

**One Regional Conference – Five Cities – One Vision**  
BELGRADE • SARAJEVO • SKOPJE • TIRANA • PRISTINA

## **WESTERN BALKAN YOUTH AND EU: SHAPING OUR COMMON FUTURE**

**November 18-19, 2025**

Belgrade Studio: **Prostor Miljenko Dereta, Dobračina 55, Belgrade**

### **Day I - Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

**10:00-10:15**

#### **OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE WELCOMING NOTES BY CONFERENCE HOSTS**

- **Aleksandra Jerkov**, Regional Academy for Democratic Development/Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- **Ana Çoba**, Academy of European Integration and Negotiations, Albania
- **Anida Šabanović**, Network of Progressive Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Biljana Bejkova**, NGO Info Center, North Macedonia
- **Brikene Hoxha**, Kosovar Stability Initiative, Kosovo

**10:15-11:00**

#### **OPENING SESSION – KEY NOTE SPEAKERS**

- **Nataša Vučković**, Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- **Fatmir Sabriu**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth of North Macedonia
- **Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia (video message)
- **Plamena Halacheva**, Deputy Head of EU Delegation to Serbia
- **Mojca Krisper Figueroa**, Head of Cooperation Team at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ariana Çaka**, Programme Manager for Civil Society, Media, and Youth at the European Union in Kosovo
- **Irena Ivanova**, Task Manager at EU Delegation in Skopje
- **Đorđo Cvijović**, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, Serbia



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**11:00-12:15      PANEL I - BRIDGE TO EUROPE: WB YOUTH IN REFORM PROCESSES**

**Coordinator:** Center for Democracy Foundation, Belgrade, Serbia

**Moderator:** Ljubica Gojgić, Journalist, Serbia

**Facilitator:** Boris Kaličanin, Youth Policy Expert & Researcher, Faculty of Political Science, Serbia

**Panelists:**

- **Pavle Grbović**, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Movement of Free Citizens
- **Maša Vračar**, National Youth Council of Serbia
- **Ksenija Borilović**, Senior Adviser for Cooperation with NGOs and for Coordination and Implementation Affairs, Capital City Podgorica, Montenegro
- **Emir Ćorić**, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, European Association for Local Democracy, North Macedonia
- **Irma Rešidović**, General Secretary, Youth Council of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Dashurije Ahmeti**, Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports (DCYS), Kosovo
- **Klark Radoniqi**, Program Director, National Agency of Youth Albania
- Presentation of the project **“School Student Lab (SSL) - Enhancing Youth Activism on Local and National level”** by the **Union of High School Students** from Belgrade, supported within the RYDE project
- Workshop discussion on recommendations – open debate with participants from all venues
- Facilitator wraps up (recommendations)

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**12:15-12:30      COFFEE BREAK**

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**12:30-13:45      PANEL II – YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN AI ERA  
YOUTH GUARANTEE IN THE WB – CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES?**

**Coordinator:** Kosovar Stability Initiative, Pristina, Kosovo

**Moderator:** Brikena Berisha, Researcher, Kosovo

**Facilitator:** Erblin Ajdini, Civil Society Activist, Kosovo

**Panelists:**

- **Sajmira Kopani**, International Labour Organization, Kosovo



- **Anil Gashi**, Employment Agency of RKS
- **Sara Zekaj**, Partnership Officer, YPN, Albania
- **Mariana Angelova**, Secretary General of National Youth Council of Macedonia
- **Ljiljana Pandžić**, EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Jovan Protić**, Coordinator, International Labour Organization, Serbia
- Presentation of the project „**Youth Action for EU Integration: Advocating the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan**” by the **PROI - Progressive Reinforcement of Organizations and Individuals** from Sarajevo, supported within the RYDE project
- Workshop discussion on recommendations – open debate with participants from all venues
- Facilitator wraps up (recommendations)

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**13:45-14:00**

**COFFEE BREAK**

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**14:00-14:55**

**PRESENTATION GRANTEES AND INFORMAL GROUPS  
SUPPORTED UNDER THE RYDE PROJECT**

- **Matea Trajković**, Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- **Jelena Ružić**, Women’s Association of Kolubara Region, Serbia
- **Alba Cela**, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Albania
- **Joana Rista**, Beyond Barriers Association, Albania
- **Aleksandar Šljuka**, New Social Initiative, Kosovo
- **Ivan Jovanov**, Association Leaders for Education, Activism and Development, N. Macedonia
- **Staniša Stankovik**, Informal groups The Diversity Youth and GenWB
- **Anxhela Omeri**, Informal group EmpowerArt Balkans
- **Mihajlo Mitić**, Informal group Opportunity RYDErs

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**14:55-15:00**

**CLOSING REMARKS - SUMMARY OF THE DAY AND  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE**

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**15:00****LUNCH****Day II - Wednesday, November 19, 2025****10:00-10:15****OPENING OF THE STUDIOS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE HOST****10:15-11:30****PANEL III - YOUTH WELL-BEING IN FOCUS: HEALTH, HOUSING, CULTURE****Coordinator:** NGO Info Center, North Macedonia**Moderator:** Ana Zafirova, Communication Expert, N. Macedonia**Facilitator:** Biljana Dukovska, Macedonian Anti-Poverty Platform, N. Macedonia**Panelists:**

- **Lejla Mehmedi**, Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth of North Macedonia
- **Dragana Karovska**, HERA-Health Education and Research Association, N. Macedonia
- **Nadica Skeparoska**, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Certified Psychotherapist in Transactional Analysis, N. Macedonia
- **Mehmet Salihu**, Civil Society Activist, Breathe Freely campaign, Kosovo
- **Katarina Vučković**, Expert in Youth Work and Leadership, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Vukašin Grozdanović**, OPENS, Serbia
- **Doralda Tanellari**, Sociologist and Project Coordinator, Albania
- Presentation of the project „Red Lines” by **Teodora Mileska** from **Informal Group Red Lines**, supported within the RYDE project
- Workshop discussion on recommendations – open debate with participants from all venues
- Facilitator wraps up (recommendations)

**11:30-12:45****PANEL IV - YOUTH IN THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE: SECURITY, TRUST AND RESILIENCE****Coordinator:** Academy of European Integration and Negotiations, Albania**Moderator:** Lutjona Lula, Development Communication Officer, Albania**Facilitator:** Fjoralbo Gockaj, Researcher AIEN, Albania**Panelists:**

- **Armando Bode**, Advisor SciDev, Albania
- **Sead Dzical**, Communications Asst. Prof. at International Balkan University, N. Macedonia
- **Mirela Biković - Blagovčanin**, Social media manager, PitchSee, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Andrijana Ristić**, Share Foundation, Serbia
- **Fjolla Zejnullahu**, Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo
- Presentation of the project „**Youth - Media Network for Reforms**” by the **I would like to be in the EU** from Sarajevo, supported within the RYDE project
- Workshop discussion on recommendations – open debate with participants from all venues
- Facilitator wraps up (recommendations)

## 12:45-13:00 COFFEE BREAK

## 13:00-14:15 PANEL V - YOUTH AND NATURE: A PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE GREEN FUTURE

**Coordinator:** Network of Progressive Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Moderator:** Hata Kujraković, Projects and Research Office, International Burch University, BiH

**Facilitator:** Iman Ibrahimović, Research Assistant and Youth Activist, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Panelists:**

- **Ermina Salkičević-Dizdarević**, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Amela Jusufović** - Master of Applied biology - Landfill Manager at JKP Komunalac Tuzla
- **Layla Jusko Serdarević**, Project Coordinator, Disaster Preparedness and Climate Action Adaptation, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Liljana Dinev**, IPECC - Institute for Good Governance and Policies in Environment and Climate Change, North Macedonia
- **Kostian Jano**, Junior Project Manager for Western Balkans, GFA Consulting Group, Albania
- **Shpresa Krasniqi Demhasaj**, Project Coordinator, Kosovar Stability Initiative
- **Janko Jaćović**, Belgrade Open School
- **Sofija Petrović**, Green Policy Expert, Serbia
- Presentation of the project „**Empowering Youth to Advocate for Green Future**” by the **Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society** from Belgrade supported within the RYDE project
- Workshop discussion on recommendations – open debate with participants from all venues
- Facilitator wraps up (recommendations)



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**14:15 – 14:30      CLOSING REMARKS**

- **Aleksandra Jerkov**, Regional Academy for Democratic Development/Center for Democracy Foundation, Serbia
- **Ana Çoba**, Academy of European Integration and Negotiations, Albania
- **Anida Šabanović**, Network of Progressive Initiatives, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Biljana Bejkova**, NGO Info Center, N. Macedonia
- **Brikene Hoxha**, Kosovar Stability Initiative, Kosovo

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**14:30      LUNCH**

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