

Expert Conference

Between Open Arms and Closed Borders

A Decade of Flight and Arrival in Germany

Tuesday, October 21st 2025, 10-6 pm

Heinrich Böll Foundation Berlin (Schumannstr. 8, 10117 Berlin)

PROGRAM

ARRIVAL	
10:00 - 11:00 h	Check in & Registration
OPENING	
11:00 - 11:15 h	<p>Mekonnen Mesghena - Heinrich Böll Foundation</p> <p>Dr. Noa K. Ha - German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM)</p> <p>Conference host: Miriam Camara - akoma coaching & consulting</p>
KEYNOTE	
11:15 - 11:45 h	Prof. Dr. Oliver Junk - Professor in Administrative Law 2011–2021 Mayor of the City of Goslar (CDU)
OPENING PANEL	
11:45 - 13:00 h	<p>A Decade of Border Issues: Flight, Humanity, Participation</p> <p>Statement in Response: Prof. Dr. Petra Bendel - FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg</p> <p>* Engelhard Mazanke - Director of the Berlin State Office for Immigration</p> <p>* Karl Kopp - Co-Executive Director of ProAsyl</p> <p>* Prof. Dr. Oliver Junk - Professor of Administrative Law</p> <p>Moderation: Miriam Camara - akoma coaching & consulting</p>
13 - 14 h	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 - 14:30 h	Poetry reading and discussion with poets from <i>The Poetry Project</i>
PARALLEL SESSIONS	
14:30 - 16:00 h	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>10 Years „We Can Do This“ – What have we achieved? How did we achieve it?</p> <p>* Giulia Fellin - From The Sea to the City</p> <p>* Tülay Zengingül - Municipal Integration Center Bielefeld, Head of the Integration Department</p> <p>Moderation: Dr. Susanna Kahlefeld MdA – Green Party Parliamentary Group Berlin, Spokesperson for Civic Participation & Engagement, European Affairs and Religion</p> <p>Between Protection and Isolation – Humanitarian Responsibility in Times of CEAS and Fortress Europe</p>

	<p>* Janne Grote - State Coordinator for Berlin in the Alliance of Cities of Safe Harbours and the International Alliance of Safe Harbours</p> <p>* Nele Allenberg - German Institute for Human Rights</p> <p>Moderation: Dr. Lukas Fuchs - DeZIM-Institute, Department of Migration</p>
	<p>3. Hope and Participation – Employment and Labour Market Integration as Key to Integration, Belonging, and a Future-Oriented Immigration Society</p> <p>* Dr. Fessum Ghirmazion - IG Metall (German Metalworkers' Union), Political Secretary in the Department for "Migration and Participation"</p> <p>* Prof. Dr. Herbert Brücker – Institute of Employment Research, Head of the Research Department for Migration, Integration and International Labour Market Research</p> <p>Moderation: Dr. Friederike Römer - DeZIM-Institute, Department of Consensus & Conflict</p>
	<p>4. Between Solidarity, Populism, and Racism – How Can the Migration Society Be Protected and Social Cohesion Promoted?</p> <p>* Emiliano Chaimite - Project Coordinator at Afropa e.V. Former Managing Director of the Umbrella Association of Saxon Migrant Organizations (SPD)</p> <p>* Katharina Obser - Democracy Program Director of the Washington Office of Heinrich Böll Foundation</p> <p>Moderation: Dr. Elias Steinhilper – DeZIM Institute, Department of Consensus & Conflict</p>
16:00 - 16:30 h	COFFEE BREAK
16:30 - 17:00 h	Poetry reading and discussion with poets from <i>The Poetry Project</i>
CLOSING PANEL	
17:00 - 18:00 h	<p>10 Years, Two Turning Points, Many Questions: What Remains of the Decade of Welcoming Culture and Isolation?</p> <p>* Filiz Polat MdB - Member of the Bundestag - Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens, Parliamentary Secretary (invited)</p> <p>* Dr. Achim Dercks - Deputy CEO, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK)</p> <p>* Deniz Kurku – Lower Saxony State Commissioner for Migration and Participation (<i>invited</i>)</p> <p>* Stephan Neher - Mayor of Rottenburg am Neckar (CDU)</p> <p>Moderation: Dr. Noa Ha - Scientific Managing Director DeZIM Institute</p>
18.00 - 19:30 h	SNACKS & NETWORKING