

# Youth delegates

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 EU-Western Balkans Summit, Friends of Europe and its partners have brought together a delegation of youth representatives from the Western Balkan 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**

LLM International and European Law at Europa institut, Saarland University in Germany



**Besnik**  
**AVDIAJ**

OBOTI Institute, University of Prishtina in Kosovo\*



**Sara**  
**BORANČIĆ**

Secretary General of the Youth Network of Montenegro



**Elena**  
**BOZINOVSKA**

Youth activist and worker for people with disabilities and gender equality



**Olga**  
**DEVIC**

Representative of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) Serbia



**Arijan**  
**DURADBEGOVIĆ**

Student and part of the cultural UPSHIFT program in Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Nikolina**  
**GARAČA**

Activist focused on mental health and community development across Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Blendi**  
**HODAI**

Student and leading activist in the fields of social and environmental justice in North Macedonia



**Matilda**  
**KARCANAJ**

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator at the Regional Youth Cooperation Office in Albania



**Klajdi**  
**KAZIU**

Secretary General of the United Nations Association (UNA) in Albania

*\* 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). For the European Union, This designation used is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence;*



**Diogjen**  
**KOLICI**

Youth advocate and member of the Kurbin Municipal Council in Albania



**Andrea**  
**LESKUR**

Youth Member of Omladina JAZAS Novi Sad in Serbia



**Ognjen**  
**MARKOVIC**

RCC's Western Balkan Youth Lab Team Leader



**Ema**  
**MEÇAJ**

Young journalist and activist, co-founder of the website for youth empowerment [www.kreaktiv.al](http://www.kreaktiv.al)



**Jona**  
**OLLONI**

Member of UNICEF Kosovo's Youth Reference Group and qualified peer trainer



**Magdalena**  
**OSTOJIC**

Medicine student and social activist focused on science and research



**Milica**  
**OTOVIC**

Member of UNICEF Serbia's Youth Board



**Andrijana**  
**PALJUŠEVIĆ**

UNICEF Youth Representative of Montenegro



**Luka**  
**PAVIKJEVIKJ**

President of the Union of High-School students of North Macedonia



**Nikola**  
**SAMARDZIC**

Member of UNICEF Serbia's Youth Board



**Ania**  
**SAUKU**

Youth Delegate at the United Nations Association in Albania



**Jules**  
**STRIFFLER**

Research Officer at The Balkan Forum



**Jovana**  
**VASIC**

Member of UNICEF Serbia's Youth Board and of the Mental Health Advisory Board



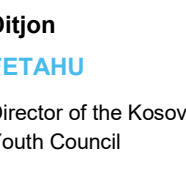
**Lyra**  
**YMERAGA**

Member of UNICEF's Youth Reference Group and of Kosovo's National Youth Congress



**Antonija**  
**CVERDELJ**

European Youth Capital for 2019 Novi Sad – OPENS



**Ditjon**  
**FETAHU**

Director of the Kosovar\* Youth Council



**Jelena**  
**KARAĆ**

Member of the Program Team of European Youth Capital for 2019 Novi Sad – OPENS



**Bojana**  
**KRGVIĆ**

Program Member of European Youth Capital for 2019 Novi Sad – OPENS



**Dafina**  
**PEĆI**

Secretary General of the Albanian National Youth Congress

*\* 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). For the European Union, This designation used is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence;*