Confronting Scarcity
For over 52 years, we have provided a platform, the St. Gallen Symposium (SGS), where representatives from different generations gather to exchange knowledge, perspectives, and opinions on the world’s most significant issues. We believe that by joining the expertise of today’s decision-makers with the visions and ideas of brilliant young minds through thoughtful dialogue, we can facilitate meaningful change and assist in navigating the unprecedented economic, political, social, and environmental challenges facing the world today.

The International Students’ Committee (ISC) is comprised of 25 entrepreneurial student volunteers who dedicate themselves full-time for one year to organising the St. Gallen Symposium. Together with the St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies (SSIS), we shape the agenda and promote the overall initiative throughout the year while adhering to the mission to “Lead with the next generation in mind.” Besides our main event in May, we enable dialogue on cross-generational leadership with various initiatives throughout the year. Exemplary formats are our receptions around the globe, the initiative for “A New Generational Contract” with the Club of Rome, or the Global Leadership Challenge, together with the University of Oxford.

Your thoughts and expertise are crucial – therefore, it is a great pleasure for us to welcome you to St. Gallen on 2–3 May 2024. Become part of our initiative, inspire, and take away exciting ideas and encounters from this unique exchange between current and future leaders!

On behalf of the 53rd International Students’ Committee, we would like to thank you for your interest and involvement in the St. Gallen Symposium and your invaluable support. Let’s resolve our current and future challenges by working together across borders, fields, and generations!

Sophia Gampp, Alisha Thüler and Deborah Walt
Heads of the International Students’ Committee
Dialogue in Numbers

In order to tackle the pressing issues of our time, we have to think and act across cultures, sectors, and most importantly: across generations.

Fostering the dialogue between generations...

1 mission 300 universities
25 students 50+ years of history
60+ sessions 300+ partners
5+ year-round initiatives 5+ knowledge publications

... is our mission.

Leaders of Tomorrow

The Leaders of Tomorrow – our globally selected young community – represent the next generation at the St. Gallen Symposium – and the numbers show they are a diverse group, both in terms of gender and geography.

33% of our cross-generational sessions at the 52nd St. Gallen Symposium were open to the public.

In 2023 we hosted the first edition of "St. Gallen Symposium in Town" with 5+ Public Sessions and 400+ regional participants.
Governments, businesses and individuals are increasingly confronted with the reality of shrinking workforces, trade disruptions, higher costs of capital, and depleted natural resources. This multidimensional phenomenon of scarcity is here to stay – requiring us to rethink our current societal and economic models.

**Annual Theme**

The 53rd St. Gallen Symposium will explore the emerging challenges of scarce labour, capital, natural resources and trade, and address the difficult questions they raise: To what extent can innovation, efficiency and circular models help to deal with intensifying constraints? And where do we need to consider deeper, more radical shifts, and ask where less may be more? Year-round and at our main Symposium in May 2024, our cross-generational dialogue will explore our annual theme within five key areas:

**Resilient Businesses and Economies**

For decades, growth-based economic models have relied on an abundance of labour, natural resources, capital, and energy, and benefitted from global economic integration. In light of long-term developments such as demographic change, rising costs of capital, the climate crisis and geopolitical shifts, we will explore ways to address protracted scarcities through more sustainable and resilient business models.

**Equitable and Effective Governance**

The intensification of scarcity in recent years has elevated the role of the state in the economy: governments around the world act as investors, suppliers and regulators to meet challenges such as energy insecurity, water stress, green infrastructure and inflation. We will debate the appropriate level and type of policy intervention and geopolitical cooperation to establish durable solutions.

**Inclusive Societies**

New, protracted scarcities and their consequences in terms of rising prices and reduced supply do not affect all members of society equally. When thinking about responses, both the potential and limits of individual behavioral change and society’s most vulnerable members need to be considered. What role can individuals play in societal responses to scarcity and how do we ensure social equity in light of increasing constraints?

**Responsible Innovation and Technology**

Whether it’s the role of artificial intelligence to replace scarce human labour, renewable energy to power the green transition, or desalination techniques for drinking water, innovation is seen as a key component of solutions. At the same time, the advent of new technologies often creates its own set of challenges. How can innovations best help to anticipate and cope with current and future scarcities at scale?

**A Sustainable Transformation**

Dominant green economy approaches center around innovation and substituting old with new technologies. Yet, they run into their own scarcity problems, when the supply of recycled plastics, batteries, or green hydrogen does not meet demand. We will discuss the extent to which sustainable business model innovations need to be complemented by deeper, systemic changes of reducing overall consumption.

Find out more on our website!

[symposium.org/annual-theme](symposium.org/annual-theme)

#ConfrontingScarcity
Our Platform

We have made it our mission to facilitate thought-provoking and insightful cross-generational dialogue through connecting young and senior leaders across sectors from around the world to ignite impactful change.

By connecting generations...

Our Impact

The St. Gallen Symposium and the Club of Rome have launched a global initiative for «A New Generational Contract». Involving our partners, we foster long-term thinking and systems transformation, by offering a space for mutual learning and collaboration across generations.

Guided by seven principles which we’ve developed together with our global community, we co-create tangible projects that bring generations together and accelerate positive change.

NGC Impact Project: Young Leaders on Board

Together with Zukunft-Fabrik-2050 and Dr. Bjørn Johansson Associates, we aim to equip forward-looking companies for the future, by bringing young, outstanding leaders on their board.

Join us: symposium.org/ngc
The St. Gallen Symposium fosters cross-generational dialogue and action among its global community throughout the year.

### A Year With the...

#### Thematic Insights
- **AUG**: Launch of our Annual Theme
- **SEP**: Knowledge Briefs and Symposiums Newsletter
- **OCT**: Global Survey of the Leaders of Tomorrow

#### Community Interactions
- **AUG**: Opening Global Essay Competition
- **SEP**: Global Leadership Challenge
- **OCT**: Singapore Forum
- **NOV**: Initial Contact
- **DEC**: Meeting Phase I
- **JAN**: Meeting Phase II

### ...St. Gallen Symposium

Community gatherings, thematic events and publications generate insights and debates in the lead up to the annual symposium. Individual interactions with our partners further enrich your symposium experience.

#### FEB
- NextGen Value Creation Barometer

#### MAR
- Global Survey of the Leaders of Tomorrow

#### APR
- Summaries and Take-Aways from our Dialogue

#### MAY
- Receptions
- Annual Event & EcoOst

#### JUN
- Meeting Phase II
- Assistance if needed

#### JUL
- 53rd SGS Handover Meetings
Organisation

The St. Gallen Symposium is a student-driven initiative based at the University of St. Gallen. Under strategic guidelines of the St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies, the International Students’ Committee (ISC) promotes dialogue across generations on the most pressing issues of our time. The Board of Trustees ensures the impactful use of our resources towards our vision.

53rd ISC-Team
Alisha Thüler | Agnes Johnston | Anna Kohnke | Charlotte Weishaupt | Deborah Walt | Géraldine Klein | Joel Aufdenblatten | Karin Mannhart | Lorenz Baumann | Louis Hofinger | Matthias Simon | Nicolas Matthies | Nikita Schönbenberger | Ramon Bärlocher | Richard Wätg | Sophia Gampp | Tobias von Mering

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A Global Gathering

We foster in-person and virtual dialogue in St. Gallen and around the world.
Two Days of Dialogue

A rich programme with a dual focus of impactful Plenary and insightful Breakout Sessions is the backbone of our annual Symposium. Innovative and interactive dialogue formats, combining digital and physical interactions at international locations.

**THURSDAY, 2 MAY 2024**
- 09:00 - 10:15
  - Opening Ceremony
  - Conversation Starter @ Morning Plenary Session
  - Spotlight Insight Session(s)
  - Leaders of Tomorrow and Aspiring Leaders Talks
  - St. Gallen Talks! Engage with someone who thinks differently (together with ZEIT ONLINE)
  - Closed Door Round-Tables

- 12:30 - 14:00
  - Cross-Generational Lunch

**FRIDAY, 3 MAY 2024**
- 09:00 - 10:15
  - Daily Opening & Morning Plenary Session
  - 5-10 Intimate Insight Sessions on different topics/ formats
  - 2 Spotlight Insight Session
  - Leaders of Tomorrow and Aspiring Leaders Talks
  - Cross-Generational Transformation Lab
  - Closed Door Round-Tables

- 12:30 - 14:00
  - Cross-Generational Lunch

- 14:00 - 15:30
  - Afternoon Plenary Session
    - followed by the Leaders of Tomorrow Final Pitch & Award Ceremony of the 53rd St. Gallen Symposium Global Essay Competition
  - 5-10 Intimate Insight Sessions on different topics/ formats
  - 2 Spotlight Insight Session

- 16:00 - 17:30
  - Evening Plenary Session
  - Closing Ceremony of the 53rd St. Gallen Symposium

**Preliminary Programme Overview - subject to change.**

Diverse Formats

Next to the Plenary Sessions, there are different formats of Breakout and Closed-Door Sessions taking place simultaneously. Additionally, Social Sessions provide networking opportunities. Their informal atmospheres round up the Symposium experience.

**PLENARY SESSIONS:**
Gather with the entire global SGS community to collectively make sense of the core dimensions of our annual theme. Formats typically include thought-provoking cross-generational panels with plenty of time for audience interaction. Special sessions like our Global Essay Competition Award Ceremony and our Opening and Closing Ceremonies celebrate the most outstanding next generation ideas to move from insights to impact.

**SPOTLIGHT INSIGHT SESSIONS:**
Explore one of the key thematic areas of Confronting Scarcity in panels and one-on-one conversations on one of our four bigger stages. Audience voting and questions allow for participative and open debates.

**INSIGHT SESSIONS:**
Engage with world-leading experts in intimate formats to discuss specific cases and actionable implications of our annual theme. Set in university classrooms, Insight Sessions often follow Chatham House rules to facilitate critical discussions and deep thinking. A size of 30-50 participants ensures interactive exchanges.

**LEADER OF TOMORROW AND ASPIRING LEADER TALKS:**
Engage in a cross-generational, off-the-record conversation on a main guiding question. These intimate dialogue formats match a senior business or policy executive with a group of 8-10 Leaders of Tomorrow to inspire decision-making with the views and concerns of the next generation. (By invitation only)

**CO-CREATION SESSIONS:**
Get off your seats, move to the SQUARE and leverage the collective intelligence in the room to develop new approaches to cross-generational challenges.

- St. Gallen Talks: In collaboration with ZEIT ONLINE, this format uses the award-winning concept of “Deutschland Spricht / Europe Talks” to match participants with different points of view on controversial, intergenerational issues. At a time of increasing polarisation, participants engage in an open and engaging conversation with someone who thinks differently.
- Cross-Generational Transformation Lab: Workshops and other interactive formats bring together cross-generational leaders from business, policy, academia and civil society to co-create impact for greater intergenerational equity.

**CLOSED-DOOR ROUNDTABLES:**
Engage with a selected group of topic experts on a specific use case of our annual theme. Co-hosted with leading academic institutions, selected roundtables feed into publications, which summarise and distill actionable recommendations in the follow-up to SGS. (By invitation only)

Find our updated programme here.
Participants

To achieve a mutual understanding and enhance every leaders’ decision making, three generations of leaders from more than 80 nations meet in St. Gallen every year for cross-generational dialogue.

~600

SENIOR LEADERS
Senior Leaders at the St. Gallen Symposium represent companies as well as political and academic institutions, from all over the world. They challenge and get challenged by the younger generations on their ideas, and are the heart of change.

~100

ASPIRING LEADERS
Aspiring Leaders represent the corporate world as potential future executive decision-makers or the entrepreneurial environment as founders. They pair experience with creativity and come up with practical ideas for transformation.

~200

LEADERS OF TOMORROW
Leaders of Tomorrow are carefully selected brilliant young thinkers from around the world. They challenge the beliefs of all participants, spark ideas, and ignite actions. They are the drivers of transformation and change: invited either through the St. Gallen Global Essay Competition or through a nomination process.

~450

University of St. Gallen students volunteer for this year’s cross-generational dialogue

~80

Accredited Journalists reporting on the St. Gallen Symposium

Our Partners

A carefully selected of renowned organisations and companies support us financially, materially, or in advisory roles. They are part of the dialogue between different generations of leaders throughout the year and at the Symposium.

Main Partners

ABB
the official Innovation Consultant of the St. Gallen Symposium

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300+ renowned partners

as of summer 2023
The St. Gallen Symposium is founded by five students of the University of St. Gallen. First St. Gallen Symposium, formerly known as the “International Management Symposium” and the “ISC Symposium”, takes place. Club of Rome study “Limits to Growth” is presented at the third Symposium. Establishment of the St. Gallen Foundation for International Studies to safeguard the continuity of the organization. Max Schindler Freedom Prize presented at the St. Gallen Symposium for the first time. The St. Gallen Symposium is one of only three institutions in Switzerland running its own seminar. The first St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award – one of the largest student essay competitions worldwide – is issued. St. Gallen Symposium opens an office at Harvard University.

St. Gallen Symposium
18th Edition

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as of summer 2023

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The ISC organises the International Federalism Conference, commissioned by the Swiss Federal Council. The ISC St. Gallen Club of Japan is established as an organisation to promote the Japanese participation in the Symposium. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, visits the University of St. Gallen to receive the Max Schmidheiny Freedom Prize awarded to him in 2003. The ISC organises an international conference on democracy and decentralism under the patronage of the Swiss Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

To strengthen the St. Gallen Symposium in Asia, an office opens in Singapore. The St. Gallen Symposium celebrates its 50th anniversary in May 2021. Together with the Club of Rome, the St. Gallen Symposium launches the global, multi-year initiative for “A New Generational Contract.” We are eager to connect generations in the future and look forward to many great years of cross-generational dialogue in St. Gallen!
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as of summer 2023

Supporting Institutions

Find our regularly updated partners list on our website!

www.symposium.org/partners
Your Involvement

PARTNER
As a partner of the St. Gallen Symposium, you commit to involve with your top management in the dialogue with the next generation. This combined with our thematic insights and impact projects gives you first access to new and exciting viewpoints and educational value for your business. The Symposium will enable you to challenge your beliefs, spark ideas, and ignite action.

MEMBER
Participate in the St. Gallen Symposium and debate and interact with key decision-makers, thought leaders, and carefully selected brilliant young minds from all around the world.

LEADERS OF TOMORROW SPONSOR
Support us in bringing brilliant young minds from all over the world to Switzerland to contribute to the success of the St. Gallen Symposium.

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