4th Ideas go public Lab
Paris, 19 – 20 May 2022

Right in between the tail of the presidential race and the head of the parliamentary elections, our *WB2EU 4th Ideas go public Lab* will focus on the general politics of enlargement in France. The Russian aggression on Ukraine has rekindled a movement of solidarity and mobilisation akin to those of 1956 for Hungary, 1968 for Prague, or the 1980s for Poland. The reconfirmation for Ukraine of its European destiny in the face of war and its domino effect on Georgia and Moldova triggered a refreshed interest in the French public and political spectrum for the EU's enlargement goals and processes. In this regard, we found it relevant to reflect on what this novel context could mean for the Balkans' path into the EU. And the associated political narratives and plays.

Following the usual pattern, the *Ideas go public Lab* will have an afternoon *specialist round table*, an evening *public event* – followed by a formal *get together* – and a *WB2EU Network meeting* for debriefing and reflecting on the next steps in the framework of the project.

So, the *WB2EU 4th Ideas go public Lab* will serve the following purpose:

- To have an intensive debate about the general politics of enlargement in France and the EU's enlargement goals and processes
- To reflect on what the latest developments in Europe mean for the Balkans' path into the EU
- To have an exchange with political stakeholders and further establish an academia-policy-politics alliance around the project
- Debriefing, discussion, and reflecting on the WB2EU Network's next steps

Programme

Day 1: 19 May (Thursday)

Venue for both events of the first day:
EuropaNova premises, 64bis av. de New Yok, 75016 Paris

16.00–16.30: Coffee reception

16.30–18.00: Round table discussion (closed session)

THE WESTERN BALKANS EU ACCESSION PROCESS IN A FRENCH PERSPECTIVE

Speakers:

Julien ARNOULT, EuropaNova
Clotilde WARIN, European Affairs expert, French MFA, Centre d'Analyse, de Prévision et de Stratégie
Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development (Tirana), WB2EU Network

Moderated by **Elise BERNARD,** EuropaNova, WB2EU Network

18.00–18.30: Q&A

Europeanisation meets democracy from below:
The Western Balkans on the search for new European and democratic Momentum

With the support of the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Featuring: academic experts, students, institutional stakeholders, and opinion leaders

Partners invited: Institut Montaigne, ECFR-French office, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Paris, Fondation Jean-Jaurès, Fondapol, Groupe d'Etudes Géopolitiques, diplomatic circles in Paris
Bearing in mind the possible changes in the institutions after the April presidential election, the cabinet of the French president and the Secretary for European Affairs will be represented.

Media partners invited: La Croix, Ouest-France (press), Radio France, Euradio (radio), AFP (agency)

18.30–19.00: Break

19.00–20.30: Public debate (livestreaming will be provided)

THE PATH TO THE EU – HOW THE WAR IN UKRAINE HAS REOPENED THE CASE FOR ENLARGEMENT

Keynote speech:
André GATTOLIN, French Senator LREM, Vice-chair of the European Affairs

Discussants:
Tineke STRIK, Dutch MEP Greens EFA (video message)
Gwendoline DELBOS-CORFIELD, French MEP Greens EFA
Nebojsa VUKADINOVIC, Expert for the European Commission on pre-accession funds
Oana POPESCU-ZAMFIR, Director, GlobalFocus Center (Bucharest), WB2EU Network

Moderated by **Paul SCHMIDT,** General Secretary, Austrian Society for European Politics (ÖGfE), WB2EU Network

Concluding remarks: **Elise BERNARD**, EuropaNova, WB2EU Network

Registration and livestreaming:
On-site registration: anna.lelkes@europanova.eu
Distance registration: https://bit.ly/3yFkKoT
Twitter: https://twitter.com/oegfe & Facebook: https://bit.ly/3whuKTA & YouTube: https://youtu.be/Wy8CooYNyVM

21.00: Dinner at Café Kléber, 4 place du Trocadéro, 75016 Paris

Day 2: 20 May (Friday)

09.30–11.30: WB2EU Network meeting (closed session)
Debriefing, discussion and reflecting on the next steps
Venue: French Senate, 15 rue de Vaugirard, 75006 Paris

11.30–12.30: Visit of the Senate

13.30: Lunch reception and discussion in the Austrian Embassy
Venue: 6 rue Fabert, 75007 Paris

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