

PROGRAMME

draft Agenda 24.09.

Western Balkans: #OneRegionOneMarket - A Step towards Common Market of the EU

Summary:

Regional cooperation with clear, targeted goals and meeting deliverables is more urgent than ever. Establishing a Common Regional Market which will attract investors, support real added value of industries, promote innovation, ensure digitalization and bring the Western Balkans closer to the EU standards, will smoothen recovery and enhance resilience to future exogenous shocks to economies.

28th September 2021

Hotel Sheraton, Novi Sad, Serbia

(Polgar Andraša 1)

11:30-12:00

Registration of Young leaders (next to the reception of the hotel)

12:00-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:00

Official opening

Welcome address by **Miloš VUČEVIĆ**, Mayor of Novi Sad and
Mr Istvan PASZTOR, President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Address by **Mr Aleksandar SIMURDIĆ**, Director of the European Affairs Fund of the AP of Vojvodina

Address by **Mr Norbert BECKMANN-DIERKES**, Head of Office Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Serbia and Montenegro

14:00-14:15

Preparation of Session I

14:15-15:45

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND YOUTH - SESSION I* **

* Under the Chatham House Rules

**Conversation based on conclusions of the 2020 Regional Youth Leadership Forum

Free movement of people

Summary:

The free movement of people centers around three priority areas: the mobility of students, researchers and professors; the mobility of individuals based on IDs: the portability of social rights. Additionally, the question of regional mutual recognition of professional qualifications and higher education diplomas, the creation of a regional academic network and job opportunities will be the main topics of this discussion).

Discussion points:

- Open access to universities across the region, regional academic network and automatic recognition of higher-education diplomas
- Travel of citizens only with IDs, intra-regional recognition of social insurance, transfer of money and payment in the region with reduced banking charges

Moderator: **Mr Ivan BRKLJAČ**, Program Director at Tačka povratka

Opening remarks:

Ms Gordana ĐUROVIĆ PhD, Professor at the Faculty of Economics, the University of Montenegro in Podgorica

Mr Dejan JOVIĆ PhD, Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, The University of Zagreb, Croatia

Mr Milorad BJELETIĆ, Executive Director, Belgrade Open School

Participants: 50 young opinionated leaders, action-oriented and socially active individuals from the Western Balkans

15:45-16:00

Coffee break

16:00-17:30

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND YOUTH - SESSION II* **

Digitalization, Investment, Industry and Innovation: Opportunities and Examples of Good Practice in Sectoral Cooperation

Summary:

Regional digital agenda - embracing digital transformation by all key stakeholders in the region, i.e. ensuring greater availability of digital infrastructure and enhancing connectivity, creating a trustworthy regional space and competitive environment for innovative business, working on digital upskilling, as well as enabling better regulatory framework that provides regulatory stability and consistency over time, can help the WB region grow. Regional industrial and investment area - considering ways of catching up with more developed EU Member States, more specifically, how we should strategically position developing our human resources by encouraging brain retention and brain circulation, and the role of regional innovation infrastructure.

* Under the Chatham House Rules

**Conversation based on conclusions of the 2020 Regional Youth Leadership Forum

Discussion points:

- Connectivity agenda for the WB: Regional digital agenda and Regional industrial and investment area - challenges and potentials of more sustainable, more digital and more resilient WB
- Faster trade and electronic information exchange system - results and future of "Green Corridors"
- Access to telecommunication services free of roaming charges – The first step towards roaming free WB and EU

Moderated by: **Mr Dragan MOČEVIĆ**, Director, Prime communications, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Opening remarks:

Ms Milena LIPOVINA BOŽOVIĆ, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development, Montenegro

Ms Dunja ĐENIĆ, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia

Mr Vladimir CRNOJEVIĆ PhD, Bio Sense Institute, Professor at Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Ms Dubravka ĐEDOVIĆ, Advisor IO, Corporate and Investment Banking

Mr Branko MILUTINOVIĆ, CEO at Nordeus (tbc)

Ms Hedvig Morvai, Director, Strategy and Europe at ERSTE Foundation, Austria

Participants: 50 young opinionated leaders, action-oriented and socially active individuals from the Western Balkans and business community from the Western Balkans region

Officer's pavilions (Tito's salons), Novi Sad, Serbia
(Petrovaradin Fortress)

18:30-19:00

Arrival of guests

18:45

Bus transfer for guests from the hotel Sheraton

19:30-22:00

NETWORKING DINNER*

Implementation of the Action Plan for the Common Regional Market

* Under the Chatham House Rules

Discussion points:

- Common Regional Market – a new idea or upgrade of the existing process?
- Action plan 2021 - 2024 for the Common Regional Market – is the time framework realistic?

Welcome address by **Mr Aleksandar SIMURDIĆ**, Director of the European Affairs Fund of the AP of Vojvodina and **Mr Norbert BECKMANN-DIERKES**, Head of Office Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Serbia and Montenegro

Address by Representative of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (tbc) and **Mr Jakov MILATOVIĆ**, Minister, Ministry of Economic Development, Montenegro

Keynote address by **Mr Marko ČADEŽ**, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia and **Ms Tanja MIŠČEVIĆ PhD**, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Deputy Secretary General

Participants: Representatives of the business community and decision-makers from the Western Balkans

29th September 2021

Assembly of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia
(Vladike Platona bb)

10:15-11:00

Arrival of participants

11:00-13:00

LEADERS' PANEL*

Western Balkans: #OneRegionOneMarket - A Step towards Common Market of the EU

Summary:

Regional initiatives as a part of the EU enlargement policy towards the Western Balkans - Support for the latest Open Balkan initiative, with a narrower goal of creating a Common Market for the countries of the Western Balkans.

Discussion points:

- Common Regional Market - a catalyst for deeper regional economic integration and a stepping stone towards the EU Single Market
- From Novi Sad (October 2019) to Skopje (July 2021) - a new era of cooperation in the region of WB
- Open Balkan - initiative open to all of the countries of the Western Balkans region / What has been done/ What has to be done?
- What are the new regional cooperation opportunities at hand in a yet another crisis? Will the great potential of the "new accession block" to share the experiences in the accession process and coordinate common positions be realized and how soon?

* Open to the public

- Is the regional cooperation an added value of the EU enlargement policy? What are the strong points of regional cooperation during the accession period?

Address by **Mr Istvan PASZTOR**, President of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina and **Mr Miloš VUČEVIĆ**, Mayor of Novi Sad, - *From Novi Sad (October 2019) to Novi Sad (September 2021) - A New Era of Cooperation in the Region of WB*

Mr Aleksandar VUČIĆ, President of the Republic of Serbia

Mr Edi RAMA, Prime Minister of Albania

Mr Zoran ZAEV, President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia (via video-link)

Moderated by: **Ms Tanja MIŠČEVIĆ PhD**, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Deputy Secretary General

Participants: Officials of the countries of the Western Balkans, Representatives of the business community (regionally oriented) Youth representatives (young opinionated leaders, action-oriented and socially active individuals from the Western Balkans)

Hotel Sheraton, Novi Sad, Serbia

13:30-15:00

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION*

Forum Europe: The utopia of Europe at a time of global pandemic

Summary:

Where is Europe, where are we after the unexpected emergency of COVID-19 pandemic? It seems that after the end of the grand narrative of the invisible virus with very visible effects that overwhelmed public discussion. The economic and social impact of the COVID-19 is clear. The tiny invisible virus has become a global metaphor of contemporary world and completely changed our approach to travel, borders, state of emergency etc. Instead of the interplay of risk and trust characteristic for modernity according to Anthony Giddens, it seems we live now in a new age of distrust. With all measures and a widespread fear of utopia of Europe is in danger to become a dystopia of Europe. This panel wants to ask youth leaders the following questions:

- 1.) Intellectual aspects. How do you understand the pandemic? Does it bring discontinuities in public politics and personal lives? Or is it just another version of historical years of plague? Put it simply, do you understand the virus literally or do you attach certain symbolic meaning to it?*
- 2.) Social aspects. Let us discuss the social impact of the pandemic. How does the pandemic affect your profession, education and personal life? Modernity is seen as inherently future-oriented. It seems that pandemic gives a new chance for the past, but only on the level of false consolation for contemporary troubles. Could I dare to ask you: What are the perspectives of the young generations today?*

* Under the Chatham House Rules

3.) Experiential aspects. Is online life real life? The pandemic has affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the widespread closures of schools and universities. According to data released by UNESCO on 25th March, school and university closures due to COVID -19 were implemented nationwide in 165 countries. Including localized closures, this affects over 1.5 billion students worldwide, accounting for 87% of enrolled learners. Education is not only about education, there is always something more- friendship, discussions, quarrels, shared experience...How does online education affect social relations of the youth?

4.) Moral aspects. In the end, is there something that could be seen optimistically? Do you think that there is any positive thing about global pandemic in terms of ecology, sustainable economy, public health policies, global, European or regional solidarity?

Participants: 50 young opinionated leaders, action-oriented and socially active individuals from the Western Balkans

15:00-16:00

Lunch

16:00

Departure of guests

The official languages of the conference are Serbian and English with simultaneous translation provided.