

UNITING IN VISION

# TACKLING POPULISM: HOPE OVER FEAR

ANNUAL POLICY CYCLE  
2017



# WHO WE ARE

**The 1989 Generation Initiative is an open policy network seeking to reinvigorate the European Project with the production of new policy proposals and innovative projects, arising out of universal public debate centred around Europe's younger citizens - the '89ers.**

Our method of policy making is innovative in that it takes into account the views not merely of experts or researchers, but also the ideas of young citizens across various disciplines.

Moreover, we go beyond the work of an ordinary think tank with the development of projects and enterprises that aim to have a practical impact on European affairs.

Through these creative processes, we seek to mobilise, empower and inspire citizens from across the continent to contribute to the reform of the European Union. Ultimately, our aim is to provide a beacon of hope for Europeans, at a time when crisis and pessimism increasingly dominate the discourse.

Our activities encompass four major topic-areas in European affairs: Politics and Institutions; Foreign Policy; Economics; and European Identity. The organisation is based at the LSE European Institute, where it was established in February 2015 and is an associate organisation of the LSE.

This document is designed to provide an overview of the 1989 Generation Initiative's policy cycle for 2016/2017. It seeks to present its aims, objectives and rationale, whilst outlining, in some depth, its functioning across the various phases.

The 2016/17 working cycle will address the theme of populism, with the aim of understanding its origins and appeal. By observing where traditional ruling elites have failed, we look at ways to supplant the rhetoric of fear and hate, with one of hope.

The proposals produced by the end of the cycle will be in this spirit, and seek, as always, to add dynamism to the European Project. Our work this year will be broader and more inclusive than the last, with the establishment of four new '89er communities in Brussels, Vienna, Glasgow, and Bratislava, leveraging LSE alumni associations in the process.

These will infuse our visioning process with a more regional perspective and open the debate to a far larger number of potential contributors. Again, whilst concentrating discussions around people under 40, the intergenerational element of the process will be retained and - we hope - strengthened through the participation of numerous new experts in various fields from across the continent.

The post-Brexit Europe will require the creativity and energy of the '89ers more than ever. Following our very successful first cycle in 2015-2016, it is impossible not to be optimistic about the impact that the Initiative and, our generation more broadly, can have on the process of redesigning and, ultimately, rebuilding the European Union. Amid fear and disappointment, let us continue our important work, with enthusiasm intact and hope abundant!



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# AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The concept of the Initiative's annual working cycle is relatively simple. We aim through a unique process of intergenerational dialogue and broad outreach, to produce ambitious new policy proposals for the reform and regeneration of the European Project. The working cycle will differ from the 2015-2016 incarnation in that it will be pan-European in nature, involving a number of new 89er communities set up in different European cities.

Central to this process will, as always, be the 89ers, whose ideas and aspirations for Europe will form the backbone of the proposals. The cycle will launch with a two-day conference at the LSE in February 2017 and run for eight months.

During this time, 4 events will be conducted in Brussels, Vienna, Bratislava and Glasgow respectively to source further ideas, whilst dozens of webinar discussions will take place between February and June linking hundreds of 89ers and leaders from across the continent.

## What we aim to produce:

The aim of the cycle will be the production of a Declaration containing a select number of policy proposals to emerge from the discussions.

The Declaration will tackle in overarching terms the question of populism and present possible solutions to it. In the next section, it will present policy proposals in four broad areas: Politics/Institutions; Economic Affairs; Foreign Policy; European Identity.

The Declaration will be presented in front of an audience of MEPs, think tank professionals and young Europeans at the European Parliament in October 2017.

In this endeavour, the 1989 Generation Initiative is partnering with the European Commission. This partnership is in pursuit of promoting the exchange of ideas and the formulation of solutions to problems of a pan-European nature. We are as ever grateful for the role of the European Institute, LSE in supporting and promoting us.



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# 1 PREPARATION



## **Crowdsourcing roundtable topics:**

**AN ONLINE** survey will be conducted between mid-August to early September to crowdsource the topic areas that the Initiative will focus on. The idea of this is to provide legitimacy and credibility to our work over the next year and allow our public to engage directly in the process of developing topic areas - work ordinarily conducted by the Content Team alone.

This initiative will allow young Europeans across Europe to declare their priorities for 2017, and shape fundamentally the working cycle and the parameters of its discourse.

## **Identifying leaders; reaching 89ers:**

The Content and Events Teams will work together to identify the 30-40 speakers. Participants will be carefully selected in accordance with the needs of the roundtables.

The younger participants will be able to apply via a simple application form. 80 of these will be selected. A certain number of LSE applicants will be prioritised, whilst each regional chapter will provide 4 participants each - one for each roundtable. The final list of participants will be determined by mid-January.

# 2 LAUNCH



## **Conference Aims:**

**THE GOAL** of the Launch event is to put the basis for a fruitful collaboration and the germination of a lively community.

For this reason, the event will last longer, if compared to the previous one, and more smaller activities, where 89rs will be the protagonists, are foreseen. Day 1 will be devoted to a more informal exploration of the topics. Beside breaking the ice, those activities will create additional content.

During Day 2 the formal discussions in roundtables with Leaders will take place. Day 3 will be dedicated to a thorough presentation of the Initiative (next phases of the cycle, projects, Chapters). According to the stage of development achieved by projects and Chapters the agenda may change.

## **Logistical considerations:**

The Launch Conference, will take place in the premises of the LSE. Delegates will be provided, shortly after the selection, with an info-pack composed by documents relevant for the topics they will discuss during the the Conference. This will help them to have a basis of shared knowledge, especially on "technical" issues such as EU policies. The info-pack will include logistical information such as: a list of possible accommodations, maps, agenda. Leaders have to be contacted 3 months before the Conference.

# 3 CONVERSATION



## Webinars:

**AFTER** the Conference, weekly webinars will bring together Conference participants as well as other members that were unable to attend. The aim of these webinars is to produce new proposals any existing ones to emerge from the Conference.

Experts will also take part in the webinars, to provide quality input. These may be the same experts as at the Conference, or different individuals. This may be arranged on a relatively ad hoc basis.

## Regional Events:

Events will be organised by the Initiative's regional communities or 'chapters' to provide further input on the areas discussed. The Initiative is leveraging alumni associations in four different cities in order to generate a new pool of contributors to the working cycle.

Here we hope that a regional perspective on populism will be provided, serving to enrich the discussion. The broad conclusions to emerge from the webinar series and chapter discussions will be included in the final Declaration as policy proposals.

# 4 PRESENTATION



## European Parliament Event:

**THE FINAL** Declaration will be launched in Brussels in October 2017, in front of an audience of MEPs, EU and member state officials, NGO & Think Tanks representatives, and, naturally, young people from all over the European continent.

Here, speakers will present the broad ideas enshrined within the Declaration, as well as an agreed number of policy proposals from the Declaration.

## Regional Dissemination:

The chapters will organise regional events where the Declaration will be presented in a similar format, though, naturally, on a smaller scale. Outreach will be conducted locally by the chapter leadership, with proposals presented formally to relevant stakeholders and government officials.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Day 1: Welcome and Overarching Theme

### D1.1: Welcoming Words and Keynote Speech

### D1.2: Preparatory Activities:

The delegates will be engaged in workshops led by the Initiative, Fireside Talks, British Parliamentary Debates and ice-breaking activities. Leaders may be involved and asked if they would like to lead such activities.

The preparatory activities will take place simultaneously, at least 3 per time slot in order to accommodate all the 89ers. The delegates will have the chance, once selected, to book their favourite activities. They will be planned in advance, and have to be well defined at least 2 months before the Conference.

### D1.3: Social Dinner or Buffet in the premises of LSE

## Day 2: Roundtable Discussions

**08.30 - 09.15:** Registration, Coffee & Croissants

**09.15 - 09.45:** Opening of the Conference: Keynote Speeches

**09.45 - 11.15:** Roundtables Sessions

**11.15 - 11.30:** Break

**11.30 - 13.00:** Roundtables Sessions

**13.00 - 14.00** - Lunch

**14.00 - 15.30** - Roundtables Sessions

**15.30 - 16.45** - Plenary Session

**16.45 - 17.00** - Break

**17.00 - 18.30** - Keynote Debate

**18.00 - onwards** - Social Activities and Dinner

## ROUNDTABLES & CONTENT (I)

### POLITICS & INSTITUTIONS

#### **A Model of inclusion Encouraging Participation and Enabling European Citizens to Shape Policy Directions**

##### **Representing citizens' voices**

How can the EU improve existing mechanisms that enable European citizens to participate in the decision-making process, and how can it efficiently ensure citizens' awareness and understanding of such participation frameworks?

##### **Amplifying the citizens' voice in Brussels**

What new tools and mechanisms should the EU implement in order to facilitate the engagement of European citizens with the EU decision-making process?

### ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

#### **A Better Single Market**

##### **Fairness and New Perspectives European labour mobility**

How can we improve fairness and economic efficiency regarding labour mobility and welfare schemes in the European Union? How can we create support from the public?

##### **Digital single market**

How can we approach the future of a digital single market? Which requirements need to be fulfilled?

## ROUNDTABLES & CONTENT (II)

### GLOBAL AFFAIRS

#### **Restoring Hope and Security, at Home and Abroad**

Addressing the Roots and Consequences of Instability in Europe's Neighbourhood

##### **Solving the refugee crisis**

How can the EU reform its migration and asylum policy to respond to the refugee crisis in a sustainable way?

##### **Security needs vs. humanitarian concerns**

What immediate and longer-term policies would allow the EU to mitigate further conflict and instability in its neighbourhood and reconcile its security needs with its humanitarian concerns? Should these measures be of a civilian or military nature?

### EUROPEAN IDENTITY & CULTURE

#### **Knowledge is Power: Reconnecting with European Citizens**

##### **Bringing the EU closer to its citizens**

How can the EU create a more effective communications strategy to better inform and connect with its citizens, especially through new media and technologies? How can the EU publicize the opportunities and advantages it offers and therefore reverse the current negative narrative?

##### **Education for engagement**

How can citizens be better educated about the EU in order to critically engage with current EU affairs? How can passive education be combined with active education (mobility, interactivity, fieldwork)? Can EU knowledge be instilled beyond.

