

# HUMANITY IN ACTION

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PAT COX FELLOWSHIP

2019



## Foreword

# Mobilizing a Diverse Europe



When Europe votes, it will look different. Many voters may not have been born where they cast their ballot. They may speak a language or follow a religion different from those around them. They may claim a European or national identity. All, however, will share a stake in Europe and its future.

This year, the Pat Cox Fellows, alongside our hosts and partners, grappled with a question: how do we ensure the diversity of our communities is reflected in the diversity of those who represent us? Put simply, how can we make our democracy more inclusive and **mobilize a diverse Europe.**



## About

# the Pat Cox Fellowship

Each year, Humanity in Action brings together a small group of outstanding students and young professionals from around the world for three-month professional fellowships in the European Parliament and Brussels-based NGOs.

Participants spend four days a week in the office of a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) or a Brussels-based NGO and one day at lectures and site visits. The program was founded in 2005 and has helped nearly 100 young people gain invaluable work experience at the European Parliament or with a Brussels-based NGO.

## Pat Cox

Former President, European Parliament



Pat Cox was President of the European Parliament from 2002 to 2004. He was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 1989 and represented the constituency of Munster in the Republic of Ireland throughout his career in Brussels. Before entering politics, he worked both as an economics lecturer and as a journalist and TV presenter. In 1998, he was first elected President of the European Liberal Democrat Group. He was unanimously re-elected in June 1999. In 2005, Pat Cox was elected president of the European Movement International where he served until 2011.

## A note on multiculturalism

# Martine Alonso Marquis

Director, Humanity in Action-Pat Cox Fellowship



I pertain to the “Erasmus Generation” of those who have benefited from experiences abroad within a united and diverse Europe. Being a person of mixed heritage and having lived in about 10 different countries, multiculturalism was not merely an abstract idea for me, but a requirement. As I transitioned into the job market, it was clear that these values needed to be at the center of my work.

In my role as director, I have worked to make diversity and inclusion central to all aspects of the Pat Cox program: from selecting Fellows with diverse backgrounds and ideas to allowing them to connect, through placements, visits, and lectures with civil society actors, policy makers, and leaders working daily to make Europe more democratic and respectful of difference.

## A note on civic engagement

Jamie Smith

Intern, Humanity in Action-Pat Cox Fellowship



Through the fellowship, I have met inspiring organizations that hold institutions to account for their shortcomings. These meetings have reaffirmed my faith in civic responsibility, and the civic action it invokes, as powerful forces for good. Multiculturalism runs at the heart of Humanity in Action's ethos and creates tolerant and stimulating spaces—provocative within the boundaries of mutual respect.

Reciprocal learning is a cornerstone of multiculturalism. To facilitate it, I've encouraged lecturers to explain how we can support their work. I've facilitated debates that welcome all perspectives, and I've helped Fellows engage in the character-defining multiculturalism of Brussels.



# Tetiana Piletska

Ukraine (Senior Fellow | 2017 Berlin)



In his speech Rethinking Europe Dialogue, Pat Cox said “Europe needs her Europeans. Passive engagement is not enough.” Indeed, it is not possible to build a strong EU without civil society engagement. Brussels is an example of how people of diverse backgrounds work together to build a common future. No matter which languages you speak, here you will learn the language of tolerance and diversity, which gives voice to Europe’s most marginalized and vulnerable populations.



MEP

Rupert Matthews  
United Kingdom

# Panourgias Papaioannou

Greece (Senior Fellow | 2017 Berlin)



MEP

Norica Nicolai  
Romania



Brussels is one of the world's most diverse cities. From day one, I saw that living in Belgium makes you part not only of a Belgian community but of an international one. Living here has reminded me that, through solidarity and collaboration, civic engagement can create change. Just look at the 35,000 people who marched for climate change in January. Our lecturers fight for better access to labor markets, gender equality, and accessibility because in Europe, "nihil de nobis, sine nobis" — nothing about us without us.

# Marleen Fleers

Netherlands

(Senior Fellow | 2018 Amsterdam)



As borders come to mean less, the European Union means more. The Parliament's role is not limited to promoting democratic decision-making. It also includes supporting the fight for democracy, free speech, and fair elections globally.

I always seek opportunities to make an impact, whether on a local, national, or global level. For this, we must educate young people in intercultural awareness. It is only through education, dialogue, and knowledge exchange that we can identify sustainable solutions at every level.

## Friedrich Naumann STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

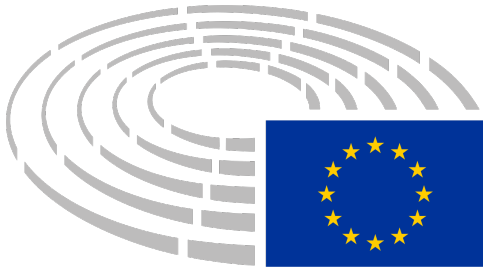


Thomas Ilka  
Regional Director of  
the European Dialogue



# Nikola Lero

Bosnia and Herzegovina  
(Senior Fellow I 2017 Sarajevo)



MEP  
Ivo Vajgl  
Slovenia

Visiting diverse organizations has taught me civic engagement is an obligation for all Europeans. We must live our democratic values every day. Looking forward, I hope to participate in the EU Integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EU has not given up on the Balkans although some politicians back home may paint that picture. On the contrary, the EU supports my country's integration.

My time at the parliament has motivated me to pursue my country's European dream.

# Daniel Buchman

United States

(Senior Fellow | 2017 Copenhagen)



Brussels has a head start on a conversation communities across and beyond Europe must start having. We must decide how our borders will work, how our communities will live, and how our values will guide us. Every choice comes with a trade off, and almost inevitably, some will feel alienated or left behind.

Civic participation is a series of tough, though important, conversations about our future. *We*, the people, are the only ones who can have them, and *we*, the people, are the only ones accountable for the future they bring.



Sophie Kloos  
Executive Director

special thanks for  
financially supporting and  
hosting our final event

Friedrich Naumann  
STIFTUNG

FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

here's to all our incredible  
partners and hosts











Thank you,  
**Martine and Jamie,**  
for everything!





Design by Daniel Buchman



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