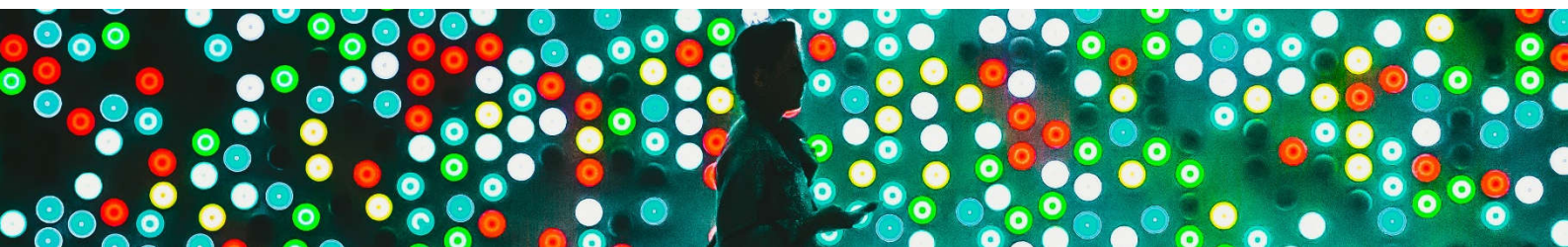


## INVITATION

### “RELAUNCHING EUROPE BOTTOM UP”

June 7, 2017

European Solidarity Centre,  
1 Solidarity square, 80-863 Gdańsk



The European Union needs a vital relaunch and, most urgently, a solidary solution of migration challenges. The impact of migration is most strongly felt at the local municipality level. Multi-stakeholder, municipality-led programs for integration of third-country nationals are pivotal for successful integration. Based on inclusion, solidarity and innovation they should get direct European funding for a strategy of general community investment and development.

#### Focus of the conference

In order to promote that policy, the **Mayor of Gdańsk Pawel Adamowicz**, the **Director of the Europejski Centrum Solidarnosci Basil Kerski**, the **Foundation for European Progressive Studies**, **SOLIDAR** and the **HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform** are inviting you to the conference

**“Relaunching Europe Bottom-Up - From Refugee Integration to Common Sustainable Development: Solidarity and Innovation through European Communities and Regions”**

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## Objectives of the Conference

Join us and stakeholders from municipalities, businesses, civil society from all over Europe as well as representatives of the European Parliament, social partners as well as cities and regions of Europe to:

- learn about a new holistic and direct financing strategy of European communities by the European Union
- get acquainted with a multi-stakeholder based integration policy focused on a common development strategy at the municipal level.
- discuss the benefits of this holistic approach with participating European municipalities and answer open questions.
- promote a bottom-up relaunch of the EU through the participation of civil society and business and strengthen investment as well as further integration avoiding both centralisation and renationalisation
- promote a bottom-up relaunch of the EU through the participation of civil society and business and through more direct European financing of communities and regions.

**The fundamental idea: to transform the so-called refugee crisis into an inclusive European growth and development initiative.**

The conference will send a strong message to the EU by presenting a **political strategy for solidarity and decentralized relocation of refugees and migrants through communities and regions in the EU**, based on a multi-stakeholder approach that includes politics, business, and organized civil society.

**The conference will be held in English.**

## Registration

Please find the agenda below. To register please visit the online portal for the conference:  
<https://hvgp.eventsmart.com/events/relaunchingeuropebottom-up/>.

Final registration date is June 6, 2017.

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We highly recommend booking hotel rooms (for example through hotel booking portals such as [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com) or others) and flights as soon as possible, as it is a busy season and accommodation possibilities are limited.

### Contact Information

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Project Coordinator

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**We look forward to welcoming you in Gdansk!**



Basil Kerski

Director of the  
European Solidarity  
Centre



Paweł Adamowicz

Mayor of Gdańsk



Prof Dr. Gesine Schwan

President of the  
HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA  
Governance Platform



Dr. Ernst Stetter

Secretary General of the  
Foundation for European  
Progressive Studies

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## Agenda for the conference

### “Relaunching Europe Bottom-Up”

#### *From Refugee Integration to Common Sustainable Development: Solidarity and Innovation through European Communities and Regions*

Date: 7 June 2017

Location: European Solidarity Centre, 1 Solidarity square, 80-863 Gdańsk

- 9.30 Check in and Coffee
- 10.30 **Welcome** by Gdańsk mayor *Paweł Adamowicz*, Secretary General of Foundation for European Progressive Studies *Dr. Ernst Stetter* and *Cornelia Pieper*, German Consul General in Gdańsk
- 11.00 **Key Note:** Why “Relaunching Europe Bottom –Up”? The Refugee challenge as a chance for sustainable European (and global) development, *Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan*, President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform
- 11.20 **Introduction** *Andreas Schönström*, Deputy Mayor of Malmö/Vice-Chair of the EUROBITES Social Affairs Forum
- 11.40 **Input** from *Maria João Rodrigues*, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President and Parliamentary Secretary of the S&D Group
- 11.50 **Input** from *Georges Dassis*, President of the European Economic and Social Committee EESC
- 12.00 **Input** from *Catherine Woollard*, Secretary General of the European Council of Refugees and Exile
- 12.10 **Input** from *Henryka Bochniarz*, President of the Polish Confederation “Lewiatan”

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12.20 Coffee break

12.40 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: *Prof. Dr. Rita Süßmuth*, former president of the Bundestag

General Question: Concrete proposals for European solidarity in the refugee question and how to contribute to strengthening the EU through the communities and regions?

13.40 Opening of the Photo Exhibition "The Most Important Thing: Burkina Faso, Iraq, Turkey, South Sudan and DRC" by UNHCR Representatives in the ECS winter garden

13.50 Luncheon

14.30 Solidarity and Innovation - Chances of European initiatives in communities and regions:  
**Best Practice Demonstrations of cities/regions**

Moderator and Introduction: *Prof. Dr. Irena Lipowicz*

These innovations should demonstrate the potential of solidarity and innovative energy for Europe bottom up: community development through refugee integration; "intelligent specialization";

Best Practice Demonstrations by Gdańsk (Poland), Thessaloniki (Greece) and Merzenich/Kreis Düren (Germany)

16.00 Coffee break

16.30 **Workshops:** In-depth discussion of the presentations and knowledge transfer from Gdansk, Thessaloniki and Merzenich/Kreis Düren as well as conclusions from best practice cases

18.00 **Wrap up and Manifesto Presentation:** New political strategies for European development through Integration. New ways of funding. Communication strategies for "Relaunching Europe Bottom-up"

19.30 Multicultural concert with the *The Sejny Theatre Klezmer Orchestra*  
Buffets and Grills

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