

# Welcome to the European Forum Alpbach 2017

Conflict & Cooperation | Aug 16 to Sep 1

Editorial and Audience Presentation, 1/2017



**Conflicts and cooperative efforts are capable of destroying established entities, but can also give rise to new foundations. Between August 16 and September 1, 2017, hundreds of pioneers hailing from academic, political, economic, cultural, and civil society backgrounds will present groundbreaking ideas on this tense topic.**

Travel to Alpbach and immerse yourself into a unique surrounding with new ideas, channels of thought and contacts aplenty. This year will see 20 seminars led by renown academics, and over 200 plenary sessions and breakout sessions take place under the banner of [Conflict and Cooperation](#). The advent of artificial intelligence in all imaginable areas of society and the future of the liberal-minded America are key thematic priorities of the 17-day programme.

Have a look at some of the programme highlights.

---

Please get in touch with the EFA Ambassador in Slovakia for assistance with your orientation, application or any with questions at [alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com](mailto:alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com)

## Seminar week

Join the sessions of the **Seminar Week**, where you can choose from the 21 parallel seminars conceptualised and led by internationally-renown academics, in an inter-disciplinary atmosphere, allowing room for interesting debates.

---

Seminar 01: The new silk roads in a global context

Seminar 02: Populism and post-factual politics

Seminar 03: Conflict and the commons

Seminar 04: Energy transition with renewable energy and energy efficiency: a win-win for the planet and the global economy?

Seminar 05: Are we alone in the universe?

Seminar 06: Conflict and cooperation: preferences or environment

Seminar 07: Algorithmic bias

Seminar 08: Hands on: the arts and culture

Seminar 09: Pragmatic alliances and global disorder

Seminar 10: Don't mess with our education! Creating new utopias!

Seminar 11: Transitional justice: case studies from the Balkans and sub-Saharan Africa

Seminar 12: Ethics in action

Seminar 13: Dirty products - responsible consumption: how digitalization changes the role of the consumer

Seminar 14: Climate change, population dynamics, and vulnerability

Seminar 15: Cooperation in evolution

Seminar 16: Timescapes of 21st century: asynchronicities, acceleration and time conflicts

Seminar 17: The renaissance: brave new world

Seminar 18: Politics at the grassroots level

Seminar 19: Turkey at the crossroads

Seminar 20: Teach for Austria: dare to change

Seminar 21: Theatre workshop with students of the royal academy for dramatic art, London

\* Click on the each seminar number to learn more about the topic and moderators.



---

Please get in touch with the EFA Ambassador in Slovakia for assistance with your orientation, application or any with questions at [alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com](mailto:alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com)

## Professional Programmes and Summer Schools

Get your own research idea established on the market; lead groups and organisations in a cooperative manner; gain specialist knowledge in European law or health care – the Alpbach Campus offers you a variety of practice-oriented and interdisciplinary ways to obtain new knowledge as part of your continued professional development. Our programme is aimed at both professionals and PhD students or post-docs in the following areas: science, economics, law, politics, health, administration and non-profits.

All the programmes are aimed at addressing the complex tasks faced in daily professional and academic life using state-of-the-art methods such as peer-learning, mentoring and case studies. Hone your skills and make numerous contacts with decision-makers from across the world. Profit from the knowledge and experience of our partners including the Cambridge University and the University of Innsbruck.

Professional Programme on [Facilitation and Participatory Leadership](#) – Art of Hosting

Professional Programme on European [Health Care and Social Systems in Transition](#)

Professional Programme on [Strategies of Influence](#)

Summer School on [Entrepreneurship](#)

Advanced Course on [European Integration](#)

## Europe's Festival of Ideas

When Nobel Price laureates, courageous entrepreneurs, extraordinary artists and engaged people from civil society meet in a small Tyrolean mountain village, new ideas are bound to emerge. When high-level European politicians, presidents, members of government and managers are added to the mix, then actions quickly follow words.



**5,000+**

PARTICIPANTS

**900+**

SPEAKERS

**100+**

COUNTRIES

# Europe's Festival of Ideas

## Political Symposium

The Political Symposium will focus on current challenges of European and international politics. The programme will include questions like the future of European affairs, innovation in democracy and governance, or how to find solutions to the key obstacles of international cooperation. Over 20 partner organisations from Austria, Europe and the United States will bring in their expertise. During two warm-up days, interactive seminars will deliver behind-the-scenes insight into diplomacy and international affairs. Just browse through the events [here](#).

## Legal Symposium

Is the attainment of Justice Law's foremost duty, or is it also conceivable that Law serves to pursue concrete interests and address conflicts on a neutral level? This year's Legal Symposium will compare and examine parallel existing legal systems, and reflect on differing legal models and hypotheses currently discussed. This is particularly relevant today and is necessary to judge how conflicting the continental European legal system is with the Anglo-American legal system. Even from a neutral legal standpoint, the main question now is whether a 'trade war' is in the making. The state of coexistence between the continental European legal system and the Sharia legal system in Europe also calls for this discussion. Moreover, there is the national level, where nation-states have respective legislations through which they handle Law and achieve Justice (mediation, diversion, severe criminal jurisdiction...). A glimpse into multilateral trade agreements and their selected arbitration procedures is also timely. Learn [more](#).

## Health Symposium

No other sector of society is as highly contested by varying interests and needs as is health care. At its heart lie the questions of how to ensure healthy people remain healthy, ill people become healthy again, and how to obtain the best possible care for all. The goal is evident; the ways to arrive there are not: they weave between conflict and cooperation. Hundreds of national and international experts from all areas of health care will reason along the lines of conflict and cooperation - which ways make sense and which are a dead end? When and where is it advisable to cooperate more? Which conflicts do we need to argue out to induce necessary changes?

The programme of the Health Symposium starts with the big picture before immersing into more detail: from global comparisons of different health systems, to the question of regional supply with medication, and to communications between doctors and patients. Learn about its events [here](#).

## Economic Symposium

Conflict and cooperation are core elements in theoretical and real economics. But what lies between conflict and cooperation? Is the human in its economic decisions more attuned for conflict or for cooperation? Do businesses thrive in an environment of competition or of cooperation? And is our global economy moving towards more free trade or more protectionism? At the Economic Symposium, businessmen, economists and entrepreneurs explore the different dimensions of conflict and cooperation, from micro to macro levels. Be inspired in order to identify solutions for your own business and receive clues on how to navigate in the complex environment of tomorrow. Check [here](#) for more information.

## Higher Education Symposium

Academic institutions form the intellectual backbone of a society. What role do academic institutions have today in strengthening liberal democracy and its values? Is it enough to create knowledge and pass it on to young people, or does the present demand a stronger social commitment? When should one cooperate, and when should one negotiate conflicts openly? In the Higher Education Symposium, the minds of national and international academics will partner together with a number of experts to discuss future progress for universities and academies in order to resume their societal sovereignty. Check the programme [here](#).

... and there is always more to choose from: informal fireside talks, hiking tours with inspiring speakers, media academy and various cultural events...



# BECOME PART OF EUROPE'S FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

## **ALPBACH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME – FILL UP YOUR BAG OF IDEAS**

We invite engaged people under 30 from all around the world to attend the European Forum Alpbach 2017. Join smart minds from around the world in a charming Alpine village, immersing yourself in an environment bursting with novel ideas, new ways of thinking and opportunities for making great contacts. You can find a general overview of scholarship opportunities on our website.

Please get in touch with the EFA Ambassador in Slovakia at [alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com](mailto:alpbach.ambassadors.slovakia@gmail.com) to:

- discuss about the different scholarships, for which you might be eligible;
- get information about the various activities or experience with the different elements of the Forum's programme;
- get practical help with your application;
- or just raise any questions that come to your mind.