



East and West Relationships Increasing Unity across Europe

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The increasing gap between ‘old’ and ‘new’ Europe is a matter of growing concern across the Union. Simultaneously, the defense of European values during the Euromaidan and the spirit of optimism in other Eastern Neighborhood countries are reasons for hope. Increased economic relations promise prosperity for ‘new’ Europeans and their eastern neighbors, but economic integration and cohesion funds could not prevent growing tensions within the EU.

In political terms, the dismantling of the Polish and the Hungarian democracies jeopardizes the democratic transition of the region and weakens the EU’s role as promoter of democracy in the Eastern Neighborhood. Sound economic and political relations are indeed important, but they need to be accompanied by social and cultural relations and people-to-people contacts.

Dialogue and mutual understanding has to replace prejudices on both sides and the general indifference towards the East. The fundamental prerequisites for Europe’s survival are a united spirit and visionary thinking across the continent!

The main goal of this working group is to find a means to build bridges between the East and the West of Europe. The topic requires not only intellectual ability, but it also leaves room for creativity. Hence, we welcome students from all academic fields, including the social sciences, art studies, journalism, and many more.