

• Visegrad Fund



YOUTH AS A (FUTURE) (RE)SOURCE – PREPARATORY EVENT

BACKGROUND AND AGENDA

V4 and WB, Sarajevo, 5. – 6. August 2019

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There are two dominant discourses pertaining to the youth, namely: the image of ‘Youth as a Resource’ and ‘Youth as a Problem’. Typically, the image of ‘youth as a resource’ prevails in periods of stability and image of youth ‘as a problem’ prevails in periods of economic crisis, instability. Project participants will prove youth is a valuable resource in several ways, not solely as potential contributors to society, but also in their present status as youth, contributing with innovative ideas and thinking out of the box. Strong, committed and inclusive democratic youth leadership is of crucial importance for the process of democratization and European integration. In our efforts to build a structured regional cooperation we must therefore bring young leaders on board in order to build tighter ties among the civil societies, offer room for youth-to-youth exchanges, and enable a continuous flow of information and knowledge among EU and non-EU countries.

Youth, being the essential cornerstone of dynamic civil societies, should be given a chance to:

- Contribute to the regional integration,
- Be the herald of European values and democratic leadership with dedication and perseverance,
- Identify the topics of common interest and tackle the issues of shared concern for communities in the region.

Strong civil society plays a significant role in supporting democracy and therefore the rule of law. At the same time, dynamic civil society makes the state accountable. Vital role in this process has to be played by a strong civil society (not only by the control of the power of the state), civil society should lobby for access to information, promote political participation and help to develop other values of democratic life, where youth is most often left out of this activities. Through effective communication channels, awareness of the general public should rise about the EU integration process. Active and dynamic civil society can be built only on a strengthened people-to people contacts and that is a crucial part of our activity. All activities

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are oriented towards better regional cooperation, implementation of possible macro regional synergies, mobility, networking and exchange of ideas and visions.

Special emphasis at the event will be given to cross-regional cooperation. Participants will demonstrate such cooperation is not only necessary, but inevitable for positive next steps in democratization, human rights, sustainable development, EU integrations of WB, climate change and other cross-border topics. Young leaders have to learn from their peers from different regions, share their knowledge, ideas and know-how. Sustainable regional cooperation programs are therefore key towards a comprehensive, inclusive, and innovative approach that engages youth and prepares agents for change. In order to strengthen the regional cooperation and know-how exchange between V4, WB6, EU and beyond, project will in one place join experts from leading institutions in V4 and WB6, as well as leading youth organizations.

In light of all this, the Centre for European Perspective partnering with Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations, is opening the floor to youth and civil society of the Western Balkans, V4 and EU, giving them a chance to discuss their concerns, challenges, ideas and prospects with policy makers and experts.

You are therefore cordially invited to take part in a preparatory event in Sarajevo, leading to Young BSF 2019. Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2Srr4ZS> by 1st of August 2019.

5th August 2019, Monday, Hotel Europe

Dress Code: Smart Casual

16.00 Welcome Addresses

Amer Kapetanović, Head of Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council

16.20 - 18.00 Youth and Euro-Atlantic Integrations of Western Balkans and the role of V4

Speakers:

Katja Geršak, Director, Centre for European Perspective (CEP)

Jan Zlatan Kulenović, CEO, Social Innovation Incubator MUNJA

Dr Filip Radunović, Sector Fund Manager, Open Regional Fund Southeastern Europe - EU Integration, GIZ Sarajevo

Anna Orosz, Research fellow, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT)

Vladimír Bartovic, Director, EUROPEUM

Moderator: Jasmina Banjalučkić, Secretary General, Youth Council of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background: Youth that is committed to European values and that can participate in voicing its views is crucial for the development of a responsive and resilient civil society. The first step comes through educating youth, which is an obligation that each state should undertake to achieve to its largest possible extent. This is in the interest of a society at large as it is through investments in networks and structures of education that it is possible to foster the

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human capital of each individual. Only through this accumulation of knowledge and understanding can awareness grow within the new generations in order to take on leadership roles that can help navigate the V4 and Western Balkans towards greater normative and political integration of states around democratic and just causes. With current high youth unemployment rate and facing a challenge of matching the academic offer to the needs of the market, EU and WB have to set to create closer links between formal education, non-formal and informal learning. Additionally, in the rise of extremism and intolerance in Europe, it has become increasingly important to foster social and civic competences and encouraging active citizenship in youth, therefore, a strong emphasis has to be put on the youth work and youth participation. With this round-table we wish to explore the experience of EU, V4 and WB in better involvement of youth, as well as their role in Euro-Atlantic integrations of WB.

18.00 – 18.30 Coffee break

18.30 – 20.00 Let's talk about Cross-Regional Cooperation: WB6, V4 and EU

Participants:

H.E Jakub Skalník, Ambassador of the Czech Republic

Ms Ágnes Angyal Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Hungary

H.E Jarosław Lindenberg, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Mr Attila Szép, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Slovak Republic

Borut Valenčič, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator:

Mak Selimović, President, Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations

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Background: Regional cooperation is a multilateral approach of increasing collaboration, enhancing interconnectivity of societies, as well as boosting economic and social development. In theoretical framework, the concept of regional cooperation, especially the one built on cherishing democratic values, is designed to boost cooperation of societies in resolving common objectives by sharing a common vision and best practices – all in order to resolve complex transnational matters. In practice, however, this cooperation results in forming a stronger sense of mutual understanding and respect, followed up by a subtle creation of a common, regional identity. Relevant and successful examples of this cooperation are nowadays visible throughout the world, with the European Union as a leading example. Therefore, it comes with no surprise that the European Union is calling upon countries of the Western Balkans to increase engagement in regional cooperation of the WB6, both as a means of finding solutions to common problems, as well as boost interconnectivity intra WB6.

However, the question that this panel will seek to answer why is cross-regional cooperation important in the SEE region and whether or not the-already-existing cross-regional cooperation between Visegrad 4 and Western Balkans 6 can be further developed in resolving complex matters of common interest. Finally, this round table will serve as an occasion to asses cross-regional opportunities, threats and obstacles in cooperation.

20.00 – 22.00 Reception



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6th August 2019, Tuesday, Hotel Europe

Dress Code: Smart Casual

9.00 – 11.30 Visegrad Café

Format Description

World Café (or Visegrad Café in our case) is an interactive form of discussion. The room will be set up in a café style. Each table (4 tables) will cover one topic and each table will have project representatives who moderate and facilitate the discussion. Two project partner representatives are together responsible for one pre-assigned topic, moderation and encouraging the discussion, posing additional questions and keeping the notes of the main points of the discussion.

Public will contribute to the discussion on each of the topics and support it with a pre-prepared set of data, research conclusions and materials.

Participants switch tables after 30 minutes to converse with a new mix of participants. Once all rounds of conversation are complete, project partner representatives will present the main conclusions of each discussion.

Topics (further descriptions will be sent to applicants)

- Democratization, European Integrations, Corruption, Political Rhetoric, Freedom of the press - disinformation, role of media; influence of foreign actors (China, Russia,...) Security in the region, Border control, Hybrid Threats [IFAT + SFPA]
- Human rights, Minorities, Women Empowerment [BETA Poland, Model UN Prague]

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- SDGs, Sustainability, Climate change, Economy, Youth Inequality, Entrepreneurship, Technology, Emigration, Brain drain, Migrations – [V4SDGS + BHA UN]
- Regional cooperation, Development, Reconciliation (and role of youth) and mobility of youth – [EUROPEUM + CEP]

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.00 Public Debate: Presentation of conclusions from Visegrad Café and Q&A

Format Description:

Moderator introduces the topic. The floor is given to each of the topic groups: democratization, human rights, SDGs and reconciliation. Each group has to present the overview of the topic, burning issues, examples of good practices and policy recommendations in 5 minutes. Afterwards we open the floor for discussion and Q&A with the public.

Participants:

Anna Korienieva, Secretary-General, Model United Nations Prague z.s.

Rafal Fabianowicz, V4 External Relations Officer, V4SDG

Jana Juzová, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Juraj Hajko, Project Manager/Analyst, Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA)

Moderator: **Meliha Muherina**, Project Manager, Centre for European Perspective (CEP)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch