



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SEE COUNTRIES"



This publication is based on the 19th International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeastern European Countries” 2021 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 more dynamic, progressive, stable and inclusive region within the European Union framework.

The conference is traditionally organized by Youth Alliance – Krusevo, supported by German Embassy in Skopje in collaboration with Regional Cooperation Council, , Goethe Institute Skopje, National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.



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INTERNET

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CONFERENCE TIMELINE

2ND INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

4TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

6TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

8TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

1ST INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"PROMOTION OF EUROPEAN VALUES
AND TOLERANCE ON THE BALKAN"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

3RD INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Struga,
Republic of North Macedonia

5TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

7TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

9TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE
FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

11TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

13TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

15TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

17TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

19TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

Krusevo, 
Republic of North Macedonia

2013 19.Sept. - 23.Sept. 2012 21.Sept. - 25.Sept.

2014 10.Sept. - 14.Sept. 2014 25.Sept. - 29.Sept.

2015 10.Sept. - 14.Sept. 2016 22.Sept. - 26.Sept.

2017 15.Sept. - 19.Sept. 2018 27.Sept. - 01.Oct.

2019 26.Sept. - 30.Sept. 2020 05.Nov. - 10.Nov.

2021 30.Sept. - 04.Oct. 2020

10TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

12TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

14TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

16TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 Krusevo,
Republic of North Macedonia

18TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

"EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"

 First hybrid event
Republic of North Macedonia

FOREWORD

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. 19 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.

This year 2021 was very special to us. Finally after 2 years of social distancing and zooming, we went back to the "epicenter" of youth cooperation and regional transformation – Krusevo. The 19th International Youth Conference: "European values of the future of SEE countries" took place from 30th September till 4th of October and it was as a real hybrid conference. Over 60 young activists from 16 countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, France, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) had the opportunity to debate on the European future and youth-led transformation of the region.

The carefully organized program of the conference allowed the participants to reflect upon and to celebrate past accomplishments, extend the regional network, and jointly explore the current and the 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 the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Skopje for the support in implementing this year's event and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Regional Cooperation Council, National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility, and Goethe-Institute Skopje for the partnership.



*We are inviting you on productive journey of the
International Youth Conference 2021.*

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

19TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE IN 19 NUMBERS

7 Members of the conference team were dedicated on the conference preparation, implementation and following the impact

194 Candidates' applications

8 Members of the international preparatory group prepared the program of the 19th edition of the krusevo conference

90 Young leaders participated on the event

14 Preparation meetings with the ipg team and conference team

60 Targeted countries were represented at the conference

5 Days of active work

6 Moderators

1000 Young people and stakeholders from the region received information about the open call for participation on the conference

30TH till 4TH of October

20 Speakers

21 pledges for action

32 policy recommendations dedicated on institutional answer on youth needs

84144 reaches were achieved through social media channels

3 working groups

3 facilitators

6 visions for the youth friendly region

5 Plenary sessions

VALUES



SHAPING THE
FUTURE
THE YOUTH FRONTIER

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE

WHO WAS
WHY?

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE
THE FUTURE



WHO ARE THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ORGANIZATION
TEAM?



METODIJA

METODIJA
METODIJA
METODIJA
METODIJA
METODIJA



METODIJA STOJĆESKI

Project Coordinator

ANELIJA

ANELIJA
ANELIJA
ANELIJA
ANELIJA
ANELIJA



ANELIJA MITROVA

First Project Assistant

BILJANA

BILJANA
BILJANA
BILJANA
BILJANA
BILJANA



MS. BILJANA STOJĆESKI

Program Coordinator

OGNEN

OGNEN
OGNEN
OGNEN
OGNEN
OGNEN



OGNJEEN MARKOVIC

Western Balkans Youth Lab
Project Expert from Regional
Cooperation Council (RCC)



ANDREJ STOJKOSKI

Volunteer



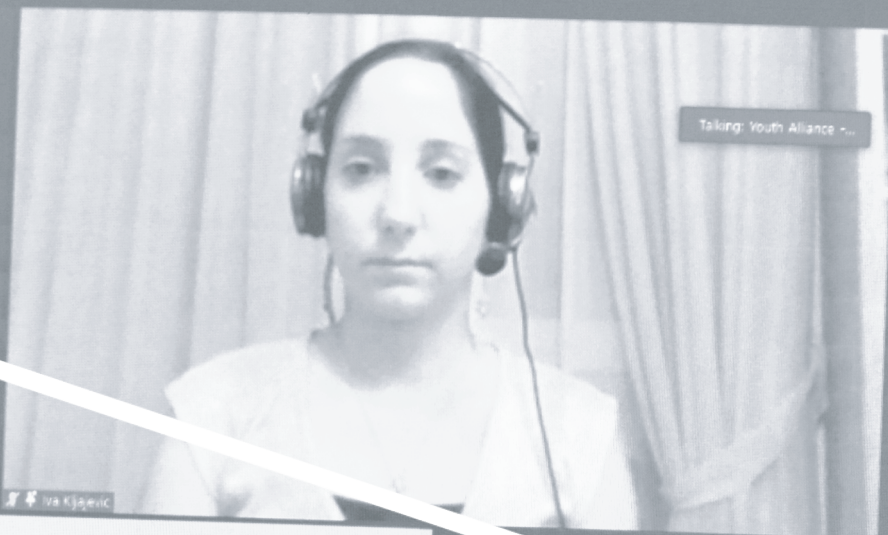
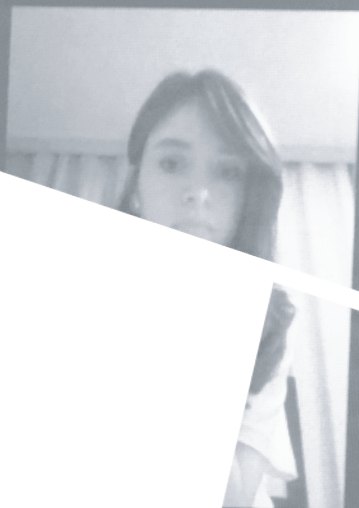
NINA JOVANOVSKA

Volunteer



SARA RISTESKA

Program assistant



Participants 11 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE 19

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY GROUP?





ILIJA STANKOVSKI

North Macedonia



ELENI VASILEVOKA

Greece



FRANCESKA MUÇO

Albania



IVA KLJAJEVIĆ

Montenegro

ANNA



ANNA BAMPILI

Greece

AMINA



AMINA IBISEVIĆ

Bosnia and Herzegovina

DORA



DORA VAJRJACIC

Croatia

ALEXANDROS



ALEXANDROS PAVLOU

Greece

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FACILITATION TEAM?



ILIJA

ILIJA

ILIJA



ILIJA STANKOVSKI

North Macedoniar

AEGLI

AEGLI

AEGLI



AEGLI SAKELARI

Greece

ANTONIOS

ANTONIOS

ANTONIOS

ANTONIOS

ANTONIOS



ANTONIOS TRIANTAFYLLAKIS

Greece



GO  CONNECT

FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION



National Agency
for European Educational Programmes
and Mobility



LET'S BE THE VOICE
OF POSITIVITY AND
CHANGE IN OUR
REGION

RENCE

IS+



STAYnet

THE GAP

STOJCESKI



METODIJA STOJCESKI

President of Youth Alliance and the
Project Coordinator of IYC

In this difficult times, facing with the COVID pandemic and specific conditions for work, all year long process lead by the conference team and in collaboration with the members of International Preparatory Group (IPG) for this year conference we gave lot of efforts to create program which will cover some of the priorities and problems of the young people with from the region which every day are faced crosswise with the European values. This year conference is devoted to the regional transformation using the new technologies and global challenges.

After many years focus of the international community is back again on our region, but not for ruthless happens like in '90 of last century, this time about the fostering of the process of reconciliation and integration with the base of Europe. I personally am optimist for the future of the region and young generations, and that you like a young generation will support this efforts of international community for providing building stability and prosperity in the region.

HOLSTEIN



H.E ANKE HOLSTEIN

Ambassador of Germany
in North Macedonia

The European Union is a unique project. We are not very good at communicating it, but traveling across Europe without noticing borders have the same currency as the enormous unhindered economic exchange. The exchanges among young people, among entire generations, the Erasmus program these are achievements we can really be proud on. On the other side we still have to work on is the weak security cooperation, our failure on migration politics, our weaknesses in climate protections. But still I'm 100 % convinced that this is the best European project. It is reached through cooperation of so different people and so different cultures. You belong to Europe already now and one day in the near future you will also belong to the European Union and active young people like you are best placed to make it happen to shape the future you want.

MARKOVIC



OGNJE MARKOVIC

Western Balkans Youth Lab Project
Expert from Regional Cooperation Council

It is really great to see so many young people again at the same place. I would like to say that we in RCC are really pleased to support this year edition of the International Youth Conference that started back in 2003. What a tradition. We in RCC are really trying always to focus on content and to provide opportunities for young people to participate in such an international events that gather youth from Southeast Europe and this time we were able to support participation of the youth coming from the Western Balkan six since the project on which I am working on "Western Balkan Youth Lab" is focusing on the Western Balkan region. They are actually working on concrete law making, law amendment or even developing strategies that are important for youth. Since involving young people in the policy making which is actually aimed at youth and for youth should not be made without youth.

I would very much like to encourage you to use this opportunity of networking and being together to create and to establish contact with each other, to make the most out of the great alumni network that this event creates for the 19th year in a row. Because this event is also the setting ground for the future leaders and we don't see you simply as organized participants in today's event, but really as the future leaders in your regions. Therefore I quite much praise the importance of this event to bring you together and to establish the first contact between you. Because the past has learned us that the future could be possible only if we are together, if we know each other, if we cooperate, if we join our forces. The future is full of challenges and also with a lot of opportunities. But in order to enjoy the opportunities and overcome the challenges we need to be together and we are always stronger together.



MR. IVAYLO TZONEV

Project Manager for North Macedonia and Bulgaria at Friedrich Naumann Foundation

In this room we have young people and we have to ensure that they represent themselves and their peers. When we talk about values we have to ensure that no one is left behind. My personal commitment is to build new bridges for new cooperation dedicated to youth. We have to create more opportunities for youth to explore, to engage and to experience more and by doing that to offer them to grow on personal and professional level. Only by creating more opportunities and providing needed resources we can help young people to fulfill their full potential.

If not us who, if not now when



MR. MARKO GJORGIEVSKI

, Director of the National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility

We are actually very happy to be here for the first time at this incredible Youth Conference. Basically, common goals brought us together even before the conference. It is actually good to sit here physically and discuss about future projects that might shape the region in the future. It's very interesting to us and as I said we are here for the first time and we are very much interested in all the topics that you are discussing here and in particular we are interested in this issue of migration and brain drain that you mentioned before. We might not have a solution for that but we have an offer and that's our aim.



MR. FALK SCHLEICHER

Deputy head of Goethe-Institut Skopje

Unpacking
the EU
Strategy for
the SEE
region

WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S NEXT, WHAT'S NEXT?

SESSION 1

If the current blockade of the whole accession process is not lifted two other things come to my mind that will be next, which would have a negative effect on further integration of the Western Balkans within the European Union. First, it is inevitable that there will be rising euro skepticism in the Western Balkans. And second, this creates a geo-strategical void. The EU insists that the Western Balkans is a geostrategic priority for the EU, but this thing offsets the complete idea so non-western, non-democratic actors are gaining further influence in the Western Balkans right now. To wrap up what we know so far is that the domestic political and administrative actors in the Western Balkans lack the capacity to pursue critical reforms without external incentives, without the backing from the European Union. So unless something is done, I don't think that we can be reserved optimists as we have been so far, but there is a huge chunk of pessimism coming in the near future if things are not fixed quickly.

DAMJANOVSKI



MR. IVAN DAMJANOVSKI

Associate professor at Faculty of Law,
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

It's really in the citizens best interest to have an active role in pushing the regional cooperation agenda forward. The regional cooperation needs to be Inclusive and I mean that regionally and socially. So we are talking about all six Western Balkan economies and we are talking about all social groups whose voices can be conveyed either through the parliamentary dialogue, through civil society dialogue or through engaging the underrepresented social groups in the decision-making processes.

BLAZIC



MS. PETRA BLAZIC

Official representative from Regional
Cooperation Council (RCC)



GEORGIEVSKA



MS. BILJANA GEORGIEVSKA

Project Manager at UNDP North Macedonia
and ReLOaD Project Officer

“
The practices showed that really a small activity can make a huge impact for the community and it can be done easily by the young people through volunteering services. I'm glad actually to see that actually there are participants for the from the countries that this project is implemented so I hope you will reach out to my colleagues and maybe get involved.

”

BARBOSKA



SCHLEICHER



**MR. FALK SCHLEICHER
MS. GORDANA BARBOSKA**

It's a complex situations because the Western Balkan markets are small. The best way in our opinion is to cooperate and bring joint forces. We cannot offer a solution for the many problems that we are facing, with many challenges in our countries, like for example the brain drain, the lack of opportunities, but we can offer a platform with different stakeholders. We can bring them together, they can make a program to support the young people in finding their vocational opportunities in their own countries. The aim is to support them from their initial education in their transition to the job market to the work.

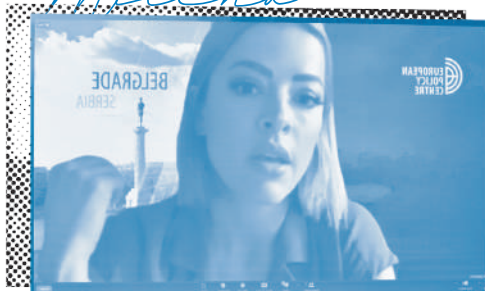
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RECONCILIATION: US, YOU, THEM

SESSION 2

LAZAREVIC

Milena



MS. MILENA LAZAREVIC

Executive Director at European Policy Centre/Centar za evropske politike – CEP

We also need to work harder to create the awareness in the civil societies across the region that only if we combine pressure coming from the citizens and civil societies from the bottom up and the pressures coming from international organizations only in that way we can really maintain and create proper pressure on the domestic political elites to continue with these sometimes painful reforms in the accession process. When I say painful I think painful for the political elites, because essentially leaders who don't cheat are maybe kind of utopia, they're not born they're created and we need to uncreate them by maintaining, creating and boosting very active civil society. Civil society which is very well connected to citizens, which really communicates to young people and to the citizens overall.

POPOVIKJ

Misha



MR. MISHA POPOVIKJ

Program coordinator and Researcher at Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' Skopje

We have a problem in the Western Balkan and that is that there is an increasingly decreasing human capital in the Western Balkans. Young people are moving out. Young people feel are alienated from society, they are not the optimists in society and they frequently try to find way out and not participate in the state building. There are no state building events which hold people here, offer some space for enthusiasm and make them participate in societal processes. There is a necessity of this tipping point where we can basically stop people moving away, because I don't see how the numbers of development tell us that people in this state will stay because of economic development and education and business opportunities. They simply are not here. We are trying to create a possibility for political pressure in the lack of economic opportunities.

CERIMAGIC

Adnan



MR. ADNAN CERIMAGIC

Senior Analyst at European Stability Initiative (ESI)

We need to talk about how we teach history and how we speak about history. We need to win the battle that the looking at the history in an open way where we are ready to be disappointed by some of our heroes is a right way. We also need to make sure that across the region young generations are brought up with thinking that military and weapons can never solve any of the economic, political or any other problems that we have, but they will make it even worse. We need to make sure that our governments support reconciliation and civil society organizations.

Youth-led
transformation of the
integrative
politics of
the region

SESSION 3

THE YOUTH FRONTIER

DESHISHKU



MS DOROTEA DESHISHKU

Political Advisor in the Cabinet of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in the Republic of Kosova

We believe that our biggest challenges will be solved by this generation of young people and our responsibilities is to remove barriers, to provide opportunities and to equip young people with the skills needed to engage in all spheres of life. Thus, our goal is to give young people an enthusiasm for their future in Kosovo and in the region more broadly, with a guarantee that they can build a future here in their own countries.

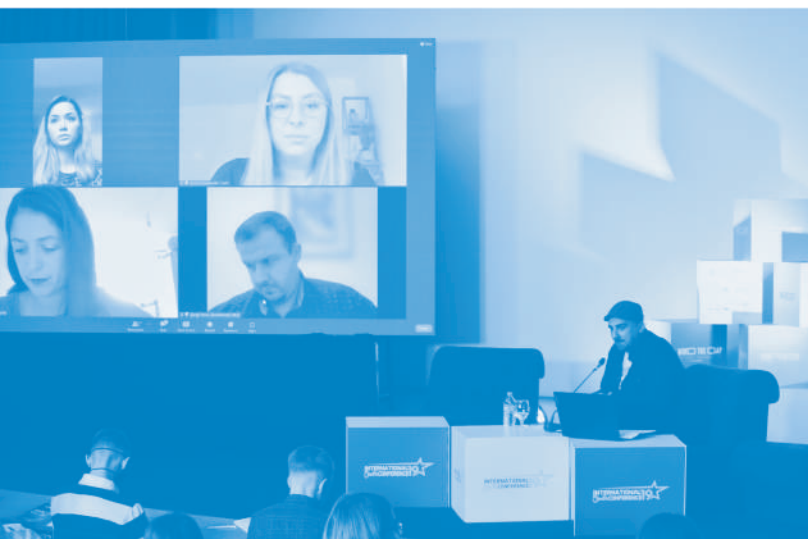
TASEV



MR. GJORGI TASEV

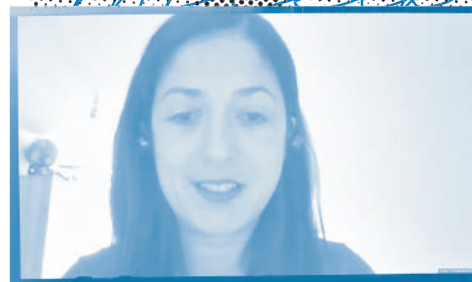
Youth and Youth Policies Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia

The youth in republic of North Macedonia are present, future and are involved in all decision making processes. The participation of young people have never been as pronounced as it is today. By adopting the "Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies" will further strengthen position of the young people discussing new inventive ways of involvement in decision making processes. Talking about the youth infrastructure, youth centers, youth councils, youth officials, a budget for young people, National Advisory Council strategies, registers etc. All of this will enable growth and even greater horizontal inclusion and activation of young people in our processes.



It's good to have youth participation, It looks nice in our portfolio. But what is for me crucial is that it's not good to be in our portfolio. It's actually our responsibility. Because all governments actually are taking loans or make some political measures that are directly affecting the well-being of young people of nowadays. It's even more, because our governments are taking loans for the generations, which are still not born. Therefore in every moment, there should be a place for young people to protect the interests of young people in a decision making process. That's why I actually don't like this term youth policies, because for me each policy should be youth friendly, but also friendly for all generation.

RAJKOVIC



MS MIRELA RAJKOVIC
Executive Directress at SEEYN

In general, still youth councils are not capable enough or don't have still enough capacities to act and solve all issues that young people have nowadays. And I believe somehow it's not gonna happen for a long time or maybe never, but that's not the problem. I think that the bigger issue or challenge is that youth councils will have much bigger power once when young people realize that youth councils are their platforms, platforms that they can really influence on each need they have or each change they want to see in the society.

BANJALUKIC



MS. JASMINA BANJALUCKIC

Youth policy and youth work expert at
Institut za razvoj mladih KULT



SUSTAINABILITY

SESSION 4

How do they
fit in the
narrative of
transforming
the region?

AND

DIGITALIZATION

RAJKOVIC

"The digitalization is going to happen. In our countries too, sooner or later. Is going to happen sooner If we press as a citizens our political authorities. It is a political decision, but a political decision is going to become reality If we as a citizens press the need. If we do not erase the problem, the problem is going to stay here. So the thing is that you as a youth you must press for solution, you must speak, you must raise the voice. System is not going to be changed If the citizens do not press for changes."



MR. MARKO KRTOLICA

Assistant Professor at Faculty of Law "Iustinianus Primus"

GOSPODINOV

I would like to finish with one point that I believe is most important for all of us, but for you the young people specifically and that is the notion of integrity. I understand that in the societies where we live It's very difficult for young people to see and understand the value of integrity, of having values and always really straining ourselves to do the right thing, to think ethically and to always keep our integrity whenever we are faced with a decision, whether it's a life decision or a business decision. In my personal experience but also in the experience of the young people that I have around me, having integrity and leading your lives with integrity is something that long term will add the biggest value for you in in your lives and in your professional futures."



MR. ILIJA GOSPODINOV

Managing Director at Endava



MR. JOHN HARI—IAS

Founder and President of Infinity Greece

I believe that if we want to understand where jobs are going, what youth need, what kind of things will happen in the future we should look at what these generations look for, because they will save the future. We need to teach young people to love life learning and adaptability. Because everything is changing all the time. So we should learn how to learn. How to level up ourselves and how to go to the next step. Because we cannot build the future for youth because we can build the youth for the future."



MRS. BORA MUZI—IQI

Minister of State for Youth and Children in the Government of Republic of Albania

It is your time now so this is a moment for the youth to be fully involved. The role of institutions has to be to make sure that you are involved in the policies that are drafted for youth. And your role on the other hand is to stand up and talk out loud and make sure that you are heard. Because you know better what is necessary for you to adapt to a changing world. And the only way to do this is through your involvement. And I think that is what we need from youth. A youth that is active. A youth that is participating, because Institutions are only as strong as the people that they represent."



SESSION 5

SHAPING

How much does the future cost?

THE

FUTURE

TATJANA

Dushkova



The most shortest answer to your question: "How much does the future cost?" I would answer that cost or the sum of it comes down to our input in creating that future. Me as representative of a regional institution I have to start with the suggestion that we see the regional cooperation as most important priority in achieving the region's future. We are creating this future. Support innovation and entrepreneurship. We need European integration to promote regional transformation."

MS. TATJANA STERJOVA-DUSHKOVSKA

Secretary General at Western Balkans
6 Chamber Investment Forum

”

STOJCESKI

Metodija



Young people should not pay the cost of staying in their home countries. That is paid by the older generation. We paid enough not only in material things. We lost time. I can say that one generation is completely lost. But now we can learn from the past and you as a young generation must learn these lessons. You should cooperate, you should connect between each other."

METODIJA STOJCESKI

President of Youth Alliance t

”

KAMINIARIS

Othon



We are at the youth conference so let's start by saying that we the youth are at a very large extent disappointed by previous generations. We were handed over a planet going through climate change, which quickly evolved into a climate crisis and our share to that is very small. But the truth is that even if it sounds a bit too fatalistic there is no planet B indeed. The relationship with the environment needs to be restored and this of course is in our hands with nature's help."

MR. OTHON KAMINIAFRIS

Policy Researcher at The Green Tank

”



19TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

September 30 - October 4, 2021

Krusevo - North Macedonia

The International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of the SEE Countries” was initiated in 2003 to grow into a Traditional Youth Conference actively attended by more than 1000 different individuals, youth leaders for the last 19 years. Back in the day, European values in the SEE countries were a significant issue affecting everyone. Now, 19 years after the first conference, the topic is still vigorous and pending, but the political – economic map of the region has notably changed. Although all countries embarked from the same point, the situation today is different in each of them.

This year's conference took place under the general topic “Regional Transformation” and aimed to provide answers from youth to some of the most pressing questions in the region, focusing on European integration, in times of unprecedented challenges.

During the 19th International Youth Conference, six panel sessions with 25 panelists were held, covering the following topics:

01

MIND THE GAP:

The Regional Transformation

02

BARRIERS INTO BRIDGES:

Securing the European future of the region

03

THE YOUTH FRONTIER:

Youth-led transformation of the integrative politics of the region

04

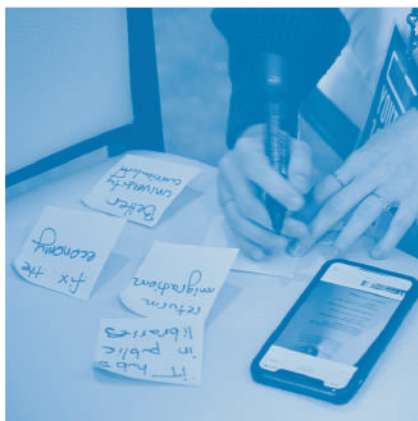
SUSTAINABILITY AND DIGITALIZATION:

How do they fit in the narrative of transforming the region?

05

SHAPING THE FUTURE:

How much does the future cost?



Additionally, since we strongly believe that the involvement of those who are the subjects of the policies to be developed is essential, the young participants of the conference were given the chance to participate in working groups in order to develop their visions for the region, propose policies and measures, as well as youth actions which will contribute to the realization of the created visions.

In total, the 60 participants of the conference were divided in 3 working groups and, with the assistance of 3 facilitators and 3 reporters, came up with the following vision, recommendations for implementing that vision, and pledges for actions they commit to taking in order to ensure their vision is carried through, in the following 5 topics:

01**INCLUSION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP****02****SECURITY, RULE OF LAW AND CORRUPTION****03****YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE
DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES****04****SUSTAINABILITY AND GREENER REGION****05****DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION**

In this document we are sharing with you the conclusions and recommendations created by the young participants of the conference, towards a positive regional transformation.



Our Common Pledge

We, participants of the 1st International Youth Conference, commit to be active young citizens:

promote, address for and implement the vision, policy recommendations and pledges declared in Warsaw in 2011 on the basis of our meeting a better future for all citizens of Southeast Europe.

PARTICIPATION

BARRIERS INTO
BRIGHT FUTURE

SHAPING THE
FUTURE

COOPERATION



IMPACT



INCLUSION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

OUR VISION

The introduction of effectively implemented mechanisms for achieving regional youth cooperation that act as a “catalyst” towards regional transformation.

OUR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our collaborative process of developing policy recommendations during IYC, we propose:

- The implementation of joint public-private investments towards establishing railroad routes that unite all SEE capitals;
- Redirecting investments in tourism towards promoting regional mobility within SEE countries;
- Investing on the collaborative creation of TV shows, documentaries and feature films on the common history and culture of the Balkans, as well as on the promotion of existing related projects;
- The establishment of regional cooperation offices throughout the SEE countries in order to promote cooperation among youth;
- The establishment of a regional council with representatives of all SEE countries, in charge of a collaborative revision of history books;
- The regulation of all diplomas in the region from universities; so they can work and use diplomas in every country of the region;
- The strengthening of the transparent authorities against fake news and sanction fake news creators.
- Investing in initiatives that will directly combat nationalism by focusing on multicultural cooperation in the SEE region, such as the aforementioned examples.

OUR YOUTH PLEDGES

- We plan to implement multicultural activities in schools for presenting different cultural backgrounds through art, theater, food and music;
- We aim to promote our policy recommendations through personal and organizational social media channels, especially among youth;
- We will organise soft skills development youth-led workshops in cooperation between different SEE countries to foster relevant partnerships;
- We will organise events involving youth from universities in SEE countries in order to promote study programs and exchange programs among them;
- We will plan informative seminars providing guidance on how to get involved in youth councils, CSOs and institutions in various SEE countries.



SECURITY, RULE OF LAW AND CORRUPTION

OUR VISION

A SEE region based on rule of law, with a fair and functional legal system, zero tolerance towards corruption and a high level of transparency.

OUR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our collaborative process of developing policy recommendations during IYC, we propose:

- The establishment of an independent committee on Law Enforcement and Corruption in all SEE countries, with members from all SEE countries not affiliated to any entities that may pose conflicts of interest in their position, mandated to assess the state of play in the region and release publicly accessible reports, including recommendations for relevant next steps to national and local governments;
- The creation of a Regional Convention, controlled by a body of experts that has non-partisan representatives and a youth majority;
- Increasing penalties for corruption and legally prohibiting convicted government officials from taking over the same or similar positions in the future;
- The establishment of effective methods and tools to measure the quantitative and qualitative impact of the implementation of anti-corruption laws, frequently releasing related publicly accessible reports.

OUR YOUTH PLEDGES

- We will encourage youth in our countries to be part of the decision-making process by offering seminars on understanding politics and policies, and encourage active citizens participation in youth organisations, with the help of academia;
- We will strive for the implementation of activities on critical thinking in Social Media;
- We will become more heavily involved in Local Youth Councils, carrying our innovative ideas born in initiatives such as youth conferences or international workshops forward.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

OUR VISION

Young people should be represented in a society as decision-makers with equal say and have more opportunities for personal development and growth on local as well as national level.

OUR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our collaborative process of developing policy recommendations during IYC, we propose:

- The implementation of reforms in public education in the region, to include but not be limited to:
 - Civic education in all school levels;
 - More representative bodies for youth (Youth Councils, Junior Parliaments etc);
 - Emphasizing and recognising the importance of non-formal and informal learning as an integral part of education;
- The creation of a cross-regional platform for private businesses and public institutions to advertise internships and traineeships, and ensure awareness of all related opportunities within schools;
- The introduction of more opportunities for youth participation in the decision-making processes on both local and national level, inspired by examples such as Participatory Budgeting, EU Youth Dialogue etc, developed in collaboration with youth.

OUR YOUTH PLEDGES

- We will create a social media page to raise awareness on the importance of voting and being active in youth organizations;
- We commit to promoting the establishment of Junior Parliaments aiming to develop and propose policy recommendations to the State Parliaments of SEE countries;
- We will build an online forum to provide a larger space for youth to develop and engage with their own ideas and demands around social and political issues;
- We will take actions to preserve the existing debate clubs in universities and youth hubs by helping them gain publicity on a national and bilateral level;
- We will run online campaigns for and with young people actively involved in politics.

SUSTAINABILITY AND A GREENER REGION

OUR VISION

We envision a region with a sustainable culture, driven by green policies and innovative technologies, with strong regulations.

OUR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our collaborative process of developing policy recommendations during IYC, we propose:

- Introducing a mandatory subject on environmental sustainability in the public education curriculum, common for all SEE countries;
- Implementing a working infrastructure for recycling in schools, including a public awareness campaign for its correct usage;
- The implementation of various methods and effective legislation for averting corporate pollution (such as carbon tax);
- Increasing funding for public transport, focusing on vehicles that rely on renewable energy sources (electric trams, natural gas city buses etc);
- Ensuring proper infrastructure as to the means of transportation in the city enabling access to all citizens;
- Introducing grants and other financing mechanisms for various green initiatives, utilising relevant EU and national and cross-regional funds;
- Improving awareness and preparatory structures for combating natural disasters, based on already successful models of risk management;

OUR YOUTH PLEDGES

- We will organise environmental cleaning activities in schools on a monthly basis, so as to actively engage younger children in environmentally friendly actions, building a green culture for the next generation;
- We will promote meaningful green initiatives in our university sustainability clubs;
- We will lobby for regional green policies through dedicated international youth synergies built around this purpose;
- We will build a website designed to promote green energy, green policies and raising awareness on environmental issues through articles, photos, videos and fun facts.

DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

OUR VISION

We envision adequate knowledge transfer and access to ICT (Information Communication Technology) for people of all ages, including (but not limited to) young people & public institutions. Public services and educational tools should be offered to all SEE citizens to use well organised and visualised data from the use of ICT tools and services in the region to develop an easier and more efficient lifestyle.

OUR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on our collaborative process of developing policy recommendations during IYC, we propose:

- The introduction of a continuous consultation process between the Ministries of Education of SEE countries and the students of primary schools, high-schools and universities in the region, aiming to identify the level of information, engagement and encouragement received through public education on the topics of innovation and entrepreneurship, and the subsequent adaptation and improvement of the curriculum according to the feedback of the students;
- The establishment of an awareness campaign on the benefits of digitising public services and visualising citizen data on the usage of such services;
- The improvement of digitising public services in the region, allowing easy access to public services to all citizens through an “e-Municipality” project;
- The establishment of a regional fund for youth-led innovative businesses in the SEE countries, aiming to encourage and promote entrepreneurship amongst youth;
- The introduction of tax deductions and related benefits for the founding of new ICT companies by SEE youth, and the acquiring of ICT equipment by youth-led companies;
- The introduction of a cross-regional project for IT companies to donate equipment in schools and civil society throughout the SEE countries;
- The introduction of a digital nomad visa program for SEE citizens, encouraging cross-regional mobility and inspiration from related best practices;
- The introduction of educational activities on the basic usage of ICT technologies in nursing homes and for the elderly, throughout the region.

OUR YOUTH PLEDGES

- We will host presentations on the benefits of digitising public services and reflect on the existing procedures in our local communities;
- We will initiate a collaborative process with youth parliament members and ministers of youth in order to create a legal framework for digital nomad visas;
- We will establish liaison offices with countries that have already implemented well developed e-government services in order to get guidance and inspiration for our countries in their attempt of doing the same;
- We will include rural areas in our attempt to promote ICT literacy by developing and implementing workshops on basic ICT knowledge in primary schools and local libraries.



The consummation of this year's International Youth Conference in Krusevo shapes a promising network of young professionals, ready to take action and inspire ideas for a more sustainable and inclusive future in the SEE region. After careful consideration and intense brainstorming, we managed to come together and build our own vision plan, having in mind the very concrete obstacles on our way of its implementation. It is our sincere hope that our mobilisation will be the first step of including youth in the decision making process, as well as the beginning of a firm regional cooperation, shaping both the present and the future of the European Union.



