Dear Reader,

When fighting ends and media attention is fading, time usually has come for reconstruction efforts. This does not only apply to physical infrastructures in war-torn societies but also, and perhaps more importantly, to their social and cultural institutions.

This year’s Berlin Summer Dialogue looks beyond the headlines of the day and immediate humanitarian concerns in states of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Instead it focuses on viable long-term support that international actors could offer to sustainable peacebuilding in the region.

As always, this newsletter will provide information on other projects and topics as well. We wish you an interesting read!

Sarah Hinz,  
Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)  
Dr Mischa Hansel,  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

UPCOMING EVENTS

: Shifting powers and democratic accountability: The role of global investigative journalism

Tête-à-Tête at the Global Media Forum of Deutsche Welle  
28 May, Bonn

Our session will focus on transnational investigative collaborations and the way they expose hidden power structures and global ‘shadow elites’ (Wedel). What kind of tools and resources are needed to carry out such projects? Have recent investigations truly revealed something we did not know before? And does the public actually care about investigative stories? To address these questions, sef: organizes a tête-à-tête between anthropologist and political scientist Professor Janine Wedel, George Mason University, and Ilya Lozovsky, Managing Editor of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. Take a look at the programme!

Only registered participants of the Global Media Forum can attend the event.
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been convulsed by multiple wars and armed conflicts. Responding to this situation, the international community has understandably prioritized negotiations on ending violence and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In the long run, however, they need to do more to support post-conflict societies in their efforts to agree on a new and sustainable social contract.

This year’s Berlin Summer Dialogue aims to bring together policy practitioners and civil society representatives to debate ways of international support for such efforts. To this purpose, participants are also asked to consider and take lessons from past reconstruction efforts. Take a look at the programme here!
PAST EVENTS

:: Participation or Polarisation? Social Media and Societal Peace

Dresden Forum for International Politics 2019
19/20 March 2019

Two thirds of the world’s population are already using the internet and more than half of them are active on social media. How do these networks influence political processes? And to what degree are they to blame for polarisation tendencies within many societies? More than hundred experts from various world regions and diverse professional backgrounds convened at the second Dresden Forum for International Politics to discuss these questions on 19/20 March 2019. The conference report will be available soon!

PUBLICATIONS

:: "We need to bring the human back into the digital conversation"

sef: insight 2|2019

At the Dresden Forum for International Politics 2019, sef: talked with Nanjala Nyabola, author and analyst based in Nairobi, about the advantages and challenges of social media in Kenyan society, how analogue politics can become fit for digital democracy and future challenges through social media platforms

Read the interview in our new sef: insight 2|2019 or watch it online via our YouTube Channel.
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