The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina

The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina brings together the expertise of some 1,500 distinguished scientists to bear on questions of social and political relevance, publishing unbiased and timely scientific opinions. The Leopoldina represents the German scientific community in international committees and pursues the advancement of science for the benefit of humankind and for a better future.

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (88 members and 75 corresponding members) contributes through its activities, to the development of scientific thought, as well as artistic creativity, particularly by: addressing the fundamental issues of sciences and arts; contributing to the policies concerning research activities and artistic creation; providing proposals and opinions on the state, development and promotion of sciences and arts; organising research activities in cooperation with universities and research institutes, especially its Research Centre, with special emphasis on topics related to the Slovenian national, natural and cultural heritage, and the development of the Slovenian language and culture; developing international cooperation in the fields of sciences and arts.

Human Rights Committee (HRC) of the Leopoldina

The Human Rights Committee (HRC) was established in 2001 and consists of members of the Leopoldina from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The current chairman is Professor Hans-Peter Zenner. In 2003, the HRC joined the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (The H.R. Network). As a member of the H.R. Network, the HRC assists scientists around the world who are subjected to repression. Moreover, it periodically organises the symposium “Human Rights and Science” to debate human rights aspects and bioethical questions in science and to discuss worldwide cases of scientists who are victims of human rights violations. The Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), based in Ljubljana, is this year’s partner.

6th Symposium “Human Rights and Science”

Topic: Human Rights and Refugees

Since autumn 2013, the number of people migrating from the Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world to Europe has dramatically increased. Among them are many scientists who seek shelter from terrorism, armed conflicts, oppression or critical social and economic shortages. At the same time, European countries such as Slovenia and Germany are strongly affected by these refugee flows in their role as host or transit countries, temporary or on a longer term. They have to cope with tremendous challenges in migration and border management, asylum seeking procedures and integration.

The 6th symposium “Human Rights and Science” discusses the human rights dimension in the study of the latest refugee crisis in Europe, the handling of migration flows as well as the integration of refugees. Additionally, the meeting debates efforts of science and research organisations in providing support for oppressed and asylum seeking scientists in Europe.
Thursday, 29 September 2016

9:00 – 9:15 | Welcome
Prof Tadej Bajd
President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia
Prof Gereon Wolters ML
Member of the Human Rights Committee (HRC) of the Leopoldina, Germany

Session 1
Managing the Refugee Flows in Europe on the Basis of Human Rights. Responses by States, NGOs and Civil Society Stakeholders Across Europe
Chair:
Prof Bruno Gottstein ML
Leopoldina-HRC, Switzerland

09:15 – 10:00
Refugees and Equality Before the Law
Dr Michael Collyer
University of Sussex, United Kingdom

10:00 – 10:45
Critical Reflection on European Governments’ Response to the Present Refugee Flows
Dr Andrej Kurnik
University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

10:45 – 11:15 | Break

11:15 – 12:00
The Role(s) of Borders in EU “Migration Management”
Dr Andrej Kurrik
University of Λυβδλια, Slovenia

12:00 – 12:45
The Challenge of Shaping a European Asylum System Claiming Human Rights
Chair/Moderator: Prof Sabine Hess
University of Göttingen, Germany

12:45 – 13:45 | Lunch

Friday, 30 September 2016

Session 2
What Does Integration Mean: Host or Recipient Society?
Chair: Prof Alenka Selih
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia

13:45 – 14:30
Perspective of a Refugee
Neda Soltni
Scholar Rescue Fund, Institute of International Education, Germany

14:30 – 15:15
“Refugee Flows” and the Complexity of Social Relations: The Case of Slovenia
Prof Marina Lukšič Hacin
Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenian Migration Institute, Slovenia

15:15 – 16:00
The Meaning of Integration under the Conditions of Complex and Dynamic Societies
Prof Albert Scherr
Freiburg University of Education, Germany

16:00 – 16:30 | Break

Session 3
The Challenge of Shaping a European Asylum System Claiming Human Rights
Chair/Moderator: Prof Sabine Hess
University of Göttingen, Germany

16:30 – 16:50 | Impulse Lecture
Have We Lost Our Compass? Refugee Rights in Current EU Policies
Prof Petra Bendel
University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

16:50 – 18:15 | Panel Discussion
Dr Mojca Painik
Research Counsellor, Peace Institute, Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Slovenia
Prof Petra Bendel
Academic Director and General Manager of the International and Interdisciplinary Center for Area Studies, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany

Karl Kopp
Director of European Affairs, Pro Asyl, Germany
Nina Gregori
Director General, Administrative Internal Affairs, Migration and Naturalization Directorate, Ministry of Interior, Slovenia
Laurent Muschel
Director “Migration and Protection”, Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission, Belgium

Session 4
Efforts of Science Organisations to Support Oppressed Scientists and those Seeking Asylum in Europe
Chair: Prof Gereon Wolters ML
Leopoldina-HRC, Germany

9:30 – 10:00
The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies: Developments and Transitions
Dr Rebecca Ettry
Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies, USA

10:00 – 10:30
“If not us, then who?*: The Refugee Crisis and the Work of Scholars at Risk
Prof Donna C. Stanton
Scholars at Risk, USA

10:30 – 11:00 | Break

11:00 – 11:30
Slovenian Science Organisations and their Support for Oppressed Scientists
Prof Alenka Selih
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia

11:30 – 12:00
The Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation
Dr Barbara Sheldon
Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany

12:00 – 12:45 | Discussion
What are Future Steps to Support Oppressed and Asylum Seeking Scientists?

12:45 | Close of Conference

Contact
Dr Jan Nissen
German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
Department of International Relations
Phone: +49 (0)145 472 39 834
Email: jan.nissen@leopoldina.org

Anja Vodišek
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Department for International Relations and Scientific Coordination
Phone: +386 (0)1-4706-135
Email: international@sazu.si

Venue
Atrium of the Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Novi trg 2 | SI-1000 Ljubljana
www.zrc-sazu.si/sl/strani/atrij-zrc

Scientific Organisation
Prof Sabine Hess
Director of the Göttingen Center for Gender Studies
University of Göttingen, Germany

Prof Alenka Selih
Commission for Human Rights
Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia

Prof Marina Lukšič Hacin
Research Advisor at the Slovenian Migration Institute
Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia