

# Euro-BRICS

## Euro-BRICS Young Leaders' Summit I

### Executive Report

June 8-9, 2015, Helsinki, Finland

Sustainability | Democracy | Peace | Modernity | Mobility | Innovation | Multicultures



# Euro-BRICS

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# Euro-BRICS

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 has been marked by a major disruption in Euro-Russia relations which can be understood as the first conflict of the multipolar world. Indeed the multipolarity of the XXIst century world is neither good nor bad, it is a fact which policy-makers must address with optimism and rationality in order to organise it.

So that today's multipolar world doesn't look like Europe in the 1930s, this major change in the global architecture requires a major reform of the international institutions in charge of ensuring peace and shared prosperity on a global scale. To this date, the previous system of global governance hasn't been able to transform significantly and integrate the new reality, compelling a group of countries representative of the new global architecture, the BRICS, to start building their own system of trans-continental coordination.

As long as the effort of the BRICS nations to create the conditions for a peaceful and prosperous multipolar world remain snubbed by the West, this effort will result in a conflictual bipolarisation of the world.

Within this club of Western countries, Europe appears as the most likely to understand the need to contribute positively to this process of global reorganisation. Because Europe has the experience of being responsible for the two most lethal wars in global history, because it invented a promising model of regional integration, because this model is relevant in the invention of a coordinated multipolar world, the Euro-BRICS rapprochement can play a positive role in accelerating the process of global reorganisation so much needed.

Given that this XXIst century world belongs first and foremost to the younger generations of global citizens and leaders and that the world needs the optimism and open-mindedness of the owners of the future, Euro-BRICS youth have decided to initiate an open platform of exchange and action. And in order to signal clearly their intention to be a force of hope and reorganisation, they are holding this first Euro-BRICS Young Leaders Summit in Helsinki.

This event gathered 120 representatives of student and youth organizations from Europe and the BRICS countries during two days of discussions and work on the following topics: Sustainability, Democracy, Peace, Modernity, Mobility, Innovation and Multicultures.

These discussions were aimed at producing concrete results such as: perennality of the Summit, visibility of the message conveyed, joint statement, permanent network of Euro-BRICS future leaders, articulation with existing political and institutional systems, etc.





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.0 WORKSHOPS

### 2.1 DEMOCRACY

Moderator:

Konstantinos Dekavallas

Rapporteur:

Marine Betrancourt

Participants:

Antti Reinsalo, Bhanu Joshi, Katharina Lawall, Louise Pahisa, Marie-Hélène Caillol, Mikhail Hendricks, Professor Harilal, Reatilehile Jankie, Reetwija Chakraborty, Rohan Subash Sankhla, Samantha Rouche, Sihle Nontshokweni and Siphosihle Mzongwana



Rationale: *Asserting instrumentality of democracy in governance / Inventing a democratically anchored system of global governance / Ensuring youth/citizen participation in tomorrow's global system of governance at every level*

1. Issue: Lack of capacity to solve problems at the appropriate level due to jurisdictional boundaries.

Solution: Improve the practical implementation of national and supra-national policy. Strengthening ties to increase inclusive global governance and diplomatic relations (bottom-up)

2. Issue: The local level of government seldom has authority e.g. migration.

Solution: Invite and include multiple stakeholders to make policy collectively. Empower nation states to generate and influence and to give legitimacy to implement policy (in some area intercity cooperation).

3. Issue: Lack of access to resources e.g. knowledge, infrastructure

Solution: Ensure protection of human rights. Decrease inequality and provide equality of opportunity. Increase access to information e.g. knowledge, infrastructure. Localization global conversations at a local level. Provide education accessible to all, especially civic education. Support citizens in participation in democracy through training, appropriate infrastructure investment, funding.

4. Issue: Lack of participation

Solution: Strengthen democracy and increase citizen participation, promoting a bottom-up approach to democracy. Potentially use online resources in the long term. Promote new forms of participation, for example participatory democracy tools such as citizens' initiatives, and consultations. Harness digital democracy tools.

Project: Online participation: use these to engage with young people - how representative are we?





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.2 PEACE

Moderator:  
Thomas Letzke

Rapporteur:  
Abigail Branford

Participants:

Abigail Branford , Antea Gomes, Dimitri Gogoladze, Eleonora Vitale, Ekuna Gogoberishvili, Erme Yildiz, Georgeta Grama, Jakuja Nomahlubi, Kateryna Shalayeva, Katherina Shalayeva, Ketu Sokhadze, Manlio Di Stefano, Sergey Bondarenko, Siddhant Srivastava, Sixie Zhou, Thomas Letzke and Yuliana Vintyuk



Rationale: *Creating the conditions for a peaceful cooperation between the big components of the multipolar world – Win-win rationale at the heart of tomorrow's global system / Case studies (Georgia, Ukraine, the Middle East)*

## 1. Definition

If we want to work for peace, what is first required is a common definition to which we all agree. Not having the time to establish a more substantial concept, we formulated a minimal definition, as follows:

“A first requirement for peace is that we have sustainable institutions/agreements that would prevent Euro-BRICS countries from entering into conflict”

## 2. Fields of action

We have made a list of fields that seem to be particularly relevant for us when striving for peace as defined above. This list is non-exhaustive, but we have agreed to work on the four following aspects:

- . Knowledge
- . Economy (Trade)
- . Security
- . Culture

## 3. Suggestions for cooperation

### **Knowledge**

Issue: Knowledge may facilitate peace or be used for conflict. If high-tech knowledge is democratised it is less likely to be captured for military purposes.

Recommendations:

1. Multicultural technology projects: Euro-BRICS countries should collaborate on large-scale high-tech projects in multicultural teams
  2. Peace education: creating Euro-BRICS institutions facilitating the educational foundation of peace
- Paulo Frere: “A deepened consciousness of their situation leads people to apprehend that situation as an historical reality susceptible of transformation.”

### **Economy (Trade)**

Issue: we see dangers in conflict caused by competing economic interests, unfair trade competition, the gap in the development of EURO-BRICS nations supporting the rights of EURO-BRICS nations on equal economic development, promoting the economic cooperation among EURO-BRICS nations.

Recommendations:

1. To create a non-profit Euro-BRICS investment bank controlled by the members of Euro-BRICS and run by cooperation of national experts



2. To facilitate the tourism among Euro-BRICS nations by economic measures
3. To sign agreements promoting economic non-spying policies among EURO-BRICS nations

## Security

Issue: Reaffirming sovereignty and equality of all member nations; promoting non-aggressive policy towards member nations for peaceful cooperation

Recommendations:

1. Mutual cooperation in areas of intelligence and cyber crimes
2. Tighter extradition treaties
3. Create a EURO-BRICS fund for disaster management and relief
4. Forums/councils/arbitration centers for resolution of disputes
5. Engagement of EUROBRICS nations with EURO-BRICS UNSC members on international peace and security

## Culture

Issue: Considering that cultural misunderstandings and unequal representation of the existing cultures in the domestic sphere stimulates conflicts

Recommendation:

1. Create and promote international “culture of peace” exchange programs among their member countries, involving local communities in cooperation with schools
2. Create a safe space for every culture to be equally represented in each country.





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.3 MOBILITY

Moderator:  
Holger Schmitt

Rapporteur:  
Rashee Mehra

Participants:  
Alexander Zhebit, Rashee Mehra, Holger Schmitt, Vijila Kennedy, Tianjiao Jiang, Lycia Brasil, Eduardo Zanatta and Gabriela Bazzo



Rationale: *From a global world of goods to a global world of people / Inventing non-disruptive employment mobility (enhancing constructive mobility, managing disruptive mobility) / Student mobility and multicultural global citizenship / Visas: a thing of the past?*

### **Recommendation 1: To facilitate the student Visa application among EU and BRICS countries**

1. To make the visa application process standardized
2. To implement electronic visa application
3. To reduce the application fee

The facilitation of VISA application will promote student mobility, increase education and cultural exchange and cultivate awareness of global citizenship. It will also help realize the Euro-Brics Visa free strategy step by step.

### **Recommendation 2: Promote and activate a vibrant Euro-Brics platform**

Building a vibrant network of young leaders from the EURO-BRICS Young Leaders Summit that strengthens mobility in the region.

We propose that the 2015 participants and LEAP invest energy into creating a post-event community that looks to create a pool of resources

- Scholarships
- cultural exchanges
- Visa advise and mentorship
- Exchange of Research especially focusing on technology
- Webinars
- Establish Buddy programme for Mentors, Hosts and Supporters
- Finding Host and Partner Universities for studies abroad
- Engaging organizations present here to build this resource pool. The experts present can be requested to become mentors to the participants and encourage knowledge about EURO- BRICS. A core team should be created during this event to take this forward.

### **Recommendation 3: Support for youth mobility**

We should work to facilitate the Euro-Brics integration

1. By creating fiscal benefits for air companies offering special fares among the countries
2. Create mechanisms for community engagement, dialogues and outreach
3. Stimulating scholarships and funding between Euro-Brics countries

### **Recommendation 4: Euro-Brics Mobility Programme**

Start a lobbying process to establish a mobility programme for Euro-Brics, develop political pressure to convince ministries of Education to establish a Euro-Brics mobility programme. Involve the new development bank special line for funds in this new Euro-Brics mobility programme.

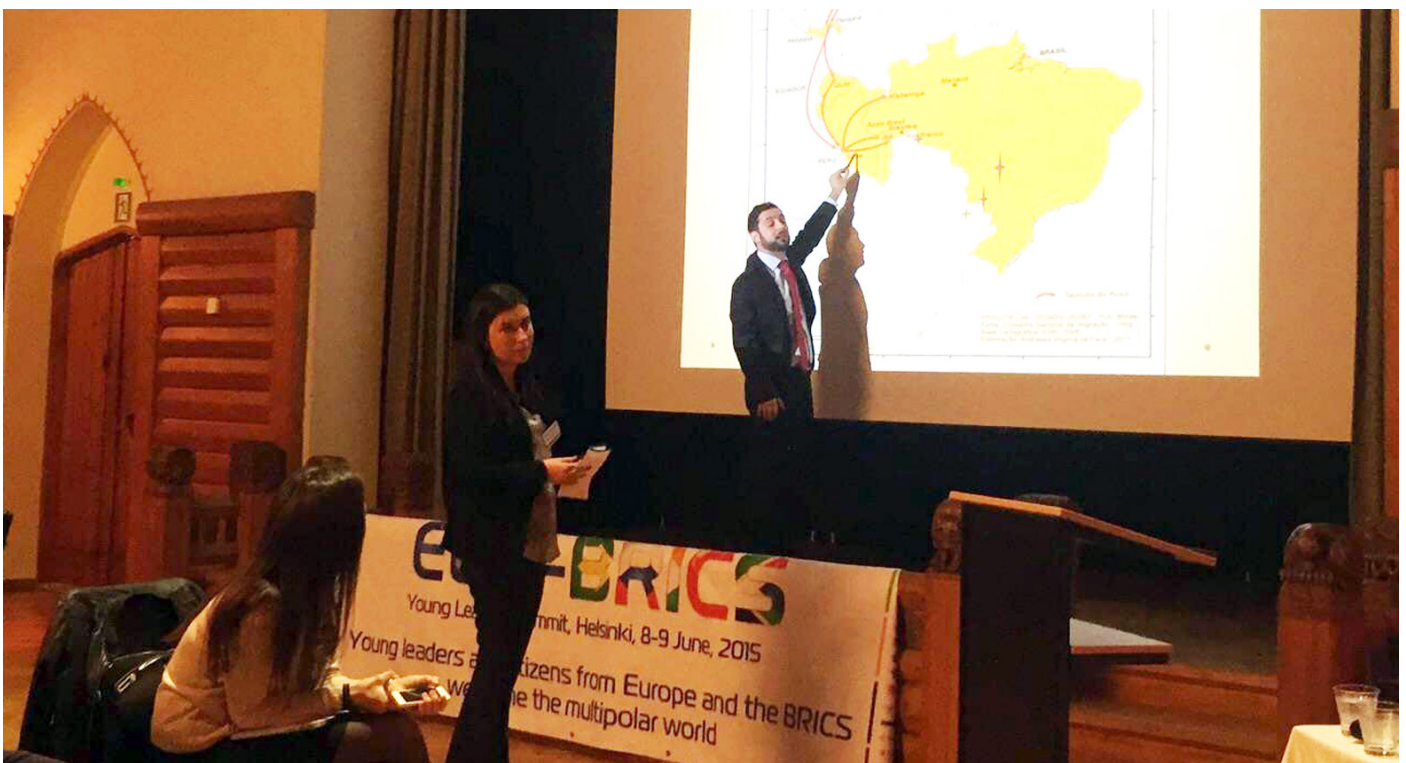


- Focus on English and bilingual studies
- Recognition of the degrees should be ensured
- Funding by EU, BRICS countries and international companies to provide scholarships
- Similar to Bologna agreement structure with ECTS structure
- Joint degrees in different Euro-Brics countries

### Recommendation 5: Immigration

Considering that, in the context of Euro-BRICS, each country has a specific legislation and also deals with really particular waves of migration and refugees, we think that, the most important is to share cases of success and also look together for solutions. For example: the xenophobia against the Haitian and Senegal refugees in Brazil and the Afghanistan refugees 'case of success' in India. When dealing with migrants, the countries have two options: integrate and segregate.

In general lines the recommendation is that the countries establish articulations in the internal sphere and also in the international perspective, to fight against criminal networks. It is also important that the BRICS countries do understand that this inversions in the migrant flux are result of their new role in the international scenario and also a result of globalization, multipolarism and capitalism.





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.4 MODERNITY

Moderator:  
Luliia Afanaseva

Rapporteur:  
Edmee Pautet

Participants:  
Andras Bajak, Edvard Chesnokov, Luliia Afanaseva, Marie-  
Hélène Caillol, Pautet Edmée, Ruslan Orzanov, Vladimir  
Kharchenko and Wiaan Visser



Rationale : *Creating a modern global institutional system (light, open, adaptable, internet-based, project-based) / Adding the level of regional integrations to the global architecture / Reinventing nation states' added value and role in this architecture.*

This solution is the logical development of the Euro-BRICS Young Leaders Summit on its whole: the main goal is to create an international community, to get increased involvements and interactions through Euro-BRICS countries. It seems to be a sustainable way to create new links, in order to make changes in the world of tomorrow.

- Create new virtual platform for new connections and exchanges,
- Involving the youth into making the political process, spreading successful practices.

Discussion points:

- What are the trends in the modern world
- How will the world look in the future
- What are the current institutions which we have
- Presentations
- BRICS Bank.
- Value of Educational Networks.
- Role of young people in creating these networks.
- Cross-cultural civic initiatives

Further steps - creating a networking platform based on shared values and on common interests.

Main characteristics (structure):

- Freestanding platform
- Not official representatives, but rather just a community of individuals
- Organised by interest or issues, Regions and Personal Connections
- Online and real world presence
- Physical meetings on a yearly, bi-yearly or regular basis
- Financial sustainability through multiple sources of support. Decentralised support and funding
- Flexible enough to adapt to a changing world
- Opt in decision-making process

Values:

- Collaboration
- Focused on problem solving
- Goal oriented
- Transparency
- Sharing of skills and knowledge.



- Respect for others
- Responsibility and commitment to surmounting the challenges
- Flexibility and adaptability

Goals:

- Creating a Synergetic effect between partners.
- Increasing networking and interaction.
- Providing communication channels
- Broadening exposure to the concept of Euro-BRICS.
- Involving the youth in decision-making and political processes of the Euro-BRICS network.
- Empowering, inspiring and bringing the youth together to address problems on a local level.
- Becoming a focal point for mobilisation in the Euro-BRICS network.
- Making the Euro-BRICS network sustainable.





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.5 SUSTAINABILITY

Moderator and Rapporteur:

Megan Davies

Participants:

Caroline Lubbers, Fernando Haddad Moura, Irina Z. Yarygina, Jing Bi, Karthik Ponnappa Mittu, Megan Davies, Raymond Matlala, Satya Pavan Kumar Mummidi, Sonum Gayatri Malhotra, Vanessa Tarantini and Veronique Swinkels



Rationale : Acknowledging the need to combine economy, social development and sustainability / Founding growth on environmental and social challenges / Feeding 7 billion people without surrendering to multinational food lobbies / Towards a global distribution system of prosperity

A growing concern for environmental integrity culminated in the 1980's with the publication of the iconic Our Common Future by the WCED. The Brundtland, as it is more commonly known, states that "sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The publication came to signify a watershed in thinking about environment, development and governance and is understood as a turning point on the global development discourse. Sustainability has evolved as a developmental principle reconciling a desire to protect the environment, attend to human development issues whilst maintaining development of an economic nature. However, the concept of sustainability remains highly contested and has experienced significant fragmentation over the last few decades. The emergence of a multiplicity of overlapping, conflicting perspectives on sustainable development has made it increasingly problematic to employ. Realising the difficulty in developing a single, all-encompassing definition thereof, sustainability is seen as helpful in framing and focussing debate around global development trajectories, while being open to constant interrogation and re-interpretation.

Each of the presentations in the sustainability workshop demonstrated this by emphasizing different components of the sustainability and sustainable development discourse.

Presentation and discussion themes:

- Strengthening global governance through economic cooperation at national and region levels
- Supporting innovative and sustainable business models by integrated more value creation throughout the supply chain and business lifecycle
- Leveraging the role of business as 'Architects of a Better World' through integrated reporting and ethical, transparent communication
- Empowering consumer decision making and purchasing power through informative sustainability-oriented messaging
- Transforming urban infrastructure systems to achieve efficiency, resilience and sustainability
- Building transformative civic advocacy structures and networks at local, regional and national levels

Instead of focusing on developing a single definition of sustainability, the group focused on building insights and strategies for collaboration from their practical experiences and diverse knowledge within the framework of the Sustainability Development Goals. The 17 SDGs grouped within the following six themes—People, Dignity, Prosperity, Justice, Partnership and Planet—serve as a platform for collaboration as part of a global agreement for a transformative global development agenda. These were a main outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, where member states agreed to launch an inclusive process to develop a set of development goals to build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda. The SDGs will be launched in September 2015. their research, corporate, activist or entrepreneurial Within



the SDG framework, the group was able to locate within this framework to demonstrate how their individual efforts are contributing to a transformative global development agenda.

With an emphasis on partnership and collaboration, the key outcome of the discussion was the potential for the EuroBRICS platform to showcase the diverse efforts of young leaders within this network and the multiplicity of ways that these help to contribute to the SDGs. This could be done through building a functionality on the EuroBRICS website which could support and connect the array of projects and initiatives of young people within the EuroBRICS network. Building upon these widespread initiatives in diverse localities, the EuroBRICS platform could offer value in supporting the global perspective necessary for a development agenda with sustainability at its core, one pursuing human prosperity and wellbeing within planetary boundaries.

#### Sustainability Development Goals:

**People:** to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children.

**Planet:** to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children.

**Partnership:** to catalyze global solidarity for sustainable development.

**Justice:** to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions.

**Prosperity:** to grow a strong, inclusive and transformative economy.

**Dignity:** to end poverty and fight inequality.





# Euro-BRICS

## 2.6 INNOVATION

Moderator and Rapporteur:

Teona Gurguenidze

Participants:

Antara Choudhury, Christel Hahn, Chunyan Li, Krithika Shankaran, Michael Kahn, Michael Borsky, Roman Printsev, Satya Pavan, Utkarsh Amitabh and Venla Virkamäki



Rationale : *Limits reached by fragmented competitive national research / Multiculturalism, an instrument of innovation in science and technology / Reaching the next phase of human development by combining together a multipolar world's strengths (financial and human resources) / Towards supra-national teams of research, supranational coordinating entities, supranational supervising bodies.*

**Introduction:**

Innovation is a very wide topic. For effective analysis in future it should be divided on several main spheres. Innovation is change anyhow. To develop the whole country, we should develop all the spheres in complex. Science is influencing the society and is influenced by society. The dependence is conclusive. But taking into attention geographical and other positions, every country has the sphere in which it has an advantage. If the countries of BRICS and EU start collaborate closely they will be able to exchange experience, set scientists exchanges, effective using of materials and nature resources. First we should never forget about future generations because modern progress sometimes is destructive for our planet. To collaborate effectively there should be infrastructure for such a development of science and technology. This process is up on the political and economic situation. That's why the huge work should go in these spheres first. Science should not be dependent from politics. That should stand a real exchange of the best which every country has.

**Suggestions:**

As it is still impossible to cover all the spheres and develop all directions simultaneously, we propose for every BRICS country to concentrate on one particular direction and create Euro-BRICS agreement:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Area of development</b>
Russia	Water
Brazil	Climate Control
South Africa	Space
China	Renewables
India	Remote sensing

European countries should support BRICS and cooperate in one of these areas.



## 2.7 MULTICULTURES

Moderator:  
Yaopeng Xing

Rapporteurs:  
Kasper Mayer and Rajat Nayyar

Participants:  
Fabian Wagner, Jordan Hristov, Kaspar Meyer, Laurence Watticant, Léa Charlet, Lyana Vyazovskaya, Manish Dabas, Marie Ashavskay, Ndivhuho Tshikovhi, Praneet Verma, Rajat Nayyar, Roman Chukov, Taymoon Altamash, Vladimir Kharchenko and Yaopeng Xing





Rationale : *Bridging cultural gaps in a multipolar world through culture, education and sports / Conceiving Euro-BRICS sports contests and cultural events / Inventing « co-opetitive » rules in sports and contests: acknowledging the might of « win-win » vs « crushing the others » logic*

## Exchanged ideas

- Balance globalization and culture
- Civil dimension of BRICS
- Need for exchange
- Solidify Euro-BRICS platforms
- Role of sports
- Cultural connections

## Concrete Proposals

### . Euro-BRICS Sports Festival

Participant Profile: Age- 18-35

Objective: Sharing each others sports knowledge and culture

Concept: Sports + Cultural Event (Food/Music/etc.)

Principles: Team sports, Mixed Teams (from all Euro-BRICS countries & Gender mixed teams), One day for sports from each country, Friendly Spirit, not competitive, Open for everyone, Selection process upon interest and motivation, Have famous professional coaches

Outcomes: Feedback and multidimensional presentation about team work, cultural experience based on final evaluation at the end of festival

### . Euro BRICS Art and Culture Exchange Web Platform

Concept: work together to enrich lives by inspiring new forms of artistic expressions and providing fresh insights

## What is this about?

- sharing ideas for social change
- experience each other culture
- document cultural diversity
- collaboration for joint projects
- “Humans of Euro-BRICS”

## For whom?

- all artists, students, researchers, writers, film makers etc.



Content:

- ideas (webinars, opinions, blogs, lectures)
- events (film festivals, art exhibitions)
- projects (artist residencies exchange)
- student research, journalists)
- travel (people-to-people exchange)
- cultural experience)
- literary exchange
- language corner• student research, journalists)
- travel (people-to-people exchange)
- cultural experience)
- literary exchange
- language corner



# Euro-BRICS

## 3.0 SENIOR SESSION

5th Euro-BRICS seminar

Regional integrations as a model for XXIst century multipolar global governance

Helsinki, June 8th, 2015

Organized by LEAP in the framework of the first Euro-BRICS Young Leaders' Summit

- Executive Summary -

Workshop Moderator:

Veronique Swinkels

Workshop Rapporteur:

Teona Gurguenidze

Participants:

Marie-Hélène Caillol, Caroline Lubbers, Christel Hahn, K. N. Harilal, Jan-Willem Le Grand, Michael Kahn, Bhanu Joshi, Léa Charlet, Alexander Zhebit, Song Hong, Gracjan Cimek, Maiara Folly, Irina Z. Yarygina, Zoltán Lupták, Lenka Holubová, Georgeta Grama, Vijila Kennedy, Nikolai Kazantsev, Pawel Kusiak, Sophie Berger, Roman Chukov, Pekka Suominen, Fizza Jaffer, Rodrigo Reis, Vivienne Blommendaal and Kateryna Shalayeva





## Rationale By LEAP

The Ukrainian crisis which marked the year 2014 was analysed by LEAP's Euro-BRICS network as the result of an overlap between two economic unions, the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, having failed to cooperate in creating the conditions for a non-conflictual co-development. In other words: « the first conflict of the multipolar world ». Indeed the multipolarity of the XXIst century world is neither good or bad, it is a fact which policy-makers must address with optimism and rationality in order to organise it so that today's multipolar world doesn't look like Europe in the 1930s.

More generally, the Euro-Russian crisis, as well as all those currently multiplying in the Middle-East and worldwide, clearly signal that the system of global governance is breathless and that it is now a matter of emergency to reform, see rebuild, it in order to avoid – or at least limit in duration – a loss of control of the geopolitical situation.

Since 2009, LEAP has been anticipating that a rapprochement between Europe and the BRICS was likely to contribute significantly to reinventing tomorrow's global governance:

- . the euro-BRICS axis is representative of today's global balance in terms of economic and demographic weight namely
- . the BRICS countries are emblematic of the emerging multipolar world
- . Europe must acknowledge this reality to prevent a West/BRICS bipolarisation

Lastly, Europe and the BRICS anchor themselves into experiences of regional integration which provide a natural model for mutipolar global governance. European Union, Mercosur, African Union, Eurasian Union,... are indeed successful processes of integration of nation-states of different size and culture.

These regional integrations probably account for the most successful achievement of nation-states in the second half of the XXth century. But today these nation-states seem to hesitate to finalise this process of organisation of the XXIst century world, a hesitation likely to nullify all the work done until now.

Supra-national entities are indeed faced to three challenges today:

- . achieve their democratic anchorage in order to gain the political legitimacy they need (and deserve) to operate normally (Towards a political validation of regional entities)
- . find their place in a global architecture today suffering from relying on the national level only (Towards the creation of the intermediate level of global architecture)
- . adapt their model of inter-state cooperation to inter-block cooperation on a global level (Towards a multipolar global governance).



The 5th Euro-BRICS conference tackled this issue of the integration of supra-national (EU, AU, Eurasia, Mercosur...) and mega-national (China, India...) entities to the global architecture, as well as its feasibility and the role states must play in this finalisation of the process of regional integration and establishing of a multipolar global governance adapted to the characteristics of the XXIst century.

## Report

**by Maiara Folly (member of the Brazilian youth delegation)**

The 5th Euro-BRICS Seminar addressed the issue of Regional Integration as a model for the XXIst century multipolar global governance.

The first panel was entitled: “Finalizing Regional Integration Processes into Full-fleshed Political Entities”.

The first speaker, Christel Hahn, Member of directory board, Club Newropeans (DE) discussed about the European regional integration and emphasized the importance of promoting the democratization of European Union’s institutions in order to guarantee a sustainable Europe and send a positive signal at to the capacity of supra-national entities to be democratically-rooted and gain political dimension. Christel Hahn highlighted the fact that being in Helsinki 40 years after the final act of the “Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe”, should help become aware, that the CSCE process, which by the way was initiated not by the West, but by the East and our host country Finland, largely contributed to the peaceful transformation of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, and we should remember, that a peaceful transformation through regional integration is the only sustainable option. Thus Christel Hahn sees the need for an agile system of multi-level governance, that connects institutions and citizens, existing bodies and new organizations, politicians and professionals, communities, states and regions, ... The debate is opened, how to create a sustainable governance for the global community, that transcends the current competitive political system and it is up to the young generation to create this global governance of the multipolar world of the 21st century.

Professor Harilal, Member State Planning Board, Government of Kerala, India (IN) presented on “Regions, Nation-States, Citizens and Democracy in Global Governance”, talked about the importance of finalizing regional integration processes into fully-fleshed political entities. Harilal pointed out that we currently face a lack of legitimacy of local and national governments, which is related to the fact that local leaders have to respond to commitments and agreements taken at the supranational level even without having participated of the negotiation processes that resulted on such agreements. Prof. Harilal highlighted how national democracies are today being crushed by having their role reduced to implement non-democratically agreed supra-national policies. In this sense, in order to create more democratically grounded and thus more effective political and economic mechanisms, Prof. Harilal asserted the necessity of including citizens’ needs and demands in the agenda of global leaders, international institutions, and organizations.



needs and demands in the agenda of global leaders, international institutions, and organizations.

The second panel of the seminar was entitled “Combining Supranational entities and Nation-states into the Architecture of XXIst Multipolar Global Governance.

Jan-Willem Le Grand, PhD, Strategic Policy Advisor, Western Hemisphere Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague (NL), spoke about Latin America’s regional integration process, highlighting its complexity as long as the advances and difficulties the region has faced since the creation of its main integration process institution: MERCOSUR, a free trade zone between Latin American nations that began in 1991. Mr Le Grand centered his presentation on Brazil specifically, showing the complexity of today’s international relations by presenting the country’s participation in so many different supra-national initiatives: Mercosur, Unasur, Celac, Bric, OAS, etc... Mr Le Grand mentioned the forthcoming European Union-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) summit and explained the challenges and achievements that could result from such a meeting. Finally, Mr Le Grand analyzed Brazil’s role in Latin American and identified some of the dilemmas the country faces as a result of its ambitions of becoming a global player, including Brazil’s internal problems such as inequality and corruption. The diplomat also stated that country’s position as a legitimate representative of Latin America in international forums and organizations cannot be taken for granted, since other countries such as Argentina and Venezuela contest this role.

Michael Kahn, Professor Extraordinaire, Stellenbosch University / Director, Research and Innovation Associates, Cape Town (ZA), presented on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) - composed by 10 African countries - and the South African Customs Union (SACU), the longest customs union in the world, formed by Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland. Prof Kahn drew attention to the important achievements of these entities but also stressed the tensions among their members, emphasizing how these disagreements pose some challenges to SACU’s and SADC’s functioning and efficiency. Finally, Kahn pointed out the necessity for African countries to avoid participating in unequal trade agreements in order to avoid a relation of dependency with a third party. For this purpose, technology transfers and skill development conditions should be included in such agreements. Prof Kahn interestingly hinted at the inherent risk of regional hegemonisation of BRICS countries taken individually. Hence the importance of combining BRICS and win-win approaches to each country’s regional integration(s).

Bhanu Joshi, Researcher at the Centre for Policy Research (IN), presented his vision on progress in South Asian regional integration as a result of the dynamic induced by India’s new Prime Minister, Mr Modi. On this basis, Mr Joshi identified a series of challenges, strongly echoing other regions’ concerns: integrated South Asia with a neighbourhood policy, promotion of indigenous cultures and languages, breaking regions’ security paranoia and building a strategic independence for the region, democratizing the resulting supra-national edifice, ... all concerns showing how progress in SAARC is key I building shared prosperity and security in the region.





The third panel was entitled: “Adapting the model of regional integration to the invention of a multipolar global governance”.

Alexander Zhebit, PhD, Professor of International Studies, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (BR) highlighted the importance of moving to a fair cooperation of Global Regions in a multipolar world. The professor pointed out that regionalization should be seen as an ultimate goal of global development, since integrated regions are more prepared to avoid direct outside intervention in their regions and to overcome economic and political crisis. Finally, in reference to a BRICS-European Union potential cooperation, Zhebit called the attention to the necessity to create a special regime and a codified international law in order to both regulate the interaction between these two global regions and avoid uncertainties in a world regional order.

Song Hong, Senior fellow, Professor, and Assistant Director General of IWEP, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing (CH) presented on China’s investments worldwide, focusing on the recently initiative to promote Asiano-Euro-African cooperation : the “One belt, one road” project. Prof. Song Hong sees these investments as an example of win-win cooperation, since in addition to strengthening China’s economic growth it provides part of the infrastructure needed by Chinese neighbors and creates the conditions for their connection to global dynamics in the case of remote regions, and for their benefitting from emerging economies’ momentum in the case of post-industrialized countries. According to the professor, China has a strong expertise and industrial capacity in terms of infrastructure provision. In this sense, China’s investments in regional integration projects should be welcomed, as it could be a tool to integrate regional blocs to a multipolar world.

The last panel of the seminar was entitled: “Obstacles, feasibility and role of states in the process”.

Gracjan Cimek, Deputy Director of the Institute of International Relations, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia (PL), highlighted the need to create a world order in which the stronger no longer use the weaker to gain political and economic power. Cimek argued that the maintenance of unequal relationships between countries and regional blocs could lead to disorder and chaos. Accordingly, the professor emphasized that the European Union and the BRICS should work together and cooperate in diverse areas of international relations and then help build a more equal and security world order.

Maiara Folly, student and researcher at the institute of international relations at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) and at the Royal Portuguese Cabinet of Reading, proposed the idea of “The BRICS New Development Bank as a Bridge to Regional Integration”, arguing that rather than investing in isolated projects, the bank should strategically invest in regional integration projects. In this sense, the potential cooperation between the New Development Bank and regional organizations should be explored, as it can be both a way to promote sustainable development and a path towards the integration of regional blocs to the global governance.



The last panelist, Irina Z. Yarygina, Dr. of Econ. Sciences, Professor of the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation and of the MGIMO (U) under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Head of Programs, Moscow (RU), talked about the Challenges of Euro-BRICS financial cooperation. The professor stressed that a stable international order depends on finding common interests and creating mechanisms to promote development in the European Union and in the BRICS countries. Prof. Yarygina emphasized the economic and political importance of these two blocs, arguing that they should joint efforts in order to promote interaction in different international relations' stances at the private and global level, as it can be an important way of guaranteeing financial stability and economic growth.

## **Conclusion** **By LEAP**

This 5th Euro-BRICS seminar took place in the very special context of the 1st Euro-BRICS Young Leaders Summit. It has therefore gained from the considerable dynamics created by the youth approach to Euro-BRICS rapprochement. The focus put on the youth part of the event has also resulted in a reduction of the seminar's format from two days to a 5 hour session.

In these 5 hours however, some forty participants have been able to cover the four projected sub-topics through a series of eleven highly stimulating presentations and the discussions that followed them.

The rationale behind the subject proposed for this 5th Euro-BRICS seminar consisted of highlighting the similarities between the processes of regional integration conducted throughout the world and in Europe in particular in the second half of the XXth century, on the one hand, and the challenge facing the world in the XXIst century of creating the conditions of peaceful win-win cooperation among the big components of the multipolar world.

Based on this general assertion, the aim was two-fold mostly:

- . learning form the successes and failures of the model of regional integration invented in the XXth century and deriving from it principles and ideas for the invention of XXIst century multipolar global governance
- . but also, asserting the need to insert the integrated regions into the XXIst century architecture of global governance, based on the assumption that these regions contribute to stabilize the whole edifice.

However, already at the stage of formulation of the seminar's rationale, it appeared that the question of the political legitimacy of integrated regions to take their place in the global architecture could be an obstacle.



Well, clearly the seminar showed how much this lack of political legitimacy of integrated regions was preventing us from reaching any tangible result in both our attempt to present regional integration as a fully relevant model for the construction of the multipolar global governance and to assert the relevance of inserting integrated regions into the future global architecture.

It is a fact that the lack of democratic anchorage of integrated regions prevents them from playing the role that they could play on the global scene. And the BRICS club sends a very strong signal in this direction: indeed this club of mega-nations indicates that it's only the very big citizen-anchored nations that have the sufficient leverage, especially when combining their strength together, to induce the required changes in terms of global governance. For the time being most supra-national entities remain out of the international arena, even if the EU is one of the G20.

Deep down, it is a problem that the XXIst century is not able to build on the most innovative, peace-bearing and successful trans-national cooperation experience conducted in the XXth century, and is instead compelled to start its history based on the usual rationale of might. And it is a problem too that already extremely powerful political entities such as the BRICS could see their power enhanced further through the role history compels them to play. Will the multipolar world become a multipower world in fact? and if it is so, how long will it remain peaceful and cooperative as it is trying today to prove it intends to be?

These considerations enable to identify new challenges to address and four themes of cooperation extremely relevant to the Euro-BRICS bridging effort:

- . proving that supra-national entities can connect to the people directly (and not member-states only) in order to gain political existence internally of course but globally also, knowing that the multipolar world in order to be stable must aim at integrating into its architecture all nations and that small nations must therefore get organized together into political integrated regions

- . contributing to exchange know-how and experience between Europe and the BRICS in terms of multinational cooperation at every level as a peace-building method, knowing that the EU, even if yet incomplete, provides the most advanced structured realization in this regard

- . balancing the BRICS' mission of building global governance with another BRICS' mission of contributing positively to the success of regional integrations in their environment, knowing that the BRICS are already aware of this part of their added-value as proved by the BRICS-supra-national Summit they organize each year (BRICS-AU, BRICS-Mercosur, etc...)

- . finding the ways to combine two different types of political entities, mega-national and the supra-national, into one articulated and fluid global architecture.





Indeed if the BRICS are composed of mega-national entities risking becoming regional hegemony, two characteristics of their initiative are causes for optimism:

- . The fact that they decided to combine strength into a club built on win-win logics
- . The fact that they prove their concern for contributing to their regional integration in very tangible ways such as the “one belt, one road” project, the creation of development tools (banks...), their BRICS-region summits, etc...

A next Euro-BRICS seminar, or a special workshop in the next Euro-BRICS Young Leaders’ Summit, could gather representatives from a large variety of supra-national entities connected to BRICS or European countries and discuss:

- . their different concerns and priorities in terms of upcoming development - in terms in particular of democracy and/or citizen-anchorage
- . the articulation between them and their mega-national component (Germany and the EU, India and Saarc, Brazil and Unasur, South Africa and the African Union, Russia and the Euroasian Economic Union, China and ...)
- . problems raised by geographical vicinity among these entities

As a positive conclusion to a synthesis which started on the anticipation of potential risks, the XXIst century seen from XIXth century nation-based rationality might look like a vast chaos, combining a large number of national, sub-national, supra-national, multinational, mega-national, supra-regional entities... and their bi/multilateral relations, with each nation-state participating in a variety of them. But this world is made possible by Internet and Internet has the power to turn this apparent chaos into creative organicity. Attempts to rationalize this new system will be destructive and we must all learn to not understand and control everything but rather have faith in the fact that this super-interconnected world leaves less and less space to old-style territorial conflagrations. Even the Ukrainian crisis proves this fact to date. And the fact that explosive regions like the Middle East are extremely ill-connected to global dynamics, proves the relevance of the globalization rationale according to which interconnection creates the conditions for peace. It will do so all the more when the whole system will connect to the citizens directly, and not just the national level as it is the case today.



# Euro-BRICS

## 4.0 CONCLUSION

This first edition of the Euro-BRICS Young Leaders Summit made clear the relevance of the idea of a permanent Euro-BRICS Youth online Platform connecting through internet a large network of young representatives and students from Europe and the BRICS to conduct projects aimed at directly addressing global issues through concrete projects such as those listed in the workshop conclusions presented above. Indeed the concept of the Platform is one of direct youth participation to global issues. Before Internet, only officially elected high level leaders and policy-makers could afford to connect with one another on a global scale. Today Internet enables citizens and youth to influence reality at every level : on the local level, youth participation is a fact ; but on all other levels, the same can occur, it is just a matter of gathering networks consistent with the level addressed. As regards global issues, a Euro-BRICS network is a relevant tool for direct action.

Projects such as Euro-BRICS sporting events, inter-academic cooperation, scientific research networks, exchange of know-how in the field of sustainability, media, etc... just need the youth themselves and their capacity to get organised and access to fundings in order to become true.

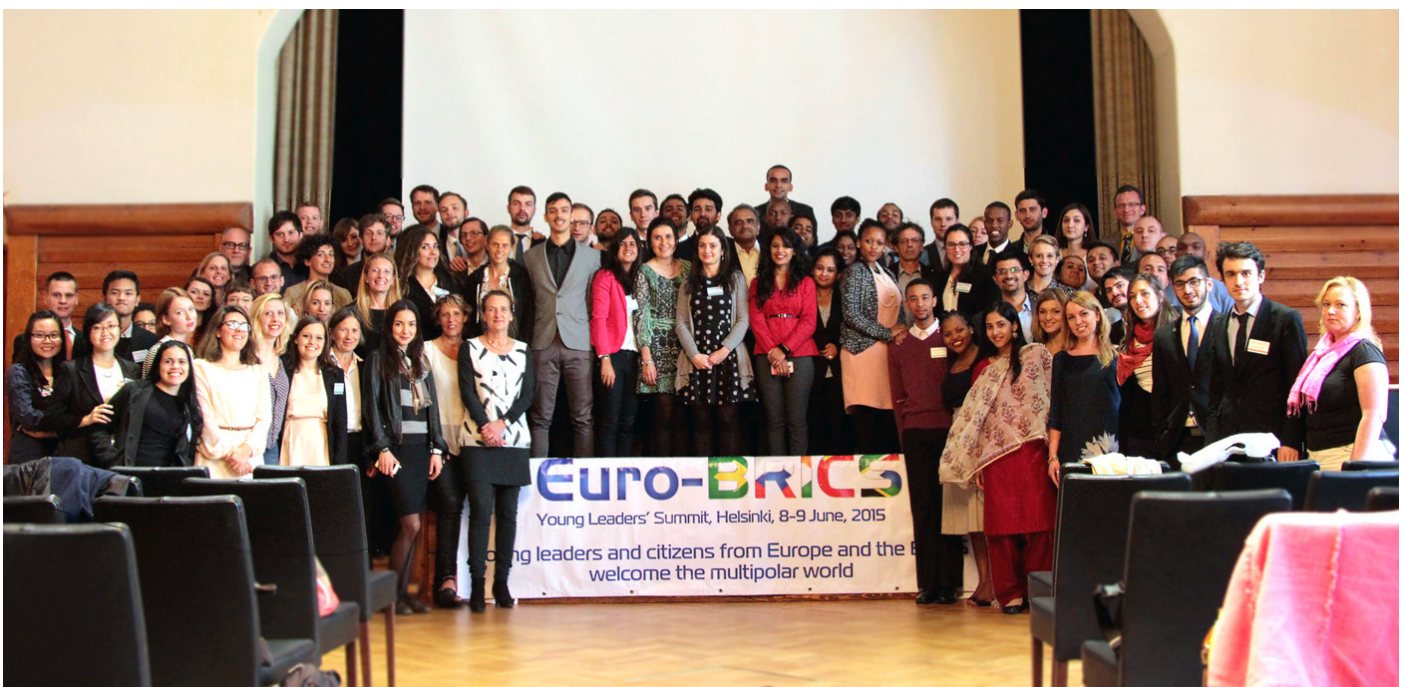
However, some of the recommendations identified above require advocacy capacity, such as contribute to the creation of BRICS units in EU Foreign Ministries, lift out-dated visa procedures, etc... For this reason, the Euro-BRICS Youth Platform will convene on a yearly basis into official summits and invite high level officials to join, share and listen at their claims and vision. Actions such as public statements sent towards the highest levels of national and supra-national policy making, can take place too on the basis of this platform. But the Euro-BRICS Youth Platform intends to be neither a beggar nor anybody's kitten. It is a very powerful tool for the Euro-BRICS youth to occupy their common future and address challenges which are global and require efficient global action.



Their energy will serve a better future and can help policy-makers find the momentum to implement required changes. The Euro-BRICS Youth Platform will therefore be officially launched and developed from this Summit onward, with a first concrete objective of organising a second Summit in India in June 2016, one that will be, this time, attended by high-level diplomats, civil servants and policy makers.

Global challenges are too obviously dramatic, and platforms connecting global leaders too obviously insufficiently citizen-anchored, for Euro-BRICS youth to remain cross-armed and not add their energy and motivation to build a better future to the existing G20, BRICS and other globally-relevant attempts put the world on the right tracks.

*Discover the event's brochure including full programme and list of participants here.*





# Euro-BRICS

## 5.0 PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Laboratoire Européen d'Anticipation Politique LEAP (EU)  
Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe AEGEE (EU)  
AEGEE-St Petersburg (RU)  
Moscow State Institute of International Relations MGIMO (RU)  
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