



WHY CONNECTING EUROPE?

The EU faces an increasingly challenging environment. Democratic values that underpin the EU – such as the rule of law and freedom of speech – face stark opposition from authoritarian forces, both internally and externally. Whilst both EU institutions and national governments have to tackle urgent policy challenges such as climate change, the digital transformation and rising inequality, the framework for finding the answers has eroded. In an increasingly polarised and fragmented public sphere, it has become more difficult to promote a peaceful and constructive dialogue. To respond to these challenges, the Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre and the German foundation Stiftung Mercator decided to initiate the project “Connecting Europe” in 2017.

OUR VISION

Connecting Europe fosters an open, constructive dialogue between the national and the European level, working towards a transnationalisation of EU debates. It promotes sustainable exchanges between civil society organisations and EU decision-makers. The project aims to enhance mutual understanding between European countries, bring new ideas and expertise to Brussels, and positively contribute to a cohesive European project.

OUR MISSION

We are convinced that in order to re-build trust between member states, we need to promote a transnational approach that goes beyond the “Brussels bubble”, and provide a platform for open exchange between decision-makers and civil society.

Connecting Europe is a multi-stakeholder project based on four pillars:



Dialogue platform — promotes a two-way dialogue between the national and European level; between civil society and EU decision-makers.



Innovation hub — gathers fresh perspectives and innovative ideas from foundations, think tanks and civil society across Europe



Bridge builder — enables civil society, think tanks, academia and activists to actively engage in EU decision-making processes in Brussels.



Door opener — supports actors with the network of Stiftung Mercator to promote their ideas, expertise, and experience in Brussels.



CONTACT US

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OUR TOPICS

Youth

Activism,
Employment,
Mobility



Democracy

Civic engagement,
Rule of Law,
“shrinking civic
spaces”



FUTURE OF EUROPE



Migration

Integration,
Asylum,
Diversity



Climate

Sustainability,
Environment,
Energy



Digital Transformation

Civic tech,
Disinformation

OUR FORMATS



Events – Workshops, Roundtables,
Policy Dialogues, Network meetings



Online – Webinars, Newsletters,
Social media



Publications – Policy Briefs, Discussion
Papers, Commentary

OUR PARTNERS

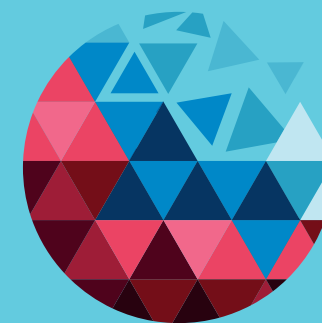
We work with a number of partners within the Stiftung Mercator network. The cooperation is flexible in time and size, and depends on the needs of the project partners.



re:constitution



The Expert Council of German Foundations
on Integration and Migration
RESEARCH UNIT



CONNECTING europe

a joint initiative by

STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

