



Querdenkerplattform: Wien - Europa

Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe

NEWSLETTER

December 2017

This newsletter informs about the Research Topic which has dominated the second half of 2017 and will probably be all-important for 2018 – a year in which the Cotonou Agreement between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States will be renewed, and when Austria takes the EU Presidency (Section 1).

This is an exciting period for Europe. We report on our analyses and publications and the first ideas for 2018, welcoming new partners and members.

We are happy if we can further increase the number of researchers and students receiving this newsletter and engaging in our PCC via membership. Thank you for forwarding it to other people interested.

Merry Christmas and a perfect start into 2018!

From all team members:

Karl Aiginger, Heinz Handler, Anna Kanduth, Vanessa Koch and Alina Pohl

Please give us feedback and comment on our ideas at info@querdenkereuropa.at

1. Research Topic: “Towards a European Partnership Policy – EPP”

The aim of this project is to design a policy to promote political and economic stability in the European neighbourhood, to increase its economic dynamics, to strengthen good governance and to reduce disruptive migration. It should stimulate endogenous firms and technologies through a cooperative approach discussed with governments, regional authorities and civil society in the neighbourhood countries. The approach builds on the existing initiatives and the strengths of the neighbouring countries, on programmes at the European level as well as those of international organisations and NGOs. The new policy will also increase dynamics in Europe and reduce youth unemployment and aims to counteract populist and nationalist movements. As European Neighbourhood we define regions outside but geographically close to the EU, which do not have any prospect of accession, i.e. Africa (including Sub-Sahara), the Middle East, the Black Sea area and the successor states of the Soviet Union (Eurasia).

The elements of a successful partnership are partly well known, but are developed further in the current project. They complement the existing European Neighbourhood Policy as well as development assistance and result in an active Partnership Policy which should be welcomed by either partner due to its capability to increase dynamics and well-being and to reduce the potential for conflict and disruptive migration. The EU-Africa summit in November 2017 and the planned renewal of the existing compact of the EU with Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean States (Cotonou Agreement) under the Austrian Presidency in 2018 are the rationales behind the timing of the Report.

[Brainstorming on “European Neighborhood Policy”](#)

In fall 2017, a round table with scientists and policy experts, European policy makers, representatives of youth organizations and students provided ideas for the Report on a new European Partnership Policy.

Call for Papers on "EPP"

The connection with young academia and universities was strengthened by a call for papers in October 2017. The PCC offered the opportunity for a Bachelor or Masters thesis as well as a seminar paper concerning the European Neighborhood Policy, to publish these and thus make them citable as scientific sources. Out of a number of submissions, five students already started working and some of them have published PCC Flash Papers. The best final papers will be awarded a premium in the summer of 2018.

Presentation on November 22th, 2017

The presentation of the interim report on the European Partnership Policy (EPP) took place at the Austrian National Bank. After a welcome address by **Helene Schuberth** from the Austrian National Bank, **Karl Aiginger** presented the new study of the PCC, followed by a commentary of **Wolfgang Petritsch**, President of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation. EC Commissioner **Johannes Hahn** sent a message on European Neighborhood Policy via video. In the following panel discussion moderated by **Roland Adrowitzer** (ORF), **Konstantin Huber** (Federal Ministry of Finance), **Martin Brunkhorst** (European Investment Bank) and Barbara Weghofer (Peace Building Advisor, Kenya) discussed future developments and future steps the European Union should take.



Disseminations - The results of the PCC Report on EPP were presented in the following publications:

[Aiginger, A. & Handler, H. \(2017\), Towards a European Partnership Policy \(EPP\) with the South and the East. Fostering Dynamics, Fighting Root Causes of Migration, PCC Working Paper 3/2017, and Policy Report, Vienna.](#)

[Aiginger, K. & Handler, H. \(2017\), Eine Europäische Partnerschaftspolitik ist notwendig und möglich \(Kurzfassung\), PCC, Wien.](#)

[Pekanov, A. \(2017\), The new Partnership Policy of the EU: Funding Options and Mechanisms, Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe, Flash Paper 6/2017, Vienna.](#)

[Wurm, L. \(2017\), In the Aftermath of Arab Spring Revolutions: EU Cooperation, Policies and Dialogue with Tunisia and Egypt, Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe, Flash Paper 7/2017, Vienna.](#)

[Petritsch, W. \(2017\), Wiederaufbauplan für Syrien - welche Rolle für Europa? Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe, Flash Paper 8/2017, Wien.](#)

[Stanzel, B. & Bramhas, E. \(2017\), Friedensoasen - Die Wüste wird grün / Flüchtlinge werden Pflanze, Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe, Flash Paper 9/2017, Wien.](#)

[Lungu, I. \(2017\). Neocolonialism or Balanced Partnership? Reframing Agricultural Relations between the EU and Afrika, Policy Crossover Center: Vienna - Europe, Flash Paper 10/2017, Vienna.](#)

Opeds were published in EurActiv, Wiener Zeitung, Ökonomenstimme, Die Presse, Neues Deutschland, Kurier, Kronen Zeitung. [See.](#)

Please find all information and publications on that research topic, which is supported by the the Future Fund of the Republic of Austria (Zukunftsfonds der Republik Österreich), [here.](#)

Zukunftsfonds
der Republik Österreich

2. Further Reports and Events in 2017

[Reads and Gifts for Christmas 2017](#)

Recommendations for reads and gifts were sent recently, which should provide food for thought or gifts for Christmas allowing us to relax before an interesting year starts for Europe and our partners.

Download the **Reading List for Christmas 2017** [here](#).

Research Topic: “Europe taking the lead in responsible globalization”

Globalization has led to overall welfare gains, but the effects vary according to countries and groups of people. Europe is definitely not a loser of globalization, although inequality and unemployment have increased and individual losers as well as populist parties are naming globalization as the culprit. Up to now, Europe has not shaped the rules of globalization to any significant degree. As the world's largest economic area, given the probable retreat of the US from leadership in open trade, and the quest for leadership by China with its different socio-political model, it would make sense if in the future Europe switched from a passive to a more active role. The EU should take the chance to promote social and environmental standards and other European values (“responsible gobalisation”), even if this is no easy task, given the divergence of opinion within its members and the absence of a political union.

The results were presented on July 4th 2017 in the House of the European Union Vienna. [See](#).

Research Topic: “More or less Europe?”

The report shows that Europe-wide regulations can actually lead to a greater scope of action at the national level. Innovative, problem-specific solutions can be developed based on national priorities due to the fact that international restrictions and leakage effects are eliminated. We demonstrate this in the case of tax regimes, fiscal and climate policy, and for globalization. Best practice examples of European policy empowering member states and regions are the financial resources provided for regional and research policy. On the one hand the amount of money provided would not be feasible at the national level, on the other hand regions and nations are invited to specify the projects funded according to their own priorities and stages of development. From these examples we derived principles for overcoming the contradiction between the need for common rules and the desire for decentralized solutions.

The results were presented on February 27th 2017 at the House of the European Union Vienna. [See](#).

Discussions, Press & Media

On the **Budapest Conference on Competitiveness in the Era of Digitalization** (November 29th, 2017), Karl Aiginger held a lecture on “Towards a concept of competitiveness compatible with the final goals of society” in the University of Budapest.

[“Jean-Claude Junckers Rede der vergebenen Chancen”](#) Kurier ,September 18th by Karl Aiginger

[“Europe should enjoy the end of the combustion engine”](#) Commentary of Karl Aiginger on the “Diesel summits” and the discussion on combustion engines.

[“Die Autoindustrie unter Strom setzen”](#) Guest commentary in Der Standard (August 28th 2017) by Karl Aiginger on Europe’s industry on emission free mobility.

[“China’s New Silk Road – Interview with Prof. Karl Aiginger”](#) (July 11, 2017) Interview by the PCC cooperation partner WeBuildEurope with Karl Aiginger about OBOR.

3. Tentative Research Focus for 2018

In the first Quarter 2018 we will further develop and finally conclude our current topic on European Partnership Policy by disseminating it via networking events with organizations and experts. Eventually, the conclusions will lead over to our next Research Topic.

Our next Research Topic will be on the **role of education** for increasing welfare in Europe and its neighboring countries. The topic will, on the one hand, cover the **consequences of education and innovation for a new Partnership Policy** and, on the other hand, view it as an essential element for increasing well-being, connecting Europe with its citizens and taking the lead in globalization and the digital world.

4. Membership in the Policy Crossover Center: Vienna-Europe

The increasing number of members and partners, visitors at our panel discussions and instances of feedback show that our work meets the pulse of the time: a need to discuss the future of Europe, stimulate reforms, develop a new narrative for Europe and reconnect it with its citizens.

If you are interested in contributing to our work, being part of our network and would like to actively participate in designing Europe's future, we look forward to welcoming you on board as a new "lateral thinker"!

Further information: www.querdenkereuropa.at/membership

Contact: vanessa.koch@querdenkereuropa.at

5. Cooperations and Partners

We are pleased about our new cooperation with WIWIPOL – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für wissenschaftliche Wirtschaftspolitik!

The younger generation will decide Europe's future in the long run and hence decide upon nationalist versus open solutions. We currently have active collaborative projects with:



European Dialogue



Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (ÖGfE)



Ökosoziales Forum



Österreichisches Studienzentrum für Frieden und Konfliktlösung (ÖFSK)



Webuideurope



WinQuadrat



Wirtschaftspolitischer Club (Alumni of the Wirtschaftspolitische Akademie)



Arbeitsgemeinschaft für wissenschaftliche Wirtschaftspolitik (WIWIPOL)

Further information: www.querdenkereuropa.at/cooperations-partners

Contact: alina.pohl@querdenkereuropa.at

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