



A Soul for Europe Forum / Conversation on 16 and 17 April 2015
Pilsen – Czech Republic, DEPO2015 and the Municipal Hall
www.plzen2015.cz

A Soul for Europe together with Plzen 2015 invite for an A Soul for Europe Forum / Conversation on 16 and 17 April 2015:

Can we take it? Can we shape it? Can we make it?

Cultural vision, cities' assets: citizens' mandate in cities' lives

Programme draft

Thursday April 16

14:00 Welcome

Mayor of Pilsen Martin Zrzavecký, Pilsen 2015 Director Jiří Suchánek, Nele Hertling

14:15 Kick off statement:

- 1) Jiří Havelka, young Czech theatre director, tbc.
- 2) Mon. František Radkovský, Bishop of Pilsen, tbc.

14:30 Panel 1: Relation politics – citizens and civil initiatives

Panelists:

1. Volker Hassemer, A Soul for Europe
2. Aiva Rozenberga, Riga 2014, tbc.
3. Petr Pelcl (Kolem Plzně), tbc.
4. Jiří Pospíšil MEP, tbc.
5. Gianluca Silvestrini, Council of Europe,

Moderator: István Léko (Lidové noviny – Editor in Chief), tbc.

Main question to answer: what do you do to have a relevant say with a tangible result as an active citizen?

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Panel 2: The citizen: Will Europe fail because of its citizens at the end?

Growing right wing populism in cities, look into our daily reality in cities: Will Europe fail because of its citizens at the end? We have to prove the opposite: the inclusion of citizens in decision making and taking responsibility; a big topic for cities

Panelists:

1. Steve Austen
2. Larger city Mayor, tbc.
3. Roman Černík, Johan Centrum Pilsen
4. Nicolas Bertrand, ASFE, Image Aigue
5. Jan Keller MEP, tbc.

Moderator: Petr Fišer (Hospodářské noviny)

Main question to answer: how do we keep the European humanistic values in focus against nationalism, populism, totalitarian thinking creeping back in?

17:30 Conclusions Day 1

Friday April 17

8:30 Coffee and cakes

9:00 Panel 3: Beyond our borders: Where is Europe in all this?

Local versus European or local with European? European dimension – cultural cooperation in a middle sized Central European city (as (if) opposed to metropolises etc) and European values and citizenship in a eurosceptical country – the values are there somewhere, but we don't use and enjoy them.

Panelists:

1. Kathrin Deventer, European festivals Association
2. Hannes Swoboda
3. Ondřej Hrab, tbc
4. Hugo de Greef, ASFE
5. Philipp Dietachmair, European Cultural Foundation

Moderator – Petr Fišer (Hospodářské noviny), tbc

Main question to answer: is there a way to balance the paradox between being an active local citizen and European citizen?

10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Active citizen's Brief Presentations:

6 projects per 7 minutes

11:30 coffee break

12:00 Panel 4: Beyond today: Vision 2018 - the role of culture

Sustainability, long-term efforts and strategies – bridge to ECoC and what after 2015 - Czech citizenship and civil society in 2018 in the view of islam, Europe, Ukraine, etc

Panelists:

- 1) Nele Hertling, ASFE
- 2) Rarita Zbranca, Alt Art
- 3) Czech Minister of culture Mr. Daniel Herman
- 4) Michaela Šojdrová MEP, tbc
- 5) Martin Baxa, Pilsen City Vicemayor

Moderator: Martin M. Šimečka (Respekt), tbc

Main question to answer: what goals we have to achieve for 2018 to be a strong democratic European society?

13:00 end

13:00 – 13:45 Lunch

13:45 start of the ECOC 30 years Celebration Gala

Saturday April 18

10:00 – 14:00 A Soul for Europe Strategy Group meeting

Brief

European Capitals of Culture, for 30 years now, celebrate a treasure of active and creative citizens. In Pilsen, who is the European Capital of Culture in 2015, openness and creativity, permanent and sustainable transformation into a respected cultural metropolis and wide-ranging engagement of citizens in the life of their city are the key objectives of the project. In view of 2018, 100 years of independence of many central European states, we invite former, current and future European Capitals of culture makers, inventors, programmers, directors, administrators, artists, cities' mayors, donors and all active citizens interested in the contribution of culture to urban development and a peaceful European continent in today's world to participate in this one day Forum.

Citizens live and give life to cities. They share this space, they take care of it; they enjoy this space that gives them a home as long as they feel it's theirs: where they can express themselves, get inspired and have a say about its future. The diversity of people living together in Europe's cities is exceptional; the cultural movement and mobility reflected in these cities and the way people live together for centuries maybe the most European feature and treasure we have.

Growing populism and extremism in cities, right- and left-wing, nevertheless is a fact. Opportunistic, defensive, destructive rather than constructive forces gain the top. Will Europe fail because of its citizens at the end? We have to prove the opposite: the inclusion of citizens in decision making, a framework for citizens to live happy and peacefully together, needs to be offered to citizens. They are there to take this responsibility, shape the society and be drivers of the actions: Can we take it? Can we shape it? Can we make it?

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