Conference Program
Thursday, 22 November 2018

10:00 – 10:30 World Cafe: Popular narratives and experiences of different regimes
Recent history, popular narratives and experiences differ enormously across Eastern Europe when it comes to communism, transition and democracy. Facts are centroids by personal memories, history often varied in service to political purposes. Considering communism or other forms of authoritarians regimes is unquestionable just like the fact that there is no alternative to functioning democracy. However, people are nostalgic for the communist past and disappointed with their experience with deficient forms of democracy.

The world café format will allow participants to openly reflect upon popular narratives and experiences of different regimes, both positive and negative. Participants are asked to charge their tables for 15-20 minute dialogues with conversation partners.

Olga Boritovskaya, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)

11:00 – 11:30 "Generation of transition"
Presentation of the paper: "The generation of transition in Eastern Europe - a generation of uncertainty - a generation of distrust?"

Leszczynska, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)

11:30 – 12:30 Digital divides and political (dis)engagement of the generation of transition (Generations of transition)
Relevan findings points to a generally pragmatic, distant outlook of traditional politics and disengaged civic and political life. But this generation of transition in Eastern Europe is not levelling the citizen's engagement.

Panellists:
Boritovskaya, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)

12:30 – 13:00 Coffee Break

Friday, 23 November 2018

10:30 – 11:00 Open Space: Challenges of transformation & ways to tackle them with means of civic education
Transformation of democracy meant rampant transformation, scarcity and uncertainty. It meant catching up and opening up to global markets and competition. For some it brought new division, adaptation and inclusion. In their thirst we want to learn the experience at transition with some of the challenges that our societies are facing today. We are coming up with recommendations for approaches, instruments and tools of civic education to address them.

The topics proposed were previously discussed at the preparatory meeting in April and will be summarised in a small publication for practitioners and experts. The open space format would allow focused discussion with an expert host.

Table 1: Trust
Host: Christine Wiertel, DVA e.V. (Germany)

Table 2: East with us vs. West
Host: Michaela Husenova Tomka, Institute of Social Sciences Ava Pilar (Croatia)

Table 3: Left vs. right
Host: Emília Szilágyi, Hungarian Centre for Integration in Local Development (Hungary)

Table 4: Reconciliation
Host: Boritovskaya, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)

Table 5: Intergenerational dialogue/Neighbours
Host: Mariana Assonos, Neighbours Festival (Bulgaria) and Romans Medov, Citizenship and Culture Journal (Institute for Studies of the Record Past) (Bulgaria)

11:30 – 12:00 Presentation and discussions of recommendations

13:30 – 14:00 Lunch and farewell