

A NEW CONTRACT

RECONNECTING THE EU AND ITS CITIZENS

2018



1989
GENERATION
INITIATIVE



WHO WE ARE

The 1989 Generation Initiative is an open policy network seeking to reinvigorate the European Project with the production of new policy proposals and innovative projects, arising out of universal public debate centred around Europe's younger citizens - the '89ers. Our method of policy making is innovative in that it takes into account the views not merely of experts or researchers, but also the ideas of young citizens across various disciplines. Moreover, we go beyond the work of an ordinary think tank with the development of projects and enterprises that aim to have a practical impact on European affairs.

Through these creative processes, we seek to mobilise, empower and inspire citizens from across the continent to contribute to the reform of the European Union. Ultimately, our aim is to provide a beacon of hope for Europeans, at a time when crisis and pessimism increasingly dominate the discourse. Our activities encompass four major topic-areas in European affairs: Politics and Institutions; Foreign Policy; Economics; and European Identity. The organisation is based at the LSE European Institute, where it was established in February 2015 and is an associate organisation of the LSE.

This document is designed to provide an overview of the 1989 Generation Initiative's Regenerate EU Policy Cycle for 2018 and in particular its February launch conference, organised at the LSE in London. It seeks to present its aims, objectives and rationale, whilst outlining, in some depth, its functioning across the various phases. The 2016/17 working cycle has addressed the theme of populism, with the aim of understanding its origins and appeal. During this next cycle we will be thinking big and ambitious. Our goal is to use the next eight months of pan-European discussion and debate to produce a White Paper on a new institutional vision for the EU, but one which encompasses other questions too: the role of the EU in its neighbourhood and across the world; and the EU as a deliverer of wider social support.

The institutional design and policies that we develop will all be geared towards fostering greater connectivity between the EU and its citizens. The 1989 Generation Initiative continues to grow and will this year leverage the involvement of new regional chapters in Athens, Budapest, Paris, and Aberdeen. These will continue to infuse our visioning process with a regional perspective and open the debate to a far larger number of potential contributors. Again, whilst concentrating discussions around people under 40, the intergenerational element of the process will be retained and - we hope - strengthened through the participation of new experts in various fields from across the continent. As the 89ers, we hold a civilisational responsibility to promote hope across Europe, mobilising our regional communities on a path forward. But apathy and disinterest among a broader section of the European citizenry may yet permit the forces of populism and anti-Europeanism to proliferate and prosper. Upon our activism will depend the future of the European Project.

REGENERATE EU

Programme Description

Regenerate EU is the 1989 Generation Initiative's flagship programme. It engages 89ers over the course of an 8 months policy cycle with the aim of producing innovative policy proposals for the consideration of EU and national institutions. The final proposals are enshrined within a comprehensive annual Policy Report, published and presented at a major event in Brussels at the end of cycle. Each year, the Regenerate EU cycle focuses on a separate theme.

PHASE 1: LAUNCH

Conference Aims:

THE GOAL of the Launch conference is to kick off discussions on the key Policy Cycle theme, providing Cycle delegates with a basis for initial collaboration with their peers and for the germination of a lively community. The event will be composed of roundtable debates and a number of smaller activities, where 89rs will be the protagonists, are foreseen. Day 1 will be devoted to a more informal exploration of the topics. Beside breaking the ice, those activities will create additional content. During Day 2 the formal discussions in roundtables with Leaders will take place. The conference will be crowned by a major public event at the LSE at which a keynote speech will be delivered by a key figure in EU affairs.

PHASE 2: CONVERSATION

Webinars:

AFTER the Conference, two-weekly webinars will bring together Conference participants as well as other members that were unable to attend. The aim of these webinars is to produce new proposals and debate existing ones to emerge from the Conference. Experts will also take part in the webinars, to provide high-quality input. These may be the same experts as at the Conference, or different individuals.

Regional Events:

Events will be organised by the Initiative's eight regional communities or 'chapters' to provide further input on the areas discussed. From this we hope that a regional perspective will be provided, serving to enrich the discussion. The broad conclusions to emerge from the webinar series and chapter discussions will be included in the final Policy Booklet as policy proposals.



PHASE 3: PRESENTATION

Brussels Event:

THE FINAL Policy Booklet will be launched in Brussels in October 2018, in front of an audience of MEPs, EU and member state officials, NGO & think tanks professionals, and, of course, young people from all over the European continent. Here, speakers will present the new institutional vision enshrined within the Policy Booklet, as well as policy proposals in this direction.

Regional Dissemination:

The chapters will organise regional events where the Policy Booklet will be presented in a similar format, although on a smaller scale. Outreach will be conducted locally by the chapter leadership, with proposals presented formally to relevant stakeholders and government officials.

The 1989 Generation Initiative has already successfully completed two successful Regenerate EU Policy Cycles.

2015/16: The Redefinition of the European Mission

This kicked off with the Conference on the Redefinition of the European Mission at the LSE on June 24th 2015. After the Conference, 89ers worked for several months on its outcomes and prepared a Declaration containing eight policy proposals which was presented at the European Parliament in Brussels, during the event 89ers: Writing the Next Chapter.

2016/17: Tackling Populism Hope over Fear

The launch conference in London in February 2017 welcomed 120 participants. A keynote debate has been delivered by Sandro Gozi, Mary Kaldor, Philippe Legrain and Alberto Alemanno. The seven proposals resulting from the discussion will be presented on December 13th 2017 at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

Aims & Objectives

The outcome of the Policy Cycle will be the production of a Policy Booklet containing a select number of proposals to emerge from the discussions. The Booklet will present a White Paper outlining a new institutional vision for the EU, containing proposals designed to reconnect the EU and its citizens. The Booklet will be divided in four broad areas: Politics & Institutions; Eurozone and Single Market Affairs; Global Affairs; European Culture & Identity. The Booklet will be presented in front of an audience of MEPs, think tank professionals and young Europeans in Brussels in the autumn of 2018.



A NEW CONTRACT: RECONNECTING THE EU AND ITS CITIZENS

Building on the Juncker Five Papers and the recent reform proposals of Emmanuel Macron, the 2017/18 Regenerate EU Policy Cycle will develop a 1989 Generation Initiative White Paper outlining a new institutional vision for the EU. Responding to the emergence of separatist movements across the EU at large, the Cycle will propose a new relationship between the institutions, the member states and - most importantly - the citizens, bringing these closer together. The Cycle will thus envision a new grand design for the EU that reconnects citizens and institutions, suggesting concrete proposals for reform in this direction.

The final goal of the conference is to generate some starting points for a new institutional vision and for policy proposals that will connect the EU and its citizens. These discussions will be enriched and deepened during the webinars and chapter events that follow.

Agenda

Below you will find the draft agenda of the Conference:

15 February 2018 - only for 89ers	11.45 - 13.15	Roundtables Session 2 Economics Affairs (1) Economics Affairs (2) Culture and Identity (1) Culture and Identity (2) Politics and Institutions (1) Politics and Institutions (2) Global Affairs (1) Global Affairs (2)
13.00 - 14.00:	Registration	
14.00 - 14.30:	Delegates Welcome, Presentation of the Initiative, Presentation of the Agenda of the Conference	
14.30 - 14.50	Ice Breaking Activities	
15.00 - 16.00	Workshops on relevant skills and topics led by the 1989 Generation Initiative.	
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee Break	
16.15 - 17.15	Pre-Roundtables	
17.15 - 17.30	Coffee Break	
17.30 - 18.30	Pre-Roundtables	
18.30 onwards:	Dinner at a nearby Pub	
16 February - 89ers and Leaders	11.45 - 13.15	Lunch
	13.15 - 14.15	
	14.15 - 15.45	Roundtables Session 3 Economics Affairs (1) Economics Affairs (2) Culture and Identity (1) Culture and Identity (2) Politics and Institutions (1) Politics and Institutions (2) Global Affairs (1) Global Affairs (2)
08.30 - 09.15:	Registrations & Coffee and Croissants	
09.15 - 10.00:	Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Speech	
10.00 - 11.30	Roundtables Session 1 Economics Affairs (1) Economics Affairs (2) Culture and Identity (1) Culture and Identity (2) Politics and Institutions (1) Politics and Institutions (2) Global Affairs (1) Global Affairs (2)	
11.30 - 11.45:	Break	
	15.45 - 16.00	Break
	16.00 - 17.00	Plenary Session
	17.00 - 17.30	Break
	17.30 - 19.00	Key Note Speech
	19.00 - onwards:	Wine Reception



ROUNDTABLE THEMES



POLITICS & INSTITUTIONS

Dangerous disintegration: Dealing with separatist movements in the EU

In the wake of direct rule being imposed on Catalunya, it is clear to us that separatist movements across Europe are gaining momentum. In this context, the inability of European Institutions to deal with popular discontent is alarming, as it can have significant implications regarding the political stability of the Union.

Last year the Politics and Institutions Roundtables identified ways in which citizens could feel more connected to their union, by proposing a number of simplifications in the way European people could have access to the instruments for citizen representation and by proposing a number of reforms in the European Parliamentary electoral . This year our focus will be on regions, and the aim for the Politics and Institutions policy cycle will be to identify ways in which the European institutions can deal with the the widespread discontent that is being expressed by separatist movements across the Union. While Brexit was the expression of a number of factors dating back to Britain's entry in the Union and strongly shaped by a campaign of disinformation during the referendum, the support for a transferral of powers to devolved national/regional bodies is being echoed across various Member States, most notably Catalunya and Italy's northern regions.. In order to have a Union that works for all, it is essential to build an institutional framework with both preventative and responsive mechanisms, which fosters a cooperative environment and promotes a space for discussion, negotiations and mutual compromises.

In view of these recent movements we notice that the EU lacks an agreed stance on independence movements. Furthermore, in line with the aim of reconnecting the EU with its citizens, establishing a platform for internal issues/separatist movements to be discussed and how these issues fit into the structure of the EU.



ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Convergence: towards fiscal and monetary solidarity

The creation of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) provided the EU with an opportunity to foster economic equality between member states. European citizens from both the strong economies of the north, and the weaker economies of the south, would be able to participate in the single market and the shared currency of the Euro.

Participation in these mechanisms allowed for the free movement of labour, goods, and capital, as well as exchange rates implemented by a common central bank (ECB). The ability for member states from both the north and the south to participate in these commonalities allowed southern European economies to compete in an economy free of floating exchange rates, have access to a Europe-wide labour market, and increase trade due to tariff eradication throughout the EMU.

The impact of the financial crisis, however, saw southern member states incur asymmetrical debt and deficit and fall victim to austerity measures imposed by the Troika. The subsequent eradication of social welfare expenditure, in conjunction with high levels of unemployment and low growth trajectories, has left a divergence in opportunity between southern and northern member state economies and citizens that is still felt today. While reforms have been made, there has been little to no success in restoring symmetry across member states, suggesting new reforms are a critical step in achieving this goal. In particular, a greater commitment to economic and monetary solidarity is needed, and could be addressed by exploring initiatives such as Eurobonds, a common European insurance scheme, and greater fiscal convergence.

If new policy reforms are to come to fruition, they will allow greater equality between EU citizens in northern and southern member states, furthering the European Project's mandate of supranational integration.



GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Joining Forces: Strengthening EU Global Action

With the EU Global Strategy (2016), the European Union has reiterated its willingness to be an influential actor in the world. Global action and foreign policy of the European Union draws significant support from Member States and its citizens who want to see a greater EU external presence. As the EU institutions become more connected to its citizens, the EU's global affairs are even more important. Member States are currently caught in a paradoxical situation. While some benefit from substantial diplomatic resources, many face budgetary restrictions that have forced them to reduce their diplomatic efforts. The disconnect between Member States in regards to budgets, diplomacy, and commitment needs to resolve in order for the EU to maintain its diplomatic efforts and fulfil its role in the world for EU citizens. The recent PESCO decision, mutualising economic services to partner countries, and sharing of diplomatic resources (such as France and Germany's bilateral agreement on sharing resources for schools abroad) provide examples of the pooling of resources by Member States. However, these efforts can only be regarded as a starting point due to their limited scope. The EEAS remains more of a forum than an institution for bringing together Member States' strengths on the international stage. Additionally, the European and individual Member State development efforts continue to lack coordination and coherence. The EU sees ad hoc agencies, but they only gather pieces of each Member State's influence rather than sharing and pooling their individual strengths. There still is room to better institutionalize this cooperation. By joining forces, the EU can narrow this gap and further connect the Union to its citizens. In times of ever increasing challenges and the effects of globalisation, it is up to the EU to better leverage its political, economic, and cultural importance as a global actor.



CULTURE, EDUCATION AND IDENTITY

Diversity as a European identity: redesigning social integration

The European identity is characterised by diversity. 'Unity in diversity' has been one of the core values at the heart of the EU project for several decades, and remains relevant today as nationalism and protectionism threaten the social fabric of European societies. We believe that the promotion, or rather, the construction of European identity necessarily builds on this idea of acknowledging and respecting diversity: diversity of cultures, identities and individuals. As we move forward, globalization and technological advances will inevitably translate into more flexible borders.

Moreover, as migratory influxes gain increasing salience in political discourse, it is imperative to emphasise the notion of solidarity, and not to feed into a distorted rhetoric about those who arrive to Europe. It is important to redesign policies that promote the incorporation of minorities in pluralist societies. As the aim to have a unique European identity seems mostly utopistic, we believe that diversity can be a unifying feature to build a common ground on shared values. The key to create this Union on diversity is the promotion of social integration with which we, as Europeans, can turn social divisions into a coexisting diversity. Our aim, therefore, for this policy cycle, is to create unity in diversity through the promotion of social integration. Diversity should be in identities, rather than social opportunities.

