



13th Central European Round Table of Green Local Councilors Vienna, 12th-14th October 2017

Programme, FINAL version

Central European Round Tables of Green Local Councilors (CERT) take place in Vienna annually since 2005, with approx. 50 local officeholders from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, several countries from former Yugoslavia and guests from Western Europe.

ORGANIZERS:

MEP Monika Vana, Greens/EFA Group, Grüne Bildungswerkstatt Wien (Green Foundation, Vienna), Die Grünen in the Austrian Parliament, Die Grünen Vienna.

DATE 2017:

Thursday, 12th October 2017, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Friday, 13th October 2017, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday, 14th October 2017, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

LOCATIONS:

Thursday: Haus der Europäischen Union, Wipplingerstrasse 35, Vienna (district 1).

Friday + Saturday: Headquarters of Die Grünen Vienna, Lindengasse 40, Vienna (district 7).

PARTICIPANTS:

Greens and Green-affiliated officeholders and activists from Austria (and Vienna).

Green MEP's from Austria, Central Europe and the Baltics.

Elected Green Local Politicians and civil society representatives from Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Bulgaria and Lithuania.

Representatives of EGP (European Green Party), Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament, CDN (Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe), ENGS (European Network of Green Seniors), Green Foundations, etc.

More info on the previous Round Tables (reports, presentations, photos etc.) can be found here: <http://greeningthecities.wordpress.com/central-european-round-table/>

Thursday, 12th October 2017, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Haus der Europäischen Union, Wipplingerstrasse 35, 1010 Vienna.

Evening gala **ALTERNATIVE VOICES FROM EASTERN EUROPE**

Discussions on the future of the European Union and the ongoing crises not only focus on Brexit, Greek debts or relations with USA and Russia, but also on a supposed "drifting apart" of political cultures in Western Europe and in new member states ("Visegrád Group") and some applicant countries.

Authoritarian tendencies and dismantling of "rule of law" standards, increasing nationalism, rejection of refugee resettlement, etc. led to mistrust and re-fueled prejudices and stereotypes on both sides of the former "iron curtain" that were considered to be overcome 28 years after the fall of communism and 13 years after the EU enlargement to countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

The intention of this gala event is to show that "black-white perceptions" don't do justice to the complexity of the situation. We not only have to admit that there are also authoritarian and right-wing populist tendencies in some West European countries, but also that societies in CEE countries are much less monolithic than they seem when looking at newspaper headlines.

We have invited Green and progressive politicians from Central Europe, the Balkans and the Baltics who closely cooperate with civil society in their countries to express their commitment to European solidarity and to our common struggle for human rights and democracy. They will explain their personal motivation that led them to become Member of the European Parliament or to foster pro-European attitudes in their countries. After their statements, there will be opportunity for personal exchange with them.

Speakers:

Welcome by **Monika Vana** (MEP, Austria, Die Grünen)

- **Evelyne Huytebroeck** (European Green Party Committee Member, Brussels)

- **Tamás Meszerics** (MEP, Hungary, LMP-Politics can be different)

- **Simona Petřík** (MP, Slovakia, independent)

- **Liljana Popovska** (MP, Macedonia, DOM-Democratic Renewal of Macedonia)

- **Bronis Ropė** (MEP, Lithuania, LVŽS-Lithuanian Peasant and Greens Union)

- **Ivana Cabrnachová** (Ex-Senator, SZ-ČSSD, Czech Republic)

Moderation: **Ruth Chylik**.

7:30 - 9:00 pm:

Buffet.

Friday, 13th October 2017:

Location: Headquarters of Die Grünen Vienna, Lindengasse 40, 1070 Vienna.

9:00 - 9:30 am:

Opening. Moderation: Raphaela Njie (GBW Vienna, local councilor in Vienna, district 18).

9:30 - 11:00 am:

Macro-regional strategies and the involvement of civil society.

Daniela Urschitz (City of Vienna, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, PA 10) and

Stefan Lütgenau (Danube Civil Society Forum, Foster Europe Foundation):

A "Macro-regional strategy" is an integrated framework, addressing common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The first two strategies have been developed in the "macro-regions" Baltic Sea (EUSBSR, 2009) and Danube Region (EUSDR, 2010/11).

The City of Vienna is in charge of Priority Area 10 of EUSDR, Institutional capacity and cooperation. One of the main tasks is to involve civil society and local actors of 14 European countries, and to provide low-threshold accessibility to EU funds and projects.

The DCSF is the Civil Society Platform for participation and cooperation in the EU Danube strategies. It has mainly developed and facilitated the participative processes and structures in the strategy on national and supra-national level (annual Participation Days). PA 10 and the DCSF closely cooperate with the macro-regional strategy stakeholders in the Baltic, the Alpine and the Ionian-Adriatic Strategy.

11:00 - 11:15 am: Coffee break.

11:15 am - 12:15:

Monika Vana: The Greens/EFA Position Paper on the future of EU Cohesion policy.

Presentation by MEP Monika Vana on the key demands of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament on the future of Cohesion Policy. Currently the debate on how the EU budget and the EU funding for regions will be shaped after 2020 is taking up speed. The Greens/EFA Group adopted a position paper with key demands on how the EU's long-term investments become more inclusive, sustainable and accessible.

Pam Bartlett-Quintanilla: How to prevent Corruption in the use of EU funds.

Presentation by Pam Bartlett-Quintanilla on the Greens/EFA work on transparency in spending of public funds and the prevention of corruption.

(a workshop, prepared by the "Transparency & Democracy" Working Group)

12:15 - 1:45 pm: Lunch.

1:45 - 2:45 pm:

Lithuania - a Baltic Sea country governed by Greens.

Tomas Tomilinas (MP, vice president of LVŽS)

Presentation and discussion about Green government politics in Lithuania.

In October 2016, the Peasant and Greens Union (LVŽS) of Greens/EFA MEP Bronis Ropė sensationally became strongest party in the Lithuanian Parliamentary elections - 22% of the vote in the first round, and 54 out of 141 seats in the end. And 1 seat also went to a smaller Green Party, the LŽP (2% of the vote).

In December, a "green-red" coalition government of Peasants and Greens with the Social Democratic Party came into office, with Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and 11 ministers from Peasant and Greens Union and 3 ministers from Social Democrats.

We will learn how LVŽS won the election, what they could achieve in government so far, and about their goals and campaigns.

Afternoon:

Learning from each other - successful election campaigns and political challenges.

Presentations of 3 examples, and discussion.

- How can Greens win elections in CEE countries?
- What can we learn from defeats and failures?
- Joining a government: what are the opportunities and threats for Green Parties?

2:45 - 3:45 pm:

Hungary

- Zoltán Páli, Co-President of LMP-Lehet Más a Politika youth wing "Future can be different";

- Gábor Erőss, local councilor Budapest-district 8 and Szilvia Temesvári, office of the Green mayor of Budapest-district 14 Zugló (PM-Párbeszéd, Dialogue for Hungary);

- Vera Móra, Director of "Ökotárs" Foundation.

In 2014, two Green parties (LMP-Politics can be different and PM-Dialogue for Hungary) were elected into the European Parliament, the National Parliament and into some municipal councils. Since then, instruments of democratic control have been further weakened by the right-wing Orbán government, and new laws (CEU, anti-NGO, etc.) are aimed at restricting freedom of expression and critical policy discourse.

What are the starting positions of Greens and civil society into the election year 2018, which strategies and possible alliances are being discussed?

3:45 - 4:00 pm:

Coffee break.

4:00 - 5:30 pm:

Green politics in countries of former Yugoslavia - two cases.

Introductory words and moderation by Robert Godina, Greens/EFA Group.
(input prepared and supported by the "Baltic to Balkans" Working Group)

Macedonia

Marija Skumanova (Secretary General of MODOM-Young DOM):

How Greens joined the opposition and how they try to find their role in the current "battle of power" between the Centre-Left/Green/Albanian majority and the right-wing Gruevski block after the Parliamentary election of December 2016. Info about the DOM campaign to the local elections to be held on October 15th, 2017.

Zagreb

Tomislav Domes, Marijana Rimanić, Ivan Zelenić and Jelena Zenko Milović:

The campaign for the Zagreb local elections 2017 by the green-left coalition Zagreb je NAŠ!

- Nova ljevica - ORaH - Radnička fronta - Za Grad.

How Greens, small leftist parties and grassroots movements finally managed to enter the City Parliament with 4 seats and 7.6% of the vote in May 2017.

5:30 - 6:00 pm:

Vesna Jusup (European Green Party, Brussels):
Gender Politics in European Green Parties.

6:00 - 7:30 pm:

Free time

7:30 - 10:00 pm:

Dinner in a pub.

Saturday, 14th October 2017:

Location: Headquarters of Die Grünen Vienna, Lindengasse 40, 1070 Vienna.

Networking, Round-up and "Good Practices" from the countries present

9:00 - 9:15 am: Opening by Monika Vana.

Moderation: Raphaela Njje (GBW Vienna, local councilor in Vienna, district 18).

9:15 - 10:00 am:

Video film of "Bečka Grupa" (an initiative in the framework of the "Green Migrants" section of Die Grünen Vienna, founded by local councilors with roots in the "West Balkan" countries):

"50 Jahre GastarbeiterInnenabkommen Österreich-Jugoslawien. Alt trifft Jung" about the first and third generation of migrant workers from (former) Yugoslavia in Austria. English subtitles, presented by Emina Adamović, Aleksandar Rudić and colleagues.

10:00 am - 12:00:

Round-ups & best practices ("poster fair") from participating countries.

Presentations about campaigns, projects or green successes will be put on the walls and discussed with those who are interested in.

12:00 - 12:20:

Short feedback round and closing remarks (next steps, further cooperation, ideas for CERT 2018).

12:20 - 1:45 pm:

Lunch.

1:45 - 6:00 pm:

Excursion to Leopoldstadt (district 2 of Vienna)

Leopoldstadt is an urban district located between Danube River and Donaukanal, with approximately 105,000 inhabitants. Historically, it has been (and still is) a favourite area of Jewish settlement. Since 1945, SPÖ (Social Democrats) have always been the strongest party and thus held the position of District Mayor. But in September 2016, the local election of 2015 had to be repeated because of some ballots that were missed. Surprisingly, Die Grünen scored 35.3% of the vote and came in first.

During our excursion, we will walk through some interesting neighbourhoods of the district, watch a presentation about Leopoldstadt and meet the Green Mayoress Uschi Lichtenegger. The excursion will end up visiting an alternative location ("Nordbahn-Halle beim Wasserturm") and a housing project ("Wohnprojekt Wien") in the large urban development area that emerged on the site of a railway station called "Nordbahnhof". Green local councilor Bernhard Seitz from the 2nd district will be there to answer questions.

Registration:

Non-Austrian participants: gerhard.jordan@gruene.at

Austrian participants: karin.binder@gruene.at