1989 GENERATION INITIATIVE

Meet the team

The 1989 Generation Initiative at the LSE European Institute is a policy startup committed to mobilising '89ers' to lead the long-term regeneration of the EU. Its main work is the production of innovative policy proposals which it develops through a cutting edge methodology of broad engagement and structured dialogue involving 89ers and leading experts from across its pan-European branches. In time, the 1989 Generation Initiative attempts to be Europe's premier platform for the involvement of citizens in EU policy making.

Michael Cottakis

Director
co-founder

Michael is co-founder and President of the 1989 Generation Initiative. He also holds the position of Research Associate at the LSE European Institute. Previously, he was Director of the 87 Minutes Project, a Greek-Turkish NGO.

Nick Charalambides

Head of Finance
co-founder

Nick is co-founder and Head of Finance at the 1989 Generation Initiative. He has worked in public affairs consulting in Brussels and London and in the startup world with financial tech company Monzo.

Antonios Fiala
General Secretary
co-founder

Barbara Aubin
Head of Policy

Elena Turci
Head of Events

Martin Garrigue
Head of PR

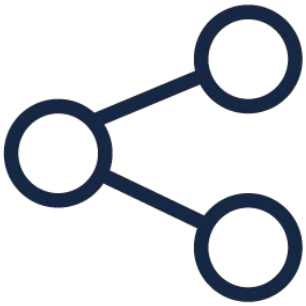
Advisory Board

Michael Cottakis (chair)
Kevin Featherstone
Jennifer Jackson-Preece
Timothy Garton Ash
Orest Tokac
Barbara Holzer

A unique approach

A premier policy platform for youth

The Initiative facilitates an innovative structured dialogue that allows the youth to contribute to the EU policy making process. In this process, policy proposals are formulated not by small teams of researchers cut off from the outside world, but by 89ers - young 'policy entrepreneurs' of various backgrounds from around Europe.



Establishment credibility + avant garde approach

The Initiative's policy recommendations are evidence-based and well-researched, drawing on input from LSE European Institute academic staff and numerous other expert participants. Our base at the LSE offers a unique platform for 89ers and policy experts to meet, debate, and devise policy proposals for the future of Europe. With our emphasis on crowdsourcing and data analytics, we aim to be at the vanguard of a digital revolution in the policy sphere.

Bridging the gap between thinking and doing

Not only do we create policies, but we aim to get them implemented. The Initiative seeks to generate public engagement around the policy proposals that it produces, involving MEPs, senior civil servants, and government ministers.

Our programmes

Regenerate EU

Regenerate EU is the Initiative's flagship programme. It engages 89ers over the course of an 8 months policy cycle with the aim of producing innovative policy proposals for the consideration of EU and national institutions. The final proposals are enshrined within a comprehensive annual Policy Report, published and presented at a major event in Brussels at the end of cycle. Each year, the Regenerate EU focuses on a separate theme.

Talking Europe

Talking Europe is broader current affairs series that provides a platform for young Europeans to influence the public and policy debate on issues of key relevance. This involves a weekly podcast series and the production of short policy reports that respond to key events as they occur. These reports are shared across social media and with key stakeholders.

Generation Brexit

Co-organised with the LSE European Institute, Generation Brexit aims to crowdsource a millennial vision for the future relationship between the UK and the EU. The project empowers those aged 18-35 to debate and agree on post-Brexit priorities and proposals. Crucially, the programme brings together millennials from across the UK and the EU. As a result, perspectives from both sides of the negotiations are represented. The final report will be sent to the Brexit negotiating teams in Westminster and Brussels, and will be freely available to the public online.

REGENERATE EU

Policy Cycle 2015/16 - Redefining the EU's Mission

The launch conference for our first policy cycle took place in June 2015 at the London School of Economics, and involved 60 89ers and 20 established European leaders, including Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former Labour Party Leader Neil Kinnock and Economics Nobel Prize winner Sir Christopher Pissarides amongst others.

Proposals in four main areas were initially drafted during the conference and subsequently refined through fortnightly webinars and a crowdsourcing process, which all conference delegates and Initiative members were able to feed into. The proposals were presented and discussed at an event of over 150 people in the European Parliament by a panel of cross-party MEPs from all the main political groupings.

Policy Cycle 2016/17 - Tackling Populism

The Initiative is currently mid-way through its second policy cycle. The latest launch conference has been greatly expanded, to involve 120 89ers and 30 established European leaders, taking place over a two-day period. Notable attendees include Italian Under-Secretary for European Affairs Sandro Gozi, and Jean Monnet Professor of Law at HEC Paris and Co-founder of the Good Lobby Alberto Alemanno. 89ers from the conference are currently refining the proposals suggested through webinar discussions.

TALKING EUROPE

2016/17 were eventful years in European current affairs, and the 1989 Generation Initiative was at the vanguard of the public and policy debate with its new series T**alking Europe**.

Topics of key relevance included the immediate Brexit fallout, the election of Donald Trump as US President, as well as the rise of Emmanuel Macron. In its inaugural year, Talking Europe produced 12 podcasts, hosted by Michael Cottakis, 5 policy briefs, 4 public events bringing together some of Europe's most exciting minds, and a weekly News Brief with a weekly analysis on EU current affairs from an 89er perspective. Speakers and participants included Karen Smith, Spyros Economides, Kevin Featherstone, Timothy Garton Ash, Lorenzo Codogno, Alberto Alemanno, Philippe Legrain and many more.

> *__Talking Europe__ has been a wonderful platform for our policy entrepreneurs to respond quickly and in an impactful way to major events as they happen across Europe.*

Michael Cottakis
Director, 1989 Generation Initiative

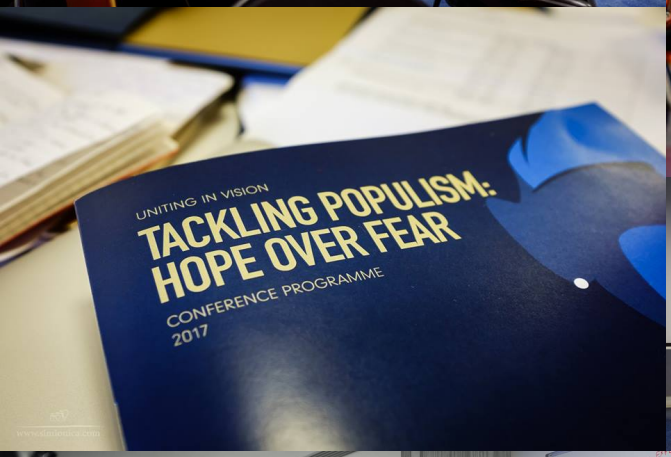
GENERATION BREXIT

Generation Brexit is an online platform that gives voice to British and European millennials on the future of Europe in the upcoming Brexit negotiations. This project aims to crowdsource a millennial cohort vision for the future of UK-EU relations. It invites those aged 35 and under from across the UK and Europe to debate, decide, and draft policy proposals that will be sent to Parliaments in Westminster and Brussels during the negotiations. Generation Brexit is an initiative housed in and co-organised with the LSE European Institute.

A unique methodology

The project translates academic research findings into impactful and policy-relevant arguments. Unlike other Brexit-related youth engagement initiatives, this project targets millennials in the UK and in Europe alike. The pan-European dimension captures the reality of the Brexit negotiations and underscores the necessity of establishing a mutually beneficial relationship for the future, based on the idea of European cooperation beyond the EU.

Several parallel language platforms are being run to involve as many non-native English speakers as possible in the debate on Brexit. For the programme, we are pioneering the use of text and sentiment analysis to determine trends in policy preference.

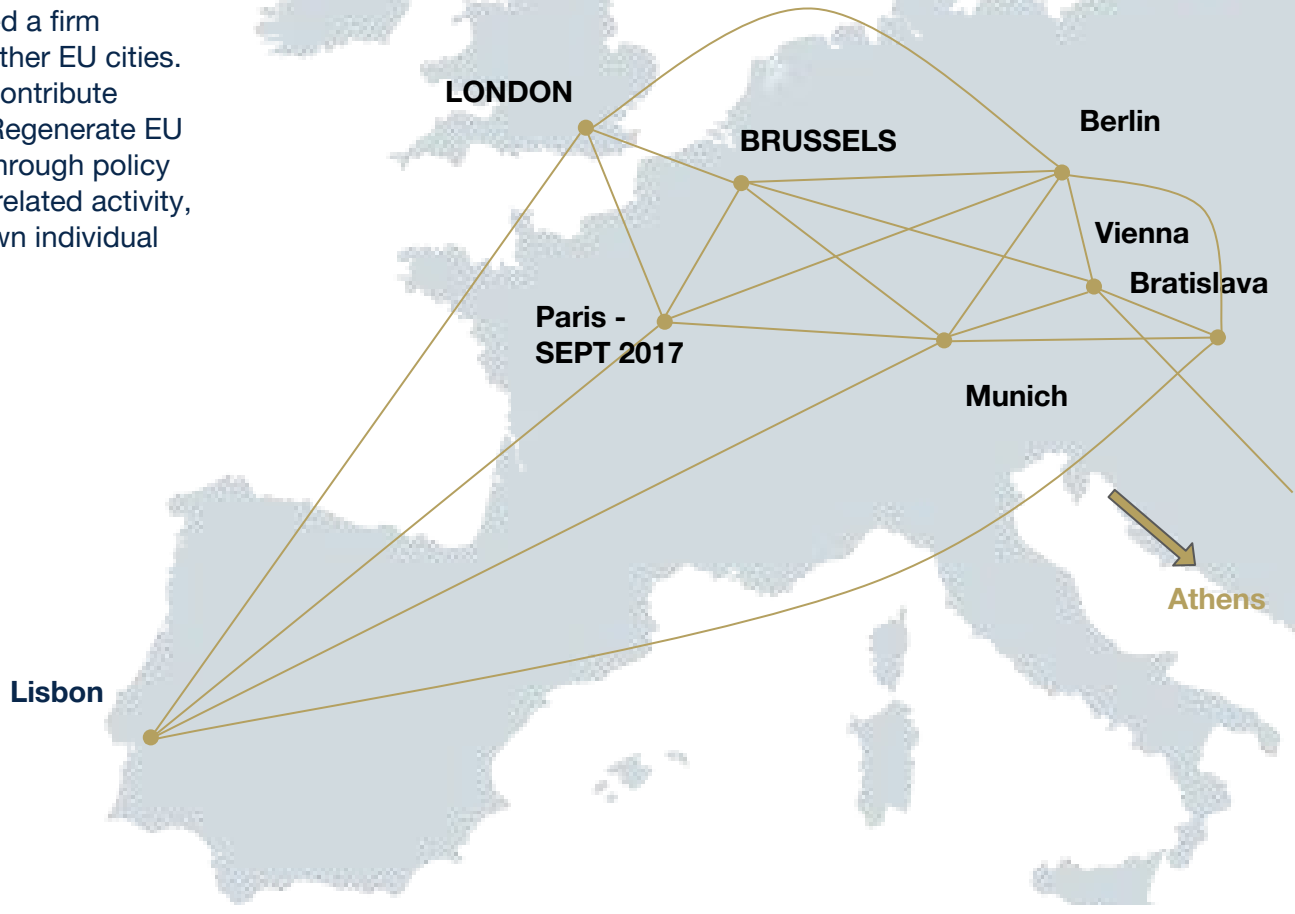


> *The **1989 Generation Initiative** has emerged as a major player in the European public sphere. Its programmes offer a unique platform for young policy makers to shape the future of Europe.*

Timothy Garton Ash
Advisory Board Member, 1989 Generation Initiative

Our pan-European branches

Our regional branches have sprouted up quickly. In addition to our LSE base, we have established a firm presence in 8 other EU cities. The branches contribute directly to the Regenerate EU policy cycles, through policy and advocacy-related activity, and run their own individual projects.



Through the establishment of new branches across Europe, the 1989 Generation Initiative attempts to reach more people than otherwise possible, and thus rely on an even greater pool of policy entrepreneurs and experts.

Building Europe's future

I don't know whether the 89ers will come together as a political generation, how they will act and - as important - how they will react when "stuff happens", as stuff will. But one thing is clear:

On them will depend the future of our past.

Timothy Garton Ash

Advisory Board Member, 1989 Generation Initiative
Writing for the Guardian, 7 December 2014.

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