

**WB2EU 6th Ideas go public Lab – Berlin, Germany**  
**March 23-24, 2023**

**Speaker Bios**

**March 23, 2023 Expert Roundtable at Europäisches Haus**



**Nora Hesse**

Nora Hesse is Team Leader of the Political Team of the European Commission Representation in Germany. She is responsible for Internal Market, Transport, Neighborhood and Enlargement, Health, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight, Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid. Previously, she was Economic Analyst at the Directorate General ECFIN of the European Commission and Assistant at the parliamentary office of Hans-Peter Thul, Member of the Bundestag. She holds a Master's Degree in Economics of The University of Freiburg and a Master's Degree in International Relations and Affairs of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski.



**Valeska Esch**

Valeska Esch is Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for the Countries of the Western Balkans. She was Director for Europe with the Aspen Institute Germany. She was responsible for Aspen Germany's activities on the Western Balkans, the Visegrad and Eastern Partnership countries. Valeska has a longstanding experience working on the Western Balkans and has published on the Western Balkan policies of the EU and Germany. She joined Aspen in February 2009. She holds an M.A. in Political Science and International and European Law with a focus on European politics and Southeast Europe, for which she studied at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn and the University of Birmingham. Prior to joining Aspen, she worked for an event management firm and the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) in Bonn.



**Dr. Nedžma Džananović**

Dr. Nedžma Džananović is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, specialized for the field of European integrations. She is a Head of Joint MA Program in Political Science (European Studies) of Faculty of Political Science (University of Sarajevo) and Faculty for Social Sciences in Ljubljana. She is an author of the book "The Status of Individual in Postnational Integrations: Citizenship in EU" and numerous articles in national and international journals where she writes about European integration and populism.

**March 23, 2023 Public Debate at Europäisches Haus****Dr. Jörg Wojahn**

Dr. Jörg Wojahn studied law at the University of Passau and the Universidade de Santiago de Compostela from 1991 to 1997 after graduating from high school in Munich. In 1999, he received his doctorate from the Christian Albrechts University in Kiel and passed his second state law examination at the Higher Regional Court in Karlsruhe in 2000. Wojahn then spent four years as editor and correspondent for the Austrian daily newspaper “Der Standard” before becoming spokesperson for the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in Brussels in 2004. From 2009 to 2014, he was embassy counsellor at the European Union Delegation to Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain in Riyadh, and from 2015 to 2019, he was head of the European Commission Representation in Austria. Since 1 September 2019, he has succeeded Richard Kühnel as head of the European Commission Representation in Germany.

**Susanne Schütz**

Susanne Schütz is a German diplomat and the Director for South-Eastern Europe, Turkey, OSCE, and the Council of Europe at the German Federal Foreign Office since 2019. Before, she was the German Ambassador to Albania from 2016 to 2019. In previous positions, Susanne Schütz was Permanent Representative and the German embassies in Italy and Ukraine, led the department for Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova in the Foreign Office, and worked at the German embassies in Russia and Israel. She studied Slavic Studies, and Anglo-American Studies in Münster, Los Angeles, Leningrad and graduated from FU Berlin before joining the German diplomatic service.

**Dr. Senada Šelo Šabić**

Dr. Senada Šelo Šabić is a Senior Scientific Associate in the Department for International Economic and Political Relations. Her research interests include Croatian foreign policy, Southeast Europe, EU politics, and migration. Senada holds Ph.D. in social and political sciences from the European University Institute in Florence and has earned two Masters degrees – in international relations from the University of Zagreb and in peace studies from the University of Notre Dame, USA. She is editor-in-chief of a scholarly journal Croatian International Relations Review, leads and participates in implementation of scientific and applied research projects, has taught at home and abroad. Senada is the author of a monograph, book chapters, scholarly articles and analytical studies. Senada received several distinguished academic grants and is a member of professional associations and bodies, including the Institute’s Management Board.

March 24, 2023, WB2EU Network Meeting, Institut für Europäische Politik: Speaker Bios



**Josip Juratovic, MdB**

Josip Juratovic is a German-Croatian politician of the Social Democratic Party from Heilbronn who has been a member of the German Bundestag since 2005. In the current Bundestag, he is a member of the Committee for European Affairs and a deputy member of the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs. In addition to his committee assignments, Juratovic chairs the German Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the States of South-Eastern Europe and co-chairs the German Parliamentary Friendship Group for Relations with the Northern Adriatic States since 2018. He was previously a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (2014-2018), where he served as his parliamentary group's rapporteur for relations with South-Eastern Europe; and the Committee on Labour and Social Affairs (2005-2013). Before joining the Bundestag, Juratovic worked as a car mechanic and trade unionist.



**Thomas Hacker, MdB**

Thomas Hacker is a German politician of the liberal FDP from Bayreuth who has been serving as a member of the German Bundestag since 2017. He is a member of the Committee on Culture and Media, where he serves as his parliamentary group's speaker on media policy; the Committee on European Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Foreign Cultural and Educational Policy. He serves as the president of the Thomas-Ehler-Stiftung since 2013. Before being elected to the Bundestag, Thomas Hacker was a member of the Bavarian Landtag (2008-2013) where he held the chairmanship of the FDP faction, and worked as a tax consultant.