



# Das digitale Europa. Digital Europe.

No borders, no limits?

5. – 7. Juni 2019 | Schloss Seggau, Leibnitz

5 – 7 June 2019 | Seggau Castle, Leibnitz

Forum für politische, wissenschaftliche, kulturelle, wirtschaftliche und soziale Fragen eines neuen Europas  
Forum for political, academic, cultural, economic and social aspects of a new Europe

GEIST & GEGENWART

Pfingstdialog Steiermark 2019 [www.geistundgegenwart.at](http://www.geistundgegenwart.at)

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## The Whitsun Dialogues

The “Geist & Gegenwart” (“The spirit & the present”) Whitsun Dialogues have been taking place at Seggau Castle biennially since 2005. They reflect on the challenges and problems facing Europe and we produce statements and publications to contribute to an ongoing dialogue about the future. They also always give an assessment of the current state of “Project Europe”, its hopes and opportunities but also the risks and problems. With seven events held so far, the Whitsun Dialogue – which involves Styrian universities and research institutions – has become established as a formal platform for fruitful interdisciplinary and international debate about fundamental principles, set in the context of the Styrian border region, where four European cultures meet.

“Geist & Gegenwart” is a series of events in the Austrian state of Styria which take place under the leadership of the Department of Science for the Styrian Government and the Regional Minister for Business, Tourism, Europe, Science and Research, Barbara Eibinger-Miedl. Organized in cooperation with Club Alpbach Styria, Styrian universities and the diocese of Graz-Seckau, the biennial Whitsun Dialogues and the quarterly “Geist & Gegenwart – Dialogue Events” held in the Main Hall of the Old University in Graz make a serious intellectual contribution to Styria's development.



## Digital Europe.

The growing momentum behind digitalization is bringing about undreamt-of change in our lives. Disruptive technologies such as 3D printing with its many applications, autonomous vehicles, robotics and mobile Internet, and their seemingly limitless possibilities, will all play their part in giving Europe a new look very quickly. This brings great opportunities, but, as discussions in recent months have shown, also complex challenges. In many regards, Europe is currently at an important crossroads. What will a digital Europe look like? What kind of developments are possible and which are unavoidable? And how can we (still) control these developments? How should Europe position itself in global competition? How will digitalization change our economy, the world of work and our society? What, in turn, does that mean for communication and (political) decision-making processes? Can Europe's cultural diversity be a strength in this situation? And what role is played by Europe's regions and cross-border areas such as the Alpe-Adria region?

More information can be found at: [www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at)

## Procedure & program

Presentations, debates by experts and small workshop-style groups – the Whitsun Dialogue offers a range of formats and ways of entering into dialogue, exchanging ideas and gaining a new perspective. Cultural events are also an established part of the three-day program.

In recent years, well over 100 well-known speakers have provided input leading to lively debate, including Alexander van der Bellen, Karl Schwarzenberg, Alice Schwarzer, Erhard Busek, Barbara Frischmuth, Hans Dietrich Genscher, Johannes Hahn, Reinhard Kardinal Marx, Robert Menasse, Hans Gert Pöttering, Julia Rabinowich, Jeremy Rifkin, Wolfgang Schässel, Franz Fischler, Jakob von Uexküll, Ruth Klüger, Daniel S. Hamilton, Bassam Tibi, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Heinz Fassmann, Dzevad Karahasan and Werner Weidenfeld.

### Publications

For each “Geist & Gegenwart” Whitsun Dialogue, Wieser Verlag produces an accompanying publication including articles by the speakers and by high-profile personalities from the worlds of academia, politics, economics, religion and culture.





Photos: Manuel P. Neubauer, Thomas Raggam, Peter Ramsbacher

## Summary of events

### Wednesday, 5 June 2019

- 09.00 – 17.00 Workshops and seminars
- 18.00 Opening of the 2019 Whitsun Dialogue  
Keynote speech and input on the general theme
- 20.30 Reception hosted by the Styrian government

### Thursday, 6 June 2019

- 09.00 Forum on “Europe in global competition”
- 11.00 – 19.00 Panels and small group work
- 20.00 Literary-culinary evening

### Friday, 7 June 2019

- 09.00 Keynote speech
- 10.30 General forum in plenary session
- 12.30 Conclusions and closing words

As of November 2018 – we reserve the right to make changes.



## Attending the conference

**Join in a high-caliber interdisciplinary and international sharing of experience! Taking part in a “Geist & Gegenwart” Whitsun Dialogue offers new insights and perspectives, knowledge “from the horse’s mouth”, a sharing of experience and a networking opportunity. Take this chance to join in the debate in the inspiring atmosphere of Seggau Castle, talk to interesting people from all over Europe about the political, social, economic, cultural and technological challenges facing Europe in a digital future, and enter into an informal sharing of ideas.**

## Young academics, young professionals

We hope that the “Geist & Gegenwart” Whitsun dialogues will particularly appeal to young academics and young business leaders. It is absolutely essential to involve the next generation of opinion-formers in the debate about burning social issues. A number of different partner organizations (including Styrian universities and universities of applied sciences) provide opportunities for them to attend.

## Scholarship programme

This year once again we would like to enable interested young people from all over Europe to take part in the Whitsun Dialogue by offering a grants scheme. The offer is available to young, interested people under the age of 35.

## Attending

You can sign up for the whole event or for individual days.

3-day ticket (Wed – Fri)	€ 480,-
Day ticket for Wed 5.6.2019	€ 150,-
Day ticket for Thu 6.6.2019	€ 350,-
Day ticket for Fri 7.6.2019	€ 180,-

Tickets include refreshments. Discounted tickets (50%) are available for students under the age of 30 and young academics under 40. By purchasing a ticket, you will also be supporting the grants scheme.

More information at [www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at)

## Young academics, young professionals

Detailed information about various options for enabling young academics or young business leaders to attend are available online at [www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at)

## Scholarship programme

A scholarship covers the registration fee, meals and accommodation, and, in some cases, a contribution towards travel costs. All the information about applying for a grant can be found at [www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at)

## Become a sponsoring partner

Holding the Whitsun Dialogues would be impossible without the support of sponsors and other institutions. By supporting us, you are making a valuable contribution to meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue.

Please contact us at

[herwig.hoesle@clubalpbachsteiermark.at](mailto:herwig.hoesle@clubalpbachsteiermark.at)



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## Kontakt / Contact

### Pfingstdialog Geist & Gegenwart 2019

[www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at)

[pfingstdialog@clubalpbachsteiermark.at](mailto:pfingstdialog@clubalpbachsteiermark.at)

### Club Alpbach Steiermark

#### Prof. Herwig HÖSELE, Project Coordinator

[herwig.hoesele@clubalpbachsteiermark.at](mailto:herwig.hoesele@clubalpbachsteiermark.at)

### Land Steiermark

#### Manuel P. NEUBAUER

Office of the Styrian Government

Science and Research Unit

Zimmerplatzgasse 13, 8010 Graz, Austria

Tel: +43/316/877-3146

[manuel.neubauer@stmk.gv.at](mailto:manuel.neubauer@stmk.gv.at)

Eine Veranstaltung des Landes Steiermark in Zusammenarbeit mit der  
Diözese Graz-Seckau und dem Club Alpbach Steiermark.  
This event is hosted by the Styrian Government in cooperation with the  
Diocese Graz-Seckau and the Club Alpbach Styria.

