

Policy AGORA Forum & Citizen Innovation Lab

UNPACKING THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT ACTORS IN TIMES OF DISSENSUS

Democratic Activism at the local level, Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law

January 26 – 28 2023 | Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Bringing together leading academic thinkers, civil society organizations and activists, and practitioners and experts from across Europe, the GEM-DIAMOND **Policy Agora Forum & Citizen Innovation Lab on Democracy and Dissensus** will grapple with the origins, drivers, dynamics and impacts of *dissensus* on European democracy, with special focus on Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law and Autonomy of the Judiciary; Exercising Democracy – Civil Society and Challenges to Democratic Space; Contested Spaces – Gender, Power & Fundamental Rights; and The Role of Academia in Dissensus & Democracy.

The initial **Orientation and Training Workshops** will offer the fellows an opportunity to secure the latest information on the program’s ongoing implementation, ask any questions they might have at this stage, and receive a specific skills training session dedicated to the question of how researchers are to write scientifically informed policy recommendations.

The **Agora methodology** will create a dynamic and engaging space for academics, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss together, critically reflecting and diving into and analyzing key issues and challenges, with invited experts from across Europe and the three focal countries: Poland, Hungary, and Romania. It involves a series of highly participatory and dynamic sessions with engagement from everyone aimed at meeting different excellent experts and civil society actors associated with democratic activism at the local level, as well as the wider struggle to uphold fundamental rights and the rule of law thus helping the fellows to unpack the role of different actors, be they challengers or champions of liberal democratic norms and practices.

The **Citizen Innovation Lab** will take a *solution-based approach* on how to address and respond to these challenges while innovating more authentic, effective, just and inclusive democratic practices and polities in Europe.

Day 1 – Thursday January 26

Orientation & Training	09:00 – 09:30	Debrief Session with the GEM-DIAMOND Project Office
	09:30 – 10:00	Welcome to Cluj & Orientation for the Policy AGORA & the Citizen Innovation Lab
	10:00 – 12:00	Methods Workshop on “How to write a Policy Brief”
AGORA	13:00 – 14:00	Welcome to the European Policy Agora
	14:00 – 15:40	Democracy in Europe Today - Understanding Dissensus & Democracy
	16:00 – 17:30	Democracy in Europe Today - Unpacking the Role of Different Actors

Day 2 – Friday January 27

AGORA	09:30 – 11:30	Democracy & Dissensus: Fundamental Rights & The Rule of Law and Autonomy of the Judiciary
	12:00 – 14:00	Democracy & Dissensus: Exercising Democracy, Civil Society & Challenges to Democratic Space
	15:00 – 17:00	Democracy & Dissensus: Contested Spaces – Gender, Power & Fundamental Rights
Media Mixer	17:30 – 18:30	Democracy & Dissensus: Media in the Age of Dissensus

Day 3 – Saturday January 28

Citizen Innovation Lab	10:00 – 11:40	Session 1 - How can Democracy & Democratic Activism Address Dissensus?
	12:00 – 14:00	Session 2 – What Role for Academia in Dissensus?
	15:00 – 16:00	GEM-DIAMOND: Charting our Path Forward