

How Europe Wins

EFA26: 24 August to 4 September 2026

Your personal schedule for:

Version: 10 Nov 2026

24.08.2026 18:00 - 24.08.2026 19:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Welcome of Scholarship Holders

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
The European Forum Alpbach 2026 kick-off for scholarship holders and participants of the Alpbach Academy Days: Meet your peers, and inform yourself about everything you need to know to successfully navigate through the days ahead.

Karas, Othmar: President (European Forum Alpbach)
McGuinness, Mairéad: EU Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom (FoRB) of Religion or Belief (European Commission)

24.08.2026 20:00 - 24.08.2026 21:00 | Happening | CCA – Otto Molden Foyer

Scavenger Hunt

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Discover Alpbach together! Join a scavenger hunt in groups of up to ten and take on a shared challenge along the way. Creative and humorous answers are highly encouraged – the most original contributions will be showcased during the International Evening.

//INFO: The scavenger hunt should not take more than an hour. It will start after the welcome drinks reception at the Otto-Molden-Foyer.

24.08.2026 21:00 - 24.08.2026 22:00 | Happening | Sportanlage Alpbach – Football Field

Welcome to EFA26!

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Letting go after the formalities! You've gotten to know a bit of Alpbach and made some new friends; now it's time to break the ice with hundreds of new friends from around the world. Music, drinks, and food will liven up the occasion.

25.08.2026 08:15 - 25.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA's vibrant vibes take over.

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Examining EU Security: Shaping Europe’s Next Security Strategy

Track: Studio

Europe's security landscape is changing rapidly, existing strategies no longer reflect today's geopolitical realities. In this Studio, participants will analyse what is needed for Europe to remain relevant, develop their priorities as future leaders as an input for a renewed EU Security Strategy in formulating concrete policy proposals. If you are ready to think outside the box, you have found your event.

Broomé, Ludvig: Analyst at the Europe Programme (The Swedish Institute of International Affairs)
Reiterer, Michael: Professor (Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance, VUB)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Geoeconomics and International Trade Policy

Track: Finance, Seminar

The rules-based international order is under pressure: protectionism and the strategic use of economic policy instruments are reshaping global politics and trade. This seminar explores the rise of geo-economics and examines how states use economic tools to pursue political objectives. Participants will discuss the implications for Europe’s open and interconnected economy.

Kamin, Katrin: Senior Director Government Affairs, Strategy & Geopolitics (Siemens AG | Kiel Institute for the World Economy)
Flach, Lisandra: Director and Professor (ifo Center for International Economics and LMU Munich)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

A New Intergenerational Contract: Whose Future Is It Anyway?

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Our systems are failing future generations, by design, not accident. This seminar confronts uncomfortable truths about power, privilege, and short-termism, asking what it means to act with intergenerational justice in mind. Rooted in scholarship on provoking consciousness and action, the seminar challenges assumptions that keep unjust systems in place. You will leave with a concrete plan to advance justice where you have the greatest influence.

Sallah, Momodou: Executive Director (National Research and Innovation Fund (The Gambia))
Howe, Sophie: Director (Sophie Howe Associates)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 2

Is Victory Possible in the 21st Century?

Track: Security, Seminar

What does it mean to win? At what costs may victory be achieved? Are the antagonistic and violent practices and narratives of war and victory reconcilable with a sustainable peace? This seminar critically explores the concept of victory from Antiquity to today and specifically looks at the idea of victory in war. By incorporating moral, political, and cultural considerations, victory in the 21st century is reimagined.

Libiseller, Chiara: Lecturer in Strategic Studies (King's College London)
Bojanic, Petar: Professor of Philosophy (University of Belgrade and RECAS)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Digital Sovereignty: Why Europe Needs It and How It Can Get It

Track: Democracy, Seminar

If digital sovereignty is about the ability to say ‘yes’ to a digital future that aligns with one’s interests and values – and ‘no’ to a future that doesn’t – Europe currently lacks it. In this workshop, we examine why this is the case and why it matters, what can and what should be done about it, and which policies and politics can get Europe there.

Seidl, Timo: Assistant Professor of Political Economy (Technical University of Munich)
Warso, Zuzanna: Director of Research (Open Future Foundation)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Hope and the Power to Shape our Future

Track: Seminar

How do we find the will to act when things seem hopeless? Because we are agents who care, our relationship to the future is driven by emotions like hope, anxiety, and despair – not mere feelings, but evaluative states that orient us toward action. Drawing on philosophy and the science of emotion, this interactive seminar invites you to explore how to harness these emotions, individually and collectively, to bring about the futures you value.

Vazard, Juliette: Senior Researcher (University of Zurich)
Martinez, Camilo: Postdoctoral Researcher (Central European University)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Science and Ethics

Track: Seminar

Can we separate science and ethics? Where do we draw the boundaries?? In Artificial Intelligence, fairness and accountability are inseparable from how systems learn and how they justify knowledge. Scientific choices are moral choices, and ethics depend on scientific assumptions. The seminar explores good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, including falsification and fraud in academic research.

Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)
Neges, Katharina: Senior Scientist (Graz University of Technology)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Heiss-Saal

Envisioning Europe’s Future Cities

Track: Studio
How can Europe’s cities become the places where transition is governed and the future is built? Europe has entered a new phase: climate collapse is no longer a distant risk, but a reality to be governed. This studio builds systems literacy, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and democratic imagination among young professionals. Participants leave with a deeper understanding to act as bridge-builders across sectors, borders, and generations.

//INFO: Clothing and shoes for outdoor activities are recommended.

Elangovan, Emiline: Doctoral Student (Chalmers University of Technology)
Lecker, Fabian: Architect and Researcher (EFFEKT Architects)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Flora-Saal

One Health Studio: Sensing Future Potential and Identifying New Questions

Track: Studio
Global (One) Health demands more than incremental fixes. This studio shifts from reactive problem-solving to future-oriented innovation. Using sensing and reframing techniques, participants explore emerging potentials and questions in One Health. We challenge existing paradigms to co-create radical new questions and innovation pathways, equipping participants to proactively shape a resilient future.

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Peschl, Markus: Professor of cognitive science and innovation (University of Vienna & theLivingCore)
Selberherr, Evelyne: Tenured Associate Professor of Microbiome Research (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna)

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Embodied Experiences of Democracy

Track: Studio
In this studio, participants explore the political dramaturgy of emotions – where theatre meets sociology. Emotions are movements, words, and gestures that shape how we live together. The ways we stand, speak, and relate enact democratic order. Conversely, emotions we suppress in public to sustain control can quietly erode democracy itself.

//INFO: This project has received funding from the European Commission under the HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions Grant, No 101132327.

Schäfer, Sarah Helena: Political Sociologist (University of Vienna)
Honzírek, Jiri: Screenwriter, dramaturg and director of the Feste Theatre (Feste Theatre / Divadlo Feste)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Rethinking AI in Context: Health, Environmental Change and Sustainable Futures

Track: Climate, Seminar

AI is reshaping health systems, environments, and societies, bringing opportunities and risks – but who decides how? Who benefits and who gets left behind? How do we plan for the sustainable use of AI? This interactive seminar equips participants to navigate the key debates around AI governance. Discussing foundational concepts, real-world risks, and governance frameworks, we build towards a shared vision of sustainable, equitable AI futures.

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Staunton, Ciara: Experienced Legal and Compliance Expert (BBMRI ERIC)
Amanta, Felippa: PhD candidate and policy researcher (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Carbon Dioxide Removal from the Atmosphere: A Legal Perspective Beyond Net Zero

Track: Climate, Seminar

The world is on track to exceed 1.5 °C of warming. Climate stabilisation depends on both rapidly cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at scale. Removals are therefore an essential climate action, yet often poorly understood. This seminar explores what carbon dioxide removal is and examines the legal challenges and opportunities of net-negative emissions in the EU and beyond.

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Johnstone, Injy: Senior Research Fellow / Associate (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition / Oxford Net Zero)
Köppen, Martje: DPhil Researcher (University of Oxford)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

Europe Breaks Free: Reconfiguring Dependencies

Track: Security, Seminar

New forms of great power competition are reshaping the dependency calculus of every region. How can the EU and its global partners reconfigure such dependencies in a world shaped by US-China rivalry, Russian aggression, and the transactional dismantling of multilateralism?

The seminar will tackle this question conceptually but also strategically, asking which dependencies to shed and which to deepen, and explore how to pursue genuine interdependence rather than the illusion of full independence.

Bialasiewicz, Luiza: Professor of Political and Economic Geography (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)

25.08.2026 09:30 - 25.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Financial Technology, Geopolitics, and Digital Sovereignty

Track: Finance, Seminar

Financial technologies are reshaping how markets work and citizens access services – while redrawing the balance between public and private power, transforming how money is created, and opening new arenas of competition among states and between states and corporations. How can we ensure sovereignty, data control, and self-determination in this new world? Designed for non-experts, this seminar unpacks what is at stake for society and the world economy.

Bilotta, Nicola: Senior Research Associate and Coordinator EU-Supervisory Digital Finance Academy / Economist Fellow (Florence School of Banking and Finance - European University Institute / GLOBSEC)
Georg, Co-Pierre: Professor of Practice in Financial Technology (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management)

25.08.2026 13:30 - 25.08.2026 14:30 | Chat |

Food for Thought

Track:
Silva BASHLLARI
AI for non-techies and a roadmap to learning Python & AI techniques
Mittelschule - Ground Floor - Classroom 1

Marcell KOVÁCS
Who Wins the Chip War and Why Not Europe?
Mittelschule - Ground Floor - Classroom 2

Sam DEDDEH
From Africa to Assyria: Rethinking Self-Determination Frameworks in International Law
Mittelschule - Ground Floor - Classroom 3

Sarah KUVENGUHWA
Mists and Masonry: Connecting the Sacred Landscapes of Vumba’s Highlands to the Stone Palaces of Zimbabwe
Mittelschule - Ground Floor - Classroom 4

Lucia PALACIO
Food Security, Climate Stability, Livelihoods: Why life on land depends on a working ocean, and how we can protect it
Mittelschule - First Floor - EDV Room

Doris DO
Is Global Citizenship a privilege?
Mittelschule - First Floor - Handarbeitsraum

Howard WILLIAMSON
The longest ethnography in the world? The lives of ‘young offenders’ over 52 years
Mittelschule - First Floor - Conference Room

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Examining EU Security: Shaping Europe’s Next Security Strategy

Track: Studio
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25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Rewilding Environmental Practices

Track: Art, Seminar

What if the future could be otherwise? This seminar explores imaginative agency through lateral thinking: taking detours, embracing surprise, and making the familiar strange. We will read and discuss texts, walk through the forest, observe, photograph, draw, write, cut, paste, and map. Together, we will create a collective utopian map of futures that do not yet exist - but perhaps could.

Ulrich, Antonia: PhD Student, Philosophy (University of Potsdam in coop. with University of Applied Arts Hannover, Design and Media)
Gleim, Meike: Artistic Coordinator and Senior Researcher (Science of Singularities ASBL / Technical University Dortmund)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Work Like a Policy Entrepreneur: Turn Moral Ambition into Large Societal Change

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Most people who want to change the world start from a cause they love and a set solution in mind. Policy entrepreneurs ask first: which problem actually needs me and how can I make the most impact? Over five days you learn cause selection, counterfactual thinking, and coalition building, using real cases. You leave with your own theory of change and first steps to make the most impact possible.

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van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Loggia

OPCON: An Outdoor-based Leadership Seminar

Track: Seminar

Leading people is the ultimate core competence of the military. The action-oriented outdoor peer-to-peer seminar, led by cadets from the Theresian Military Academy Austria, seeks to find answers to the general theme of EFA26, “How Europe wins”, under the seminar title “OPCON”. In this context, OPCON stands for operational control and is intended to express that a common approach will be needed – while still respecting the sovereignty of the individual actors.

//INFO: The seminar takes place outdoors in all weather conditions. Sportswear and sneakers are recommended.

Gstrein, Alexander: Advisor (Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Defence)
Schiller, Alexander: Staff Officer for Psychological Operations (PsyOps) / Instructor for Communication Trainers (Operations Command Division of the Austrian Armed Forces)

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Elangovan, Emiline: Doctoral Student (Chalmers University of Technology)
Lecker, Fabian: Architect and Researcher (EFFEKT Architects)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

Dialogue across Divides: Designing Better Conversations for a Polarised World

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Globally, polarisation is rising, yet confrontation isn’t inevitable. Constructive dialogue, curiosity over conflict, and finding common ground are choices we can make. This seminar explores the state of division and what it means for society. Through case studies, workshops, and interactive activities, we’ll examine the forces shaping political disagreement, and how we can bridge divides to have more productive political conversations.

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McQuone, Rhiannon: Research Associate (More in Common)
MacDonald-Nelson, James: Cities Programme Lead (DemocracyNext)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Creative Writing: Co-operation, Leadership and Empathy

Track: Art, Seminar
Europe is often treated as geographical entity rather than a community shaped by shared values, such as cooperation, leadership, and empathy. This seminar uses story, poetry, memoir, reflective essays, and collaborative projects to explore ideas of solidarity, responsibility, and belonging across cultures and generations. Participants develop original texts and new perspectives that support dialogue and understanding across borders.

Jeffries, Lauren: Student (Bath Spa University)
English, Lucy: Professor of Creative Enterprise and The Spoken Word (Bath Spa University)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

How Europe Winds

Track: Art, Seminar
Air is essential yet often taken for granted, despite shaping movement, interaction, and perception. The posed question is not How Europe Wins but Winds — like a wind that opens spaces, brings together different voices, and creates new possibilities. Through movement, sound, and collective improvisation, participants are invited to explore ways of expressing themselves artistically. The session culminates in a shared performance, weaving together movement, sound, and expression.

Madlener, Pia: Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Dorfmeister-Pölzer, Hans-Adrian: Master's Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Rademacher, Wiebke: University professor of Music/Arts Education/Head of MA programme (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Stronger Together: The Power of the Ensemble.

Track: Art, Seminar

This seminar will explore the ways in which many individuals can end up working as a cohesive team. Creating an effective and dynamic piece of theatre requires every actor to work seamlessly with the rest of the ensemble regardless of whether their part is major or minor. Acting students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London will share those parts of their training that enable this important connection.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Theatre as a Sanctuary: How Theatre Builds Confidence and Connection

Track: Art, Seminar

Many actors are introduced to theatre when their parents send them to theatre workshops to overcome their shyness and gain confidence; they end up going on stage in front of hundreds of people. The stage is their place of safety. So, what is it about working together to create a piece of theatre that produces this feeling? This seminar, led by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will explore this question.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Activist Filmmaking: Telling Stories of Resistance and Hope

Track: Art, Seminar

Ecological and social crises dominate the newsfeeds, pushing many people into apathy. How can artistic practices offer a way out? In the seminar, stories of resistance will be explored: Participants will learn about activist filmmaking, engage in dialogue about the narratives we are surrounded by, and create their own piece of hope to empower themselves and others.

Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)
Lee, Iara: Activist, Filmmaker, and Cultural Producer (Cultures of Resistance)

25.08.2026 15:00 - 25.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Capital in Motion: Understanding How Capital Moves the World

Track: Finance, Seminar
This seminar makes capital markets tangible. Participants act as investors, make decisions under uncertainty, and explore how capital shapes companies and Europe's future. Simulation, expert insights, and discussion connect theory with real-world application.

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Lehner, Heike: Economist (independent)
Bayer, Daniel: Founder & Consultant (Fingu GmbH)

25.08.2026 18:15 - 25.08.2026 19:15 | Closed Network | CCA – Otto Molden Foyer

Speed Friending

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Welcome to Alpbach: This is your chance to meet new people and make lifelong friends! This event offers the perfect opportunity to engage in a series of short, exciting conversations. Each round lasts just a few minutes, giving you the chance to make a memorable first impression and discover common interests.

//INFO: Bring your own snack or lunch – and perhaps something to share with new friends.

25.08.2026 18:30 - 25.08.2026 19:30 | Happening | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Exhibition Opening: Wonders in the Shadows

Track: Art
Even in the darkest moments, there is light. "Wonders in the Shadows" by humanitarian worker and photographer Mattia Bidoli explores humanity and hope amid wars, conflicts, and crises. Join Club Alpbach Tyrol and the Forum Alpbach Network for the exhibition opening before Mattia joins us in Alpbach from 27 August onwards. The exhibit will be open throughout the entire Forum.

25.08.2026 20:00 - 25.08.2026 21:30 | Happening | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Filmscreening: The Sami Song of Survival by Cultures of Resistance Films

Track: Art
Join filmmaker Iara Lee for a screening of The Sami Song of Survival: Indigenous Activism on the Northern Frontier, preceded by an introduction from the artist herself. The film explores Sámi resistance, cultural identity, and Indigenous activism in the northernmost regions of Europe.

//INFO: Following the film (duration: 50 minutes) there will be a Q&A.

Lee, Iara: Activist, Filmmaker, and Cultural Producer (Cultures of Resistance)

26.08.2026 08:15 - 26.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

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Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA's vibrant vibes take over.

26.08.2026 09:00 - 30.08.2026 17:30 | Lab |

Labs: Multi-Day Working Sessions

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security, Lab
Labs are 3-day facilitated working sessions with a closed and well-selected group of 30 participants that has a joint purpose with the goal that this group, first, becomes a community of action, and second, finds answers to a larger, cross-cutting problem.

Discover the EFA26 Labs.

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Libiseller, Chiara: Lecturer in Strategic Studies (King's College London)

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Vazard, Juliette: Senior Researcher (University of Zurich)
Martinez, Camilo: Postdoctoral Researcher (Central European University)

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Geoeconomics and International Trade Policy

Track: Finance, Seminar

The rules-based international order is under pressure: protectionism and the strategic use of economic policy instruments are reshaping global politics and trade. This seminar explores the rise of geo-economics and examines how states use economic tools to pursue political objectives. Participants will discuss the implications for Europe’s open and interconnected economy.

Flach, Lisandra: Director and Professor (ifo Center for International Economics and LMU Munich)
Kamin, Katrin: Senior Director Government Affairs, Strategy & Geopolitics (Siemens AG | Kiel Institute for the World Economy)

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A New Intergenerational Contract: Whose Future Is It Anyway?

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Our systems are failing future generations, by design, not accident. This seminar confronts uncomfortable truths about power, privilege, and short-termism, asking what it means to act with intergenerational justice in mind. Rooted in scholarship on provoking consciousness and action, the seminar challenges assumptions that keep unjust systems in place. You will leave with a concrete plan to advance justice where you have the greatest influence.

Howe, Sophie: Director (Sophie Howe Associates)
Sallah, Momodou: Executive Director (National Research and Innovation Fund (The Gambia))

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New forms of great power competition are reshaping the dependency calculus of every region. How can the EU and its global partners reconfigure such dependencies in a world shaped by US-China rivalry, Russian aggression, and the transactional dismantling of multilateralism?
The seminar will tackle this question conceptually but also strategically, asking which dependencies to shed and which to deepen, and explore how to pursue genuine interdependence rather than the illusion of full independence.

Bialasiewicz, Luiza: Professor of Political and Economic Geography (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Carbon Dioxide Removal from the Atmosphere: A Legal Perspective Beyond Net Zero

Track: Climate, Seminar
The world is on track to exceed 1.5 °C of warming. Climate stabilisation depends on both rapidly cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at scale. Removals are therefore an essential climate action, yet often poorly understood. This seminar explores what carbon dioxide removal is and examines the legal challenges and opportunities of net-negative emissions in the EU and beyond.

//INFO: Please make sure to bring your own laptop. If you do not have one, please contact the EFA-Team at seminars@alpbach.org

Köppen, Martje: DPhil Researcher (University of Oxford)
Johnstone, Injy: Senior Research Fellow / Associate (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition / Oxford Net Zero)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Rethinking AI in Context: Health, Environmental Change and Sustainable Futures

Track: Climate, Seminar
AI is reshaping health systems, environments, and societies, bringing opportunities and risks – but who decides how? Who benefits and who gets left behind? How do we plan for the sustainable use of AI? This interactive seminar equips participants to navigate the key debates around AI governance. Discussing foundational concepts, real-world risks, and governance frameworks, we build towards a shared vision of sustainable, equitable AI futures.

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Staunton, Ciara: Experienced Legal and Compliance Expert (BBMRI ERIC)
Amanta, Felippa: PhD candidate and policy researcher (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Digital Sovereignty: Why Europe Needs It and How It Can Get It

Track: Democracy, Seminar
If digital sovereignty is about the ability to say ‘yes’ to a digital future that aligns with one’s interests and values – and ‘no’ to a future that doesn’t – Europe currently lacks it. In this workshop, we examine why this is the case and why it matters, what can and what should be done about it, and which policies and politics can get Europe there.

Warso, Zuzanna: Director of Research (Open Future Foundation)
Seidl, Timo: Assistant Professor of Political Economy (Technical University of Munich)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Heiss-Saal

Envisioning Europe’s Future Cities

Track: Studio
How can Europe’s cities become the places where transition is governed and the future is built? Europe has entered a new phase: climate collapse is no longer a distant risk, but a reality to be governed. This studio builds systems literacy, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and democratic imagination among young professionals. Participants leave with a deeper understanding to act as bridge-builders across sectors, borders, and generations.

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Elangovan, Emiline: Doctoral Student (Chalmers University of Technology)
Lecker, Fabian: Architect and Researcher (EFFEKT Architects)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Embodied Experiences of Democracy

Track: Studio
In this studio, participants explore the political dramaturgy of emotions – where theatre meets sociology. Emotions are movements, words, and gestures that shape how we live together. The ways we stand, speak, and relate enact democratic order. Conversely, emotions we suppress in public to sustain control can quietly erode democracy itself.

//INFO: This project has received funding from the European Commission under the HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions Grant, No 101132327.

Honzírek, Jiri: Screenwriter, dramaturg and director of the Feste Theatre (Feste Theatre / Divadlo Feste)
Schäfer, Sarah Helena: Political Sociologist (University of Vienna)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Science and Ethics

Track: Seminar
Can we separate science and ethics? Where do we draw the boundaries?? In Artificial Intelligence, fairness and accountability are inseparable from how systems learn and how they justify knowledge. Scientific choices are moral choices, and ethics depend on scientific assumptions. The seminar explores good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, including falsification and fraud in academic research.

Neges, Katharina: Senior Scientist (Graz University of Technology)
Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)

26.08.2026 09:30 - 26.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Flora-Saal

One Health Studio: Sensing Future Potential and Identifying New Questions

Track: Studio
Global (One) Health demands more than incremental fixes. This studio shifts from reactive problem-solving to future-oriented innovation. Using sensing and reframing techniques, participants explore emerging potentials and questions in One Health. We challenge existing paradigms to co-create radical new questions and innovation pathways, equipping participants to proactively shape a resilient future.

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Selberherr, Evelyne: Tenured Associate Professor of Microbiome Research (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna)
Peschl, Markus: Professor of cognitive science and innovation (University of Vienna & theLivingCore)

26.08.2026 13:00 - 26.08.2026 14:30 | Open Network | Wiedersbergerhornbahn - Bergstation

Strangers in a Gondola

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
You are warmly invited to take a delightful 20-minute journey on a gondola up to the majestic Alpbach's mountain. Here's the twist: You will be sharing the gondola with fellow participants who you haven't crossed paths with before. To add an element of fun during your gondola trip, an engaging quiz awaits you, challenging your knowledge without relying on Google, and incorporating time-based questions. Upon reaching the mountain's summit, you can enjoy a delightful coffee and lunch break with the scenic panorama in the restaurant or opt for a refreshing hike. This view is absolutely worth experiencing!

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes or comfortable shoes, water, and sun protection. Remember, you will be in the nature! Please note that you need to bring your Alpbach Card to use the Gondola.

26.08.2026 13:30 - 26.08.2026 14:30 | Chat |

Food for Thought

Track:
Mittelschule
Julian SEIDENBUSCH
Legislative Theatre: Performing Arts as a means of/to Political Agency
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 1

Tonderayi Prosper MAGEZA
How Europe Wins, and Who Wakes Up to the Bill: Africa’s Depletion Ledger
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 2

Nina BARABÁSOVÁ
Reaching out to those who do not participate - activating youth in civil society
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 3

Evelyn FEISTMANTL-SCHWEIGL
Become a WinnOER: How can Europe leverage Open Educational Resources to advance its strategy?
Mittelschule, First Floor - Conference Room

Dino OSMANAGIĆ & Andreas PATUZZI
AI LITERACY: Insights from young AI leaders Linz on fostering future skills, critical thinking, and responsible AI
Mittelschule, First Floor - Handarbeitsraum

Samuel KLINGER
Shrinking the State from Both Ends: Rethinking Territorial Governance Between Supranationalism and Localism
Mittelschule, First Floor - Physikraum

Sara GRAMBS
When Climate Disasters Hit: The Role of Loss and Damage in International Climate Diplomacy
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Gym

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

Dialogue across Divides: Designing Better Conversations for a Polarised World

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Globally, polarisation is rising, yet confrontation isn’t inevitable. Constructive dialogue, curiosity over conflict, and finding common ground are choices we can make. This seminar explores the state of division and what it means for society. Through case studies, workshops, and interactive activities, we’ll examine the forces shaping political disagreement, and how we can bridge divides to have more productive political conversations.

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MacDonald-Nelson, James: Cities Programme Lead (DemocracyNext)
McQuone, Rhiannon: Research Associate (More in Common)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Flora-Saal

One Health Studio: Sensing Future Potential and Identifying New Questions

Track: Studio
Global (One) Health demands more than incremental fixes. This studio shifts from reactive problem-solving to future-oriented innovation. Using sensing and reframing techniques, participants explore emerging potentials and questions in One Health. We challenge existing paradigms to co-create radical new questions and innovation pathways, equipping participants to proactively shape a resilient future.

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Peschl, Markus: Professor of cognitive science and innovation (University of Vienna & theLivingCore)
Selberherr, Evelyne: Tenured Associate Professor of Microbiome Research (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Embodied Experiences of Democracy

Track: Studio
In this studio, participants explore the political dramaturgy of emotions – where theatre meets sociology. Emotions are movements, words, and gestures that shape how we live together. The ways we stand, speak, and relate enact democratic order. Conversely, emotions we suppress in public to sustain control can quietly erode democracy itself.

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Honzírek, Jiri: Screenwriter, dramaturg and director of the Feste Theatre (Feste Theatre / Divadlo Feste)
Schäfer, Sarah Helena: Political Sociologist (University of Vienna)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Creative Writing: Co-operation, Leadership and Empathy

Track: Art, Seminar
Europe is often treated as geographical entity rather than a community shaped by shared values, such as cooperation, leadership, and empathy. This seminar uses story, poetry, memoir, reflective essays, and collaborative projects to explore ideas of solidarity, responsibility, and belonging across cultures and generations. Participants develop original texts and new perspectives that support dialogue and understanding across borders.

Jeffries, Lauren: Student (Bath Spa University)
English, Lucy: Professor of Creative Enterprise and The Spoken Word (Bath Spa University)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Heiss-Saal

Envisioning Europe’s Future Cities

Track: Studio
How can Europe’s cities become the places where transition is governed and the future is built? Europe has entered a new phase: climate collapse is no longer a distant risk, but a reality to be governed. This studio builds systems literacy, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and democratic imagination among young professionals. Participants leave with a deeper understanding to act as bridge-builders across sectors, borders, and generations.

Lecker, Fabian: Architect and Researcher (EFFEKT Architects)
Elangovan, Emiline: Doctoral Student (Chalmers University of Technology)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Capital in Motion: Understanding How Capital Moves the World

Track: Finance, Seminar
This seminar makes capital markets tangible. Participants act as investors, make decisions under uncertainty, and explore how capital shapes companies and Europe’s future. Simulation, expert insights, and discussion connect theory with real-world application.

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Lehner, Heike: Economist (independent)
Bayer, Daniel: Founder & Consultant (Fingu GmbH)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Stronger Together: The Power of the Ensemble.

Track: Art, Seminar
This seminar will explore the ways in which many individuals can end up working as a cohesive team. Creating an effective and dynamic piece of theatre requires every actor to work seamlessly with the rest of the ensemble regardless of whether their part is major or minor. Acting students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London will share those parts of their training that enable this important connection.

Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Theatre as a Sanctuary: How Theatre Builds Confidence and Connection

Track: Art, Seminar
Many actors are introduced to theatre when their parents send them to theatre workshops to overcome their shyness and gain confidence; they end up going on stage in front of hundreds of people. The stage is their place of safety. So, what is it about working together to create a piece of theatre that produces this feeling? This seminar, led by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will explore this question.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Activist Filmmaking: Telling Stories of Resistance and Hope

Track: Art, Seminar
Ecological and social crises dominate the newsfeeds, pushing many people into apathy. How can artistic practices offer a way out? In the seminar, stories of resistance will be explored: Participants will learn about activist filmmaking, engage in dialogue about the narratives we are surrounded by, and create their own piece of hope to empower themselves and others.

Lee, Iara: Activist, Filmmaker, and Cultural Producer (Cultures of Resistance)
Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

How Europe Winds

Track: Art, Seminar
Air is essential yet often taken for granted, despite shaping movement, interaction, and perception. The posed question is not How Europe Wins but Winds — like a wind that opens spaces, brings together different voices, and creates new possibilities. Through movement, sound, and collective improvisation, participants are invited to explore ways of expressing themselves artistically. The session culminates in a shared performance, weaving together movement, sound, and expression.

Rademacher, Wiebke: University professor of Music/Arts Education/Head of MA programme (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Madlener, Pia: Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Dorfmeister-Pölzer, Hans-Adrian: Master's Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Work Like a Policy Entrepreneur: Turn Moral Ambition into Large Societal Change

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Most people who want to change the world start from a cause they love and a set solution in mind. Policy entrepreneurs ask first: which problem actually needs me and how can I make the most impact? Over five days you learn cause selection, counterfactual thinking, and coalition building, using real cases. You leave with your own theory of change and first steps to make the most impact possible.

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Bos, Barend: Head of Democracy Program (The School for Moral Ambition)
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Examining EU Security: Shaping Europe’s Next Security Strategy

Track: Studio
Europe's security landscape is changing rapidly, existing strategies no longer reflect today's geopolitical realities. In this Studio, participants will analyse what is needed for Europe to remain relevant, develop their priorities as future leaders as an input for a renewed EU Security Strategy in formulating concrete policy proposals. If you are ready to think outside the box, you have found your event.

Reiterer, Michael: Professor (Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
Broomé, Ludvig: Analyst at the Europe Programme (The Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 26.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Rewilding Environmental Practices

Track: Art, Seminar
What if the future could be otherwise? This seminar explores imaginative agency through lateral thinking: taking detours, embracing surprise, and making the familiar strange. We will read and discuss texts, walk through the forest, observe, photograph, draw, write, cut, paste, and map. Together, we will create a collective utopian map of futures that do not yet exist - but perhaps could.

Gleim, Meike: Artistic Coordinator and Senior Researcher (Science of Singularities ASBL / Technical University Dortmund)
Ulrich, Antonia: PhD Student, Philosophy (University of Potsdam in coop. with University of Applied Arts Hannover, Design and Media)

26.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Forecourt

OPCON: An Outdoor-based Leadership Seminar

Track: Seminar
Leading people is the ultimate core competence of the military. The action-oriented outdoor peer-to-peer seminar, led by cadets from the Theresian Military Academy Austria, seeks to find answers to the general theme of EFA26, “How Europe wins”, under the seminar title “OPCON”. In this context, OPCON stands for operational control and is intended to express that a common approach will be needed – while still respecting the sovereignty of the individual actors.

//INFO: The seminar takes place outdoors in all weather conditions. Sportswear and sneakers are recommended.

Gstrein, Alexander: Advisor (Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Defence)
Schiller, Alexander: Staff Officer for Psychological Operations (PsyOps) / Instructor for Communication Trainers (Operations Command Division of the Austrian Armed Forces)

26.08.2026 19:00 - 26.08.2026 21:00 | Happening | Volksschule – Gym

Sip and Paint

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Participants paint on canvas while enjoying the sunset.

26.08.2026 20:00 - 26.08.2026 22:00 | Closed Network | Hotel Alphof

Cheers to Our Shared Journey

Track: Lab
Celebrate the EFA Academy Days with us! Reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people from our studio and seminar formats, and enjoy a relaxed chat over a drink. We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

27.08.2026 08:15 - 27.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA’s vibrant vibes take over.

27.08.2026 09:00 - 27.08.2026 17:30 | Lab |

Labs: Multi-Day Working Sessions

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security, Lab
Labs are 3-day facilitated working sessions with a closed and well-selected group of 30 participants that has a joint purpose with the goal that this group, first, becomes a community of action, and second, finds answers to a larger, cross-cutting problem.

Discover the EFA26 Labs.

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Examining EU Security: Shaping Europe’s Next Security Strategy

Track: Studio
Europe's security landscape is changing rapidly, existing strategies no longer reflect today's geopolitical realities. In this Studio, participants will analyse what is needed for Europe to remain relevant, develop their priorities as future leaders as an input for a renewed EU Security Strategy in formulating concrete policy proposals. If you are ready to think outside the box, you have found your event.

Broomé, Ludvig: Analyst at the Europe Programme (The Swedish Institute of International Affairs)
Reiterer, Michael: Professor (Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy, Brussels School of Governance, VUB)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

Europe Breaks Free: Reconfiguring Dependencies

Track: Security, Seminar
New forms of great power competition are reshaping the dependency calculus of every region. How can the EU and its global partners reconfigure such dependencies in a world shaped by US-China rivalry, Russian aggression, and the transactional dismantling of multilateralism?
The seminar will tackle this question conceptually but also strategically, asking which dependencies to shed and which to deepen, and explore how to pursue genuine interdependence rather than the illusion of full independence.

Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)
Bialasiewicz, Luiza: Professor of Political and Economic Geography (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Financial Technology, Geopolitics, and Digital Sovereignty

Track: Finance, Seminar
Financial technologies are reshaping how markets work and citizens access services – while redrawing the balance between public and private power, transforming how money is created, and opening new arenas of competition among states and between states and corporations. How can we ensure sovereignty, data control, and self-determination in this new world? Designed for non-experts, this seminar unpacks what is at stake for society and the world economy.

Bilotta, Nicola: Senior Research Associate and Coordinator EU-Supervisory Digital Finance Academy / Economist Fellow (Florence School of Banking and Finance - European University Institute / GLOBSEC)
Georg, Co-Pierre: Professor of Practice in Financial Technology (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Carbon Dioxide Removal from the Atmosphere: A Legal Perspective Beyond Net Zero

Track: Climate, Seminar
The world is on track to exceed 1.5 °C of warming. Climate stabilisation depends on both rapidly cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at scale. Removals are therefore an essential climate action, yet often poorly understood. This seminar explores what carbon dioxide removal is and examines the legal challenges and opportunities of net-negative emissions in the EU and beyond.

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Johnstone, Injy: Senior Research Fellow / Associate (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition / Oxford Net Zero)
Köppen, Martje: DPhil Researcher (University of Oxford)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Rethinking AI in Context: Health, Environmental Change and Sustainable Futures

Track: Climate, Seminar

AI is reshaping health systems, environments, and societies, bringing opportunities and risks – but who decides how? Who benefits and who gets left behind? How do we plan for the sustainable use of AI? This interactive seminar equips participants to navigate the key debates around AI governance. Discussing foundational concepts, real-world risks, and governance frameworks, we build towards a shared vision of sustainable, equitable AI futures.

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Staunton, Ciara: Experienced Legal and Compliance Expert (BBMRI ERIC)
Amanta, Felippa: PhD candidate and policy researcher (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Hope and the Power to Shape our Future

Track: Seminar

How do we find the will to act when things seem hopeless? Because we are agents who care, our relationship to the future is driven by emotions like hope, anxiety, and despair – not mere feelings, but evaluative states that orient us toward action. Drawing on philosophy and the science of emotion, this interactive seminar invites you to explore how to harness these emotions, individually and collectively, to bring about the futures you value.

Martinez, Camilo: Postdoctoral Researcher (Central European University)
Vazard, Juliette: Senior Researcher (University of Zurich)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

A New Intergenerational Contract: Whose Future Is It Anyway?

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Our systems are failing future generations, by design, not accident. This seminar confronts uncomfortable truths about power, privilege, and short-termism, asking what it means to act with intergenerational justice in mind. Rooted in scholarship on provoking consciousness and action, the seminar challenges assumptions that keep unjust systems in place. You will leave with a concrete plan to advance justice where you have the greatest influence.

Howe, Sophie: Director (Sophie Howe Associates)
Sallah, Momodou: Executive Director (National Research and Innovation Fund (The Gambia))

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Geoeconomics and International Trade Policy

Track: Finance, Seminar

The rules-based international order is under pressure: protectionism and the strategic use of economic policy instruments are reshaping global politics and trade. This seminar explores the rise of geo-economics and examines how states use economic tools to pursue political objectives. Participants will discuss the implications for Europe’s open and interconnected economy.

Kamin, Katrin: Senior Director Government Affairs, Strategy & Geopolitics (Siemens AG | Kiel Institute for the World Economy)
Flach, Lisandra: Director and Professor (ifo Center for International Economics and LMU Munich)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Heiss-Saal

Envisioning Europe’s Future Cities

Track: Studio

How can Europe’s cities become the places where transition is governed and the future is built? Europe has entered a new phase: climate collapse is no longer a distant risk, but a reality to be governed. This studio builds systems literacy, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and democratic imagination among young professionals. Participants leave with a deeper understanding to act as bridge-builders across sectors, borders, and generations.

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Elangovan, Emiline: Doctoral Student (Chalmers University of Technology)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Digital Sovereignty: Why Europe Needs It and How It Can Get It

Track: Democracy, Seminar

If digital sovereignty is about the ability to say ‘yes’ to a digital future that aligns with one’s interests and values – and ‘no’ to a future that doesn’t – Europe currently lacks it. In this workshop, we examine why this is the case and why it matters, what can and what should be done about it, and which policies and politics can get Europe there.

Seidl, Timo: Assistant Professor of Political Economy (Technical University of Munich)
Warso, Zuzanna: Director of Research (Open Future Foundation)

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Track: Studio
In this studio, participants explore the political dramaturgy of emotions – where theatre meets sociology. Emotions are movements, words, and gestures that shape how we live together. The ways we stand, speak, and relate enact democratic order. Conversely, emotions we suppress in public to sustain control can quietly erode democracy itself.

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Honzírek, Jiri: Screenwriter, dramaturg and director of the Feste Theatre (Feste Theatre / Divadlo Feste)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Science and Ethics

Track: Seminar
Can we separate science and ethics? Where do we draw the boundaries?? In Artificial Intelligence, fairness and accountability are inseparable from how systems learn and how they justify knowledge. Scientific choices are moral choices, and ethics depend on scientific assumptions. The seminar explores good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, including falsification and fraud in academic research.

Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)
Neges, Katharina: Senior Scientist (Graz University of Technology)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 2

Is Victory Possible in the 21st Century?

Track: Security, Seminar
What does it mean to win? At what costs may victory be achieved? Are the antagonistic and violent practices and narratives of war and victory reconcilable with a sustainable peace? This seminar critically explores the concept of victory from Antiquity to today and specifically looks at the idea of victory in war. By incorporating moral, political, and cultural considerations, victory in the 21st century is reimagined.

Libiseller, Chiara: Lecturer in Strategic Studies (King's College London)
Bojanic, Petar: Professor of Philosophy (University of Belgrade and RECAS)

27.08.2026 09:30 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Flora-Saal

One Health Studio: Sensing Future Potential and Identifying New Questions

Track: Studio
Global (One) Health demands more than incremental fixes. This studio shifts from reactive problem-solving to future-oriented innovation. Using sensing and reframing techniques, participants explore emerging potentials and questions in One Health. We challenge existing paradigms to co-create radical new questions and innovation pathways, equipping participants to proactively shape a resilient future.

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Selberherr, Evelyne: Tenured Associate Professor of Microbiome Research (University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna)
Peschl, Markus: Professor of cognitive science and innovation (University of Vienna & theLivingCore)

27.08.2026 11:00 - 27.08.2026 12:30 | Stage | CCA – Loggia

15 Years of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino

Hosted by: Euregio
Track: Democracy
Anniversaries always mark an important moment for reflection and contextualisation. This session highlights the development since its founding, key milestones, and their relevance today for cross-border cooperation. Building on this, perspectives from practice and research will be brought together, and points of departure for the future orientation of the Euregio and other European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) will be outlined.

Dellai, Lorenzo: Former President of the Autonomous Province of Trento (1999 to 2013)
Platter, Günther:
Durnwalder, Luis: Governor of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano–South Tyrol from 1989 to 2014

27.08.2026 13:30 - 27.08.2026 14:30 | Chat |

Food for Thought

Track: Seminar, Studio
Mittelschule
1
Dmytro HREBENIUK
The War of the Cities: Iraq 1980 and Ukraine 2026
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 2

2
Pauline KNIBB-KLIMT
From Director to Dishwasher and beyond: Rethinking success, careers creativity - and what we become along the way
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 3

3
Luis BRUCH
EFA through the years: how a theme represents the change in Europe - conceptualising a mural
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Gym
(continued tomorrow on the terrace)

4
Aziz HRELJIĆ
The Challenge of Urban Futures
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Classroom 4

5
Milena FALLAHA
But what about the kids?! - Educating children on values
Mittelschule, First Floor - Conference Room

6
Alexandra SADAKA
Spotlight on Lebanon: In the Shadow of the US-Iran War
Mittelschule, First Floor - EDV Room

7
Marcell KOVÁCS, Márk MATUSZ & Alexander NÉMETH
Hungary: A Mandate for Change?
Mittelschule, First Floor - Handarbeitsraum

8
Pete WOLFFRAMM
Finding your people (and making room for more)
Mittelschule, First Floor - Physikraum

9
Ying-Hsuan LEE

Doing Good Making Compromises? The Daily Life of a Small NGO
Mittelschule, Ground Floor - Portacabin No3

27.08.2026 13:30 - 27.08.2026 14:30 | Chat | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Becoming a Co-Author of the EFA Academy Days Book

In this session, scholarship holders and other participants of the Academy Days are invited to collaborate on a book about the topics and themes of EFA26. They will be guided through writing their stories about the Academy Days, energizing encounters, and other reflections. For more information, click here.

Jeffries, Lauren: Student (Bath Spa University)
English, Lucy: Professor of Creative Enterprise and The Spoken Word (Bath Spa University)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Activist Filmmaking: Telling Stories of Resistance and Hope

Track: Art, Seminar
Ecological and social crises dominate the newsfeeds, pushing many people into apathy. How can artistic practices offer a way out? In the seminar, stories of resistance will be explored: Participants will learn about activist filmmaking, engage in dialogue about the narratives we are surrounded by, and create their own piece of hope to empower themselves and others.

Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)
Lee, Iara: Activist, Filmmaker, and Cultural Producer (Cultures of Resistance)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Stronger Together: The Power of the Ensemble.

Track: Art, Seminar
This seminar will explore the ways in which many individuals can end up working as a cohesive team. Creating an effective and dynamic piece of theatre requires every actor to work seamlessly with the rest of the ensemble regardless of whether their part is major or minor. Acting students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London will share those parts of their training that enable this important connection.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Capital in Motion: Understanding How Capital Moves the World

Track: Finance, Seminar
This seminar makes capital markets tangible. Participants act as investors, make decisions under uncertainty, and explore how capital shapes companies and Europe’s future. Simulation, expert insights, and discussion connect theory with real-world application.

//INFO: Please make sure to bring your own laptop. If you do not have one, please contact the EFA-Team at seminars@alpbach.org

Bayer, Daniel: Founder & Consultant (Fingu GmbH)
Lehner, Heike: Economist (independent)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Theatre as a Sanctuary: How Theatre Builds Confidence and Connection

Track: Art, Seminar
Many actors are introduced to theatre when their parents send them to theatre workshops to overcome their shyness and gain confidence; they end up going on stage in front of hundreds of people. The stage is their place of safety. So, what is it about working together to create a piece of theatre that produces this feeling? This seminar, led by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will explore this question.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Creative Writing: Co-operation, Leadership and Empathy

Track: Art, Seminar
Europe is often treated as geographical entity rather than a community shaped by shared values, such as cooperation, leadership, and empathy. This seminar uses story, poetry, memoir, reflective essays, and collaborative projects to explore ideas of solidarity, responsibility, and belonging across cultures and generations. Participants develop original texts and new perspectives that support dialogue and understanding across borders.

Jeffries, Lauren: Student (Bath Spa University)
English, Lucy: Professor of Creative Enterprise and The Spoken Word (Bath Spa University)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

Dialogue across Divides: Designing Better Conversations for a Polarised World

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Globally, polarisation is rising, yet confrontation isn’t inevitable. Constructive dialogue, curiosity over conflict, and finding common ground are choices we can make. This seminar explores the state of division and what it means for society. Through case studies, workshops, and interactive activities, we’ll examine the forces shaping political disagreement, and how we can bridge divides to have more productive political conversations.

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McQuone, Rhiannon: Research Associate (More in Common)
MacDonald-Nelson, James: Cities Programme Lead (DemocracyNext)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Your Voice on Wealth: A Citizens’ Assembly

Track: Studio
A pioneering Citizens’ Assembly brings together young participants to discuss wealth inequality across Europe and beyond. Drawing on high-level expert input and facilitated discussions, participants explore the causes and consequences of extreme wealth concentration and co-create bold, evidence-based solutions for a fairer distribution of wealth, strengthening democracy, social cohesion, and Europe’s future.

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Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)
Trinh, Nhat An: Sociologist (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Rewilding Environmental Practices

Track: Art, Seminar

What if the future could be otherwise? This seminar explores imaginative agency through lateral thinking: taking detours, embracing surprise, and making the familiar strange. We will read and discuss texts, walk through the forest, observe, photograph, draw, write, cut, paste, and map. Together, we will create a collective utopian map of futures that do not yet exist - but perhaps could.

Gleim, Meike: Artistic Coordinator and Senior Researcher (Science of Singularities ASBL / Technical University Dortmund)
Ulrich, Antonia: PhD Student, Philosophy (University of Potsdam in coop. with University of Applied Arts Hannover, Design and Media)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Forecourt

OPCON: An Outdoor-based Leadership Seminar

Track: Seminar

Leading people is the ultimate core competence of the military. The action-oriented outdoor peer-to-peer seminar, led by cadets from the Theresian Military Academy Austria, seeks to find answers to the general theme of EFA26, “How Europe wins”, under the seminar title “OPCON”. In this context, OPCON stands for operational control and is intended to express that a common approach will be needed – while still respecting the sovereignty of the individual actors.

//INFO: The seminar takes place outdoors in all weather conditions. Sportswear and sneakers are recommended.

Schiller, Alexander: Staff Officer for Psychological Operations (PsyOps) / Instructor for Communication Trainers (Operations Command Division of the Austrian Armed Forces)
Gstrein, Alexander: Advisor (Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Defence)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus – Seminar Room

Perspectives on European Memory: Objects, Stories and Shared Futures

Track: Studio

European memory is shaped by diverse, contradictory perspectives. How can personal memories help connect perspectives and our lives without reducing them to a single story? In this Studio, we will interpret and connect objects/family stories linked to Europe’s past to gain new perspectives, link past and present, and co-create narratives that make European memory tangible and relevant for our futures.

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Goslar, Fabian: Founder (Enkel Europas)
Pfister, Jannik: Head of European Identity (Hertie Foundation)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Work Like a Policy Entrepreneur: Turn Moral Ambition into Large Societal Change

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Most people who want to change the world start from a cause they love and a set solution in mind. Policy entrepreneurs ask first: which problem actually needs me and how can I make the most impact? Over five days you learn cause selection, counterfactual thinking, and coalition building, using real cases. You leave with your own theory of change and first steps to make the most impact possible.

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Bos, Barend: Head of Democracy Program (The School for Moral Ambition)
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

From Complexity to Capacity: Policy Design under Volatility and Interdependence

Track: Studio
Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

How can public decisions remain accountable when the conditions around them keep shifting? This Studio brings together complexity science, data, models, and concrete EU policy cases. Participants engage with cases from the European Parliament and prototype approaches to test assumptions, uncertainties, and systemic effects before decisions become difficult and costly to revise.

This Studio is organised by nextlearning e. V. and the Complexity Science Hub, in cooperation with the European Parliament.

Paulick-Thiel, Caroline: Founding Director (Politics for Tomorrow / nextlearning e.V.)
Sorge, Andreas: Lead Specialist (PD Science Group)
Zsambok, Jakob: Researcher (Complexity Science Hub Vienna)
Kondor, Daniel: Postdoctoral Researcher (Complexity Science Hub)
Reddish, Jenny: Staff Scientist and Lead Editor (Complexity Science Hub & Seshat Global History Databank)

27.08.2026 15:00 - 27.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

How Europe Winds

Track: Art, Seminar
Air is essential yet often taken for granted, despite shaping movement, interaction, and perception. The posed question is not How Europe Wins but Winds — like a wind that opens spaces, brings together different voices, and creates new possibilities. Through movement, sound, and collective improvisation, participants are invited to explore ways of expressing themselves artistically. The session culminates in a shared performance, weaving together movement, sound, and expression.

Madlener, Pia: Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Rademacher, Wiebke: University professor of Music/Arts Education/Head of MA programme (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Dorfmeister-Pölzer, Hans-Adrian: Master's Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)

27.08.2026 20:15 - 27.08.2026 22:00 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

International Evening

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
The International Evening is a vibrant event showcasing the cultural diversity of the participants from different nationalities. With interactive elements and engaging activities, it creates an immersive experience celebrating global unity and fostering cross-cultural connections.

INFO: Please feel warmly invited to attend the International Evening in your traditional clothing.

The EFA Code of Conduct needs to be respected.

28.08.2026 08:15 - 28.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA’s vibrant vibes take over.

28.08.2026 08:30 - 28.08.2026 10:00 | Open Network | Hotel Alphof – Right Dining Hall

Practice Breakfast

Hosted by: Standortagentur Tirol & Plattform Industrie 4.0
Track: Finance
Industry experts outline what is already possible today and where the journey will lead in the near future. Participants will receive numerous insights into expected developments in the near and medium term. In addition, they will gain an overview of solutions that simplify everyday work and make production processes more efficient.

28.08.2026 09:00 - 28.08.2026 11:30 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike | Euregio Inntal: Mobility. Digitalisation. Future!

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino
Track: Climate
Mobility and digitalisation pose new strategic challenges for the Euregio Inntal. This Hike combines expert input with exchange and discussion. The focus of the conversations is on the future perspectives of this area of cooperation and the development of joint strategic approaches across borders. The Hike concludes at the Bischofer Käsalm.

//INFO: Bring sturdy shoes and water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA – Rogger Hall.

Teschenet, Manuel: Managing director of Kufstein mobil
Schwaighofer, Barbara: President of Euregio Inntal
Jennings, Esther: Managing Director of Euregio Inntal

28.08.2026 09:00 - 28.08.2026 17:30 | Lab |

Labs: Multi-Day Working Sessions

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security, Lab
Labs are 3-day facilitated working sessions with a closed and well-selected group of 30 participants that has a joint purpose with the goal that this group, first, becomes a community of action, and second, finds answers to a larger, cross-cutting problem.

Discover the EFA26 Labs.

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus – Seminar Room

Perspectives on European Memory: Objects, Stories and Shared Futures

Track: Studio
European memory is shaped by diverse, contradictory perspectives. How can personal memories help connect perspectives and our lives without reducing them to a single story? In this Studio, we will interpret and connect objects/family stories linked to Europe’s past to gain new perspectives, link past and present, and co-create narratives that make European memory tangible and relevant for our futures.

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Goslar, Fabian: Founder (Enkel Europas)
Pfister, Jannik: Head of European Identity (Hertie Foundation)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

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Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

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Zsambok, Jakob: Researcher (Complexity Science Hub Vienna)
Kondor, Daniel: Postdoctoral Researcher (Complexity Science Hub)
Sorge, Andreas: Lead Specialist (PD Science Group)
Reddish, Jenny: Staff Scientist and Lead Editor (Complexity Science Hub & Seshat Global History Databank)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

Europe Breaks Free: Reconfiguring Dependencies

Track: Security, Seminar
New forms of great power competition are reshaping the dependency calculus of every region. How can the EU and its global partners reconfigure such dependencies in a world shaped by US-China rivalry, Russian aggression, and the transactional dismantling of multilateralism?
The seminar will tackle this question conceptually but also strategically, asking which dependencies to shed and which to deepen, and explore how to pursue genuine interdependence rather than the illusion of full independence.

Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)
Bialasiewicz, Luiza: Professor of Political and Economic Geography (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Financial Technology, Geopolitics, and Digital Sovereignty

Track: Finance, Seminar

Financial technologies are reshaping how markets work and citizens access services – while redrawing the balance between public and private power, transforming how money is created, and opening new arenas of competition among states and between states and corporations. How can we ensure sovereignty, data control, and self-determination in this new world? Designed for non-experts, this seminar unpacks what is at stake for society and the world economy.

Bilotta, Nicola: Senior Research Associate and Coordinator EU-Supervisory Digital Finance Academy / Economist Fellow (Florence School of Banking and Finance - European University Institute / GLOBSEC)
Georg, Co-Pierre: Professor of Practice in Financial Technology (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Geoeconomics and International Trade Policy

Track: Finance, Seminar

The rules-based international order is under pressure: protectionism and the strategic use of economic policy instruments are reshaping global politics and trade. This seminar explores the rise of geo-economics and examines how states use economic tools to pursue political objectives. Participants will discuss the implications for Europe’s open and interconnected economy.

Kamin, Katrin: Senior Director Government Affairs, Strategy & Geopolitics (Siemens AG | Kiel Institute for the World Economy)
Flach, Lisandra: Director and Professor (ifo Center for International Economics and LMU Munich)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Your Voice on Wealth: A Citizens’ Assembly

Track: Studio

A pioneering Citizens’ Assembly brings together young participants to discuss wealth inequality across Europe and beyond. Drawing on high-level expert input and facilitated discussions, participants explore the causes and consequences of extreme wealth concentration and co-create bold, evidence-based solutions for a fairer distribution of wealth, strengthening democracy, social cohesion, and Europe’s future.

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Trinh, Nhat An: Sociologist (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 2

Is Victory Possible in the 21st Century?

Track: Security, Seminar

What does it mean to win? At what costs may victory be achieved? Are the antagonistic and violent practices and narratives of war and victory reconcilable with a sustainable peace? This seminar critically explores the concept of victory from Antiquity to today and specifically looks at the idea of victory in war. By incorporating moral, political, and cultural considerations, victory in the 21st century is reimagined.

Libiseller, Chiara: Lecturer in Strategic Studies (King's College London)
Bojanic, Petar: Professor of Philosophy (University of Belgrade and RECAS)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Science and Ethics

Track: Seminar

Can we separate science and ethics? Where do we draw the boundaries?? In Artificial Intelligence, fairness and accountability are inseparable from how systems learn and how they justify knowledge. Scientific choices are moral choices, and ethics depend on scientific assumptions. The seminar explores good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, including falsification and fraud in academic research.

Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)
Neges, Katharina: Senior Scientist (Graz University of Technology)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Digital Sovereignty: Why Europe Needs It and How It Can Get It

Track: Democracy, Seminar

If digital sovereignty is about the ability to say ‘yes’ to a digital future that aligns with one’s interests and values – and ‘no’ to a future that doesn’t – Europe currently lacks it. In this workshop, we examine why this is the case and why it matters, what can and what should be done about it, and which policies and politics can get Europe there.

Warso, Zuzanna: Director of Research (Open Future Foundation)
Seidl, Timo: Assistant Professor of Political Economy (Technical University of Munich)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

A New Intergenerational Contract: Whose Future Is It Anyway?

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Our systems are failing future generations, by design, not accident. This seminar confronts uncomfortable truths about power, privilege, and short-termism, asking what it means to act with intergenerational justice in mind. Rooted in scholarship on provoking consciousness and action, the seminar challenges assumptions that keep unjust systems in place. You will leave with a concrete plan to advance justice where you have the greatest influence.

Sallah, Momodou: Executive Director (National Research and Innovation Fund (The Gambia))
Howe, Sophie: Director (Sophie Howe Associates)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Hope and the Power to Shape our Future

Track: Seminar

How do we find the will to act when things seem hopeless? Because we are agents who care, our relationship to the future is driven by emotions like hope, anxiety, and despair – not mere feelings, but evaluative states that orient us toward action. Drawing on philosophy and the science of emotion, this interactive seminar invites you to explore how to harness these emotions, individually and collectively, to bring about the futures you value.

Martinez, Camilo: Postdoctoral Researcher (Central European University)
Vazard, Juliette: Senior Researcher (University of Zurich)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Carbon Dioxide Removal from the Atmosphere: A Legal Perspective Beyond Net Zero

Track: Climate, Seminar

The world is on track to exceed 1.5 °C of warming. Climate stabilisation depends on both rapidly cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at scale. Removals are therefore an essential climate action, yet often poorly understood. This seminar explores what carbon dioxide removal is and examines the legal challenges and opportunities of net-negative emissions in the EU and beyond.

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Johnstone, Injy: Senior Research Fellow / Associate (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition / Oxford Net Zero)
Köppen, Martje: DPhil Researcher (University of Oxford)

28.08.2026 09:30 - 28.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Rethinking AI in Context: Health, Environmental Change and Sustainable Futures

Track: Climate, Seminar

AI is reshaping health systems, environments, and societies, bringing opportunities and risks – but who decides how? Who benefits and who gets left behind? How do we plan for the sustainable use of AI? This interactive seminar equips participants to navigate the key debates around AI governance. Discussing foundational concepts, real-world risks, and governance frameworks, we build towards a shared vision of sustainable, equitable AI futures.

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Amanta, Felippa: PhD candidate and policy researcher (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)
Staunton, Ciara: Experienced Legal and Compliance Expert (BBMRI ERIC)

28.08.2026 10:30 - 28.08.2026 12:00 | Open Network | Hotel Alphof – Right Dining Hall

Tyrolean Technology Brunch

Hosted by: Standortagentur Tirol & Plattform Industrie 4.0
Track: Finance
An exclusive networking event as part of the Euregio Days 2026: take the opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives from business, academia, politics, and regional development on technology and digitalisation in Tyrol and Europe.

28.08.2026 13:00 - 28.08.2026 14:00 | | CCA – Loggia

Europe Delivers. Young Entrepreneurs on Responsibility and Europe’s Future

Hosted by: Junge Industrie und IV Tirol
Track: Finance
National approaches often reach their limits, while key challenges are increasingly cross-border in nature. Approaches to strengthening competitiveness, innovation, skilled workforce, and digitalisation in Europe are discussed. This generates momentum for concrete reform steps and future economic resilience.

Vahrner, Alois: Member of the Editorial Management Team and Head of Business and Domestic Politics (Tiroler Tageszeitungg)
Fröschl, Eduard jun.: Managing Director (Fröschl AG & Co. KG)
Gruber, Daniela: Managing Director (SilberQuelle GmbH)
Silbernagel, Lukas: Founder (tincx)
Dorner, Kilian: Managing Director (Dorner Electronic GmbH)

28.08.2026 13:30 - 28.08.2026 14:30 | Chat |

Food for Thought

Track: Seminar, Studio
Sebastian PLESSNER
The Future of Our Forests - How to save our green eco-systems
Mittelschule, Ground Floor-Portacabin

Luis BRUCH
EFA through the years: how a theme represents the change in Europe - painting the mural
Mittelschule Terrace

Tom THIERCELIN
Editorial & Street Photography: finding the subject, independent photographers from the 2010-20s.
Mittelschule Ground Floor-Room 2

Olimpia MAILAT
Seeing "the other": non-human animal representation and advocacy in cinema
Mittelschule Ground Floor-Room 3

Maria STRONSKA
Dance your stress away: dive into Brazilian zouk
Mittelschule Ground Floor-Gym

Karolina JELINKOVA
Evidence-based policy making - An introduction to causal inference: can we truly know X causes Y?
Mittelschule First Floor-Conference Room

Sara RODRÍGUEZ
Obsession and Possession: (Re)Interpreting the Female Monster
Mittelschule First Floor-EDV Room

Mila LOKTIONOVA
Migrants and Fitting-In: On Whose Terms?
Mittelschule, First Floor-Handarbeitsraum

Clara ZUFFINO
From Periphery to Centre Stage: Connecting Europe from the Edge
Mittelschule, First Floor-Physikraum
Petr BANDA
How free is free? Roma in Europe past and present
Mittelschule Ground Floor-Room 4

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Forecourt

OPCON: An Outdoor-based Leadership Seminar

Track: Seminar
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Gstrein, Alexander: Advisor (Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Defence)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

Dialogue across Divides: Designing Better Conversations for a Polarised World

Track: Democracy, Seminar
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MacDonald-Nelson, James: Cities Programme Lead (DemocracyNext)

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Creative Writing: Co-operation, Leadership and Empathy

Track: Art, Seminar
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A pioneering Citizens’ Assembly brings together young participants to discuss wealth inequality across Europe and beyond. Drawing on high-level expert input and facilitated discussions, participants explore the causes and consequences of extreme wealth concentration and co-create bold, evidence-based solutions for a fairer distribution of wealth, strengthening democracy, social cohesion, and Europe’s future.

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Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)
Trinh, Nhat An: Sociologist (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Rewilding Environmental Practices

Track: Art, Seminar

What if the future could be otherwise? This seminar explores imaginative agency through lateral thinking: taking detours, embracing surprise, and making the familiar strange. We will read and discuss texts, walk through the forest, observe, photograph, draw, write, cut, paste, and map. Together, we will create a collective utopian map of futures that do not yet exist - but perhaps could.

Gleim, Meike: Artistic Coordinator and Senior Researcher (Science of Singularities ASBL / Technical University Dortmund)
Ulrich, Antonia: PhD Student, Philosophy (University of Potsdam in coop. with University of Applied Arts Hannover, Design and Media)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

From Complexity to Capacity: Policy Design under Volatility and Interdependence

Track: Studio
Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

How can public decisions remain accountable when the conditions around them keep shifting? This Studio brings together complexity science, data, models, and concrete EU policy cases. Participants engage with cases from the European Parliament and prototype approaches to test assumptions, uncertainties, and systemic effects before decisions become difficult and costly to revise.

This Studio is organised by nextlearning e. V. and the Complexity Science Hub, in cooperation with the European Parliament.

Paulick-Thiel, Caroline: Founding Director (Politics for Tomorrow / nextlearning e.V.)
Reddish, Jenny: Staff Scientist and Lead Editor (Complexity Science Hub & Seshat Global History Databank)
Sorge, Andreas: Lead Specialist (PD Science Group)
Zsambok, Jakob: Researcher (Complexity Science Hub Vienna)
Kondor, Daniel: Postdoctoral Researcher (Complexity Science Hub)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Work Like a Policy Entrepreneur: Turn Moral Ambition into Large Societal Change

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Most people who want to change the world start from a cause they love and a set solution in mind. Policy entrepreneurs ask first: which problem actually needs me and how can I make the most impact? Over five days you learn cause selection, counterfactual thinking, and coalition building, using real cases. You leave with your own theory of change and first steps to make the most impact possible.

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Bos, Barend: Head of Democracy Program (The School for Moral Ambition)
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus – Seminar Room

Perspectives on European Memory: Objects, Stories and Shared Futures

Track: Studio
European memory is shaped by diverse, contradictory perspectives. How can personal memories help connect perspectives and our lives without reducing them to a single story? In this Studio, we will interpret and connect objects/family stories linked to Europe's past to gain new perspectives, link past and present, and co-create narratives that make European memory tangible and relevant for our futures.

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Pfister, Jannik: Head of European Identity (Hertie Foundation)
Goslar, Fabian: Founder (Enkel Europas)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Stronger Together: The Power of the Ensemble.

Track: Art, Seminar
This seminar will explore the ways in which many individuals can end up working as a cohesive team. Creating an effective and dynamic piece of theatre requires every actor to work seamlessly with the rest of the ensemble regardless of whether their part is major or minor. Acting students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London will share those parts of their training that enable this important connection.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Capital in Motion: Understanding How Capital Moves the World

Track: Finance, Seminar
This seminar makes capital markets tangible. Participants act as investors, make decisions under uncertainty, and explore how capital shapes companies and Europe's future. Simulation, expert insights, and discussion connect theory with real-world application.

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Bayer, Daniel: Founder & Consultant (Fingu GmbH)
Lehner, Heike: Economist (independent)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Theatre as a Sanctuary: How Theatre Builds Confidence and Connection

Track: Art, Seminar

Many actors are introduced to theatre when their parents send them to theatre workshops to overcome their shyness and gain confidence; they end up going on stage in front of hundreds of people. The stage is their place of safety. So, what is it about working together to create a piece of theatre that produces this feeling? This seminar, led by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will explore this question.

Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Activist Filmmaking: Telling Stories of Resistance and Hope

Track: Art, Seminar

Ecological and social crises dominate the newsfeeds, pushing many people into apathy. How can artistic practices offer a way out? In the seminar, stories of resistance will be explored: Participants will learn about activist filmmaking, engage in dialogue about the narratives we are surrounded by, and create their own piece of hope to empower themselves and others.

Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)
Lee, Iara: Activist, Filmmaker, and Cultural Producer (Cultures of Resistance)

28.08.2026 15:00 - 28.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

How Europe Winds

Track: Art, Seminar

Air is essential yet often taken for granted, despite shaping movement, interaction, and perception. The posed question is not How Europe Wins but Winds — like a wind that opens spaces, brings together different voices, and creates new possibilities. Through movement, sound, and collective improvisation, participants are invited to explore ways of expressing themselves artistically. The session culminates in a shared performance, weaving together movement, sound, and expression.

Rademacher, Wiebke: University professor of Music/Arts Education/Head of MA programme (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Madlener, Pia: Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Dorfmeister-Pölzer, Hans-Adrian: Master's Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)

28.08.2026 18:30 - 28.08.2026 19:00 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Axmann, Philipp: Youth Worker (Protestant Church of Austria)

28.08.2026 18:30 - 28.08.2026 20:00 | Open Network | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Career Development: Future Skills in the Euregio Labour Market

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino and its European University Alliances
Track: Finance
The labour market in the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino is changing rapidly due to new skill demands. This session brings together perspectives from higher education, vocational education and practice to discuss Future Skills in an open dialogue. The exchange highlights regional qualification needs and outlines pathways for cross-border career development.

Walde, Janette: Vice Rector for Teaching and Students, University of Innsbruck
Stoitzner, Patrizia: Exec. Vice President for Research and International Relations, Medical University of Innsbruck
Deflorian, Flavio: Rector, University of Trento
Baratieri, Marco: Vice Rector for Studies, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano
Försterling, Hannah: Session Chair, Extended Board, Club Alpbach Tirol
Mirski, Peter: Chief Information Officer, MCI | The Entrepreneurial School

28.08.2026 19:30 - 28.08.2026 21:30 | | Bikerei 701

FANC - Pub Quiz

Test your trivia skills! Think you know it all? Gather your new friends and join us for the ultimate Pub Quiz night!

28.08.2026 20:00 - 28.08.2026 22:00 | Closed Network | Hotel Alphof

Cheers to Our Shared Journey

Track: Lab
Celebrate the EFA Academy Days with us! Reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people from our studio and seminar formats, and enjoy a relaxed chat over a drink. We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

28.08.2026 20:00 - 28.08.2026 21:00 | Ritual | Village Square

Open Air Concert: Alpbach Brass Band

On Fridays during the summer months, the Alpbach brass band gives an open-air concert in the village square. All Alpbach residents as well as national and international guests are warmly invited!

28.08.2026 20:30 - 28.08.2026 23:00 | Stage | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

EuregioImpactNight: Between Vision and Reality

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Südtirol Alto Adige (CASA) & Euregio Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino
Track: Finance
Social entrepreneurs develop business solutions to societal challenges. Founders and experts from the fields of impact investing and innovation promotion will share practical insights into building impact-driven businesses and discuss opportunities and structural challenges in a regional and European context. The discussion will be further explored in the subsequent World Café session.

Hussein, Helin:
Hofmann, David:
Kager, Ulrich:
Fischer, Ulli:
Stocco, Francesco:
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)
Frigo, Cristian:
Iaia, Beatrice: (Biotitan Nanotechnologies)
Auer, Alex: (Impact Hub Tirol)
Campagnano, Paolo: (Impact Hub Trento)
Obermair, Lena: (Impact Hub Tirol)
Flunger, Rudolf:
Seddiqi, Samir:

29.08.2026 08:00 - 29.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

29.08.2026 08:15 - 29.08.2026 09:00 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA’s vibrant vibes take over.

29.08.2026 09:00 - 29.08.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Between Security and Rights: Minority Governance in the Baltic States and Ukraine

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino and & Eurac Research
Track: Democracy, Security
Security concerns since 2022 have reshaped how minority issues are governed in the Baltic States and Ukraine. The session brings together regional perspectives to examine these shifts and their policy effects. It identifies risks of securitisation and outlines approaches to balance security and minority rights.

La Cecilia, Davide: Special Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy)
Blizkovsky, Petr: Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions
Vasilevich, Hanna: Eurac Research, Institute for Minority Rights (Eurac Research, Institute for Minority Rights)
Rautz, Günther: Eurac Research, Institute for Minority Rights (Eurac Research Minority Rights Institute)
Potašenko, Grigorijus: Associate Professor at the Faculty of History (Vilnius University)
Paaver, Mari-Liis: Art Historian
Likhachev, Vyacheslav: Human Rights Activist
Krivcova, Elizabete: Juristin und Menschenrechtsaktivistin
Krasnitsky, Alexander: Media Professional
Keliohlo, Karyna: Employee of the Ukrainian government
Kascian, Kiryl: Head of the Centre for Communication Influences and Propaganda Research, (Vilnius University)
Carlà, Andrea: Senior Researcher (Eurac Research Minority Rights Institute)
Borboly, Csaba: Vice-President of Harghita County Council and member of the European Committee of the Regions

29.08.2026 09:00 - 29.08.2026 17:30 | Lab |

Labs: Multi-Day Working Sessions

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security, Lab
Labs are 3-day facilitated working sessions with a closed and well-selected group of 30 participants that has a joint purpose with the goal that this group, first, becomes a community of action, and second, finds answers to a larger, cross-cutting problem.

Discover the EFA26 Labs.

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Your Voice on Wealth: A Citizens’ Assembly

Track: Studio
A pioneering Citizens’ Assembly brings together young participants to discuss wealth inequality across Europe and beyond. Drawing on high-level expert input and facilitated discussions, participants explore the causes and consequences of extreme wealth concentration and co-create bold, evidence-based solutions for a fairer distribution of wealth, strengthening democracy, social cohesion, and Europe’s future.

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Trinh, Nhat An: Sociologist (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

Europe Breaks Free: Reconfiguring Dependencies

Track: Security, Seminar
New forms of great power competition are reshaping the dependency calculus of every region. How can the EU and its global partners reconfigure such dependencies in a world shaped by US-China rivalry, Russian aggression, and the transactional dismantling of multilateralism?
The seminar will tackle this question conceptually but also strategically, asking which dependencies to shed and which to deepen, and explore how to pursue genuine interdependence rather than the illusion of full independence.

Bialasiewicz, Luiza: Professor of Political and Economic Geography (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Financial Technology, Geopolitics, and Digital Sovereignty

Track: Finance, Seminar
Financial technologies are reshaping how markets work and citizens access services – while redrawing the balance between public and private power, transforming how money is created, and opening new arenas of competition among states and between states and corporations. How can we ensure sovereignty, data control, and self-determination in this new world? Designed for non-experts, this seminar unpacks what is at stake for society and the world economy.

Georg, Co-Pierre: Professor of Practice in Financial Technology (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management)
Bilotta, Nicola: Senior Research Associate and Coordinator EU-Supervisory Digital Finance Academy / Economist Fellow (Florence School of Banking and Finance - European University Institute / GLOBSEC)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Geoeconomics and International Trade Policy

Track: Finance, Seminar

The rules-based international order is under pressure: protectionism and the strategic use of economic policy instruments are reshaping global politics and trade. This seminar explores the rise of geo-economics and examines how states use economic tools to pursue political objectives. Participants will discuss the implications for Europe’s open and interconnected economy.

Flach, Lisandra: Director and Professor (ifo Center for International Economics and LMU Munich)
Kamin, Katrin: Senior Director Government Affairs, Strategy & Geopolitics (Siemens AG | Kiel Institute for the World Economy)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

A New Intergenerational Contract: Whose Future Is It Anyway?

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Our systems are failing future generations, by design, not accident. This seminar confronts uncomfortable truths about power, privilege, and short-termism, asking what it means to act with intergenerational justice in mind. Rooted in scholarship on provoking consciousness and action, the seminar challenges assumptions that keep unjust systems in place. You will leave with a concrete plan to advance justice where you have the greatest influence.

Sallah, Momodou: Executive Director (National Research and Innovation Fund (The Gambia))
Howe, Sophie: Director (Sophie Howe Associates)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Hope and the Power to Shape our Future

Track: Seminar

How do we find the will to act when things seem hopeless? Because we are agents who care, our relationship to the future is driven by emotions like hope, anxiety, and despair – not mere feelings, but evaluative states that orient us toward action. Drawing on philosophy and the science of emotion, this interactive seminar invites you to explore how to harness these emotions, individually and collectively, to bring about the futures you value.

Martinez, Camilo: Postdoctoral Researcher (Central European University)
Vazard, Juliette: Senior Researcher (University of Zurich)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – EDV Room

Carbon Dioxide Removal from the Atmosphere: A Legal Perspective Beyond Net Zero

Track: Climate, Seminar
The world is on track to exceed 1.5 °C of warming. Climate stabilisation depends on both rapidly cutting emissions and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at scale. Removals are therefore an essential climate action, yet often poorly understood. This seminar explores what carbon dioxide removal is and examines the legal challenges and opportunities of net-negative emissions in the EU and beyond.

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Köppen, Martje: DPhil Researcher (University of Oxford)
Johnstone, Injy: Senior Research Fellow / Associate (Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition / Oxford Net Zero)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Rethinking AI in Context: Health, Environmental Change and Sustainable Futures

Track: Climate, Seminar
AI is reshaping health systems, environments, and societies, bringing opportunities and risks – but who decides how? Who benefits and who gets left behind? How do we plan for the sustainable use of AI? This interactive seminar equips participants to navigate the key debates around AI governance. Discussing foundational concepts, real-world risks, and governance frameworks, we build towards a shared vision of sustainable, equitable AI futures.

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Staunton, Ciara: Experienced Legal and Compliance Expert (BBMRI ERIC)
Amanta, Felippa: PhD candidate and policy researcher (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 2

Is Victory Possible in the 21st Century?

Track: Security, Seminar
What does it mean to win? At what costs may victory be achieved? Are the antagonistic and violent practices and narratives of war and victory reconcilable with a sustainable peace? This seminar critically explores the concept of victory from Antiquity to today and specifically looks at the idea of victory in war. By incorporating moral, political, and cultural considerations, victory in the 21st century is reimagined.

Libiseller, Chiara: Lecturer in Strategic Studies (King's College London)
Bojanic, Petar: Professor of Philosophy (University of Belgrade and RECAS)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Science and Ethics

Track: Seminar
Can we separate science and ethics? Where do we draw the boundaries?? In Artificial Intelligence, fairness and accountability are inseparable from how systems learn and how they justify knowledge. Scientific choices are moral choices, and ethics depend on scientific assumptions. The seminar explores good scientific practice and scientific misconduct, including falsification and fraud in academic research.

Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)
Neges, Katharina: Senior Scientist (Graz University of Technology)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Digital Sovereignty: Why Europe Needs It and How It Can Get It

Track: Democracy, Seminar
If digital sovereignty is about the ability to say ‘yes’ to a digital future that aligns with one’s interests and values – and ‘no’ to a future that doesn’t – Europe currently lacks it. In this workshop, we examine why this is the case and why it matters, what can and what should be done about it, and which policies and politics can get Europe there.

Warso, Zuzanna: Director of Research (Open Future Foundation)
Seidl, Timo: Assistant Professor of Political Economy (Technical University of Munich)

29.08.2026 09:30 - 29.08.2026 12:30 | Seminar | Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

From Complexity to Capacity: Policy Design under Volatility and Interdependence

Track: Studio
Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

How can public decisions remain accountable when the conditions around them keep shifting? This Sstudio brings together complexity science, data, models, and concrete EU policy cases. Participants engage with cases from the European Parliament and prototype approaches to test assumptions, uncertainties, and systemic effects before decisions become difficult and costly to revise.

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Zsambok, Jakob: Researcher (Complexity Science Hub Vienna)
Sorge, Andreas: Lead Specialist (PD Science Group)
Kondor, Daniel: Postdoctoral Researcher (Complexity Science Hub)

29.08.2026 12:45 - 29.08.2026 13:45 | | CCA – Loggia

Brown Bag Lunch | Opportunities for Concrete Cross-Border Cooperation

The European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino was established as a way of reconnecting with the historical roots of the Princely County of Tyrol, which existed from 1504 to 1918. Today, identity-building initiatives remain an important part of its work. Increasingly, however, the focus is on the question of whether, beyond mere symbolism, cross-border projects can be implemented that provide tangible benefits to the nearly 1.9 million people living in the three regions across two EU member states.

Pichler-Rolle, Elmar: Editor in Chief (Dolomiten)
Lobis, Patrick: Head of the Representation (Europäische Kommission in Österreich)

29.08.2026 13:30 - 29.08.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation: Perspectives for Europe

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino
Track: Democracy, Finance
Border regions require reliable frameworks and effective funding instruments to address shared challenges. This session brings together local and regional perspectives with European experience in an interactive exchange. The discussion will provide orientation for the next European Union funding period and explore ways to strengthen the representation of cross-border interests at the European level.

Dobroslavić, Nikola: Member of the European Committee of the Regions
Bertò, Elisa: Representative for Trentino at General Secretariat of the EGTC Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
Sakic, Denis: Denis Sakic is a member of the Vienna Provincial Parliament and a local councillor
Gärber, Martha: Director of the Europe Department of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol

29.08.2026 14:00 - 29.08.2026 17:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Saal

Euregio Young Researchers Award

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino
Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Young researchers under the age of 35 present their research projects on the topic of strong regions. The aim is to make research from the region more visible and to foster intergenerational dialogue with decisionmakers from academia and politics. A high-level jury selects the award winners, who are honoured in the evening.

Tappeiner, Ulrike: Head of Institute for Alpine Environment at Eurac Research (EURAC-Centre for Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity Studies)

29.08.2026 14:00 - 29.08.2026 17:30 | Stage | CCA – Rogger-Saal

Euregio Innovation Award

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtirol-Trentino
Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
The Euregio Innovation Award recognises creative products, technologies, and services that strengthen the competitive position of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. Companies from all three regions present their projects. A high-level jury selects the award winners, who are honoured in the evening.

Hofer, Marcus: CEO of the Standortagentur Tirol (Standortagentur Tirol)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Capital in Motion: Understanding How Capital Moves the World

Track: Finance, Seminar
This seminar makes capital markets tangible. Participants act as investors, make decisions under uncertainty, and explore how capital shapes companies and Europe’s future. Simulation, expert insights, and discussion connect theory with real-world application.

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Lehner, Heike: Economist (independent)

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Activist Filmmaking: Telling Stories of Resistance and Hope

Track: Art, Seminar
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Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 3

Theatre as a Sanctuary: How Theatre Builds Confidence and Connection

Track: Art, Seminar

Many actors are introduced to theatre when their parents send them to theatre workshops to overcome their shyness and gain confidence; they end up going on stage in front of hundreds of people. The stage is their place of safety. So, what is it about working together to create a piece of theatre that produces this feeling? This seminar, led by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, will explore this question.

Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 4

Stronger Together: The Power of the Ensemble.

Track: Art, Seminar

This seminar will explore the ways in which many individuals can end up working as a cohesive team. Creating an effective and dynamic piece of theatre requires every actor to work seamlessly with the rest of the ensemble regardless of whether their part is major or minor. Acting students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London will share those parts of their training that enable this important connection.

Shavit, Yael: Senior Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)
Schiller, Ingrid: Associate Acting Tutor (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts | RADA)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Gym

Your Voice on Wealth: A Citizens’ Assembly

Track: Studio

A pioneering Citizens’ Assembly brings together young participants to discuss wealth inequality across Europe and beyond. Drawing on high-level expert input and facilitated discussions, participants explore the causes and consequences of extreme wealth concentration and co-create bold, evidence-based solutions for a fairer distribution of wealth, strengthening democracy, social cohesion, and Europe’s future.

Trinh, Nhat An: Sociologist (WZB Berlin Social Science Center)
Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Ground Floor – Classroom 1

Rewilding Environmental Practices

Track: Art, Seminar
What if the future could be otherwise? This seminar explores imaginative agency through lateral thinking: taking detours, embracing surprise, and making the familiar strange. We will read and discuss texts, walk through the forest, observe, photograph, draw, write, cut, paste, and map. Together, we will create a collective utopian map of futures that do not yet exist - but perhaps could.

Gleim, Meike: Artistic Coordinator and Senior Researcher (Science of Singularities ASBL / Technical University Dortmund)
Ulrich, Antonia: PhD Student, Philosophy (University of Potsdam in coop. with University of Applied Arts Hannover, Design and Media)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 17:30 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Hike | EU Dialogue with Local Communities

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino & the European Committee of the Regions
Track: Democracy
Local communities need direct channels to the European Union. This Hike brings members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the European Commission (EC), EU Local Councillors, Young Elected Politicians, and citizens into dialogue. It stops at a hut for an exchange on the partnership between the CoR and EC and next steps to strengthen the EU Local Councillors network. The Hike concludes at the Alpengasthof Roosmoos.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

Mattle, Anton: Governor of Tyrol, President of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
Kuehnel, Richard: Director for Representation and Communication in Member States, European Commission
Dobroslavić, Nikola: Member of the European Committee of the Regions
Tüttő, Kata: President of the European Committee of the Regions
Blitzkovsky, Petr: Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions
Borboly, Csaba: Vice-President of Harghita County Council and member of the European Committee of the Regions

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – Meadow

OPCON: An Outdoor-based Leadership Seminar

Track: Seminar
Leading people is the ultimate core competence of the military. The action-oriented outdoor peer-to-peer seminar, led by cadets from the Theresian Military Academy Austria, seeks to find answers to the general theme of EFA26, “How Europe wins”, under the seminar title “OPCON”. In this context, OPCON stands for operational control and is intended to express that a common approach will be needed – while still respecting the sovereignty of the individual actors.

//INFO: The seminar takes place outdoors in all weather conditions. Sportswear and sneakers are recommended.

Gstrein, Alexander: Advisor (Federal Ministry Republic of Austria Defence)
Schiller, Alexander: Staff Officer for Psychological Operations (PsyOps) / Instructor for Communication Trainers (Operations Command Division of the Austrian Armed Forces)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Classroom 5

Dialogue across Divides: Designing Better Conversations for a Polarised World

Track: Democracy, Seminar
Globally, polarisation is rising, yet confrontation isn’t inevitable. Constructive dialogue, curiosity over conflict, and finding common ground are choices we can make. This seminar explores the state of division and what it means for society. Through case studies, workshops, and interactive activities, we’ll examine the forces shaping political disagreement, and how we can bridge divides to have more productive political conversations.

//INFO: Please make sure to bring your own laptop. If you do not have one, please contact the EFA-Team at seminars@alpbach.org

McQuone, Rhiannon: Research Associate (More in Common)
MacDonald-Nelson, James: Cities Programme Lead (DemocracyNext)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | MIttelschule – First Floor – Physikraum

Creative Writing: Co-operation, Leadership and Empathy

Track: Art, Seminar

Europe is often treated as geographical entity rather than a community shaped by shared values, such as cooperation, leadership, and empathy. This seminar uses story, poetry, memoir, reflective essays, and collaborative projects to explore ideas of solidarity, responsibility, and belonging across cultures and generations. Participants develop original texts and new perspectives that support dialogue and understanding across borders.

English, Lucy: Professor of Creative Enterprise and The Spoken Word (Bath Spa University)
Jeffries, Lauren: Student (Bath Spa University)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Mittelschule – First Floor – Handarbeitsraum

Work Like a Policy Entrepreneur: Turn Moral Ambition into Large Societal Change

Track: Democracy, Seminar

Most people who want to change the world start from a cause they love and a set solution in mind. Policy entrepreneurs ask first: which problem actually needs me and how can I make the most impact? Over five days you learn cause selection, counterfactual thinking, and coalition building, using real cases. You leave with your own theory of change and first steps to make the most impact possible.

//INFO: Please make sure to bring your own laptop. If you do not have one, please contact the EFA-Team at seminars@alpbach.org

Bos, Barend: Head of Democracy Program (The School for Moral Ambition)
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Feuerwehrhaus – Seminar Room

Perspectives on European Memory: Objects, Stories and Shared Futures

Track: Studio

European memory is shaped by diverse, contradictory perspectives. How can personal memories help connect perspectives and our lives without reducing them to a single story? In this Studio, we will interpret and connect objects/family stories linked to Europe’s past to gain new perspectives, link past and present, and co-create narratives that make European memory tangible and relevant for our futures.

//INFO: Please make sure to bring your own laptop. If you do not have one, please contact the EFA-Team at seminars@alpbach.org

Pfister, Jannik: Head of European Identity (Hertie Foundation)
Goslar, Fabian: Founder (Enkel Europas)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

How Europe Winds

Track: Art, Seminar
Air is essential yet often taken for granted, despite shaping movement, interaction, and perception. The posed question is not How Europe Wins but Winds — like a wind that opens spaces, brings together different voices, and creates new possibilities. Through movement, sound, and collective improvisation, participants are invited to explore ways of expressing themselves artistically. The session culminates in a shared performance, weaving together movement, sound, and expression.

Dorfmeister-Pölzer, Hans-Adrian: Master's Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Madlener, Pia: Student (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)
Rademacher, Wiebke: University professor of Music/Arts Education/Head of MA programme (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna | MUK)

29.08.2026 15:00 - 29.08.2026 18:00 | Seminar | Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

From Complexity to Capacity: Policy Design under Volatility and Interdependence

Track: Studio
Volksschule – Backyard – Classroom 1

How can public decisions remain accountable when the conditions around them keep shifting? This Studio brings together complexity science, data, models, and concrete EU policy cases. Participants engage with cases from the European Parliament and prototype approaches to test assumptions, uncertainties, and systemic effects before decisions become difficult and costly to revise.

This Studio is organised by nextlearning e. V. and the Complexity Science Hub, in cooperation with the European Parliament.

Paulick-Thiel, Caroline: Founding Director (Politics for Tomorrow / nextlearning e.V.)
Sorge, Andreas: Lead Specialist (PD Science Group)
Reddish, Jenny: Staff Scientist and Lead Editor (Complexity Science Hub & Seshat Global History Databank)
Kondor, Daniel: Postdoctoral Researcher (Complexity Science Hub)
Zsambok, Jakob: Researcher (Complexity Science Hub Vienna)

29.08.2026 18:30 - 29.08.2026 20:00 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Award Ceremony: Euregio Awards

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino
Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
In a festive setting, the winners of the Euregio Innovation Award and the Euregio Young Researchers Award are honoured. Afterwards, a get-together invites guests to connect and celebrate.

29.08.2026 19:00 - 29.08.2026 20:00 | Stage | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Academy Days Closing

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join the European Forum Alpbach 2026 Academy Days Closing! Participants from around the world come together to reflect on an inspiring week of Seminars and Studios and to share ideas, insights, and creative outcomes shaped through collaboration across disciplines. Expect a dynamic mix of presentations, performances, and glimpses into the conversations shaping tomorrow’s Europe.

29.08.2026 20:00 - 29.08.2026 21:45 | Happening | CCA – Loggia

European Echoes – Celebrate Europe Together

After a week of ideas and debate, it is time to celebrate Europe. The evening begins with an artistic performance leading to the Loggia, followed by remarks, a sunset concert and a curated DJ line-up. Together, we will unfurl a large EU flag and send a message for an open and connected Europe.

//In case of bad weather, the programme will take place in the SPAR Garage.

Brunner, Magnus: EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration (European Commission)
NENDA: Artist | Musician

29.08.2026 22:00 - 30.08.2026 01:00 | Happening | Spar – Garage

European Echoes - Academy Days Closing Party

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
As the Academy Days come to a close, the SPAR Garage opens for a night of music and connection. With an EU-inspired setting, a DJ line-up, and guests from across Europe, celebrate new friendships and everything that connects us.

//Join the Concert at 20:30 at CCA Loggia.
//Bring enough cash to pay for drinks. No card payment possible.

30.08.2026 07:30 - 30.08.2026 08:30 | Ritual | Mittelschule – Forecourt

Sunrise Bonding

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
Finding a bit of peace and quiet before EFA’s vibrant vibes take over.

30.08.2026 09:00 - 30.08.2026 17:30 | Lab |

Labs: Multi-Day Working Sessions

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security, Lab
Labs are 3-day facilitated working sessions with a closed and well-selected group of 30 participants that has a joint purpose with the goal that this group, first, becomes a community of action, and second, finds answers to a larger, cross-cutting problem.

Discover the EFA26 Labs.

30.08.2026 09:00 - 30.08.2026 09:45 | Happening | Church

Holy Mass

Join the traditional Church Service at the Alpbach Parish Church to mark the opening of the Tyrol Day.

Hollerich, Jean-Claude: Archbishop of Luxembourg (Archdiocese of Luxembourg)

30.08.2026 10:00 - 30.08.2026 11:00 | Happening | CCA – Square

Ceremonial Welcome and Official Addresses by Political Representatives

Hosted by: Euregio
Official reception with welcome addresses by political representatives of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino.

30.08.2026 11:00 - 30.08.2026 12:00 | Open Network | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Euregio Summit

Hosted by: Euregio Tirol-Südtiol-Trentino
Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Europe’s strength lies in cooperation. The Euregio Summit illustrates how regions and the EU advance innovation through collaboration and secure Europe’s long-term competitiveness. The session links regional perspectives with European policymaking and demonstrates how joint action strengthens Europe’s capacity to succeed.

Fugatti, Maurizio: Served as President of the Autonomous Province of Trento
Kompatscher, Arno:
Dobroslavić, Nikola: Member of the European Committee of the Regions
Mattle, Anton: Governor of Tyrol, President of the Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino
Brunner, Magnus: EU Commissioner for Home Affairs and Migration (European Commission)
Tüttő, Kata: President of the European Committee of the Regions

30.08.2026 12:00 - 30.08.2026 15:30 | Happening | CCA – Loggia

Alpbach Welcome

Hosted by: Freiwillige Feuerwehr Alpbach, Bäuerinnen Alpbach, Jungbauernschaft/Landjugend Alpbach, Tourismusverband Alpbach, Gasthof Jakober
A village gathering to celebrate community across cultures: Cross border regions and cultures merge, bringing together residents and international guests of the EFA around food, drinks, as well as traditions from Tirol and Trentino. Join us, take part, and enjoy music, conversation, and the spirit of Alpbach.

30.08.2026 14:00 - 30.08.2026 14:00 | Happening | Volksschule

24 Hours Reading Marathon

Escape the noise of the Alpbach crowds and join us for a literary meditation that will transport you to a different world. Welcome to our yearly 24-hour Reading Marathon. In the Alpbach whirlwind you sometimes just need to wind down a bit. This is your chance to do that by reading “The Magic Mountain” by Thomas Mann collectively between 30 and 31.08. Come whenever you feel like it, read a few pages, pass the book on, and listen to the next chapter.

//INFO: This session begins on 30/08 at 14:00 and ends on 31/08 at 14:00.

30.08.2026 17:00 - 30.08.2026 18:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Opening: Conference Days "How Europe Wins"

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
The Opening of the Conference Days sets the stage for the Forum's central topic: How Europe Wins. It sets out what “winning” means in European terms, advocating for a world of positive sum power politics, fully aware of its limits and determined to thrive in a world it finds, rather than it wishes to be. The discussion frames a European proposition built on being powerful, peaceful and prosperous - and outlines what is at stake if Europe fails to act together.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Lazard, Olivia: Fellow at the Berggruen Institute; Founder at Transition Intelligence (Berggruen Institute; Transition Intelligence)
Karas, Othmar: President (European Forum Alpbach)
Tharoor, Shashi: Member and Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs (Indian Parliament)
Ensemble, WAGA: Music ensemble of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Letta, Enrico: Dean IE University, Madrid and President Jacques Delors Institute, Paris (IE University and Jacques Delors Institute)

30.08.2026 18:30 - 30.08.2026 20:00 | Happening | Village Square

Be(e) Together – An Invitation from ERSTE Foundation

Track:
A small celebration to share what matters: To round off the Opening of the Conference Days, we're gathering at the 15-metre-long table in the heart of Alpbach – the Forum, the village, and everyone who wants to discuss the changes we truly need. We'll be sharing bread, butter, honey, ideas, and much more; prepared by chefs.

30.08.2026 20:00 - 30.08.2026 22:00 | | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

FANC - CA Georgia and CA Belgrade Movie Screening

Join us for a screening of two acclaimed Georgian short documentaries exploring democracy, civic engagement, resilience, identity, and political transformation through deeply personal stories. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, with a special focus on the shared experiences of young people in Georgia and Serbia portrayed in "Fragments on Resistance".

31.08.2026 07:00 - 31.08.2026 08:00 | Ritual | CCA – Square

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

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 and illness.

31.08.2026 08:00 - 31.08.2026 08:45 | Chat | Feuerwehrhaus

Morning Briefing

Anna Wallner will speak with Erste Group CEO Peter Bosek for the Die Presse podcast "Was wichtig ist". In 2025, Erste Group completed the largest cross-border banking deal in 20 years with its acquisition of Santander Bank Polska, now Erste Bank Polska. We will discuss the deal, why the CEE region is becoming increasingly important for Erste Group and Europe, and where Austria stands. Questions are very much welcome.

The Morning Briefing will be recorded live.

Wallner, Anna: Journalist (Die Presse)
Bosek, Peter: CEO (Erste Group)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Book Talk with Franz-Stefan Gady

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Franz-Stefan Gady for a book talk of "Überfall" in the Hayek Hall.

Zeller, Jenni: Trainee | Security Track Committee Member (Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | European Forum Alpbach)
Gady, Franz-Stefan: Analyst (Gady Consulting)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike | The Cost of Caution: Risk, Power, and Responsibility

Track: Finance
Europe’s ability to act is shaped by how it handles risk. Incentives often reward caution over initiative, limiting decisive leadership – raising a critical question: can a system designed to avoid failure still produce decisive leadership? This hike examines risk across individual, institutional, and strategic levels, and how systems can shift to enable agency and responsibility.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA-Flora-Saal.

Poletto, Maurizio: Chief Operating Officer and Chief Platform Office (CPO) of Erste Group (Erste Group)
Kaminski, Kilian: Co-Founder (refurbed)
Touzet, Chloé: Policy Lead (SaferAI)
Deutsch, Tina: Co-Founder & Managing Director (KONTEXT Institut)
Fiedler, Susann: Professor of Business Psychology (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 2 | Bus Turning Area

Hike | Efficiency vs Legitimacy: The Trade-Offs of “Cutting Red Tape”

Track: Democracy
Facing growing pressure for faster decisions, many governments turn to “cutting red tape”. Simplifying rules and processes can accelerate procedures, lower burdens, and encourage innovation, but may also weaken oversight, accountability and protection. Scrutinise how institutions and leaders balance these trade-offs between efficiency and legitimacy.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at the elementary school.

Straden, Antonia: Junior Partner I Board Member (Peyer Partner Rechtsanwälte I Club Alpbach Switzerland)
Laschet, Armin: Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (German Bundestag)
Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

In conversation with Andrej Kiska and Carsten Q. Schneider

Track: Democracy
A conversation between Andrej Kiska and Carsten Q. Schneider on the subject of "Lessons from History: Change of Regimes Past and Present".

Kiska, Andrej: Former President of Slovakia, Entrepreneur & Philanthropist (Good Angel non-profit organization (Dobrý Anjel))
Schneider, Carsten Q.: Interim President and Rector (Central European University)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Europe’s Nuclear Dilemma: Deterrence, Autonomy, and the Future of Security

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Poland with Club Alpbach France
Track: Security
As transatlantic guarantees shift, Europe reassesses nuclear deterrence and strategic autonomy. This session examines emerging security scenarios and asks whether Europe can define its own credible defence posture in an increasingly uncertain geopolitical landscape.

Heilbronn, Pierre: Chairman (Ukraine Cultural Heritage Fund)
Farfal, Jan: Co-President (Club Alpbach Poland)
Pisarska , Katarzyna: Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum (Casimir Pulaski Foundation)
Ischinger, Wolfgang: Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (Munich Security Conference)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Use Your Voice: Decide Which AI Project Best Supports Women Through Financial Education

Track: Finance
Financial education helps women gain independence and access to equal opportunities. In this crowd voting event, MEGA Education Foundation and ERSTE Foundation bring together educational organisations and early-stage EdTech startups to develop AI-driven solutions that make financial education more accessible to women and girls. Help decide which bold ideas will receive funding to scale their impact.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Strolz, Matthias: Impact Entrepreneur & Capacity Builder & Author (TRIQBRIQ AT & Büro Dr. Matthias Strolz - Betrieb für Entfaltung)

31.08.2026 09:00 - 31.08.2026 10:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

Ukraine as Europe’s Stress Test

Track: Security
Ukraine has become the environment in which Europe’s strategic capacity is tested in real time. This panel explores how choices across security, social cohesion, economic resilience, and democratic governance made in and for Ukraine expose both strengths and limits in current European approaches, and what these lessons could mean for Europe’s future.

La Cecilia, Davide: Special Envoy for the Reconstruction of Ukraine (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy)
Mykhalko, Kateryna: Managing Director (New Age Defence)
Hlibovytsky, Yevhen: Supervisory Board Member (Suspilne Public Service Broadcast)
Volker, Kurt: Distinguished Fellow (Center for European Policy Analysis)
Zinkanell-Süss, Michael: Director (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES))

31.08.2026 10:00 - 31.08.2026 12:00 | Work | CCA – Flora-Saal

War, Philanthropy & Civil Society: A Security Architecture Built by People

Track: Democracy, Security
Europe is reshaping its security and defence architecture through unprecedented investment and new strategic priorities. However, civil society and philanthropy remain largely absent from the debate, which has focused primarily on strengthening military capabilities and securing the necessary funding. This session will explore how they can contribute most effectively, where clear boundaries are needed, and how new partnerships and capacity building can strengthen a trans-European understanding of preparedness and societal resilience, effectively contributing towards whole-of-society approaches.

Golubeva, Maria: Former Minister of the Interior of Latvia | Richard von Weizsacker Fellow | Founder (Robert Bosch Academy | Meleys)
Vohánka, Martin: CEO & Founder (BLIZKSOBE Foundation)
Gady, Franz-Stefan: Analyst (Gady Consulting)
Buldioski, Goran: Senior Fellow (Hertie School)
Ringler, Marie: Vice-President & Global Leadership Group Member (European Forum Alpbach & Ashoka)

31.08.2026 10:30 - 31.08.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Who Owns the Truth? Media, AI and Europe's Democratic Future

Track: Democracy
Democracy requires trust. Trust requires credible information. Yet AI, online platforms and economic pressures are fundamentally changing the media landscape. What role can journalism, local media and European institutions play in the future to preserve a shared democratic public sphere?

Seifert, Thomas: Co-Editor-in-Chief (European Voices)
Goldenberg, Anna: Editor (Falter)
Bibić, Vedrana: Communications Manager (Faktograf)
Grassegger, Hannes: Founder & CEO (Spatz)

31.08.2026 10:30 - 31.08.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

To Be or Not to Be, That Is Europe’s Question

Track: Democracy, Security

As geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty reshape the global order, Europe faces a defining choice: adapt or risk irrelevance. This discussion examines how Europe can reinvent itself, regain its competitiveness, rethink its relationships with the world and build on its distinctive strengths, from democratic values and the rule of law to social innovation, to remain a leading force in the world.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Föderl-Schmid, Alexandra: Correspondent (Süddeutsche Zeitung)
Hauser, Hermann: Co-founder | Venture Partner (Amadeus Capital Partners)
González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain
Mair, Johanna: Director (School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute in Florence)
Treichl, Andreas: CEO (ERSTE Foundation)

31.08.2026 10:30 - 31.08.2026 11:30 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Is Inequality Europe's Hidden Vulnerability?

Track: Finance

Viewed through a new lens, wealth concentration emerges as a constraint on growth, trust and political capacity. This session explores how fairer systems could strengthen Europe’s ability to act, compete, and sustain long-term ambition.

Disslbacher, Franziska: Economist (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
Ogou Corbi, Viviane: Member of Parliament (Congress of Deputies of Spain)
Ypi, Lea: Professor of Politics and Philosophy (The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))
Alcázar Cid, Marina: Doctoral Researcher and Co-Founder (Paris School of Economics | Club Alpbach Spain | the Wealth Cap Project)

31.08.2026 10:30 - 31.08.2026 11:30 | Executive Talk | Hotel Alphof - Dining Hall

Executive Talk: Europe’s Defence – More Responsibility, More Capability

Track: Security
Europe’s security stands at a turning point. As the transatlantic security architecture comes under increasing pressure, expectations of greater European responsibility for defence are growing. The rapid and comprehensive strengthening of Europe’s defence capabilities has therefore become a strategic necessity, including for Austria and Germany. How can this development be supported politically? What role do European cooperation, the removal of existing barriers, and the defence industry play in this process?

Brieger, Robert: Former Chairman of the European Union Military Committee | General (Austrian Federal Army)
Zeller, Jenni: Trainee | Security Track Committee Member (Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | European Forum Alpbach)
Schäfer, Martin: Political Director (Federal Ministry of Defence (Germany))

31.08.2026 11:00 - 31.08.2026 14:00 | Happening | Sportanlage Alpbach – Football Field

Football Tournament: The EFA Vienna Derby in Alpbach – Austria vs. Rapid

The football tournament at the European Forum Alpbach is once again a sporting highlight on this year's programme: The legendary Vienna derby between Austria Vienna and Rapid Vienna takes place on the football pitch in Alpbach, with real legends from both clubs.

Also taking part is a high-calibre squad from the worlds of politics, business, science and media.

Come and watch the excitement unfold!

31.08.2026 12:15 - 31.08.2026 13:45 | Open Network | Gasthof Jakober – Dining Hall

WoW* Connects: A Networking Hour for Women*

As part of the EFA World of Women* initiative, EFA is taking extra efforts to encourage female* contributors, both in programming and participation. Throughout the Conference Days, four sessions of one and a half hours each will be hosted by women* engaged in EFA’s broader network, which offers the opportunity to connect, reflect, and act.

// INFO: To ensure a focused and engaging experience, we won’t be providing any catering. Participants are, however, free to order lunch and beverages at their own cost.

Hornstein-Tomić, Caroline: Board Member (European Forum Alpbach)
Ludwig, Bettina: Cultural Anthropologist (Zukunfts.Symposium Eferding)
Bilgin-Kara, Mag. Neslihan: Managing Director (WOMAN World)

31.08.2026 12:15 - 31.08.2026 13:45 | Track Forum | Gasthof Berghof

Track Forum: Democracy

Track: Democracy
Come and meet fellow participants who share an interest for the Democracy track. Get to know each other at lunch and debate the current programme highlights and main controversies so far.

//INFO: Lunch and drinks are at your own expense. Please be on time at 12:15 so you have enough time to order comfortably. Three dishes are to choose from.

López Domènech, Berta: Policy Analyst on EU enlargement and Western Balkans (European Policy Centre (EPC))
Greubel, Johannes: Head of Programme & Project Lead ‘Connecting Europe’ (European Policy Centre (EPC))
Saris, Liza: Policy Analyst and Project Manager Connecting Europe (European Policy Centre)

31.08.2026 12:30 - 31.08.2026 13:30 | Brown Bag Lunch | CCA – Loggia

Brown Bag Lunch | Weighing Up Anonymity Against Security

To prevent terrorist attacks, security agencies must monitor potential perpetrators. The call by security services and some parties for access to supposedly secure communication channels – so-called messenger surveillance – is causing concern amongst data protection advocates and civil liberties activists. Discuss how a modern democracy should strike this balance.

Dojcsák, Dalma: Executive Director (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union)
Sommavilla, Fabian: Journalist, Der STANDARD

31.08.2026 12:30 - 31.08.2026 13:30 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Solution Hour: Security

Track: Security
The European Forum Alpbach is a place of serious debate; and of the people and initiatives turning ideas into outcomes. This session explores what Europe must change to strengthen its capacity to act. Building on insights generated across EFA26, participants will identify the key shifts and trade-offs shaping Europe's security. Together, these outputs will form the building blocks for the Call to Action Manifesto, presented on 4 September.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Pickard, Nick: British Ambassador to Austria (Designate) (His Majesty The King and the UK Government)
Eremia , Alexis: Co-founder and Director (Impact Hub Vienna)
Detering, Jakob: Managing Director (Impact Hub Vienna)

31.08.2026 13:15 - 31.08.2026 14:45 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Walk & Talk with Martin Vohánka

Europe stands at a turning point: its established growth model is increasingly reaching its limits, requiring new approaches to value creation, competitiveness and prosperity. This hike traces the path from entrepreneurship and economic transformation to systemic philanthropy. It explores the barriers to structural change and highlights levers that could enable sustainable transformation and broader prosperity.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.
//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at Volksschule Ground Floor.

Eden, Otto: Vice President (Club Alpbach Czechia & Slovakia)
Vohánka, Martin: CEO & Founder (BLIZKSOBE Foundation)

31.08.2026 14:00 - 31.08.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

In conversation with Jeff Bartos and Arancha Gonzalez Laya

Track: Security
A conversation between Jeff Bartos and Arancha Gonzalez Laya on the subject of “The future of the transatlantic partnership, as well as the evolving role of multilateralism and U.N.”

González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain
Bartos, Jeff: U.S. Representative for U.N. Management and Reform (U.S. Mission to the United Nations)

31.08.2026 14:00 - 31.08.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Reimagining Europe's Security Operating System

Track: Security
Europe’s sovereignty is tested by geopolitical realignment and rising security pressure. The discussion clarifies what collective defence commitments mean in practice for decisions, responsibilities and operational consequences. It examines how solidarity becomes credible deterrence and how a more self-sustaining European contribution to NATO can work amid shifting US commitment.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Ischinger, Wolfgang: Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (Munich Security Conference)
Pisarska , Katarzyna: Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum (Casimir Pulaski Foundation)
Groeneveld, Mietta: Director (NATO Command & Control Centre of Excellence)
Welle, Klaus: Chair of the Martens Centre's Academic Council, Special Advisor to the European Defence Commissioner (Martens Centre)

31.08.2026 14:00 - 31.08.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Europa Foyer

Migration: Europe’s Choices for Humans in Transit

Track: Art

The human costs of European policies: the exhibition “Humans in Transit” on display at the EFA is a storytelling project that documents the perilous journeys of refugees and migrants. It reveals the individual stories behind the statistics and features 310 portraits of people who have fled conflict and shared their stories from detention centers and aboard rescue vessels with Médecins Sans Frontières. During the session, experts and one of the artists will discuss Europe’s choices on migration.

Fleming, Melissa: UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications
Föderl-Schmid, Alexandra: Correspondent (Süddeutsche Zeitung)
Bachmann, Marcus: Advocacy & Humanitarian Affairs Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières (Médecins Sans Frontières)
Tshibanda, Barly: Artist participant (Artist)

31.08.2026 14:00 - 31.08.2026 15:30 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Competing in a Changing World – What's Next for Europe?

Track: Democracy, Finance, Security

At a time of profound change, the European Union faces fundamental questions about its future. How can Europe remain competitive, resilient, and capable of acting while responding to new challenges? Which priorities should shape Europe’s next chapter? Bringing together four Ministers for European Affairs, this high-level discussion explores the strategic choices that will define the Union’s future.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Falconer, Hamish: Minister of State, Minister for Intergovernmental Relations and European Relations (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom)
Pucker, Paula-Marie: Journalist (trend)
Byrne, Thomas: Minister of State for European Affairs and Defence (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland)
Bauer (fmr. Plakolm), Claudia: Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Family (Republic of Austria)
Niemczycki, Ignacy: Secretary of State for European Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Poland)

31.08.2026 14:00 - 31.08.2026 15:00 | Executive Talk | Hotel Alphof – Winter Garden

Executive Talk: The Digital Euro – From Sovereignty to Growth

Track: Finance
Europe’s future competitiveness depends not only on advanced technologies, but also on the digital transformation of the service sectors that power the Single Market. The digital euro can provide the trusted public infrastructure to unlock innovation across industries – from tourism and mobility to retail – strengthening the Single Market, empowering SME, fostering consumer trust, and transforming Europe’s digital sovereignty into sustainable growth.

Meichenitsch, Josef: Member of the Governing Board (Austrian Central Bank (OeNB))
Niederländer, Petia: Director for Payments, Risk Monitoring and Financial Literacy (Austrian Central Bank (OeNB))
Mei-Pochtler, Antonella: Vice President (European Forum Alpbach)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Loggia

Cross-Innovation and the Arts: Leveraging the Improbable

Track: Art
The session, developed in collaboration by De Structura, BASIS Vinschgau Venosta and the University of Tartu, explores the intersection of innovation and art. Innovation that stays within a single discipline, drawing on the same skills and the same assumptions, produces incremental results. The real breakthroughs come from collisions between unlike fields, where the arts remain the most underused partner. As AI makes the probable abundant, the improbable, the territory artists are trained to explore, becomes a scarce resource. Be part of this session where we explore the intersection of innovation and art.

Götsch, Hannes: Founder of BASIS Vinschgau Venosta (BASIS Vinschgau Venosta)
Lemberg-Lvova, Anastasia: Director (De Structura)
Lillepalu-Tubli, Pille-Riin: Head of Centre for Creative Entrepeneurship CAMP – Culture Amplified (Tartu University Viljandi Culture Academy)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Building the EU’s Democratic Resilience for a New Geopolitical Era

Track: Democracy
Safeguarding democracy is no longer a matter of strengthening institutions, but a whole-of-society effort. Despite challenges, the European Union remains the most credible alliance, exercising democratic pluralism at home and multilateralism abroad. At a time of heightened vulnerabilities and democratic threats, the EU needs to develop sustained societal and institutional resilience to withstand shocks and evolve as a global actor. The session will address the strategic choices Europe should make to protect institutions, uphold democracy, and adapt to current and future crises.

Kovač, Nika: Executive Director of D-Hub (D-Hub)
Kazatchkine, Natacha: Secretary General (European Civic Forum)
Dojcsák, Dalma: Executive Director (Hungarian Civil Liberties Union)
Alemanno, Alberto: Jean Monnet Professor of European Law (HEC Paris / The Good Lobby)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Vision and Responsibility: Schools in the Age of AI

Track: Democracy
Artificial intelligence is transforming learning, teaching, and school structures, while education systems are grappling with issues of equal opportunities, skills, and regulation. This session highlights fields of action, discusses responsible policy frameworks, and develops approaches for the sustainable integration of AI in schools.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Wasner, Clemens: CEO (enliteAI | AI Austria)
Scheidl, Hannah: Federal Student Representative (HLS Langenlois)
Pichler, Julia: Managing Director (Education Lab)
Gmeiner, Bernhard: Teacher | Keynote Speaker | Author (GRG 15 Auf der Schmelz)
Gabriel, Sonja: Professor for Digital Media Literacy (KPH Vienna/Lower Austria)
Wiederkehr, Christoph: Federal Minister for Education (Austrian Ministry of Education (BMB))

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

From National Interests to Sustained European Advantage

Track: Finance, Security
Europe pursues defence, technology, capital markets, and competitiveness in separate policy tracks mostly on national level. Drawing on Jean Monnet’s legacy, this session explores how wider European coalitions could shape an integrated European agenda: coordinated procurement, joint financing and deeper capital markets might reinforce one another and translate investment into greater European capacity to act with a win-win on national and European level.

Mei-Pochtler, Antonella: Vice President (European Forum Alpbach)
González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain
Laschet, Armin: Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (German Bundestag)
Welle, Klaus: Chair of the Martens Centre's Academic Council, Special Advisor to the European Defence Commissioner (Martens Centre)
Kappacher, Stefan: VP Group Marketing Strategy & Planning (Stellantis)
Schoeller, Martin: Co-Chairman (Schoeller Group)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Flora-Saal

Book Talk with Matthias Strolz

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Matthias Strolz for a book talk of “Homo Universus. Unsere Entfaltung in die nächste Stufe der Evolution”. The book talk is held in German.

Kogler, Christoph: Postoctoral Researcher, Lecturer, Project Leader | Participant Alpbach in Motion 2026 (BOKU University)
Strolz, Matthias: Impact Entrepreneur & Capacity Builder & Author (TRIQBRIQ AT & Büro Dr. Matthias Strolz - Betrieb für Entfaltung)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

Building the Capability to Act in Radical Uncertainty

Track: Climate

Taking legitimate, timely decisions on climate risks before societal and political consensus emerge, and as the geopolitical situation becomes more unstable, remains a central challenge. Within the existing window for sovereign action, the discussion explores how to cultivate understanding of and co-existence with non-linear and disruptive change, examining the institutional capacities and social readiness required to act effectively and jointly under radical uncertainty.

Lips, Karen: Deputy Director General (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA))
Lazard, Olivia: Fellow at the Berggruen Institute; Founder at Transition Intelligence (Berggruen Institute; Transition Intelligence)
Sheikh, Haroon: Professor and senior science advisor to the government of the Netherlands (VU University & WRR)
Oroschakoff, Maria Kalina: Journalist | Correspondent (Independent | Neue Zürcher Zeitung)
Thallinger, Günther: Board Member Investment Management & Sustainability (Allianz SE)

31.08.2026 15:30 - 31.08.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | Gasthof Berghof

Executive Talk: International Cooperation, Local Solutions – The Power of Cities

Track: Democracy

Cities worldwide face shared challenges, from public services and mobility to sustainable urban development. City partnerships are becoming an increasingly important instrument of international cooperation. This Executive Talk explores how municipal cooperation is evolving beyond traditional diplomacy, strengthening international relations while fostering the exchange of innovative solutions for public services.

Obrecht, Sascha: Chair | Director (Vienna’s Committee for European and International Affairs | Karl-Renner-Institut)
Zinkanell-Süss, Michael: Director (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES))
Zeller, Jenni: Trainee | Security Track Committee Member (Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | European Forum Alpbach)

31.08.2026 17:00 - 31.08.2026 18:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Capability & Renewal: Mobilising Europe's Power to Act

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
In a world of geopolitical realignment, Europe’s “power to act” depends on whether it can translate ambition into capability: deciding faster, building and sustaining effective coalitions under pressure, and delivering security at scale. This session brings together leading foreign policy voices to map the priorities of a European security architecture reconciling different threat perceptions and security traditions.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Juma, Monica: Director-General (UN Office at Vienna and UNDOC)
Theil, Stefan: Deputy Editor (Foreign Policy Magazine)
Hoxha, Ferit: Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Government of Albania)
Ensemble, RADA:
Herre, Bastian: Politics & Society Lead (Our World in Data)
Bosek, Peter: CEO (Erste Group)
Meinl-Reisinger, Beate: Federal Minister for European and International Affairs (Republic of Austria)
Krastev, Ivan: Albert Hirschman Permanent Fellow (Institute for Human Sciences, IWM Vienna)

31.08.2026 18:30 - 31.08.2026 19:00 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Ypi, Lea: Professor of Politics and Philosophy (The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))

31.08.2026 19:00 - 31.08.2026 20:30 | Ritual | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Stories of Light and Darkness: Exhibition Opening "Wonders in the Shadows"

Track: Art
Opened by an artistic performance and by remarks of humanitarian Mattia Bidoli on the exhibition “Wonders in the Shadows”. His exhibition becomes a starting point for a broader conversation about what connects us in times of crisis: This session creates a space for open and vulnerable exchange. It explores how art can cross borders, connect experiences and remind us of the emotions and experiences we share, especially in the most difficult of times such as war and crises.

In an open fishbowl format, voices from Ukraine, the Caucasus, Middle East and beyond join Mattia’s experiences ranging from Ukraine to Greece, Türkiye and Gaza. They come together to share their stories of light and darkness, of solidarity and human connection amid conflicts. The audience is invited to become part of the exchange and thus a shared experience.

Lazginiani, Mikheil: Lawyer and Activist
Papushenko, Ivanna: Architect | Creative Strategist | founder (Fräulein Architektin)
Bidoli, Mattia: Photographer and Humanitarian Worker
Zeller, Jenni: Trainee | Security Track Committee Member (Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | European Forum Alpbach)

31.08.2026 20:30 - 31.08.2026 22:00 | Open Network | Hotel Alphof

Europeans, Believe in Yourselves!

Tyrol welcomes Europe! Join the cosy atmosphere of Alphof for culinary delights: a great opportunity to meet new people and raise a glass together.

31.08.2026 22:00 - 01.09.2026 01:00 | Celebrate | Spar – Garage

Party: Move Faster, Hope Louder!

Track: Art
Europe’s Futures Initiative likes to dance! So, let's turn the volume up! Join us in the garage with brass that's set festival crowds ablaze from the Balkans and throughout Europe, sliding into beats that will keep everyone moving till late in the night

Nemacka, Trubači: Balkan Brass Band
Flores, Tamara: Singer, flutist and dancer

01.09.2026 07:00 - 01.09.2026 08:00 | Ritual | CCA – Square

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

Track:
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 and illness.

01.09.2026 08:00 - 01.09.2026 08:30 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Hollerich, Jean-Claude: Archbishop of Luxembourg (Archdiocese of Luxembourg)

01.09.2026 08:00 - 01.09.2026 08:45 | Chat | Feuerwehrhaus

Morning Briefing | How Europe Can Have Both Climate Action and Growth

The Green Deal has been watered down, geopolitical pressure is growing, and industry complains about a loss of Europe’s competitiveness. This Morning Briefing examines the case that Europe does not have to choose between climate action and growth, and asks what it would take for the green transition to deliver quality of life and resilience.

Wagner, Gernot: Climate Economist (Columbia Business School)
Pramer, Philip: Journalist, Der STANDARD

01.09.2026 08:30 - 01.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Hike | We Need to Play a Different Game

Track: Climate
Europe is under pressure: productivity is stagnating, skilled workers are in short supply, and AI and decarbonisation are transforming the economy and the world of work. The session explores the strategy Europe needs to win, which skills will matter, and how high-quality jobs can be secured. The goal: impulses for Europe’s next winning moves.

Email registration is required for participation. Please register at: veranstaltungen@diepresse.com

// INFO: Wear hiking shoes and bring drinking water.

// INFO: In case of rain, there is going to be a shuttle to Zirmalm.

Gottsche, Harald: Managing Director | Head of Global Powertrain Production (BMW Motoren GmbH | BMW Group)
Schimanko, Jennifer Isabella: Managing Director (PAIR Finance Österreich)
Klarner, Patricia: Professor & Director, Institute for Organization Design Vienna University of Economics and Business
Bamberger, Alexander: CEO (BMW Austria)
Köttritsch, Michael: Editor (Die Presse)
Suchocki, Oliver: Partner, People Consulting (EY Österreich)

01.09.2026 09:00 - 01.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 2 | Bus Turning Area

Hike | The Benefit-Cost of Stability: Europe's Struggle to Transform

Track: Climate
Europe misprices transformation by treating the status quo as safe while treating change as risky, thus locking capital into systems already in decline. This hike reframes stability as a costly illusion and explores how behavioural bias, cultural habits and incentives distort our decisions. Beyond this, it outlines ways of redirecting capital and engaging institutions proactively toward long-term resilience and transformation.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at Volksschule.

Dunlop, Kirsten: CEO (Climate KIC)
Barth, Jonathan: Senior Associate (Institute for Sustainability Leadership, University of Cambridge)
Deutsch, Tina: Co-Founder & Managing Director (KONTEXT Institut)
van Putten, Jan-Willem: Executive Director (The School for Moral Ambition)

01.09.2026 09:00 - 01.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

How Populism Shapes Europe's Capacity to Commit

Europe’s long-term financial commitments, from climate and security to foreign aid and enlargement, depend on political trust that is increasingly contested. This session explores how populist narratives reshape public spending choices and erode institutional credibility. What happens when democratic cycles collide with long-term obligations – and can Europe still honour its commitments?

Bildt, Carl: Co-Chair (ECFR)
Krastev, Ivan: Albert Hirschman Permanent Fellow (Institute for Human Sciences, IWM Vienna)
Sakhno, Hanna: Policy Economist | Board Member (SEO Amsterdam Economics | Club Alpbach Netherlands)
Kovač, Nika: Executive Director of D-Hub (D-Hub)

01.09.2026 09:00 - 01.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

In Conversation with Comfort Ero and Mark Leonard

Track: Climate, Security
A conversation between Comfort Ero and Mark Leonard on the subject of “The peacemaking landscape and Europe's role in it”.

Leonard, Mark: Director (European Council on Foreign Relations)
Ero, Comfort: President & CEO (Crisis Group)

01.09.2026 09:00 - 01.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike | Guns, Green, Growth: Europe's Budget Trilemma

Track: Security
Europe faces a budget trilemma: funding security, decarbonisation and competitiveness without breaking trust between member states, sectors, and generations. This hike maps where tradeoffs are unavoidable and where the right priorities can create complementarities through sequencing and fair burden sharing. It distils practical principles for sustaining legitimacy while setting priorities for 2028 to 2034.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA-Flora-Hall.

Kempin, Ronja: Senior Fellow EU/Europe (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP))
Clary und Aldringen, Maximilian: Board Member, Chief Retail Officer and COO (Erste Bank)
Lange, Nico: Founder and Director (IRIS Institute for Risk analysis and International Security)
González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

01.09.2026 09:00 - 01.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Book Talk with Oliver Rathkolb

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Oliver Rathkolb for a book talk of “Ökonomie der Angst: Die Rückkehr des nervösen Zeitalters” in the Liechtenstein-Hall. The book talk is held in German.

Karner, Benjamin:
Rathkolb, Oliver: Chairman of the Board (The Vienna Institute for Cultural and Contemporary History and Arts (VICCA))

01.09.2026 10:00 - 01.09.2026 11:30 | Executive Talk | Hotel Alphof – Seminar Room

Executive Talk: From AI to Impact

Global challenges put pressure on Europe to build resilience amid climate shocks, volatility, and technological advancement. This session, hosted jointly by the UN World Food Programme and Raiffeisen Bank International, brings together leaders exploring how AI can create measurable impact at scale. Drawing on real-world experience, the discussion will examine how AI, data, and new models of collaboration can support preparedness, sustainability and long-term prosperity.

Kowatsch, Bernhard: Director Global Accelerator and Ventures (United Nations World Food Programme)
Selmayr, Martin: Ambassador of the European Union in Rome, former Secretary-General of the European Commission (European Union)
Rocha Souza, Renato: Director Advanced Analytics | Head of AI Center of Excellence (Raiffeisen Bank International)
Würfel, Christine: Head of Group Sustainability Managment (Raiffeisen Bank International)

01.09.2026 10:30 - 01.09.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Financing Europe’s Future: Competitiveness, Capital Markets, and Economic Policy

Track: Finance
Europe’s ambitions in competitiveness, productivity growth, and economic security require substantial private investments. To meet these financing needs, the session explores how deeper capital markets and effective economic policies can unlock investment and channel capital towards strategic priorities. The discussion highlights reforms needed to strengthen Europe’s growth potential and resilience.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Faulend, Michael: Vice-Governor (Croatian National Bank (HNB))
Bénassy-Quéré, Agnès: Deputy Governor (Banque de France)
Raposo, Clara: Vice-Governor (Banco de Portugal)
Kocher, Martin: Governor (Austrian Central Bank (OeNB))

01.09.2026 10:30 - 01.09.2026 12:00 | Work | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Imagining Balkans Futures in 2040

Track: Democracy
Debates on the Balkans tend to focus on diagnosing current crises rather than imagining the futures young people want to live in. Participants project themselves into 2040, articulating scenarios for a region worth staying in and mapping the obstacles ahead. The session produces a shared vision and concrete policy avenues for the long-term transformation of the region.

Beharić, Samir: Programme Manager for Research, Policy, and Advocacy (European Fund for the Balkans)
Blažević, Ivan: Senior Programme Manager for Civic Engagement and Regional Cooperation (European Fund for the Balkans)
Dragičević, Ivana: Founder (Europe Future Centre)

01.09.2026 10:30 - 01.09.2026 11:30 | Executive Talk | Bikerei 701

Executive Talk: Getting to the Core: From the Comfort Zone to Peak Performance

Track: Democracy
There are many plans to strengthen Europe’s competitiveness, yet we often lack the ability to turn them into action. AI is accelerating decisions, processes, and business models, but it cannot replace the people who must step outside their comfort zones. A former chancellor and a medium-sized business entrepreneur discuss how AI is shaping reality—and the standards and ambitions Europe must now set for itself.

Kern, Bettina: Founder | CEO (KERN engineering)
Brunner, Christiane: Board Member (CEOs for Future)
Kern, Christian: CEO (European Locomotive Leasing Group)

01.09.2026 10:30 - 01.09.2026 11:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

Testing Europe’s Defences: Are We Prepared for War?

Hosted by: Kyiv Initiative Group Alpbach with Club Alpbach Georgia, Club Alpbach Netherlands, Club Alpbach Switzerland
Track: Security
What does a hybrid conflict on European soil look like? This session addresses Europe’s preparedness across defence, infrastructure, and society. Drawing on real-world experiences, it asks where vulnerabilities lie and how Europe can build resilience amid systemic crises.

Brieger, Robert: Former Chairman of the European Union Military Committee | General (Austrian Federal Army)
Scheiwiller, Patrick: President (Club Alpbach Switzerland)
Bloem, Vincent: President/Policy Advisor on Migration (Club Alpbach Netherlands/Tweede Kamer der Staten-General)
Poloz, Maria: President (Kyiv Initiative Group Alpbach)

01.09.2026 12:15 - 01.09.2026 13:45 | Open Network | Gasthof Jakober – Dining Hall

WoW* Connects: A Networking Hour for Women*

As part of the EFA World of Women* initiative, EFA is taking extra efforts to encourage female* contributors, both in programming and participation. Throughout the Conference Days, four sessions of one and a half hours each will be hosted by women* engaged in EFA’s broader network, which offers the opportunity to connect, reflect, and act.

// INFO: To ensure a focused and engaging experience, we won’t be providing any catering. Participants are, however, free to order lunch and beverages at their own cost.

Fritz, Michaela: Vice Rector for Research and Innovation (Medical University Vienna)
Pisarska , Katarzyna: Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum (Casimir Pulaski Foundation)

01.09.2026 12:15 - 01.09.2026 13:45 | Track Forum | Gasthof Berghof

Track Forum: Climate

Track: Climate
Come and meet fellow participants who share an interest for the Climate track. Get to know each other at lunch and debate the current programme highlights and main controversies so far.

//INFO: Lunch and drinks are at your own expense. Please be on time at 12:15 so you have enough time to order comfortably.

Roniger, Johanna: Research Analyst (KONTEXT Institute)
Haas, Sarah: Stakeholder Relations Managerin (KONTEXT Institut)

01.09.2026 12:30 - 01.09.2026 13:30 | Open Network |

Alpbach Pride

Hosted by: IG Wien
The Forum Alpbach Network Pride celebrates its sixth 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.

01.09.2026 12:30 - 01.09.2026 13:30 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Solution Hour: Finance & Economy

Track: Finance
The European Forum Alpbach is a place of serious debate; and of the people and initiatives turning ideas into outcomes. This session explores what Europe must change to strengthen its capacity to act. Building on insights generated across EFA26, participants will identify the key shifts and trade-offs emerging across finance and economy Together, these outputs will form the building blocks for the Call to Action Manifesto, presented on 4 September.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Futter, Niki: Chairman (invest.austria)
Trasi, Cecilia: Senior Policy Advisor (ECCO Climate)
Eremia , Alexis: Co-founder and Director (Impact Hub Vienna)
Detering, Jakob: Managing Director (Impact Hub Vienna)

01.09.2026 12:30 - 01.09.2026 13:30 | Brown Bag Lunch | CCA – Loggia

Brown Bag Lunch | How the Race for Superintelligence Shapes the New World Order

AI is reshaping economies, societies, and power structures at unprecedented speed. This session explores how Europe can manage risks while preserving innovation and competitiveness in a multipolar world. Chloé Touzet and Corinna Milborn discuss safeguards and priorities for responsible AI in the race for Superintelligence – and how to strengthen security, resilience, and international stability.

Touzet, Chloé: Policy Lead (SaferAI)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | Hotel Böglerhof – Fichtensaal

How Europe Wins on Housing

Track: Finance
Europe’s housing situation has risen to the top of the political agenda, but solutions require coordinated action across sectors. Let’s discuss how integrated housing ecosystems can be built, where public, private and philanthropic sector mobilize the capital, capabilities and partnerships needed to secure one of Europe’s most fundamental pillars: accessible and affordable housing for all.

Katurić, Ivana: Assistant Professor at the University of Rijeka (UNIRI) and Director of URBANEX (University of Rijeka, URBANEX)
Thurn und Taxis, Philipp: Deputy CEO (ERSTE Foundation)
Lehmann, Raphael: Impact Investment Manager (ERSTE Foundation)
Urbani, Sergio: CEO (Fondazione Cariplo)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

In conversation with Haroon Sheikh and Eamon Gilmore

Track: Finance, Security
A conversation between Haroon Sheikh and Eamon Gilmore on the subject of “Europe in the Era of Geoeconomics: Rebalancing Trade, Boosting Innovation” , to mark the publication of the report of the same name by the Scientific Council for Government Policy in the Netherlands.

Sheikh, Haroon: Professor and senior science advisor to the government of the Netherlands (VU University & WRR)
Gilmore, Eamon: Former Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (Republic of Ireland)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Beyond Bretton Woods: Europe and Asia in the Next Era of Global Finance

Track: Finance
Geopolitical realignment, geoeconomic competition, and interlocking crises are transforming the international financial system. Europe and Asia play a crucial role in shaping a more resilient and inclusive financial architecture. This session explores how development finance, multilateral lending reform and sustainable investment frameworks can create realistic opportunities for cooperation across differing economic models and regulatory systems.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Podobnik, Gerald: Co-Head of Corporate Bank | Member of the Group Management Committee (Deutsche Bank)
Ma, Gene: Chief APAC Representative | Head of China Research (Institute of International Finance (IIF))
Moore, Gyude: Former Minister of Public Works (Ministry of Public Works of Liberia)
Kern, Christian: CEO (European Locomotive Leasing Group)
Xu, Feiyu: University Professor of Industry AI (German University of Digital Science)
Porsche, Jovanka: Founder | Chairwoman (Global Neighbours)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Europe’s Future: Who Pays and How?

Track: Finance

Europe’s approach to long-term investment remains largely crisis-driven, raising broader questions about how its future is financed. This session explores strategies to unlock long-term private capital toward strategic objectives. Discussion will center on the completion of the Capital Markets Union as a means to provide a stable and predictable framework for European investment.

Holzinger-Burgstaller, Gerda: CEO and CFO (Erste Bank Österreich)
Müller-Marbach, Marcel: Senior Regional Representative Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia (European Investment Fund (EIF))
Sutter, Nikolaus: Head of Government Relations & Political Affairs (Deutsche Börse Group)
Sakhno, Hanna: Policy Economist | Board Member (SEO Amsterdam Economics | Club Alpbach Netherlands)
Deutsch, Tina: Co-Founder & Managing Director (KONTEXT Institut)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Loggia

Artist Talk: Soraya Hossaini

Track: Art

Join artist Soraya Hossaini in conversation with Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, Chair of EFA’s Arts & Culture Committee, and Sanjay Sethi, Co-CEO of the Artistic Freedom Initiative, for an engaging discussion on her multidisciplinary artistic practice, her advocacy for women’s freedom, and her innovative approach to merging Afghan cultural traditions with contemporary expression in music and fashion.

Hossaini, Soraya: Vocalist & Rubab Player (AFI_Aid A)
Sethi, Sanjay: Co-Executive Director (Artistic Freedom Initiative)
Thun-Hohenstein, Christoph: Artistic Director of the Future Platform ReGenerativa, cultural manager, curator, and author (Future Platform ReGenerativa / Kunst & Klima Werkstaette GmbH)

01.09.2026 14:00 - 01.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Turning Uncertainty into Resilience: Building Future-Ready Businesses

Track: Climate

Global supply chains are increasingly exposed to uncertainty – from geopolitical shifts to climate risks. This session explores how companies can build resilience in practice while creating long-term value. Focusing on concrete examples and cross-sector perspectives, the discussion will examine what works, what can be scaled, and how resilience can be strengthened across the value chain.

Giner-Reichl, Irene: Member of the Strategic Advisory Council European Forum Alpbach (European Forum Alpbach)
Pons, Geneviève: President (Europe Jacques Delors)
Wagner, Gernot: Climate Economist (Columbia Business School)
Wälz, Anita: Head of Sustainability | Corporate Communications (Nestlé)

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | Gasthof Berghof

Executive Talk: Delivering Stability in Times of Instability

Track: Finance
Geopolitical developments are reshaping financial markets and government policies, climate change is increasing economic losses, and Europe’s digital dependence is exposing additional vulnerabilities. This Executive Talk explores strategic options for action in an era of overlapping and multipolar crises.

Gepp, Joseph: Head of the Business Department (Der Standard)
Balz, Burkhard: Former Member of the Executive Board (Deutsche Bundesbank)
Pscheidl, Dieter: Head of European Affairs (Vienna Insurance Group)

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | Hotel Post – Seminar Room

Responsible Leadership in Crisis: Executive Talk with Beatrix Praeceptor

Track: Democracy
As geopolitical tensions unsettle societies, the promise of simple answers is gaining ground. Europe’s strength depends on another kind of leadership: clear without being authoritarian, decisive without losing humanity, and aware that decisions inside organisations are felt far beyond them, shaping trust, confidence and social resilience.

Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Praeceptor, Beatrix: CEO (Greiner Packaging)
Fiedler, Susann: Professor of Business Psychology (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Europe’s Role in an Era of Geopolitical Upheaval

Track: Security
The international order is eroding. New challenges are emerging for Europe in the form of armed conflicts, shifts in geopolitical power and the end of old certainties. What role can Europe play in this era of geopolitical upheaval? How can existing partnerships be strengthened and new alliances forged to expand Europe’s strategic capacity for action?
This panel brings together European and international voices to discuss these questions from different perspectives.

Faragasso, Spencer: Senior Fellow (Institute of Science and International Security)
Swoboda , Sebastian: Scientific Advisor (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung)
Dhanabalan, Ashwin Immanuel: Doctoral student | Research Associate (Christ University | Hoody Strategy Group)
Zinkanell-Süss, Michael: Director (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES))
Clüver Ashbrook, Cathryn: Executive Vice President (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

Executive Talk: AI Financial Literacy for a More Trusted Future

Track: Finance
Financial literacy is a prerequisite for democratic participation and economic resilience. Many young people in Europe enter adulthood without essential knowledge of budgeting, compound interest, or basic accounting, contributing to a growing trust deficit in financial institutions and the broader economic system. The session explores how AI-driven learning tools can help close this gap through more accessible and engaging financial education.

Weißenbäck, Johannes: Chief Sales Officer (FTG Finance Technologies)
Niederländer, Petia: Director for Payments, Risk Monitoring and Financial Literacy (Austrian Central Bank (OeNB))
Hrebicek, Maximilian: CEO | Founder (FTG Finance Technologies)

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Risk Literacy: The Key to Financial Resilience

Track: Finance
As financial decisions intertwine with personal, economic, and societal risks, financial and risk literacy matter more than ever. This session explores how these competencies reinforce each other. Featuring VIG's Risk Literacy Index and Risk Literacy Study, it reveals current risk perceptions and knowledge gaps, and how businesses, educators, and policymakers can build greater awareness.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Drescher, Sophie Kaitlin: Social Entrepreneur | Founder (SWIPZ)
Löger, Hartwig: Chief Executive Officer (Vienna Insurance Group)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)
Kocher, Martin: Governor (Austrian Central Bank (OeNB))

01.09.2026 15:30 - 01.09.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Book Talk with Arancha González Laya

Join Arancha González Laya for a book talk of "Solos en el mundo" – Is Europe alone in a world shaped by Russia, China and the US?

Bialobrzewska, Natalia:
Jasiniewska, Katarzyna:
González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain

01.09.2026 16:00 - 01.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Inequality, Discontent, and a New Social Contract

Track: Democracy, Finance
Rising inequality and growing public discontent are putting pressure on democratic systems and social cohesion. Examine what a new social contract must incorporate to address economic insecurity, demographic challenges, restore trust in institutions, and ensure fair opportunities.

Ostojic, Valentina: Economist & Political Scientist (Club Alpbach Montenegro)
Ringler, Marie: Vice-President & Global Leadership Group Member (European Forum Alpbach & Ashoka)
Rathkolb, Oliver: Chairman of the Board (The Vienna Institute for Cultural and Contemporary History and Arts (VICCA))
Ypi, Lea: Professor of Politics and Philosophy (The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))

01.09.2026 16:15 - 01.09.2026 16:45 | Happening | CCA – Europa Foyer

Exhibition Tour: Drawing Lines

Track: Art
Join curator and artist Anastasia Lemberg-Lvova for a tour of the exhibition “Drawing Lines” in the Gallery Room next to the Tourism Office.

Lemberg-Lvova, Anastasia: Director (De Structura)

01.09.2026 17:00 - 01.09.2026 18:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Finance & Trust: Funding Europe's New Promise

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
The next EU budget will show whether Europe can deliver on climate, security, and competitiveness. With limited resources and rising expectations, choices about what to fund – and what not – are a test of priorities and trust. This session will explore how Europe can allocate its collective resources to strengthen trust between member states, generations, and citizens, and define what Europe stands for.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Sakhno, Hanna: Policy Economist | Board Member (SEO Amsterdam Economics | Club Alpbach Netherlands)
Ensemble, RADA:
Schloemer, Wiebke: Director of the IFC for the Western Balkans and South Caucasus, Head of Office for IFC Austria (International Finance Corporation)
Herre, Bastian: Politics & Society Lead (Our World in Data)
González Laya, Arancha: Dean Paris School of International Affairs (Sciences Po); fmr. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain
Mureșan, Siegfried: Member of the European Parliament, Vice Chair of the EPP Group (European Parliament)
Trasi, Cecilia: Senior Policy Advisor (ECCO Climate)

01.09.2026 19:00 - 01.09.2026 22:00 | Happening | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Film Screening: “Facing The Unknown” – A Documentary on Water Resilience

Track: Climate
How do we prepare for a future in which water is no longer a resource we can take for granted? This is the question explored by student Luna in the documentary by Austrian filmmaker Dieter M. Grohmann. The multi-award-winning film features European water networks and global strategies for resilience planning. The film will be screened in English and preceded by a discussion with Federal Minister Norbert Totschnig and Luna DeMesmaeker .

Mörth, Monika: Director General for Water Management (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))
Hummer, Katja: Expert on EU Environment and Climate Policy (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))
De Mesmaeker, Luna: Performer | Musicology Student (KU Leuven)

01.09.2026 20:30 - 01.09.2026 21:30 | Happening | Church

Concert: WAGA Ensemble

Track: Art
Join us for a special evening in the enchanting setting of Alpbach’s baroque church. Members of WAGA Ensemble, a collective of outstanding young musicians from the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, will come together in a string quartet formation, joined by a soprano, for a concert that celebrates musical dialogue and offers a glimpse into the ensemble’s collaborative spirit and artistic versatility.

Have a look at the programme.

//INFO: Limited number of seats available. Please note that drinking from open cups/bottles and eating is not permitted.

Doors: 8.00 pm

Erhart, Kilian:
Maričić, Nikolina:
Majdianfar, Faraz:
Gutiérrez, Itam:
Raab, Cäcilia:

02.09.2026 07:00 - 02.09.2026 08:00 | Ritual | CCA – Square

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

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 and illness.

02.09.2026 08:00 - 02.09.2026 08:45 | Morning Briefing | Feuerwehrhaus

Morning Briefing

Our Morning Briefings provide a daily overview of the most important news and insights from EFA26. Start your Alpbach day well-informed with an engaging conversation!

Clüver Ashbrook, Cathryn: Executive Vice President (Bertelsmann Stiftung)
Schultheis, Emily: Senior Editorial Director (POLITICO)

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 2 | Bus Turning Area

Hike | Will Artificial Intelligence Create Winners and Losers?

Track: Democracy, Finance
AI is reshaping careers and economic mobility, creating new opportunities while risking unequal access for Europe's younger generation. This hike looks at who benefits and who risks being left behind as AI transforms labor markets. It considers how institutions can ensure inclusive access to opportunity and prevent a new digital divide, ensuring an AI-driven economy that works for all generations.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place in the Primary School (ground floor, room 1).

Pucker, Paula-Marie: Journalist (trend)
Crane, Tim: Professor of Philosophy and Pro-Rector (Central European University)
Parvanov, Paulina: Project Lead (Austrian Music Export)
Meierkord, Anja: PIAAC Analyst, Adult Skills Expert (OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development))
Nava, Mario: Director-General DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (European Commission)

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 10:30 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Europe's Hidden Strategic Asset: Affordable Medicines

What does it take to build a stronger, more resilient Europe? Secure access to affordable medicines made in Europe is emerging as a cornerstone of economic competitiveness, critical infrastructure resilience, and defense readiness. Marking 20 years of biosimilars in Europe, this session brings together leaders from health, industry, and policy and explores how Europe can transform resilience into a strategic advantage and strengthen its capacity to thrive in an uncertain world.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Bildt, Carl: Co-Chair (ECFR)
Widhalm, Angelika: President (Austrian Association for Patient Advocacy and Support (BVSHOE))
Baltaci, Köksal: Editor (Die Presse)
Pucci, Marco: Country President (Sandoz Austria)
Ostermann, Herwig: Executive Director (Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG))
Schumann, Korinna: Federal Minister (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK))

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 10:00 | Executive Talk | Hotel Alphof – Seminar Room

Executive Talk: Powering the City – From Power Plants to the Future

Track: Climate
The energy system of tomorrow is taking shape today. From modernising power plants and scaling up geothermal energy to adapting regulatory frameworks, cities are becoming the driving force of the energy transition.

Join Wien Energie CEO Sascha Zabransky and State Secretary Elisabeth Zehetner as they discuss the strategic choices, enabling policies and transformative projects that are paving the way toward a sustainable urban energy future.

Zabransky, Sascha: Managing Director (Wien Energie)
Köttritsch, Michael: Editor (Die Presse)
Zehetner, Elisabeth: State Secretary (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (BMWET))

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike | Data Ownership and Recapturing the Digital Commons

Track: Democracy
As data becomes a key economic and political resource, questions of ownership and control are increasingly urgent. Investigate how societies can reclaim the digital commons, data rights, and create governance models that balance innovation, public interest, safe spaces and democratic accountability.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA-Flora-Hall.

Luksch, Manu: Artist (Chlorophyll arts lab)
Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Zenner, Kai: Head of Office and Digital Policy Advisor to MEP Axel Voss (European Parliament)
Albrecht, Jan Philipp: President (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Hike | Jobs in Transition: How Europe’s Automotive Industry Secures Its Future

Track: Climate
Decarbonisation, digitalisation, and regulation are putting the industry under pressure. What does this mean for jobs and competitiveness? Will new opportunities emerge – or is Europe facing a structural shift? This session explores how Europe can safeguard employment while preserving its industrial strength.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of rain, there is going to be a shuttle to Rossmoos.

Frauscher, Florian: Director General (Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (BMWET))
Kubitschek, Charlotte:
Gottsche, Harald: Managing Director | Head of Global Powertrain Production (BMW Motoren GmbH | BMW Group)
Radtke, Dennis: Member of the European Parliament (European Parliament)
Regner, Evelyn: Member of the European Parliament (European Parliament)

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 10:00 | ART Event | CCA – Flora-Saal

Book Talk with Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook for a book talk of “Der amerikanische Weckruf” in the Flora-Hall.

Hutterli, Ellie: Board Member (Club Alpbach Schweiz)
Clüver Ashbrook, Cathryn: Executive Vice President (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

Polarised Youth: Gender, Algorithms, and the Future of Democracy

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Südtirol Alto Adige with Club Alpbach Belgrade, Club Alpbach France, Club Alpbach London, Club Alpbach Montenegro, Club Alpbach Trentino
Track: Democracy
Political divides among young people are widening, shaped by gender, identity, and media ecosystems. This session explores how polarisation is developed, what role algorithms play, and whether democratic dialogue can be rebuilt in increasingly fragmented digital spaces.

Munter, Elisabeth Martina: Scholarship Holder, BSc Student in Physics (Club Alpbach Südtirol Alto Adige (CASA))
Simić, Lazar: Local Program Assistant (Regional Youth Cooperation Office.)
Saris, Liza: Policy Analyst and Project Manager Connecting Europe (European Policy Centre)
Wiederkehr, Christoph: Federal Minister for Education (Austrian Ministry of Education (BMB))

02.09.2026 09:00 - 02.09.2026 10:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Saal

What Works When Systems Fail: Patterns of Collective Financial Resilience

Track: Finance
Name one system you depend on that you're confident will work in 2040. Pensions? Insurance? Housing? A stable job? This session introduces twelve patterns of collective resilience, each drawn from real cases. Join us to discuss them, remix the systems now failing, and imagine what we could build together instead.

Rigters, Martijn: Designer (Open Future Lab)
Geier, Gerald: Designer, filmmaker, strategist (Open Future Lab, Global Shapers Vienna)
Dovhalonok, Natalia: Designer (Open Future Lab)

02.09.2026 10:30 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Happening | Volksschule

Alpbach Talks

Track: Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
When was the last time you had a conversation that challenged the way you think? Returning to the European Forum Alpbach this year, Alpbach Talks once again brings together people with contrasting perspectives for meaningful one-on-one conversations. Inspired by Die ZEIT's acclaimed format, Germany Talks, participants answer five short questions and are then matched with someone whose views differ most from their own. Through respectful dialogue, participants exchange perspectives, challenge assumptions, and discover the value of engaging across differences, often leaving with new insights and a broader outlook.

Coffee and croissants will be provided.

Please arrive on time, as participant matching takes place only once at the beginning of the session.

Rehse, Sebastian: Head of Group Corporate Affairs & Stakeholder Mgmt. (Erste Group)
Zimmermann, Ulrike: Project Manager, ZEIT Publishing Group
Dörfler, Stefan: CFO, Erste Group

02.09.2026 10:30 - 02.09.2026 11:30 | Executive Talk | Bikerei 701

Executive Talk with Ernst Kloboucnik: Pushing Electromobility Without Spending Tax Money

Track: Climate
The ramp-up of e-mobility is happening too slowly to meet the EU climate targets for the transport sector. To accelerate it, subsidies for the purchase of electric vehicles and the expansion of charging infrastructure are frequently demanded. However, even without distributing taxpayers’ money, a decisive policy approach would have substantial instruments at hand to reduce consumer uncertainty.

Fleischhacker, Michael: Moderator of the Talk-within-a-Talk at Hangar-7 (ServusTV)
Kloboucnik, Ernst: Chief Executive Officer (Österreichischer Automobil-, Motorrad- und Touring (ÖAMTC))
Kern, Christian: CEO (European Locomotive Leasing Group)

02.09.2026 10:30 - 02.09.2026 11:30 | Chat | Feuerwehrhaus - Veranstaltungssaal

The Politics of the Plate: Global Health and Food Security

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Iraq with FAN Health Initiative, IG Armenia, CA Belgium Brussels, CA London, CA Switzerland, CA Italy
Track: Climate, Security
Industrial food systems drive climate harm and public health risks – yet remain politically entrenched. This session examines how subsidies, regulation, and governance failures sustain a system under strain, and asks who holds the power to reform it before its costs become irreversible.

Bittner, Ursula: Organisational Spokesperson and Director of Politics (Greenpeace)
Kowatsch, Bernhard: Director Global Accelerator and Ventures (United Nations World Food Programme)
Hassan, Khalil: Vice President (Club Alpbach Iraq)
Pons, Geneviève: President (Europe Jacques Delors)

02.09.2026 10:30 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Chat | Hotel Böglerhof – Fichtensaal

Powering Prosperity: Energy as decisive lever for Europe's future

Track: Finance
Sustainability. Affordability. Security of supply. Can Europe have all three? This panel dives into the hard trade-offs of the energy transition – from Austria to Europe to the world – with experts who connect the dots across every scale.

Lamy, Pascal: Chairman (Climate Overshoot Commission)
Oroschakoff, Maria Kalina: Journalist | Correspondent (Independent | Neue Zürcher Zeitung)
Wagner, Gernot: Climate Economist (Columbia Business School)
Malli, Anita: Member of the Supervisory Board | Sustainability & Governance Expert (Burgenland Energie)
Strugl, Michael: Chief Executive Officer (Verbund)
Hattmannsdorfer, Wolfgang: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism)

02.09.2026 11:00 - 02.09.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

In conversation with Lars Tossmann

Track: Finance, Security
A conversation with Lars Tossmann on how Europe can build the defence capabilities and industrial strength required to safeguard its sovereignty and ensure both security and prosperity. The discussion will explore what is needed to strengthen Europe’s readiness and technological capabilities, how procurement and funding can support industrial development, and how European Union initiatives can strengthen sovereignty in the long term.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Tossmann, Lars: Senior Vice President and Head of Business Area Aeronautics (Saab AB)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)

02.09.2026 12:15 - 02.09.2026 13:45 | Open Network | Gasthof Jakober – Dining Hall

WoW* Connects: A Networking Hour for Women*

As part of the EFA World of Women* initiative, EFA is taking extra efforts to encourage female* contributors, both in programming and participation. Throughout the Conference Days, four sessions of one and a half hours each will be hosted by women* engaged in EFA's broader network, which offers the opportunity to connect, reflect, and act.

// INFO: To ensure a focused and engaging experience, we won't be providing any catering. Participants are, however, free to order lunch and beverages at their own cost.

Holzleitner, Eva Maria: Federal Minister for Women, Science and Research (Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research)

02.09.2026 12:15 - 02.09.2026 13:45 | Track Forum | Gasthof Berghof

Track Forum: Security

Track: Security
Come and meet fellow participants who share an interest for the Security track. Get to know each other at lunch and debate the current programme highlights and main controversies so far.

During this year's Security Track Forum, we invite you to explore a difficult but essential question: what are young people today prepared to die for?
What are they willing to sacrifice – and in defence of which values, communities, and visions of the future? Do we share an understanding of what it means for Europe to prevail, to defend one's country, and of the role of the nation within Europe?
Three panelists will offer distinct perspectives before we open the conversation to the people of Alpbach – particularly its many young participants – to hear what they think.

//INFO: Lunch and drinks are at your own expense. Please be on time at 12:15 so you have enough time to order comfortably. Three dishes are to choose from.

Kalesnikava, Maria: Belarusian civil rights leader and recipient of the Charlemagne Prize
Krippner, Friederike: Academy director (Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin)
Kempin, Ronja: Senior Fellow EU/Europe (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP))
Schwarz, Christoph: Senior Research Fellow (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy)

02.09.2026 12:30 - 02.09.2026 13:30 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Solution Hour: Climate

Track: Climate
The European Forum Alpbach is a place of serious debate; and of the people and initiatives turning ideas into outcomes. This session explores what Europe must change to strengthen its capacity to act. Building on insights generated across EFA26, participants will identify the key shifts and trade-offs shaping Europe's climate transformation. Together, these outputs will form the building blocks for the Call to Action Manifesto, presented on 4 September.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Kaissl, Thomas: Business Development & Partnerships (Climate Lab)
Dunlop, Kirsten: CEO (Climate KIC)
Eremia , Alexis: Co-founder and Director (Impact Hub Vienna)
Detering, Jakob: Managing Director (Impact Hub Vienna)

02.09.2026 13:00 - 02.09.2026 14:00 | Brown Bag Lunch | CCA – Loggia

Brown Bag Lunch | The Green Deal's Battle over Environmental Rules

Europe’s push to simplify regulation is turning the Green Deal into a political battleground between competitiveness and environmental ambition. In this interactive session, participants will examine the politics of the EU’s Environmental Omnibus through research and debate its competing priorities. The discussion will clarify the choices shaping future environmental policy.

Dunlop, Kirsten: CEO (Climate KIC)
Rinaldi, Chiara: Intelligence Analyst (POLITICO Europe)
Berger, Frederic: Intelligence Analyst (POLITICO Research & Analysis Division)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Hike | Hike Start 2 | Bus Turning Area

Hike | A Bunch of (Hidden) Champions – How to Leverage Europe’s Strengths

Track: Security
Europe excels at analysing its own weaknesses. But what about its strengths? The continent is home to global market leaders, world-class research, the rule of law, and human rights – set against a rich backdrop of intellectual history, philosophy, and art. This hike explores how these assets can be harnessed to strengthen European resilience and security in the face of geopolitical upheaval.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at Zirmalm.

Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Sneška: Secretary General (Europa Nostra)
Clüver Ashbrook, Cathryn: Executive Vice President (Bertelsmann Stiftung)
Kammel, Arnold: Secretary General (Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (BMLV))
Navidi, Sandra: Geschäftsführerin (Beyond Global)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Hike | Europe’s Race for Energy Competitiveness and Resilience

Track: Climate
Europe’s energy future depends on fast renewable and grid expansion, affordable power, secure supply chains, and efficient financing. This hike explores building an integrated network, cutting regulatory hurdles, and achieving price stability – asking how renewables boost competitiveness and whether Europe’s financial systems enable or restrain long-term industrial resilience. This hike ends near the CCA loggia.

//INFO: Bring hiking shoes and water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at Volksschule, Klasse 1.

Herlitschka, Sabine: Chief Executive Officer (Infineon Technologies Austria)
Kobakova, Marina: Country Manager (ING Bank Bulgaria | ING Bank Austria)
Senk, Gudrun: Technical Managing Director (Wiener Linien)
Zehetner, Elisabeth: State Secretary (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (BMWET))
Kreisel, Walter: Serial Entrepreneur | Investor | Founder | CEO (neoom | KREISEL Ventures)
Stühlinger, Lukas: Managing Partner (Fingreen)
König, Richard: CEO (Enery)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | Hotel Böglerhof – Fichtensaal

Europe’s Role in the Future of Pharmaceutical Innovation | Health Focus

Track: Finance
In the face of current geopolitical developments and recent global upheavals, Europe is under pressure to reassert its position in access to pharmaceutical innovation. The United States is calling clearly for Europe to make an adequate – and therefore greater – contribution. The panel discussion examines this demand from multiple angles: industry, policy and patient advocacy will all have their say, bringing together voices from the US, Europe and Austria.

Baltaci, Köksal: Editor (Die Presse)
Strasser-Weippl, Kathrin: Oncologist and Head | Medical Head (Upper Austria Cancer Center | Austrian Society of Hematology and Medical Oncology (OeGHO))
Kienesberger, Anita: Chair (Allianz onkologischer PatientInnenorganisationen | CCI Europe and Board Member of WECAN)
Ostermann, Herwig: Executive Director (Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG))
Garcin, Jérome: Senior Biopharmaceutical Executive | General Manager CH-AT (Bristol Myers Squibb)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

From Health Data to Better Healthcare | Health Focus

Track: Democracy
Better use of health data could transform healthcare and open new possibilities for research and innovation. With the European Health Data Space (EHDS), the EU is creating a common framework to make this possible across borders. This session explores how to turn this ambition into practice, what implementation requires, and how health data can deliver better outcomes for patients, health systems, and research.

Lehner, Peter: Chairman (Social Security Institution for the Self-employed (SVS))
McDonald, Peter: Co-Chair (Austrian National Health Insurance (ÖGK))
Hartmann, Simon: Head of Digitalisation and Data Infrastructures (Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG))
Joller, Karmen: Minister of Social Affairs (Ministry of Social Affairs in Estonia)
Schumann, Korinna: Federal Minister (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK))

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Acting at Speed: Emergency Measures for Peaceful Ambition

Track: Climate
Europe’s transition depends on energy infrastructure deployment at a scale and pace that current systems cannot deliver, hence risking dependence on global actors who can build faster and access resources more readily. In light of current geopolitical developments, this session explores how to align industry, finance, government, and society to deliver the necessary transformation that has the potential to secure Europe’s resilience and strategic autonomy.

Berispek, Bengisu: Project Lead | Scientific Researcher | Lecturer (Technische Universität Berlin)
Heckmann, Manuel: Managing Partner (Lineup Holdings)
Harder, Jan Christoph: President Region West | North | Rest of World (RoW) (Škoda Group)
Oroschakoff, Maria Kalina: Journalist | Correspondent (Independent | Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike│Europe’s ICE-ban 2035: to Be Confirmed, Softened or Abandoned?

Track: Climate, Finance
Does the fixation on a single technology lead the EU automotive industry into a dead end or into the future? Is it a necessity or bossing Europe’s motorists around? The strict 2035 ban of internal combustion engines (ICE) shall now be eased slightly. Is this a sufficient industrial stimulus or merely cosmetics? This is what politicians, member states, carmakers, and climate and consumer watchdogs are arguing about. Hike to the Rossmoos-Hütte; meet up in front of the conference center (CCA).

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of rain, there is going to be a shuttle to Rossmoos.

Gottsche, Harald: Managing Director | Head of Global Powertrain Production (BMW Motoren GmbH | BMW Group)
Fleischhacker, Michael: Moderator of the Talk-within-a-Talk at Hangar-7 (ServusTV)
Wiesinger, Bernhard: Director Consumer & Member Interests (ÖAMTC)
Köppl-Turyna, Monika: Director | President (EcoAustria | European Public Choice Society)
Glawischnig, Eva: CEO | Former Leader (EvaGlawischnigConsulting | The Green Alternative (Austria))

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:00 | ART Event | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Artist Talk: Mario Mu

Track: Art
Join Mario Mu for an artist talk about his latest works developed during the ERSTE Foundation's artist in residence programme in the Hayek Hall.

Thun-Hohenstein, Christoph: Artistic Director of the Future Platform ReGenerativa, cultural manager, curator, and author (Future Platform ReGenerativa / Kunst & Klima Werkstaette GmbH)
Mu, Mario: Visual Artist and Filmmaker (-)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:15 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Schrödinger’s equation: 100 years and none the wiser

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
In 1926, Schrödinger wrote down his famous equation. It has become synonymous with the success story of quantum science and technology - and yet has remained one of the biggest mysteries of modern science.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Mitterer, Josef: Professor (University Klagenfurt)
Aspelmeyer, Markus: Scientific Director (Institute of Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI), Austrian Academy of Sciences)

02.09.2026 14:00 - 02.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

The Winning Perspective: Mobility Infrastructure as Europe's Backbone

Track: Finance

Europe’s economic strength depends on transport systems that function seamlessly across borders. Growing geopolitical uncertainty, climate risks, and increasing mobility demands expose the need for stronger coordination and resilient infrastructure. This session explores how integrated mobility corridors can strengthen competitiveness, improve resilience, and enhance Europe’s strategic capacity through closer cross-border cooperation.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Bednárik, Ivan: Minister of Transport | Director General (Ministry of Transport Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic | Železnice Slovenskej republiky)
Hufnagl, Hartwig: Chief Operating Officer (ASFINAG)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)
Hanke, Peter: Federal Minister for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (Republic of Austria)

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | Hotel Alphof – Winter Garden

Executive Talk: Rethinking Media Growth, Trust & Scale – Europe’s Digital Future

Track: Democracy

Europe’s advertising market is growing, yet value creation, data, and control are increasingly shifting towards global platforms. This is weakening the European media landscape and putting innovation, journalistic quality, and digital sovereignty at risk. The key question is: How can Europe secure its digital future? The answer lies in a connected media ecosystem built on trust and impact.

Schultheis, Emily: Senior Editorial Director (POLITICO)
Brandstätter, Helmut: Member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe) (European Parliament)
Vesper, Oliver: Deputy CEO | Chief Digital Officer (CDO) (RTL AdAlliance)

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Water Resilience: Securing the Future of a Precious Resource

Track: Climate

The Alpine region is warming rapidly: extreme weather events and changes in the water cycle are placing increasing pressure on infrastructure, energy, and natural habitats. Water supply is a key issue for the future. This workshop brings together science and practice regarding the impacts of climate change and resilient water systems. What must we do today to ensure security of supply and quality of life tomorrow?

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Liebel, Günter: Ehemaliger Sektionleiter (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))
Überreiter, Ernst: Senior Expert on Water Resources (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))
Gruber, Günther: Managing Director | Owner (Silberquelle)
Schmidt, Barbara: Secretary General (Oesterreichs Energie)
Keiler, Margreth: Director of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research | Professor of Mountain Research (Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research | University of Innsbruck)
Mörth, Monika: Director General for Water Management (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))
Totschnig, Norbert: Federal Minister (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Climate & Environment, Regions & Water Management (BMLUK))

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Change in Motion: Reinventing Industries for Europe’s Future

Track: Finance

Industry leaders are facing profound transformation as legacy business models increasingly diverge from societal expectations, regulatory requirements, and long-term value creation. Curated in collaboration with Philip Morris Austria, this session explores strategies for reinvention, focusing on innovation, sustainable growth, and the role of industry in strengthening Europe’s economic competitiveness.

Malli, Anita: Member of the Supervisory Board | Sustainability & Governance Expert (Burgenland Energie)
Mei-Pochtler, Antonella: Vice President (European Forum Alpbach)
Pons, Geneviève: President (Europe Jacques Delors)
Niederländer, Frank: Vice President Government Affairs Europe (BMW Group)
Coleta, Miguel: Director Sustainability Policy & Market Activation (Philip Morris International)

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

In Nobel's Name, For a Nobel Cause? Peace, Prestige, and Moral Authority

Track: Security

Peace is increasingly contested as a concept, shaped by competing interests, digital amplification, and hybrid coercion. The discussion examines Europe’s role in defending ethical foundations while navigating prestige politics and rival claims to moral authority. It develops shared language to distinguish credible peace making from performative or instrumentalised narratives.

Pham, Minh-Thu: Co-Founder and CEO (Starling Institute)
Seifert, Thomas: Co-Editor-in-Chief (European Voices)
Krippner, Friederike: Academy director (Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin)

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | Gasthof Berghof

Rebuild with Ukraine: Moving Ambition to Action

Track: Finance, Security

Ukraine’s recovery is one of Europe’s most important economic transformation opportunities. While political commitment and funding are increasingly available, implementation of projects remains the key challenge. Drawing on first-hand experience, the panel explores how businesses, governments and international institutions can work together to unlock investment, deliver projects, and accelerate the country’s long-term transformation.

Freudenthaler, David: Business Journalist (Die Presse)
Gusenbauer, Bettina: Head of Corporate Affairs (ÖBB-Holding)
Mitteregger, Markus: CEO (RAG Austria)
Anzengruber, Wolfgang: Government Coordinator (Ukraine Reconstruction)
Rybchenko, Artem: Deputy Prime Minister (Recovery at the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine)
Schnabl, Rainer: Executive Board (Raiffeisen Bank International)

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 16:30 | Chat | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Art & Third Places: A Stroll through Alpbach Exploring how Art Can Create “Good Places”

Track: Art

Drawing on Harald Welzer's concept of "Good Places", Rainer Prohaska explores the role of artistic practice in their creation. Through an on-site analysis in Alpbach and concrete examples taken from his own work, he examines how art can operate at the intersection of public space, community, and spatial quality. The walk poses the question of how art might serve as an experimental instrument for testing and establishing such places over the long term, and simultaneously acts as an announcement for a more extensive seminar being developed for EFA27. The meeting point is in front of the CCA.

Prohaska, Rainer:

02.09.2026 15:30 - 02.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

When Children Take on the Role of Carers: The Unseen Role of Young Caregivers | Health Focus

Track: Democracy
They do the shopping, cook, take their relatives to the doctor, help their siblings, look after them and care for them – all whilst still going to school themselves. Due to their relatives' chronic illnesses, 'young carers' often shoulder heavy responsibilities within their families that go unnoticed. This discussion sheds light on the realities of their lives and offers insights into a growing social alliance dedicated to supporting them – because young carers need all of us to help them shoulder these responsibilities whilst still being able to be children.

//INFO: This session is being held in German.

Schneider, Belinda: Leads superhands, Child and Violence Protection Officer (Johanniter)
Schwabegger, Anna Magdalena: President (Bundesjugendvertretung)
Schumann, Korinna: Federal Minister (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK))
Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Nagl-Cupal, Martin: Associate Professor in Nursing Science (University of Vienna)
Traxler, Nicole: Managing Director (Alles Clara GmbH)

02.09.2026 16:00 - 02.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Book Talk with Yascha Mounk

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Yasha Mounk for a book talk of his upcoming book "The Dispensable Human – Artificial Intelligence and the Collapse of the Middle Class" in the Flora Hall.

Reinisch, Johanna: Legal Policy Advisor to the Secretary General (Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKÖ))
Mounk, Yascha: Professor of Practice (Johns Hopkins University)

02.09.2026 17:00 - 02.09.2026 18:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Technology & Society: Developing Europe's Next Infrastructure

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Europe’s infrastructure faces pressure from rapid technological change, geopolitical competition, and critical dependencies. Demands for technological, data and energy sovereignty are growing. Debate key bottlenecks and opportunities across systems and governance to identify priorities for a secure, sustainable, and future-ready European infrastructure.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Hauser, Hermann: Co-founder | Venture Partner (Amadeus Capital Partners)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)
Ensemble, RADA:
Dunlop, Kirsten: CEO (Climate KIC)
Herre, Bastian: Politics & Society Lead (Our World in Data)
Sahl-Corts, Daniel: Managing Director Federal Politics, Head of Berlin Office (VDMA - European Mechanical Engineering Network)
Schwarzer, Daniela: President elect (Hertie School)

02.09.2026 18:30 - 02.09.2026 19:00 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Noormandipour-Hart, Lavinia:

02.09.2026 19:00 - 02.09.2026 21:00 | Open Network | Mittelschule – Forecourt

International Bazar

Hosted by: Forum Alpbach Network Committee
No place captures the idea of a global village quite like Alpbach during EFA. With the International Bazar we will further distil this rich tapestry of cultures into a thick spirit, for all to come and sample. Join us as the countries represented at Alpbach show off the very best of their homelands at individual booths. Whether through food, music, or art, we invite you to a journey around the globe without the need to catch a plane.

//INFO: Please feel warmly invited to attend the International Bazar in your traditional clothing. The EFA Code of Conduct needs to be respected.

02.09.2026 20:30 - 02.09.2026 21:30 | Happening | Church

Concert: PPCM- Ensemble

Track: Art
Join us in Alpbach’s baroque church for an evening of contemporary and classical music with the PPCM Ensemble. Students of the Performance Practice in Contemporary Music (PPCM) programme at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz will present a vibrant programme. Enjoy a moment of contemplation and encounter the richness of a contemporary approach to music.

Have a look at the programme.

//INFO: Limited number of seats available. Please note that drinking from open cups/bottles and eating is not permitted.

Doors: 8.00 pm

Kochseder, Tobias:
Rainer, Christine:
Primeau, Camille:
Beyers, Laure-Catherine:
Ostojić, Ana:
Jensen-Large, Mikayla:

02.09.2026 20:30 - 02.09.2026 22:00 | Open Network | Hotel Böglerhof – Böglersbar

WOMEN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Track: Finance
Rules for Action: A Strategy to Reshape Europe’s Economy

Leading executives discuss the perspectives of international financial markets, climate policy, the framework of economic law, and industrial corporate governance. What does Europe need to transform regulation from a defensive protective instrument into an active lever for economic strategy and how can a new, confident European vision for the future mobilize investment, spark new economic momentum, and strengthen our capacity to act.
Partner: LeitnerLeitner; Supporter: KONTEXT Institut

Neumann, Patricia: CEO (Siemens Österreich)
Kirchmayr-Schliesselberger, Sabine: Of Counsel at LeitnerLeitner / University Professor (University of Vienna)
Milborn, Corinna: Director of Information (ProSiebenSat1Puls4)
Holzleitner, Eva Maria: Federal Minister for Women, Science and Research (Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research)
Rogenhofer, Katharina: Managing director (KONTEXT Institut)
Fassl, Lisa-Marie: Managing Partner (Fund F)
Deutsch, Tina: Co-Founder & Managing Director (KONTEXT Institut)

03.09.2026 04:00 - 03.09.2026 09:00 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

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! Plan 4 to 5 hours for the hike, depending on your walking pace.

Shuttle Bus - Sunrise Hike

03:15 Uhr Radfeld Gemeindeamt
03:22 Uhr Kramsach Gemeinde Freudenschuss
03:27 Uhr Brixlegg Bahnhof
03:33 Uhr Reith Dorfmitte
03:40 Uhr Alpbach Wiedersbergerhornbahn
03:45 Uhr Inneralpbach

// INFO: The hike is not recommended for beginners! Attention: 900 metres in ascent! Please wear hiking boots and bring water and possibly a small snack. If you have a head torch, please bring it with you, too. Participation at your own risk! Shuttle from Brixlegg is available.

03.09.2026 07:00 - 03.09.2026 08:00 | Ritual | CCA – Square

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

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 and illness.

03.09.2026 08:00 - 03.09.2026 08:30 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Krippner, Friederike: Academy director (Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin)

03.09.2026 08:00 - 03.09.2026 08:45 | Morning Briefing | Feuerwehrhaus

Morning Briefing | After Iceland's no vote - is the EU still attractive enough?

Our Morning Briefings provide a daily overview of the most important news and insights from EFA26. Start your Alpbach day well-informed with an engaging conversation!

Fintelmann, Julius E. O.: Editor-in-chief (The European Correspondent)
Schwarzer, Daniela: President elect (Hertie School)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 2 | Bus Turning Area

Hike | Europe´s Diplomatic Counter-Revolution: Alliances and Deal Craft

Track: Security
In a world where power politics and “might makes right” are gaining ground, reliability is hard currency. Europe’s comparative advantage lies in credible, rules-based influence and the ability to convene coalitions with like-minded partners. This Hike explores how Europe can shape change in the international system through partnerships forged by shared interests and diplomatic dealcraft. It highlights how reinforcing trust and stability can translate into sustained European soft power.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at the Firestation Event Hall

Mayr-Harting, Clemens: Director General for EU, International Affairs and National Coordination (Federal Chancellery, Republic of Austria)
Mayr-Harting, Clemens:
Regner, Evelyn: Member of the European Parliament (European Parliament)
Stagno Ugarte, Bruno: Chief Advocacy Officer (Human Rights Watch)
Farfal, Jan: Co-President (Club Alpbach Poland)
Schreinemacher, Liesje: Deputy Secretary-General (Benelux Union)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | CCA – Loggia

Hike | Regenerative Sovereignty: How Might Europe Thrive

Track: Climate
Europe’s sovereignty remains tied to external dependencies on resources and extraction-based systems, limiting its own capacity to thrive and adapt sustainably. This hike looks at the meaning of regenerative sovereignty: how prosperity can be redefined through circular, nature-based systems that strengthen domestic capabilities and provide long-term security. Can Europe become the first continent to define its power by how much it restores rather than how much it extracts?

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA at Köstler-Einem Hall.

Swinson, Jo: Director (Partners for a New Economy)
Haddaway, Neal: Photojournalist and Researcher (Freelance)
Damhof, Loes: UNESCO Chair for Futures Literacy in Higher Education (Hanze University of Applied Sciences)
Haas, Sarah: Stakeholder Relations Managerin (KONTEXT Institut)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

From Backyard Battles to Geopolitical Wins: Rewriting the Narrative for Energy Security

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Belgium Brussels, CA Niederösterreich, CA Tirol
Track: Climate, Security
Every delayed wind turbine or blocked transmission line is a victory for those who exploit Europe's energy vulnerabilities. This session dissects the geopolitical cost of local inaction, asking: If renewables and grid expansion were treated as critical security infrastructure, could we finally outmaneuver adversaries like Russia? The debate will focus on bridging the gap between global energy strategy and on-the-ground acceptance.

Taran, Stanislav: Board Member (Club Alpbach Belgium Brussels)
Papushenko, Ivanna: Architect | Creative Strategist | founder (Fräulein Architektin)
Stiprais, Eduards: Diplomat (Permanent Representative of Latvia to the European Union)
Hurt, Jan: PhD Candidate (Complexity Science Hub)
Dixson-Declève, Sandrine: Executive Chair (Earth4all)
Rogenhofer, Katharina: Managing director (KONTEXT Institut)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 17:00 | | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

Tourism.Future.Austria.2026: Transform Tourism – The Courage to Change

Track: Finance
How can we shape the tourism of tomorrow in a world undergoing profound change? What answers can we find to the major challenges of our time, and where is genuine courage for transformation needed most?

Together with tourism entrepreneurs and decisionmakers from business, politics, and academia, we will discuss how geopolitical and geoeconomic developments, emerging technologies such as AI and robotics, as well as changing mobility and travel patterns are shaping the future of tourism and which strategic responses Austria needs to develop to remain competitive and resilient.

For further information, please visit: https://www.wko.at/pages/tourismuszukunftoesterreich/uebersicht

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

In conversation with Agnieszka Pomaska and Johannes Greubel

Track: Democracy, Finance
A conversation between Agnieszka Pomaska and Johannes Greubel on the subject of "The role of Central and Eastern European Countries in shaping the EU and the future of the Visegrád Group".

Pomaska, Agnieszka: Member of Polish Parliament (Sejm of the Republic of Poland)
Greubel, Johannes: Head of Programme & Project Lead 'Connecting Europe' (European Policy Centre (EPC))

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 3 | CCA Terrace

Hike | Industrial Sovereignty in European Procurement

Track: Climate, Finance, Security
Public procurement across Europe still favours lowest cost, while competitors abroad protect their own industrial base. This hike asks whether EU procurement rules still fit a changing geopolitical reality, weighing open markets against industrial sovereignty and resilient supply chains, and discusses how to strengthen 'Made in Europe' while remaining competitive.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of rain, there is going to be a shuttle to Rossmoos.

Roháč, Dalibor: Director of Research (GLOBSEC)
Köppl-Turyna, Monika: Director | President (EcoAustria | European Public Choice Society)
Zsifkovits, Martin: Managing Director (Škoda Group Austria)
Harder, Jan Christoph: President Region West | North | Rest of World (RoW) (Škoda Group)
Hattmannsdorfer, Wolfgang: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism (Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 10:00 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Book Talk with Lea Ypi

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Join Lea Ypi for a book talk of “Indignity: A Life Reimagined” in the Hayek Hall.

Ypi, Lea: Professor of Politics and Philosophy (The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Hike | Hike Start 1 | CCA Square

Hike | Converging Crises, Shared Responses: Can Europe and Asia Find Common Ground?

Track: Finance
Climate change, food insecurity, public health fragility, geopolitical conflict, and widening inequality are systematic global crises, cutting across national borders and political systems. Yet, responses to them remain fragmented. For Europe and Asia, these challenges create both friction and opportunity. This session explores how interlocking crises can serve as a basis for alignment, identifying common ground and realistic entry points for joint, sustainable action.

//INFO: Wear sturdy shoes and bring drinking water.

//INFO: In case of heavy rain, the session is going to take place at CCA – Liechtensteinsaal

Zhou, Nanqi: Digitalization and Executive Associate (Global Neighbours)
Moore, Gyude: Former Minister of Public Works (Ministry of Public Works of Liberia)
Porsche, Jovanka: Founder | Chairwoman (Global Neighbours)
Chatterjee, Siddharth: Chief Executive Officer (Global Neighbours)
Norov, Vladimir: Former Foreign Minister (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan)
Rösler, Philipp: Secretary General (Global Neighbours)

03.09.2026 09:00 - 03.09.2026 10:30 | Chat | CCA – Flora-Saal

Europe's Energy Resilience: Sovereignty, Interconnection, and Transition

Track: Climate, Finance
As Europe redefines its energy map, Southeast Europe has emerged as a vital gateway for the continent’s security and supply diversification. Discuss how regional interconnections, infrastructure expansion, and green transition initiatives contribute to broader European energy resilience. The session will highlight how solidarity and cross-border alignment in the region serve as a shield against global market shocks for the entire European Union.

Herlitschka, Sabine: Chief Executive Officer (Infineon Technologies Austria)
Peshov, Kalin: Chairman of the Management Board (Glavbolgarstroy (GBS))
Tsakiris, Ioannis: Vice-President (European Investment Bank)
Tsomokos, Symeon: Founder & President (Delphi Economic Forum)

03.09.2026 10:30 - 03.09.2026 11:30 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

Security without Trust: Democracy in Times of Fear

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Georgia with Club Alpbach Iraq, Club Alpbach Salzburg, FAN Democracy Initiative
Track: Democracy, Security
As security pressures rise, democratic trust is tested. This session examines how crisis-driven governance reshapes institutional legitimacy. It also asks how Europe can maintain both effectiveness and accountability when fear redefines political decision-making, identifying concrete mechanisms to sustain public confidence during geopolitical uncertainty.

Schwarz, Christoph: Senior Research Fellow (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy)
Schwarzer, Daniela: President elect (Hertie School)
Iantbelidze, Erekle: Board Member (Club Alpbach Georgia)
Zeller, Jenni: Trainee | Security Track Committee Member (Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | European Forum Alpbach)

03.09.2026 10:30 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

Shaping the Future of Healthcare – Hospitals and Primary Care | Health Focus

Track: Democracy
How should healthcare be organised in the future? As healthcare systems face growing pressure, this session explores the evolving roles of hospitals, primary care and other health professionals in addressing workforce shortages, rising demand and the transformation of care structures. It also examines how the European Health Data Space can support more integrated, data-driven and patient-centred healthcare.

Kuhrn, Melanie: Health Expert in Digitalisation and Data Infrastructures | Member (Gesundheit Österreich | Forum Alpbach Network Board)
Schumann, Korinna: Federal Minister (Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK))
Fritz, Michaela: Vice Rector for Research and Innovation (Medical University Vienna)
Steinhart, Johannes: President (Austrian Medical Chamber | Vienna Medical Chamber)

03.09.2026 10:30 - 03.09.2026 12:00 | Chat | CCA – Hayek-Saal

Beyond Borders: The Social Cost of EU Enlargement

Track: Democracy
EU enlargement is framed as a political and economic milestone, yet its social dimension — labor mobility, access to welfare, and inequality between old and new member states — remains an afterthought. This session maps the fault lines and invites participants to design principles for a socially just enlargement process that works for everybody.

López Domènech, Berta: Policy Analyst on EU enlargement and Western Balkans (European Policy Centre (EPC))
Ostojic, Valentina: Economist & Political Scientist (Club Alpbach Montenegro)
Cerimagic, Adnan: Senior Analyst (European Stability Initiative)
Jusić, Mirna: Assistant Professor (Institute of Sociological studies | Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University)

03.09.2026 10:30 - 03.09.2026 11:30 | Executive Talk | Bikerei 701

An Executive Pitch for a Strong Europe

Track: Finance
We are shaping the future of business! But how? Based on a survey of 450 female executives, we explore the key questions: Competitiveness: How can we unleash it again by reducing bureaucracy and regulation? AI, Digitalisation & Cybersecurity: How can these topics drive growth, efficiency, and innovation? Societal Mindset: Which patterns of thinking will we need to break?

Ringler, Marie: Vice-President & Global Leadership Group Member (European Forum Alpbach & Ashoka)
Fanto, Karen: CEO / Director International Markets (Zukunft.Frauen Alumnae Club / Berndorf Bäderbau)
Perfahl-Strilka, Jutta: CEO / Vice Chair (Hokify / Zukunft.Frauen Alumnae Club)

03.09.2026 12:15 - 03.09.2026 13:45 | Open Network | Gasthof Jakober – Dining Hall

WoW* Connects: A Networking Hour for Women*

As part of the EFA World of Women* initiative, EFA is taking extra efforts to encourage female* contributors, both in programming and participation. Throughout the Conference Days, four sessions of one and a half hours each will be hosted by women* engaged in EFA’s broader network, which offers the opportunity to connect, reflect, and act.

// INFO: To ensure a focused and engaging experience, we won’t be providing any catering. Participants are, however, free to order lunch and beverages at their own cost.

Panjakidze, Nino: Member (Forum Alpbach Network)
Dixson-Declève, Sandrine: Executive Chair (Earth4all)
Holzleitner, Eva Maria: Federal Minister for Women, Science and Research (Federal Ministry for Women, Science and Research)

03.09.2026 12:15 - 03.09.2026 13:45 | Track Forum | Gasthof Berghof

Track Forum: Finance

Track: Finance
Come and meet fellow participants who share an interest for the Finance track. Get to know each other at lunch and debate the current programme highlights and main controversies so far.

//INFO: Lunch and drinks are at your own expense. Please be on time at 12:15 so you have enough time to order comfortably. Three dishes are to choose from.

Greppi, Costanza: Economic Research Analyst (Bruegel, European economic think tank)

03.09.2026 12:30 - 03.09.2026 13:30 | Brown Bag Lunch | CCA – Loggia

Brown Bag Lunch | How Europe Stands to Gain from Tackling the Climate Crisis

Recent geopolitical upheavals show that Europe’s dependence on fossil fuels is not only a climate and security risk, but also an economic vulnerability. The global race for clean energy and green technologies is in full swing. This discussion brings up the questions of which countries stand to benefit, which are falling behind – and how the EU should respond to the US.

Pucker, Paula-Marie: Journalist (trend)
Wagner, Gernot: Climate Economist (Columbia Business School)

03.09.2026 12:30 - 03.09.2026 13:30 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Solution Hour: Democracy

Track: Democracy
The European Forum Alpbach is a place of serious debate; and of the people and initiatives turning ideas into outcomes. The European Forum Alpbach is a place of serious debate; and of the people and initiatives turning ideas into outcomes. This session explores what Europe must change to strengthen its capacity to act. Building on insights generated across EFA26, participants will identify the key shifts and trade-offs shaping Europe's democracy. Together, these outputs will form the building blocks for the Call to Action Manifesto, presented on 4 September.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Schwarzer, Daniela: President elect (Hertie School)
Eremia , Alexis: Co-founder and Director (Impact Hub Vienna)
Detering, Jakob: Managing Director (Impact Hub Vienna)

03.09.2026 12:30 - 03.09.2026 14:00 | Happening | CCA – Square

Climate Strike

Hosted by: IG Wien
Meet in front of the CCA. March through Alpbach against greenwashing and for serious climate action. Bring your signs and your friends!

03.09.2026 14:00 - 03.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

In conversation with Shashi Tharoor and Thomas Mayr-Harting

Track: Finance, Security
A conversation between Shashi Tharoor and Thomas Mayr-Harting on the subject of "Global governance, India's evolving role in international affairs, the priorities of Indian foreign policy, and the future of EU–India relations".

Tharoor, Shashi: Member and Chairman of the Committee on External Affairs (Indian Parliament)
Mayr-Harting, Thomas: Director (EU Diplomatic Academy)

03.09.2026 14:00 - 03.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Loggia

Culture as a Soft Power and its Geopolitical Implications

Track: Art
In this final session of the cooperation between EFA, Stiftung Zukunft Berlin, and the Charlemagne Prize Foundation, participants will discuss the essential role of art and culture in shaping Europe’s soft power. The conversation will explore how cultural exchange, artistic freedom, and creative collaboration help promote European values, strengthen international dialogue, and enhance Europe’s influence in an increasingly complex global landscape.

Kalesnikava, Maria: Belarusian civil rights leader and recipient of the Charlemagne Prize
Knoch, Christophe: Board Member of Stiftung Zukunft, Moderator and Connector (Stiftung Zukunft Berlin)
Parvanov, Paulina: Project Lead (Austrian Music Export)
Kneip, Winfried: Founder and Programm Director (Love Politics)

03.09.2026 14:00 - 03.09.2026 15:00 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

The Democratic Comeback: How the Rule of Law Wins

Track: Democracy
Across many countries, illiberal governments have weakened checks and balances, undermined judicial independence, and eroded public trust. Explore the prospects for reversing illiberal trends and restoring the rule of law in systems under strain that can fuel a broader democratic comeback.

Pomaska, Agnieszka: Member of Polish Parliament (Sejm of the Republic of Poland)
Szigeti, Flóra: Researcher and Trainer on Political Intermediation
Pressl, Damita: International Moderator & Journalist
Mounk, Yascha: Professor of Practice (Johns Hopkins University)

03.09.2026 14:00 - 03.09.2026 15:30 | Chat | Hotel Böglerhof – Fichtensaal

Security for Whom? Europe's Race for Rare Earth and the Human Cost in Myanmar

Track: Climate, Security
Europe’s race for rare earth elements – critical for the green and digital transition as well as the defense sector – rests on supply chains linked to conflict, environmental destruction, and human insecurity, as seen in Myanmar. This session examines the upstream realities of rare earth extraction and seeks to identify pathways towards supply chain governance that are committed to upholding human dignity for all.

Ilse, Simon: Human Security Policy Advisor (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung e.V.)
Stagno Ugarte, Bruno: Chief Advocacy Officer (Human Rights Watch)
Lwi, Hkaw: Executive Director (BRIDGE Myanmar)
Zhou, Jiayi: Senior Researcher (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)
Reinold, Florian: Director Southeast Asia Regional Office (Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung e.V.)

03.09.2026 15:30 - 03.09.2026 17:00 | Chat | CCA – Heiss-Rogger-Saal

If Health Fails, Does Democracy Fail? | Health Focus

Hosted by: FAN Democracy Initiative | FAN Health Initiative | Gesundheit Österreich GmbH
Track: Democracy
Healthcare is where the state becomes tangible: in access to care, waiting times, and whether people feel heard. When a system works for others but not for them, trust in democracy suffers. Yet structural constraints can limit governments’ ability to deliver. Taking healthcare as a starting point, this session explores how participation, state capacity, and democratic trust intersect.

Szigeti, Flóra: Researcher and Trainer on Political Intermediation
Thibault, Charlotte: Youth leader | Scholarship holder (Club Alpbach France | Mental Health Europe)
Ostermann, Herwig: Executive Director (Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG))
Mendoza, Philipp: Post-Doctoral Researcher (University of Munich (LMU))

03.09.2026 15:30 - 03.09.2026 16:30 | Executive Talk | Gasthof Berghof

Executive Talk: China in a Changing World – Global Influence, Security and Cooperation

Track: Security
China’s growing global influence is reshaping the international landscape. This Executive Talk brings together two Schwarzman Scholars and EFA scholarship holders to explore China’s evolving role, its implications for security and cooperation, and what these developments mean for Europe.

Xu, Valentina: Impact Investor | Scholarship holder | Schwarzman Scholar (World Bank)
Baek, Joon: Software Engineer | Scholarship holder | Schwarzman Scholar (Youth for Privacy)
Zinkanell-Süss, Michael: Director (Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES))

03.09.2026 15:30 - 03.09.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Liechtenstein-Saal

Book Talk with Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Meet Sandrine Dixon-Declève for a book talk of “Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity”.

Papushenko, Ivanna: Architect | Creative Strategist | founder (Fräulein Architektin)
Dixson-Declève, Sandrine: Executive Chair (Earth4all)

03.09.2026 15:30 - 03.09.2026 16:30 | Chat | CCA – Köstler-Einem Saal

The Moral Economy: Financing Europe’s Welfare State

Track: Democracy, Finance
Europe’s public finances are increasingly under strain from demographic ageing, inequality, and structural economic transformation. The session discusses the future of the welfare state in an era of growing scarcity and systemic change. It focuses on fiscal sustainability, the distribution of financial burdens between the state, markets, and individuals, and the conditions needed to maintain social cohesion in a period of rapid transformation.

Swinson, Jo: Director (Partners for a New Economy)
Ypi, Lea: Professor of Politics and Philosophy (The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE))
Upis, Guntars: Economist & Research Analyst (PwC Netherlands Chief Economist Office)
Meierkord, Anja: PIAAC Analyst, Adult Skills Expert (OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development))

03.09.2026 16:15 - 03.09.2026 16:45 | Happening | CCA – Europa Foyer

Exhibition Tour: Drawing Lines

Track: Art
Join curator and artist Anastasia Lemberg-Lvova for a tour of the exhibition “Drawing Lines” in the Gallery Room next to the Tourism Office.

Lemberg-Lvova, Anastasia: Director (De Structura)

03.09.2026 17:00 - 03.09.2026 18:30 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Envisioning the Europe We Build

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
The global order is being rewritten: By force, by markets, by technology, and by the sheer ambition of other civilisational projects. Europe's response cannot be to imitate any of them. Europe's strength lies elsewhere: in the deliberate, conscious choice to build a civilisational model on its own terms. Its future is based on self-efficacy - how does Europe foster its capacity to act from conviction, determined that its choices matter, and how does it cultivate the institutional and intellectual readiness to make them?

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Reitsamer, Reiner: Journalist and Moderator (ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Corporation))
Ensemble, RADA:
Kalesnikava, Maria: Belarusian civil rights leader and recipient of the Charlemagne Prize
Herre, Bastian: Politics & Society Lead (Our World in Data)
Dixson-Declève, Sandrine: Executive Chair (Earth4all)
Chatterjee, Siddharth: Chief Executive Officer (Global Neighbours)

03.09.2026 19:00 - 03.09.2026 20:00 | Happening | CCA – Loggia

Sunset Concert with Soraya Hossaini

Track: Art
Join Soraya Hossaini for an intimate concert on the Loggia, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Alpbach and its surrounding mountains. Experience the rich and captivating sounds of Afghan traditional music performed on the rubab, Afghanistan’s national instrument. Through a unique interplay of traditional melodies and contemporary harmonies and rhythms, this concert offers a vibrant musical journey that bridges cultural heritage and modern artistic expression.

Hossaini, Soraya: Vocalist & Rubab Player (AFI_Aid A)

03.09.2026 20:00 - 03.09.2026 22:00 | Stage | CCA – Herz-Kremenak-Saal

Annual Speakers Night

Hosted by: Club Alpbach Styria
Speakers Night is the popular public speaking contest; a platform for scholarship holders to showcase their rhetorical skills on the big stage. The format offers a selected group of bright young minds the ideal opportunity to share their ideas and perspectives on a pre-determined topic with a larger audience, all while receiving valuable feedback from a distinguished panel.

03.09.2026 20:30 - 03.09.2026 22:00 | Open Network | Hotel Alphof

Alpine Afterglow

After an inspiring day at the conference, the open After-Dinner Social invites you to unwind in a relaxed setting. Look forward to signature drinks, DJ sounds, regional culinary delights, and inspiring networking in a unique atmosphere — all accompanied by breathtaking views of the Tyrolean Alps.

04.09.2026 07:00 - 04.09.2026 08:00 | Ritual | CCA – Square

Morning Sports: Functional Fitness

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 and illness.

04.09.2026 08:00 - 04.09.2026 08:30 | Ritual | Church

Into the Silence

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.

Karas, Othmar: President (European Forum Alpbach)

04.09.2026 08:00 - 04.09.2026 08:45 | Chat | Feuerwehrhaus

Morning Briefing

Our Morning Briefings provide a daily overview of the most important news and insights from EFA26. Start your Alpbach day well-informed with an engaging conversation!

This session is being hosted with the support of Understanding EU.

Lentsch, Josef:
Grassl, Andreas: Geopolitical Analyst and Content Creator

04.09.2026 10:00 - 04.09.2026 12:30 | Stage | CCA – Schrödinger-Saal

EFA26: Call to Action

Track: Art, Climate, Democracy, Finance, Security
Every generation tells Europe differently but rarely to each other. As the Forum draws to a close, we turn on Europe's next grand story - and who gets to tell it. Building on insights and debates from the past two weeks, all present generations, current and future decision-makers, enter into a focused intergenerational exchange. They reflect on recently gained perspectives and, in a co-creative process, distill key impulses to define concrete steps for the period following the Forum, resulting in an intergenerational manifesto.

//INFO: This session is being translated and transcribed live using the Wordly app.

Drescher, Sophie Kaitlin: Social Entrepreneur | Founder (SWIPZ)
Ensemble, PPCM: Music ensemble of the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz