

REPORT

3rd Euro-BRICS Webinar on **POLITICAL ANTICIPATION**

Webinar 3: Political Anticipation applied to multipolar world challenges

Political Anticipation serving decision-making : Strategies and projects for a significant role of the Euro-BRICS Youth Platform in addressing multipolar world challenges

Organised by:



for

EURO-BRICS YOUTH
EURO-BRICS YOUNG LEADERS' PLATFORM OCCUPY THE FUTURE

4 Keynote speakers



#Talk 1

Kaspar Meyer has studied Sociology, European Studies and International Relations in Germany, Russia, France, Turkey and Belgium. He is currently working for the BRICS Research Center of Fudan University in Shanghai, where he conducts research on the BRICS platform and China-Latin America relations.



#Talk 2

Roman Printsev is the current Euro-BRICS Platform Coordinator. Has studied Economics, Politics & International relations in University College Dublin, and is currently studying Public Administration in Russian Presidential Academy, Moscow.



#Talk 3

Rohan Sankhla studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He worked as IT officer for the LSE Alternative Investments Conference. He also worked as a research intern for the Energy and Resources Institute and the



#Talk 4

Raymond Matlala is a Doctoral Candidate in Business Administration at Tshwane University of Technology. He holds a Master's Degree in Entrepreneurship, Bachelor of Technology in Management, National Diploma in Management and Certificate in Management from Tshwane University of Technology. Raymond works as a Researcher at JET Education Services. .

Framing the EURO-BRICS Platform, by Kaspar Meyer

What is our vision?

What are the different dimensions of our platform?

How and to whom do we communicate them?

Our audiences

Political partners | corporate partners | NGOs & foundations | broader public & delegates

To effectively and strategically frame and communicate our ideas, we have to tap into undercurrents. These are unconsciously shared beliefs which can differ according to society, social and professional group. In three steps, we have to identify undercurrents in the EU, undercurrents among BRICS countries, and finally see where they can fit together to tell the story of our EUROBRICS platform

The following lists are not exhaustive and subject to debate.

1. Examining different narratives of the EU, we can identify some undercurrents

- a) The EU as a peace project (France, Germany & Benelux – less relevant today)
- b) The EU as a community of shared values and culture (Western Europe)
- c) The EU as regional and global defender of human rights and universalist values (mostly France)
- d) The EU an internationally relevant foreign policy and security actor (France)
- e) The EU as a project for economic growth, transition & expansion (Germany & Eastern Europe)
- f) ...

2. In the same way, we can examine why BRICS countries are engaged with each other

- a) The BRICS as a tool for economic coordination between emerging economies and for reform of the international financial system (NDB, CRM)
- b) The BRICS as a framework to emphasize South-to-South relations on the international scene (Brazil and South Africa)
- c) The BRICS as 'norm entrepreneurs', defending values such as sovereignty, coexistence, no interference (China, Russia).
- d) The BRICS as a platform to (re)gain economic and political clout (Russia, India)
- e) ...

3. How does the EU understand the BRICS platform?

- a) As an economic opportunity – BRICS countries and the EU are economically interdependent, coordination of policies is necessary. Growth in the EU is related to growth in the BRICS and viceversa.
- b) The BRICS as an increasingly institutionalized and coordinated international, therefore to some extent as a normative and security challenge.
- c) At the same time, the EU sees itself in the role to engage and integrate emerging powers into the international system, as a promoter of partnership and inclusive governance, at the same time maintaining its leverage.

d) Putting Russia apart, BRICS countries are all developing countries according to official classifications – the global reduction of poverty can be seen through the EU lenses of development policies and North-South dialogue.

e) Finally, we can differentiate between the government-to-government and the people-to-people level. Based on the EU's internal experience, people-to-people relations and the associated universal values play an important role on how the EU engages with its partners.

f) ...

4. How do BRICS countries perceive the EU?

To be worked on with help of BRICS representatives from our network

5. EURO-BRICS Platform

a) Communication with political partners

We have to make very clear why this is a EURO-BRICS platform and not another BRICS platform –what is the added value of our format? The biggest challenge lies in gaining political support. Due to normative competition, we have to carefully frame the necessity to cooperate with each other. One point of common interest would be cooperation in the fight against terrorism (EU, Russia, China, India). This issue has many potential dimensions, from military and intelligence cooperation over to regional development, integration and prevention, and can therefore be interesting to a broad range of partners.

Multilateralism and diversity is another issue where there are a lot of points of contacts. The US is seen as the driving force between unilateralism. The EU, even if part of the West and NATO, can be portrayed as a more credible promoter of multilateralism. This norm is built into its own institutions and Europe has experience in dealing with diverging interests. In order to get partners in Europe, it will be indispensable to focus on societal norms. However, we can focus on those which are less controversial and embedded in the UN framework, for example gender equality or sustainable development. Apart from the multilateral format, we can also speak about bilateral relations and examine the topics that are high on the agenda in the EU's strategic partnerships with the BRICS countries.

b) Communication with corporate partners

Establishing partnerships with companies should be an easier task. According to the company, we have to frame our vision slightly differently. We can highlight the importance of the BRICS markets for European growth, or the importance of BRICS partnerships with the EU in terms of modernization and technology. Furthermore, coordination of economic policies and development policies (NDB, AIIB) could attract the interest of multinational companies. Another area could be the creation of personal business networks.

c) Communication with NGOs and foundations

Every NGO / foundation as its own focus. Based on our vision and our programme, we can highlight elements of ecological sustainability, creating a young leaders' network, diversity or cultural exchange.

d) Communication with the broader public (social networks, recruitment etc.)

In order to engage the public, we can focus on a more personal story telling. First, we might highlight our personal stories with the network, what motivates us to take part in it and why we believe this is going to be relevant in the future. We have to work with visually attractive material, mostly videos and pictures to stand out in the constant flow of information on social media. The frame has to be less complex and less focussed on political and economic issues

6. What makes a good frame?

POLITICS

PRINCIPLES

PERSONALITY

Politics: What do we do?

- a) Organize a yearly summit among young leaders in changing locations
- b) Organize local events in Europe / BRICS countries
- c) Publish articles and magazine on EU-BRICS
- d) ...

Principles: Why do we do it?

- a) Multipolarity and diversity in global governance and decision-making
- b) Anticipation of future developments, creation of a young leaders' network with the necessary skills and perspective
- c) Agenda-setting: influence the public debate in Europe and BRICS countries
- d) long-term vision of a world with less friction between different actors and norms

Personality: Who does it?

- a) Evoke our personal motivations and experiences with other countries
- b) Evoke our personal engagement with the different topics of our programme (environment, diversity, gender rights etc.)
- c) Anticipation methodology based on Frank Biancheri's legacy, reference to LEAP's lobbying for the Erasmus programme
- d) ...

7. What has to be done?

Identify our
own
undercurrents

Identify
undercurrents
of other
countries

Identify
potential
partners

Develop
different
frames

Work on the
form of our
communication

Listen to Kaspar's presentation here: <https://soundcloud.com/fbnetworks/framing-the-euro-brics-platform-by-kaspar-meyer?in=fbnetworks/sets/leap-academy-third-euro-brics-youth-webinar-on-political-anticipation>

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#Talk 2

Creation of a balanced identity and promotion of a truly balanced platform, By Roman Printsev

How we present ourselves is everything.

Our image, our mission, logo, colors we use, forms an impression about us to other. In order to create a balanced image and to be adequately accepted in all bodies of Euro-BRICS we must take into consideration each cultures norms. A misleading logo can easily fail the whole project, irregardless of how good, balanced, beneficial to the society the idea is of our project.

Ten minutes of the speech were dedicated to an introduction of precautions which the platform will undertake during initial development, dangers of inappropriate cultural approach, creation of a balanced identity and promotion of a truly balanced platform.

Listen to Roman's presentation here: <https://soundcloud.com/fbnetworks/creation-of-a-balanced-identity-and-promotion-of-a-truly-balanced-platform-by-roman-printsev?in=fbnetworks/sets/leap-academy-third-euro-brics-youth-webinar-on-political-anticipation>

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#Talk 3

Euro-BRICS Youth Summit, By Rohan Sankhla

The Euro-BRICS Summit 2015 was innovative in many domains. It brought together a truly diverse community of passionate individuals and fostered them in its intimate environment to generate innovative ideas and long lasting relationships. The 2016 summit must strive to achieve the same and out do its own legacy.

To ensure this, I propose setting up an institutional mechanism that creates the framework to not just brainstorm and ideate strategies for a multipolar world, but one that allows for decisions to be taken and that results in action!

What's unique about us is that we all share the characteristic of being leaders of the motivated youth in our countries. Why not exploit this uniqueness? I propose a summit that is designed not just to kindle ideas and create bonds, but also to allow for their implementation. Moreover, this implementation can be done by us, the youth itself!

How can we achieve this? I propose incentivising the active youth of a country (based on the unique skill sets they can each contribute to teams categorised in workshops similar to those in the last summit), to attend the summit, ideate with the international community created by the summit, and to return to implement their ideas in their own contexts. To allow the participants of the summit to execute the ideas they conceptualised, we must equip them with the right tools. It would be essential to fundraise beyond the costs of the summit to the extent that we can allocate a budget to each work shop. By allocating a small fund, co-assembled by the organising committee and the participants themes selves, we could allow theme oriented workshops to implement their ideas, both in the host city and in the home cities of the participants. This partnership model of fundraising will not just attract capable motivated individuals but also invest them into the success of the summit. It would be important to note that this is fundraising and not merely sponsoring.

In the webinar, Rohan intended to ideate and clarify on my vision for this partnership model of fundraising. I believe, like how the previous summit was run by the organising team, we should be facilitators. Moreover, I hope to bring forward and brainstorm more ideas that subtly incentivise and guide the participants of the summit towards its vision and goals.

Listen to Rohan's presentation here: <https://soundcloud.com/fbnetworks/euro-brics-youth-summit-by-rohan-sankhla?in=fbnetworks/sets/leap-academy-third-euro-brics-youth-webinar-on-political-anticipation>

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#Talk 3

Advanced Science suggests peaceful co-existence in a multipolar world, By Raymond Matlala

INTRODUCTION

In today's world, the global community is faced with challenges of terrorism and conflicts. It appears that the international system is sliding towards multipolarity, a world in which no single great power is in a position to dominate its peers. This is evident the concept of EURO-BRICS where European countries are forging relations with the BRICS countries.

In an increasingly interconnected world (i.e multipolar world), there exist an ongoing concern about inequality, poverty, poor health, human rights violations, terrorism, conflict and sustainable development. As a result, promoting citizenship in a multipolar world through education is fundamental to mitigating these challenges and enabling people, particularly young and adults to act responsibly towards each other. It is therefore vital for youth of today as the next generation of global leaders to engage on topics such as global citizenship for building a better future for our world, because without the common understanding and tolerance within the youth violence and terrorism will dominate our beautiful world.

What really constitute GCE?

There is a lot of contestation around the concept and what really constitute GCED.





The concept of EURO-BRICS as a multipolar world model

In 2009 Laboratoire européen d'Anticipation Politique (LEAP) amalgamated the two channels of EU and BRICS, hence the limelight shifted to Euro-BRICS. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Frank Biancheri, LEAP came to realise the potential of this rapprochement.

It had a strong potential to the vitally needed (re)invention of global governance in a world that had transitioned from being bipolar to being multipolar; a world suddenly presenting strong structural analogies with Europe at the dawn of the XXIth century.

This led to the launch of the Euro-BRICS Youth Platform. At the penultimate stage, the concept of Euro-BRICS Young Leaders' Summit which was planned to be held in Helsinki was affirmed.

Online course(s) to promote global citizenship in addressing multipolar world challenges

Consequently, the EURO-BRICS Youth Platform shall develop an online course and programmes which will promote global citizenship in a multipolar world.

This online course should include aspects such as; (a) learning about history of different countries within the EU and BRICS, (b) understanding of the world affairs and challenges, (c) political anticipation, and etc. Furthermore, thematic themes of the EURO-BRICS such as peace, democracy, modernity, and international politics can be covered in the programme.

This course can be provided online and the materials can be developed by both LEAP and EURO-BRICS team of experts, contributions can be derived from the youth platform.

As Such, anybody can have access to this course and will then start to shift the mind-set of the people in particular the next generation of leaders of the world.

Conclusion

With tensions and conflict rising in today's world, it is necessary for youth of today to work towards harmonization, peace, respect and ethical leadership. Education provides an opportunity for this harmony to exist. As a result training the current learners on how to become global citizens in a multipolar world to be part and embedded within our education systems, particularly basic education.

As a result, resources should be made available for the implementation and creating awareness of the concept of global citizenship. As indicated above, LEAP has taken the first step in creating a platform of a multipolar world. It is evident from the EURO-BRICS concept that partnerships and tolerance can be achieved by members of different cultures, religions, values and background, thus providing a better chance for a better future around the globe.

Listen to Raymond's presentation here: <https://soundcloud.com/fbnetworks/advanced-science-suggests-peaceful-co-existence-in-a-multipolar-world-by-raymond-matlala?in=fbnetworks/sets/leap-academy-third-euro-brics-youth-webinar-on-political-anticipation>

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