

Symposium
**“Identity and Participation: Cross Cultural and
Muslim Youth in Europe”**

29 – 30 June 2009
Diplomatic Academy of Vienna,
Favoritenstrasse 15 a, 1040 Vienna

PROGRAMME

Monday, 29 June 2009

08:30 Registration

09:30 **Welcome and Opening**

Hans Winkler, Ambassador, Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

H.E. Michael Spindelegger, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs, Austria

H.E. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations

10:00 **Introductory Key Note Speeches**

Moderator: Emil Brix, Ambassador, Director General for Cultural Foreign Policy, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria

Oliver Rathkolb, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Vienna, Austria – ***“The Paradox of Multiple-Identity Construction and Migration in Europe: A View from Contemporary History”***

Asef Bayat, Professor of Sociology and Middle East Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands – ***“Muslim Youth and the Struggle for Citizenship”***

Humera Khan, Co-Founder of An-Nisa Society, activist, educator Middlesex, United Kingdom – ***“British, Muslim and Proactive - gaining ownership of the agenda”***

11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:15 **Round Table on “Identity and Participation in a Pluralistic Europe– Experiences and Good Practices”**

Moderator: Rainer Bauböck, Professor for Political Studies, European University Institute, Department of Political and Social Sciences, Florence, Italy

Umayya Abu-Hanna, Finish National Gallery, Cultural Diversity Advisor, Finland

Omar Al-Rawi, Member of the City Council of Vienna, Spokesperson for Integration of the Islamic Community of Austria, Austria

Mensur Akgün, Director Global Political Trends Center (GPoT), Turkey

Rooful Ali, CEDAR, Young Professional Muslims, Emerald Network, United Kingdom

Vedran Dzihic, Center for European Integration Strategies, Geneva – Sarajevo, Austria

Alev Korun, Member of Austrian Parliament for the Green Party, spokesperson for Human Rights Affairs, Austria

Heinrich Neisser, Minister a.D., Vice-President of the Austrian League for Human Rights, Austria

Erika Halima Rubbo, Islamic Religious Community, Italy

Cüneyt Yüksel, Turkish Parliament, Vice President of Political and Legal Affairs in the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Member of Turkey – EU Joint Parliamentary Committee and EU Harmonization Committee, Turkey

13:30 **Lunch** for Participants of the Round Table and Workshop Participants
Venue: Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

14:30 **Workshop Sessions**

Workshop 1 Pluralism and Cross Cultural Identity: Developing a New European Narrative

Chair: Riem Spielhaus, Expert on Islamic Studies, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Co-Chair: Cengiz Günay, Political Scientist, Austrian Institute for International Politics (OIIP), Vienna, Austria

TOPIC 1: *Studying Hybrid Identities and European Values – Paths and Pitfalls of Youth Research and Policy Making*

Statements by

Jahan Mahmood, Visiting Lecturer University of Birmingham, Great Britain
“Trying to understand the concerns of Muslim youth in the context of their surroundings”

Magali Rheault, Senior Analyst at Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, USA/France

“Muslim European Identities: Listening to the Voices of Youth”

Hans Georg Ziebertz, Professor of Practical Theology/Pedagogical Studies of Religion at the University of Würzburg, Germany

“Problems and Challenges of Intercultural Youth Research”

Workshop 2 Participation of Cross Cultural and Muslim Youth – Common Challenges and Successful Strategies

Chair: Dilek Cinar, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey

Co-Chair: Barbara Herzog-Punzenberger, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria

TOPIC 1: *Civic Education and Participation in Europe – Lessons Learned – Strategies Developed*

Statements by

Beatrice Achaleke, Founder and Director of AFRA -International Center for Black Woomen´s Perspectives, future of diversity management in Europe, Vienna, Austria

"The importance of political participation and multiple identities of young immigrant in a cross-cultural society like Austria. Lesson learnt from the MIMPOL Project"

Tehmina Kazi, Director of the British Muslims for Secular Democracy, London, Great Britain

"Democracy through active citizenship: from the Muslim youth of today to the leaders of tomorrow"

Christiano Vezzoni, Researcher in Political Sociology, Department of Social and Political Studies, University of Milan, Italy

"The mobilization of Religion in politics: value driven or ideologically stirred? Challenges for cross cultural public opinion research"

16:00

Coffee Break

16:15

Workshop 1 and 2 continued

Workshop 1 - TOPIC 2: Religious Education in Europe – What Role in Identity Formation and Participation?

Statements by

Tim Jensen, Associate Professor, Institute for Philosophy, Pedagogy and Religious Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

"Secular, Non-religious Religious Education Providing Neutral Information About Religions - A Must for the European Secular, Multi-Cultural and Multi-Religious States"

Mouez Khalfaoui, Georg Ecker Institute for International Textbook Research, German

"Between local and global contexts. The role of Islamic Education in forming the identity of Muslim Youth in Europe."

Angeliki Ziaka, Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Faculty of Theology, Greece

"Religious Education in Greece-The Role of Greek state schools, Multicultural Schools and Muslim Schools in Identity Formation and Participation"

Workshop 2 - TOPIC 2: Religious Community Networks – Developments and Challenges for Identity through Participation

Statements by

Patrick R. Ireland, Chair, Department of Social Sciences, Professor of Political Science, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA

"Religion, Social Capital, and Social Cohesion"

Sara Silvestri, School of Social Sciences, City University of London, Great Britain

"Multifaceted religious identities and social participation"

Eva Maria Hinterhuber, Researcher at Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society, Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany

"Together in difference? Identity and participation in interreligious initiatives in Germany's civil society"

19:00

Dinner

at a traditional Viennese restaurant, hosted together with the City Council of Vienna; venue: Heurigenrestaurant "Fuhrgassl-Huber", Neustift am Walde 68, 1190 Vienna

Tuesday, 30 June 2009

9:00 Workshop 1 Cross Cultural Pluralism and Identity: Developing a Common European Narrative

TOPIC 3: European Narratives – Developing Inclusive Perspectives and Initiatives

Statements by

Farzana Hakim, Director of Corporate and Government Relations, Commission for Racial Equality, Great Britain

“A Common European Narrative and the development of a Professional Muslims Network across Europe”

Peter van Ham, Senior Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations "Clingendael" in The Hague, The Netherlands

“Europe’s postmodern predicament: culture and the longing for Heimat”

Christoph Konrath, Austrian Parliament Administration, Austria

“Developing Inclusive Perspectives for Political Spaces (with emphasis on Parliaments)”

Veronika Remisova, Dpt. for Education and Culture, Programme Youth in Action, European Commission

“European Union’s action to support mutual understanding”

Workshop 2 Participation of Cross Cultural and Muslim Youth – Common Challenges and Successful Strategies

TOPIC 3: Capacity Building for Youth and Youth Workers – Training for Participation in Europe

Statements by

Catherine Cooper, University of California, Santa Cruz, Department of Psychology, USA

„Cultural Brokers: Helping Immigrant Youth on Their Pathways to College Identities in Multicultural Societies”

Fatih Hasdemir, Director National Agency Turkey, Youth Department, Ankara, Turkey

“Dialogue, Participation and Training in Youth Sector”

Behrooz Motamed-Afshari, Senior Trainer and Consultant, Youth and Civil Society Development Programme, Istanbul (Turkey) / Köln (Germany)

„Europe is a good tool for more participation!”

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Workshops 1 and 2 continued
Working on the Workshops’ ***Recommendations***

13:00 Lunch
Venue: Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

14:30 Presentation of the Results of Workshop 1 and 2
Moderator: Sabine Strasser, Associate Professor at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

14:50 Statement by
Naser Khader, Member of the Folketing (Parliament) for The Center Party, Denmark

“First and foremost a democrat: Identity and loyalty in a multicultural society: threats and challenges”

15:30

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Sabine Strasser, Associate Professor at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey

16:30

End of the Symposium

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Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
29-30 June 2009
Vienna

CONCEPT PAPER

Europe and the European Union have been shaped by pluralism and still major challenges of European societies are related to successful diversity management. Securing prosperity, welfare and peace has also become related to the successful integration of immigrants and their cultural, religious, ethnic and other heritages. Europe has never been a fixed and clear cut geographical, political and cultural unit – Europe rather exists in our minds and collective memories. There is no confirmed “European identity” but the awareness of the diversity and pluralism of identities, of ethnic, religious, cultural belonging. Europe has always been “work in progress”, characterized by the dynamics of local, national and regional developments, by the hybridity of its citizens and societies, by its efforts to cope with the challenges of modernisation and globalisation and finding answers to them shifting back and forth from particularity to communalities.

A common political culture of Europe, however, is part of a “European identity” and has shaped, on the one hand, by the European Union in the West. Originally founded as an economic community, the EU member states and their societies have developed it, step by step, into a community of shared values and a community based on law as we know it today. However, Europe has also been distinctively shaped by the experiences of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, former communist countries. The division of Europe was terminated exactly twenty years ago, 1989, with the end of the Cold War. Five years ago, ten new members joined the European Union and the historic chance for a united Europe emerged.

Democracy, freedom, peace and stability, the rule of law, prosperity and solidarity, self-determination of the individual and equal rights for men and women – all these are shared values and at the same time they are objectives we jointly and constantly have to work on in order to reach them.

Dynamic developments within Europe and international migration to Europe particularly from Turkey, the Balkans, the Arab world, Asia and Africa in the last decades have increased diversity in terms of social and cultural belonging. The issue of Islam in Europe and a Muslim European identity has evolved. The assumption of a shared political narrative of the post-war period of Europe has been increasingly challenged. Both, the idea of a European citizenship model and the ongoing construction of a “European identity” are conceptual efforts reflecting the search for communality and unity faced by the increasing hybridity of identities within Europe – and beyond.

Contribution to or exclusion from writing the European narrative and shaping the future of Europe has become a central question with regard to challenges of immigration and integration. Participation in a democratic framework has been identified as a core element of European political culture. (European) Identity through participation seems to have been essential in the post WWII and post Cold War European narrative, but contexts, forms, objectives of participation have considerably changed in recent years.

The symposium intends to focus on the role and situation of youth with a migrant/ cross cultural and Muslim background, including a strong gender perspective, within this process of developing a “European identity”. Have young people been part of writing the European narrative? What policies in the fields of rights, local and community politics, education, political and social participation et al have been followed to promote and support youth in contributing to the formation of a “European identity”?