

International
Academic
Conference

8–9 October
2026
Belgrade

Cultural Diplomacy & the Arts in Times of Uncertainty



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

austrijski kulturni forum^{beg}

Kreativna Evropa
Desk Srbija



University of Arts, Ceremony hall, Kosančićev venac St. 29

- 9.30-10.00 **Registration**
- 10.00 **Welcome address**
Prof. Dr Mirjana Nikolić, Rector, University of Arts in Belgrade
- 10.15-11.45 **Key note lecture**
Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia P. Schneider, PhD., Georgetown University, USA
[Why Culture Matters](#)
Introduction by Prof. Emerita Milena Dragičević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts
- 12.00-13.30 Plenary session: **Changing International Order: Power, Strategy and Influence**
Prof. Dr Dragan R. Simić, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences
[Contemporary Global and Strategic Context and Changes in International Order: Changes within the Order or Changes of the Order?](#)
Dr Ognjen Pribičević, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Social Sciences, (ret.) and former Ambassador to Germany and UK
[From Roman Baths and Mosaics to Trump's Harvard](#)
Prof. Dr Stevan Nedeljković, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences
[Restraint or Reallocation? Rethinking U.S. Grand Strategy in a Changing Strategic Environment](#)
Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr Marko Dašić, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences
- 13.30 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Europe House, Zmaj Jovina St. 8

- 15.00 – 16.45 **Welcome address:** Assoc. Prof. Dr Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović, University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Conference Programme Board
- Panel discussion: **Culture as a Bridge in Times of Uncertainty**
Ambassador Regina Ruzs, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
Republic of Austria, Director General International Cultural Affairs
Ms. Eilidh Hamilton, British Council, Director Western Balkans
Mr. Roman Bělor, The Prague Spring Festival Director, the Vltava Philharmonic Foundation Board
Moderator: Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia P. Schneider, PhD., Georgetown University, USA
- Break**
- 17.00 – 18.30 Panel discussion: **Art as Resistance, Reflection, and Dialogue**
Dijana Milošević, director, DAH Theatre
Mrđan Bajić, visual artist
Stefan Arsenijević, film director
Moderator: Prof. Emerita Milena Dragičević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

University of Arts, Ceremony hall, Kosančićev venac St. 29

10.00-11.30 Plenary session: **Cultural Diplomacy as Dialogue, Contestation and Public Engagement**
Prof. Dr Monika Mokre, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Cultural Studies
[Discursive Formats of the Vienna Festival – Spaces for Contestation or Just Performance?](#)
Prof. Dr Laurent Martin, Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3 University
["Débat d'idées," public debate: a new tool for French cultural diplomacy?](#)
Dr Jonathan Vickery, University of Warwick, Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies [Civil Society Options for Informal Cultural Diplomacy: empirical and theoretical issues](#) Chair: Dr Aleksandra Kolaković, Scientific Advisor, Institute for Political Studies in Belgrade

Break

12.00 – 13.30 Plenary session: **From Image Representation to Bottom-up Cultural Diplomacy**
Prof. Dr Nevena Daković, University of Arts in Belgrade – Faculty of Dramatic Arts [Geopolitics and Geoesthetics of Film Festivals \(Venice, Cannes, Berlin: 2000-2026\)](#) Prof. Dr Slobodan Marković, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Political Sciences
[Non-State Cultural Diplomacy in Deeply Divided Societies: The Role of Cultural and Intellectual Elites](#)
Dr Aleksandra Kolaković, Scientific Advisor, Institute for Political Studies in Belgrade [From Cold War Science to the Modern Polycrisis: The Evolution of Knowledge Diplomacy](#) Chair: Assoc. Prof. Dr Ljiljana Rogač Mijatović, University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

13.30 - 14.30 **Lunch break**

Europe House, Zmaj Jovina St. 8

15.00– 16.30 Panel discussion: **European Cultural Cooperation: New Challenges, New Possibilities**
Assoc. Prof. Dr Matina Magkou, Université Côte d'Azur
Prof. Dr Edin Jašarović, Faculty of Drama Arts and Film Centre Montenegro
Jonathan Goodacre, international cultural consultant
Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Dr Nina Mihaljinac, University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts

Break

17.00 – 18.30 Book conversation: **Understanding Cultural Diplomacy and International Cultural Relations**
Dr Jonathan Vickery, University of Warwick, Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies
Assoc. Prof. Dr Matina Magkou, Université Côte d'Azur
Prof. Dr Monika Mokre, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Cultural Studies
Moderator: Prof. Emerita Milena Dragičević Šešić, PhD., University of Arts in Belgrade, Faculty of Dramatic Arts