



**DIALOG
UE/PERS
PECTIVES**

**European
Leadership
Workshop**

Call for Application

Know your enemy: the entanglements between right-wing agents and religion in Europe

4 – 7 September 2023, Budapest | Hungary

Know your enemy! What sounds like a combative metaphor is – unfortunately – a necessity in the field of interreligious-/worldview dialogue in Europe today. For many years anti-pluralistic, anti-egalitarian and anti-liberal positions, arguments, codes and rhetoric are on the rise. They were and still are visible in the Brexit campaign, in Poland's tightening of abortion laws, in Hungary's anti-gay-propaganda laws, in Italy's declaration of a state of emergency when refugees are actually surviving the crossing of the Mediterranean Sea, in countless news articles and social media posts.

Although academic, journalistic and activist approaches to the topic are diverse and broad, one key element often remains unconsidered: the factor of religion. The Eurocentric perspective, focusing primarily on institutionalized Christian religion, and the related perception of secularism as an inevitable, progressive phenomenon, has too easily overlooked the entanglements between right-wing and religious talking points, agents and rhetoric throughout Europe.

The intertwining of right-wing and religious motives and rhetoric has existed since the beginning of the modern era (and regarding Christian anti-Judaism it has even older roots), nevertheless the influence of religion still plays a secondary role in analyzing these contexts, even if anti-Muslim racism is increasingly prominent in representations of racism and anti-Semitism is recognized as an intrinsic component of right-wing extremism.

In recent decades however, right-wing policies have seen a significant rise and increasing influence on political decision-making. Driven by the success of the Christian radical right in the US and the rise of the global radical right, European conservative Christian protagonists are now increasingly seeking to gain political influence and actively shape national and EU law making and societies. This backfires especially with the latest rise of anti-trans discourses which are often not even recognized as right-wing narratives, with backward steps regarding Antisemitism, or in curtailing refugee rights on the basis of anti-Muslim racism.



DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

European Leadership Workshop

In the struggle for the protection and strengthening of a pluralistic, democratic and inclusive society based on solidarity we need to understand anti-pluralistic, anti-egalitarian and anti-liberal positions, arguments, codes and rhetoric. What are ideological foundations of right-wing thinking? Who are agents within European right-wing networks? What are the main topics? How they are connected to religion and worldview? How they are framed and why are they framed this way?

In the European Leadership Workshop 2023 the participants will acquire skills to recognize and analyze right-wing discourses and to classify them in terms of religion and worldviews in an intensive training. Supported by European experts from the fields of science and activism they will gain a deep insight in a field that is still easily overlooked yet key to understand the current rise of right-wing thinking and rhetoric.

Format

Complementary to the regular *Dialogue Perspectives* seminar programme, each year one European Leadership Workshop takes place in a different European metropole with a special meaning for religious and worldview dialogue. The European Leadership Workshop is open to participants and alumni*ae of *Dialogue Perspectives* who either have previous experience in interfaith dialogue, are engaged in their congregations, communities, or universities, or who have founded initiatives in the field. These workshops promote more intensive networking among the participants as well as exchange and networking with European and international actors. An intensive methods training serves to strengthen the participants in their future roles as European multipliers.

Dates

4 – 7 September 2023 | Budapest, Hungary

Costs and Contributions

Travel costs up to the sum of €300 as well as accommodation including all meals are fully covered by *Dialogue Perspectives*.

Application

We invite 20 former and current participants of *Dialogue Perspectives* to take part in the European Leadership Workshop 2023.

If you would like to participate, please send us an **email with a short letter of motivation** (maximum one page) to: elw@dialogperspektiven.de. The deadline for applications is **30 June 2023**.

We can't wait to host you at our European Leadership Workshop 2023 and look forward to your application. If you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

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