; Falter; Moderator

25 August 2024 18:30 - 19:00 | Ritual

Into the Silence: Evening Ritual

A place of calm: Spiritual impulses from various religious and philosophical backgrounds invite you to contemplate and reflect. Inspiring initiators tell their stories, take you on a journey of the mind and initiate moments of genuine stillness.

25 August 2024 18:30 - 19:30 | Stage

To Grow or Not to Grow: The Path Towards a Climate-Positive Economy

The negative social, emotional and environmental consequences of our current model of economic growth are becoming ever more evident. Planetary resources are finite and emissions from production and consumption steadily increase. What model works best to achieve economic, social and planetary wellbeing? Hear three visions and challenge the speakers with your questions.

26 August 2024 04:00 - 09:00 | Hike

Sunrise Hike: Gratspitz

Rise and shine: Enjoy the first rays of sunshine on the top of Alpbach. Experience this special atmosphere and start your day energised!

//INFO: The hike is not recommended for beginners! Please wear hiking boots, bring water and possibly a small snack. Participation at your own risk!

26 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

26 August 2024 08:00 - 08:30 | Ritual

Into the Silence: Morning Ritual

A place of calm: Spiritual impulses from various religious and philosophical backgrounds invite you to contemplate and reflect. Inspiring initiators tell their stories, take you on a journey of the mind and initiate moments of genuine stillness.

26 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Chat

EU Enlargement: A New Chapter or Old Wine in New Bottles?

The war in Ukraine has brought a new sense of urgency to the EU enlargement process. The European Council opened accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova. Now comes the hard part, as the candidate countries in the Western Balkans know only too well. We will discuss what Ukraine and Moldova can learn from their experiences and what impact the new momentum driven by Ukraine has on the enlargement process in the Western Balkans and in general.

Edtstadler, Karoline; Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution; Republic of Austria; Speaker
Gherasimov, Cristina; Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration; Republic of Moldova; Speaker
Mayr-Harting, Thomas; Chair of the International Advisory Board; European Forum Alpbach; Moderator
Milatović, Jakov; President; Republic of Montenegro; Speaker

26 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Energy Beyond Borders: Industry Partnerships for a Sustainable Future

Supported by: Enery

Envision a future where sustainable energy powers Europe's industry. Explore how partnerships between industry, green energy producers, and public stakeholders are tackling climate challenges and enhance economies along with innovations such as cross-border Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Join us to shape Europe's energy future and drive collective action towards a greener future.

26 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Rethinking Work in the Age of AI & Automation

Digital technologies have fundamentally changed the way businesses operate and people interact. While many jobs will be lost along the way, many more will be created and almost all will be transformed. What will the future of work look like? Discuss how policy makers, companies and societies can ensure that workers acquire the skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing labour market. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Meierkord, Anja; Labour Market Expert; OECD; Speaker
Meissner, Philip; Founder / Director; European Center for Digital Competitiveness; Speaker
Simic, Ana; CEO | Supervisory Board Member; Engage Technology | ASFINAG | EuroTeleSites AG; Moderator
Stengg, Werner; Cabinet Expert; European Commission; Speaker

26 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Youth as Catalysts for Change

Young people are increasingly powerful agents of change, driving innovative solutions and advocating for progressive policies on a global scale. We aim to illuminate the pivotal role of youth in shaping policies worldwide, exploring their diverse contributions – such as involving first-time voters or training other young change-makers – and charting pathways for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Dober, Rebekka; Founder; YEP Austria; Speaker
Pressl, Damita; Journalist and Moderator; NZZ; Moderator

26 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Resilience Against a Backlash: Maintaining Momentum for Climate Action

There will either be a just transition or no transition at all – This is a statement that is often heard. Particularly in times of (anticipated) backsliding on climate action, it is crucial that a) the transition is designed by taking everyone's needs and interests into account, and b) polarising voices do not dominate the discourse. Explore arguments and policies that really work in addressing the trilemma of social justice, democratic participation and climate action and find out how to best make the case for such policies in order to counter an anti-climate mood.

Colau, Ada; Mayor of Barcelona (2015-2023); Barcelona Council Hall; Speaker
Kambli, Namita; Research Manager; E3G; Moderator

26 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Work

Campaign for the Future

Have you heard the good news? It's a historic election year: the ideal time for a playful reflection on the utopian potential of elections and democracy itself. Take part in two utopian election campaigns and work with the campaign teams as they prepare for a collective performative election rally.

Aksöz Balzar, Zeynep; Assistant Professor; TU Wien; Artist
Hunter, Tonica; Curator, Lecturer; Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien; Artist
Kirner, Viktoria; Journalist, musician, lawyer; Der Standard; Artist
Mayr, Jakob; Designer; Studio Jakob Mayr; Artist
Puschmann, Florian; Artist
Todorovic, Aleksandar; Graphic designer; Self-employed entrepreneur; Artist
Wittmann, Kilian; Graphic Design; Kilian Wittmann; Artist

26 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Finding a New Balance in Times of Crises: Trade and Climate Relations between Europe and Africa

The EU has made commitments to support Africa in its climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. At the same time, the EU's climate diplomacy actions could contribute to a potential slowing down of African economic growth. How can the two continents shape a relationship that advances decarbonisation without creating trade barriers, that is, a relationship that is reciprocal and fit for the challenges of the 21st century? //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and sufficient water.

Kenewendo, Bogolo Joy; Speaker

Lamy, Pascal; Chairman; Climate Oversight Commission; Speaker

26 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Supporting a Balanced and Sustainable Diet

Supported by: Nestlé

A balanced diet should provide all macro- and micronutrients a person needs to remain healthy. Food's affordability and accessibility often stand as barriers. At the same time, we need to ensure that food is produced in a way that creates a more resilient future of our planet and its people. So how can the dietary needs over the human lifespan be addressed in a sustainable manner?

26 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

State-Sponsored Disinformation and the Dangers to Electoral Integrity

In this historic election year, we are confronted with the multifaceted challenges posed by state-sponsored disinformation more than ever before. This includes voter manipulation and defamation campaigns. Explore the learnings we can draw from these attacks on electoral integrity and identify strategies to best protect the democratic electoral process of the future.

Kovalcikova, Nad'a; Senior Analyst and CFI Project Director; EU Institute for Security Studies; Speaker

Schiffrin, Anya; Director of the Technology, Media and Communication Department; Columbia University SIPA; Speaker

26 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

US vs. EU Green Tech Race: How to Work Together?

The US and the EU are both pushing their green industries, but they are taking different approaches. The recent US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) sent a clear message that green technology is a profitable industry. This has raised concerns in Europe that companies will choose to invest in the US rather than in Europe. What can Europe learn from the US to unlock private investment in clean technologies and which opportunities for cooperation exist?

Gerbert, Philipp; CEO; TUM Venture Labs; Speaker

Mateen, Haaris; Assistant Professor of Finance; University of Houston; Speaker

Rosen, Monika; Vice President; Austro-American Society; Moderator

26 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Imagining Green, Sustainable and Regenerative Cities

Supported by: IKEA

The session will visualise greener urban landscapes, focusing on transforming urban spaces globally to ensure a sustainable and livable future. The discussion delves into the practical realisation of these concepts, aiming to create environmentally sustainable urban environments that are well-prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

26 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Stage

Better Safe Than Sorry: Time to Get Serious about European Strategic Sovereignty

Former US President Trump's statements about NATO shocked European allies and raised doubts about the continued reliability of the US as Europe's security guarantor. Will Europe be able to defend and promote its way of life without the US? What does it take to achieve more sovereignty in terms of security and defence?

González Laya, Arancha; Dean Paris School of International Affairs; Sciences Po; Speaker
Pisarska, Katarzyna; Founder & Director; European Academy of Diplomacy; Speaker
Schallenberg, Alexander; Federal Minister for European and International Affairs; Republic of Austria; Speaker

26 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Chat

Joining Forces for 1.5 Degrees

The more the global community delays its climate actions, the more drastic they will have to be. At the same time, disasters and looming crises unite individuals and organisations to achieve the previously unthinkable. What are moonshot moments of transformation that will bring global climate goals on track in the imminent future? How can we redesign our social and economic systems to prioritise sustainability, regeneration, and resilience in face of the risk of missing the 1.5-degree target?

Dixson-Declève, Sandrine; Co-President; The Club of Rome; Speaker
Rycroft, Nicole; Founder & Executive Director; CanopyPlanet; Speaker

26 August 2024 18:30 - 19:30 | Stage

Relationship Status EU-China: It's Complicated.

In its 2019 strategic outlook on EU-China relations, the European Commission described China as a partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival. Since then, China has become more repressive at home and more assertive abroad. Should the new Commission adapt its strategy? Listen to three different perspectives on EU-China relations and challenge the speakers with your questions.

Oertel, Janka; Director, Asia programme; European Council on Foreign Relations; Speaker
Zinkanell, Michael Gabriel; Director; Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES); Moderator

26 August 2024 20:00 - 22:00 | Social

Celebrate Europe together

Supported by: Erste Group

Tyrol welcomes Europe: The Alphof terrace transforms into a dance floor. Let's embrace this occasion, meet new people, clink our glasses and take in the vibrant Alpbach ambiance.

27 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

27 August 2024 08:00 - 08:30 | Ritual

Into the Silence: Morning Ritual

A place of calm: Spiritual impulses from various religious and philosophical backgrounds invite you to contemplate and reflect. Inspiring initiators tell their stories, take you on a journey of the mind and initiate moments of genuine stillness.

27 August 2024 09:00 - 10:00 | Stage

Closing: Europe in the World Days

To close out the Europe in the World Days, an in-depth ex-post analysis of the previous European Commission cycle and an ex-ante analysis for the upcoming one are completed while looking for a broad vision for the future of the EU.

Cloos, Jim; Secretary General; TEPSA; Speaker

27 August 2024 10:00 - 11:30 | Chat

(Re-)Creating Affordable Housing in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

Supported by: Erste Stiftung

While affordable housing models thrive in Austria, they have almost ceased to exist in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), where the vast majority of the population lives in their own dwelling. Following a recent surge in real estate prices, flats in the region's major cities have become the most expensive in the European Union, posing a real challenge, especially for the younger generation. We'll delve into the strategies to leverage Austria's experience in creating new ways towards affordable housing in CEE.

27 August 2024 12:00 - 14:30 | Happening

EFA x Popchop Food Market

Regional farmers and producers meet urban foodies. Enjoy your lunch break over a variety of culinary delights and get inspired by the topic of sustainable nutrition. After taking some refreshment, let's head to the opening of the Austria in Europe Days. Bon Appétit!

27 August 2024 16:30 - 18:30 | Stage

Opening: Austria in Europe Days

The opening of the Austria in Europe Days revolves around the annual theme of this year's EFA event "Moment of Truth" and paves the way for subsequent discussions.

Grossi, Rafael; Director General; International Atomic Energy Agency; Speaker

Milborn, Corinna; Author | Journalist | Moderator; ProSieben.Sat1.PULS4; Moderator

Neubauer, Luisa; Climate Activist & Author; Fridays for Future; Speaker

Schmid, Helga Maria; Secretary General; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; Speaker

Treichl, Andreas; President; European Forum Alpbach; Speaker

27 August 2024 18:30 - 20:00 | Happening

Inhabit the Future: Election Night

A campaign with a twist appears all over Alpbach this year. The votes have almost been counted, exit polls are announced, the excitement is mounting: Which long-term vision of the future will it be? Who will win the election of utopias? The students of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art will help you decide by staging two different visions during an exciting election rally. The campaign is almost over – cast your vote and be there when the results are announced.

Aksöz Balzar, Zeynep; Assistant Professor; TU Wien; Artist

Hunter, Tonica; Curator, Lecturer; Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien; Artist

Kirner, Viktoria; Journalist, musician, lawyer; Der Standard; Artist

Mayr, Jakob; Designer; Studio Jakob Mayr; Artist

Puschmann, Florian; Artist

Todorovic, Aleksandar; Graphic designer; Self-employed entrepreneur; Artist

Wittmann, Kilian; Graphic Design; Kilian Wittmann; Artist

27 August 2024 18:30 - 22:00 | Social

Cheers to EFA24 by A1

Supported by: A1

After an inspiring start to the Austria in Europe Days, let's continue the conversation over music, drinks and some nibbles! Connect with fellow participants, exchange ideas, and wind down in a relaxed atmosphere.

27 August 2024 20:00 - 23:59 | Social

A1 Get-Together

Supported by: A1

The traditional Get-Together with inspiring thinkers and leaders from Austria and from abroad.

Session Language: German

28 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

28 August 2024 08:00 - 08:30 | Ritual

Into the Silence: Morning Ritual

A place of calm: Spiritual impulses from various religious and philosophical backgrounds invite you to contemplate and reflect. Inspiring initiators tell their stories, take you on a journey of the mind and initiate moments of genuine stillness.

28 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Chat

Back on Track: Democratic Backsliding and the Challenge of Re-Democratisation

With democratic norms in a worldwide decline, the consequences of this erosion have to be recognised and democratic success stories, such as the case of Poland, have to be appreciated and learnings adopted. We build an understanding of the signs and steps of democratic backsliding, and examine the challenge of re-democratisation, most notably restoring checks and balances and media freedom.

Bodnar, Adam; Minister of Justice; Republic of Poland; Speaker

Pressl, Damita; Journalist and Moderator; NZZ; Moderator

Spremo, Jovana; Advocacy Director; Lawyers' Committee for Human Right YUCOM; Speaker

Zadić, Alma; Federal Minister of Justice; Republic of Austria; Speaker

28 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Alpbach IDEAS Camp

Become part of Alpbach IDEAS, a one-year journey that bridges the gap between theory and practice and creates a space for experiments and continuous learning. Aspiring changemakers, innovators, and problem solvers are invited to participate in three dynamic workshops called IDEAS Camps. Active participation in all workshops is highly recommended for those interested in joining the Alpbach IDEAS programme in 2024/2025.

28 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Enough Is Enough

Eine ökosoziale Zukunft, in der wir unsere Ressourcen nicht überschreiten, erscheint wie eine Utopie. Mit einem Projekt, in dem Wissenschaft und Kunst zusammenarbeiten, werden Suffizienzbemühungen erfahrbar gemacht.

28 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Shifting Paradigms: Use the Power of Your Personal Climate Handprint

The escalating climate crisis demands urgent action from as many people as possible. However, when it comes to climate action, many people feel powerless, overwhelmed, and frustrated. Framings that individualise responsibility, along with finger-pointing and blame-games, lead to guilt, repression, and inactivity. We will explore how the term “carbon footprint” has contributed to provoking this situation and how each of us can contribute to positive change effectively by applying the climate handprint concept. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and sufficient water.

Baunach, Gabriel; Climate Communicator and Author; Speaker

Schwarz, Corina; Energy Expert; AEA - Austrian Energy Agency; Speaker

28 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Disunited in Diversity: What Role for the EU in the Middle East?

Unlike in the case of the war in Ukraine, the EU has not been able to speak with one voice regarding the war in Gaza. Member states have been criticised for applying double standards regarding the two conflicts. How does this affect Europe’s credibility in the Middle East and beyond and what role can the EU play in fostering a sustainable peace? //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Fitzgerald, Mary; Non-resident scholar; Middle East Institute, Washington DC; Speaker

Wehler-Schöck, Anja; Head of the International Politics Department; Tagesspiegel; Moderator

28 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Beyond Money: Improving Your Financial Well-being

Assess your own financial well-being and learn tricks to improve it using the latest findings from financial well-being research and behavioural science. Gain a more holistic understanding of your financial well-being, learn about the biases that may be holding you back, and get ideas on how to overcome them with simple steps that can go far beyond finances.

Pello, Rauno; Head of Design and Research; ERSTE Foundation; Speaker

Riitsalu, Leonore; Research Fellow in Behavioural Policy; University of Tartu; Speaker

28 August 2024 10:00 - 11:30 | Work

What will the EU get from the accession of Ukraine?

Supported by: Erste Stiftung

What will the EU get from the accession of Ukraine? The event will discuss what benefits the EU will get from Ukraine's accession despite the cost incurred. Current estimates suggest that Ukraine's membership will be bearable for the EU budget, even given the war uncertainty. Ukraine will enhance the EU in the military area, energy, agriculture, pharmacy, IT.

28 August 2024 14:00 - 16:00 | Work

Alpbach IDEAS Camp

Become part of Alpbach IDEAS, a one-year journey that bridges the gap between theory and practice and creates a space for experiments and continuous learning. Aspiring changemakers, innovators, and problem solvers are invited to participate in three dynamic workshops called IDEAS Camps. Active participation in all workshops is highly recommended for those interested in joining the Alpbach IDEAS programme in 2024/2025.

28 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Stop, Look and Listen: Sensing Nature

Conserving biodiversity and our ecosystem for the future requires respect for and a deeper understanding of the natural world – and it all starts with listening and looking intently. Learn to reconnect more deeply with your environment and your fellow beings by experimenting with sound and found material. Immerse yourself in the sensory environment of the local forest.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Džaferović, Tin; Lecturer, Musician; Freelancer; Artist

Gruber, Christina; Artist

28 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Europe's Scale-Up Challenge: How to Grow Up in Europe?

European innovation thrives at the start-up level, yet many promising ventures often stumble at the scale-up stage compared to their US and Scandinavian counterparts. Join an interactive discussion on the financing bottlenecks that European entrepreneurs face when trying to scale up their businesses and find ways to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem that unlocks Europe's investment potential. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Buchmayr, Daniela; CEO; Sarcura GmbH; Speaker

Polagnoli, Lucanus; CEO; Calm/Storm Ventures; Speaker

Rosen, Monika; Vice President; Austro-American Society; Moderator

28 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Addressing the Paradox: Demographic Trends vs. Migration Fears

Europe's population is ageing, labour markets are evolving and the demand for immigrant labour grows accordingly. Yet concerns and anxieties about migration persist. Join us as we navigate this paradox and examine how societies and governments can strike a balance between tackling demographic imperatives and addressing fears about immigration. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Dalhuisen, John; Senior Fellow; European Stability Initiative; Moderator

28 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Understand Forces of Nature, Experience Disaster Prevention

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism

Torrent and avalanche control ensures the sustainable fulfilment of protection against natural hazards in rural regions. During this practical excursion, participants will gain an insight into the implementation of disaster prevention in Austria and neighbouring countries, visit protective structures and experience how natural disasters are dealt with in a simulation game example.

Totschnig, Norbert; Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management; Republic of Austria; Speaker

28 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Demographic Change and Affordable Pensions: Challenges and Prospects

Supported by: Federation of Austrian Industries

The birth rate is falling, the proportion of older people is rising: Europe and Austria are facing enormous demographic change. These developments are accompanied by new trends and ever-increasing employee mobility. Against this backdrop, the following questions arise: Are European pension systems fit for the future? Are they able to maintain their promise of benefits? Are the social systems keeping pace here? This is a discussion on necessary measures and how politicians can drive forward bold changes despite concerns about votes.

28 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Regenerative Agriculture: Debunking an Imaginary Conflict

Productivity and sustainability are often played off against each other, and so are the interests of the agricultural production system and the natural ecosystem. Hear from actors from the agri-food value chain who have come together across their individual industry silos to transform the system towards a regenerative agriculture. Find out which systemic shifts generate a shared vision among initially unlikely allies.

INFO: Join us for an optional hike after the session to exchange ideas on how you can transfer learnings from the session to your own field of action.

Degn, Ivo; Managing Director; Climate farmers; Speaker

28 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Let Others Wage War For You, Thou, Happy Austria, Stay Neutral?

According to a poll, 72 % of Austrians expect other EU members to defend them in case of a military attack, but only 14 % say that Austria should support other EU members with armed troops. This attitude is also reflected in statements from government officials and could lead to Austria's isolation. Time for an honest discussion about the tension between neutrality and solidarity and the consequences for Austrian security policy.

28 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Green Transformation: Role of Banks, Asset Managers & Businesses

Supported by: Raiffeisen Bank International & Raiffeisen-Landesbank Steiermark

The green transformation requires joint efforts of banks, asset managers, businesses, and the public sector to redesign our economy. Central aspects include identifying prerequisites, determining actions from stakeholders and understanding financing and the associated costs. The discussion will revolve around the role of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Austria and Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and around the circular economy.

28 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

How Trust runs the World

Supported by: Greiner

Trust in business, politics and media is the basis for our coexistence in a society. Trust is necessary to maintain international relations, to strengthen democracy and to enable companies to operate successfully. In times of loss of trust, the following question arises: How can trust be (re)established?

28 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Stage

Countering Far-Right Narratives and the Responsibility of the Centre

The resurgence of the far-right presents a significant challenge to democratic values and social cohesion. The political centre plays a crucial role as it oscillates between combating and adopting far-right narratives. In a constructive debate, effective countermeasures and ways to defend our inclusive and democratic societies are to be found.

Karas, Othmar; First Vice-President; European Parliament; Speaker

Karnitschnig, Matthew; Speaker

Szyszkowitz, Tessa; Author, Journalist and Columnist; Falter; Moderator

Theisen, Esther; Researcher; modus|zad - Centre for Applied Deradicalisation Studies; Speaker

28 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Chat

European Defence: Investing More, Better and European

In the ongoing war of attrition, Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia's attacks depends on Western military assistance. However, US support is stalling and could be further reduced after the elections. This gap has to be filled by European countries which also have to replenish their own arsenals. How can Europe make better use of the potential of its defence industry and deliver what is needed?

Kofman, Michael; Senior Fellow; Carnegie Endowment; Speaker

Zinkanell, Michael Gabriel; Director; Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES); Moderator

28 August 2024 18:30 - 19:30 | Stage

2100: The End of Democracy?

As the world grapples with political, social and technological transformations, fresh visions for the future of democracy need to emerge. Hear three divergent perspectives on the evolution of democracy in the 21st century and challenge the speakers with your questions.

Cesnulaityte, Ieva; Europe's Futures Fellow; IWM; Speaker

Glenny, Misha; Rector; IWM; Speaker

Pressl, Damita; Journalist and Moderator; NZZ; Moderator

29 August 2024 04:00 - 09:00 | Hike

Sunrise Hike: Gratlspitz

Rise and shine: Enjoy the first rays of sunshine on the top of Alpbach. Experience this special atmosphere and start your day energised!

//INFO: The hike is not recommended for beginners! Please wear hiking boots, bring water and possibly a small snack. Participation at your own risk!

29 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

29 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Chat

Tomorrow Today: Imagining a Liveable Future

Imagine what a transformed future will look and feel like – and you have already taken the first step towards it. After a short introduction on the usefulness of applied imagination, in this session participants will explore and co-create narrations of a future where humanity will have successfully achieved the transformation. Share your thoughts on a climate-positive future and the path towards it.

Neubauer, Luisa; Climate Activist & Author; Fridays for Future; Speaker

Tickell, Phoebe; Founder and CEO; Moral Imaginations; Speaker

29 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Alpbach IDEAS Camp

Become part of Alpbach IDEAS, a one-year journey that bridges the gap between theory and practice and creates a space for experiments and continuous learning. Aspiring changemakers, innovators, and problem solvers are invited to participate in three dynamic workshops called IDEAS Camps. Active participation in all workshops is highly recommended for those interested in joining the Alpbach IDEAS programme in 2024/2025.

29 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Rethinking (Wealth) Taxation

The increase in income and wealth inequality poses a serious challenge to impoverished individuals and threatens both social mobility and economic stability. Taxation and other redistributive mechanisms can counteract these dynamics. Explore the crucial role of the state in addressing the dynamics that drive inequality. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Goldin, Ian; Professor; Oxford University; Speaker

Meierkord, Anja; Labour Market Expert; OECD; Moderator

29 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Hike

Setting the Agenda: EU Reform Priorities for the Next Commission

Europe is at a critical juncture ahead of the appointment of the next European Commission. We have to collectively outline EU reform priorities, including potential treaty change, that will shape the future of the continent. Let's jointly explore a course towards a strong and democratic Europe.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Lührmann, Anna; Minister of State for Europe and Climate; Federal Republic of Germany; Speaker
Oberreiter, Thomas; Ambassador; Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU; Speaker
Pornschlegel, Sophie; Director of Studies; Europe Jacques Delors; Speaker
Schaidreiter, Raffaella; Correspondent ORF-Brussels; ORF - Austrian public broadcaster; Moderator

29 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

Turn Green: Standing Assets in a Sustain

Supported by: Adomo

Transforming existing buildings sustainably without forgetting the social aspects is a huge task. We dive into analysis methods, strategies for sustainable management, retrofitting options and much more, to find solutions that can be implemented in reality.

29 August 2024 09:00 - 12:00 | Work

The Art of Grand Strategy

Grand Strategy determines how states apply their political, diplomatic, military and economic tools to advance their national interests. After an introduction to the concept, you will work in groups on various aspects of a future EU Grand Strategy. You will discuss how the EU can stabilize Europe, secure its southern flank and keep the world together.

Biscop, Sven; Professor; Egmont Institute & Ghent University; Speaker

29 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Work

Utopia Build-a-Box

Reimagine the present and reshape our understanding of tomorrow using the tools of design and storytelling. Build a tool set through creative exercises to imagine positive, collective futures.

Lotze, Johannes; Master Student; Design Investigations, University of applied Arts Vienna; Artist
Neubauer, Angela; Masters Student; Design Investigations, University of applied Arts Vienna; Artist
Schönauer, Stefan; Masters Student; Design Investigations, University of applied Arts Vienna; Artist

29 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

Untapping Potential and Strengthening Cohesion: Energy Transition in EU Candidate Countries

Nine countries are currently in line for EU membership, and their EU integration process in terms of climate and energy goals is already underway. By looking at cases from the broader region, this session showcases the opportunities of jointly engaging in the energy transition. It will outline how the EU and candidate countries can together foster cohesion and enhance Europe's energy security and resilience. //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and sufficient water.

29 August 2024 14:00 - 16:30 | Hike

The Externalisation of EU Migration Management: Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

In order to curb irregular migration, the EU has concluded several agreements with third countries such as Turkey, Tunisia and most recently Egypt. There are also discussions on transferring asylum seekers to purportedly safe third countries and processing their asylum applications there like the UK plans to do in Rwanda. Does this approach work and is it compatible with European values? //INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

Dalhuisen, John; Senior Fellow; European Stability Initiative; Moderator

Goldner Lang, Iris; Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law, Head of Department of European Public Law and Vice Dean; University of Zagreb - Faculty of Law; Speaker

Hahn, Helena; Policy Analyst; European Policy Centre; Speaker

Mandl, Lukas (tbc.); Member of the European Parliament; European Parliament; Speaker

29 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

Confronting Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in Europe

In recent years, Europe has witnessed a concerning resurgence of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, threatening the fabric of pluralistic societies and undermining the principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence. The origins, proliferation and impact on communities across the continent are explored, seeking effective methods to confront these forms of hatred.

Al-Bagdadi, Nadia; University Professor; Central European University; Speaker

Sichrovsky, Ilja; Founder & Director; Muslim Jewish Conference; Speaker

Szyszkowitz, Tessa; Author, Journalist and Columnist; Falter; Moderator

29 August 2024 14:00 - 15:30 | Chat

How to Govern AI in Austria

Supported by: Microsoft

Securing prosperity, seizing opportunities, shaping the future – What is the Austrian strategy for a regulatory framework and successful implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in business, society and administration?

29 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Stage

Looking Back 100.000 Years: Learning for the Future

Ringler, Marie; Vice-President & Global Leadership Group Member; European Forum Alpbach & Ashoka; Chair

Wragg Sykes, Rebecca; Archaeologist & Author; McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge; Speaker

29 August 2024 17:00 - 18:00 | Chat

The Incoming European Commission's Agenda on Delivering the Green Transition

As Europe moves towards climate neutrality by 2050, the European Commission needs to support EU Member States in implementing reforms that support the green transition and contribute to the achievement of the Green Deal. What are the key priorities and potential stumbling blocks for the new Commission? Find out how citizens, businesses and stakeholders can contribute to the success of the green transition.

Lamy, Pascal; Chairman; Climate Overshoot Commission; Speaker

Moore, Brooke; Policy Analyst; European Policy Centre; Speaker

Rosen, Monika; Vice President; Austro-American Society; Moderator

29 August 2024 18:30 - 19:00 | Ritual

Into the Silence: Evening Ritual

A place of calm: Spiritual impulses from various religious and philosophical backgrounds invite you to contemplate and reflect. Inspiring initiators tell their stories, take you on a journey of the mind and initiate moments of genuine stillness.

29 August 2024 18:30 - 19:30 | Stage

Empowering Women and Disadvantaged Groups through Financial Literacy

Supported by: Liechtenstein Group

Access to financial education remains a privilege, particularly for women and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. In Austria, women face a pension gap of 48 % and a wealth gap of 30 % compared to men. Vote for innovative projects that promote financial equity and decide which teams will receive seed funding to further develop their projects.

Strolz, Matthias; Impact Entrepreneur; Büro Dr. Matthias Strolz; Moderator

29 August 2024 20:00 - 23:00 | Social

It's a Wrap

Another EFA event is coming to an end. We invite you to dance and celebrate, to toast our shared experiences and the new friends we have made. Let us make this evening an unforgettable one – See you on the dance floor!

30 August 2024 07:00 - 08:00 | Ritual

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Supported by: Federal Ministry of Defence

Start the day with a boost of energy! The trainers of the Austrian Armed Forces will get you sweating with military functional fitness on the forecourt of the CCA - an ideal way to recover from stress and prevent burnout or illness.

30 August 2024 09:00 - 10:30 | Stage

Lead Candidates Debate on Austria's Role in Europe

At the end of the Austria in Europe Days, we take a look at the upcoming parliamentary elections and discuss Austria's role in Europe with representatives of the parliamentary parties.

Babler, Andreas; Federal Party Chairman; SPÖ - Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs; Speaker

Kickl, Herbert (tbc.); Federal Party Chairman; FPÖ - Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs; Speaker

Kogler, Werner; Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport; Republic of Austria; Speaker

Meinl-Reisinger, Beate; Party Leader; NEOS - Das Neue Österreich und Liberale Forum; Speaker

Nehammer, Karl (tbc.); Federal Chancellor; Republic of Austria; Speaker

30 August 2024 10:30 - 13:00 | Happening

EFA24 Farewell Brunch

Let's say goodbye to an exciting time and take the opportunity to get together once more for a relaxed brunch. Personal highlights, unique experiences, inspiring encounters and intensive discussions: We look forward to hearing your stories! We hope to see you again next year!