

Dialogue across generations

„Tell me about Europe“ starts on 9. September in Prague

Goethe-Institut's Europe-wide event series



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For profound European understanding and solidarity, communication and dialogue are crucial – between countries and regions, but also between generations. Europe is more than a continent or an idea. Europe is the people and their innumerable personal stories that shape it. From London to Tbilisi to Oslo and Sarajevo, *Tell Me about Europe* is an analogue and digital series of events for the German EU Council Presidency initiated by the Goethe-Institut in which the memories of well-known Europeans are awakened and illuminated in the context of current views about Europe. Over 13 events in 13 European countries from September to December 2020 will offer intergenerational listening and debates. The Goethe-Institut Prague will kick it off on 9 September.

Europe is confronted with increasing challenges that not only call political unification into question, but also the very cohesion of Europeans. The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have exacerbated these developments in recent months. What input do young people in particular want to give to continue this intergenerational project and to continue writing Europe's history? What values is Europe built on? What should a political, social, and cultural European project look like in the future?

At the Europe-wide discussion series *Tell Me about Europe*, people of different ages and origins will come together on location to discuss the past, present and future of Europe. The basis for the dialogue across generations and borders is a collection of interviews by the group "Arbeit an Europa", which were collected in the *European Archive of Voices*. In it, well-known people born before 1945 tell young people about their different life paths and experiences in Europe. For *Tell Me about Europe*, the two curators Edouard Barthen and Leona Lynen prepared a selection of interviews and extracted seven overarching topics that will be discussed during the events: the search for identity between values and cultures; United in diversity? Europe of nations; Dialogue between East and West; European public; Europe of generations; Migration and immigration and Lived Europe.

The series begins on **9 September** at the Goethe-Institut **Prague** with the Czech-German author and sociologist **Alena Wagnerová** (born in 1936), who will talk about her personal experiences and her view of Europe. The evening of discussions will be supplemented by experimental formats, for example with the presentation of a sound collage by the sound artist **Marc Matter** that takes up spoken passages from the interviews. The sound collage will then also be shown at the other events.

On **15 September**, different generations will meet in **Helsinki** in the Oodi City Library to discuss the overarching issues from a Finnish perspective. This includes issues of equality in education and the sexes as well as about

Finland's internationalisation phases after the war and after joining the EU. The participants will also take a look at the question of how we can learn from history and what the future of young people in Europe could look like. The event in Finnish can be followed online via a live [stream](#); the audience can also ask questions. The stream will then be made available on the website.

On **1 October** at the Urania Cultural Centre in **Zagreb**, the Croatian-born translator **Truda Stamać** (born in 1942), the linguist **Aida Alagić** and the journalist **Nora Sefa** and history professor **Tvrtko Jakovina** will offer insights into their stories about Europe. The talk will be moderated by Ivana Dragičević. The discussion in Croatian will then be made available on the project website and on the [YouTube channel of the Goethe-Institut Zagreb](#).

More *Tell Me about Europe* events will take place in October, November, and December at different locations in Europe according to coronavirus-related health measures and requirements. All discussions will be made available on the website. In addition, anyone interested will have the opportunity to follow the project through virtual tours, interviews with contemporary witnesses and experts or video clips on the project website goethe.de/erzaehlemirvoneuropa.

All event locations:

United Kingdom, **London**; Sweden, **Stockholm**; Georgia, **Tbilisi**; Russia, **Moscow**; Czechia, **Prague**; France, **Strasbourg**; Italy, **Rome**; Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Sarajevo**; Albania, **Tirana**; Croatia, **Zagreb**; Finland, **Helsinki**; Norway, **Oslo**; Luxembourg, **Luxembourg**.

Initial dates for the event series *Tell Me about Europe*:

9 September: Prague (Czechia) – Exhibition (open until the end of the year)

15 September: Helsinki (Finland)

1 October: Zagreb (Croatia)

*Subject to changes. More dates will be announced on the [website](#).

Curator team: Edouard Barthen and Leona Lynen

More information about Tell Me about Europe at goethe.de/erzaehlemirvoneuropa

[#erzaehlemirvoneuropa](#)

[#europeanvoices](#)

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Comprehensive information about the Goethe-Institut's EU 2020 projects at

<https://www.goethe.de/en/kul/erp/eur.html>

Information about the full cultural programme for Germany's EU Council Presidency at

<https://www.eu2020.de/eu2020-en>

Tell Me about Europe is a project by the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the association Arbeit an Europa, supported with special funds from the Federal Foreign Office for the German EU Council Presidency in 2020.

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. With 157 institutes in 98 countries, we promote the study of German abroad, encourage international cultural exchange and convey a contemporary image of Germany. Through partnerships with institutions in numerous other locations, the Goethe-Institut has about 1,000 contact points worldwide. As a national and European cultural institute, the Goethe-Institut is committed to the vision of progressive European integration and with its activities continuously advocates further strengthening the values of the European Union: liberty, equality, and openness. It operates 52 institutes in Europe.

Arbeit an Europa is a group of dedicated young Europeans who have come together to help shape the future of Europe. The European Archive of Voices is one of the group's chief projects being developed in cooperation with supporters across Europe. The group also meets several times a year in different European regions away from the big cities to discuss central ideas of European identity and to exchange ideas with young people on location.

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