



# EU-Russia Student Conference

Breaking Down Barriers

June 14-15, 2019  
Skolkovo Business School  
Moscow

# Speakers

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## Ewald Nowotny

Governor,  
Oesterreichische  
Nationalbank

**Ewald Nowotny** is the Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and a Member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Before taking on his current position in September 2008, Ewald Nowotny held a number of high-level positions in financial institutions. He was CEO of the Austrian BAWAG P.S.K. banking group from 2006 to 2007, served as Vice-President and Member of the Management Committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg from 1999 to 2003, and, between 1971 and 1979, was first a Member and then President of the Governing Board of Oesterreichische Postsparkasse (P.S.K.). Moreover, from 1992 to 2008, Ewald Nowotny served on the supervisory boards of several banks and corporations and was a member of the OeNB's General Council from 2007 to 2008.

Ewald Nowotny was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1944. He studied law and political science at the University of Venna and economics at the Institute for advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna. In 1967, he received his doctorate in law from the University of Vienna. He served as a professor at the University of Linz and at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, where has was also Vice-Rector for Financial Affairs.

# Speakers

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## Elvira Nabiullina

Governor, Central Bank of Russia

**Elvira Nabiullina** is the Governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. Before becoming the Governor in 2013, she served as Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

Elvira Nabiullina started her career at the Ministry of Economy in 1994, first as Deputy Head of the Economic Reform Department, then as Deputy Minister. In 2005, she became Head of the Expert Council of the Organising Committee for Russia's Presidency of the G-8 and Head of Research at the Centre for Strategic Research.

Elvira Nabiullina graduated from the Economics Faculty of the M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University.



# Speakers

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## Thomas Birtel

CEO, Strabag SE

**Thomas Birtel** is the CEO of STRABAG SE. Thomas Birtel graduated with a doctorate degree in economics from Ruhr-University Bochum in 1982. He began his career in 1983 at the former German trading and industrial plant construction group Klöckner & Co, where he advanced to Head of Accounting for Klöckner Industrie-Anlagen GmbH. In 1989, he moved on to the managing director's position at Sweden's Frigoscandia Group. He joined the STRABAG Group in 1996 as a member of the Management Board of STRABAG Hoch- und Ingenieurbau AG, was appointed to the Management Board of STRABAG AG, Germany, in 2002 and to the Management Board of STRABAG SE in 2006. Thomas Birtel has held the position of CEO of STRABAG SE since 15 June 2013.

# Speakers

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## Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell

**Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell** From 2003-2011, Tumpel-Gugerell was a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank. Before, she served as the Vice-Governor for Oesterreichische Nationalbank (the Central Bank of the Republic of Austria), overseeing the Economics and Financial Markets Department. Tumpel-Gugerell is a member of several international corporations, including Vienna Insurance Group, OMV and Commerzbank AG, as well as of the University Board of the Montanuniversitaet Leoben. Tumpel-Gugerell received her Doctorate in Economics and Social Sciences from the University of Vienna, and was awarded the Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria in 2014.

# Speakers

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## Thomas Kargl

Member of Board,  
Rail Cargo Austria AG

**Thomas Kargl** is Member of the Board of Rail Cargo Austria AG since June 2017. He has worked in various fields within the ÖBB Group. In the last years, he has been CEO of the Far East Land Bridge and responsible for the development of intermodal transport systems between Europe, Russia and China. As board member of the Rail Cargo Group, he focuses on the further international direction of the Rail Cargo Group and the expansion towards Russia and Asia.

# Speakers

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## Sergei Monin

CEO, Raiffeisen Bank Russia

**Sergei Aleksandrovich Monin** is the Chairman of the Board of Raiffeisenbank Russia. Sergei Monin was one of the very first employees at Raiffeisenbank in Russia when he joined the bank in 1996. In 1999, he headed the bank's treasury department, and in 2003 joined the bank's Management Board. Mr. Monin graduated from the International Economic Relations Faculty of the Financial Academy under the Government of the Russian Federation.

# Speakers

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## Johann Strobl

CEO, Raiffeisen Bank International

**Johann Strobl** is Chief Executive Officer of Raiffeisen Bank International AG (RBI). He was born in 1959 and holds a doctor's degree in economic sciences from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, where he started his professional career as an Assistant Professor. In 1989, he joined Creditanstalt-Bankverein where he held a number of managing positions in Treasury and Risk Management. He was Chief Financial Officer before joining Raiffeisen in October 2007 as Chief Risk Officer. He had been RBI's Deputy CEO from June 2013 before being appointed as CEO in March 2017.

# Speakers

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## Melina Sánchez Montañés

Chair, European Horizons

**Melina Sánchez Montañés** is the chair and co-founder of European Horizons, the first student-led policy incubator whose mission is to give young people a voice in shaping the future of Europe and of transatlantic relations. She is currently pursuing an MPA/MBA at Harvard Kennedy School and Tuck School of Business. Her interests lay in the intersection of alternative finance, public policy, and emerging technologies. Before graduate school, Melina worked with NYC-based fintech startup Novus Partners helping investors leverage quantitative analyses for making better portfolio and risk management decisions. Prior to joining the private sector, Melina worked in the diplomatic service for the Spanish government and the European External Action Service in Brussels, Caracas, Madrid and Lima, and most recently as a policy consultant on civic tech with the Regional Council of Occitanie (Toulouse, France). She graduated from Yale University in 2015.

# Speakers

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**Shlomo Weber**  
President,  
New Economic School

**Shlomo Weber** is the President of the New Economic School, Moscow, and Professor Emeritus of the Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA. He also serves as Academic Director of the Center for Study of Diversity and Social Interactions at the New Economic School. Shlomo Weber is a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the Global Development Network (GDN). He holds a M.Sc. cum laude in Mathematics from Moscow State University and a Ph.D. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Weber served as the Chairman of the Department of Economics at SMU, the Research Director of CORE at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and as the Academic Director of the International School of Economics, Tbilisi, Georgia. He received various international prizes, including the Alexander von Humboldt prize for outstanding foreign scientists, and the Russian National Megagrant Award. He published more than 100 articles in leading journals in economics and political science, including *Econometrica*, *American Political Science Review* and the *Review of Economic Studies*. His recent book (joint with Victor Ginsburgh) “How many Languages Do We Need? Economics of Linguistic Diversity” has been published by the Princeton University Press. Professor Weber has edited (jointly with Michael Alexeev) the *Oxford Handbook of Russian Economy*, which was published in English and Russian, and (jointly with Victor Ginsburgh) the *Palgrave Handbook of Economics of Languages*.

# Experts

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**Alexander  
Schierhuber**

**Alexander Andreas Schierhuber** has been representing ÖBB in managing Breitspur Planungsgesellschaft (BPG) since July 2018. Prior to that, he acted as Export Manager for GAZ International, the export subsidiary of GAZ Group, the largest Russian commercial vehicle manufacturer. He was responsible for entering new markets in Africa. As part of this activity, Mr. Schierhuber negotiated with various governments and regional authorities.

He previously worked as a project manager for the parent company GAZ Group and the majority shareholder Russian Machines. He has been gathering working experience in Russia and Africa since 2016. Previously, Mr. Schierhuber worked in the European and Austrian Parliaments. He studied European Economy and Business Management in Vienna and holds a Master's degree in International Management and Leadership from Lauder Business School. In addition, Mr. Schierhuber completed another Master's degree program in "Global Business" at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



**Aleksandr  
Baskakov**

**Mr. Baskakov** is an expert in the field of rail freight transport with more than 8 years of experience. He will provide his expertise and feedback to participants of the workshop «Far East Land Bridge».

# Experts

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**Andreas  
Timel**

**Andreas Timel** is an Expert Analyst on Fintech at Oesterreichische Nationalbank since January 2019, and has been an Analyst in the Supervision for Significant Institutions since 2008. Apart from Fintech, his expertise also encompasses IT Risk, digitalization, and supervisory quality assurance. After he had worked as an economic editor at the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) for 5 years, he joined OeNB in 2014, where he began his professional career in the organizational department. Andreas Timel holds an academic degree in business administration with focus on Entrepreneurship and eCommerce.



**Karsten  
Richter**

**Karsten Richter** is a Commercial Group Division Manager of Strabag Group in Russia. He began his career in 1978 in the Production Department of the German stainless steel manufacturing and pipeline construction company Butting Gruppe GmbH & Co. KG. In 1980, he moved to the German construction company Phillip Holzmann AG, where he advanced to Central Business accounting manager and led the company's operations in Saudi Arabia. He joined the Strabag Group in 1991 and today holds the position of a Commercial Group Division Manager in Russia. Karsten Richter is a member of the Management Board of STRABAG AG, Germany.

# Our team

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**Igor Mitschka**

Co-Founder, President

**Igor** founded this initiative, because he believes that the people in the EU and Russia should think big and build a common future on many of their shared values and interests. A native from Austria, Igor learnt the Russian language in Kazan, and today is pursuing a Master's degree in Energy Economics at the New Economic School in Moscow. Before graduate school, Igor worked as an investment banker in the Public Sector & Infrastructure Group at Goldman Sachs in New York and recently worked for a private equity firm focused on metals & mining in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Igor graduated from Yale University in 2015, where he co-founded the international student think-tank "European Horizons." His interests are energy and natural resources finance, investments in Europe and Central Asia, and European politics.

[igor.mitschka@gmail.com](mailto:igor.mitschka@gmail.com)



**Dominik Urak**

Co-Founder, Vice-President

**Dominik Urak** is a Vice-President of the EU-Russia Student Conference and workshop leader of the OEBB-workshop. Dominik is a master's student at MGIMO in Moscow, where he pursues his studies in the field of politics and economics in the post-Soviet space. Before MGIMO, Dominik studied International Business and Business Law at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He gained practical experience in international organizations and private businesses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, and Kazakhstan, and is currently conducting an internship at the Austrian Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. Dominik enjoys realizing projects with a positive long-term impact. He believes the EU-Russia Student Conference is of utmost importance and will create a new basis for cooperation between future leaders from the EU and Russia.

[dominik.urak@gmail.com](mailto:dominik.urak@gmail.com)

# Our team

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**Alena Shigoreva**

Vice-President

**Alena Shigoreva** is a Vice President of the EU-Russia Conference and workshop leader of the Raiffeisenbank-workshop. Being part of the organizing team, she is interested in building closer business and cultural connections between the European Union and the countries of the Eurasian Union. Alena is a second-year student in the Master of Arts in Finance program at the New Economic School in Moscow and has more than 1.5-year practical experience in finance. At the moment, she is a Financial Analyst at the Russian retail company Home Market. An important part in her life is her commitment to the Youth Financial League, one of the largest communities for talented students and professionals in Russia, where she has been a leader of several large projects.

ashigoreva@nes.ru

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**Michael Tjagusow**

Workshop Leader

**Michael Tjagusow** is the workshop leader of the Strabag-workshop. Michael is a third-year student of the Higher School of Economics' (HSE) Faculty of Law (joint project of the HSE and the Russian School of Private Law). He had work experience in the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce in Russia (ICC Russia) and the Belgian developer company Liebrecht & wood. At present Michael is an exchange student at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München and a paralegal at Attorney's Office No.182 of the Moscow Region Bar.

mtgsw@ya.ru

# Our team

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**Maria Ilinykh**  
Workshop Leader

**Maria Ilinykh** is one of the workshop leaders of the “Raiffeisenbank” Workshop. Maria works as a business analyst for a financial service company and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in Energy Economics at the New Economic School in Moscow. Before that, Maria graduated from Saint Petersburg State University and worked for the Interparliamentary Assembly of CIS Nations as well as the Saint Petersburg’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She is passionate about strategy aspects of O&G companies, data analytics and international relations.

[Maraiilynkh@gmail.com](mailto:Maraiilynkh@gmail.com)

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**Veronika Iakovleva**  
Workshop Leader

**Veronika Iakovleva** Veronika Iakovleva is one of the two workshop leaders of the ÖNB-workshop. Veronika graduated from MGIMO (with a bachelor and master degree in international finance law) and is currently getting a second degree in corporate finance at the Financial University in Moscow. She also studied at Freie Universität (Berlin) as exchange student. Veronika has work experience in finance law and tax practices at top international (BakerMcKenzie) and Russian (Pepeliaev Group) law firms. Furthermore, Veronika is the managing director of MFL – Russian community of young professionals working on financial markets. Veronika is a member of Russian Central Bank’s Expert Council on Financial Literacy.

[veronika.yakovleva@outlook.com](mailto:veronika.yakovleva@outlook.com)

# Our team

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**Vladislav Rasskazov**

Workshop Leader

**Vladislav Rasskazov** is one of the two workshop leaders of the ÖNB-workshop. He works as a program manager at the Business Development Department of Rostelecom, Russian largest digital services provider. In parallel, he teaches a number of LSE courses, including Investment Management and Digital Infrastructures, at the University of London Tutorial Centre of the Financial University Moscow. Vlad holds a MSc degree in Financial Mathematics from the Financial University, Moscow, and a BSc degree in Finance & Investment Management from the Newcastle Business School.

skazov.vladislav@gmail.com

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**Alena Shcherbakova**

Communications Director

**Alena** is a Communications Director. She is a graduate of the Master's Program in International Law and European Law and Law of Integration Processes at MGIMO University. In 2018, she worked as a trainee and then a project assistant in the Moscow Office of the Council of Europe, assisting in the project "HELP in the Russian Federation". Furthermore, Alena participated in the preparation of the conference of the Council of Europe's joint project "Co-operation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women, 2017-2022".

sherbakovaalena@rambler.ru

# Our team

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**Sofiya Emelianova**

Media Director

**Sofiya** is a Social Media Director. She is a sophomore at the Higher School of Economics (HSE), Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs. In 2013, she took a summer language program at Oxford Brookes University (Great Britain) and in 2014, she took another language program at Open Heart Language Academy (USA). Nowadays she is learning the Chinese language and hopes to link her career with the improvement of relations between Russia and China. Moreover, Sofiya is now working as a scientific editor in a research journal.

[sofi.emel@yandex.ru](mailto:sofi.emel@yandex.ru)

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**Nikita Melnikov**

Special Events Director

**Nikita** is a Special Events Director. He is student at the International Law Faculty at MGIMO University. In 2016, he worked as an assistant for the International Department of the Moscow International Film Festival. In 2017, he was the Secretary for the Festival's Jury. Currently, Nikita serves as the Special Projects Producer Deputy at "DAU", London – Paris.

[nikmeln@mail.ru](mailto:nikmeln@mail.ru)

# Participants

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**Adriana  
Martinkevica**

As a special added value of this event Adriana finds the opportunity to raise relevant topics according Latvia and keep strong network with other professionals and representers from the World, which is an exceptional opportunity for horizontal exchange of experience. She perceives this also as an occasion to familiarize with good practices as a channel for her personal development.



**Alexander  
Marx**

Alexander is a second-year Bachelor student in Economics (University of Groningen) . Before he discovered his interest in economic research, he worked in the Sales and Distribution group of a smaller entrepreneurial company. Currently, Alexander is working as a Teaching Assistant for the Faculty of Economics and Business. He believes that increasing the exchange of goods between countries and thus economic integration as promoted by the Breitspurproject is the foundation for enhancing the relationship between Europe, Russia, and Central Asia.



**Aina  
Tishibaeva**

Aina is a senior student pursuing a B.Sc. in Economics at Dostoevsky Omsk State University (OmsU). Before, she did an exchange semester in the U.S. Aina is eager to participate in the conference because, first of all, the payment-system section is a topic of her personal and academic interest, and second, she just enjoys being in an international environment and do her bit to “build a bridge” between countries.

tishibaeva@gmail.com



**Alexander  
Parshin**

Alexander studies financial management at the University of International Business and Economics in China and at the Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation. He is also enrolled at Kutafin Moscow State Law University.

Alexander’s motivation for the conference is networking (new friends, partners or just contacts) as well as new knowledge about the interaction between investment banks and companies to raise capital and M&A, about sources of funding and actions to increase the value of the firm to shareholders.

adparshin@bk.ru



**Albina  
Rasputnyaya**

Albina is currently an undergraduate student in the Faculty of Economics at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration; before, she was studying at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Area Studies, Moscow State University. She is eager to participate in “Breaking Down Barriers” because she sees it as both a great opportunity for her personal and professional development and a rare chance for applying skills, passion and talent towards a worthy project.

79887086150@yandex.ru



**Alexey  
Dertev**

Alexey is a 3rd-year international relations and geopolitics of transport student at the Russian University of Transport (MIT). His fields of interests include topics connected to Eurasian region economics and politics: Russia-China-EU cooperation in the field of international transcontinental corridors and issues about Central Asia’s peace & security. He has been practicing at IFES RAS and did an apprenticeship at Beijing Union University. Participating at the conference will help Alexey find colleagues and further develop his professional knowledge in terms of international rail cooperation.

a1998d33@gmail.com

# Participants

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**Aliya  
Davletshina**

Aliya is a third-year undergraduate student at MGIMO University majoring in international economic relations. Besides Economics in general, she has a passion for finance and banking, which is partly inherited from her parents and partly is due to her mathematical background. She has already some work experience as a business analyst intern at Tatarstan Investment Development Agency in Kazan (her hometown) and as a Data Scientist Intern in Sberbank (Moscow). Recently she studied for a semester at the American University in Washington, D.C. where she learnt more about Data Science and Machine Learning and the way they can be implemented in the banking sphere. As a participant, Aliya hopes that the conference will deepen her knowledge in banking and inspire new ideas and solutions for the further development of the Russian financial system.

[aliyaadav@gmail.com](mailto:aliyaadav@gmail.com)



**Anna  
Kazina**

Anna is a 3rd-year med student in Law at the Economic and Law Department in Novosibirsk State University (NSU). She has experience working in a construction company and an intellectual property rights company. In addition, she is leading a student project on business development among students of NSU.

Anna is interested in participating in this conference because she believes that important issues in the cooperation between Russian and foreign companies should be solved together with the use of various tools and the involvement of young professionals.

[kazinaanya@mail.ru](mailto:kazinaanya@mail.ru)



**Amanda  
Haynes**

Originally from the United States, Amanda is currently studying for her master's in Democracy and Governance at the University of Tartu, Estonia. Her main field of research is political communication and the digitalization of democracy. She has, however, lived in Central and Eastern Europe for the past 10 years and is personally interested in promoting cross-border cooperation, and observing how different networks can influence policy change.

[amanhaynes@gmail.com](mailto:amanhaynes@gmail.com)



**Anna  
Larionova**

Anna is currently finishing her Bachelor's degree in «International Relations» at Higher School of Economics, that's why she is excited about the idea of collaboration between Russian and foreign students. Such projects break down the barriers between nations and help advance experience and knowledge by exchanging views and opinions. As Anna wants to accelerate her career in Marketing, where she has two years of working experience already, she hopes that she will be able to contribute to the group projects from this point of view.

[ann.larionova1@gmail.com](mailto:ann.larionova1@gmail.com)



**Anastasia  
Yaschenko**

Anastasia is a student at the International College of Economics and Finance and the London School of Economics. In the past, she interned with the Italian bank Intesa Sanpaolo and participated in foreign consulting projects. This conference offers a unique opportunity to develop solutions for leading European companies, so Anastasia was eager to join.

[nastasia.yasch@gmail.com](mailto:nastasia.yasch@gmail.com)



**Anna  
Nosova**

Anna has done her Bachelors' degree at Moscow State University and Masters' degree at Grand School of Management St Petersburg University. She is also in pursuit of a Master in Management degree from CEMS (The Global Alliance in Management Education) and has spent a semester at HEC, Paris as a part of the program. As far as her work experience is concerned, she worked half a year at Deloitte Consulting and was awarded a certificate for outstanding work with client representatives as a result of the project in one of the largest Russian banks.

Anna participates in the conference because she would like to deepen her knowledge in the sphere of CIB and meet like-minded people who want to break down barriers between Russia and EU.

[annanosova2011@yandex.ru](mailto:annanosova2011@yandex.ru)

# Participants

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**Anna  
Shiyanova**

Anna is a HSE master's student with a major in consulting and corporate governance. She works for a large telecom company and is highly interested in technologies. Extracurricular activities that enable her to improve her tech skills are the great part of her life today: she had a consulting project on 5G, research study on blockchain, and developed two customer-oriented platforms due to championships.

The questions raised by OeNB are crucial for both Austrian and Russian economies, that is why she would like to make a contribution. The main goal of the conference is to break down barriers, which corresponds to her personal values.

[ann.shiyanova@mail.ru](mailto:ann.shiyanova@mail.ru)

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**Dunya  
Baradari**

Dunya is in her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences with focus Neuroscience and Genetics at University College London. Her interest lies in Decision Making and applying insights from cognitive neuroscience on political or economic contexts. Next year, she will be heading research at the European Horizons chapter at UCL and coordinate workshop groups to create policy papers.

Dunya believes that fostering EU-Russian connectivity with open-minded youth is an exciting and important endeavour, especially during times of shifting power dynamics. Moreover, Dunya is thrilled to work on her project with the Rail Cargo Group in the broader context of the New Silk Road Initiative, as she will be studying Chinese Business at the Chinese University of Hong Kong over the summer.

[dunya.baradari.17@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:dunya.baradari.17@ucl.ac.uk)

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**Artem  
Kormilitsyn**

Artem is studying at RUDN University, Academy of Engineering, at the Department of Mechanics and Mechatronics. His specialty is Control and System Engineering. Before, he worked on the digital platform Quintessence.tech as a Project manager/ developer.

He is interested in the digital economy, researching the capabilities of digital platforms and fintech.

[ArtikJove@gmail.com](mailto:ArtikJove@gmail.com)

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**Dzmitry  
Siasitski**

Dzmitry is a 1st- year student of the Master of Arts in Finance program at the New Economic School in Moscow. He previously graduated from the Faculty of International Relations at Belarusian State University. He recently made 3rd place at the Russian stage of CFA Investment Research Challenge.

Dzmitry supposes that non-cash payment systems will experience significant changes in the foreseeable future. Thus, the EU-Russia Student Conference not only provides participants with opportunities to express their vision of the future, but also make it possible to take part in creating new ones with the support of international experts.

[dsiasitski@nes.ru](mailto:dsiasitski@nes.ru)

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**Daria  
Zimushko**

Daria is graduating from the Higher School of Economics this year (bachelor degree). She has one-year work experience in the Risk Management Department of «International Investment Bank». Currently, Daria is working as a financial consultant in BDO. She is the winner of the Olympics in Strategic Corporate Finance and the finalist of the Olympics in Financial Analytics «Finance 360». Her motivation to participate in the event is to get a better understanding of current trends in the corporate banking industry and choose the subject of study for her future master thesis.



**Ekaterina  
Kipervar**

Ekaterina is studying at Omsk State University in the area of business management and economic security. She is also engaged in analytical work at the Strategy Partners group. For her, the topic of the EU-Russia Student Conference is extremely important, as it will be a topic that will not only affect the country's economy, but also social development in the future.

[Kea2025@gmail.com](mailto:Kea2025@gmail.com)

# Participants

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**Ekaterina  
Korobova**

Ekaterina is a student of St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University, Institute of Civil Engineering, and hopes to become a design engineer in the future. Ekaterina believes that being a narrow specialist is great, but in addition, one needs to broaden her horizons and actively monitor what is happening in related industries. Thus, communicating with experts and observing their success at the conference, participants will strive to achieve the same results in their work.

ekkorobova99@gmail.com

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**Enya  
Hamel**

Enya is a researcher for the national security program of the GLOBSEC Policy Institute where she has been working on projects related to European terrorism and Jihadism. She also works as a political article analyst and has edited a number of articles pertaining to post-Soviet geopolitics. Currently, she is completing an Int MA in Central and East European Studies, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Glasgow. Her motivation behind participating in the EU-Russia Student Conference “Breaking Down Barriers” is to expand her business and commercial awareness and to contribute to increased co-operation between the EU and Russia.

enyakhamel@gmail.com

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**Elena  
Parfenyuk**

Elena is currently studying in the Master’s program of Finance at the New Economic School (NES) in Moscow. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU). While studying, she got two patents for the programs of simulation of discrete signals and wrote two research articles which were taken as the basis for training and a laboratory workshop in the university. She worked for a year in one of the Big Four accounting firms in its advisory department, working in the performance improvement group. Elena is interested in fintech industry that is growing rapidly and would be very glad to participate in its development.

eparfenyuk@nes.ru

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**Evgeniy  
Kotov**

Evgeniy is a student in Applied Informatics at Faculty of Business Informatics in the National Research Nuclear University «MEPhI». Furthermore, Evgeniy is currently working as an analyst in Changellenge.

His motivation is his love for new technologies and searching for new connections.

zhek.a.k@yandex.ru

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**Elena  
Yurasova**

Elena is studying in Altai State University and works as intern in Leroy Merlen.

Lena-15-05@mail.ru

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**He  
Qin**

Currently, He is pursuing a M.S. of International Finance and Economics at Moscow State University. Before, she used to work at a PE company. The reason for attending this conference is that she can exchange ideas and share experiences with people who are interested in finance or economics.

qinhe.msu@gmail.com

# Participants

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**Henkel  
Vincent**

Currently, Vincent is studying International Business Administration at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. He is specialized in foreign trade and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). For more than half a year, Vincent has been working at Raiffeisen Bank International AG in the Trade Finance Department - Team Bank Guarantees.

Vincent had the chance to spend one year in Russia and since that time he has been feeling at least a little bit Russian. The initiative «Breaking down Barriers» is another great opportunity for him to get in contact with economically committed students and to exchange views. By participating, all participants contribute to sustainable future relationships between Europe and Russia - isolation is no option in our globalized world!

vincent.henkel1@gmail.com

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**Joel  
Christoph**

Joel is French-Japanese, studying economics at University College London. He grew up in the Netherlands and Germany, likes to perform dance as a hobby and will be working in global energy research over the summer. Although he has never been to a CIS country, he will be in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan before the conference and will move to Beijing in September 2019. He is excited to meet you all.

joelchristoph@outlook.com

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**Ivan  
Gach**

Ivan is in his final year at the Higher School of Economics, graduating with a BSc in Banking and Finance from ICEF. After working in finance-related fields at retail companies, he joined a Russian investment boutique - SP Capital.

Ivan believes that this conference is a unique project with the amazing idea of bringing people of different cultures and backgrounds together. It is vitally important to hold such events, as breaking down barriers between countries is an important step towards sustainable growth in the future.

ivangatch97@gmail.com

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**Johannes  
Krickl**

Currently, Johannes is studying Management & Entrepreneurship as well as Political Science in Vienna. Additionally, he is working part-time as an organisational developer in a company in the energy sector.

Being part of something that has an impact to create a better world is his motivation to participate at the conference.

johannes.krickl@aon.at

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**Ivona  
Kleynotskaya**

Ivona is studying economics as a third-year student at Belarus State Economic University. She has work experience as an accountant assistant.

Ivona's desire to attend the "EU-Russia Student Conference" stems from her interest in connecting with attendees with different perspectives and views - learn from them, form new relationships, and strengthen existing ones.

ivonakleynotskaya@yandex.ru

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**Kirill  
Shumanova**

Kirill is studying at the Faculty of Law, Higher School of Economics. He has some work experience in a bankruptcy law firm. The workshops of the conference appealed to him; in particular the one suggested by Strabag seemed to him a good way to resolve real-life cases together with people of different backgrounds.

# Participants

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**Kristina  
Degtyareva**

Kristina is studying at the National Research University 'Higher School of Economics' (NSU HSE, 2021). Her main courses there are microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, Russian economy, IFRS. Kristina believes the conference is a great opportunity for her future career and personal growth.

k.degtyareva1@gmail.com



**Ksenija  
Zykova**

Ksenija is a HSE master student (2019) of Strategic Corporate Finance. Currently, she is working as a consultant at the Financial Consulting Group in the department of Transactions (M&A) Support. Ksenija is interested in this conference because she would like to pursue her career in an investment bank.

ksenija-zykova@yandex.ru



**Kristina  
Sosnina**

While studying in International College of Economics and Finance, Kristina is involved in various projects on financial and economic issues, for instance as the organizer of the Olympiad of Evening School IES.

Participating in the conference for her is a chance to learn about international banking experience; likewise, it is a great opportunity to build a professional network and meet like-minded people.

kristina.sosnina.ol@gmail.com



**Kyle  
Bryant**

Kyle is a 1st-year masters student at MGIMO, in the program Politics and Economics of Eurasia. He is interested in the economic relationship between the EU and Russia, which is why he applied for this conference.

bryantjk123@yahoo.com



**Ksenia  
Lebedeva**

During her school years, Ksenia won prizes in 7 "olympiads," most of which were in economics or social studies. Currently she is studying at International College of Economics and Finance (double-diploma program).

The EU-Russia Student Conference provides opportunities for meeting people from different parts of the world sharing the same interests and values; it also motivates her to think creatively and keep up the pace with the modern world.

ksenialebedeva.m1@gmail.com



**Laura  
Lettau**

Laura studies Business Administration in her fourth semester at the Vienna University of Business and Economics with specializations in Strategy & Organization and International Marketing Management. Besides her studies she works as a Working Student at Boston Consulting Group. Prior work experiences include internships in banking and consulting. Since she did her internship in Corporate Finance at Deutsche Bank AG, she has been very interested in the innovation of banking products. Last but not least, she is very interested in intercultural exchange, which is the reason why she likes the idea of an EU-Russia Student Conference.

lauralettau@arcor.de

# Participants

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**Lazar  
Krstic**

Lazar is a law student in Vienna, Austria, but comes from Serbia and has recently studied in the United Kingdom. He specializes in business law and has so far worked in commercial law firms in Austria, Germany and Serbia. He is interested in this conference because he believes Russia is of great importance for all European countries and as such, he thinks more progress towards mutual cooperation should be done.

lazakrstic996@hotmail.com



**Lidia  
Lotkina**

Lidia currently studies management at the economics department of the Novosibirsk State University. She has already got experience in case solution and made 1st place at the Unilever Future Leaders League Championship and the 2nd place in Changellenge Cup Russia Case Championship. She worked in PMI, PwC. The conference appeals to Lidia because she hopes to gain diverse perspectives and an opportunity to enhance her academic and social capabilities.

lidialotkina@gmail.com



**Leila  
Mirzoeva**

Leila is a senior law student, specialized in civil law, business law and IP. She works as a paralegal in the Cybersecurity company Group-IB. Her current goal and motivation is to get involved in different spheres of the law, including banking and finance law.



**Marco  
Grabner**

Marco is 21 years old and comes from Vienna (Austria). After his graduation at the higher technical college for construction and engineering with a special focus on project management, he opted for attending Business Law and Economics at the Vienna University for Business and Economics. Since then, he worked (besides his studies) two years for the Raiffeisen Bank International (RBI) in the legal department specialized on financial sanctions, did an internship abroad in London for an Austrian company named Plasser & Theurer and is now working at Erste Bank AG in the department for Real Estate Investment and Financing.

He is especially interested in the conference due to the fact that he has already worked for Strabag AG as well as for Raiffeisen Bank International (RBI) and also did a Russian language course at his university. To combine all these facts and gain some more practical experience, he is grateful to have the chance to participate at the first „Breaking down barriers - EU Russia Student Conference“.

m.office.grabner@gmail.com



**Lennart  
Welter**

Lennart is a German graduate student at the Moscow State University with a major in Global Economics and Finance. Before moving to Russia, he studied Engineering and Business in Munich with a focus on energy markets and energy technology. He participates in this conference to gain more insights in the EU-Russian economic relations and to build a strong network with inspiring young leaders.

welterlennart@gmx.de



**Margarita  
Khusiainova**

Margarita is a Bachelor of Law and for her Master's program, she chose the International Law of Economic Integration. Her participation in the student exchange program «Erasmus+» had a particular influence on her decision to study International Law of Economic Integration.

She is motivated to participate in the first EU-Russia Conference for many reasons. Firstly, because it is FIRST Conference! :) Secondly, because the current situation and relations between the EU and Russia requires specific attention. The student conference is able to make a huge impact on the further development of the EU-Russian relationship in a positive way.

mrkhusyainova@gmail.com

# Participants

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**Margarita  
Morozova**

Margarita is currently finishing her master's degree at MGIMO, Moscow, in the program on World Trade. She had some studying and working internships in China, for instance in the Trade Mission of Russia in Beijing.

Margarita is interested in the economy and China-related matters, especially the BRI initiative. The theme of the conference is inextricably intertwined with the theme of her Master thesis as she devoted the last two years to the research of the OBOR initiative.

mrg-morozova@bk.ru



**Marina  
Usatiuk**

Marina is a student at the Russian Presidential Academy, where she focused on Economics & Finance. Maria has work experience in "Kondor Ltd." (retail), where she was the Deputy General Director, Economics & Finance; today, she is Assistant auditor in Deloitte. For Maria, the Conference is a chance to find like-minded people, to expand the network of business contacts, to strengthen existing skills and acquire new ones, and to enrich her ideas with new points of view.

marinausa21@mail.ru



**Maria  
Bazlutskaya**

Maria is a first-year Master Student at the Moscow State University of International Relations. Her major is Russian foreign policy and diplomacy. Since 2018, she has become interested in railway services and technology, which is why she started to work firstly in the HR dept. of the Russian railways company; today, she works closely with railways construction specialists. Maria is interested in the student conference as she is sure that she can share her experience with others and get acquainted with new people and learn from them.

mariazblutskaya@yahoo.com



**Maryia  
Alchykova**

Maryia is studying Business Informatics at NRU HSE, Faculty of Business and Management. She spent one semester studying at Seoul National University of Science and Technology as an exchange student. Maryia sees the EU-Russia Student Conference as a great opportunity to visit interesting workshops and network.

alma3107@yandex.ru



**Maria  
Mishina**

Maria is a 3rd year student from Altai State University, majoring in general management. Previously, she did an exchange program (Erasmus +) at the University of Córdoba (Spain). Maria is the leader of Altai Case Club (student organization by decision business cases) and the organizer of All-Russian Dance and Vocal Festivals. The EU-Russia Student Conference for her is an opportunity to try herself in a the railway sphere and work on cooperation with real business representatives.

maria.mishina2017@gmail.com



**Melisa  
Midzan**

Melisa is currently studying business administration at the Vienna University of Economics and Business and before that completed a higher technical college for electrical engineering. She has been working for an Austrian start-up almost two years now participating in digitalization projects. Before, she was working for the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation in the area of media technology for a couple of years.

Melisa believes that young, motivated and open-minded students can significantly contribute to a stronger cooperation between the EU and Russia in the future.

melisa.midzan@hotmail.com

# Participants

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**Michael  
Gruzd**

Michael is pursuing his undergraduate degree at the Belarus State Economic University and working as an accounting assistant.

One of the main reasons for choosing the conference is that he has for a long time been interested in business and fascinated by how financial analysis can improve organizational effectiveness.

[misha.gruzd@gmail.com](mailto:misha.gruzd@gmail.com)



**Nikita  
Glukhov**

Currently Nikita is working on a paper regarding hot markets in the cryptocurrency world and their influence on prices and successes of listed ICOs. Also, Nikita is currently working in the BCS research department.

The main reason why Nikita wanted to participate in the conference is to meet other interesting people. He sees the conference as a huge opportunity to find future colleagues and business partners.



**Nadezda  
Pleshakova**

Nadezda is a student in her last year at the Higher School of Economics, receiving a master's in private international law. Her work experience at Sberbank of Russia provided her with a vivid understanding that due to globalization, businesses are becoming more internationally active. Knowing how non-EU firms can interconnect with internal EU payments and settlement systems is crucial for designing efficient cross-border financial services.



**Nikita  
Tikhonenko**

Nikita has done more than 1,000 public appearances and has been selected the best advertising agent of spring 2018 in the Federal network of educational centers «Юниум» in St. Petersburg. Nikita is also the winner of the winter master's school in Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU).

Nikita is interested in the experience of working in an international team. Networking is also important to him. And he wants to get knowledge of the construction industry.

[tikhonenko.nikita@gmail.com](mailto:tikhonenko.nikita@gmail.com)



**Nicola  
Audibert**

Upon completing a 5-year double Bachelor's and Double Master's degree programme in International Relations and European Affairs at Sciences Po Bordeaux and at the University of Turin, Nicola went on to bolster his experience of the EU's workings in Brussels and to establish his grounding in diplomacy and research in Sofia and Prague, notably as a EU Presidency Officer within the French Embassy during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU. Since the end of his stint, he has been enrolled in the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna's postgraduate programme, where he currently specialises in conflict prevention and Eastern and Southeast European security matters.

As a postgraduate student staunchly believing in pan-European dialogue and in the need for greater convergence between the EU and Russia, a country he has long been mesmerizingly interested in and attracted to, the overarching goal set by the conference - « breaking down barriers » - struck a chord with Nicola



**Nikita  
Zhuchkov**

Nikita is a postgraduate student in IT with four years of industrial expertise in HCI, R&D, product management, agile methodologies, databases, UX and design.

Participation in the conference is a fantastic opportunity to join a community of professionals with wide diversity expertise and curiosity, and work together on such an actual topic like payment systems.

[ndzhuchkov@gmail.com](mailto:ndzhuchkov@gmail.com)

# Participants

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**Ovanes  
Agopov**

Ovanes is a postgraduate in economics doing his research in manufacturing and working as a manager & scholar at the Higher School of Economics. Besides teaching and facilitating student activities he is passionate about international relations. For four years together with his colleagues Ovanes has been leading the US-Russian Student Dialogue Project aimed to facilitate dialogue and projects between HSE and Ivy Council.

The EU-Russia Conference for Ovanes is an umbrella for many young leaders from all over Europe and provides a unique experience to work on real international projects, accumulate various experiences and view points.

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**Patric  
Freund**

Ovanes is a postgraduate in economics doing his research in manufacturing and working as a manager & scholar at the Higher School of Economics. Besides teaching and facilitating student activities he is passionate about international relations. For four years together with his colleagues Ovanes has been leading the US-Russian Student Dialogue Project aimed to facilitate dialogue and projects between HSE and Ivy Council.

The EU-Russia Conference for Ovanes is an umbrella for many young leaders from all over Europe and provides a unique experience to work on real international projects, accumulate various experiences and view points.

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**Piotr  
Kasperek**

Piotr is a current student of a Master's in economics at the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. His professional experience so far includes working for the private and public sector in organizations such as the European Commission (Warsaw office) and Asia Scotland Institute. He is interested in economic and international affairs, especially in Eurasia and Africa. By attending the conference he hopes to meet like-minded people and strengthen the future relations between Russia and the EU.

piotr.kasperek.1994@gmail.com



**Robert  
Ballante**

Robert is a Russian-Italian student of International Political Economy at the LSE. He has a long lasting interest in Russian foreign policy and the socio-political developments in post-Soviet societies. He has been involved for many years in the Italian startup scene and is looking forward to beginning a career in consulting.

Robert has always believed in the inevitable necessity of strengthening EU-Russia relations given our geographical and cultural neighbourliness. The Breitspur rail project is the perfect opportunity to strengthen those ties from both ideational and physical perspectives.

r.ballante@lse.ac.uk

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**Roman  
Barmin**

Roman is a graduate from the Lomonosov Moscow State University in the field of physics and management. He there supervises educational projects of the largest Russian insurance company for university students; furthermore, more than 1,500 LMSU students attended lectures and inter-faculty courses in his educational project in design and photography.

Roman is interested in cross-functional and international relations in the field of economics and innovation, which is why he participates in this conference.

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**Semjon  
Golubev**

Semjon is a mechanical engineer. At the moment he is a post-graduate student at the University of Technology in Kostroma, where he focuses on "the development of new composite materials based on three-dimensional weaving." He is also a leading specialist in the Scientific & Production Association Programmable Composites LLC. During his studies, Semjon worked in Germany, and two years ago, he was in China for one year, where he participated in two technological conferences devoted to the development of the Silk Road and the international exchange of technology. Semjon believes that our countries should build our common future. And of course we must take care of the environment, but also maintain or improve our quality of life. The project "Breitspur" should be an important step towards bringing our countries together and forming our strategic interaction.

golubev.semyon@gmail.com

# Participants

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**Sergey  
Kuzero**

Sergey has work and internship experience in the financial sector (in “Vnesheconombank”) as well as in studying abroad: 3 years in Belgium and the Fall semester 2018 exchange programme in France. Sergey is the participant and winner of miscellaneous business games & cases and scientific conferences, as well as the author of 5 scientific articles in English.

Sergey has long been sincerely interested in topics such as residential & commercial construction building and urban development; the EU-Russia Conference and the Strabag workshop in particular have enabled him to work in international teams of highly motivated peers and gain valuable expertise in order to move forward on realizing those ideals.

s.kuzero@mail.ru



**Tatiana  
Shelovanova**

Tatiana studies in RANEPA in the economics and finance program (2nd year). The “EU-Russia Student Conference” is one of those rare opportunities to share her view about the future payment system as well as to find out how European students see it. Ever since she came across the news that such a conference will be organized, she has been inspired with the thought that she could get involved in the challenge of a new payment solution.

shelovanovat@bk.ru



**Sophia  
Nazarova**

Sophia is a student of the Higher School of Economics and University of London parallel degree programme in international relations. During her studies, she had part-time internships in strategic consulting at BCG and Bain & Company. The conference is interesting for her as she is eager to improve her analytical skills as well as continue researching EU-Russia relations.



**Timur  
Kurtbedinov**

Timur studies at Technical University of Munich and in Moscow State University. He has work experience in the largest producer of Eastern sweets in the CIS, “Timosha” Ltd and also in the Russian government telecom company “Rostelecom” Ltd. He is interested in participating in the conference because his work in Timosha Ltd was largely connected with construction and lean production management (like in the Strabag case)

kts98@mail.ru



**Svetlana  
Gridneva**

Svetlana is a student in the Master of Science in International Economy, Business Strategies of Foreign Oil and Gas Companies (jointly with PJSC Rosneft) Program. Her recent work experience is with oil and gas company Rosneft in the department of planning, efficiency management and development of gas business, where the scope of her activities included controlling gas projects’ efficiency, drafting term-sheets for potential partners, calculating multipliers for oil and gas field evaluation.

Svetlana is interested in the conference as she would like to enrich her knowledge in corporate and investment banking and challenge herself with cracking the case in the team of like-minded people.

svgrik@gmail.com



**Ulyana  
Strekneva**

Ulyana is a third-year student of the Faculty of Economics in HSE with specialization in statistics. Starting in 2018, Ulyana has been an intern at the Financial Planning and Analysis department (FP&A) at a pharmaceutical company.

Her particular interest in the workshop on payment systems is both professional and personal curiosity. Contactless payment systems and online banking are one of the few examples where emerging economies show higher rates of development and integration into the financial life of the broad masses.

ulyana.strekneva@mail.ru

# Participants

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**Valeriya  
Baklanova**

Valeriya is a student of HSE, faculty of economic sciences. She had two internships so far: in Unilever and in Tinkoff Investment, and has been a teaching assistant at her university three times already. Her motivation to participate in the conference is high because she has never participated in events like these, and her favorite subject is corporate finance (which is connected with her workshop's theme).

lera\_bloom@mail.ru



**Yuliya  
Belousova**

Yuliya is currently finishing her Bachelor degree at Novosibirsk State University (faculty of Economics). Her research covers the problems of regional energy system development. Before, Yuliya worked for a Big-4 audit company and a Big-3 consulting company (currently working at the latter). The conference is a perfect way for her to meet new people as well as deep dive into the specific theme of her team's research.

byuw13@yandex.ru



**Viola  
Völk**

Viola is a working student at MAN Financial Services in the collection department. Currently, she is studying law (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München). Viola holds a Bachelor's degree in business administration and an additional degree in intercultural communication. She looks forward to getting to know more about financing in the Russian construction market.

viola-voelk@msn.com



**Zhanna  
Azizova**

Zhanna is a 1st year Master student studying the brand-new program "Business Analytics and Big Data" at the Graduate School of Management (Saint-Petersburg State University). She has already had one year work experience as a data analyst in a startup-like legal tech company Pravoved.RU, which is supported by Skolkovo. Zhanna is eager to participate in the EU-Russia conference and especially in the "Raiffeisenbank" workshop since she is passionate about finance and she would like to know how modern technologies may influence the future of investment banking.

zhanna-azizova@mail.ru



**Yilmaz  
Akkoyun**

Yilmaz is a public policy professional who has five years of work experience in the German and European government as well as in the private sector. Currently, he is pursuing his Master of Public Administration (MPA) with concentration in International Finance and Economic Policy at Columbia University, SIPA in the city of New York, USA.

Yilmaz believes that our generation faces a decade that is characterized by the constant simultaneity of diverse crises around Europe, loss of trust and uncertainties, especially in the heart of Europe where populism is dramatically on the rise. The conference offers a unique opportunity to bring young leaders from Europe and Russia together to leverage the strongly needed dialogue and strengthen necessary ties in times of insecurity.



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