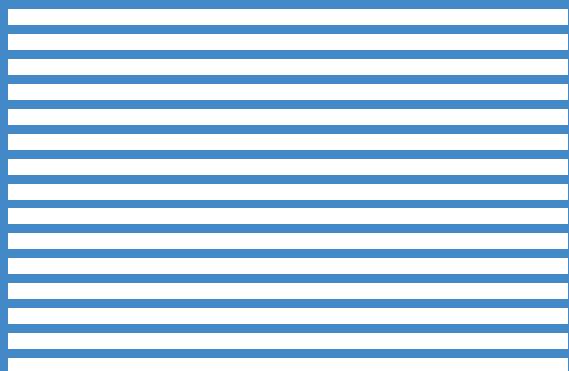


Y



Y YOUTH
A ALLIANCE

e newsletter

September 2016

A



Our network on



Contents

1

FINAL PREPARATIONS
FOR THE 14th
INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE

2

INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE
22-26.09.2016

3

IMPRESSIONS FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH CONFERENCE

ID of YAK

Name of the organization:
Youth Alliance - Krusevo

Year of founding:
1999

Headquarter:
Krusevo

Branch Office:
Skopje

Vision:
Active involvement of young people in all spheres of social life and their influence on decision making processes at local, national and regional levels.

Values and principles:
Involvement, democracy, equal chances, openness, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, mutual support and collaboration.

President:
Metodija Stojceski



Marie Kirchner - Germany

From my experience at the Krusevo International Youth Conference YAK and its members impress lastingly, because they maintain their projects at a highly professional level and successfully bring youth to think outside the box.

This made me want to cooperate with YAK. Besides, as a young woman it is amazing to work with YAK as they truly empower women like me and promote gender equality on many levels.

I appreciate YAK for giving me an opportunity to connect Western and Eastern Europe and for welcoming me with open, creative and powerful minds in Macedonia.



Dimitar Dimitrov - Bulgaria

Youth Alliance Krusevo is a unique mix of proactivity, inspiration and belief of young people who are transforming Macedonia, the Balkan region, Europe and the world.

I was genuinely impressed by YAK's professional commitment, positive vision for the region and lovely attitude. To me the YAK's team consists of more than colleagues – they are friends who I really treasure and love.

I appreciate YAK because I believe in the great impact of their work and I feel honored to be part of it.



1 FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The start of September, during the preparatory phase of the International Youth Conference “European values for the future of SEE Countries”, the YAK team has worked on the program, selection of participants and media campaign to promote the

event. This year program the programming team of YAK worked in earnest enthusiasm and finally commitment and efforts to bring not only prominent names but positive examples of young people to act and create social change.



“

“To be part of the leaders of the team that prepared the program of this year’s conference is an honor, pleasure and challenge for the next program to be even more powerful. Although the process was highly demanding and complicated because of YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LIMITED RESOURCES AND ORGANIZING A BIG EVENT recognizable and in Krusevo, the satisfaction of my success feeds the enthusiasm for future larger and more secure steps. The biggest challenge in the preparation of the program would emphasize accomplishment and connection to the vision of the members of the preparatory group for the conference program or packing supervision in one dynamic package. To be honest my vision come true, to have Lence Ristoska spokesperson and prosecutor and the Special Public prosecutor for ways to strengthen transparency and corruption in our societies, to talk about the topic for Urban Innovation, the topic of migration to be presented by man who migrated himself. With a good team, strong resource and like Dimitr Dimitrov would say with hardworking from the bottom of our hearts THE VESIONS COME TRUE AND CONNECT EACH OTHER” stated Biljana Stojceska the first project assistant responsible for the conference program of the 14th youth conference.

”

This period was intensified as well as the media campaign by the YAK team for that purpose was prepared comprehensive strategy for adequate access to media and activities were directed towards social networks, traditional and electronic media. The social media campaign was exclusively aimed at promoting the values that the conference promotes or European values, democracy, human rights, tolerance, understanding, the rule of law, solidarity, respect for other cultures, individual liberty, equality and so on. This media campaigning, included two dozen national and regional media that carried the event, and the result of social networks was the range of more than 30,000 people. Also the prepared a media campaign which was implemented during the conference and on the event were invited all media in Macedonia to attend the events and activities. The campaign stimulated the increase of the number of applications that the closure of the call participants reached the number of 413 applications.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 22-26.09.2016

The 14th International Youth Conference “European values for the future of the SEE countries” YAK supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation-Skopje and the Stability Pact traditional, organized traditionally in Krusevo from 22-26 September at hotel in Montana. Why Krusevo? Because of the magic and history of this picturesque little town which is the highest town on the Balkans. The conference is a great event at which 56 young leaders from 16 European countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) discuss the current and important topics that the youth is concerned about.

In the focus of the program were the values, platforms for cooperation and reconciliation, youth

leadership, innovation in the education system, the importance of informal education, youth entrepreneurship the possibility of solving the problem of the youth unemployment as well as the challenges that Europe is facing today.

Participants of the conference had the pleasure for the four days to listen to the 16 speakers who had their inspiring, educational and innovative talk. The great diversity of the speakers on the stage can be demonstrated through the first session, “Platform and processes of reconciliation and cooperation” on which the speaker was Mr. Stipe Mesic last president of Yugoslavia and president of Croatia who make parallels between Yugoslavia e European Union, covering the hypothesis “Eurosphere today is what Yugsphere was yesterday but enriched by values

inherent to democratic western systems”. Along with Mr. Stipe Mesic on the stage were two young girls that work on daily basis on the processes of reconciliation and cooperation, Magdalena Zatylna from the German-Polish Youth Office, which was presented a brilliant example for youth cooperation between the young people in Germany and Poland and Marija Bulat, member of the working group of RYCO, she demonstrated the current and the future work of the platform and the strategic meaning of the RYCO for the Balkan region.

In the second session, “Youth Leadership and Governance” on stage while speaking Andrei Popescu State Secretary for Youth and Sport in Romania, Lence Ristoska prosecutor and spokesperson of the Special Prosecutor’s office, Jeta Xharra, Director at BIRN Kosovo Stefanos Loukopoulos, Managing Director – Vouliwatch. The inspirational speech of Popescu who made a show among the audience, encouraged the participants to believe in it ‘s integrity and power as young people can affect to the decision makers. The other presenters spoke about the ways of improving the transparency and the fighting the corruption, although they were different profiles of the speakers

originating from different professions the came to a common mutual conclusion that transparency and corruption are closely connected. If corruption is disease of the modern society, then transparency at this moment is one of the most effective cures. Society currently transparency is one of the most effective drugs. Also, they have tried to influence the young people that they as citizens must strive for bigger transparency and act as a corrective of the system.

In the third session, “Digital SEE” Mr. Isidoros Sideridis - co-founder – SiEBEN put an accent of the thesis that is the crucial time for the companies and business to change and adapt in order to survive to the new times of the technology trends. On the stage was also Aleksandar Stojkovic architect in “Microsoft” that presented their project “Microsoft CityNext” which empowers cities and citizens to unlock their potential by delivering innovative digital services that can help them lead safer and healthier lives, enriched by high-quality education. CityNext helps cities engage their citizens, empower city employees, optimize city operations and infrastructure, and transform and accelerate innovation and opportunity the





towns and the inhabitants At the end of this session on the stage showed up the crew from Bulgaria "Podlezno" a group of young people which renovate underpasses on a creative way in Sofia, Bulgaria using innovation and creating social changes which benefit the citizens.

Fourth session "From formal to informal education," was reserved for the professor Todor Yalamov and Professor Ram Vataj who spoke about the innovative methods and approaches which they have implemented in order to cultivate creative and innovative young people through the formal education.

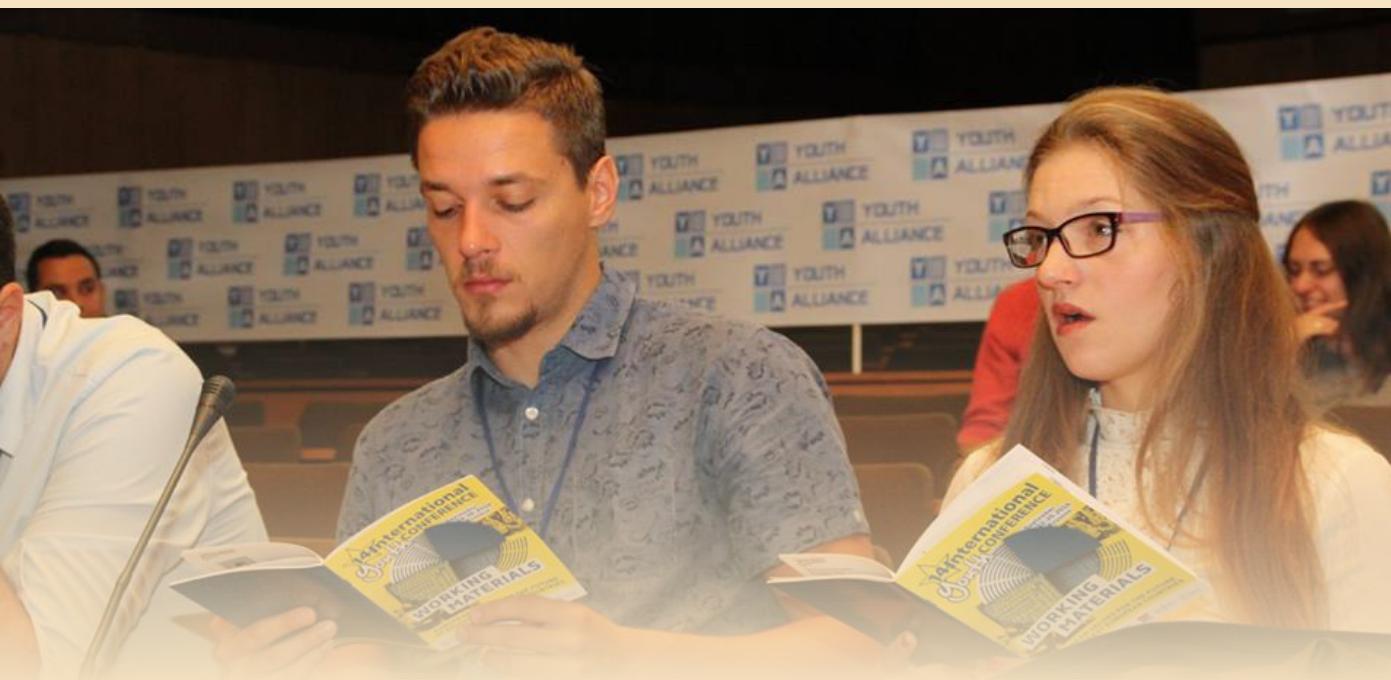
"Youth entrepreneurship and Employability" was the title of the fifth session in which speakers were Ben Jones and Nathan Koeshall, they were discussing for social changes that the young people can create trough entrepreneurship recommending to them that they must have high goals and a clear vision. In this session also speaker was Edita Miftari which explained the phenomenon of brain drain one of the most current problems in the last few years with whom are facing almost all the countries of Southeast Europe.

The Conference was finalized with the last session "Challenges Europe is facing today" covering three challenges which are crucial nowadays: Europe and

refugees, Global Britain and Security and Stability in SEE Countries and Social Divisions and Polarization in the Balkans. For the first challenge was speaking Ruslan Trad a young man who emigrated itself and works on a daily basis and helps the refugees and migrants. Global Britain and Security and Stability in SEE Countries was covered by the British Ambassador of Macedonia Charles Edmund Garrett who spoke about the reasons of Brexit and the overall situation in Europe presenting the module for good development and progress of the society Strong government + rule of law + functioning democracy = deliver strong economic growth. For the topic Social Divisions and Polarization in the Balkans was presented by Methodja Stojceski civil activist and president of YAK.



IMPRESSIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE



After conclusion of the International Youth Conference “European values for the future of SEE countries” success, impressions and results team YAK recognized in the numerous positive announcements, editorials and articles of the 56 young progressive people have returned home inspired to further action by new innovative ideas for new youth projects and initiatives.

For the conference impact witness statement of one of the most active participants of the conference Liridon Hoxha.

My trip to the International Youth conference in Krusevo 2016:

Well, it all started with the application and me being an Albanian from Kosova, living in Germany, but started an NGO in Kosova about Environmental Protection and Education.

The main point was that funding provided only travel from Kosova to Krusevo, not from Germany, but for me, the conference sounded so cool that I didn't care.

After being on the bus, a ferry, 6 km walk, plane to Skopje, again busses, night in a hostel, and last but not least, nearly not permitted to the bus to Krusevo for tickets being sold out, I sneaked through the gate without a ticket and the bus driver accepted me, since the bus was not full either.

In the bus already, I had great discussions with some participants, which gave me a feeling of what's going to wait for me, which was great!

At arrival at the hotel in Krusevo, I was astonished by the location of the city, but also from the hotel. I saw people dressed importantly, slowly realizing that this is more than a simple youth conference. Looking at the timetable and speaker's name, I felt more and more honored to be there, that I got chosen for my application.

Meeting more and more of the people at the conference, I felt more Balkan than ever, learned that there is hope for the Balkans and for Europe, if everyone was like these young, open-minded and -hearted people.

I was very happy to see also young artists speak in front of the participants, and I loved that everyone who wanted could share their experiences on projects etc. and become an example of how you have to try out your ideas, as crazy as they might seem.

This and the fact that you were listened to, when you had something to share or ask, especially in during the workshops, but also informally between events, made it an amazing time for me.

Finally, going out for party with my idol Jeta Xharra was the most notable experience for me, since she's brilliant and gave a good example during her talk about transparency and corruption.

This conference is a must-go for every young European/Balkanian, who wants to make a change and doesn't know how, yet, or does and wants to share his story of success.

“Just do things as long as you're young and have no responsibilities. That's the time when you're allowed to make mistakes!”



Likewise, Nemanja Zivkovic who is participating on the conference four times in a row on his blog published an interesting article "Why I missed the first birthday of my nephew to be part of another conference" explaining all aspects why the conference is a "must" event for which every young person should be interested in applying.

Values, networking, the following actions, friendships, lessons, entertainment and plead of other fruits of the International Youth Conference "European values for the future of SEE countries" are part of the things that will enrich your experience, therefore follow it on the [official website of the conference](#) and expect eagerly the next open call off the jubilee of the 15th International Youth Conference 2017!





The annual program of Youth Alliance – Krusevo
is supported by CIVICA Mobilitas

