International Conference

Sports and Culture as Schools of Democracy

2026

FH SALZBURG UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

12TH AND 13TH OF NOVEMBER



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Robert Bosch Stiftung

FH Salzburg

Conference

Sports and Culture as Schools of Democracy
How We Can Counter Polarisation
FH Salzburg University of Applied Sciences · 12th and 13th of November 2026

Thursday, November 12th 2026

13.00 – 13.30 **Opening and Welcome**
Elmar Schüll, Head of Research, Department Applied Social Sciences FH Salzburg
Alexander Heinrich, Team Democracy, Robert Bosch Foundation

13.30 – 14.00 **Presentation Democracy Against Polarisation in Sports & Culture**
Markus Pausch, Coordinator Research Group Democracy Development FH Salzburg

14.00 – 14.30 **Keynote 1: Sports as Schools of Democracy? Inclusion, Inequality and the Limits of European Policy Ambitions**
Noemi García-Arjona, Université Paris-Saclay

14.30 – 15.00 **Keynote 2: Arts as Spaces for Dialogue and Depolarisation**
Team Democraticarts

15.00 – 15.30 **Coffee & Meet and Greet**

15.30 – 16.15 **Panel Discussion: Two Worlds, One Goal: How Can Sports and Culture Join Forces for Democracy?**
Breschkai Ferhad, German Football Association DFB, Diversity Officer
Pia Haschke, EU-Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
Noemi García-Arjona, Université Paris-Saclay
Team Democraticarts

16.15 – 17.15 **Panel: Polarisation in France and Poland**
Rasha Nagem, Militants des Savoirs Toulouse and Filip Pazderski, Warsaw

17.15 – 18.15 **Method: The Polarisation Barometer**

18.15 – 18.45 **Pitch Your Topic**

18.45 **Dinner**

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Friday, November 13th 2026

09.00 – 10.00 **Hear & Share Projects and Ideas**

10.00 – 12.30 **Method Deep Dive**

1 Democracy Memory – Reflecting on Communication
Enikö Racz Szabo, Project Team FH Salzburg

2 Depolarisaton through Participative Approaches
Amelie Arrer, Project Team FH Salzburg

3 Culture and Sports: Synergies and Intersections
Markus Pausch, Project Team FH Salzburg
Rasha Nagem, Project Team Militants des Savoirs Toulouse
Filip Pazderski, Project Team Warsaw

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 15.00 **Roadmap to Depolarisation: Application in your own context?**

15.00 – 15.30 **Wrap Up and Closing**

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