

Fact Sheet

About Act.Now

Founded	December 2015
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Managing director	Catrin Neumüller
Websites	www.act-n-o-w.com www.now-conference.org



Line of business	Promoting collaboration, thinking across international borders, developing solutions and working with the utmost commitment – in order to safeguard social cohesion. We help to build national and international networks for new civil-society initiatives, NGOs, institutions, public organisations and experts on relevant topics.
Who we ARE	Act.Now is an enterprise based on a private initiative of its founders acting internationally and above party lines. Our office is located in Vienna.
What we WANT	In a time of profound social changes that bring about challenges to societies and democracies we want to stimulate public discourse and enhance public awareness about social solidarity and integration focussing on youth, refugees and migrants as well as locals.
What we DO	Act.Now supports people to take on more responsibility in their respective environment. Act.Now connects people and initiatives to raise the effectiveness of projects aimed to strengthen social cohesion. Act.Now provides information about social change and its impact on society to promote new solutions. To achieve its objectives Act.Now employs processes that are both cognitively and emotionally effective.

About NOW Conferences

NOW 5 - Vienna, January 2018

From 29 – 30 January 2018 the 5th International Mayors' Conference NOW "Shaping the Future – Social Cohesion in our Cities", under the auspices of the Austrian Federal President Dr. Alexander Van der Bellen, will take place in Vienna. The conference will address social cohesion on communal levels, with a special emphasis on children and young people, using a human and children's rights based approach. Social Cohesion has become a burning issue for communities across Europe. The constant increase in social inequality, resulting in a rising polarisation of society, has recently been accentuated by the current subject of integrating refugees and migrants. Participants from various backgrounds – mayors, NGO-representatives, experts, local and newly arrived children and youth – from Europe and the MENAT region will discuss and promote new political visions, public discourses and impactful policies to strengthen social cohesion from a human rights perspective. The conference provides a platform for the exchange on lived realities, existing challenges, promising and successful approaches on a municipal level with dedicated spaces to co-create, share and network. The 5th NOW Conference organized by Act.Now in cooperation with the Bruno Kreisky Forum for international Dialogue is curated by Dr. Viola Raheb, Ass. Professor, Faculty of Protestant Theology, Department of the Studies of Religions, University of Vienna.

NOW 4 - Kampala, September 2017

Curated by Hannes Swoboda, former Member of the European Parliament, the 4th NOW Conference on "African Youth and Migration", 3 – 5 September 2017 in Kampala, Uganda, gathered about 40 experts from more than 10 mostly Sub-Saharan and some European countries. Politicians, refugees, youth and NGO representatives discussed the situation of young refugees and migrants within Africa and beyond as well as perspectives of African Youth in four panels and three interactive sessions. The key findings and recommendations of this NOW Conference in Kampala were advocated at the 5th AU-EU Summit in November 2017 in Côte d'Ivoire.





NOW 3 - Vienna, January 2017

On 30 – 31 January 2017 about 160 mayors, experts, local politicians, MEPs, refugees and NGO-representatives from 22 nations gathered in Vienna to discuss the situation of children on the move. At the Third International Mayors' Conference NOW „Children under the Radar“ 4 panels and 12 workshops offered space to discuss main problems and share solutions in an area which is often overlooked, even though children make up half of all current refugees. In addition, three round tables provided insights into municipal and European perspectives and refugees shared their stories and experiences. Children are the most vulnerable members of society and especially those on the move. They have special needs, which have to be met by an integral approach to avoid the emergence of a “lost generation”. This goal requires long-term commitment of human and financial resources. As a follow-up to the third NOW Conference, working groups had been set up to work on the topics of education, exploitation, traumatising and gender, and one for mayors. The conference was curated by Viola Raheb, educationalist, theologian, activist for peace, gender equality and assistant at the Institute for Religious Studies at the University of Vienna and curator of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue.

NOW 2 - Athens, July 2016

The implementation of the [EU-Turkey-Agreement](#) to handle migration flows poses huge challenges for local communities in border regions. Mayors from affected municipalities in Greece, Turkey and Italy met from 21 – 23 July 2016 at the second NOW Conference to assess this agreement, together with representatives of NGOs, members of the European Parliament, experts and refugees. The participants came to the conclusion that even though there is no Plan B – other than the current agreement – in sight, Plan A is not working out. At the present time the EU-Turkey Agreement's only purpose is to prevent human beings seeking refuge from continuing their journey to Central Europe. The rights of human beings seeking refuge are being ignored, the toll, the costs and the ugly practical implementation are being rolled off onto Greece and Turkey. On the other hand, no ways have been found to bring refugees from war zones and displaced persons from neighbouring countries legally, safely and non-bureaucratically to receiving countries in Europe. The conference was curated by Hannes Swoboda, former Member of European Parliament, and currently a board member of the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue in Vienna.

NOW 1 - Vienna, January 2016

The first International Mayors' Conference NOW was held from 21 – 22 January 2016 in Vienna. At that gathering, mayors from local authorities along refugee routes (Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Austria, Germany), representatives of NGOs and people who had been forced to flee their homeland met for the first time to discuss practical solutions at local level. The first NOW Conference was about taking the next steps, about answers to the many topics that needed to be tackled, and about proposals on how to keep on co-operating in finding new solutions together. It was and is about ideas that enable good decisions on institutional and civil society levels, about obtaining clarity on similarities and differences, about taking on responsibility and about the question of what each one of us can contribute to achieve peaceful coexistence. The first NOW Conference was organized in cooperation with the Bruno Kreisky Forum for international Dialogue and curated by Viola Raheb, assistant at the Institute for Religious Studies at the University of Vienna, Hannes Sowboda, former Member of European Parliament and Robert Misik, author and journalist.

For details see:

www.act-n-o-w.com

www.now-conference.org

www.facebook.com/nowconf

<https://twitter.com/nowconf> #nowconf

<https://issuu.com/act-n-o-w>

www.youtube.com/channel/UCMcwdoWgUXM2pK-DZLm2CaQ



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