

## **Webinar on Innovative Democracy Participation: Citizens' Assembly**

December 10, 2020 at 5 PM CET

Biographies of speakers

### **Jez Hall, Shared Future CIC, UK**

My work through Shared Future CIC allows me to follow my personal passion for empowering individuals and communities. I lead on business development and partnerships, and I also do lots of the direct delivery of our projects.

I coordinate PB Partners, a team of participatory budgeting experts and I'm on the steering group for the UK PB Network and the advisory board of the North American PB Project. Participatory budgeting is recognised worldwide as an effective way for empowering local communities and a model of best practice in public and democratic engagement.

But I have lots of other professional interests. I have worked with the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO), developing a new community renewable energy project. I was a long term director, until October 2019, of the Social Enterprise Network for Lancashire. Previously I was employed by Lancaster University Management School, specialising in social enterprise (SE) research and development and still support Shared Future's own Social Enterprise offer, including promoting the sector in Greater Manchester.

### **Richard Youngs, Senior Fellow Democracy, Conflict, And Governance Program, Carnegie Europe**

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Youngs is also a professor of international relations at the University of Warwick. Prior to joining Carnegie in July 2013, he was the director of the European think tank FRIDE. He has held positions in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and as an EU Marie Curie fellow. He was a senior fellow at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington, DC, from 2012 to 2013.

Youngs has authored thirteen books. His most recent works are *Civic Activism Unleashed: New Hope or False Dawn for Democracy?* (Oxford University Press, 2019), *Europe Reset: New Directions for the EU* (I.B. Tauris, 2017), and *Europe's Eastern Crisis: The Geopolitics of Asymmetry* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

### **Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe**

Anna Rurka is President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. The Conference of INGOs is a political and collective Council of Europe body representing the INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe. Its role is to affirm the political role of civil society at the Council of Europe, strengthen the freedom of association and associated rights in the Member States and reinforcing NGO participation in decision-making processes. With

a view to achieving its objectives, the Conference of INGOs work together with the other bodies of the Council of Europe and governmental and intergovernmental institutions.

### **Roman Szełemej, President of Wałbrzych, Poland**

MD-PhD Roman Szełemej – graduate of the Faculty of Medicine at the Wrocław Medical University. From 1999 deputy, then from 2000 head of the Department of Internal Medicine and Cardiology of the Mining Hospital in Wałbrzych. From 2002 director of the Dr. A. Sokołowski Specialist Hospital in Wałbrzych. In 2003 appointed by the Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodship as the representative for the consolidation of Wałbrzych hospitals. Since 2005 deputy director for health at the Specialist Hospital in Wałbrzych, then head of the Cardiology Department (until today). In 2008 he took the position of deputy director of the hospital and was also appointed by the Board of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship as its plenipotentiary for health policy.

On 26 May 2011 appointed by the prime minister as administrator of Wałbrzych. On 7 August 2011 elected Mayor of the city in the first round. In 2014, he wins the election again, receiving the support of 84% of the voters. In the last elections in 2018, he achieved the best election result in Poland among 107 city mayors, reflecting 84.49%.

### **Diana Endeladze, European Democracy Youth Network Ambassador, Georgia**

Diana Endeladze is a former Georgian Youth Delegate at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe where she worked on the youth engagement and intercultural diversity. She is a member of the European Democracy Youth Network - coalition of civic leaders with a shared commitment to democratic principles. Diana was a Deputy Executive Director at the Georgian NGO - Civil Development and Research Institute, where she managed different projects on youth empowerment and tackling disinformation. Currently, she works on the coordination and implementation of the Public Administration Reform and Open Government Partnership NAP at the Administration of the Government of Georgia. Diana obtained her master's degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe with the focus on the EU Public Affairs and Policies. She holds bachelor's degree in International Relations from Tbilisi State University.