



Call for Participation

Daily Europeans – avant-garde or dreamers?

OpenForum Cascais (March 12 - 14, 2009)

What is the OpenForum Cascais about?

The Open Forum Cascais will focus on the experiences of self called daily Europeans, i.e., people that identify themselves with Europe, that have a studying, working or living experience in a European country different than their origin, or those who participate regularly in international and transnational projects. We think of business people, politicians, free lancers, youngsters or pensioners who chose another country to live in – just to name a few examples.

What we would like to debate is what the social consequences of this way of living are. Do we talk of nothing but a fashion among people with more opportunities due to their economic, social or geographic background? Or is it the beginning of something bigger, something that will be considered normal in 20 or 30 years time?

What are the social and cultural consequences of breeding children, whose parents originate from different European countries and might even decide to live in a third one? What will be their mother tongue? How will they build their identity? Will this have an influence in the way we perceive identities and cultures in Europe?

We want to tackle these issues in the Open Forum Cascais, based on our participants experience, feelings and opinions.

The hosts

Rota Jovem is a non-profitable Youth Association based in Cascais, Portugal, which promotes and supports activities for young people. The main areas of action are: international activities, trainings, environment, free time occupation in the area of sports, adventure and culture. The activities take place at a local, national and international level, developing and exploring partnerships and networks with other organizations working with young people.

Citizens of Europe is a group of individuals who feel responsible for the future of Europe. They work together through interdisciplinary debate, practical training and engaged art. The common aim is to promote active citizenship. Vitalizing a European public sphere open to everyone is seen as a matter of mental and cultural change which requires innovative action based on mutual respect and passion.

What are OpenFora?

OpenFora are weekend debates. Their objective is to bring together people from all Europe – regardless of their age, social or professional background – in order to exchange views and experience on topics related with current social and political life in Europe. So far, we have realised six of them (see <http://www.openfora.eu>)

OpenFora setup spaces where European diversity can be experienced in practice. They are not conferences where showmanship is the top priority. They do not target at a specific group – be it youngsters, academics, politicians, media professional, or whatsoever. Instead, OpenFora welcome all people that are willing to actively participate in a European debate on topics that are important to them.

OpenFora is part of the Citizens of Europe project portfolio. Each OpenForum is realized with the support of a local partner organisation.

Whom would we like to meet in Cascais?

Every one willing to actively engage in a debate characterized by low hierarchies is welcome to this OpenForum. All opinions are valuable and will be considered.

Academic and professional backgrounds are relevant for us only to the extend that they allow for interesting contributions to the debate.

We are willing to meet participants coming from the public and private sector, the academic community, civil society, arts, etc. Involving people with a variety of personal backgrounds (ranging from prior political activities, civic and cultural engagement to experience with transnational business, for example) will contribute to a lively debate with substantial results.

What does the OpenForum Cascais offers?

The weekend debate will follow a three-phased schedule (opening audience discussion, workshop, and special closing event). Hierarchies are meant to be particularly low, everybody coming will be encouraged and expected to contribute with own thoughts, knowledge and experience.

Citizens of Europe will present a framework, initiate the debates and involve the participants according to their personal profiles and the points of view expressed when applying. To integrate the local community in Cascais, we will start the OpenForum on 12th March with a public discussion open to a greater community than the Forum's group of participants.

What will you gain by participating in the OpenForum Cascais?

You will get to know local associations and initiatives;

You will network and exchange experiences among a pool of exciting young professionals;

You will experiment with and appreciate mutual respect and recognition when initiating and participating in a transnational European debate.

What are the conditions for participating?

Participation requires the ability to take part in a debate held in English language.

Room and board are included. A participation fee of max. EUR 60,00 (according to your place of residence) needs to be transferred to our bank account after your application has been accepted.

Find out about the fee applicable to you on:

http://wiki.citizens-of-europe.eu/images/b/bd/Participation_fees_OFCascais.pdf

On request, we can refund travel tickets (max 70 %, max. 125 EUR).

You can find the project website at:

http://projects.citizens-of-europe.eu/openfora/?page_id=217

What do you need to do in order to apply?

1. Fill in our **application form** and motivational letter, downloadable at:

http://wiki.citizens-of-europe.eu/images/d/df/Cascais_Name_Surname.doc

2. Write a **short text** (approx. 4.000-5.000 characters), or send us **visual material** produced by you, which may provide an **answer to one** of the following questions:

- *Do you feel an exotic person when speaking with your friends? Can you explain to your family what you do?*
- *Do you think your way of life has an impact on your professional possibilities?*
- *Would you be a different person without your life experience abroad?*
- *Can you imagine having your kind of life 30 years ago?*
- *Will your kind of life be normal to your children?*

We are happy to receive any additional material of yours on the general programme “Contemporary Challenges to Europe” or on the specific topic of OpenForum Cascais (e.g. Internet links, artistic works, publications, etc...).

Please send your application to the following address: office@citizens-of-europe.eu with the following subject: OpenForum Cascais.

The **deadline** for applications is **13 February 2009**. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!



Education and Culture

Active European Citizenship

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