



# RESET Europe

20. – 21. Mai 2021 | Schloss Seggau, Leibnitz  
20 – 21 May 2021 | 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 2021 [www.geistundgegenwart.at](http://www.geistundgegenwart.at)

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Photos: Foto Fischer, Michaela Lorber, Manuel P. Neubauer, Thomas Paggam



## The Whitsun Dialogues

The “Geist & Gegenwart” (“The spirit & the present”) Whitsun Dialogues that have been taking place at Seggau Castle biennially since 2005 reflect on the challenges and problems facing Europe and aspire to contribute to a sustainable dialogue about the future – not least in the form of the resulting statements and publications. In addition, they always provide an assessment of the current state of “Project Europe”, its hopes and opportunities but also the risks and problems, how it is changing and the challenges it faces.

With eight 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 of science and politics, set in the context of the southern Styrian border region, where four European cultures meet.

„Geist & Gegenwart“ is a series of events organised by Club Albach Styria, in partnership with the state of Styria – under the leadership of the Department of Science, headed up by Regional Minister MMag. Barbara Eibinger-Miedl. Thanks to the cooperation with Styrian universities, universities of applied science and research institutions, and also the diocese of Graz-Seckau, the Whitsun Dialogues and the regular Dialogue events held in the Main Hall of the Old University in Graz make a serious intellectual contribution to Styria's development.

## Reset Europe

In the midst of the digital transformation, and in the light of the environmental reorientation that is now essential, the effects of the pandemic present us with unprecedented challenges. Our liberal-democratic society with its personal freedoms and our successful market economy-based model for prosperity have been put at risk. There have been, and continue to be, so many new (for us) experiences: the slowing down, the restrictions, the accelerated drive for digitalisation, solidarity, fear. What is this new transformation now doing to our society, our cultural diversity, our personal freedoms, our business models, our political decision-making structures, our art & culture, science & research? What does the future of Europe look like during and after the coronavirus crisis?

What role can and will Europe play in the world generally? What will it take for Europe to play a leading role? What future technologies do we need to master? What strategic partnerships do we need to enter into? Which industries do we need to build up (again)? How can we best reconcile economic growth with protecting the environment? On which ethical, political and economic principles should Europe's future be built?

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

## Procedure & programme

Presentations, debates by experts and small workshop-style groups – the Whitsun Dialogue traditionally offers a diverse range of formats and ways of entering into dialogue, exchanging ideas and gaining a new perspective. The Covid-19 pandemic requires that, in 2021, the event switches to a hybrid format.

In recent years, well over 150 distinguished speakers have provided input leading to lively debate, including Alexander Van der Bellen, Peter Sloterdijk, Sarah Spiekermann-Hoff, Bernhard Pörksen, Alice Schwarzer, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Karl Schwarzenberg, Erhard Busek, Barbara Frischmuth, Ruth Klüger, Julia Rabinowich, Johannes Hahn, Reinhard Kardinal Marx, Robert Menasse, Bassam Tibi, Wolfgang Schüssel, Alfred Gusenbauer, Jeremy Rifkin, Jakob von Uexküll, Daniel S. Hamilton, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Hans-Gert Pötering, 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 science, politics, economics, religion and culture.





## How to take part: Be there online!

Join in a high-calibre interdisciplinary and international sharing of ideas! The programme for the “Geist & Gegenwart” Whitsun Dialogue offers insights and perspectives, first-hand knowledge, stimulating debate and innovative solutions for the compelling issues of our times. Make the most of the opportunity to follow discussions that are inspired by the unique atmosphere of Seggau Castle and involve interesting international speakers talking about the political, social, economic, cultural and technological challenges of the future for Europe in a digital age.

**The Whitsun Dialogue events will be made available in the form of a free live stream on the [www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at](http://www.pfingstdialog-steiermark.at) website and through our media partnerships.**

## Programme summary

### Thursday, 20 May 2021

09.00–13.00 hrs

Webinars: “Learning from the coronavirus crisis”

13.00 hrs

Opening of the 2021 Whitsun Dialogue

Keynote speech and input on the general theme

14.30–20.00 hrs

Panel debates on the main themes of the programme, Europe, culture, science and the economy

### Friday, 21 May 2021

09.00–11.00 hrs

Keynote speeches on the general theme

11.00–12.30 hrs

General forum: The future of Europe

Last updated March 2021 – subject to change.

## Whitsun Dialogue 2021: Hybrid event format

The continuing unprecedented situation and the measures required to slow the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic mean that the Whitsun Dialogue cannot take place in the usual way as a purely face-to-face event. The 9th “Geist & Gegenwart” Whitsun Dialogue will therefore take place on 20 and 21 May 2021 with a slightly abbreviated programme and in a hybrid format.

This year the speakers will gather, in compliance with strict safety measures, at Seggau Castle, and the presentations, discussions and panel debates will be broadcast online as a free live stream on the Whitsun Dialogue website and through various media partnerships. So even this year there will be no shortage of exciting debate, inspiring input and the usual intellectual discourse! Further information about the programme and the live streaming 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.





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#### Kontakt / Contact

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