

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23



Club  
Alpbach  
Upper Austria

Forum Alpbach  
Network



# FOREWORDS

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Dear members, supporters and friends of as well as people interested in Club Alpbach Upper Austria,

The 21st year in the history of our association has passed and it is with great pleasure that I reach out to you on behalf of the entire board to take the chance for some opening remarks. In good tradition our yearly report constitutes a timely occasion to take stock of the last year and reflect on the key moments of our joint work and full dedication to our Club and the wider Alpbach Community.

Driven by our Club motto "Challenge the future", we look back on an exciting 2022/2023 term, decorated with various key highlights in our work as an association along the way. With the appointment of a new Club Board in October 2022, Club Alpbach Upper Austria was once again able to compile a highly motivated and dedicated team to further advance the Club as such and spread the Spirit of Alpbach beyond the European Forum Alpbach, in Upper Austria and beyond. With the excitement to play an active role in the Club's constantly rising endeavours, the number of board members reached a new high with 11 motivated individuals – 7 in the core and 4 in the extended board – dedicating their time to advance our association.

Based on this solid foundation, the 2022/2023 term was characterised by the organisation of numerous exciting events during the year to promote critical dialogue and an in-depth cooperation with the Forum Alpbach Network to further advance the voice of the youth in the Alpbach Community. Beyond that, we look back to a further advancement of our sponsoring structure, with the solidification of existing and the establishment of new partnerships, and a constant strive to further intensify our alumni network.

Staying true to the reflective and critical spirit of Club Alpbach Upper Austria, the previous year also very strongly functioned as a means to pro-actively challenge our established ways of working within the association and to continuously strive for advancements in the Club. Following as a direct result of this process, we are increasingly waving our old corporate identity goodbye and have embarked on a rebranding journey, having resulted in the creation of a new Club Logo and a changed appearance on Social Media – a new website will follow as a next step of this endeavour.

“Challenging the future” also applied with regard to our scholarship programme – one of the core pillars of Club Alpbach Upper Austria. Thanks to the stable financial footing of the Club, we managed to increase Upper Austrian Scholarship Holder numbers, for the first-time awarding scholarships to 12 marvellous individuals, with 2 of them being reserved for internationals and a Netherlands-affiliated person (to further strengthen the bond with our Sister Club Club Alpbach Netherlands) respectively.

Additionally, with the main aim to further enhance the internationality of our Club and pay tribute to the rising internationality of the Forum Alpbach Network, we increasingly shift towards English as the official language of external communication – being for first time also reflected in this year’s yearly report as well as in the translation of our Club name.

The 2022/2023 term was also characterised by the very active contribution of Club Alpbach Upper Austria to the wide programme of the European Forum Alpbach (EFA). Through a vast number of Club Alpbach Upper Austria events and initiatives in Alpbach, we continuously made far-reaching efforts to play our role in improving the overall quality of the conference. The 78th edition of the European Forum Alpbach featured under the timely motto “Bold Europe”. Along the 2022 established new conference architecture of four thematic tracks, being filled with various high-quality seminars, multi-day retreats, panel discussions, fireside chats, idea workshops and Alpbach’s unique and ubiquitously present intergenerational and interdisciplinary discourses, EFA23 was a constant reminder of the necessity of bold action. In a world that is increasingly crisis-bound – emblematically visible through Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, increasing Sino-American (and partly also Sino-European) tensions, an overall rise of geo-political multipolarity, the rising effects of the climate crisis or a worldwide threat of liberal democracies through anti-democratic political and societal forces – the motto “Bold Europe” should serve us as a constant beacon of awareness. A reminder that in order to protect our hard fought values of liberal democracy, pluralism, equality and humanism and work towards a more equitable and sustainable future, it is our joint responsibility to be bold both in our words and in our actions. May we hold this mindset to be self-evident – as individuals, as a Club and as the Alpbach Community as a whole.

To conclude, the Club Alpbach Upper Austria can look back on an exciting, varied, successful and overall highly positive 2022/23 Club year. I would like to thank our first-time scholarship holders and our alumni network, whose drive and motivation have made the Club the dynamic and refreshing platform it has been for the past 21 years. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their continued loyal or newly started support - we are delighted that they appreciate the special value of the Forum and the work of the Club over the past year. I would furthermore like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals in the Forum Alpbach Network for their steadily increasing professionalism and constructiveness, their hard work as well as our joint cooperation within the Forum Alpbach Network and with the EFA. Last but not least, all of this is strongly based on the dedicated and motivated work of the Club's board, which always had our association’s best interests at heart. A big thank you to my team for their high level of personal commitment, their enjoyment of working together and their mutual appreciation.

The following pages are intended to provide an insight into the year-round work of Club Alpbach Upper Austria – I hope you enjoy reading!

**Jakob Osawaru**

PRESIDENT CLUB ALPBACH UPPER  
AUSTRIA (2022-2023)



# BOARD

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The work of the Board of the Club Alpbach Upper Austria is characterised by year-round voluntary commitment, enthusiasm for the European project and a willingness to reflect on the important socio-political issues of our time and work together to find solutions to the pressing problems of our age. Our work in the Club therefore does not revolve exclusively around the two weeks in which the European Forum Alpbach takes place at the end of August/beginning of September each year. Our commitment throughout the year much rather includes a wide range of tasks to spread the spirit of Alpbach throughout the world and especially to Upper Austria. Through our sub-divisions Finance & Sponsoring, Scholarships & Accommodation, Alumni & Events and Communications the board of our club works tirelessly to advance our association on a continuous basis, always aiming for the best possible result.

With the enthusiasm and affiliation of our 2022 Club scholarship holders towards Club Alpbach Upper Austria having been extraordinary, it makes me happy and proud to also see this sentiment reflected in the desired interest in giving something back by actively contributing through participating in the Club board. Having 7 out of 11 scholarship holders taking on a role in the new board speaks for the strength of our community!

The 2022/2023 core board therefore consisted of Erika, Jakob, Leo, Margot, Maria, Marlies and Susi. The extended board consisted of Andrea, Eva, Leon and Michael. They all deserve great praise for their tireless efforts, their wealth of ideas and their enthusiasm - thank you for having been an amazing board!





# BOARD

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**JAKOB OSAWARU**

President



**MARIA HOFER**

Vicepresident



**MARLIES BERGER**

Scholarships &  
Accommodation



**SUSANNE FRIDL**

Communications &  
Social Media



**LEOPOLD ECKL**

Finance & Sponsoring



**ERIKA OBERMAYR**

Scholarship &  
Accommodation



**MARGOT  
MÖSLINGER**

Scholarship &  
Accommodation

# EXTENDED BOARD



**ANDREA ZULEHNER**

Communications &  
Social Media



**LEON HIEBL**

Event Managements &  
Beyond Alpbach



**EVA KRAUK**

Event Management &  
Beyond Alpbach



**MICHAEL RICHTER**

Event Management &  
Beyond Alpbach



# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

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- 11** Board members
- 12** Official board meetings and 2 team retreats
- 118** Active members
- >10** Club events during the year
- 166** Instagram Stories shared via our Instagram Channel from EFA23
- 13** Fireside Chats and 1 Thinkathon organized by CAOÖ at EFA23
- 12** CAOÖ first-time Scholarship Holders at EFA23
- 11** CAOÖ Alumnis at EFA23

# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## — Christmas Party 2022

### PIZZERIA AND SECRET SANTA

The holiday season is a time for celebration and togetherness, and what better way to bring the office team closer than with a Christmas party in a cozy pizzeria? This year, our team decided to organize a memorable Christmas party at Surace, complete with delicious pizza, laughter, and the exciting tradition of exchanging Secret Santa gifts. The event was a resounding success, fostering a sense of camaraderie and spreading holiday cheer throughout the members.

The Secret Santa gift exchange was undoubtedly the highlight of the night. Each person thoughtfully selected a gift for their chosen colleague, making the gift exchange a heartwarming experience.

As the time came for the gift exchange, the excitement in the room was palpable. One by one, employees shared their carefully wrapped presents and heartfelt messages. From self-made cookies and cards to thoughtful books and funny themed gifts, there was a wide variety of surprises that brought joy and smiles to the faces of the CAOÖ members.





# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## — 2022 Planning and getting together of CAOÖ team

### A YEAR IN MOTION

It's been an exciting year at Club Alpbach Upper Austria, marked by intense discussions, inspiring ideas, and unforgettable moments of community, experienced during our winter and spring retreats.

#### Winter Retreat:

The 2022 Winter Retreat took place from December 28 to 29, 2022, at Marlies' in Thalheim near Wels and was a true brainstorming marathon. We deeply engaged with the design of our digital presence – from website renewal to our social media presence. Our finances and sponsorship strategies were also scrutinized, as well as the application process for our scholarship holders. We discussed how to strategically position the club and design our events, always with the goal of further developing the club and its members. After the discussions, we ended the day with communal cooking and some games – a perfect mix of competition and fun.

#### Spring Retreat: New Perspectives in the Sunshine

With spring came fresh ideas. We reflected together on the first half of the year, analyzed the scholarship application phase, and exchanged ideas on improving our communication channels. An important aspect was also how we can efficiently pass on club knowledge while continually improving it. Planning for the European Forum Alpbach and alumni engagement were other central themes that inspired and motivated us. Alongside the fresh perspectives and invigorating discussions, the Spring Retreat was capped off with a delightful Easter egg hunt in the Science Park, adding a playful and joyous dimension to our gathering as we searched for hidden treasures amidst a landscape of innovation and learning.

These retreats were more than just meetings – they were forums for growth, learning, and cohesion. We not only discussed intensely but also laughed, made plans, and inspired each other. In these moments, we experienced the true essence of Club Alpbach Upper Austria: A community shaped by knowledge, curiosity, and friendship.

# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## Scholarship info event

IN LINZ

The scholarship application period is all about informing as many motivated and inspiring individuals as possible about the uniqueness of the European Forum Alpbach, and the beauty of experiencing EFA as a first-time scholarship holder of Club Alpbach Upper Austria. The organisation of information sessions does form an essential part of this process beyond extensive outreach through social media, analog measures such as flyers as well as word of mouth through our network.

An info session at the Campus of JKU Linz functioned as a timely occasion to introduce our scholarship programme to various interested individuals. In an hour-long session we presented the key facts and figures regarding the scholarship application and selection process as well as the subsequent experience as a first-time scholarship holder at Club Alpbach Upper Austria, before then engaging in a lively Q&A session.

We were delighted to see that we did not only receive numerous applications as a consequence of the event but that some individuals even managed to stand out sufficiently to eventually being awarded a scholarship.

We are looking forward to many interested participants in one of our future info sessions!





# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## — Shaded tour through Vienna

Taking a tour of Vienna led by a homeless guide was a truly eye-opening and humbling experience. It offered a unique, ground-level perspective of the city that often goes unnoticed. Our guide's personal stories and insights provided a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by homeless individuals in Vienna.

The tour took us through both iconic and lesser-known parts of the city, revealing hidden pockets of beauty and hardship. It was a stark reminder that behind the grandeur and opulence of Vienna, there exists a stark contrast in the form of homelessness.

Our guide's resilience and resourcefulness were inspiring, and their firsthand accounts shed light on the importance of empathy and understanding. This tour is a must for anyone seeking to gain a more profound connection to Vienna and a better understanding of the complex issue of homelessness in urban environments. It leaves a lasting impression and encourages reflection on the city's social fabric.



# FORUM ALPBACH NETWORK CONFERENCES

## — FAN Conferences

IN RUST, BURGENLAND & TRIESTE, ITALY

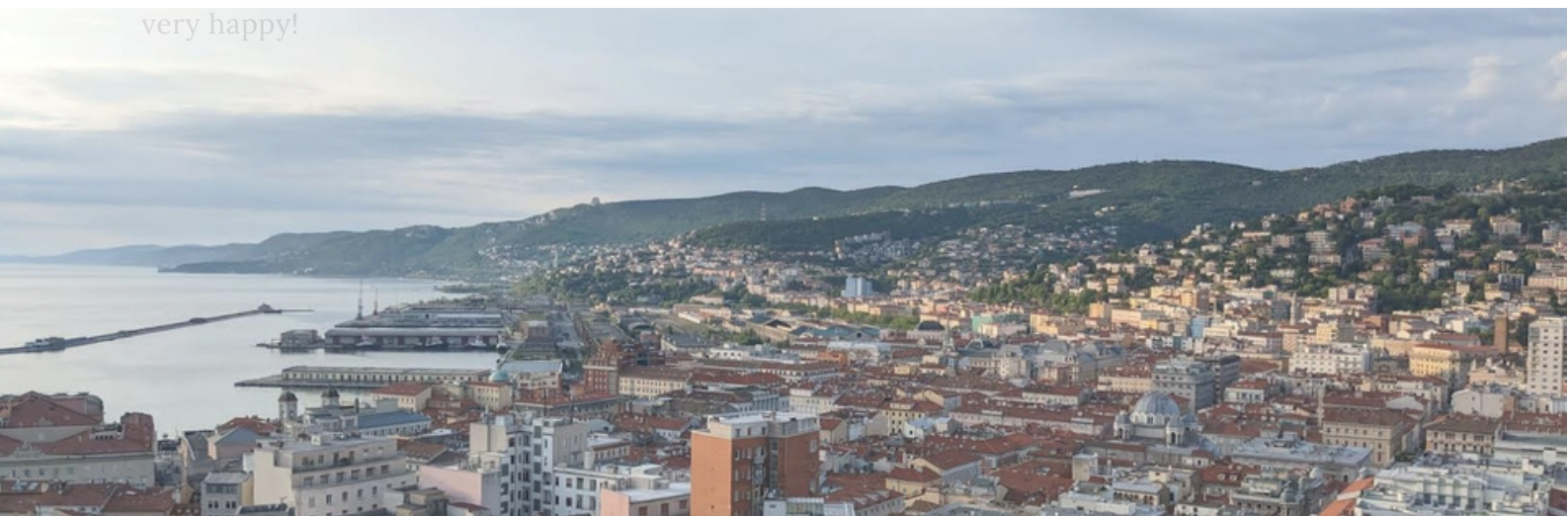
In addition to our internal club activities, the CAOÖ was full of enthusiasm to engage in cross-club collaborations via the Forum Alpbach Network (FAN). Following the basic credo of giving sufficient weight to the youth at the EFA, promoting critical dialogue and working on solutions across generations, there was a particular focus on the two half-yearly FAN conferences.

The FAN fall conference took place from 25th - 27th of November 2022 in the beautiful city of Rust, in Burgenland. Club Alpbach Burgenland perfectly co-organized the conference with the Fan Board. New ideas and collaborations for this year's EFA emerged and were elaborated while friendships were made and strengthened. The beautiful landscape and good wine rounded off the great experience.

The FAN spring conference (4th - 7th of May 2023) was definitely one of the highlights of this year's FAN activities. The event took place in a small Slovenian village, whose name is difficult to pronounce: Debeli Rtič, close to Trieste. Temperature-wise we could already feel that summer is coming, so we enjoyed our Espressi when arriving in Trieste before making our way to the conference center.

The FAN Board as well as the Senza con Fini club successfully co-organized the conference and mixed interesting workshops and group discussions with fun games and a hike to a restaurant on a hill, from where we had a beautiful view of the Gulf of Trieste. In addition, the idea about the Diversity & Inclusion working group as well as the awareness team were further elaborated at this conference. We also managed to grow closer together to our sister club (Club Alpbach Netherlands) and plan some future events and activities, which makes us

very happy!





# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## — “New Work”

GUEST: ANDREAS GNESDA

On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, we had the pleasure to invite Andreas Gnesda to a fireside chat in our CAOÖ alumni round. Thereby, there was the opportunity to discuss and critically question exciting current topics of today's working world in a small and cozy setting.

Andreas Gnesda is an enthusiastic entrepreneur with a focus on designing working environments, especially office environments. Our fireside chat was mainly dedicated to the topic of "New Work" and addressed the following questions, among others:

- What has changed in the world of work today?
- How have the workplace demands changed in today's generation?
- How do companies meet these new demands?
- How can we design meaningful working worlds?
- What influence does AI already have on our work processes today?

In addition to discussing these and other questions together, Andreas Gnesda gave us exciting insights into his work and his experiences in the field of "New Work".

We all look back on a very entertaining evening and would like to thank Andreas Gnesda for his openness and time.



# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## Scholarship Award Ceremony

ANNUAL GUEST EVENT AT INDUSTRIELLENVEREINIGUNG

During the scholarship award ceremony we officially welcomed our 11 scholarship holders to the club. We were especially pleased to welcome some of our sponsors. After words of welcome from Jakob Osawaru, the scholarship holders got a general overview of the European Forum Alpbach. Dr. Bernhard Marckhgott (RLB Upper Austria) told lively stories from his Alpbach experiences. Mag. Thomas Buchegger (IV) gave us exciting insights into the current economic situation in Upper Austria. These inputs were immediately the basis for a lively round of questions, which was continued intensively in Alpbach style at the subsequent buffet hosted by the Industriellenvereinigung. Additionally, this year we wanted the scholarship holders to getting to know each other better- thus, there were different questions they had to discuss as a team. Every question was discussed with a new person, which could give a quick impression of the group.



# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## — Visit at Zotter and fireside chat “Social Entrepreneurship and climate compatible economy”

JOSEF ZOTTER AND KARL STEININGER | BY MICHAEL RICHTER |  
CO-PRODUCTION WITH CLUB ALPBACH STYRIA

On Saturday, June 24, 2023, our eagerly awaited spring event took place in the east of Styria. Together with the Club Alpbach Styria, we organised a trip to the famous Styrian chocolate factory: the “Zotter - World of Experience”. Some of us already had experience with the tasting station marathon, ranging from unsweetened liquid cocoa to drinking chocolate gondola to running chocolate. Initially, they were still holding back on the sweet temptation. However, soon the restraint was overcome, and all 14 participants avidly explored the classic and unconventional creations of the chocolate pioneer. After the approx. 1.5-hour culinary tour, everyone was looking forward to refreshing sips of water and to gaining insights into the life and philosophy of Josef Zotter, as well as the perspectives on a sustainable economy from the point of view of Karl Steininger, Professor at the Wegener Center. Josef Zotter traced the arc from his beginnings as a confectioner in Graz to the first chocolate production in his parents' barn and the expansion to China. His passion for high-quality craftsmanship, sustainable supply chains, social responsibility and transparency was palpable in every word that literally gushed out of him. Karl Steininger emphasised in a calm but emphatic manner the importance of economic incentives in the form of significantly higher CO2 prices for achieving the ambitious climate targets. However, pricing and subsidies based on the watering can principle are pointless in the medium to long term as long as there are no serious alternatives through comprehensive infrastructure expansion and climate-friendly innovations.

Our discussion ended with a tasting round of Zotter's home-grown wine and hilarious anecdotes about his extravagant art installations, among others. And then finally, after this large amount of chocolate, we could hardly wait for the hearty snack in a nearby Buschenschank and a short walk through the Styrian vineyards.

We would like to express our gratitude to Karl Steininger and Josef Zotter for the exciting insights and we also extend our thanks to Club Alpbach Styria for co-organising this unique event. We look forward to many more joint activities in the near future.



# EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

## Greiner company visit

COMPANY VISIT AT GREINER BIO-ONE &  
FIRESIDE CHAT WITH GREINER AG CFO HANNES MOSER

As part of our extensive cooperation with our sponsor Greiner AG we had the privilege of embarking on an insightful company visit to Greiner Bio-One, located in Kremsmünster, followed by a captivating fireside chat with Hannes Moser, CFO Greiner AG.

Starting the day off, we embarked on a tour to the company premises of Greiner Bio-One. As a global leader in biotechnology, diagnostics, medical devices, and in vitro diagnostics, Greiner Bio-One exemplifies excellence with over 2300 employees and 28 subsidiaries worldwide. Guided by Peter Starl, the Operations Director, the tour offered a deep dive into the manufacturing process of the company, revealing detailed insights on the production process, the firm's competitive landscape and various other informative aspects. Participants gained firsthand insights into Greiner Bio-One's production size, output, and the company's commitment to innovative, top-quality product solutions, with Peter Starl sharing his vast experience by answering all our questions.

The day continued with a fireside chat at the Greiner AG headquarters, featuring Hannes Moser, CFO Greiner AG. Mr. Moser shared valuable perspectives on Greiner AG's financial performance, navigating the challenges posed by Covid and global geopolitical tensions. The conversation extended to Greiner AG's proactive steps in combating the climate impact of the plastics industry. Beyond financial matters, attendees gained insights into a day in the life of a CFO, coping with multifaceted responsibilities and high work intensity, and received valuable career advice. As Greiner AG stands as one of our biggest sponsors, this fireside chat not only provided a unique window into the company's operations but also exemplified the strong partnership between Club Alpbach Upper Austria and Greiner AG. We look forward to further collaborative endeavors that continue to enrich our community.



# EUROPEAN FORUM ALPBACH 23 IN NUMBERS

EFA Nr.	<b>78</b>
Participants	<b>~4200</b>
Participants' average age	<b>39</b>
First-time scholarship holders	<b>~ 600</b>
Scholarship holders' average age	<b>26</b>
Represented nations by participants	<b>98</b>
Represented nations by scholarship holder	<b>84</b>
Organized sessions	<b>473</b>
Thematic tracks	<b>4</b>





# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



## Introduction into main topic

BY EVA HÜBLER | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

This year, the theme "Bold Europe" welcomes participants to the Forum Alpbach. From August 20 to September 1, 2023, experts, politicians, scientists and young people gathered in Alpbach to discuss Europe's most pressing challenges and develop bold solutions.

In the face of numerous crises, such as the Ukraine war and the climate crisis, Europe should confront reality courageously. This expectation was also made clear on the opening evening.

One of the central questions addressed during the forum was the future of the European Union. At a time when Europe is facing political, economic and social challenges, various ideas for strengthening and reforming the EU were presented. Discussions on a common European defense policy, dealing with migration, and harnessing new technologies were central.

Another focus, as one might expect, was sustainability. The importance of transitioning to a climate-neutral economy was debated intensively, sometimes even heatedly. Participants, especially from the younger generation, emphasized the need for a decisive European action strategy, exposed many a supposed "greenwashing" deal, and did not mince words even in front of CEOs of respected companies. This cross-generational dialogue was an important step towards finding courageous solutions for the future..

Overall, this year's Forum Alpbach, although it still has some steps to go towards becoming a truly diverse and forward-looking platform, was a great format for exchanging ideas. Hopefully, the insights and recommendations developed during the Forum will be heard on the political and economic agenda.



# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23

## Securing Europe in a Multipolar World

BY ELISABETH RAFFATESEDER | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

"Securing Europe in a Multipolar World" was one of the four thematic tracks of this year's European Forum Alpbach, aiming to address pressing questions surrounding European security and peacebuilding in an ever-evolving global landscape.

In different panels, workshops, and other formats, EFA participants tried to find answers to how the European Union could better translate its strengths into political clout, contribute to peace, and shape the future European security architecture..

After two weeks of intense discussions, these questions may not have been fully answered, but many promising perspectives were brought to light in Alpbach.

A key takeaway and widely agreed-upon remark on Europe's future was that the continent would have to find and further strengthen its common identity as a Union. While acknowledging our differences and even benefiting from a broad variety of perspectives, cultures, and knowledge, the EU must strengthen its shared values and European mindset. Only by doing so can Europe speak with a common voice and be heard on a multipolar stage, alongside the US, China, and other global powers.

Further, Europe must learn how to better deal with 'unfair players' in a world that may no longer be determined by a rules-based international order. As the Russian war of aggression painfully illustrated, not all global players may consistently uphold a rule-based system, at least not without any control mechanisms.

While Europe should continue to act as a promotor of peace and humanistic values in the world, a solid security architecture and military strength are needed to establish and enforce international rules. To secure a peaceful future, Europe must stand together in unity with a shared common identity and representation. This way, we can tackle the big challenges of our time together and promote peace & prosperity.

My favorite moment: sunrise  
breakfast at Gratlspitz with CAOÖ

EFA 23 in one word:  
unforgettable

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23

## Finance Labs

BY SEBASTIAN BREITWIESER | FIRST TIME  
SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

The finance lab was one of 8 labs at this year's EFA. Labs bring together industry experts, decision makers and a small contingent of scholarship-holders with a relevant background or interest in the subject. In this particular case the participant list was filled with central bankers, researchers, bank and corporate CEOs, start-up founders and people with a background in banking, private equity and the wider start-up ecosystem.

Under the title "Boosting the entrepreneurial growth cycle through capital markets", participants of the lab explored the journey of a European company from birth to maturity. Why have some countries fared better than others? What role could deeper and wider capital markets play – and what are the main factors holding Europe back? Rather than daydreaming, the focus was on what can be done at the national and European level over the next five years.

Concrete measures discussed were (i) employee stock options as an effective way to attract and retain top talent in the EU, as it provides employees with a sense of ownership and the potential for long-term financial gain, (ii) rethinking investment policies among European pension funds, namely increasing their risk taking capacity, in order to free capital for investments into the European start-up ecosystem and (iii) the need for a concerted push among European legislators and financial institutions to realize a true Capital Markets Union.

Beyond the input and discussions with industry experts, I enjoyed seeing the proliferation of the subjects dealt with in the lab to the Forum's many different formats of engagement with the audience, which include panels, seminars, workshops, panel discussions and fireside chats. Many of the arguments and topics dealt with on panels were previously discussed in the Finance Lab. Overall the Finance Lab was my personal highlight of this year's EFA and I would recommend everyone to apply for either the finance lab or any other lab.



# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



## The Future of Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe

BY BAHARA MURADI | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

As one of my first impressions as a non-European citizen on this continent, I saw Europe's potential for a bright democratic future and livable climate as a peaceful community ensured by the rule of law. Problems coexist inevitably due to the very nature of communal life; however, Europe has proven to confront them throughout history.

Yet, there have been some alarming changes in the recent years that force a more realistic assessment, leading me to question whether Europe might remain as democratic as it currently is - or was. To find an answer, let us together examine the following phenomena and their impact on democracy with a fine-tooth comb:

1. Gender Equality and Diversity
2. Europe's Youth
3. Economic Opportunities
4. Corruption
5. Independent Media -> (Mis)informaion
6. AI
7. War
8. Extremism and Radicalization



# CONTINUATION: THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE

Let us also keep in mind that any changes (good or bad) in the mentioned points also directly influences the rule of law (= Equality under the law + Transparency + Independent judiciary + Accessible legal remedy).

In this regard, in many European countries far-right parties have won elections and are systematically undermining democracy and the rule of law. In Poland, for example the government has dismantled the existing constitutional court system, compromising the independence of the judiciary. Hungary and Italy are other cases that make me question the future of democracy and the rule of law in Europe. Individuals leading the right-wing populist parties are trying to establish alternatives to democracy, undermining not just the rule of law but also the very values that Europe holds dear. There are several reasons to be concerned about this concentration of political power in the hands of a few polarizing radicals. On the one hand, these parties control a large population of European citizens, allowing them to reform the social, cultural, and economical constructions in the respective countries according to their own will. On the other hand, their political power buys them the liberty to advocate for favorable regulations to further entrench that power. This can impart new breath to corruption and may create a fertile ground for more radicalization.

Furthermore, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is an assault on the democratic system and the principles of freedom, self-determination, and respect for human rights that underpin democratic societies. Apart from being a geopolitical struggle, this war and its consequences play a crucial role in shaping the future of Europe. So, democracy should not be taken for granted. It requires daily nurturing and protection.

In addition to the pressure of war, Europe is struggling with rising concerns regarding the global regulation and handling of technology - more specifically, the development and deployment of AI (it was addressed in EFA in a hike "Is the Use of AI Disrupting Democracy").

It is crucial that Europe was the first continent to raise the notion of regulatory frameworks and ethical guidelines for AI technologies. Nevertheless, the pace of achievements in the AI Act does not catch up with the speedy development of AI. Not to mention that AI is rapidly evolving, and thus, the AI Act will be subjected to constant amendments. Let us just hope that by then AI is not skewed towards unethical practices or used in ways that violate privacy rights and/or make social inequalities grow further.

To sum up my concise review, the issues within the discussion on threats to democracy in Europe are plentiful and so far many proposed solutions appear insufficient. Therefore, I want to mention that for Europe to be BOLD about the future of democracy and upholding the rule of law, Europe has to:

- take efforts to further promote gender equality and diversity, fostering a more inclusive society and offering more opportunities for marginalized groups such as immigrants and refugees.
- invest in its youth. Europe should take initiative to address youth's concerns regarding their political participation, quality education and sustainable jobs, because the youth in Europe plays a crucial role in shaping its future.
- protect and promote independent media and transparency via regulations, while empowering the public to critically assess information via media literacy programs.
- find the right equilibrium between implementing effective security measures and ensuring the preservation of individuals' civil liberties. It requires thoughtful policymaking to avoid sacrificing one for the other.
- continue adapting to global economic changes, with a focus on investment in innovation and technology. This is very central to eliminating the gap between the rich and the poor and promoting more balanced social and economic development.

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23

## Theoretical Seminars

BY DAVID SULZBACHER | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

The mornings during the first week of Forum Alpbach can be described with two simple words - exhausting and insightful. Waking up early after sleepless nights at the local bar Jakober, was indeed a challenge. But the excitement of gaining knowledge firsthand from experts from all over the world ignited the motivation to get ready for the theoretical sessions. For the first week the Forum Alpbach offered a broad range of seminars for the scholarship holders to choose from. Experts with different backgrounds held seminars on a diverse set of topics such as “Responsible AI, Ethics, Law and Society”, “How to revive Multilateralism”, “Giving Voice to Future Generations in the EU and beyond” and many more. The last one I did attend myself and I can confirm that the term “theoretical seminar” did not set any boundaries to the time the group spent actively interacting. Together, issues depicted in theory were addressed practically in order to come up with concepts for real life solutions. This was the case for many other morning seminars during the week.

The ambition of the scholarship holders created an environment where ideas could evolve and tackle problems regarding security, climate, democracy, and economy. Due to Alpbachs beautiful surroundings, the sunny mornings were often spent outside to discuss the specific topics addressed within the different seminars. Walking on scenic alpine trails while debating future-oriented policy making is truly an experience that is going to be remembered. The morning seminars opened a path to spark interest in certain topics and to absorb in depth knowledge from leading international experts. These presumably theoretical sessions provided young people with a new set of expertise useful to actively influence the fate of Europe's future outside of the small village called Alpbach. The morning seminars gave BOLD perspectives to BOLD people for a BOLD Europe!

My favorite moment: Defining the word “populism” in front of the Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



## Afternoon Seminars

BY YULIYA NAZARENKO | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

This year's practical seminars were interesting and diverse, so it was extremely difficult to make a list of priorities in the first place. Some of the most promising ones, in my opinion included military leadership training, creative writing and actor training. I ended up doing the latter.

“Working together (Spells success)” was taught by students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. The whole goal of the seminar was to gather a group of total strangers and teach us working as a team. To do so, our instructors used a variety of techniques that they use in their studies as well. We started from simple team-building games to memorize each other's names and slowly progressed into more advanced interactions. Personally for me, it was fun most of the time. Nevertheless, there were some challenges as well. For example, I found day three to be the hardest because then we were doing exercises to build trust, which required a lot of touching, exposing ourselves and, of course, trusting. In the last two days we finally got to play from little scripts. It was my favorite part of the seminars. I was very glad that we started from team-building exercises first because, thanks to them, it was easy and natural for us to be silly, funny and creative in our performances in front of each other.

I was pushed out of my comfort zone, indeed. Still, it also felt very rewarding and, in retrospect, like something I needed to do for a long time. It showed me that a dynamic, a chemistry within a group is flexible and can be shaped into something strong and beautiful by using a simple set of psychological tricks.

I have to admit I was quite sceptical about this seminar at the beginning because I am not the one who works well as a part of the team. However, at some point, the connections we formed within our group became undeniable. In just five days we got to know each other and became really close. It was clearly visible in contrast to people from my morning seminar. I thought of them as “colleagues”, while I saw my acting peers more like “friends”. Overall, this practical seminar was a great experience for both the participants and instructors. Now, we all strongly advocate for more theater at EFA in the upcoming years and hope that our paths cross again at some point next year.



# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



BY YULIIA NAZARENKO | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

EFA in one word is “unbelievable”.

The experiences, meetings and conversations are just very difficult to comprehend, to process that everything that is happening is, in fact, real. It is a very beautiful feeling that, in my humble opinion, makes life interesting and worth living.

My favorite moment from EFA is actually closely connected to my practical seminar. It was on August 24th, that marked the last day of our work together. Everybody was thrilled to join our instructors for their performance in the evening. So, after our last seminar was officially over, we, both instructors and students, headed to the venue where they were going to play. We had to walk across the village during sunset and everything seemed so shiny and covered in gold. On our way, we were giving out the invitations for the performance to the people on the streets and singing a very uplifting song from the play. This simple melody sung by the whole group made those moments feel absolutely magical, cinematic even. It put us, the participants in the right mood to watch the performance and, hopefully, made the actors feel inspired and appreciated. I guess everybody felt how precious and special this experience was.

EFA 23 in one word:  
unbelievable

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



## EFA LABS

BY DORIS WIMMER FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

The European Forum Alpbach LAB Days took place from August 24th to 27th 2023. In the otherwise extremely diverse EFA programme, the LAB days put more focus on taking the time to deep-dive into a specific topic. Per LAB around 30 selected experts and participants work together in curated workshops and working groups on predetermined issues and seek to find answers to specific questions.

Scholarship holders of the Club Alpbach Oberösterreich participated in 3 of the 9 organized LABs, namely: “Innovation Finance Lab”, “Reconstruction of Ukraine Lab” and the “10x100 Cities Lab”, which I had the pleasure to attend.

The 10x100 Cities Lab was organized through a cooperation of the Global Parliament of Mayors, the City of Mannheim, Dark Matter Labs as well as Politics for Tomorrow. The LAB was embedded in the 10x100 framework, which is a learning-centered mission management framework to strategically align for large-scale transformations in tangible 100 day commitments.

Based on the example of the City of Mannheim, which is dedicated to implementing a local Green Deal on the city level, we discussed the diverse roles municipalities can play in “spurring regional transformation through regulatory collaboration” in order to deal with the polycrisis we are facing and with special focus on food systems transformation.

We started with a thought-provoking question about how each of us could leverage their individual, destructive potential to make cities less livable. Surprisingly some of the answers were not as distant from our positive potentials as it might seem - and I invite you to give it a thought yourself.

Some claimed that they could paralyze or delay progress by claiming scientific uncertainties and the need for more research, even in times of crisis. Others might exaggerate their expertise, thereby misinforming others. Another destructive potential is diverting discussions with less important topics, consuming vital resources and slowing down crucial progress.

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23

These ideas stuck with me because I, too, sometimes struggle with balancing much-needed progress and scientific accuracy in applied research. Also, we all want to be seen as experts and have a need for our work to feel relevant, often overemphasizing our own work's importance. This connects also directly to one of the closing words of one of the facilitators: "We have to stop talking about narratives of winners or losers and about good and bad people and adopt a more nuanced view: We will all sometimes be the bad person and sometimes the good one - and more often than not probably without even fully realizing." What a strong call for radical self-reflection to begin with!

We consequently delved deeper into actionable steps within a particular domain. Recognizing that meaningful transformation requires the collective effort of all stakeholders, we explored the roles of financial institutions and insurance companies in driving change, as well as the potential of regulatory tools and incentives. Furthermore, we discussed the need to transform institutions and their processes to foster inclusive and equitable innovation and decision-making, thereby ensuring that everyone has a voice at the table. Finally, we considered systemic capabilities and how to implement these ideas effectively in practice.

Despite the LAB's intent to focus deeply on specific topics, the breadth of discussions revealed the intricate and interconnected nature of sustainable food system transformation, underscoring the urgency for fresh, inclusive, and collaborative approaches - where especially cities would be well positioned.

Luckily, the dedicated goal of this LAB is to continue the exchange beyond Alpbach - and I doubt we would ever run out of topics worthwhile discussing and experiences to share.

Two significant takeaways (amongst many) were for me:

**Institutions and Participation:** We require unified efforts from politics, society, and the economy, but complex, global systems make it challenging to predict and communicate the root-causes of certain challenges or effects of certain measures. Simplifying complex concepts into accessible language is essential for fair political participation. Additionally, fostering a sense of civic duty alongside the right to democracy depends on effective communication techniques suitable for all.

**Radical Collaboration:** To address the looming crisis, we must enhance collaboration across political parties and companies. However, electoral competition and short-term economic goals hinder long-term strategies, especially regarding issues like climate change. Our current economic system may not be suitable to facilitate the type of collaboration at the scale we need instead of working in silos to leverage competitive advantage against each other rather than bundling our efforts. The other topic coming up of course was externalities, with the baseline along: "You cannot decarbonize a capitalistic system without linking everything to its root cause logically and financially."


EFA 23 in one word:  
compelling



# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23

## FAN Socials

BY JULIA EICHINGER | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23



Of course, Alpbach would not be complete without its accompanying receptions and socials, of which many are organised by the Forum Alpbach Network Committee (FANC). Especially in the second week of the Forum, it was not always possible to embrace “JOMO”, the joy of missing out, as there were very often too many exciting events to choose from. And there was definitely something included for everyone: from the Festhütten parties at the beginning and end of the Forum, perfect for connecting with fellow scholarship holders, to sporty events such as soccer and beach volleyball tournaments. It was also great to see how all participants were passionate about including everybody and celebrating diversity, such as at the Alpbach Pride, while also caring deeply about ways to stop climate change and asking critical, uncomfortable, yet very important questions. Another highlight organised by FANC was the international bazaar, where scholarship holders presented their nations’ traditional food, drinks and snacks while showcasing their traditional clothing and musical skills. Culminating in an international evening, new friendships were formed, and ideas fostered. Other events were more quiet, but nevertheless special, including a 24-hour reading marathon or a poetry night. FANC events were not the only socials where you could dance or rave the night away with fellow (and prominent) participants. Ranging from Democracy Socials, Women Empowerment Summits, ESG Sundowners, Patent Cocktails and Bold Europe Receptions, there were events for everyone to join. Although some events were of private nature only, this was not an obstacle for the more creative or convincing members of our club, and even late-night selfies with the Austrian president Alexander van der Bellen were acquired. Altogether, the aforementioned socials and receptions were the perfect place to end a successful day at the European Forum Alpbach.

My favorite moment: Meeting so many people caring about making healthcare more sustainable, innovative and equitable.

# REVIEWS FROM EFA 23



## CAOÖ Socials

BY ANNA PACHINGER | FIRST TIME SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER '23

The European Forum Alpbach owes much of its charm to the 30+ clubs that infuse the event with a lively social spirit. These clubs have mastered the art of making the most of the perceived 30-minute pockets of free time that scholarship holders usually find between their packed schedules. This year again, "Sonnenhof" became home to some dozen scholarship holders from Salzburg, Tyrol and Upper Austria.

We kicked off the week at "Sonnenhof" with a joint cooking spectacle together with scholarship holders and some of the CAOÖ board members who ensured a seamless arrival to Alpbach. Together with our neighbors from Tyrol and Salzburg, we extended the feast on our second day with a barbecue, where we managed to feed more than 50 souls with a single tiny grill. We soon learned that we were fed to survive the sometimes quite intense evenings (or nights) at the mighty "Jakober". Wisely, we seized the splendid weather conditions during the first EFA week, and on the third day of Seminar week we climbed the Gratlspitz bearing some 30 kilos of cheese for a sumptuous "Gipfeljause". After the first EFA week, it was once more Tyrolean cuisine that drew the largest gathering of CAOÖ members for a joint club dinner at "Hotel zur Post" where scholarship holders, board members and returners reveled in good drinks and the joy of sharing (perhaps Alpbach's best) "Kaiserschmarrn".

The harmonious co-living experience at "Sonnenhof" made CAOÖ the favored post-Jakober "Eierspeis" hangout while numerous feedback and cooking sessions ensured a steady feel-good atmosphere.

Last but not least, we concluded the forum in this picturesque village with a hangover brunch atop the Wiedersbergerhorn, which made sure that we all left with a satisfied belly, a full heart and truly unforgettable Alpbach memories.



# Thinkathon hosted by Club Alpbach Upper Austria

BY KATHARINA REISINGER

Imagine that we live in 2050 where the energy demand in Austria is covered by fusion reactors located in different parts of Austria. This includes very low prices for energy in the production and – depending on the political situation – also for the customers. What impact would this have on our industries, society and life in general? This was the starting point for our Thinkathon powered by APG & Microsoft one morning during the European Forum Alpbach. After getting further input from the CIO of APG, Markus Kasinger, on the work that they are already doing and the tasks they are assigned in Austria, we divided ourselves into different focus groups to work on the imaginary – someone would even say utopian – scenario.

In the different working groups, scholarship holders with transdisciplinary backgrounds gathered their knowledge and let their imagination work to come up with their ideas, concerns and proposals. Groups talked about apps that control electrical devices while also monitoring prices and available amounts of electricity – for example the dishwasher can be automatically turned on when the price is the lowest. There were also some innovative start-up ideas like e-fuel production in individual households. Furthermore, one group focused on societal effects and discussed a lot about the question of inequality – nationally and globally – as well as a possible bigger divisions in society.

All in all, there was a lot of knowledge packed into one room focussing on one topic, which created a very productive energy. It was great being part of this Thinkathon which was very well organized. I could gain a lot of new perspectives on a topic that was not in my field of expertise before.



My favourite moment: being listened to by people in charge (for example Leonore Gewessler)



# EFA Fireside Chats hosted by Club Alpbach Upper Austria

BY PAUL KERSCHBAUMMAYR

One of the standout features of this year's forum was the numerous engaging fireside chats featuring prominent figures from the realms of politics, science, business, and culture. These sessions provided a unique platform for meaningful exchanges between scholarship holders and leaders of their respective fields, fostering an intimate and personal atmosphere. We are content that the Club Alpbach Upper Austria hosted and co-hosted many such events. The array of distinguished guest speakers encompassed a wide spectrum, including federal ministers such as Alexander Schallenberg and Karoline Edtstadler, renowned scientists like Cédric Villani and Thomas Wieser, accomplished diplomats like Lindsay Skoll, and notably, the esteemed presidents of Austria and Slovenia, Alexander van der Bellen and Nataša Pirc Musar, respectively.

These insightful fireside chats left us with a treasure trove of valuable insights and offered an exceptional opportunity to pose thought-provoking questions and engage in discussions with these influential personalities. The diverse selection of speakers also served to expand our horizons in various fields that may have previously been less familiar to us. Personally, a highlight that stands out is the fireside conversation with Lindsay Skoll, who made the effort to trek up to our Sonnenhof apartment at 8:00 am to share breakfast with us (and, as a humorous anecdote, inspired some early morning cleaning of the apartment).

We greatly appreciated the wealth of options and the chance to engage in so many enriching conversations, thanks to the offerings provided by our Club.



My favourite moment: The 4 am hike up to the Gratlspitz as a very tiring but worthwhile team-building

# The new sistership with the Club Netherlands

BY ERIKA OBERMAYER | ALUMNI

Shoutout to this year's premiere! It was the first time in our twenty-year-old history to cooperate with a club outside of Austria. Our sister club is famous for the best cheese, chocolate and windmills. Jokes and stereotypes apart, we would like to present (drum roll for) our cooperation with the Club Netherlands!

Many will ask, what's the benefit of having a sister club? As an established club with connections and accommodation inside the Alpbach valley, a handful of giving sponsors and more than ten scholarship holders, we can assist the less established club with information, sponsors and a friendship among alumnis, scholarship holders and the respective board members. Another point which resulted from this cooperation was one scholarship awarded from the Club Alpbach Upper Austria for a person with a Dutch reference. Thus, if someone has a relevant experience in the Netherlands or is Dutch, we can reserve one place for him or her. It should become a standard to award at least one scholarship with a Netherlands connection, so we can develop our friendship.

A few months before the EFA started, a comfy meet-up happened online because we decided to get to know each other's club better. What fits more than a speed-friending exercise? Not only did we give our sister club our Alpbach knowledge, but we were also able to ask each other very personal questions and learn from each other's culture. During this year's EFA, we organized a brunch first, then the famous sunrise hike on the mighty Gratspitz where we could facilitate a physical exchange and mutual learning - a time we all like to look back on. We cannot wait to intensify our sistership and work on many more projects together in the future before the next Forum Alpbach is about to start.



EFA 23 in one word:  
unforgettable



# Privilege and its influence on society and democracy

BY MARIA HOFER | WORKSHOP AT FAN SLOT

A workshop on privilege, featuring a powerful tool known as the "Privilege Walk," was held recently, creating an eye-opening and thought-provoking experience for participants. The workshop aimed to raise awareness about privilege, promote empathy, and encourage dialogue about inequality in society.

The Privilege Walk: The centerpiece of the workshop was the Privilege Walk, a dynamic and experiential exercise designed to highlight the unequal advantages and disadvantages individuals face due to various aspects of their identity. Participants formed a line and were asked to take steps forward or backward in response to a series of statements, revealing the impact of privilege on their lives. Participants were given roles: this could reveal stereotypes.



The workshop on privilege with the Privilege Walk was a thought-provoking and transformative experience. It emphasized the importance of acknowledging and understanding privilege while promoting empathy and constructive dialogue. By shedding light on these critical issues, the workshop inspired participants to work towards a more equitable and just society. It served as a reminder that acknowledging privilege is the first step towards dismantling the barriers that perpetuate inequality.

The Privilege Walk successfully exposed the varying degrees of privilege among participants. It became evident that privilege can be influenced by race, gender, socioeconomic status, and other factors. This exercise prompted self-reflection and a better understanding of how privilege plays a role in our lives.





# THE MOST INSPIRING PEOPLE WE MET AT EFA 23

For the first time, we let the CAOÖ scholarship holders name 3 most inspiring people which they have met during their stay in Alpbach. Here is, who they named the most:



## Cedric Villani

French Mathematician

The multi-award-winning mathematician and former French parliamentarian Cédric Villani spoke to us at the European Forum Alpbach 2022 about the ecological revolution in agriculture. Among other things, he advocates a plant-based diet and a new understanding of the role of farmers.

## Leonore Gewessler

Austrian Minister of the Environment

"Austria is sadly bringing up the rear in Europe. This makes the Patent Office's initiative here in Alpbach all the more important: it is taking up this important issue and consciously counteracting it"



## Oby Ezekwesili

Former Nigerian Minister and Vice President of the World Bank

A courageous Europe would be a Europe that looks to Africa and sees the possibility of a contiguous zone of prosperity and stability. And not a Europe that makes its immigration policy the centerpiece of its relationship. The truth is: Europe needs Africa. A courageous Europe would look at demographic trends. By 2030, one in three young people in the global labor market will come from this continent."

Also: Lindsay Skoll, Hannes Andorsch, Otmar Karas, Franz Fischler, Sebastian Prinz, Schonaich - Carolath, Carmen Possnig, Indy Johar, Josef Penninger, Caterine Ashton, Margot Wallström

# NEW CAOÖ CORPORATE IDENTITY



Club  
Alpbach  
Upper Austria  
Forum Alpbach  
Network

## CAOÖ CHALLENGES THE FUTURE IN A NEW LOOK

Following the rebranding of the European Forum Alpbach in 2022, the newly elected Board of Club Alpbach Upper Austria also took the opportunity to introduce a new logo and visually promote its values within the Forum Alpbach network and Europe.

And what better way to illustrate them than with Upper Austria's sweet ambassador surrounded by the European circle of stars. The Linzer Torte in the heart of Europe. Or a network of ambitious, critical-thinking, dialogue-loving people of different age groups who carry Europe in their hearts and want to bring the Spirit of Alpbach to Upper Austria - all this makes up Club Alpbach Upper Austria.

To further promote a sense of unity and strengthen our corporate identity, we have similarly updated our club colors and public image. As the undisputed highlight, we are very proud to present our first Club Alpbach Upper Austria merge, the light blue club hoodies - cosy, soft and sustainably produced by Stanley/Stella. We were lucky to receive them just in time for the EFA 2023 and since then they have accompanied us on many journeys and have warmed our hearts even in the changeable weather of the Alpbachtal. Stay tuned and challenge the future with us in 2024.





# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A significant reorganisation of the Board team was on the agenda at the 2023 Club Alpbach Upper Austria General Assembly on 12 November 2023.

Maria Hofer, who dedicated countless hours to the Club's board - serving as the Club's Vice-President for the last two years - decided to step down as a board member and start her well-deserved CAOÖ-board-retirement. We would like to take this opportunity to express our biggest thanks to Mary's great commitment and her passion for helping to shape Club Alpbach Upper Austria throughout the last years. Through her cheerful, courteous and highly approachable nature, she played a core role in advancing the Club to where it is today and in enriching the Alpbach Community as a whole. We wish her all the best for her new challenges and are more than happy that she will still remain closely aligned with Club Alpbach Upper Austria as a future member of our selection committee in the course of our scholarship process.

Not least due to the fascinating motivation of the 2023 scholarship holders, the board of Club Alpbach Upper Austria has witnessed a significant extension, granting us the opportunity to further advance and professionalise our overall board structure and working mechanism. With 16 individuals being in active roles for the 2023/2024 term, an exciting year with various ambitious internal and external projects and initiatives lies ahead. By setting up a new board structure with sub-team heads forming the core board being enriched by sub-team members forming part of the extended board, the overall structure of the Club reached a new cruising altitude.

Following the successful election of the new board in the course of the General Assembly the team is composed of the following individuals:



**Core Board:** Jakob Osawaru (President), Marlies Berger (Vice-President), Elisabeth Raffaseder (Head of Finance & Sponsoring), Katharina Reisinger (Head of Scholarships & Accommodation), Leon Hiebl (Co-Head of Alumni & Events), Margot Möslinger (Co-Head of Alumni & Events), Michael Richter (Co-Head of Alumni & Events), Anna Pachinger (Co-Head of Communications) and Susanne Fridl (Co-Head of Communications)

**Extended Board:** Leopold Eckl (sub-team Finance & Sponsoring), Erika Obermayr (sub-team Scholarships & Accommodation), Doris Wimmer (sub-team Scholarships & Accommodation), Eva Krauk (sub-team Alumni & Events), Paul Kerschbaummayr (sub-team Alumni & Events), Eva Hübler (sub-team Communications) and Julia Eichinger (sub-team Communications).

The General Assembly also resulted in the renewed election of our auditors Johannes Mayrhofer and Mark Mitterhuber. We want to use the occasion to explicitly thank them for their year-long continued diligent examination of our annual accounts.



# SPONSORING

We would like to take this opportunity to once again explicitly thank all of our supporters who have made it possible for us to keep the club running successfully. Like every association, the CAOÖ depends on sponsors and cooperation partners in addition to its members to reach its goals.

We are grateful and pleased that we can look back on long-standing partnerships based on mutual respect and appreciation. In addition to our loyal sponsors Akademikerbund Oberösterreich, Fachhochschule Oberösterreich, Greiner AG, Industriellenvereinigung Oberösterreich, Raiffeisen Landesbank Oberösterreich and Wirtschaftskammer Oberösterreich, we are delighted that we could gain Land Oberösterreich as new and actively supporting partner on our side since the 2022/23 term. Additionally, through the organisation of the first ever Thinkathon by Club Alpbach Upper Austria powered by Austrian Power Grid and Microsoft we could further consolidate our financials. The club is therefore on a very stable financial footing and is very well equipped for all tasks.

Thanks to the generous support of our cooperation partners, we were once again able to strongly represent the region of Upper Austria at the EFA 2023 and enabled a total of 12 first-time scholarship holders to take part in the forum. The financial support in the form of a fully funded scholarship covers the costs of participating in the forum and the accommodation in Alpbach. In addition, the strong financial footing of the Club further enabled us to host a wide-array of Club events throughout the year and at EFA23. Last but not least, we were able to successfully manage the first part of our Club rebranding, among others enabling us to provide all participating individuals of CAOÖ at EFA23 with sustainably produced Club hoodies.

We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors and cooperating partners throughout the year and at the EFA and hope for a continuously thoughtful collaboration - the highly successful development of the club is directly related to this.

## Sponsors



## Cooperation Partners



# IMPRESSUM



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Abbildungen: Mitglieder des CAOÖ, wenn nicht anders angegeben

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