

EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in association with UN Information Centre
Czech Republic would like to cordially invite you to the event:

Why are think tanks more important now than ever before: think tanks in a post-factual world

14:00 - 15:45, Thursday 26th January 2017

United Nations Information Centre in Prague, Železná 24, Prague 1

- 14:00-14:05 Welcome remarks by:
Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy
- 14:05-14:15 Presentation of the results of the 2016 Go To Think Tank Index
Trends and evolutions in the Europe and the U.S.
Presentation: **Martin Michelot**, Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy
- 14:15-15:45 Public debate: Why are think tanks more important now than ever before?
Speakers: **Rosa Balfour**, Acting Director, Europe Program, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.
Jan Macháček, Chairman of the board of trustees, Institute for Politics and Society
Jiří Schneider, Executive Director, Aspen Institute Prague
Moderation: **Martin Michelot**, Deputy Director, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Please register [here](#), or contact us via europeum@europeum.org.

In order to mark the launch of the 2016 Go To Think Tank Index, published annually by the University of Pennsylvania, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy organizes a public discussion destined to take stock of how think tanks in the Czech Republic and beyond are still able today to fulfill their functions of informing policy debates. The idea of a "post-factual" environment, in which BREXIT and the victory of Donald Trump are possible, in which the so-called "fake news" spread by social media reinforce biases, has increasingly taken hold of the public debate and constitutes a real challenge to the very role of the think tanks: informing decision makers and a wide audience alike about current and future challenges, acting as intermediaries between the population and decision-makers, and producing new thinking about policies.

In a region where the role of civil society groups like think tanks are increasingly under pressure, and where the role of outside expertise is sometimes diminished and discredited by the politicians themselves, there is a renewed urgency for think tanks to get together and discuss how they can react to these trends in order to be able to shape future policies but also continue to reach as wide a population as possible.



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