

– *Next Generation Europe* –

Regaining new European and democratic momentum together

CRES SUMMER SCHOOL

Cres, 14 – 19 September 2025



Venue: [Palace Moise, University of Rijeka](#), Zagrad 6, HR- 51557 Cres

**“Defending democracy in turbulent times: challenges and opportunities.
The European perspective”**

Programme

Sunday, 14 September:

Arrival

Monday, 15 September:

9.30 – 10.30 Opening session: *Welcome by the organisers and introduction of the participants*

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 12.30 Keynote address and open discussion with Evelyn Regner, Member of the European Parliament

“A new European momentum? How the present challenges change the future of Europe.”

Chaired by Vedran Džihic, Senior Researcher at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs – oiiip and Paul Schmidt, Secretary General of the Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE)

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch ([Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa](#), Palada ul. 4b)

14.00 – 15.30 Keynote address and open discussion with Ignacio Molina, Senior Fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute and Lecturer at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)

“Europe’s global role: security, economic strength, and strategic enlargement”

Chaired by Senada Šelo Šabić, Scientific Advisor, Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO) and Paul Schmidt

15.30 – 18.30 Free time

19.00 – 20.30 Evening inspiration: *“Next Generation sharing experiences”* with inputs by Summer School participants

20.30 Welcome dinner ([Pizzeria Palada](#), Palada ul.) – *offered by the French Embassy in Croatia*

Tuesday, 16 September:

9.00 - 10.30 Keynote addresses and open discussion with H.E. José Ramón García Hernández, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Croatia and Fatih Akcal, Counsellor for political affairs at the Embassy of France to the Republic of Croatia

"The future of EU integration and enlargement – what is at stake? A view from Spain and France."

Chaired by Ignacio Molina, Senior Fellow at the Elcano Royal Institute and Lecturer at the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) and Paul Schmidt

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Keynote address and open discussion with Antonin Atger, Expert in disinformation and conspiracy theories

"The impact of misinformation and conspiracy theories on democracy"

Chaired by Paul Schmidt and Senada Šelo Šabić and Vedran Džihic

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa, Palada ul. 4b) – *offered by the French Embassy in Croatia*

14.00 – 16.00 Creative workshop led by Vedran Džihic and Senada Šelo Šabić

"Democratic activism for Europe – ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part I

16.00 – 19.00 Free time

19.00 – 20.30 Evening inspiration: *"Accountability in action: evidence, coalitions, and policy change."*, Tena Prelec, Assistant Professor in Politics and IR, University of Rijeka

20.30 Dinner (Pizzeria Palada, Palada ul.)

Wednesday, 17 September:

09.30 – 11.00 Keynote address and open discussion with Cengiz Günay, Director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs – oiiip

"Autocratisation vs. democracy – where do we stand?"

Chaired by Vedran Džihic and Paul Schmidt

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Creative workshop led by Vedran Džihic and Senada Šelo Šabić

"Democratic activism for Europe – ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part II (Drafting a joint document)

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa, Palada ul. 4b)

14.30 – 19.00 Video recording: *"What are the three most important questions Europe should deal with and why?"* – Free time

19.00 – 20.30 Evening inspiration: *"From activism to politics and back"* with Nebojša Zelić, Assistant Professor at the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Head of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Rijeka, University of Rijeka, and representative of Možemo!

20.30 Dinner (Pizzeria Palada, Palada ul.)

Thursday, 18 September:

09.30 – 11.00 Creative workshop – with coffee breaks – led by Senada Šelo-Šabić and Vedran Džihic:

"Democratic activism for Europe – ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part III (Drafting a joint document)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 Creative workshop – with coffee breaks – led by Senada Šelo-Šabić and Vedran Džihic:

"Democratic activism for Europe – Ideas and actions to move the region towards new horizons" – Part III (Drafting a joint document)

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch (Pizzeria i spaghetteria Luna Rossa, Palada ul. 4b)

14.30 – 15.30 Presentation of the *final results – discussion – further steps – joint op-ed*

15.30 – 19.00 Writing – video recording: *"What are the three most important questions Europe should deal with and why?"* – Free time

19.00 – 20.00 Guided tour in the town of Cres and in the Palace Moise with Andreja Malovoz, Head of the Programme Activities at the Palace Moise, University of Rijeka

20.00 Farewell dinner (Pizzeria Palada, Palada ul.)

Friday, 19 September:

Departure

Accommodation: [Hotel Kimen](#), Melin I br. 16 / Apartments Duomo, Melin V/11 – HR-51557 Cres / [Palace Moise, University of Rijeka](#), Zagrad 6, HR- 51557 Cres

→ **Contact & information:** Susan Milford-Faber
Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE)
susan.milford-faber@oegfe.at
+43 664 42 00789 | +43/1/533 4999-14
<https://summerschool.oegfe.at/>

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