

Berlin, June 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

Progressives are at a crossroad once again. There is currently great uncertainty about the social, economic and political consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. A return to “normality” as we know it appears unlikely. It is clear that the dynamics of the crisis will create a different world with different futures for individuals, communities, and places. The crisis has revealed the structural weaknesses in our societies. As we move from crisis management to rebuilding the economy and society, momentum for change is growing.

The global financial and European debt crises brought a decade of little social progress, few structural reforms and the rise of right-wing populists. This must not happen again: now is the time to spring into action. It is imperative for all progressives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with solidarity and a vision of which society we want to live in and how we can get there! Despite the outbreak of coronavirus, we remain committed to continuing with the #PGS event series as we believe that in tough times progressives need to stay together. The **Progressive Governance Digital Summit “Restart! A progressive agenda for a new normality in the post-pandemic world” will take place as a series of virtual encounters between June 15 and 19, 2020.**

The event is co-hosted by **European Green Party, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies, Heinrich Böll Foundation, the Party of European Socialists, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, and the Royal Society of Arts.** The conference is also supported by internationally renowned think tanks from Europe and North America: **Arenagruppen** (Sweden), **Broadbent Institute** (Canada), **Center for American Progress** (USA, tbc), **Center for European Reform** (UK), **Demos Helsinki** (Finland), **The Embassy of Canada in Germany** (Canada), **Fundación Alternativas** (Spain), **Green European Foundation** (Brussels), **Global Progress** (UK), **Kalecki Foundation** (Poland), **Policy Network** (UK), **Policy Solutions** (Hungary), **Terra Nova** (France), **Volta** (Italy).

Three key objectives are guiding this digital summit. We aim to create a momentum of solidarity among progressive thinkers and doers. We want to combine the energy and experimentation of the grassroots movements with best policy practices at the national and international level. Finally, we wish to empower the progressive movement and rebuild the foundations of progressive politics, by bringing the progressive community together.

We are delighted to invite you to join this unique event as an active contributor. Let’s send a signal to progressives worldwide there is an energetic progressive answer to the social and economic consequences of COVID-19!

Your sincerely,



Dominic Schwickert
Executive Director
Das Progressive Zentrum



Florian Ranft
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The #PGS event series

From Santiago via London, Oslo, Dublin, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Stockholm to Berlin – Progressive Governance conferences and summits have been held worldwide since 1999. The cross-border dialogue series was originally founded by the British think tank, Policy Network. From the beginning, the purpose has been to gather leading as well as up-and-coming academics, activists and political decision-makers and to initiate a conversation about next generation thinking among centre-left parties and movements. The Progressive Governance event series aims at offering an intellectual ferment and cross-fertilization for a renewal of the progressive governing philosophy and political agenda across the transatlantic world. Since 2017, #PGS has been hosted in Berlin ([#PGS17](#), [#PGS19](#))



Progressive Governance Digital Summit 2020 (#PGS20)

Ten years after the global financial crisis, the coronavirus pandemic and its aftershocks will be one of the most serious challenges of our lifetime. It will be the greatest game changer for politicians, private sector leaders, public health systems as well as citizens nearly everywhere. A return to normality as we know it appears unlikely. As we move from crisis management to rebuilding the economy and society, a momentum for change is growing. Until now, solutions to the crisis have been designed at the national instead of transnational level, which hinders the much-needed cooperation.

To move forward, progressives need to learn from the lessons of these significant societal and economic shifts and the unforetold challenges that lie ahead of us, while contextualising them within the themes and values progressives hold dear. This is the purpose of #PGS20.

The 2020 edition of #PGS will give the next-generation thinkers and leaders a platform to rejuvenate the progressive spirit and create ideas for shaping the future. We are honoured to have **Olaf Scholz** (Vice-Chancellor, Germany) and **Hubertus Heil** (Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany) as patrons of the event.

Altogether, 100 international speakers will be exchanging ideas and developing concepts for change in 30+ sessions at the 2020 Progressive Governance Digital Summit. Among others, we are happy to welcome prominent political leaders, including **Annalena Baerbock** (Co-Chairwoman, Alliance 90/The Greens, Germany, TBC) **Katalin Cseh** (MEP, Momentum, Hungary), **Maria Ohisalo** (Minister of the Interior, Finland, TBC) political advisors and strategists, such as **Neera Tanden** (President, Center for American Progress, USA), **Clément Beaune** (Advisor for Europe and G20, Presidency of the French Republic), **Muthoni Wambu Kraal** (Head of Strategy and Organising, Democratic National Committee, USA) as well as thought leaders and public intellectuals: **Dani Rodrik**, (USA) **Maja Göpel** (Germany), **Yascha Mounk** (USA), Kübra Gümüşay, (Germany), **Matthew Taylor** (UK).

Main topics and key ideas

This crisis has revealed the structural weaknesses in our societies. We believe that it is imperative for progressives to promote international solidarity in times of crisis: how to achieve it will be the central objective of #PGS20. Solidarity will also be the normative guideline for the breakout sessions, workshops and leader's panels of #PGS20, in order to prioritise common solutions to the crisis. Further, the aim is to support the most weak and vulnerable and their communities at the local, national and global level.

At the 2020 Progressive Governance Digital Summit, we want to create an empowering moment that will lay the foundation of a new culture of governance. Therefore, we will focus on the following topics, essential for rebuilding the foundations of progressive politics:

Transformation: Creating a sustainable recovery & just transition agenda

- Renewing the parameters of innovative, carbon-neutral, digital and globalised economies that foster welfare, social equity and social mobility

Democracy: Winning the struggle for liberal democracy

- Rebalancing the responsibilities between the state and society with the aim of empowering civil society, promoting social cohesion and innovating the democratic system

Leadership: Building capacities for progressives to govern

- Imagining a narrative for an inclusive vision of the future, winning the public argument and developing strategies for progressives to govern

Europe +: Making a progressive case for Europe & new multilateralism

- Keeping Europe and its friends close together, whilst shaping values and institutions in times of geopolitical shifts

Preliminary Agenda for 15 – 19 June 2020

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
12.00			Lunchtime Keynote session		
13.00			12.00 - 13.30		
14.00			Seminar Session		Closing Keynote
15.00			14.00 - 15.00		14.00 - 15.30
16.00		Breakout Sessions	Breakout Sessions	Preliminary Wrap-Up & Open Mic	
		15.45 - 17.00	15.15 - 16.30	16.15 - 17.00	
17.00	Opening Kick-off Session	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Sessions	Leaders Panel I	
	17.00 - 19.00	17.15 - 18.00	16.45 - 18.00	17.15 - 18.30	
18.00			Wrap-Up	Leaders Panel II	
			18.00 - 18.30	18.45 - 20.00	
19.00					
20.00		Young Leader's Visions Debate	Panel Debate	Leaders Panel III	
		20.15 - 21.30	20.15 - 21.30	20.15 - 21.30	
21.00			Night Owl Session II		
			21.30 - 22.30		
22.00		Night Owl Session I			
		21.45 - 22.45			

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The Progressive Governance Digital Summit 2020 (#PGS20) is co-organized by a broad alliance of progressive organisations from Europe and North America. We want to embolden the progressive movement to address the challenges of the current pandemic together.

Co-Hosts



Impact Partners

