



BSF Young

**Young
Bled
Strategic
Forum**

**Future of Europe - Youth at the Centre
Joint Declaration**

As active youth, from all across Europe, we feel that it is time for us to voice up and act faster than ever. There is an urgent need for better cooperation between civil society and governments to address Covid 19 ramifications and necessary recovery action plan. At the same time, we should jointly move forward towards democratic and European societies.

We highlight the urgency for cooperation across our societies by offering our strengths and determination to act now. This is our joint stand to recognize the power and contributions of youth starting from a small change in our local reality to our participation in complex and important political affairs.

Within the framework of Young Bled Strategic Forum 2021, we agree that the meaningful participation of youth is essential for the successful implementation of comprehensive processes which do indicate our everyday life.

Strengthening Youth-institutions-relevant stakeholders relationships can generate a better understanding of our needs and the right environment to build a common path towards solutions.

DECLARATION SECTION

In order to overcome the challenges that we are facing all across Europe such as:

Boosting economies and the level of youth employability are influenced by lack of coherence between the education systems and the needs of the labour market, but also non-formal education being under-regulated.

Brain drain is one of the emerging issues, which stands influenced by outdated labour laws, insufficient resources and a faulty contract between state and private sector regarding employability programmes.

We recommend:

- **Strategically construct connectivity infrastructure among countries within the EU and EU potential members, in order to boost cooperation and mutual benefit in economical level. This connectivity plan must integrate youth as a prima beneficiary through a multi-sectoral perspective.**
- **Reinforce the legislation on labour law.**
- **Incentivize a dialogue among civil society, institutions and business community for a renewed approach towards employability schemes and fighting brain drain.**
- **Initiate sector-based youth grow careers, blue careers so as to bring youth close to sectoral policies and opportunities.**

Civil society engagement in decision-making processes.

The inclusion of youth in decision-making is not well managed. The apathy of young people is becoming more frequent and widespread across Europe. Limited resources are an obstacle in order to enable diverse civil engagement.

We recommend:

- **Improve the curricula of school subjects that tackle civic education and political participation. Educate young people from early age to participate actively in society and influence decision-making for matters that concern them the most.**
- **Contribute to the development of democratic and participatory culture among young people, education and informing on democracy, democratic values, and political, economic, social and cultural rights.**
- **Encourage young politicians to engage more with their peers, propose ideas and suggestions for the improvement of the position of youth in the policy cycle.**
- **Maintain and increase the resources at disposal for meaningful engagement of civil society in various and important processes.**

EU enlargement policy and regional cooperation;

There is a low inclusion of youth in the EU enlargement process in both potential Member States and Member States of the EU; because of the lack of interest from youth, disinformation and also flawed mechanisms. On the other hand, regional cooperation with WB has been fostered and it delivered several successful mechanisms, but still, there is a huge need for deepening the cooperation, increasing the funding sources and to replicate the successful stories.

We recommend:

- **Adapting strategies of countering Euroscepticism by including communication on EU enlargement with EU youth while providing communication channels to WB youth with EU.**
- **Establishing EU-WB youth dialogue by appropriate forum and two-way exchange opportunities, formal and non-formal.**
- **Foster regional cooperation by creating and investing in several mechanisms which promote regional ownership and co-managing in various sectors such as education, employment and sustainable development.**

Climate change and sustainability;

Overconsumption, overproduction and use of cheap affordable energy resources have made invaluable damage to the environment, which is increasing day by day due to the lack of societal readiness to make changes. Geopolitical competitions and regionalisation of markets influence the lack of sustainable leadership in the field of tackling climate change issues. Disharmony of regulations and struggles for resources and new technologies has slowed response to climate change, which was even more pushed to margins with the post-pandemic setback.

We recommend:

- **Invest in educational reforms as a baseline for a bottom-up approach to tackle environmental issues and climate change challenges.**
- **Boost regional sustainability cooperation through a dedicated mechanism and involve the youth sector systematically from the very first phase.**
- **Create a broad European coalition to push the green agenda.**

About the Declaration

This Declaration has been developed by Young Bled Strategic Forum 2021 participants of Albania, Croatia, France, Hungary, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine, with the support of the Organising team. The objective of this Declaration was to give an opportunity to Young Bled Strategic Forum participants, as young leaders and activists, to come together and to establish common key messages, concerns and asks that they have gathered based on the discussions that took place during the 3-day Forum. This Declaration is directed to the policy makers and stakeholders and will be presented in Bled Strategic Forum. The declaration will reach out to youngsters through all the official media and social media channels and also will become part of several discussions and debates taking place across Europe in regard of the future of European Union and meaningful youth engagement.