



Facing Antagonisms in Europe:
Chances for a common approach?
Perspectives from France, Moldova and Germany

Franco-Moldovan-German encounter for young people
Berlin, Chisinau, Paris and Brussels

At the occasion of their joint visit to Chisinau on 23 April 2014 the French and German Foreign Ministers Laurent Fabius and Frank-Walter Steinmeier jointly stressed the importance of multilateral youth exchanges and meetings to underpin the process of EU approximation in light of the signing of the Association agreement. The Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ/DFJW) was subsequently invited to intensify the organisation of youth encounters with the Republic of Moldova. The project «Facing Antagonisms in Europe» is organised by the Young European Federalists JEF-Moldova, the Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg and the Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE) in cooperation with the OFAJ/DFJW.

The project has three parts with a first seminar taking place in Berlin, Germany from 24 to 29 November 2014, followed by a seminar in Chisinau, Moldova from 6 to 11 April and a last seminar in Paris, France and Brussels, Belgium from 14 to 19 September 2015. The same group of young people, up to eight from each country, will participate in all three parts of the project.

The first seminar focuses on the questions of different societal and political antagonisms in Europe and the opportunities for a dialogue. Can today's contradictions and opposing positions be addressed on the basis of shared European values? Almost exactly 25 years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Iron Curtain, young people from France, Moldova and Germany will meet to analyse and discuss the future of Europe; the relationship between the European Union and Eastern Europe, and in particular the political perspectives for the Republic of Moldova in wake of the war in Ukraine. The seminar takes place in the run-up of the Parliamentary elections in Moldova and provides a forum to debate the domestic political situation as well as the future relations between Moldova and the European Union.

The programme will look at geopolitical factors in the current crisis of the EU Eastern Partnership and aims to identify possibilities for political, de-escalating and non-violent approaches to the problems facing the region and Europe as a whole. The seminar provides a platform for tri-lateral dialogue of young European citizens on concrete initiatives and programmes and their opportunities for participation of young people.



The second part of the project will take place in Moldova from 6 to 11 April 2015 and will engage participants in the situation of the country after the momentous Parliamentary elections of November 2014 and coming into force of the Association Agreement with the EU. The thematic focus of the third part will be the perspectives for European integration in a continent characterised by an increasing number of antagonisms.

Target group:

Young people engaged in civil society activities, students and young professionals from (residing in or being from) France, Germany and Moldova (at least 18 and not older than 30 years old)

Language:

Working language of the project is English

Conditions for participation:

Participants need to fill in the attached form and commit to participate in all three stages of the intercultural exchange as well as activities in-between seminars

Application deadline:

Monday, 27 October 2014, 12h00 CET

Participation fee / travel costs:

There is no participation fee

Travel costs will be reimbursed up to the certain amount for participants from France and Germany, travel costs for participants from Moldova are fully covered by the OFAJ/DFJW

Members of the preparatoy team:

Adrian Balutel, JEF-Moldova

Tobias Flessenkemper, CIFE

Frank Morwietz, OFAJ/DFJW

Ina Rubbert, Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg



DRAFT PROGRAMME

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Monday, 24 November 2014

Arrival of participants and registration

17h00 Welcome
 Introduction of participants and team
 Getting to know each other

19h30 Intercultural evening

Tuesday, 25 November 2014

09h30 Welcome by the Franco-German Youth Office

10h00 ***«From Hostility to European Co-operation –
Franco-German relations an inspiration for today's world?»***
 Presentations:
 Claire Demesmay, German Council on Foreign Relations
 Frank Morawietz, Franco-German Youth Office

11h00 Break

11h30 ***«Identifying, mapping and analysing current antagonisms»***
 Working groups

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Working groups continue

16h00 Break

16h30 Presentation and discussion of working groups' outcomes

18h00 Adjourn

Evening free



Wednesday, 26 November 2014

- 09h30 **«What are the EU perspectives for Eastern Europe?»**
Briefing and discussion at the German Foreign Ministry
- 11h00 Break
- 11h30 **«How to overcome conflict with Russia?»**
Discussion with a Member of the German Federal Parliament
- 13h00 Lunch hosted at the German Bundestag
- 14h30 **«Political Berlin»**
Guided tour
- 16h30 **«Tracing East-West divisions and the Wall – 25 years on»**
City quest
- 19h00 Get-together in a Berlin-Mitte location

Thursday, 27 November 2014

- 09h30 Joint mid-seminar reflection
- 11h30 **«What is the impact of the EU Danube Strategy?»**
Briefing and discussion with representatives from the government of Baden-Württemberg in Berlin
- 13h00 Lunch hosted by the Representation of Baden-Württemberg in Berlin
- 14h30 **«Crisis, sanctions, youth unemployment – what next for the European economy?»**
Briefing and discussion with representatives of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Germany
- 16h00 Time at participants' free disposal
- 18h00 **«Moldova before the elections: crucial test for democracy and the Eastern Partnership»**
Panel discussion of representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova and the Representation of the European Commission

followed by a buffet reception





Friday, 28 November 2014

- 09h30 **«What next? Proposals to overcome antagonisms»**
Working groups
- 11h00 Break
- 11h30 **«How can we co-operate to develop common approaches?»**
Meeting with the German Youth Council and youth organisations
- 13h00 Lunch
- 14h30 **«Developing joint actions»**
Working groups
- 16h00 Break
- 16h30 Evaluation of the seminar and next steps
- 18h00 End of the seminar
- 20h00 Farewell dinner

Saturday, 29 November 2014

Departure of participants

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