

Stronger now or eroding at its foundations? Democracy in Europe one year after Trump
A One Day Forum by Democracy Reporting International and the Mercator Foundation

Bios of participants

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Paul-Jasper Dittrich is a research Fellow at Jacques Delors Institute, working on digitalisation in Europe and studies the political developments through social media and Internet. He published [on social networks and populism](#).

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Nils Franke is a lecturer at Leipzig University, department of cultural studies, a historian and communication scientist and the author of numerous publications on nature protection

Carmen González-Enríquez is a doctor in Political Science and Sociology, Professor at the UNED’s Department on Political Science and Senior Analyst on Immigration at the Real Instituto Elcano. She [published](#) on populism in Spain arguing that despite unemployment, inequality and migration there are no right wing populist parties.

Sebastian Groth is Deputy Head of Policy Planning at the German Foreign Office.

Finn Heinrich served as Programme Director for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation and more recently as Research Director for Transparency International. Finn joined Democracy Reporting International in June 2017 as Director of Programmes. He holds a doctoral degree in Political Science and has published widely in research journals on civil society and corruption issues.

Kirsten Hommelhoff is the head of Stiftung Mercator’s Mercator Centre Berlin (MCB). She previously worked in different roles for the foundation, most recently as head of the International Affairs division.

Ivan Krastev is a political scientist and the Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, permanent fellow at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna, founding board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, a contributing opinion writer for The New York Times. Krastev publishes extensively on international politics, including analyses of the political developments in EU, USA, Russia. He recently published the book “After Europe” on the challenges to the European status quo. You can listen to his [talk on populism in central Europe](#).

Rastislav Kružel is the Executive Director at MEMO 98, working on media monitoring and analysis, as well as technical assistance to civil society groups, election observation and human rights. He has conducted media monitoring in dozens of countries for election observation missions and is involved in research about Russian propaganda efforts in Europe.

Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf, a lawyer, is a Senior Fellow at Ecologic Institute and a co-founder and shareholder (non-profit) of Democracy Reporting International. He has a background in international law and worked on various Election Observation Missions. He supports DRI’s work on democracy obligations and Europe work.

Michael Meyer-Resende is a lawyer who supported political transitions and democratisation in the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia. He worked for the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE in Warsaw and for the election team of the European Commission in Brussels. In 2006 he co-founded DRI and serves as Executive Director since then. With work experience in the BBC, he has published regularly in the media and academic publications.

Aurélien Mondon is the Deputy Head of Department, Politics, Languages & International Studies Institute for Policy Research (IPR) at the University of Bath. Mondon works and publishes widely on the topics of right-wing populism, crisis of democracy, and racism.

Ghia Nodia is a political scientist and a former Minister of Education and Science of Georgia. Nodia is lecturing at the Ilia State University and is currently heading the International School of Caucasus Studies at the Ilia State University. He is the author of [numerous](#) contributions on Georgian and Russian politics, international security and democracy.

Takis Pappas is associate professor of comparative politics at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece, and recurring visiting professor at the Central European University in Budapest. He is the author of numerous publication and work about populism. His work includes analysis of populism in Greece and Europe as the whole. He recently published "[Distinguishing Liberal Democracy's Challengers](#)".

Anastasia Pociumban is the Junior Programme Officer Europe at Democracy Reporting International. She joined the organisation in April 2017 and supports DRI's work in Georgia and Ukraine. Through her previous work in Moldova and Belgium, she acquired expertise in programme management, with a special focus on conflict environments, civil society and media development in Eastern Partnership countries.

Juliane Schult is an officer at the Central and Eastern Europe Department of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. She coordinates an expert group on Democracy in EU Member States.

Sorina Soare is a researcher in political science at the University of Florence. She is the author of numerous works in the field of the democratisation process and post-communist political parties. Her current work analyses the post-communist patterns of party organisation and the communist legacies. She coedited the book "Contemporary Populism: A Controversial Concept and Its Diverse Forms".

Ilke Toygür is a researcher at the Elcano Royal Institute and Professor in University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain. Ms Toygür's areas of expertise are European integration, political parties, euroscepticism and Turkey - EU relations.

Žiga Turk is a professor at University of Ljubljana, expert in in civil and structuring engineering. In 2007-2008 he was the minister for Economic Development of Slovenia, in 2012-2013 he served as the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. He is a member of the Academic Council of the Martens Centre.

Ruslana Vovk is the Regional Manager Europe at DRI. She holds a a PhD in law from the Humboldt University of Berlin. Ruslana has in depth knowledge of comparative constitutional law, international law, and European integration. In her PhD thesis, she explored the openness of the Ukrainian constitution towards international law and European integration against international standards and comparative constitutionalism.

Richard Youngs is a senior fellow in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program at Carnegie Europe. An author of many books and articles, Youngs is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick, he specialises in the EU foreign policy and democracy. For this meeting see his article "[Can Democracy Work for the World's Value Voters](#)".

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