

2014 Krusevo 12 International Youth CONFERENCE

**EUROPEAN VALUES
FOR THE FUTURE
OF SOUTHEAST
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

**A SNAPSHOT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE
2014 RESULTS**



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

**YOUTH
ALLIANCE**

This publication is based on the tenth International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeastern European Countries” 2014, that served as a forum for discussions and reflections of youth leaders from SEE as one of the main creative and productive forces of the region, whose ideals and aspirations will underpin the development of a prosperous, democratic and stable region in the framework of the European Union.

*The Conference was organized by Youth Alliance - Krusevo in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Office Skopje.
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You can find this brochure and other information, results and outcomes from the IYC 2014 online at: www.krusevoconference.org.mk

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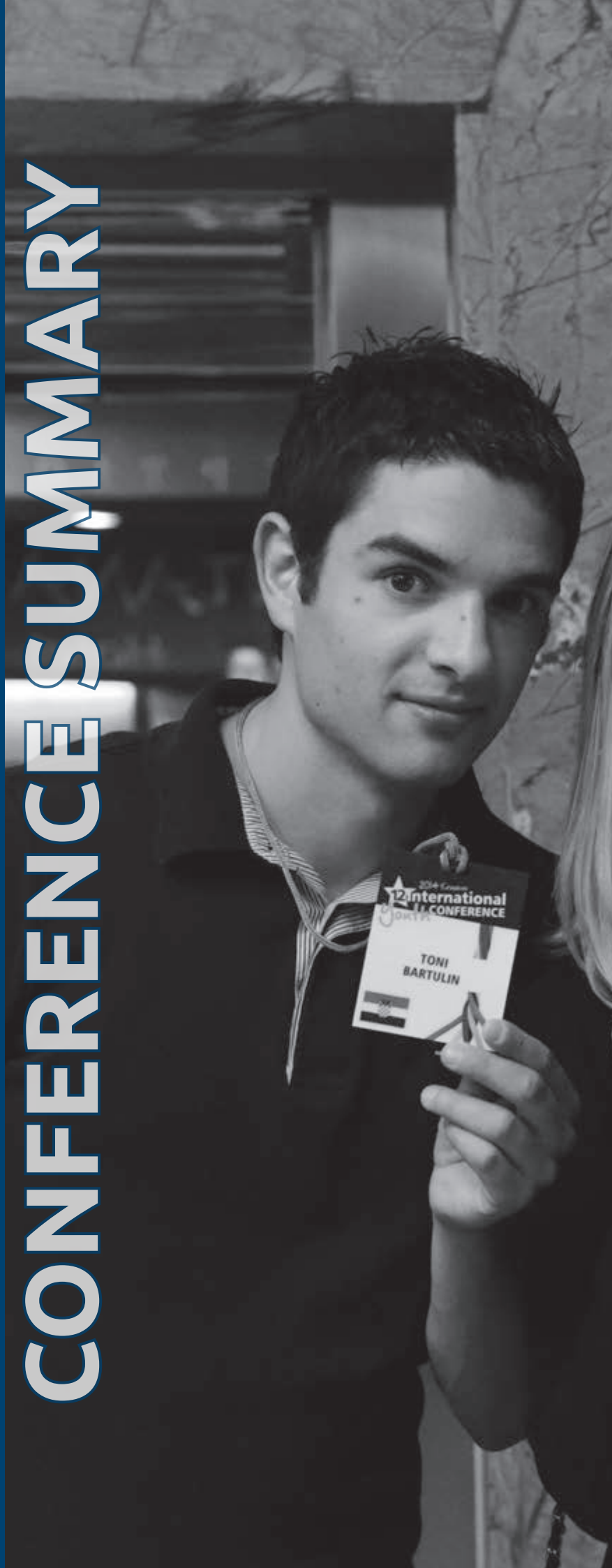
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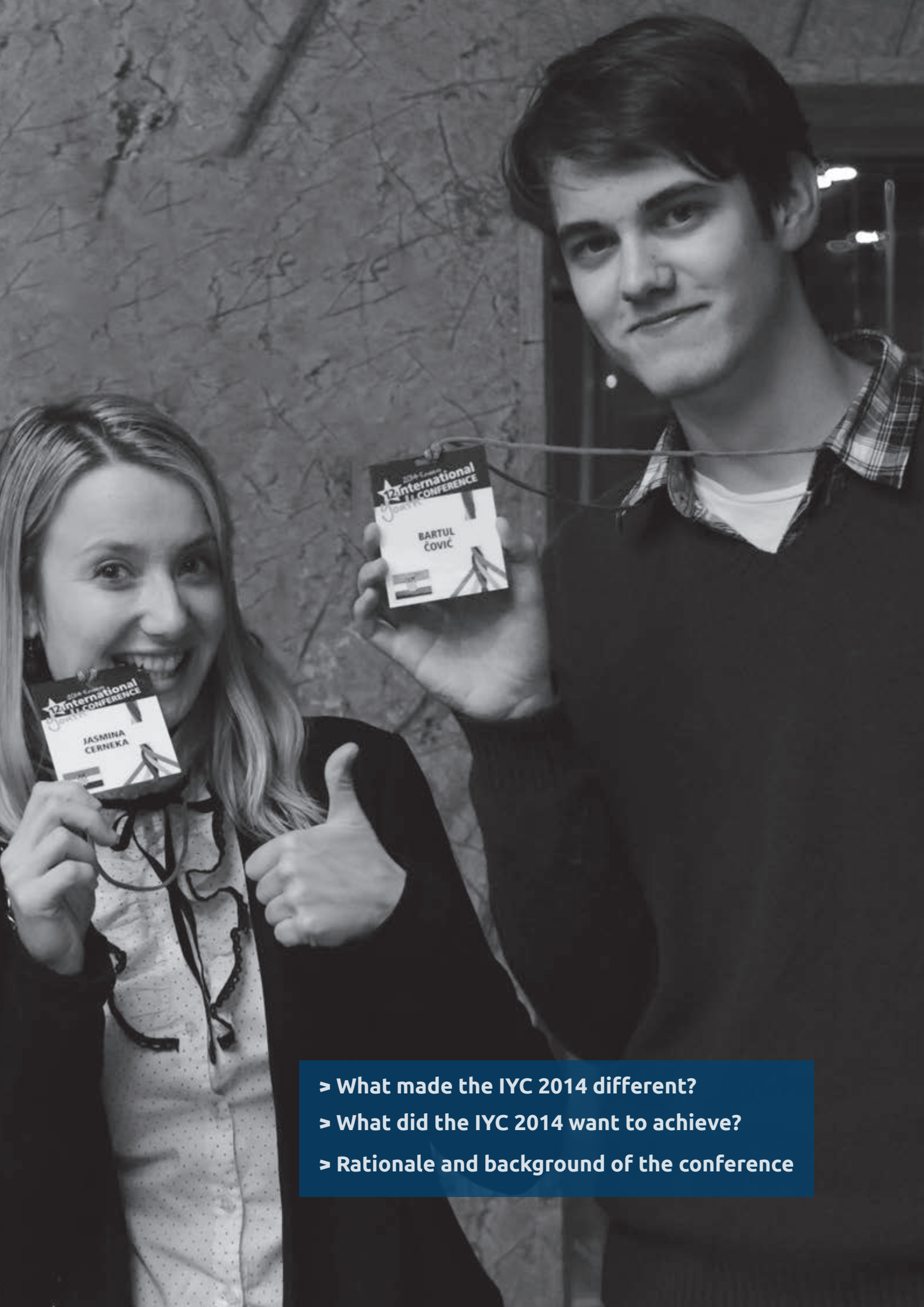
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[1]

CONFERENCE SUMMARY





- What made the IYC 2014 different?
- What did the IYC 2014 want to achieve?
- Rationale and background of the conference



The 12th International Youth Conference “European values for the future of Southeastern European countries” was five days of intensive work that took place in Krusevo, Republic of Macedonia from 25th to 29th of September, 2014. The conference consisted of plenary sessions, panel discussions and interactive workshops which provided insights into the ideas, beliefs, preferences, attitudes, values and opinions of young people all over Southeast Europe. The conference was an ideal opportunity for networking and for discussions between different stakeholders. The program also introduced participants to a variety of funding and support programs that can be used for regional cooperation projects. This all led to an impressive set of action plans, aimed at bringing the European values as system of values close to our societies.



CONFERENCE SUMMARY

What made the IYC 2014 different?

The 12th International Youth Conference “European values for the future of Southeastern European countries” brought together fifty-five (55) active youth leaders from 15 countries (Macedonia (host country), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Germany, Kosovo, Monte Negro, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) to discuss the current issues and explore new approaches in youth policy and youth work across the Southeastern European Countries. Having such a diverse group of youth leaders around the table is already an achievement in itself. The conference welcomed representatives from youth NGOs, youth networks, National Youth Councils, eminent experts on specific fields, policy-makers and researchers.

tags

- > european values
- > democracy
- > solidarity
- > respect
- > dialogue
- > mutual understanding
- > european citizenship



What did the IYC 2014 want to achieve?

The overall aim of the International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeast European Countries” is promotion of the European values among the active young people from SEE region.

Specific objectives for the conference 2014:

- To facilitate effective partnerships between active young people and youth organizations from SEE region aiming at promotion of European values as common values;
- To facilitate a process that strengthens effective youth participation in the decision making process by providing an learning experience that will equip the participants with skills and competences for promotion of active citizenship among the young people;
- To create an inclusive platform with youth that enables them to share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches for effectively contributing to the youth unemployment issue;
- To establish a follow-up mechanism that will support the young people in the regional implementation of the common conclusions.





Rationale and background of the conference

The aspirations of integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures of all societies and entities from the region are the only mutual accepted base on which a joint collaboration can be built. The strategy of expanding the EU is the base of these commitments which is actually a key strategy that promotes stability and good dealing with global challenges. The regional cooperation and the good neighboring relations are being imposed as an essential priority of expanding the region. They give their contribution to the prosperity, stability, reconciliation and a good ecosystem for dealing with open bilateral questions from the past.

The situation in which the EU enlargement is forgotten, as a result of the economic crisis in Europe or as a result of the problems societies are dealing with is a great soil for Euroscepticism to appear. Euroscepticism is not developed only in the minds of the citizens but in some societies it serves as a base for building official government politics which are not just poorly “disguised” with the declarative orientation for integration in EU and NATO. This situation is a great opportunity for redevelopment of some retrograde process well known from the turbulent past of the region we live in. We, as active young people and organizations, that work on supporting the processes of integrations of our societies in EU and NATO in a situation we are facing at this moment it is inevitable to aim our activities towards keeping the idea of merging EU in the minds of young people. Not only the need of getting declarative help for EU and NATO membership is imposed, but these organizations as political, economical and safe structures according to the recent surveys they have the support of over 70% of young people. The most important thing is to say that the need of wide acceptance of the European democratic values is imposed, which is based on the idea of European merging.

The International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of SEE Countries” for twelfth consecutive years lives as a forum where 55 active, successful and able young leaders, youth workers and representatives of prominent NGOs from 15 countries. Those leaders of a better future are sharing their visions, strategies, campaigns and way of thinking during the 5-day forum. They are using the Conference as an orientation marker for their future plans in the field of European values because it is well known that the conference is the perfect base for proclaiming new ideas and creating new politics. The International Youth Conference is a unique place, a cultural crossroad where discussions for: rule of law, democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, free-market economy, political inclusiveness and right of free sexual orientation, are mixing while we are putting together the mosaic of the future.





[2]

OPENING CEREMONY





➤ Welcome to the 12th International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeastern European Countries” 2014



09:00 – 20:00	Arrival of the participants and registration
20:00 – 21:00	Dinner
21:00 – 22:30	Opening Ceremony Keynote address and opening of the conference Introduction to the Conference, 2014 Overview of the conference agenda by the International Preparatory Group <i>(Plenary hall)</i>
22:30 – 00:00	Welcome evening

OPENING CEREMONY



Welcome to the 12th international youth conference “European values for the future of south east european countries” 2014



Metodija Stojceski, project coordinator and president of Youth Allinace – Krusevo

Dear participants and guests on the International Youth Conference “European Values for the future of SEE countries 2014”, I have the honor to welcome you on the 12th edition of our traditional conference which is happening since 2003 in Krusevo. I am especially proud to be together with fifty five young leaders from fifteen different countries and we, from the conference team, are incredibly pleased to organize and announce one more conference.

Organizing this conference from the very beginning, twelve years in a row, we try to bring European Values closer to the young people from SEE region, the region that passed turbulent period in the past twenty years. During the last eleven years, we had an opportunity to make friends, establish partnerships, and connect more than six hundred and fifty different youth activists from all over Europe as participants and guests on the conferences, so things started to make sense even more. Moreover, many eminent experts, represents of the academic community and politicians who are significant names in the region and beyond were guest speakers on our conference.

We, me and my YAK team, are creating place where you can be inspired, where you meet new people, make friends, share ideas, have inspirational discussions and motivated by the energy, ideas and the dynamism of the young people we will further continue with the vision "European Values for the Future of SEE countries". By making lifetime changes that are real, enthusiastic, and progressive we are contributing to the processes of bringing the young people closer to their goals. Just like by the book, but this is real and it is really happening.

Even though we live in a period of economic crisis, facing with the new nationalistic and Neo-Nazism movements the enthusiasm is still here strong as it was in the first year when we initiated the conference. Every day we are making efforts to keep alive the power of the idea European integration and integration of the region as well.

Thanks to our partners and supporters, who are supporting our vision for empowerment of young people to be the leaders of tomorrow's Europe through all these years, nowadays our vision is reality. I am expressing my special gratitude and most sincere appreciation of our oldest friends, the Stability Pact for South East Europe, sponsored by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, office Skopje.

Especially thanks to you, the young people, who are coming from different backgrounds, someone of you are students, someone of you are activists, representatives of NGOs, working for the government, but all of you are working with one cause to make the Southeastern Europe better place. I am inviting you to embrace the responsibility and be the new leaders of the tomorrow's Europe.

tags

- > YAK
- > stability Pact for SEE sponsored by Germany
- > 12th IYC
- > vision
- > sharing ideas
- > enthusiasm
- > responsibility
- > leadership





Ms. Stine Klapper, director of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, office Skopje sketched out the role of young people in the SEE region and its EU integration

Dear participants,

On behalf of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Macedonia, I am honored to welcome you all to the 12th international youth conference in Krusevo.

I am very happy to see so many people from different places all over Europe here today. This is most probably the ideal constellation for sharing ideas, bringing new perspectives into the debate and finding new ways of dealing with today's challenges. I assume it will be just impossible to leave Krusevo without new ideas for your own activities in your home towns. I also hope that you all will want this to be a longer lasting experience and to keep in touch with each other in the ever growing network of the youth conference in Krusevo.

I personally know that it is not always easy to be a young person. You say, "it's a man's world" but it is also an older person's world that we live in. We are mostly not the ones that hold political power, not the ones that lead the big business, not the ones that dominate the academic discourses and not even the ones that decide in most non-governmental organizations. But that does not mean that we are without power and that does certainly not mean that we are without responsibility. We have an even greater responsibility. Don't become frustrated because you feel unheard, be louder. If institutions

and traditional structures are too slow, be faster. Don't expect things to change by themselves – be the agents of change. Because this is the responsibility of the young generation. This does not mean you should ignore anyone that is not young! Never neglect the value of experience – work together. And if you share your ideas, if you're open to discuss your ideas, if you are inclusive, if you are ready to argue and if you are ready to be convinced by the better argument of the other – I am sure positive change will be the result. And looking at you all, you that already have been proven to be “young leaders”, seeing your commitment to travel all the way here and spend your free time here, I'm sure this is what you want, you want to be these agents of change.

I am honored that FES can be part of this conference. Speaking of age, FES is already pretty old for a youth conference. The foundation was founded almost 90 years ago. But, since the early beginnings the support of young people has been one of the main goals of FES. And today, different programs and activities with young people are carried out in around 100 countries in the world. And without explaining you all the details of what this foundation does and why, and without citing numbers and showing charts, I would like to emphasize that one of our core values is solidarity. And I hope that you all share this value – always – but especially when discussing during this conference. You will speak about current challenges like youth unemployment. I know perspectives are not very bright for many young people in Europe. But without answers based on the principle of solidarity, I fear the future will be even much darker.

Before wishing you all a successful conference, I would like to thank all the organizers very much for making this conference happen. My special thanks go to Metodi-ja and Biljana, my colleague Nita and also to the entire International Preparatory Group and Youth Alliance activists. I am very impressed by your commitment.

I wish you all a very successful 12th international youth conference!



tags

- > FES, Skopje
- > young people
- > louder
- > agents of change
- > value of experience
- > work together
- > commitment

[3]

THE EU INFLUENCE IN THE SEE REGION





- › Challenges of European Integration for the Countries of SEE
- › Youths in SEE Countries – The aftermath of the crisis

08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 09 :30	Needs and Expectations Thomas Leszke (Germany) & Maria Athanatsiki (Greece)
09:30–11:30	<p>The EU influence in the SEE region</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Mr. Nenad Borovčanin - State Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Serbia</p> <p>Mr. Konstantinos Filippidis - President of Association of Active Youths of Florina</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Thomas Leszke (Germany)</p> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Challenges of European integration for the countries of SEE ➤ Youth in SEE countries - the aftermath of the crisis <p>Keynote address</p> <p>Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p>Panel debate</p>



THE EU INFLUENCE IN THE SEE REGION



“Challenges of European Integration for the Countries of SEE”

Mr. Nenad Borovčanin, State Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Serbia

Countries of the SEE region are walking steadily on its European path and have faced or still facing bravely the challenges that the process of European integration brings. Young people are one of the most important actors in the creation of the European future and advocates for the ideas for better Europe, and it is important that young people have the opportunity to express their views and make their voices heard.

The EU has been running different program to support civil society and youth activities throughout Europe, which have recently been bundled in the new Erasmus+ program. In South-Eastern Europe, some countries (Slovenia, Croatia, and Macedonia) already participate in this programme via their national agencies, but other countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania) are still in the process of creating these agencies. It is very important for the future of European integration that young people have opportunities to express themselves appropriately, and therefore it is very important that young people from all European countries have access to the opportunities offered by EU programs. In order to create such possibilities, there is the idea of a Western Balkan Youth Union, which could, in analogy to the French-German Youth Office, support youth projects in the region independently.

How to behave on the European challenges?

- Regular exchange of information, experience and good practices- the countries with settled agencies should be mentors and support for the countries that are in the formation process.
- Intensive bilateral and multilateral collaboration and collaboration on joint projects and activities (one of the positive examples is the formation of coordinative bodies for developing campaigns against hate speech)
- Mutual project applying of national and international supporters (ERASMUS +, UNESCO, UN agencies European Youth Foundation etc.)
- Formation of the European found of Balkans as a platform for improvement of the youth mobility, awareness and activism.

Foundation of national agency

- Responsible for implementing program on national level is the National Agency for Erasmus +
- The agency should be independent part established by the coordination of relevant European institutions and European Council which will enforce all the procedures and will be in charge for monitoring of the chosen projects.
- Slovenia, Macedonia and Croatia already created their own national agencies while other countries are preparing by establishing it.





Erasmus + Sport Chapter

- New chapter referring to sport was presented
- But this does not apply for the traditional physical activities, but it is promoting the positive social values (battle against violence and intolerance, battle against using doping during sport activities, sport development on local level, etc)
- Focus on the program will be the topic of dual career

tags

- european path
- challenges
- possibilities
- mobility
- cooperation
- globalization
- better future
- values
- dialogue



European Union and the youth

Striving towards EU, the members countries after getting the candidate status then its start the negotiation for integration- first of all for adjustment of standards and norms

One of the chapters within the negotiation chapter (education and cultural) it refers to the youth relationships. It is very important that the young people from the region should be well informed about their possibilities regarding the program, and the state should be well prepared to answer on the challenge founding the agency.

“Youths in SEE Countries – The aftermath of the crisis”



Mr. Kostas Filippidis, Founder of Association of Youth of Florina, Greece

A heavy mix of economic, political and social marginalization, effects on modern lifestyle of youths in South-East Europe. The recent financial crisis, the recession in the countries of Southern Europe, the dramatic unemployment rates among youths and the lack of youth participation in the labor market are few facts that describing the current situation in Europe and especially in SEE countries. As an emergent “super state” the EU both encourages and seeks to resist processes of globalization. Nevertheless, national governments remain important actors in processes of economic governance and regulations, including the attraction of FDI (Foreign Direct Investments).

The current state of fragmentation means that the EU punches below its global economic weight in multilateral fora. This is the main reason why, despite their large aggregate voting share and large number of seats in the IMF the EU countries are perceived as being less influential than the United States. As we all together concluded, the globalization has boosted European economic growth. Some European nations are world leaders in innovation, information and R&D, while others lag badly. In short, globalization is a good news story for Europe, but if we read beyond the headline, it is clear that globalization poses challenges for particular European stakeholders. Finally, we, the young people, are one of the most important actors in the creation of the European future and advocates for the ideas for better Europe, and it is important that we have the opportunity to express our views and make our voices be heard.

Youths and crisis

Greek university students facing the economic crisis – A survey on 700 students in 2013. (Stergiou K. – Tsakiridou H. Un. Of Western Macedonia). The past three years have seen economic crisis spread from the US and Western Europe to much of the developing world and although the effects have been uneven, very few countries have been left unscathed (Marcus & Gavrilovic, 2010). Young people are disproportionately affected by this phenomenon and tend to be harder hit than adults by recessions. Young people are entering the labor market at a time of limited job creation obstructing them to assume their economic independence and to find their place in society. Such a difficult entry into the world of work has serious repercussions for young people higher risk of poverty and a loss to society of valuable skills many remain trapped in temporary and low-paid jobs often in the informal economy and are therefore more vulnerable to job losses than their adult counterparts. The recent financial crisis, the recession in the countries of Southern Europe, the dramatic unemployment rates among youths and the lack of youth participation in the labor market are few facts that are describing the current situation in Europe and especially in SEE countries. The youth unemployment in Europe is far from a one-nation issue, this crisis is deep structural, societal and policy-related issue. The strengthening cooperation between institutions and organizations based on EU aspirations of the countries – cohesion or division factor is a crucial factor that we concluded to be one of the possible solutions for a better future.

Conclusions

A close examination reveals that Europe in general has clearly benefited from all of these strands, but sometimes quite unevenly. Europe's trade flows have been redirected towards rapidly rising consumption-oriented developing nations. Foreign investments flows to and from Europe have been quite robust over the past decade, boosting the competitiveness of corporate Europe and the EU in general. Financial globalization has also been a benefit to the EU. One key result has been the euro's rise and popularity. The rising mobility of skilled labor along Europe's periphery has taken on added importance in terms of promoting economic growth and addressing the EU's own looming shortage of skilled labor. Globalization has boosted European economic growth. Some European nations are world leaders in innovation, information and R&D, while others lag badly. In short, globalization is a good news story for Europe, but if one reads beyond the headline, it is clear that globalization poses challenges for particular European stakeholders. The strengthening cooperation between institutions and organizations based on EU aspirations of the countries – cohesion or division factor is a crucial factor that we concluded to be one of the possible solutions for a better future.

[4]

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN
THE WAY HOW YOUNG PEOPLE
CAN BECOME ACTIVE





- Motivation and participation of young people
- Non - formal education and the competences young people develop
- Non - formal education - recognition and validation

11:30 – 12:00

Breakfast

12:00 –14:00

Non-formal education in the way how young people can become active

Key speaker:

Mrs. Liliya Elenkova - President of the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria

Moderator:

Mr. Alexandar Ivanov (Bulgaria)

Motions:

- Motivation and participation of young people
- Non - formal education and the competences young people develop
- Non - formal education - recognition and validation

Plenary session

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants



NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IN THE WAY HOW YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BECOME ACTIVE



Ms. Liliya Elenkova, President of the National Youth Forum, Bulgaria

Synchronizing the terms “non – formal education”, “young people”, “active”, the difference between formal and non – formal education and the role of young people in the decision making process.

- Non formal education is any organized educational activity that takes place outside the formal educational system. Usually it is flexible, learner-centered, contextualized and uses a participatory approach. There is no specific target group for NFE; it could be kids, youth or adults;
- The young person is individual between the age where he/she may leave compulsory education, and the age at which he/she finds his/her first employment;
- The difference between formal and non-formal education

	Formal Education	Non Formal Education
Target Group	Mainly young, Universal, Compulsory, Selective	Different age, those interested, voluntary and open
Time Scale	Full time and primary activity	Part time and secondary activity of participants
Relevance	Separate form life, in special institution, in sole purpose buildings	Integrated with life, in the community, NGOs, in all kinds of settings
Programme	Run by professionals, excludes large parts of life	It is participatory, includes large parts of life.
Curriculum	One kind of education for all	Education to meet learner
Methods	Teacher centered, mainly written	Learner centered, much is oral, exercises, workshops
Objectives	Conformist	Promotes
Independence	Set by teachers, competitive	Set by learners and controlled by learners
Orientation	Future	Present
Relationship	Hierarchical	Egalitarian believing in Equal Right
Validation	Terminal at each stage, Validated by education Professional	Continuing validated by learners

- Youth participation must lie at the center of the creation of policies for youth. Just as the recipient of any policy must be engaged to ensure their concerns are effectively addressed, youth are no exception. They must be viewed as partners in devising solutions to common concerns. Rather than being viewed as a problem or risk to be contained or solved, youth should be recognized as social actors with skills and capacities to bring about constructive solutions to societal issues that directly affect them. Policy makers should not only invite young people into policy discussions but also listen and act upon their advice.



II. Understanding and facilitating the NFE process

- Create an inspiring learning environment between different but near countries
- Choose appropriate methodologies to work with
- Support youth in pursuing their needs
- Support youth in overcoming barriers and false stereotypes
- Manage better the intercultural dynamics
- Motivate to participate
- Empower and deliver knowledge on the basis of a structures learning process
- Support diversity and inclusion

III. Conclusions

On my question “When this period of transition will finish” the given answer was “the Bulgarian democracy is starting now because 25 years we had democracy but no citizenship”. We have problems to cooperate with decision makers, but no government can stop you if you believe in what you are doing!

tags

- non – formal education
- young people
- active
- participation
- citizenship
- social actors
- constructive solutions
- empowerment
- skills
- diversity of information



[5]

POST-SOCIALIST NOSTALGIA - DO THE PAST STILL EXIST?





> Does the post-socialist nostalgia still exist?



14:30 – 16:00

Lunch break

16:00 – 18:30

Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?

Key speakers:

Mr. Jakub Gradziuk - International Institute of Democracy, Warsaw, Poland

Mr. Daniel Stănescu - Executive Director of Youth and Sport Iasi Council, Romania

Moderator:

Ilie Ciorchina (Romania)

Motions:

- The transmission of post-communism nostalgia from generation to generation
- Cooperation about the common past in the SEE region

Keynote address

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants

Plenary Session

POST-SOCIALIST NOSTALGIA - DO THE PAST STILL EXIST?



Does the post-socialist nostalgia still exist?

Mr. Jakub Gradziuk, International Institute of Democracy, Warsaw, Poland

Mr. Daniel Stănescu, Executive Director of Youth and Sport Iasi Council, Romania

- We are concerned with those that determine the shape of tomorrow;
- Everybody is welcome in the discussion regardless of differences of opinion. Ideas have practical consequences. An honest debate about is the foundation of inclusive laws, and simplifications are inherently excluding;

And this daily culture (not the country or the political system) is the source of nostalgia, if something like this exists at all. Because nostalgia is a matter of heart, just like music.

The Culture of Lies, Dubravka Ugresic

> The seven wonders of communism:

- Everyone had a job;
- Although everyone had a job, no one worked;
- Although no one worked, the plan was completed;
- Although the plan was completed, there was nothing;
- Although there was nothing, everyone had everything;
- Although people had everything, they were all stealing;
- Although everything was stolen... nothing was missing!

> The seven wonders of capitalism:

- Not everyone has a job;
- Although not everyone has a job, everyone works;
- Although everyone works, the plan is not completed;
- Although the plan is not completed in 100%, you can buy everything;
- Although there is everything, not everyone has everything;
- Although not everyone has everything, steal those who have everything;
- Although steal only those who have everything, nobody has been caught.





tags

- > post socialist nostalgia
- > daily culture
- > communism
- > modern socialism
- > common history
- > common future

Conclusions

Post socialist nostalgia exists and 25 years after PRL's collapse is more visible than before (e.g. in mass culture). The most nostalgic are those born in late 70's, 80's and early 90's. They miss different things for different reasons. There is new possibility for modern socialism. Good prevention for post communism nostalgia is EDUCATION. In communism everybody is listening and in democracy everybody is speaking. In order to understand nowadays society, we have to have a clear vision of our past. We are built on our past and we are building the future. Socialist time is part of our common history. It wasn't good or bad, it was reality and we have to be aware of what we learnt from it.

[6]

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS I





- The EU influence in the SEE region
- European crisis and challenges
- Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?

> **The EU influence in the SEE region**

Facilitator: *Mr. Alexandar Ivanov* (Bulgaria)

> **European crisis and challenges**

Facilitator: *Mr. Thomas Leszke* (Germany)

> **Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?**

Facilitator: *Ms. Elma Beslic* (BiH) & *Mr. Avdyl Gashi* (Kosovo)



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS I

The EU influence in the SEE region

Facilitator: *Mr. Alexandar Ivanov* (Bulgaria)

Participants: Eva Kirmes (Germany), Ilie Chiorchina (Romania), Adelina Shala (Albania), Silvia Crocitta (Italy), Senad Alibegovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Jasmina Banjluckic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Evi Tsoumerka (Greece), Selma Polovina (France), Kubra Emir (Turkey), Ilaria Marangon (Italy), Marija Savic (Montenegro), Bisera Smilevska (Macedonia), Lirande Pira (Kosovo), Angela Gjekanovikj (Macedonia), Nikoja Janjic (Serbia), Mihaela Bololhan (Romania).

Summary:

The aim of the workshop will be to define what could be the best EU influence in the SEE region and how it could be useful for the countries. The workshop will start with a question if the participants see any influence nowadays? Depending on the answers, the next question of the facilitator will be why the situation is so, what's the opinion of the participants? Are there any challenges in the relations between the SEE countries and EU? After that there will be presentation of some info on the topic. From the heard before, the whole group could start thinking how the situation could become better and more useful for the countries.

Conclusions:

- Do we feel part of EU? It depends on country and on areas
- Choice to join in EU: Balance of measures and criteria
- How to enter better in negotiations? Start cooperation: how?
 - Develop first – EU will allow join in union (second step). The criteria for joining the negotiations are to develop first, and then the enlargement with conditions and rules comes next.
 - European side – ENLARGEMENT with CONDITIONS and RULES
 - Influence of EUROPEAN UNION – what is visible into it? – Issues in intercultural and religious topic; - Copenhagen changes after the process; - EU creates balance or “non balance”
- Impact of the EU funds programs
 - EU has soft power policy and they act politically, trying to introduce their rules

- Is there enough information about EU funds all around?
– WE SEE THE MONEY FOR YOUTH in SEE COOPERATION
- From EU perspective: - we need a balance, a common strategy; - influence on the Balkans because of the EU funds organizing meetings and changes.
- The influence of the EU is visible by matter of giving and getting into the EU platform.
- Do you want to see the influence of the EU? • YES : mobility; networking; economy; fair approach; funding; security; focused on regions inside of each country • NO: political reasons for sovereignty; loss of identity; globalism





European crisis and challenges

Facilitator: *Mr. Thomas Leszke* (Germany)

Participants: Andreea Duda (Romania), Xhenisa Shehu (Albania), Ana Pecarski (Serbia), Georgi Valev (Bulgaria), Aleksandra Lazarevic (Serbia), Andi Shkira (Albania), Jasmina Cerneka (Croatia), Leposava Ognjanoska (Macedonia), Vasileios Tsillas (Greece), Toni Bartulin (Croatia), Melanie Pinet (France), Daniel Davkovski (Macedonia), Ertan Dika (Macedonia), Dilek Kutuk (Turkey), Maria Athanatsiki (Greece)

Summary:

The workshop "European Crisis and Challenges" reflects on the panel discussion which will happen earlier this day. It has three main topics that are all "crisis phenomena" in Europe today: the curbing of democracy, the marginalization of youth, and the rise of righting ideologies. We will work on these three topics separately. The workshop has the following purpose: 1. to exchange experiences from our own countries; 2. to analyze the reasons behind these problems; 3. to identify starting points from which we as young people may be able to address or even solve these problems. What this workshop will not produce is concrete solutions or projects - later at the Conference there is time reserved for that. This discussion would make more meaningful if some of the participants could make a research from their own country, related to the mentioned problems.

Conclusions:

- I. EU impact on your country : a big family with untouchable values for any reason; freedom of movements; free trade; freedom of education; the rights of votes for EU parliament; excessive migration without a professional approach; more investors; EU funds to develop country; financial support; migration; losing the potential of the countries.
- II. What are your fears/worries for EU: insufficient knowledge for development according the EU values; unemployment; radical left side parties have majority in the government in EU; Ukraine; refugees; my country will become an old peoples country; skepticism about EU future; economic crises; social commotion; raise of racism, extremism, populism; increasing of nationalism and movements for separation; EU pessimism; lack of autonomy; national interests; GMO food.

Identifying starting points from which we as young people may be able to address or even solve the problems:

1. What are the challenges that migration brings our country?

-More diversity; Integration of different cultures; solidarity; more tolerance and understanding; fear of alienation – local population gets afraid that they cannot live according their our traditions because too many foreigners are there who have different wishes; challenge on safety; poverty and discrimination; no equal rights; confront of different cultures; less job opportunities for local people; the “social justice” balance is undermined; hate speech; no matter who you are or where you came from, you can make it if you try.

2. What are the dangers stemming from right – wing movement?

-manipulating with the citizens and producing regimes; deficient modern democratic citizenship; dangerous movement; Decreasing extreme emotions; control over media (censorship); Lack of human rights or disrespecting them; Nationalism has formed to have negative “attacking” color <- with no nationalism you do not have a nation. Nationalism ≠ Patriotism (Nationalists kill for their countries whereas patriots for their countries); violation of democracy; lack of democracy; discrimination against vulnerable groups of society; propaganda. Nationalism can bring us back to WWII – what can bring back us to these conditions is incompetent politics neglecting the national interest.



Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?

Facilitators: *Ms. Elma Beslic* (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and *Mr. Avdyl Gashi* (Kosovo)

Participants: Bartul Covic (Croatia), Dimitris Seltas (Greece), Donald Tafilaj (Albania), Iztok Zver (Slovenia), Milan Kostadinovic (Serbia), Mileta Radovanovic (Montenegro), Stefan Schneider (Germany), Zeneda Feratlari (Albania), Anelya Torbova (Bulgaria), Katerina Kalogeraki (Greece), Ivan Milosevski (Macedonia), Sanja Sisovic (Montenegro), Marko Vujacic (Montenegro), Natasa Lendjel (Serbia), Nemanja Zivkovic (Serbia).

Summary:

1. Introduction of the participants
2. Writing about their association regarding the theme of the Post-socialist nostalgia
3. "What my friends in the group think about the Post-socialist nostalgia"
4. "We are figuring it out who wrote the particular association and what does it mean"
5. Discussion/argument do or not the past still exist
 - > Can we learn from the past?
 - > Why past still exists?
 - > How does transmission from generation to generation influence our present and future?
 - > What are personal experiences of participants?

Associations: romanticism; equality; grandma; Yugoslavia; hunger; Enver Hoxha; Incompatibility; Easy going.

Conclusions:

The post-socialist nostalgia still exists but we shouldn't let it influence our presence. Transmission of post socialist nostalgia from generation to generation influence on our present and future. We have to learn from the past because it affects us in so many ways in the present.

tags

- > EU enlargement
- > impact
- > worries
- > Yugoslavia
- > past
- > nationalism
- > patriotism

[7]

ACTIVATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



2014 Krusevo
12 International
Youth **CONFERENCE**

**EUROPEAN VALUES FOR THE FUTURE
OF SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

25-29 September



Stabilität

DRICH
RT
FTUNG



YOUTH

ALLIANCE



- Activation of young people through volunteering
- Volunteering as a way to employment

08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 09 :30	Team building Maria Athanatsiki (Greece) & Nemanja Zivkovic (Serbia)
09:30–11:00	Activation of young people through volunteering Key speakers: Mr. Martin Kleinfelder - Executive director of Roter Baum Berlin, Germany Mr.Damir Neziri - Youth Activist, Macedonia Moderator: Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic (Serbia) Motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is volunteering recognized in SEE, do we have good laws about volunteering? ➤ Volunteering as a way for youth employment Plenary session Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants



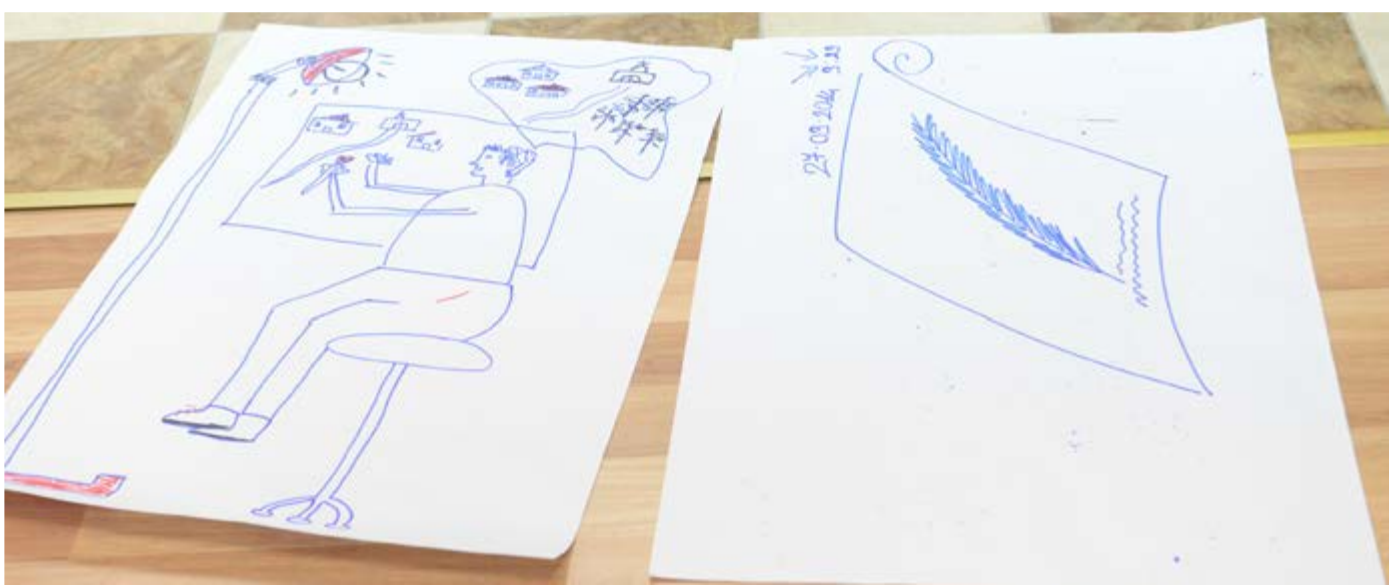
ACTIVATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



Mr. Martin Kleinfelder, Executive director of Roter Baum Berlin, Germany

Roter Baum Berlin is working in suburbia of Berlin, called Marzahn-Hellersdorf. We run a family center, a youth center and a place mainly used for seminars, and international project. Most people in neighborhood live in precarious financial conditions. With that are connected also social problem. That's why we are focused on the supporting of social skills among youth and families. Core part of those youngsters is not active at all, has a huge lack in communication among them and especially to other. That's why our way is, to show them that active citizenship gives a personal value, which is strongly connected to the social profit for society. Also they improve in that way their social competences and other

skills. They learn team work, get experiences in project design and implementation, network themselves and get also motivated. For all this we give them a proof or better certificate, which is not only a reorganization of their engagement but also appear which can rise their chances for employability. One way to do that, is to activate them and to empower them for active citizenship and social or cultural engagement. We give them opportunity to work in several kind of programs. The usual entrance is to invite them in a project, strongly connected to their own interests and skills. One of the projects we do for that is "diveRcity". Inside that youth can organize their own events. Main Idea behind is to take their own interest and to learn together how to create an own small project on this. This is always in small groups from 5 to 10 people. Beside project implementation they develop their own social skills and communication among each other. This is forced when all groups come together to work on a big festival, which includes all styles and interests. This culture events work like an activator. Youth recognize that with their engagement they find interest of other people. With that activation it is important to hold them and to give them the space and resources to follow that process. That's how we can manage to have several volunteers which work in their fields. They run sound studio, photo lab or work as multipliers in workshops. Beside our youth center, where we practice that as much as possible, we provide a second program. Youth or youth groups can apply for a project, and get a donation up to 1000 Euro. Application form and report are really easy to handle and they can even get support by filling it. Also during the project implementation we are always available to support. Beside this special "activation" programs, we work a lot with volunteers. In Framework of EVS, Bundesfreiwilligendienst (federal voluntary service), volunteers in special program for unemployed people and also community work instead of punishment (which is not volunteering at all but it is a nice opener for it). I would like to pronounce, that the main important thing for active citizenship among youth is to leave them the space (in mind as such as in venue meaning) and to support them with resources. My experience is, that youth is not lazy but obstacles are just too high.



Volunteering as a way to employment

Mr.Damir Neziri, Youth Activist, Macedonia

What is volunteering?

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect (Source: Wikipedia);

Волонтерството претставува активност од интерес за Република Македонија која придонесува за подобрување на квалитетот на животот со активно вклучување на луѓето во општествениот живот, како и за развојот на хумано и рамноправно демократско општество. (Source: The Law on Volunteering in Republic of Macedonia)

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. The main thing and the main goal of us everyone is to collect the necessary experience and the skills needed that will get us employment. In order to get a proper job we need skills, motivation, education, connections, experience, luck, self-confidence, time, responsibility etc, and the reality shows that we don't usually get all of these things at the end of our formal education.

Volunteering is not FREE!!! Volunteering is an INVESTMENT, you invest something that is priceless: Your TIME!

Why should you volunteer?

- Develop your professional skills;
- Develop your social skills;
- It provides you with an alternative access, front row seat and even a backstage sneak peek to the job that you want

It is an investment in ourselves and we all agreed. It will develop our professional skills, it will also contribute towards developing our social skills, and it provides an alternative access, front row seat and even a backstage sneak peek to the job that you want. People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. Regardless of the motivation, what unites them all is that they find it both challenging and rewarding.

Several tips for the end:

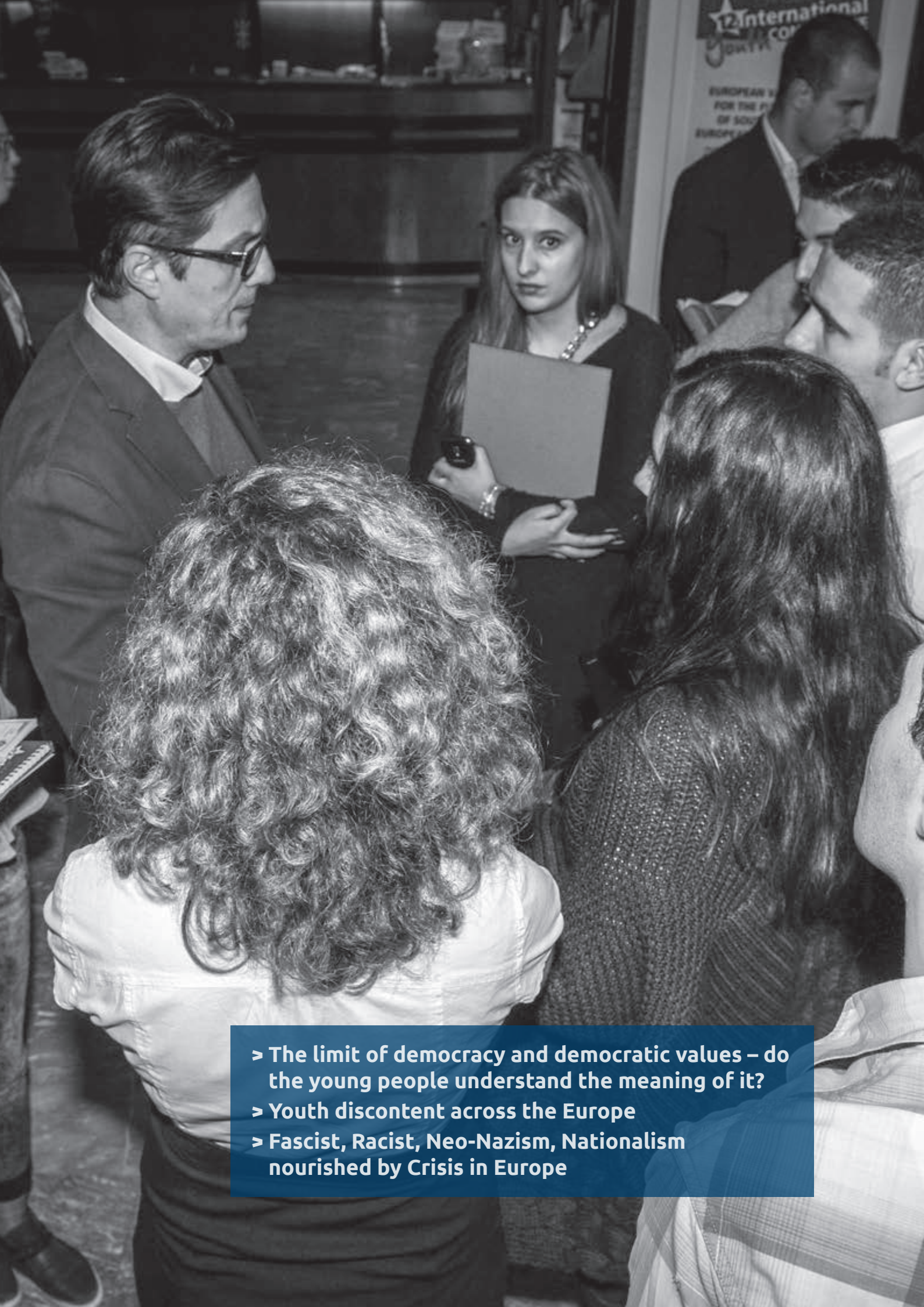
- Be proactive, make best use of your time;
- Do not wait for your dream job, prepare for it;
- Do not be afraid to experiment, if you don't like it, you can always quit;
- It might look like a waste of time at the moment, but be sure it will be useful in the future.



[8]

EUROPEAN CRISIS AND CHALLENGES





- The limit of democracy and democratic values – do the young people understand the meaning of it?
- Youth discontent across the Europe
- Fascist, Racist, Neo-Nazism, Nationalism nourished by Crisis in Europe



11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

21:00 – 22:30

European crisis and challenges

Key speakers:

Mr. Stevo Pendarovski - Professor at International Security, Foreign Policy and Globalization at the University American College Skopje

Moderator:

Ms. Maria Athanatsiki (Greece)

Motions:

- The limit of democracy and democratic values – do the young people understand the meaning of it?
- Youth discontent across the Europe
- Fascist, Racist, Neo-Nazism, Nationalism nourished by Crisis in Europe

Plenary session

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants

EUROPEAN CRISIS AND CHALLENGES

Input by **Prof. Stevo Pendarovski**, Professor at International Security, Foreign Policy and Globalization at the University American College Skopje

Speaking precisely on what kind of European crises we are talking about, in the last 5-8 years it wasn't a European crises as everybody mentioned it, but the crises was of the European Union. The economic crisis is now over, we were all steady but surely getting out of the crisis, even the Greek politicians are saying the same.

tags

- > democracy
- > trust
- > citizens participation
- > extreme ideologies
- > democratic values
- > multiculturalism
- > challenges
- > EU future
- > opportunities
- > agreement
- > democratic values



The political dimension of the crises has been present for decades not just for the past few years and it has nothing to do with the economic crises that we were going through. Political crisis can be defined as lack of:

- the trust in the government
- the trust in the political institutions
- the level of participation of the citizens



Nearly four decades ago, the biggest strategies in the West, the famous trilateral commission issued a report called "The crisis of democracy", have been speaking about this topic that is still present. We still live with those issues, how to provide a high level of participation of the citizens, how to build the higher level of trust in the institutions. One of the spread out phenomenon is that in the elections time, the level of ratio of participation, the initial point of democracy is dropping down. We have not seen any single US president to be elected with the turnout higher than 50, 55% of the whole electorate, of all the eligible people. The problem with the democracy is much older than this recent economic and financial crisis.

The extreme ideologies, such as fascism, racism, neo-Nazism, nationalism, are not gaining around in the European Union. They are not gaining the government, they are not

dictating the politics and the strength of democracy is to accept and tolerate even these extreme views. For example, the center of the European Union, Germany, does not have some sort of extreme political radicals and they do not have some strong relevant anti-European political party being present in their Parliament. We agreed that we should all be aware that from now on, we will be living in similar conditions, because Western Europe is getting older and many economies are not strong enough to have an economic boost on the level of, for example China or Turkey. It is a new normality and we should accustom to that, since it isn't going to get better. European Union is not going to be the prime or the principle economic player in the world that part of EU history is over.

Concerning the extreme political radicals from different countries, they do exist but they cannot glee on a single political platform, they are not unified political entity. They are still going to be present, media covered, but we shouldn't be afraid of them.

The main conclusion is that there are no such limits as limits of democracy and the spreading the democratic values. There are some people who try to put the democracy into cages, but is impossible. We have witnessed some kind of dictatorships, trying to abolish the internet, to prevent the people from going into the globalization, but they are not succeeding. Today, we have many more democracies, than thirty years ago and many of them are just formal ones. The democratic processes are long ones, they can take generations, not just years. There is only one way to expand the democracy and the democratic values, not with occupation, but only by internet or by that kind of similar means and it takes time. All the stabile democratic countries such as the Scandinavian countries or the UK for example, have been building up the democracy and democratic values for centuries.

What is the most important challenge in the SEE countries? Low level of democracy.

What should be the future of the European Union? Democracy and multiculturalism.



[9]

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS II





- > Recognizing the non-formal education
- > Open source education
- > Good examples of volunteering
- > Participation and transparency
- > Youth Leadership and good examples
- > Good practices from the youth work from the region



> **Recognizing the non-formal education**

Facilitator: *Mr. Alexandar Ivanov* (Bulgaria)

> **Open source education**

Mr. Avdyl Gashi (Kosovo)

> **Good examples of volunteering**

Facilitator: *Ms. Maria Athanatsiki* (Greece)

> **Participation and transparency**

Facilitator: *Mr. Thomas Leszke* (Germany)

> **Youth Leadership and good examples**

Facilitator: *Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic* (Serbia)

> **Good practices from the youth work from the region**

Facilitator: *Ms. Elma Beslic* (BiH)

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS II

Recognizing the non-formal education

Facilitator: *Mr. Alexandar Ivanov* (Bulgaria)

Participants: Dilek Kutuk (Turkey), Istok Zver (Slovenia), Xhenisa Shehu (Albania), Nikola Janjic (Serbia), Silvia Crocitta (Italy), Mileta Radovanovic (Montenegro), Andi Shkira (Albania).

Summary:

Firstly, the participants shared their experience from their countries about the process of recognizing the non-formal education. Then from the heard before were taken out the positive examples and we proposed different kind of initiatives that could be implemented in our countries on different levels for recognizing the NFE.



Conclusions:

Why recognition of non-formal education? – Reality; skills required by market; - practice; - diversity of information; - self-esteem, self-confidence, self-evaluation; - learning to learn; - improving intercultural skills; - enhancing social skills; - decreasing youth unemployment.

How to recognition of non-formal education? – Criteria for non-formal education providers; including and mix different stakeholders (NGO's, Governments and especially the business sector); allocating; accreditation of NFE.

What for recognition of non-formal education? – promotion of best practices; intervening "youth policies" through our national networks; approaching to the international practices; spreading the information (appropriate sources); including non-formal education in formal education; better media coverage/PR.



Open source education

Facilitator: *Mr. Avdyl Gashi* (Kosovo)

Participants: Zeneda Feratlari (Albania), Vasileios Tsillas (Greece), Marija Savic (Montenegro), Adelina Shala (Albania), Ertan Dika (Macedonia), Aneliya Torbova (Bulgaria), Georgi Valev (Bulgaria).

Summary:

The workshop started by describing what open source education is by giving samples of using by the facilitators, and which countries have developed it. The open educational resources and benefits of it were discussed in this session, also it is also going to be talked about MOOCs- Massive Open Online Courses, which websites offer it and are they useful and how the young people can use the most benefit of it.

Conclusions:

Sharing is probably the most basic characteristic of education: education is sharing knowledge insights and information with others, upon which new knowledge, skills, ideas and understanding can be built.

Open Educational Resources (OER) are high-quality, openly licensed, online educational materials that offer an extraordinary opportunity for people everywhere to share, use, and reuse knowledge.

Good examples of OER:

- > www.coursera.org - an education platform that partners with top universities and organizations worldwide, to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free;
- > www.edx.org - EdX is a non-profit online initiative created by founding partners Harvard and MIT. EdX offers interactive online classes and MOOCs from the world's best universities. Online courses from MITx, HarvardX, BerkeleyX, UTx and many other universities. Topics include biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, finance, electronics, engineering, food and nutrition, history, humanities, law, literature, math, medicine, music, philosophy, physics, science, statistics and more.

Good examples of volunteering

Facilitator: *Ms. Maria Athanatsiki* (Greece)

Participants: Angela Gjekanovikj (Macedonia), Donald Tafilaj (Albania), Selma Polovina (France), Leposava Ognjanoska (Macedonija), Andrea Marija Duda (Romania), Dimitris Seltas (Greece) and Aleksandra Lazarevic (Serbia)



Summary:

"If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever." (Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations). Indisputably, volunteerism has always seemed to be a considerably rewarding action, not only for the community but for the volunteer as well. In recent years though, where humanity is confronted with various rigorous social, financial and political problems, volunteerism turns out to be an activity of utmost importance.

This workshop looked at good examples of volunteering at an organization, a community or a country, while it also examined reasons why young people should be volunteers, the connection between youth development and volunteering, good examples of recognition of the experience gained through volunteering and other relevant issues. The session was guided by questions.

Conclusions:

What is volunteering?	What is not volunteering?
Investment in ourselves	Volunteering is not pointless
Putting values into action	Being forced to take action
Mutual help between a community and an individual	Work for a company
Feeling integrated	It is not working for free
Sharing knowledge, skills and enthusiastic manner	Be obligated to do something
Giving to the community / contribution to the society	Offering your time for money
Offering to societies	Easy to do it
Way to acquire skills and make contacts	An employee in the public administration
Passing the knowledge to NFE	
Working for a social cause	
Enrichment	
Investment	
Working for ideology	
Interacting with the community	
Making efforts to change the world	

Good examples of volunteering at an organization and community:

- Recording books for blind people
- Playing for kids in orphanage
- EVS – European Voluntary Service
- Summer school for kids in a rural area
- Health support for the people who have difficulties
- Organizing youth events
- Keeping the traditional and cultural values
- Donating gifts in the rural schools
- Education for Roma people
- #LetsdoitAlbania

Ways of disseminating the value of volunteering and activating other young people: covering the expenses; recognition of volunteering; workshops on local level to inform; promoting in media and social networks; projects in schools; starting from our close people; on line lectures; support of initiatives of youth by organization.



Participation and transparency

Facilitator: *Mr. Thomas Leszke* (Germany)

Participants: Ilaria Marangon (Italy), Milan Kostadinovic (Serbia), Ivan Miloskeski (Macedonia), Stefan Schneider (Germany), Kubra Emir (Turkey), Lirande Pira (Kosovo), Toni Bartulin (Croatia).



Summary:

Participation is a cornerstone of every democracy. Yet in every democracy, citizens and governments alike complain about a lack of participation. In general there are two versions of this: Sometimes we are not allowed to participate, and sometimes we simply choose not to participate even though we are allowed. Why is this so? One factor that is related to this problem is transparency. As citizens, we sometimes just don't know how to participate. And what is more, often governments actively hide information from their citizens, so that they

are excluded not only from making a decision, but also from taking part in the discussion in the first place. Again - why is this so? In this workshop we did the following things: 1. definition of “participation” and “transparency”, and why they are important; 2. look at practical examples of a lack of participation and in transparency in European, national, and local politics; 3. take the perspective of politicians and see the argument from their side.

Conclusions:

1. Introduction

Agreement to focus just on participation instead of the original “participation and transparency”, and specifically on participation in decision-making processes.

2. Basics

Where do decision-making process happen in society?

- very diverse fields such as parliaments, schools, church, workplace, protest movements, tourist offices, etc.

Can we (as people affected by these decisions) participate in these decision-making processes? If yes, how do we participate?

- Very often we can not participate, or only to a limited extent. If we can, there are many ways to contribute to a decision: participating in discussion, voting, PR campaign, connecting people who have the same opinion, etc.

3. Brainstorming

Find five situations from your personal life experience where you were excluded from a decision-making process and you thought it was unfair/bad/dangerous.

- Many situations were presented, from a high school student’s inability to influence his own curriculum to a foreign student who felt it was unfair she could not vote in her new country, from a local citizen who criticizes the tourist office of his city but cannot influence their decisions to a protester who was excluded from the decisions about the aims of his protest movement, etc.

4. Discussion

Participants selected three situations that they found particular controversial. We started a discussion according to the question: “In this particular situation, do you think it was legitimate / justifiable that the person was excluded from the decision-making process, or limited in his/her possibilities to participate?”

tags

- recognition of non-formal education
- self confidence
- sharing is caring
- extraordinary opportunity
- building a better and safer world
- investment in ourselves
- values into action

Youth Leadership and good examples

Facilitator: *Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic* (Serbia)

Participants: Senad Alibegovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Ana Pecarski (Serbia), Marko Vujacic (Montenegro), Bartul Covic (Croatia), Evi Tsoumerka (Greece), Eva Kirmes (Germany), Bisera Smilevska (Macedonia)

Summary:

This workshop was an introducing to what youth leadership actually is and a turning our attention on how to recognize good examples of leadership in our surroundings, which helped them establish themselves as good leaders.

I. "Stand by your Quote"

Objective (s): To introduce leadership discussion and awareness

In this part, we got introduced to "juices" flowing before discussion began. With this exercise an introduction the topic of leadership was made and we were all encouraged to make a personal statement about his or her understanding of what makes a good leader.

As the most important characteristics of a good leader, we mentioned these following ones: able to admit a mistake, someone respected someone that will set achievable goals, someone with personal skills, someone that takes care about others. A good leader should believe in himself and his ideas. He should also be trustful; he should make new connections, someone charismatic, reachable and approachable. .

II. Leadership Challenged

Objective (s): To explore leadership at moments of challenge

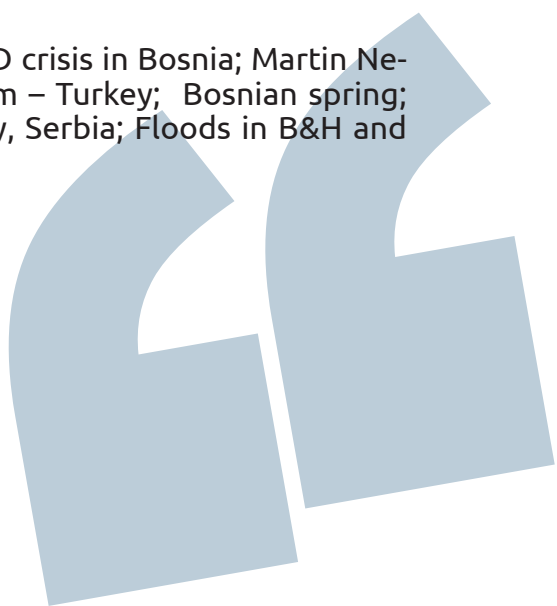
The leadership approach of the workshop continued by having participants take a serious look at how they lead during times of challenge. When one is challenged one's leadership style comes to the forefront.

Conclusions:

Good examples of leadership: ID crisis in Bosnia; Martin Neskovski action Macedonia; Taksim – Turkey; Bosnian spring; Church priest, Germany ; Charity, Serbia; Floods in B&H and Serbia; Earth day.

Youth leader:

- > Someone who I will respect;
- > Achievable goals;
- > Making new leaders;
- > Care about others;
- > Delegate;
- > Believe in him/herself;





Good practices from the youth work from the region

Facilitator: *Ms. Elma Beslic* (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Participants: Ilie Chiorcina (Romania), Daniel Davkovski (Macedonia), Jasmina Cerneka (Croatia), Natasha Lendjel (Serbia), Melanie Pinet (France), Katerina Kalogeraki (Greece), Sanja Sisovic (Montenegro), Jasmina Banjalukcic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Summary:

The session started with presentation of movie leer, Think and act!, as a good example of youth work in B&H from the organization Institute for Youth Development. After that, we wrote good examples from their own country and present it in the workshop. It was really nice to hear all the organizations working with youth in similar way.

Conclusions:

Good practices from the youth work:

- Eurodemos – Youth leaders schools;
- Children of media;
- student led, youth led – think tank;
- Job fair Athens;
- Peer to peer without the fear;
- Youth club;
- M1 the right one for youth;
- Youth care strategy;
- CID Center for intercultural dialog.

[10]

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – IS IT
OUR JOB TO FIND SOLUTIONS?





- What young people are doing to create their own employment opportunities?
- Talking of youth unemployment issue with youth initiatives
- Creative employability



08:00 – 09:00

Breakfast

09:00 – 09 :30

Team building

Ms. Elma Beslic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
& **Mr. Thomas Leszke** (Germany)

09:30–11:30

Youth unemployment – is it our job to find solution?

Panelists:

Mr. Babis Papaioannou - Coordinator of Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014, Greece

Mr. Kalin Babusku - Brand Developer, Trgoprodukt DOO, Macedonia

Dr. Heinz Bongartz - Representative of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany

Moderator:

Mr. Ms. Elma Bešlić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Motions:

- What young people are doing to create their own employment opportunities?
- Talking of youth unemployment issue with youth initiatives
- Creative employability

Panel Debate

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT – IS IT OUR JOB TO FIND SOLUTION?

Mr. Kalin Babusku, Member of the Macedonian Export Team, Macedonia

Good morning young leaders of SEE! My name is Kalin Babusku and I am member of the Macedonian Export Team. I am here we to talk about youth unemployment issue in our region and my experience as successful entrepreneur. We are here because we believe that our country and our region can be a better place. Therefore, I am starting this session with “WITH YOUR BODY HOME, WITH YOUR MIND ABROAD”. It is our responsibility we to make IMPACT! How you can have an impact? You can have an impact if you work for NGO, if you are social entrepreneur, if you are entrepreneur, but the most important thing is you to decide you to have impact! Cause if you decide than you will!

I was one of the young people who decided to make difference. And many people asked me why did you do this? You are not educated for this! Different opportunities – private (own) business or public sector? I did this not because I wanted to earn a lot of money, I became entrepnuer because I wanted to make a difference! And that is critical thing **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** And of course, **TO HAVE A DREAM!**

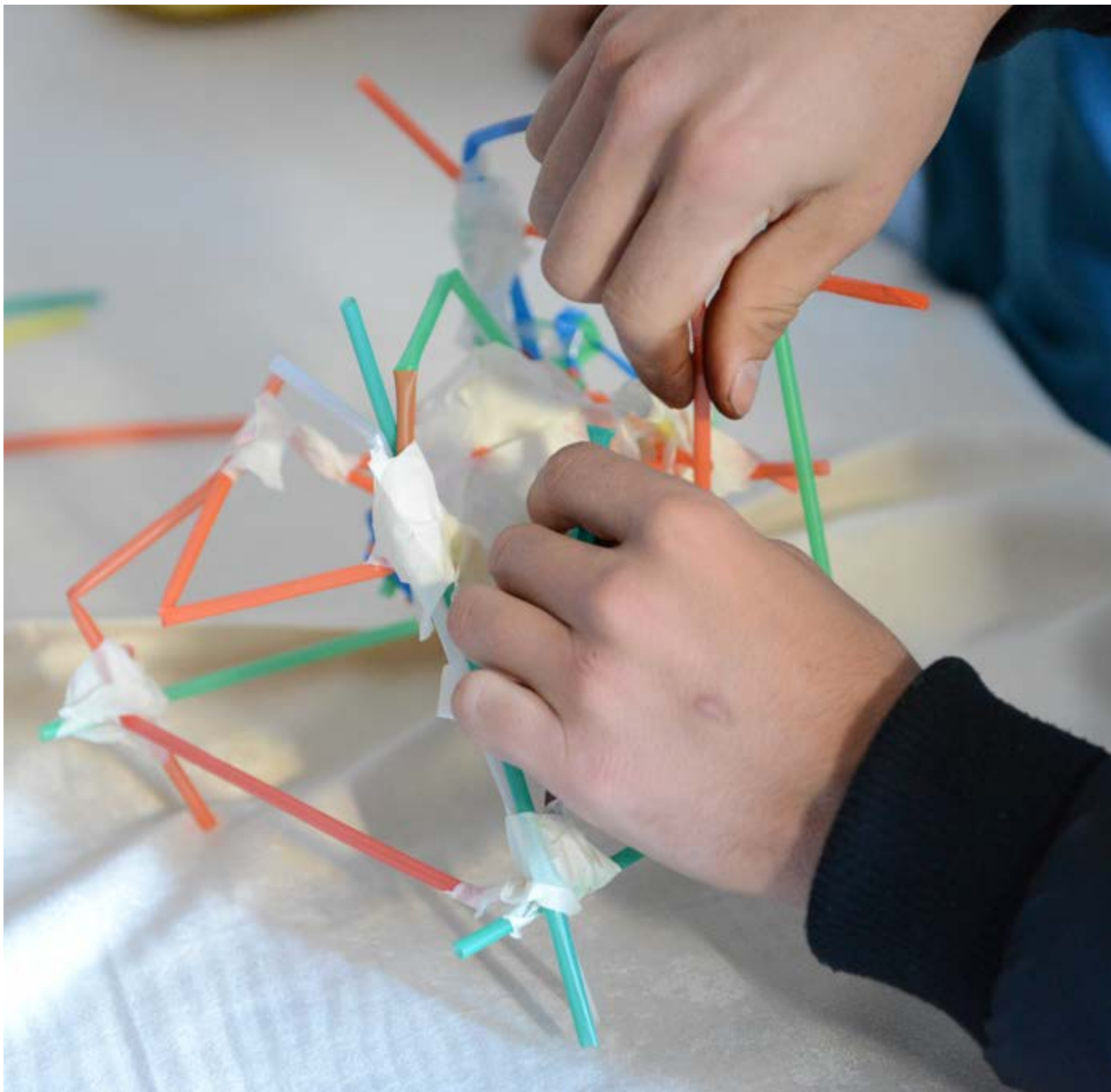
tags

- > member of the team
- > impact
- > making a difference
- > to have a dream
- > stop waiting for the change
- > make it



We know that around our region is very high level of youth unemployment. Starting business can be powerful way of creating jobs. Jobs for the entrepreneurs themselves but also for people employed in their business. We shouldn't think about a market of two million users, but a market of twenty million users.

Looking for a job is actually very easy – post and pray! But finding a job is quite another challenge. Young people are having far more qualities than one CV – innovation, optimism, vitality. These qualities can be crucial for companies when they are properly channeled and developed. Therefore I am encouraging you with **STOP WAITING FOR THE CHANGE, MAKE IT!**





Talking of youth unemployment issue with youth initiatives

Mr. Babis Papaioannou, Coordinator of Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014

Youth unemployment in EU – 5,6 million young unemployed people in EU, and 7,5 million young people (15 – 24 years old) out of Employment, Education and Training procedures (NEETs). The base, the roots of this major problem, concerning all the countries in the SEE region are:

- Economic decline
- Crisis
- The connection between education system and the market
- The stereotypes of the job descriptions in Europe.

Skills gap or 'skills crisis':

Recent research in Europe has shown that young people are willing to work but cannot find a job. On the other hand, several companies are trying to find people with the skills they need and they cannot find them. In the same time the Commissioner Vassiliou explains: "The Greek education system must urgently consider ways in which it can ensure the successful transition of young people from education to the labor market. High levels of youth unemployment make it absolutely necessary for better coordination between schools and the world of work. "

Instruments and policies to tackle youth unemployment at European Level are programs and guidelines for the countries members, European initiatives, the Agenda Europe 2020, Youth Guarantee or Erasmus +. The youth Guarantee states that the European Union calls on all Member States to provide all young people with opportunities for quality employment, continuing education, apprenticeship or internship offer within four months from the time that finished the school or are unemployed.

There are some basic principles that lead us from education to employment such as:

- Education strategies to promote growth and employment:
 - Bridging the skills gap: the skills crisis is a decisive factor for the current unemployment;
 - Flexible learning paths: to enable people to gain more and more concerned with labor market skills (digital, business, language skills);
 - The importance of transparency in qualifications: EQF (European Qualification Framework): Mechanism of conversion to make qualifications more easily understandable to employers, individuals, institutions in all countries

The active support of youth entrepreneurship, from all levels of government horizontally and vertically, is also urgent, the creation of information platforms for enterprises in the EU and financial support for youth entrepreneurship.

Social Entrepreneurship is a utilization of a new field, which is located between the public and the private sector; it covers a huge industry in Europe which covers more than 10% of the economy. Technical Assistance for pilot actions and initiatives and European Commission Initiative on Social Entrepreneurship (Social Business Initiative - SBI) are also rising.

The way out:

- A mix of tools, policies and initiatives
- The support of the role of the civil society
- The cooperation between people and institutions (basically in local level)
- The creation of a local youth development agenda



Youth unemployment – is it our job to find solution?



Dr. Heinz Bongartz – Representative of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany

I feel jealous, you have all of these people here, and I compare myself at your age, I haven't been as lucky as you are! I feel jealous and at the same time I feel very lucky, lucky to be able to meet all of you and to talk with you about my experience. I came here to meet you from Nairobi! And all things I did, I think I did on the wrong way, but it came right. Let me start with "Not knowing something maybe is blessing sometimes" because you are open, you make things on the wrong way, you do not have worries. So, don't get it scared if you don't know something, don't think that you should be smart to do something. Don't feel scared about challenging things.

I am asking very usually myself why youth unemployment? Is it something wrong with the young people? My conclusion is that youth unemployment is not created by the young people, it is created by the system. Secondly, my message to you, learn, learn Chinese language. Dream as Kalin said, but be realistic and fight for it.

On the question "What is the first step for creation of the market", I am answering like this do not think about market, market is around you! Motivation is coming by yourself and fight for your opportunities. Outside you have 8 billion people which means 8 billion opportunities. We as human beings are creators of a lot of problems. Be the solution of your problems.

Think about yourself, **TRY SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING, BE YOURSELF!**

tags

- > experience
- > challenging things
- > learn
- > motivation
- > solution
- > try something

[11]

YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP - THE BIGGER PICTURE





- What makes a social enterprise a social enterprise?
- Social enterprise and social value
- Good examples of social entrepreneurship for youth employment

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30

Youth Social Entrepreneurship – the bigger picture

Panelists:

Mr. Shkelzen Marku - Yunus Social Business
Albania, Country Director

Ms. Bozhanka Vitanova - Yunus & Youth,
Co-founder and Program Manager

Moderator:

Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic

Motions:

- What makes a social enterprise a social enterprise?
- Social enterprise and social value
- Good examples of social entrepreneurship for youth employment

Panel debate

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants



YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP – THE BIGGER PICTURE



Ms. Bozhanka Vitanova, Yunus & Youth, Co-founder and Program Manager

- > Prof. Muhamed Yunnus – “I believe that we can create a world without poverty, because it is not the poor who created poverty!” “Poor people are not asking for charity! Charity is not solution for poverty!”
- > Grameen Bank – 9 millions of borrows in Bangladesh; 95% women, and 97.2% rates of loans returned.
- > The founder, Muhammed Yunus, was a professor of economics in Bangladesh, where he initiated something that changed many lives there and started spreading all around the world as well. He started this initiative many years ago and since he hadn't had any support for his idea, he started using his own money to encourage the poor people to make some small businesses. Even now in Bangladesh, 96% of the business owners are woman, thanks to Mr. Yunus. When their business starts to grow, they return the loan and continue working in the same direction. Mr. Yunus is on the similar level with his contribution with Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr, since he has received the Nobel Peace Prize and many others. In order for one business to be a social business, it needs to be a sustainable project too. It needs to generate enough revenues to cover the costs to keep the business existing and growing. The business has to be environmentally conscious also.
- > So what is social business?

> **Not profit organization:**

- Maximizing social impact;
- Financed by donators;

> **Social business:**

- Maximizing social impact;
- Self sustainable;
- Traditional business;
- Profit maximization;
- Self sustainable.

One of the most famous quote of Prof. Yunus is "A charity dollar has only one life, but a social business dollar can be recycled many times". The main point in the beginnings of the social entrepreneurship was: Can a bank lend to poor people? One man showed that it was possible and that was Muhammed Yunus. Listening to poor borrowers' problems, Yunus started thinking of more ways to help them: the idea of social business was born. For example,

- > Grameen Danone's entire business model is designed for the poorest, and today reaches more than 100k customers,
- > Grameen Education runs schools and training centers in Bangladesh,
- > Grameen Healthcare brings health services to people who would not normally be able to afford them
- > Grameen Shakti brings renewable energy to rural villages





As some of the biggest successes of the social entrepreneurship business, these following examples were mentioned and we had the opportunity to discuss about them:

- Diana from Columbia created Bive to create accessible and affordable health care services to the population;
- Vincent from France created Goodeed, an online platform that facilitates the donations to a selected cause;
- Anna and Gustavo from Brazil created 4YOU2 to make English language courses available for everyone;
- Vanessa from Australia built Play Forward that sells sports equipment and uses the profit to organize sports-related trainings for children from disadvantaged community;
- Lukas from Brazil works with small seamstress group using disposed fabrics (uniform) to reinsert them in the market working on sustainable job creation and efficient waste management;
- Venuste from Kenya made the International Transformation Foundation. He provides computer training for disadvantage youths in slums. After they finish the training, he helps them set up their local internet cafes;
- Takunda from Zimbabwe developed SaiSai: the first free Wi-Fi network in the region. He generates revenue through targeted advertising;
- Grameen and Danone started a social business fighting child malnutrition, selling yoghurts with added vitamins at affordable prices to the Bangladeshi population;
- Jamie Oliver started the fifteen project to create opportunities for young people with disadvantages;

What is Yunus & Youth? Training, business and resources for next generation of social business!

Youth Social Entrepreneurship



Mr. Shkelzen Marku, Yunus Social Business Albania,
Country Director

- Poverty still blights many parts of the world. Balkan too is facing social and economic problems. Financial institutions are failing. Governments are not able to solve all social problems. People are questioning traditional social and economic development models. People are questioning traditional social and economic development models.
- Entrepreneurship – Definition! Entrepreneur: An individual who, rather than working as an employee, runs a small business and assumes all the risk and reward of a given business venture, idea, or good or service offered for sale”

- Social Entrepreneurship – Definition! Social entrepreneur “[an individual] with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems”. Social entrepreneurs play the role of change agents in the social sector, by:
 - Adopting a mission to create and sustain social value (not just private value),
 - Recognizing and relentlessly pursuing new opportunities to serve that mission,
 - Engaging in a process of continuous innovation, adaptation, and learning,
 - Acting boldly without being limited by resources currently in hand, and
 - Exhibiting heightened accountability to the constituencies served and for the outcomes created.

Social Entrepreneurship is an activity with the goal of solving a social problem using entrepreneurial principles to organize, create and manage a venture to achieve the social goal. The entity is called social enterprise. Social entrepreneurs are individuals with innovative solutions to society’s most pressing social problems. They were described as ambitious, persistent, taking major issues and offering new ideas for wide-scale change. Rather than leaving societal needs to the government or business sectors, social entrepreneurs find what is not working and solve the problem by changing the system, spreading the solution, and persuading entire societies to move in different directions.

The classic business point of view, the fact that it produces some kind of impact on the society, it generates employment, it resolves social problems and it provides services. But the main goal of the classical business is to generate and maximize the profit for itself. On the other hand, the social business impacts directly on the society, and in the classical business this social impact is not an objective of the business.

Some social businesses in Albania as:

- Rozafa - Marketing and distribution company for Albanian handicraft serving women in rural areas.
- E jona - Bar and event location with and for people with disabilities, promoting inclusion and diversity.
- Seniors’ house - Elderly home offering high quality residential and day care services to enable life in dignity.
- Food made in Albania - Food processing from smallholder farmers, distributing and marketing high quality products.
- Medical herbs - Plantation for organic medical herbs, training rural Albanians on sustainable farming and planting

If we try to define an entrepreneur and a social entrepreneur, the classic entrepreneur tries to make a profit for himself, so the social responsibility goes much lower on his scale of importance, and the second one is looking to get some profit for his community.

The NGO's are purely consulting companies, they are getting paid by the donors to provide that social impact and they are not social entrepreneurs. When we start the social enterprise and we get a loan, then we start implementing the right model that makes it sustainable. Nobody can develop your own idea, we need to develop it our self! Classical businesses provide employment to all segments of society and through that income generation. Arguably, employment is higher in those countries that have the least market restrictions. Striving to create profits, products and whole industries are created that cater to people's wants rather than their needs, making life more comfortable. These products are being driven down in price by competition so that in developed countries even the poor enjoy a similar quality of life as the rich did just a few decades ago. We can all agree that competition and profit maximization drives innovation.



Important business led advances in energy, health care, transportation and IT have created unknown possibilities, life expectancies and comforts and some of these innovations also make their way to the developing countries or are invented there. Capitalism is an unparalleled vehicle for meeting human needs, improving efficiency, creating jobs, and building wealth. But a narrow conception of capitalism has prevented business from harnessing its full potential to meet society's broader challenges. In recent years business increasingly has been viewed as a major cause of social, environmental, and economic problems. Companies are widely perceived to be prospering at the expense of the broader community. Businesses acting as businesses, not as charitable donors, are the most powerful force for addressing the pressing issues we face. The moment for a new conception of capitalism is now; society's needs are large and growing, while customers, employees, and a new generation of young people are asking business to step up. We made an overview of selected concepts to achieve social impact through business methodology:

- Profitable business that aims to maximize shareholder value without a direct social mission.
- Profitable business that pays dividends to its investors, acts responsibly according to a high code of conduct and leverages profits to engage in CSR activities.
- Target low-income communities at the Bottom of the Pyramid with a profitable business model and thus benefit sustainable livelihoods.
- Profitable business with zero-dividend policy that has the sole mission of serving society's needs.
- Charity organizations that follow a social objective and are financed through donations and some revenue generating activities
- Charity organizations that follow a social objective and are mainly financed through donations.

This social entrepreneurship approach has become viral in Europe in the last years, and there are now implementers and exploiters of the concept, so we, the young people, need to become implementers and we need to try to avoid the exploiters. The more we come close to the European Union, the more funds for the social entrepreneurship will be available; the two things we need to have are the passion and the readiness to take risks. We live in hard times when poverty still blights many parts of the world, Balkan too is facing social and economic problems, financial institutions are failing and governments are not able to solve all social problems. People are questioning traditional social and economic development models. We came to conclusion that with using our imagination and creativity, we can do things that seem impossible.



tags

- creativity
- innovation
- social impact
- Prof. Muhammad Yunus
- contribute
- passion
- ideas

[12]

ERASMUS+





► General presentation of the
EU programme



15:00 – 17:00

Erasmus +

Panelists:

M.Sc. Lulesa Iljazi - Head of Department,
Vocational Education and Training

Mr. Aleksandar Bogojevski - Head of unit
of the key unit 1, Erasmus + program
Representatives of the
National Agency for European Educational
Programs and Mobility, Macedonia

Moderator:

Mr. Thomas Leszke (Germany)

General presentation of the EU programme

Open share discussion

Q&A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants

ERASMUS +

Ms. Lulesa Iljazi, Head of Department, Vocational Education and Training and
Mr. Aleksandar Bogojevski, Head of unit of the key unit 1, Erasmus + program -
Representatives of the National Agency for European Educational Programs and
Mobility, Macedonia

Erasmus+ is a EU programme in the areas of education, training, youth and sport. It's purpose is to address the multiple challenges concerning the fight against rising levels of unemployment, especially among young people, the development of social capital, promoting systemic reforms in democratic life in Europe, active citizenship, and this year including and the development of sport and sports activities. The overall budget of Erasmus accounted for 14 774 + billion for the upcoming implementation period (2014-2020).

tags


- > EU program
- > Erasmus +
- > mobility
- > education
- > youth workers
- > trainings
- > sport
- > youth people
- > regional cooperation
- > encouragement



We need:

- Closer links between programme and policy objectives
- More synergies and interaction between formal, informal and non-formal learning
- More cross-sectoral partnerships with world of work
- A streamlined, simpler architecture
- Stronger focus on EU added value
 - Substantial simplifications
- Fewer calls and large reduction in number of actions
- More user friendly programme, easier to navigate round
- Simplified financial management: greater use of unit costs
- A substantial budget increase
- 40% increase, benefiting all sectors
- Additional funding from external action instruments to support
- International dimension of higher education
 - Opportunities for applying





Any public or private body active in the field of education, training, youth and sport can apply to be funded by Erasmus + (students, interns, apprentices, students, adult learners, young people, volunteers, teachers, trainers, youth workers, professionals from organizations active in the field of education, training and youth). Furthermore, groups of young people who are active in the field of youth work, but not necessarily in the context of youth organizations can apply for funding mobility of youth and youth workers, as well as strategic partnerships in the field of youth.

Erasmus+ is created out of seven integrated programs and now all of them are integrated in one with three Key Actions:

- Key Action 1 (KA1) – Learning mobility of individuals: staff mobility, in particular for teachers, lecturers, school leaders and youth workers Large-scale European voluntary service events
- Key Action 2 (KA2) – Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practice: strategic partnerships in the field of education, training and youth, capacity building in the field of youth
- Key Action 3 (KA3) – Support for policy reform: structured dialogue: meeting between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth, sport, collaborative partnerships in the sport field, not-for-profit European sport events

The Award criteria of this Key Action planning included in this call for proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Key Action 1, Key Action 3, Sport (Not-for-profit European sport events):
 - Relevance of the project
 - Quality of the project design and implementation
 - Impact and dissemination
- Key Action 2, Jean Monnet, Sport (Collaborative partnerships in the sport field):
 - Relevance of the project
 - Quality of the project design and implementation
 - Quality of the project team and the cooperation arrangements
 - Impact and dissemination

The opportunities for applying of these programs can have any public or private body active in the field of education, training, youth and sport can apply to be funded by Erasmus + (students, interns, apprentices, students, adult learners, young people, volunteers, teachers, trainers, youth workers, professionals from organizations active in the field of education, training and youth). Furthermore, groups of young people who are active in the field of youth work, but not necessarily in the context of youth organizations can apply for funding mobility of youth and youth workers, as well as strategic partnerships in the field of youth.

[13]

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS





► General presentation of the
EU programme

2014 Krusevo

12th International Youth CONFERENCE

**EUROPEAN VALUES
FOR THE FUTURE
OF SOUTHEAST
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

25-29 September

A SNAPSHOT OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2014 RESULTS



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

**FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG**

**Y A YOUTH
ALLIANCE**

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- “I am inviting you to embrace the responsibility and be the new leaders of the tomorrow’s SEE” – Mr. Metodija Stojceski, coordinator of the project;
- “Please, don’t become frustrated just because you feel unheard, just become louder” – Ms. Stine Klapper, director of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, office Skopje;
- “To the young people we must create possibilities for normal youthfulness, otherwise we will not have normal society” Mr. Nenad Borovčanin - State Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Serbia
- “We cannot press the lowest level of societies to accept the policies. We have to give chances to the societies. I would like to live in dialogue and I am inviting you in this dialogue” Mr. Kostas Filippidis, Founder of Association of Youth of Florina, Greece
- “I know, we have problems to cooperate with decision makers, but no government can stop you if you believe in what you are doing!” Mrs. Liliya Elenkova - President of the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria;





- > "Socialist time is part of our common history. It wasn't good or bad, it was reality and we have to be aware of what we learnt from it" Mr. Jakub Gradziuk - International Institute of Democracy, Warsaw, Poland
- > "I would like to pronounce, that the main important thing for active citizenship among youth is to leave them the space (in mind as such as in venue meaning) and to support them with resources. My experience is, that youth is not lazy but obstacles are just too high" Mr. Martin Kleinfelder – Executive director of Roter Baum Berlin, Germany
- > Be proactive, make best use of your time! Do not wait for your dream job, prepare for it! Do not be afraid to experiment, if you don't like it, you can always quit! It might look like a waste of time at the moment, but be sure it will be useful in the future! – Mr. Damir Neziri, youth activist, Macedonia





- > What is the most important challenge in the SEE countries? Low level of democracy! What should be the future of the European Union? Democracy and multiculturalism! – Mr. Stevo Pendarovski - Professor at International Security, Foreign Policy and Globalization at the University American College Skopje;
- > “I became entrepreneur because I wanted to make a difference! And that is critical thing MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Therefore I am encouraging you with STOP WAITING FOR the CHANGE, MAKE IT!” - Mr. Kalin Babusku – Brand Developer, Trgoprodukt DOO, Macedonia
- > “Motivation is coming by yourself and fight for your opportunities. Outside you have 8 billion people which means 8 billion opportunities. We as human beings are creators of a lot of problems. Be the solution of your problems. Think about yourself, TRY SOMETHING, DO SOMETHING, BE YOURSELF!” - Dr. Heinz Bongartz – Representative of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany
- > “We came to conclusion that with using our imagination and creativity, we can do things that seem impossible” Mr. Shkelzen Marku - Yunus Social Business Albania, Country Director.





[14]

THANK YOU!





THANK YOU!

**THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE
WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!**

Youth Alliance Krusevo, the organizer of the International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of South-eastern European Countries”, would like to thank first of all to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe sponsored by Germany for the continuous support. A special gratitude goes to our long term partner and supporter of our activities, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Office Skopje.

Also, we would like to thank to all partners, institutions and participants for their contributions and dedication before and during the project event.

A special thanks to all the staff and volunteers without whom the International Youth Conference would not have been so perfectly organised!

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