



Venue: University of Trieste, building H3
Via Valerio 12/2, Trieste 34127

Draft Agenda

version 05/07

TUESDAY, 11 JULY	
12:00 - 13:15	REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING LUNCH BUFFET
13:15 - 13:30	Kick off and outline of the day
13:30 - 14:30	<p>Opening</p> <p>Welcome remarks by Maurizio Fermeglia, Rector, University of Trieste</p> <p>Keynote speech by Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for the Western Balkans, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission</p> <p>Keynote speech by Luis Alvarado Martinez, President of the European Youth Forum</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
14:30 - 14:45	<p>Regional initiatives and networks: UNIADRION</p> <p>Maurizio Fermeglia, Rector, University of Trieste</p>
15:00 - 16:30	<p>Working groups - Part 1</p> <p>Interactive discussion based on four identified topics</p>
16:30 - 17:00	COFFEE
17:00 - 17:45	<p>Working groups - Part 2</p> <p>Preparation of conclusions from each working group</p>
17:45 - 18:30	<p>Closed session for rapporteurs and experts</p> <p>Preparation of joint conclusions of the Youth Forum</p>
19:30 - 21:30	<p>DINNER with the participation of:</p> <p>Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director for the Western Balkans, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission</p> <p>Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Member of the European Parliament</p> <p>Erasmus+ alumni</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #0056b3;"><i>Hotel NH, Corso Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour 7, 34132 Trieste</i></p>

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY

Moderated by Katrina Sichel

9:00 – 9:15	COFFEE
9:15 – 9:30	Kick off and outline of the day
9:30 – 9:40	Opening remarks by Fabio Massimo Castaldo , <i>lead MEP for the European Parliament Young Political Leaders Programme</i>
9:40 – 10:40	<p>Panel 1: Bridging the gap between youth policy: youth participation and parliamentarians in the region</p> <p>Fabio Massimo Castaldo, <i>lead MEP for the European Parliament Young Political Leaders Programme</i></p> <p>Ivana Tufegdzic, <i>MP, the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i></p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
10:40 – 11:40	<p>Panel 1: The role of youth networks in promoting youth mobility and making young people's voice heard</p> <p>Djuuro Blanusa, <i>Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)</i></p> <p>Sonja Mitter, <i>South East Europe Resource Centre (SALTO)</i></p> <p>Luis Alvarado Martinez, <i>European Youth Forum (tbc)</i></p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:40 – 12:00	COFFEE
12:00 – 12:45	<p>Panel 3: The Young Civil Servants Scheme: encouraging mobility of young professionals</p> <p>Video highlights from the pilot scheme</p> <p>Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, <i>Director for the Western Balkans, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission</i></p> <p>Gentian Xhaxhiu, <i>Young Civil Servant alumnus</i></p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
12:45 - 13:30	<p>Summary and way forward</p> <p>Keynote speech by Johannes Hahn, <i>EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement</i></p> <p>Presentation of conclusions of the working groups by the rapporteurs</p> <p>Closing speech by Luigi Bobba, <i>Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Italy</i></p>
13:30 – 13:45	Group photo
13:45 – 15:00	LUNCH

WORKING GROUPS OVERVIEW

Parallel working groups on four priority areas selected from [the Action Plan for Youth Work and Youth Policy](#) developed in Ljubljana (September 2016)

WORKING GROUP 1: **Mobility / Exchanges**

Mobility is an important theme for the Western Balkans region. It improves the skill sets of young people, brings young people together and increases cultural understanding. It facilitates the exchange of best practices to tackle the common challenges young people are facing. This discussion will explore ways to increase access for everyone to various mobility opportunities and to remove obstacles for participation.

Topics for discussion:

- How to reach young people with limited opportunities and ensure more and balanced participation?
- How to broaden horizons of young persons?
- How to enhance intra-Balkan mobility?

Facilitators: [Claire Morel](#) (Directorate-General Education and Culture, European Commission), [tbd](#)

Rapporteur: [Kristóf Papp](#) (National Youth Council of Hungary, AEGEE / European Students' Forum)

Experts: [Sonja Mitter](#) (South East Europe Resource Centre - SALTO), [Djuro Blanusa](#) (Regional Youth Cooperation Office - RYCO)

Room 0B

WORKING GROUP 2: **Inclusion/ Overcoming of Stereotypes**

Inclusion of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is an important aspect of youth empowerment in the region. Young people with fewer opportunities have less influential social networks, are less active in political life and are more likely to be unemployed. These divides undermine the social fabric and sustainable long-term economic growth. All young people deserve fair and equal opportunities; this will require long-term vision and engagement. Promoting equal opportunities for personal development and active participation in society will help decrease the number of socially excluded young people.

Topics for discussion:

- How to promote inclusion?
- How to familiarise policy makers and practitioners with the concept of social inclusion?
- How to remove obstacles to inclusion?
- How to avoid alienation from mainstream society and its values?
- What is the role of culture in building bridges and overcoming stereotypes?
- Where does tolerance stop?

Facilitators: [Claus Giering](#) (Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission), [Davide Capocchi](#) (Council of Europe)

Rapporteur: [Maria Pisani](#) (National Youth Council Italy)

Experts: [Anita Toien Johansen](#) (Directorate-General Education and Culture, European Commission), [Nicolo Gasparini](#) (European External Action Service), [Vanja Ivosevic](#) (Regional Cooperation Council)

Room 2A

WORKING GROUP 3: Entrepreneurship

Youth entrepreneurship is an important tool to combat the high and persistent youth unemployment rates and social exclusion. It will also help stimulate innovation and youth empowerment.

Topics for discussion:

- How to develop an entrepreneurial mind-set among young people in the Western Balkans?
- How to design and implement policies that promote youth entrepreneurship?
- How to improve business and digital skills through hands-on education and training?
- How to improve the impact of youth networks?
- How much is access to finance an obstacle?
- Creative Europe – a tool for enhancing entrepreneurship? How can it be further exploited by young people?

Facilitator: tbd

Rapporteur: Vladimir Gjorgjevski (*National Youth Council of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*)

Experts: Ulrike Damyanovic (*European Training Foundation*), Efka Heder (*South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning – SEECEL*), Zoran Puljic (*Foundation Mozaik*), Armin Keso (*young entrepreneur*)

Room 2B

WORKING GROUP 4: Participation

Voting turnout, membership in political parties, interest in politics and trust in political institutions show a decline, especially among young people. There is a growing belief among young people that formal political structures are not working. When voting does not seem to change anything, casting a ballot feels ineffective and disempowering. Faced with a political system that does not respond to their needs nor reflects their views, young people are trapped in a vicious circle of disengagement. When young people do not vote, politicians feel they can be ignored and policy reflects this. Exclusion of youth from decision-making rises and the legitimacy of our democracy is undermined.

Topics for discussion:

- Are young people more disengaged than previous generations and if so, why?
- How do we make our political and societal decision-making structures more inclusive to young people?
- How do we empower young people to become more active citizens?

Facilitator: tbd

Rapporteur: Samir Beharic (*Youth Center–Jajce*)

Experts: Luis Alvarado Martinez (*European Youth Forum*), Gerrard Quille (*European Parliament*)

Room 2C