



Updated 15/03/2017

## Peace through Culture

*Building bridges in changing communities – a citizens' dialogue*

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| <b>Date</b>      | Wednesday 10 May 2017  |
| <b>Time</b>      | 10:00 – 13:00 (doors open at 9:30) followed by joint lunch           |
| <b>Venue</b>     | Peace Palace, The Hague  |
| <b>Moderator</b> | Princess Laurentien (co-moderator TBC)                               |
| <b>Partners</b>  | Peace Palace, City of The Hague, De Haagse Hogeschool & Migrationlab |
| <b>Language</b>  | English (Dutch translation available on request)                     |

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### WHY

The fundamental values on which Europe was formed – such as peace, democracy, diversity and solidarity – are subject to growing, relentless, and complex pressures. Migration, distrust towards traditional powers and increasing divides between people and institutions are complex challenges we are facing. Although one might at times feel as if there's nothing to be done, we come across numerous inspiring examples of citizens gathering together and taking action. There are countless local cultural initiatives providing alternative solutions. Culture's contribution to this is through nourishing independent and critical thinking, facilitating personal encounters and experiences beyond positions or judgements. It bridges divides and helps us find new ways of living together. For this reason, culture is a powerful lever for maintaining our value-based solidarity and inclusive communities, thereby contributing to a more stable and safe Europe.

This dialogue is intended to serve as a starting point for reflection and an honest and open conversation: to break down traditional silo thinking. In ECF's longstanding experience, including communities in decision-making processes creates wider support, provides out of the box solutions and strengthens democratic legitimacy. In addition, **voices of the next generation and those from migrant backgrounds are not sufficiently present in the public and political sphere. It is our shared responsibility and goal to amplify them, as it is of critical importance to enhance awareness of diversity in culture in order for us to live together better as Europeans.**

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### WHAT - GOALS

By bringing together the individual voices and personal stories of young Europeans – from The Hague as well as broader Europe – the inspiring practices and initiatives of local changemakers as well as policy-makers, who have the means to influence policy change, the citizens' dialogue will be an exceptional opportunity to take major steps towards bridging perceived gaps between the various groups and communities (and continuing to do so after the dialogue). Special focus will be put on ensuring that the youth representatives are active and full-fledged contributors to the discussion and their voices are heard.

#### **What we want to get out of the meeting:**

- Bring together people of different generations and diverse backgrounds (local, young citizens from The Hague, people with migrant backgrounds, entrepreneurs and policy

makers) and have an honest, open conversation having personal experiences as a starting point;

- Create the need and will amongst the participants from the different 'sectors' (scales and fields) to remain connected;
- through co-creation - gain new insights and perspectives on co-living and diversity in participants' own communities, with a view to influence public opinion and policy-making;
- Draft follow up actions and policy recommendations on culture and intercultural exchange to which the participants from their respective perspectives – local/national/EU policy; university curricula; business sector; local community – will contribute to and follow up on. This relates to the goal of raising awareness on the role of culture/ cultural diversity and communities in addressing the integration of migrants and improved ways of -living together.

## HOW - METHODOLOGY

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The dialogue will bring together local civil actors and changemakers, students and young people from migrant backgrounds, policy-makers and diplomats as well as representatives of the business sector in a World-café inspired, horizontal and inclusive format. Participants will break into smaller tables of max. 8-10 persons and engage in loosely moderated, interactive discussions. The dialogue will consist of a mix of speakers and interactive sessions, steering away from more traditional, 'plenary-like' formats in order to fully engage the diverse audience that the event aims to attract.

The diversity of stakeholders present contributes to diversity in views, perspectives and values. The event encourages participants to step out of their comfort zones and to explore, confront and come to terms with these differences.

**Methodology to be further developed and specified based on for instance the below formats:**

- World cafe
- Citizens dialogue– (for instance: participatory format developed by Natasha Walker for the Euregion debates: combining positioning in the room, world cafe setting and role play);
- G1000 format: tackling specific policy issues

## DELIVERABLES

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- **INFORMAL EDUCATION**

The viewpoints collected from the discussions will be turned into a roadmap drafted by the students and young people with migrant backgrounds themselves on how to create better intercultural understanding and ways of living together what role culture plays in this and how to share these findings among their direct peers and inspire them;

- **POLICY / ADVOCACY**

The policymakers will extract lessons learned and policy recommendations from the dialogues and examples shared on how culture can contribute to the integration of refugees and migrants in host communities and identifying ways of including different communities (social inclusion).

These recommendations will form be the basis of follow-up actions on local, national and EU policy level.

- COMMUNICATION
  - Press releases, media partnerships, online outreach;
  - An in-depth article (rather than a report) preferably written by a journalist who participated in the dialogue, to reach out to local, national and international platforms and journalistic outlets such as blogs, Eurozine and newspapers (for instance AD, De Correspondent, etc);

## MAIN QUESTIONS<sup>1</sup>

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### ROUND 1 – Setting the scene

- What are the main challenges and concerns you perceive in your own life with regards to the growing gap and divisions – among different generations (young and old); within Europe (north and south Europe); in politics (communities and institutions)? (*mindmap*)
- What binds us? how do people connect? (via a map);
- What are the cultural differences and commonalities between the participants at the table? (*participants write perceived attributes of their background on the printed map. Separate box for the commonalities*)

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### ROUND 2 - Learning more about each other's associations, values, experiences

- How can these challenges be successfully addressed by cultural initiatives? (Here, we will draw on the experience of the laureates and other examples)
- Based on culture's input: what are the alternative solutions based on citizens' perspectives?

### ROUND 3 - Create new visions or perspectives: what topic; who to involve (creating commitments<sup>2</sup>)

- How can we integrate the new ideas and perspectives in our own work – policy, business, social enterprise, community work – and direct community?
- What can be changed/implemented immediately?

## STAKEHOLDERS AND TARGET GROUPS

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The *intergenerational* and *diverse* participant list of approx. 200 will represent a wide array of people– from the grassroots level to high-level politicians and decision makers and from young to old. Although deeply inclusive in its set up and format, in order to create a truly interactive and inspiring environment, the number of attendees is limited and participation in the dialogue will be by invitation only. The event will provide an opportunity for all participants to further extend their

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary questions, subject to further changes.

<sup>2</sup> Smaller table groups will be a combination of „mixed“ (with participants of different target groups and „clean“ (with participants representing only one specific target group).

networks and audiences and reach groups who currently do not yet fall within their scope and outreach. The *main stakeholder groups include*:

- a. The **next generation of “old and new Europeans”** are the ones who not only have the chance to shape the future Europe but also are the most affected by the implication of choices made in the present. This is why ECF is partnering with the *Haagse Hogeschool* and *Migrationlab Foundation*<sup>3</sup> based in The Hague in order to ensure not only a strong representation of these groups at the dialogue and follow up activities but to foster their active participation and engagement.
- b. **Members of ECF’s existing community**, such as the PMA laureates (present and previous), grantees of ECF’s different schemes and programmes (TANDEM, STEP, Idea Camp and R&D grants), other grassroots organisations, foundations, artists, thinkers, opinion-makers with whom ECF has worked over the years. This Europe-wide network of stakeholders will bring to the table international experience and knowledge as well as tangible cases of culture’s contribution to mutual understanding and dialogue across communities. Meeting local change-makers will enable them to share best practices and forge new partnerships, while connecting with policy-makers will help them amplify their message.
- c. **Local change-makers** such as artists, youth groups, local NGO’s, collectives, **active in and around The Hague**. We will be reaching out to local stakeholders who work with culture as a means (and space) of reconciliation, thus bringing forward examples specifically from within the Dutch context. Through their participation their work gains a European perspective, while connecting with policy-makers can help them to identify ways of influencing (local) government.
- d. These youth groups and practitioners will be connected to on the one hand **policy-makers and diplomats** – working on **local, national and European level** – who have the power and resource to influence existing policy frameworks as well as a shared interest in citizen engagement. European and local change-makers can provide concrete and inspiring examples of how change can originate at and be driven by grassroots level.
- e. On the other hand, **representatives of the business sector** will also be present and actively participating in the discussions, who have a shared interest and commitment in broaden their views on current social-cultural, political challenges (divides) on and supporting civil society initiatives tackling these.

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<sup>3</sup> Migrationlab is an initiative that co-creates opportunities with and for refugees, migrants and locals to meet, interact and inspire each other in cities across Europe. They combine culture, storytelling, social design and non-formal education to improve social relationships between these communities.

## About the ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture – 9 and 10 May

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The European Cultural Foundation (ECF) strives for an open, democratic and inclusive Europe within which culture is a key driver of change. At the centre of this mission and vision, and the pivot of all of ECF's work, is the celebration of exemplary change-makers through the annual ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture (PMA). Selected by a prestigious international jury, the Award illuminates laureates whose future-oriented work embodies the power of culture to bring positive change across Europe. The Award is presented to the laureates on 9 May (Europe Day) in Amsterdam, before an international audience of 500 during a festive cultural event.

The ceremony is followed by *Peace through Culture – a citizens' dialogue*, a half-day event on 10 May, initiated by ECF in collaboration with the Peace Palace in The Hague. This dialogue focusses on the vital role that culture can play in shaping tomorrow's society. The theme of this year's edition is *bridging the gaps in societies across Europe in order to strengthen the peaceful and positive co-living of communities*. Together the Award Ceremony and the Citizens' Dialogue create a *platform* that:

- Brings together and showcases ECF's work connecting and supporting communities and cultural change-makers across Europe; *and*
- Facilitates dialogue between cultural practice and policy-making on a local, national and European level, with a view to influence public opinion and policy-makers.