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This publication is based on the 18th International Youth Conference "European Values for the Future of Southeastern European Countries" 2018 that is functioning as an intellectual place for fruitful, educational and engaging discussions, debates, reflections and collaborations of youth motivators and activists from SEE that represent the main driving force for a more dynamic, progressive, stable and inclusive region within the European Union framework. The conference is traditionally organized by Youth Alliance – Krusevo in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, office Skopje supported by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe sponsored by German Embassy in Skopje and Government of Republic of North Macedonia.

Coordination, writing & editing: Youth Alliance- Krusevo

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You can find this brochure and other relevant information, results and outcomes from the 18th edition of the international youth conference online at: www.krusevoconference.org.mk

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CONNECT

Let's be the voices of positivity and change in the region Solidarity in crisis:

Humanity beyond COVID-19

- Social distancing and distrust

- Access to health care

- Economic collaboration

Proliferation vs creation of truth

- Social media: Threat or Treat?

Politics, politicians and effects of the social media on them.

The new "Drugs, sex and rock and roll"

- Beyond objectivity "hygiene of thoughts" and fake news

Towards "World risk society 2.0"

- Racism and nationalism
 - Gender inequality
 - Youth detachment

Youth for sustainable development goals in the SEE region

- What is sustainable development?
- Who are the actors involved?
- Multilevel governance
- What can young people do?

Ground up - local resilient answer

Unemployment – what n<mark>ow?</mark>

- Post-COVID alternative economies: Will the job market change?
 How can globalization be inclusive in the digital era?
 - Future of educati<mark>on:</mark> new opportunities or new dividing li<mark>nes</mark>
 - Is education up to date?
 - (what is the aim of education?) Adaptations to the crisis did we lose a generation?

01

IMPACT

Let's build the region we want to live



In 2003 young ambitious people gathered around to talk about their ideas and values in a place where they felt like their voice matters – the International Conference. 18 years have passed, and this conference is still a safe spot for young leaders whose goal is to implement the European values as the future of the South-Eastern European countries.

The year 2020 is very special to us. This 18th edition of the International Youth Conference "European values for the future of SEE countries" was for the first time a digital event. On this way we have provided opportunity to more than 80 young people to turn on live on the conference stage from more than 16 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

Carefully organized program of the conference allowed to the participants to reflect upon and celebrate past accomplishments, extend the regional network, and jointly to explore current and future actions for better, youth friendly region.

To put a conference of this magnitude together is not a small task. To that end, we want to thank to the German Embassy in Skopje and Government of the Republic of North Macedonia for the support to implement this year event and to FES office Skopje for traditional partnership and continues support.

We are inviting you on productive journey of the International Youth Conference 2020.





PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES BY DIRECTLY PROMOTION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY THIS EVENT. THESE ACTIVITIES TOUCHED MORE THAN



PEOPLE IN THE REGION;

INTENSIVE AND INTERACTIVE CAMPAIGN ON THE SOCIAL AND TRADITIONAL MEDIA THAT RESULTED WITH



INTENSIVE AND INTERACTIVE CAMPAIGN ON THE SOCIAL AND TRADITIONAL MEDIA THAT RESULTED WITH



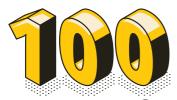
ONLINE INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS,





INSTAGRAM STORIES.

THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTLY INVOLVED MORE THAN



PEOPLE AND IT WAS FOLLOWED FROM MORE THAN



PREPARATION OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM WITH DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE



MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY GROUP

THROUGHOUT CYCLE OF
PREPARATION
ONLINE
MEETINGS:

BY MOBILIZING THE CONFERENCE ALUMNI, WE HAVE MANAGED TO HAVE



WE HAVE RECEIVED



189 CANDIDATES' APPLICATIONS AND







WORKING

GROUPS

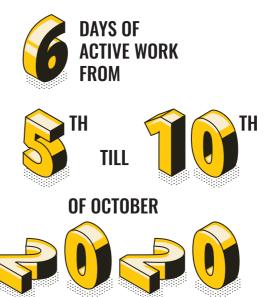


APART OF THE CENTRAL STUDIO IN SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA THE YOUNG PEOPLE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN



PHYSICAL HUBS AROUND THE REGION

IN IASI [ROMANIA], TIRANA [ALBANIA], ATHENS [GREECE] AND SOFIA [BULGARIA]



ALL OF THESE RESULTED IN



RECOMMENDATIONS ACCUMULATED IN







Iva Kljajevič, Montenegro

"This conference was a wonderful and interesting experience. We had the opportunity to hear some of the influential people in Europe and learn something new. Participating in working groups was inspiring and thought-provoking. Thank you very much for your trust."

Eva Završnik, Slovenia

"Despite the digital nature of the event, we have proved that there are no boundaries in keeping the youth active and engaged. After this Youth Conference, I am leaving with a feeling of connectedness, hope for the future and strong belief, that the world will be in good hands when this generation of active citizens will become the key leaders of our society. We just need to be trusted and given the chance to show how capable we are to change the world for the better."

Luka Radičević, Serbia

"I saw an ad for this conference on Facebook and I thought it would be a good idea to apply, as I have heard about it before, but I have never participated in it. It showed itself as one of the best decisions I have made this year. Not only had the conference amazing speakers, but the participants were amazing young people as well. I only knew a couple of them from some previous conferences, and I met a lot of new friends and contacts for the future. I am sure the common vision we have all come up with during these awesome 5 days of knowledge, laughter, brainstorming, and having fun, will impact the SEE region and make it a better place to live."



Iva Dobreva, Bulgaria

"I'm extremely happy for having the opportunity to join the conference and to discuss such important topics for youth, our community, and our region as a whole. I met many amazing young people virtually and I was fascinated by how passionate everyone was about making a positive change and improving the working and living conditions in the SEE region."

K<mark>ostia</mark>n Jano, Alba<mark>nia</mark>

"This conference has been one of the best that I have ever attended. Even though the situation with the pandemic is difficult in Northern Macedonia still the organizers did an unbelievable good job. The organization was perfect, and the debate was very interactive."



<mark>Valent</mark>ina Beg Deljanin, <mark>Cr</mark>oatia

"I enjoyed the Conference very much although I missed being physically present in Kruševo with my colleagues. However, I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an event in times of COVID-19 crisis when everything we knew seems at stake. This way we all felt close and capable of taking power even if the world circumstances are far from easy." SEE region."





CONFERENCE CORE TEAN

Mr. Metodija Stojceski

- Project Coordinator



Ms. Nita Starova

- Project Coordinator from FES, office Skopje



Ms. Biljana Stojceska

- Second Project Assistant



Ms. Anelija Mitrova

- First Project Assistant



Francesco Capellini, Italy

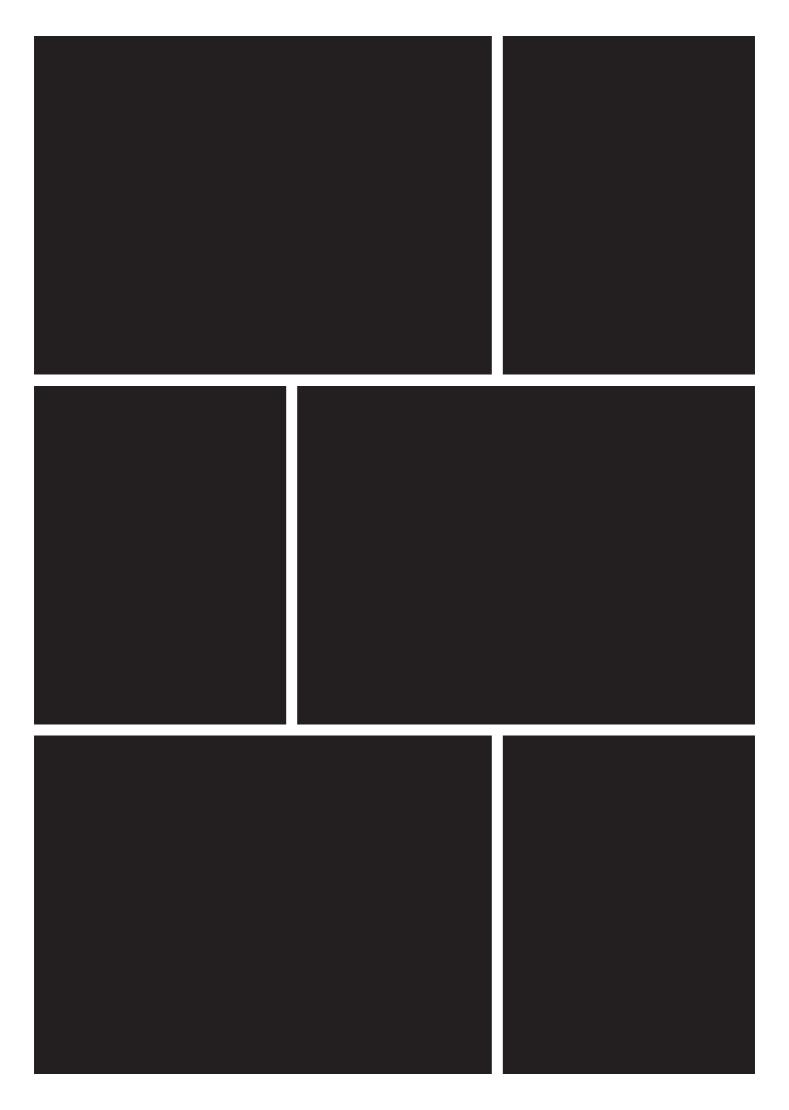
Anna Bampili, Greece

Stefan Živković, Serbia

Blazhen Maleski, North Macedonia

Michael Dimitrov, Bulgaria

Dimitar Vrglevski, North Macedonia



TEAM OF FACILITATORS



Anelija Mitrova



Blazhen Maleski



Ilija Stankov





SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the preparation activities for the 18th edition of the International Youth Conference was combination of offline and online actions following the protocols in each country. We were working expansively on disseminating the call for participation and bringing the conference mission closer to the young people in the region. By actively engaging the partners and friends of the conference were organized more than 38 promotional activities by directly promotion of the opportunities provided by this event. These activities touched more than 350 people in the region.

We have published:

- 18 promotional videos with motivational and inspirational messages from the alumni
- 4 online international discussions with 10 speakers from the SEE
- 2 podcasts dedicated on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and Social distancing and distrust
- 14 Instagram live stories

CAMPAIGNS

Diverse tailor-made campaigns were implemented for motivation and inspiring the young people to be part of the 18th edition of the International Youth Conference "European values for the future of SEE region".

EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES



Diverse online activities for promotion and facilitation of exchange of good practices (online discussions, podcasts and video interviewing) about active youth involvement in the EU integration process was implemented.

Striving towards to promote and facilitate the exchange of good practices two online live discussions on two different topics covered with the program of this year conference were organized. With the first online discussion on the topic "Beyond objectivity "hygiene of thoughts" and fake news" we have involved 3 journalists: Mr. Sunai Sabrioiski, Vidi Vaka; Mr. Gabriele Rosana Brussels-based journalist covering EU and foreign affairs topics and

Mr. Hristijan Stanoevikj, EPI Centar. The second online discussion was dedicated on the "Youth for sustainable development goals in the SEE region" whereby the following speakers were involved: Ms. Ana Jovanovska, Head of Sustainable Development Unit of Government of North Macedonia; Ms. Biljana Cvetanovska Gugoska, Program Officer, Head of Democratic Governance Unit UNDP Republic of North Macedonia, Ziva Lopatic, Zavod za pravicno trgovion, 3MUHE, Slovenia and Aleksandra Dimic, IDC, Serbia. The online discussions involved directly more than 79 participants and were viewed from more than 600 audience.





Metodija Stojceski, project coordinator and executive director of Youth Alliance – Krusevo

In 2002 it was a time after the post -Yugoslavian wars. Our region in that time was recognized by not good things: raising of nationalism, organized crimes, very high level of corruption in societies destroyed with more or less system of values. In common with our common partners, we have decided to talk about the European Values on which is based the modern idea of EU integration. That way we decided to work under the topic European values for the future of SEE countries. Our idea was not to talk about the European Union as a political or economic structure, but to talk about the EU system of values: mutual understanding, democracy, solidarity etc. on which is based the idea of EU integration. I would like to highlight one quote of Albert Einstein which is also accepted as a moto of our organization YAK: "Be a voice not an echo". In our opinion, this quote means that you have to stay right behind what you are saying in front of the audience.

POSITIV





H.E. Anke Gisela Holstein, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Europe, United Europe has been the places for peace, freedom and social security for millions of citizens for the last fifty years. European Union offers open borders and free movement of people from Portugal to Poland, from Finland to Italy. The corona pandemic has reinforced the need to think about the Europe we want, the Europe you want to belong to.

H.E. Mr. David GEER,

Ambassador and Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of North Macedonia

Rights and values should never be taken for granted. They need to be constantly renewed, they need to be made meaningful over again and again. They need to be protected against enrichments by over powerful authorities or companies or waves of intolerance that occasionally passed through societies, even in the European Union.



IN CRISIS SOLIDARITY

Dr. Venko Filipche, Minister for Health in North Macedonia

We can not see everybody during the day like in normal times, but we can use phone calls, we can use zoom platforms or whatever to contact as more people to share our feelings, to share our thoughts. By doing this I think the stress level has great chance to be decreased. It's also an opportunity to increase the level of let's call them "good hormones", not like cortisol.







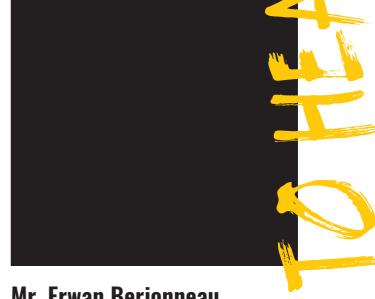


Prof. D-r. Nenad Markovikj,

Political Science Department, Faculty of Law "Justinian I". Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia

What we should know about the Balkans and it turned out to be a very global phenomenon "Distrust is a starting position in the Balkans". For instance, if you have seen public opinion post prior to the COVID-19 crisis in the last ten to fifteen years or even more, then you will see that general trust and even institutionalized trust is one of the worst in the Balkans.

The distrust towards the virus is in fact in the essences of the ability to cope with the newly created situation. We can not cope and many people can not cope with the newly created situation that's why usually people go into denial. This comes or stands or derives from the need for rationalization of events. We need some closure; we need uncertainty avoidances asset and this regard physiologically it is better to say that it doesn't exist at all than to try to rationalize it some other way.



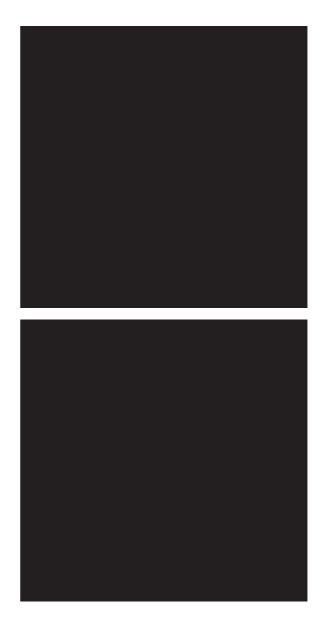
Mr. Erwan Berjonneau, Research Executive for the Rare Barometer programme

In terms of access to treatments, it was 1 in 5 in Europe and 1 in 3 in SEE who were unable to access treatments, simply unable. So, when they went to the pharmacy and hospitals, they were told that the service wasn't available anymore.



Mr. Jason Nardi, General Delegate at RIPESS EU

Solidarity and democracy are really I think at the center of the solutions that we should look at. And how we reorganize our political, social and economic life is if we try to go beyond the system we are in today and we look at how we can think of sharing and using the paradigm of the commence instead of the paradigm of the competition and of individualism and consumerism.



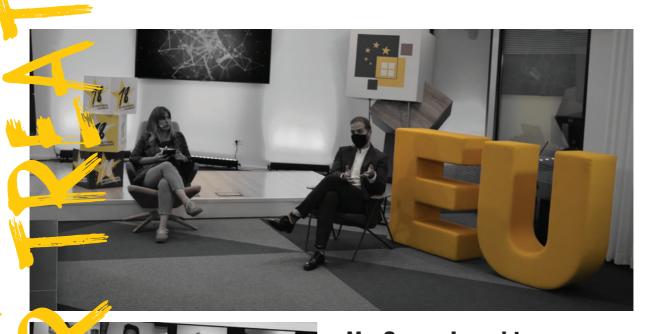




Mr. Borut Pahor, President of Republic of Slovenia

You, young people in the Western Balkans, in Europe and all around the globe you have the right to live in peace and security. You have the right and duty to contribute to safe and peaceful world. Instead of using hate speech, we can decide to use love speech. It is up to us. Let's try and see what happens. Social media are not responsible for populism, fake news, extremism, hate speech. We, every one of us, can contribute to the better world.

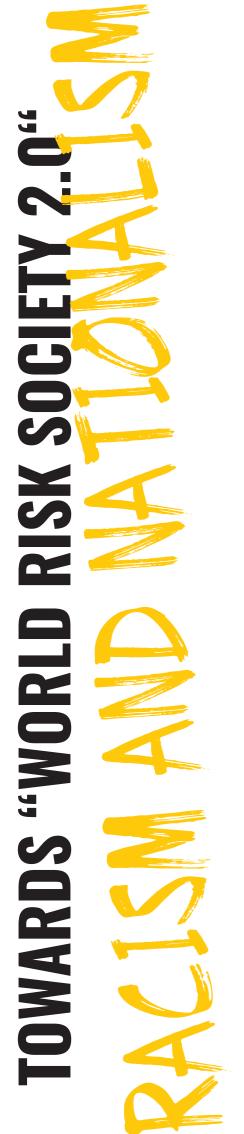




Mr. Ognen Janeski, Journalist and TV editor

If you want to change the outwards, you have to change from inwards. Whenever you see a news information, whenever you see a news bulletin, whenever you read a title or subtitle, you just open the text, you just read everything there. Then you open another text on the same topic and you read that text. I know it's probably time consuming, but at the same time it is our obligation. Because whatever we like, whatever we share, whatever we comment bellow – this is an action that we are doing, and this action can change society in a positive or in a negative way.







Dr. Panagiotis Paschalidis, ELIAMEP, Greece

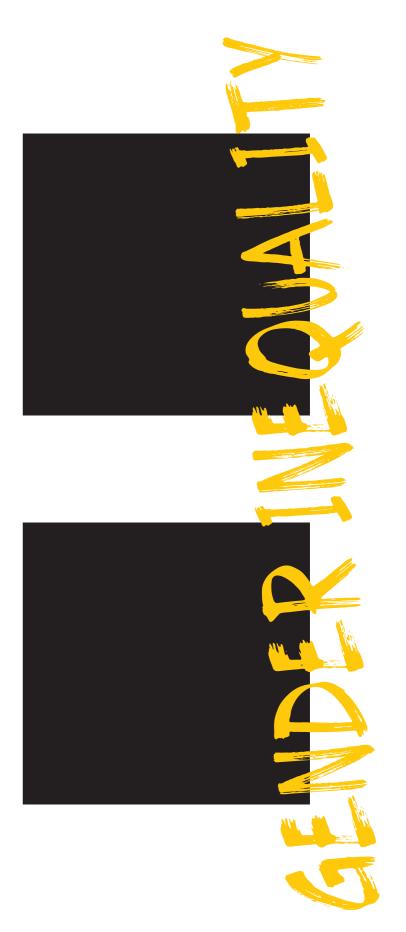
There are mainly, uh, mainly positive and very promising elements of civil society, particularly in this context the digital investment and back himself, uh, in the very recent period perhaps in a rather romantic conception believes that civil society can really substitute or other provide another layer of nationhood or appropriation beyond the national and this is perhaps the best element that we have in the context of this whole risk society and himself, he specifies the following elements, the human rights, the whole market, you do see migration is, uh, the, the, the defining element of other group.

Ms. Zita Gurmai, Vice-President of PES Women

We need to join our forces. We need to have big bridges between us and have our community to demand, to support the gender equality issues and demand for more and more democracy and more and more feminist Europe. We don't want just, you know, to have a women movement. We need alliance where we are all together. We need progressive policies. We need young people, all of you, to be part of the policy making mechanisms.



The change that we can create when we are all together, women and men, is men friendly movement. And, definitely, women are huge driver for change. But, it is just for us to think a little bit about with whom do we want to share that privilege and how can we become a planter firms. To allow others to leave the world a little bit better than they found it.





Ms. Andrea Ugrinoska, Chairperson of the Advisory, Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

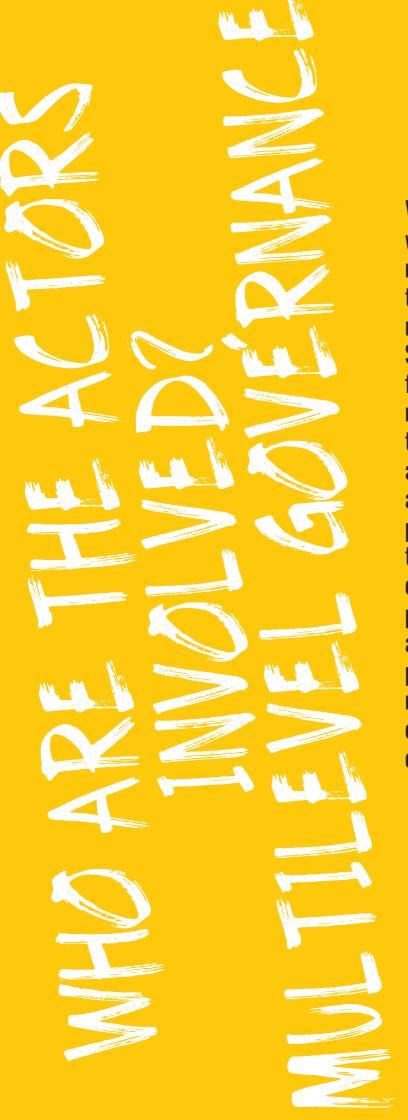
I think that in truly developed democratic societies there are lots of opportunities for young people to participate and to shape the politics that affect their lives. It's very important that we don't position ourselves in this mode of lectures. So, we're not here to complain about our issues. We're not here to give lectures to decision makers about what we're suffering, we're here to offer solutions. And I think this is the part that young people have to play very well because this is how they prove that they're actually a resource in solving challenges. And we are not a target group that only knows how to list the challenges, but we are also the group that knows how to solve them.



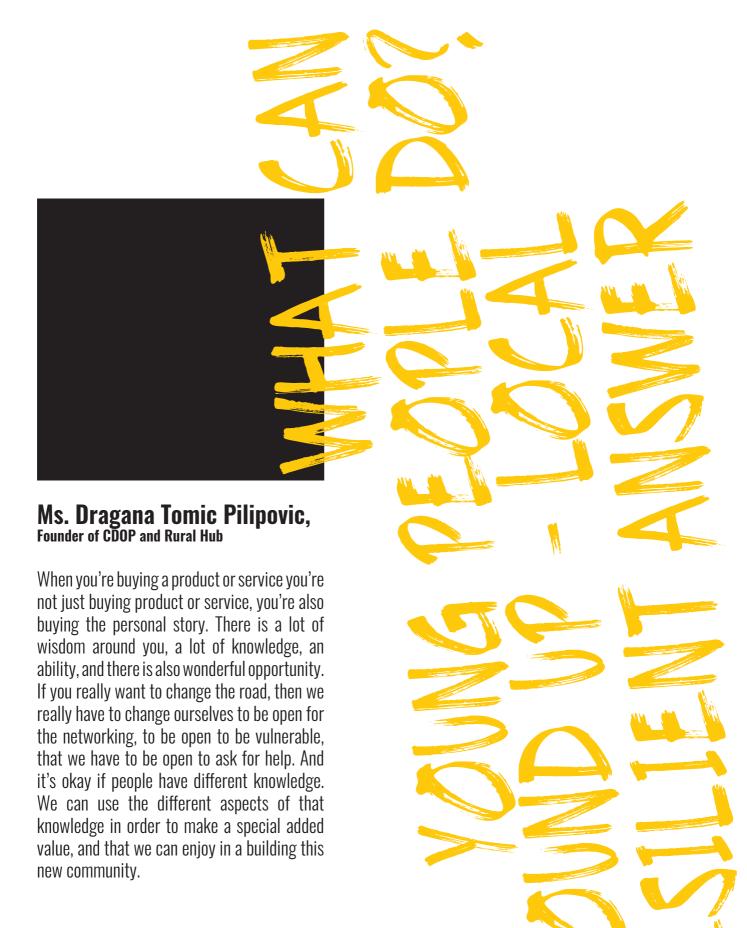
Ms. Bogomila Kormanova, Youth Delegate of Bulgaria to the UN 2019/2020

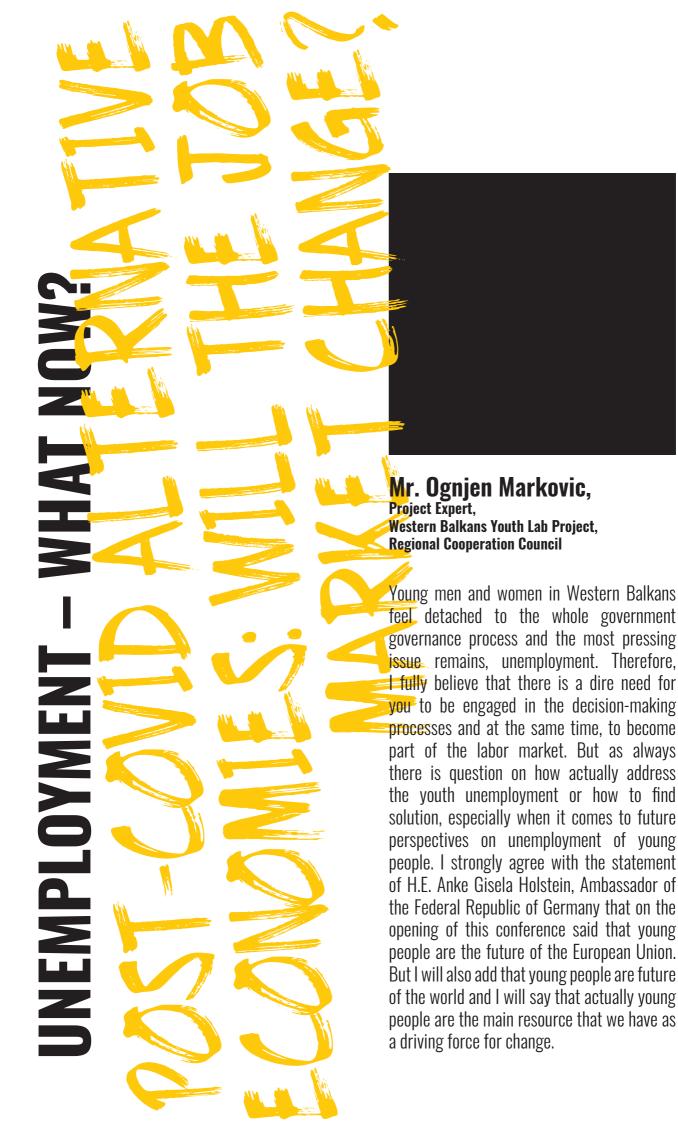
At the core of sustainable development is sustainability. So being sustainable means being able to maintain a certain level of something. There are three main pillars, to sustainable development and those are economic, environmental, and social. Lurrently there are 1.8 billion young people worldwide. If we can only imagine, if we all combined our efforts and their mutual potential. So, there's so much we can achieve actually. So, making our voice heard by being included and participating and being empowered is extremely rewarding.

700TH FOR SUSTAINABLE



We need to rethink multilateralism. we don't need to reinvent it, we need to analyze it and make it truly fit for purpose. So, if we really want to deliver on the SDGs we need to build a truly net for multilateralism, a multilevel module, from the global level to the regional, national sub national and grass roots movements, we are called to be a part of the process. Today it's very timely that we focus on youth and their extraordinary transformative power. if you really want to give a voice to young people and preferably a voice and a vote, you need to create mechanisms that can really accommodate their questions.





Ms. Sasha Bezuhanova, Founder of MOVE.BG

One thing that we should really be sensitive of and keep focus efforts, is to equip those young people all young people with the skills for the future. And when we speak about what are the skills for the future I can maybe give you my perspective on what is needed. In accordance to be successful in this life in this world where we'll live between the virtual, and the real life so obviously people needs to be digitally literate. So, digital knowledge is not any more ICT or computer science knowledge. It is part of every single business. The person of the future should carry creative minds. So, art should be part of the skills because of the fast-changing environment, creativity is fundamental in a accordance people to be able to really take decisions, and to find solutions and to go outside of the established concepts. What are the big challenges in front of the humanity at the moment, obviously, climate change is one of them, which opens, total new line about the circular economy, about green tech businesses about greening the traditional industry. And if young people are trained to produce either their startups or have skills that support the sustainability agenda they are very critical resource on the market, both on it for the local economy but also for the European and global economy.



UTURE OF EDUCATION: NE

Mr. Adrian Barbaros, Board member of OBESSU

Students participate in different exchanges, in different clubs, in different youth organizations and this can really have an impact on their personal growth by participating in different parts of the off non-formal education. Students can gain more skills, can get more competences if somehow their competencies and skills are complemented by those that are part of the of the formal education system. We cannot wait for the minister of education for example to make the change, we have to be the change. In this regard we can just start our initiatives in our schools and this can bring a change can bring students and teachers together and remove the exiting barriers.

Mr. Oltion Rrumbullaku, Deputy Minister of Education, Sport and Youth in Albania

Education is actually one of the pillars that causes the brain drain. The quality of education so is that shows that he has has a direct correlation between the young people leaving the Western Balkans and in general the Balkan Peninsula. There is a huge percentage of high school students that continue with their higher education in another country and around 96% of all the high school students continue with their university education.

Ms. Prof. Alla Apopei, lasi County School Inspectorate

2020, it is a year of colossal changes, resetting and reevaluating our lives, the year to act for the future through education and reinventing the schools. To be well organized program with very limited time to be online, especially for young students based on the rules by the Ministry of Education is demanding collaboration between teachers, parents, pupils, decision makers.

Mr. Hristo Panchugov, Assistant Professor at the Department of

Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at the New Bulgarian University

Digital education or a distant learning at least. might be a very useful and successful tool into achieving more from the educational system that we currently get, but also into engaging students that will not otherwise be so engaged into environment, especially in terms of vulnerable groups and especially in terms of children with different sorts of disabilities that will prevent them from active participation in class, not technologies might be significantly useful. The focus ultimately needs to fall on how we teach and what skills we would like to develop through this educational process and on the flexibility of that process, which doesn't have to do with grading, it doesn't have to do with final evaluation of knowledge. It has to do with actually preparing the kids to survive into modern times.





HUMAN RIGHTS AND LITY

We, the young people of the SEE region, believe that Human Rights are the fundamental and non-negotiable building block of our European cultural and societal model, essential for the concretization of a true democracy that leaves no one behind and enables every individual to pursue personal security, wellbeing and self-realization. We, the young people, want politics to be the privileged place to facilitate the process, promoting diversity and fighting discrimination.

EDU - CATION

Education gives youngsters and adults a chance to become aware, responsible and independent when it comes to making decisions and improving their lives. It has direct influence on decreasing poverty and it is a key element for economic and social development. Education needs to be taken as multidimensional field which has various target groups, on different levels with different access.

We, the young people from the SEE region are stressing out the urge for serious educational reforms that will provide young people with quality, accessible, affordable and inclusive education that stimulates both their personal and professional development. By investing in the teaching staff, infrastructure, curriculums and a support system for the students, we can create informed, competent and health professionals and citizens.



From the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the defining messages has been that adults are more affected than young people. However, health and non-health impacts on young people are proving to be significant. A common understanding of these impacts and the role young people are playing in driving solutions is essential to the pandemic response. Today young people are aware that ensuring access to health services is the cornerstone of a successful health response. We, the young people from the SEE region, demand the improvement of healthcare access based on the youth-specific healthcare needs, including mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and psychosocial support. Additionally, it is of utmost importance all young people be able to benefit from basic health services equally, fairly and free of charge. Finally, we need access to youth-friendly content about health priorities and inclusive information-sharing.

EMPLOYMENTS STANDARD

Youth unemployment rate is the highest in all Europe in our region, the SEE region. Thus, the living standard and opportunities for equal development with other regions in Europe are lower. We the young people demand better opportunities for us and the young generations to come, and we are proposing a set of goals that together with the national authorities,

governments and stakeholders can be achieved by working together. However, we need concrete fast actions in order to achieve the goals set by us, the young people of the region. We the young people from the SEE region demand investing in rural areas regarding jobs and economy, easing school-towork transition for young people through scholarships, protecting the worker's rights by educating young people about their workers' rights, promoting youth mobility and youth exchanges for better job chances and experiences, invest in non-formal educational opportunities for young people.

PARTICIPATION

Factors that influence the lack of youth engagement to political and social issues in SEE countries can be observed as societal. and of state and organizational origin. At a social level, the restricted social mobility of young people from poor or illiterate families, restrains young people from knowing their capabilities and options. At an organizational level, civil society organizations and NGOs are not immediately accessible by young people, as they do not actively seek membership and their actions are not always visible. The State, finally, excludes young people from employment (few positions for internships, few scholarships, age limit instead of qualification limit for work in the public sector and participating in small-scale decision

making) and education (no links between schools and civil society organizations. no courses related to politics, economy, advocacy). Young people are not aware of their capabilities and their options, unless they make self-assessment. We demand building links between educational institutes and civil society organizations, enhancing social capital, favouring the creation of networks, Youth Hubs and Youth Clubs at a regional level, encouraging people coming from poor backgrounds to get involved in their local community, recognizing voluntary work as working experience and establishing qualification, instead of age, criteria when selecting public employees.

SUSTAINABILITY AND MY

We, the young people of the South East region of Europe are striving for a more sustainable, environmental and a region built on green economy. It is up to us, as young people, to push for change in order to use our earth's resources wisely and keep nature vibrant in our beautiful region. Our region has been facing rapid developments. People have been living in the present, using what was left

from the past with no responsibility for the future. The lifestyle shift caused by COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to modify the mistakes that decision-makers have made continuously, by failing to understand the threat coming from the environment. This way enables us to restart our lives in a more ecofriendly way once the situation normalizes.

CROSS BORDER COOPERATION TOWARDS DEMOCRACY, SECURITY AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE REGION

We, the young people from the SEE region, believe that bilateral and multilateral cooperation and exchange will overcome old fears and barriers. We are urging for more open communication and cooperation between academics, youth and decision makers on regional level for shaping a common future and

prosperity. We are demanding an immediate end of the bilateral disputes that are directly influencing our future by putting aside their differences and to thrive bilateral cooperation between young people and decision makers as a vital part of a healthy democracy.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER: YOUTH ALLIANCE – KRUSEVO



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