

Youth delegation

Young people are the present and the future of the Western Balkans. To secure a more prosperous future for their citizens and improve their chances of EU accession, one of the key issues countries in the region need to address is the challenges facing their youth. More and more young people from the Western Balkans are working, however the overall unemployment rate stands at around a third of the young population. Many are emigrating because of a lack of employment opportunities. Given the brain drain challenge that the region faces, creating a dynamic economy where young innovators can flourish is of vital importance. Listening to the perspectives of young people on these questions and actively including their voices in discussions is therefore crucial. Furthermore, creating opportunities for young people from the EU and from the Western Balkans to network and to advocate together to secure a European future for the Western Balkans is also of primary importance.

In the context of this annual Balkan Summit, Friends of Europe and its partners have brought together a delegation of youth representatives from the Western Balkans region and from the EU, to mainstream the issues which are important to them throughout the discussions of all sessions and to facilitate dialogue between youth from both regions. Facilitated by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and by the network of partners of Debating Europe, these delegates will actively intervene in sessions and provide recommendations to promote the youth agenda across the Western Balkans and the EU. Our youth delegates are:



Alesia
ALLDERVISHI

UNICEF's coordinator of 'U-report ambassadors' - Albania



Julia Sandrine
BLANKEN

Vice President for Partnerships at the European Student Think Tank



Olga
DEVIC

Youth activist and member of UNICEF Serbia Youth Board - Serbia



Tania
FEDORCHUK

Liaison Officer for the Western Balkans and Eastern Neighborhood at the Erasmus Student Network



Kostis
GIANNIDIS

President of the Erasmus Student Network



Trina
HOTI

UNICEF Youth Reference member - Kosovo*



Marina
NAVARRO MONTILLA

President of the European Student Think Tank



Andrijana
PALJUŠEVIĆ

Youth Activist and member of UNICEF - Montenegro



Elma
SLABIC

Youth Activist and member of UNICEF - Bosnia and Herzegovina



Ena
UTEVSKA

Youth coordinator at Kolektiv Z – Young Friends of the Earth - and member of UNICEF - Republic of North Macedonia



Marija Valentina
ŽUVIĆ

1st Vice President, Network and Internal Affairs Director at AEGEE/European Students' Forum

* For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo in this document accordingly shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999);