

New Concept for Europe Progress Report (October 2017)

In collaboration with McKinsey & Company

New Concept for Europe: About the initiative

Europe has many strengths including a rich legacy of cultural heritage, democratic norms and leading economies, but it is fractured by a decade of crisis management. Lacking a shared sense of what needs to be done, and in what order, Europe must develop a modern, shared vision based on a strong reform agenda that recognizes different needs and ensures mutual benefits and progress for all EU members and close neighbours.

The World Economic Forum's New Concept for Europe initiative will provide decision-makers with ideas at the Annual Meeting 2018. As Europe's spirit and success rest on its unique intergenerational social contract, the initiative emphasizes the voice of youth. It expresses their vision for the future of Europe and captures the values about which they care most.

“Now more than ever we must stand up for European values and I call on youth to create their Europe.”

Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum



Youth Champions workshop, 21 June 2017, Geneva

In June 2017, the Forum created the **Youth Champions** community, comprising 35 young adults and representatives from European youth organizations. Over the following months, these champions organized brainstorming sessions in their communities and collected input from all walks of life. In parallel, the **Europe Policy Group** was established. Consisting of more than 130 government, business and civil society leaders, the group has been developing ideas aimed at challenging conventional thinking and translating long-term aspirations for Europe. Once the first stage of work of both groups was completed, their members met and produced suggestions for policy recommendations, each of which was assigned a working group:

- Democracy and governance
- Energy and sustainability
- Human-centric economy
- Migration and borders
- Security and defence

Reshaping Europe Meeting: 28-29 September, Milan, Italy

German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen opened the meeting, which brought both groups together. Her theme of leveraging diversity and scale to strengthen European leadership resonated through the subsequent discussions.



Ursula von der Leyen, Federal Minister of Defence of Germany

The Youth Champions explored what tools Europe needs to empower its young people to be more active citizens. They stressed the need to make clear what Europe does for its people, and to create ways beyond party politics for greater public engagement.



The Next Generation's Aspirations plenary session with the Youth Champions

The Fourth Industrial Revolution can potentially provide tools to engage and redefine relationships between institutions, businesses and citizens in Europe. Panellists explored how accelerated innovation and digital change is both offering new means to collaborate and creating fractures within society.



Human-centric economy working group discussion

After the working groups refined their key ideas, participants selected their favourites, which included “lowering the voting age to 16 across the continent” and “creating a universal learning right for all citizens”.

The **New Leaders for Europe community**, a group of rising political stars, explored new models of leadership and governance in Europe that contribute to achieving the aspirations of the New Concept for Europe initiative.



New Leaders for Europe Meeting

Next steps

The working groups are finalizing their ideas, which will be collated and presented in a report, the draft of which will be available in early January before its formal launch on 22 January. Beginning in December 2017, articles about the initiative will be available in the European media.

On 25 January, the Forum will present the New Concept for Europe to European leaders at the Annual Meeting.



Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of Serbia

