

# EUROPEAN CIVIC ACADEMY

'19

**(UN) CIVIL SOCIETY AND POPULISM  
WHAT TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES FOR  
CIVIC SPACE IN EUROPE?**

**COLLEGIUM POLONICUM, SŁUBICE, POLAND  
28 – 29 MARCH 2019**

ORGANISED BY

CIVIL SOCIETY EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN COORDINATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF:



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# BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Civil Society Europe, the coordination of civil society organisations in Europe, gathering around 30 civil society networks and platforms active in diverse areas such as civic participation, human rights, social policy, education, culture, the environment, transparency, international cooperation, youth, organises a European Civic Academy since 2016. The first edition was held in La Rochelle, France and a second one in 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. The aim of the ECA is to bring together activists and leaders of civil society organisations with academics and researchers from all over Europe (including the Black Sea Region) to discuss societal challenges relating to civil society and democracy.

Europe has gone through important changes during these last years and civic freedoms are now threatened in several countries of the European Union. The emerging of « illiberal » democracies, the rising of populist movements has created a difficult climate for independent civil society organisations. In particular, the rule of law is challenged in a number of countries and European Values are attacked while anti NGO laws are adopted and smear campaigns are directed against civil society.

In this context, Civil society Europe would like through the organisation of a dedicated European Civic Academy to give activists key insights into these developments and concrete tools on how to address them. Building partnerships between the academic world, and civil society is ever more needed.

The 2019 edition will take place in a particular context with both the European elections and uncertainties around the impact of Brexit.

The organising committee proposes to focus this year's academy on the impact of populism on civil society, exploring current literature and practice and perspectives ahead.

After a first session on the situation of civil society in Poland as a case study for Europe, participants will participate in a key note session on populism, Euroscepticism and civic space which will entangle this phenomenon from multiple perspectives, including the voice of Europeans that are adhering to populist narratives.

The different facets of populism, the impact on civil society and on Europe will be then discussed in different thematic workshops led by both academics and civil society experts in a world café style.

Also participants will adopt a declaration to decision makers ahead of European elections which will include a section on research recommendations.

The results of the discussions will feed into a conference report, and article for scientific publication.

# PROGRAMME

## WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

**19:00**                    **REGISTRATION**

**20:00**                    **COCKTAIL DINNER WITH WELCOME BY EVENT PARTNERS**

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

**GEORGES HADDAD**, President of the University of Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne and former Director of UNESCO World Higher Education Department

## THURSDAY 28 MARCH

**8:40**                    **REGISTRATION**

**9:00**                    **OFFICIAL OPENING**

CO-CHAIRLED BY

**KAROLINA DRESZER – SMALEC**, vice-president of National Federation of Polish NGOs/OFOP

**JEAN MARC ROIRANT**, President of Civil Society Europe

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF

**MARIUSZ OLEJNICZAK**, Mayor of Słubice

**9:15**                    **PLENARY SESSION I**

**THE SITUATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN POLAND - A CASE STUDY FOR EUROPE?**

CHAIRLED BY

**KAROLINA DRESZER – SMALEC**

WITH

**PROF. MAGDALENA MUSIAŁ – KARG**, PhD, DLitt, vice – dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism

**ŁUKASZ DOMAGAŁA**, President of the National Federation of Polish NGOs/OFOP

**EWA KULIK – BIELIŃSKA**, Stefan Batory Foundation

**DR. KRZYSZTOF WOJCIECHOWSKI**, PhD, director of Collegium Polonicum

DEBATE WITH THE AUDIENCE

**10:30**                      **COFFEE BREAK**

**11:00**                      **PLENARY SESSION II**  
**POPULISM, EUROSCEPTICISM & CIVIC SPACE**

CHAired BY

**JEAN CHRISTOPHE BAS**, CEO and Executive Board Chairman at Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

**PROF. EMILIA PALONEN**, Adj. Prof. in Political Science, University of Helsinki & Politics, Media and Mainstream Populism (MAPO) Consortium

**LUUK MOLTHOF**, Dpart Think Tank for Political Participation, *Public and Policy Makers Valuing open societies in Europe, the impact on CSOs*

**SWANTJE GREEN**, Campaign Manager; European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), EU Elections: *Could anti-Europe parties wreck the EU from within?*

**12:00**                      **DEBATE WITH THE AUDIENCE**

**13:00**                      **LUNCH**

**14:30**                      **PLENARY SESSION III**  
**THE MOBILISATION OF UN-CIVIL SOCIETY AT EU LEVEL – WHAT STRATEGIES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY?**

CO-CHAired BY

**JAN ROBERT SUESSER**, European Civic Forum

**MARC SOIGNET**, European Humanist Federation

With

**ESZTER KOVÁTS**, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest

**SIRI HUMMEL**, the Maecenata Institute, *Civil society - always good?*

**CRISTINA SERVAN**, Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía

**FRANCO UDA**, ARCI

**FLORIN BUHUCEANU**, ECPI: *Traditional values, LGBT rights and religion in Eastern Europe*

**16:00**                    **PRESENTATION OF WORLD CAFÉ SESSIONS**

**16:15**                    **COFFEE BREAK**

**16:30**                    **WORLD CAFÉ SESSION**

**1 - ELECTED POPULIST'S MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANISATIONS: EXPERIENCES FROM THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

CHAired BY

**LUCIE SUSOVA**, SOLIDAR FOUNDATION

WITH

**ASSYA KAVRAKOVA**, Director European Citizens Action Service, *Societies outside Metropolises: the role of civil society organisations in facing populism*

**DÁNIEL MIKECZ**, Research Department on Political behaviour, Institute for Political Science, Hungarian Academy of Science

**VLAD LEVENTE VISKI**, MozaiQ, Romania

**ISRAEL BUTLER**, Civil Liberties Union, *How can Human rights counter populism?*

**2 - UNCIVIL SOCIETY & CORPORATE STATE CAPTURE**

**MYRIAM DOUO**, Transparency and Better Regulation Campaigner, ALTER EU – Corporate Capture in Europe

**BÁLINT MIKOLA**, Transparency International Hungary, *Mapping and measuring the different forms of State capture in Central Eastern Europe*

**GRZEGORZ MAKOWSKI**, Stefan Batory Foundation

**3 - A VIEW FROM THE BLACK SEA AND BALKAN REGION**

**ANGELA GRAMADA**, President, Experts for Security and Global Affairs ESGA, *An enabling environment for civil society within the Black Sea Region*

**BILJANA SPASOVSKA**, Balkan Civil Society Development Network, Monitoring Matrix for civic space

**18:45**                    **MEETING OF RAPORTEURS – PREPARATION OF DRAFT  
CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

**20:30**                    **DINNER**

**FRIDAY 29 MARCH**

**PLENARY SESSION III – CSO RESILIENCE & LEGITIMACY, SUMMING UP DAY 1,  
PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

**9:00**                      **SESSION ON CSOs RESILIENCE & LEGITIMACY IN THE  
CONTEXT OF SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE**

CHAired BY

**BRIKENA XHOMAQI**, Director of the Lifelong Learning Platform

**FILIP PAZDERSKI**, Institute of Public Affairs, *Building trust in civil society  
in the Visegrad Region*

**IRINA BOBOC**, FOND Romania, *A reflection on CSO resilience*

**10:30**                      **REPORTS FROM WORLD CAFÉ SESSION &  
PRESENTATION OF DRAFT DECLARATION**

**11:00**                      **COFFEE BREAK**

**11:30**                      **DISCUSSION & VOTE DRAFT CONFERENCE DECLARATION**

**12:30**                      **COCKTAIL LUNCH & DEPARTURE**

**EUROPEAN CIVIC ACADEMY**