

Mercator European Dialogue

Track 2: Reconnecting people with the EU

3-4 March 2016

Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

Organised by: CIDOB with the collaboration of GMF, IAI and ELIAMEP and the support of Stiftung Mercator

There is an urgent need to reconnect the European idea to both political elites and citizens in order to renew a sense of ownership of the European project. A joint European narrative is needed to support the European integration process. Our workshop will provide MPs with the chance to explore why and how we need to reconnect people with the EU, what role civil society, education and mobility initiatives and programmes can play and how communicating better can help to achieve this purpose.

09.00 **Registration**

09.15 **Welcome, session aims, introductions**

Pol Morillas, Research Fellow in European Affairs, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

Peter Woodward, Lead facilitator, Quest Associates

09.30 **Why is there a growing need to reconnect people with the EU?**

Overview perspective

Pol Morillas, Research Fellow in European Affairs, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

Participants discussion and perspectives on the need to reconnect

10.20 Refreshments

10.40 **Exploring current education and mobility programmes**

Annegret Wulff, CitizensLab and Theodor Heuss Kolleg, MitOst e.V.

Tanja Backherms, International Affairs, Stiftung Mercator

Judit Vallès, President, Young European Federalists in Catalonia

Participants explore different education/mobility programmes and their own experiences highlight key observations on what is working and what is not

Feedback of insights to plenary

12.20 Lunch

13.10 **The challenge of communicating contested and complex issues**

Carme Colomina, Associate Researcher, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)

Participants develop key recommendations to achieve more effective communication on EU with citizens

14.40 Refreshments

15.00 **Where do we go from here?**

Groups identify specific ideas/recommendations for actions/programmes and agree next steps from today

16.00 **Close**