

Policy AGORA Forum & Citizen Innovation Lab

Democratic Activism at the local level, Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law

January 26 – 28 2023 | Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Location: Cluj Hub - 22-26 Regele Ferdinand, Cluj-Napoca

Bringing together leading academic thinkers, civil society organizations and activists, and practitioners and experts from across Europe, the GEM-DIAMOND **Policy Agora Forum & Citizen Innovation Lab on Democracy and Dissensus** will grapple with the origins, drivers, dynamics and impacts of *dissensus* on European democracy, with special focus on Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law and Autonomy of the Judiciary; Exercising Democracy – Civil Society and Challenges to Democratic Space; Contested Spaces – Gender, Power & Fundamental Rights; and The Role of Academia in Dissensus & Democracy. The **Agora** methodology will create a dynamic and engaging space for academics, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss together, critically reflecting and diving into and analyzing key issues and challenges. It will involve a series of highly participatory and dynamic sessions combining input from invited speakers and experts with engagement from all participants to address the wider struggle to uphold fundamental rights and the rule of law and strengthen effective, just and inclusive democratic practices and polities in Europe today.

Day 1 – Thursday January 26

POLICY AGORA	13:00 – 14:00	Welcome - European Policy Agora & Citizen Innovation Lab <i>Ramona Coman, President of the Institute for European Studies (ULB)</i> <i>Sergiu Miscoiu, Director of the Centre for International Cooperation, UBB</i> <i>Kai Brand-Jacobsen, President of the Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR)</i>
	14:00 – 15:40	Democracy in Europe Today – Understanding Dissensus & Democracy <i>Ramona Coman, President of the Institute for European Studies (ULB)</i> <i>Kai Brand-Jacobsen, President of the Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR)</i>
	15:40 – 16:00	Dialogue, Tea, Coffee & Refreshments
	16:00 – 17:30	Democracy in Europe Today - Unpacking the Role(s) of Different Actors
	18:30 -	Dinner Chios Social Lounge Location: Central Park

Day 2 – Friday January 27

POLICY AGORA	09:00 – 09:30	Globalization, Europe & Multilateralism <i>Kai Brand-Jacobsen, President of the Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR)</i>
	09:30 – 11:30	Democracy & Dissensus: Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law and Autonomy of the Judiciary <i>Balázs Gaál, Hungarian Helsinki Committee</i> <i>Diana Ionescu, Lecturer, UBB</i> <i>Dragoş Călin, Judge at Bucharest Court of Appeal (online)</i>

	11:30 – 12:00	Dialogue, Tea, Coffee & Refreshments
	12:00 – 14:00	<p>Democracy & Dissensus: Exercising Democracy, Civil Society & Challenges to Democratic Space</p> <p><i>Ionuț Sibian, Executive Director, Civil Society Development Foundation</i> <i>Katarzyna Gardapkhadze, CEO, Responsible Leadership Academy</i> <i>Diana Filimon, President, Forum Apulum</i> <i>Alexandrina Najmowicz, Co- Chairwoman, Civil Society Convention for the Future of Europe (online)</i></p>
	14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
	15:00 – 17:00	<p>Democracy & Dissensus: Contested Spaces – Gender, Power & Fundamental Rights</p> <p><i>Carmen Gheorghe, President, E-Romnja</i> <i>Alexandra Columban, Executive Director, ACTEDO</i> <i>Alexandra Oană, Local Councillor</i> <i>Mădălina Mocan, Researcher, Center for the Study of Democracy</i></p>
	17:00 – 17:30	Dialogue, Tea, Coffee & Refreshments
Media Mixer	17:30 – 18:30	<p>Democracy & Dissensus: Media in the Age of Dissensus</p> <p><i>Mircea Toma, Member, National Audiovisual Council of Romania</i> <i>Codruța Simina, Journalist, RISE Project Investigative Team</i> <i>Riccardo Gallotti, Head of Unit, Fondazione Bruno Kessler</i> <i>Mihnea Stoica, Journalist, TVR Cluj</i></p>

Day 3 – Saturday January 28

Citizen Innovation Lab	10:00 – 11:40	How can Democracy & Democratic Activism Address Dissensus?
	11:40 – 12:00	Dialogue, Tea, Coffee & Refreshments
	12:00 – 14:00	<p>What Role for Academia in Dissensus?</p> <p>Special Event - Keynote Speech: <i>Andrea Pető, Professor of Gender Studies, Central European University (online)</i></p> <p>Reflection & Input: <i>Thomas Tolnai, Vice-president, Asociația Inițiativă pentru Cultură Democratică Europeană</i></p>
	15:00 – 16:00	GEM-DIAMOND: Charting our Path Forward