



ERSTE Stiftung



Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen  
Institute for Human Sciences

## EUROPE'S FUTURES

### Workshop I: The East-West Divide

9-10 October 2017, Vienna, Austria

Main Venue: IWM, Spittelauer Lände 3, 1090 Vienna

Monday, 9 October

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**18:00** Keynote Lecture by **Ivan Vejvoda**, IWM Permanent Fellow:

***A Future for Europe?  
Politics and Democracy in Times of Uncertainty***

**20:30** Dinner

*Hotel Savoyen, Restaurant Eugenio, Rennweg 16*

Tuesday, 10 October

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**9:00 – 11:00** ***Divided visions: The futures of Europe***

*Opening remarks by **Caroline Hornstein-Tomic** (The Federal Agency for Civic Education, Germany) and **Slawomir Sierakowski** (Political Critique, Poland)*

*Chaired by **Ivan Krastev** and **Ivan Vejvoda***

What is underpinning the divide in the way how the future of the EU is debated in its eastern and western parts? What are the main concerns in the East and why are they not better understood in the West and vice-versa? What role is played by the fears of being left behind (becoming “second class” member states) in an emerging multi-speed Europe? How much are decisions taken in Brussels seen as a threat to (recently re-asserted) national identities? Why do fears of Muslim immigrants threatening the social fabric of society play out so differently? Is there a renationalization dynamic that is upending the cohesion of the EU?

**11:00 – 11:30** Break

**11:30 – 13:30**

***Divided wallets: Is inequality driving the EU apart?***

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*Opening remarks by **Vesna Pusic** (Member of Parliament, Croatia) and **Ulrich Speck** (Elcano Royal Institute, Belgium)*

*Chaired by Ivan Krastev and Ivan Vejvoda*

The economies of nearly all former communist EU member states are catching up with the EU average. Yet, the benefits from growth are not equally distributed. Since the introduction of democracy, the gap between the poor and rich has grown; regional differences have increased. All these processes have been exacerbated by the economic and financial crisis triggered in 2008. Inequality has also widened in the old member states over the last 30 years. Second-class “Nutella” sold in the East and cheap posted workers in the West feed sentiments of losing out. What connection is there between increasing inequality and the EU’s woes? Should the EU and member states do more to address inequality, both between and inside member states?

**13:30 – 14:00**

Break

**14:00 – 15:30**

***Divided values: Is there a way towards a common European asylum system?***

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*Opening remarks by **Jakub Wisniewski** (GLOBSEC, Slovakia) and **Roberto Menotti** (Aspen Institute Italia, Italy)*

*Chaired by Ivan Krastev and Ivan Vejvoda*

The unprecedented inflow of refugees and migrants in autumn and winter 2015 exposed the weakness of Europe’s asylum system. Dublin has become obsolete. Yet, the idea of sharing responsibilities and refugees among all member states is strongly opposed by some member states, in particular by the V-4. The European Commission proposes a “reinforced” Dublin system, combined with a quota system intended to relieve member states with particularly high numbers of asylum seekers. Due to practical and political reasons, the proposal is unlikely to go anywhere. This leaves Europe without an answer to one of its most pressing challenges and an increasing number of European politicians are moving towards Victor Orban’s vision of a fenced-off EU. Are there ways towards a more humane common European solution, respecting the values, fundamental rights and freedoms that are at the core of the EU?

**16:00**

Closing Lunch

*Porzellan Lounge, Servitengasse 2*

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*During the course of working sessions the Chatham House Rule applies, with sound recorded for minute-taking. The working language is English. Separation room available. Contact, information: Dino Pasalic +43 699 1820 7764.*