



Evropski centar
za mir i razvoj
Terazije 41
11000 Beograd, Serbia

ECPD Headquarters

European Center
for Peace and Development
Centre Européen
pour la Paix et le Développement
Centro Europeo
para la Paz y el Desarrollo
Европейский центр
мира и развития



University for Peace established by the United Nations

Belgrade, 1 August 2019

Dear,

It gives us special pleasure to inform you that the 7th **Global ECPD Youth Forum “YOUTH MOBILIZATION TO REDRESS THE PRESENT TRENDS”** organized by ECPD in cooperation with VAMK University, Finland and supported by Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia. The Forum will be held in **Belgrade and Novi Sad, on 26-27 October, 2019** bringing together a large number of young people from many countries from all the continents. Please note that this significant youth event will be held in the City Hall of Belgrade and the City Hall of Novi Sad (the city awarded the title of the 2019 European Youth Capital and therefore considered to be the right venue for an international youth gathering).

The Forum will be opened by keynote speeches delivered by **H.E. Federico Mayor**, ECPD President and long-standing Director-General of UNESCO, **Mrs. Ouided Bouchamaoui**, Nobel Prize Winner and **H.E. Prof. Dr Erhard Busek**, Former Austrian Deputy Chancellor, whereas the event will be chaired by **Prof. Dr. Arthur Dahl**, a distinguished member of ECPD. Please find attached the **Concept Note** of the upcoming Forum.

We kindly expect to receive your filled-in registration form by 30 September 2019 as well as the title of your presentation in case you would like to give your contribution in the Forum so that we can include it into the final program of the event.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my assistants Bogdanka Prodanović, Irena Vuksanović and Irena Vukšić.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and our meeting in the Youth Forum this October.

Enclosure: as above



ECPD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(Prof. Dr. Negoslav Ostojić)

Phone: +381 11 3246-041, 3246-042, 3246-043, 3246-044, 3246-045 Fax: 3240-673, 3234-082

E-mail: office@ecpd.org.rs, ecpd@EUnet.rs



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VII ECPD Global Youth Forum YOUTH POWER FOR THE COMMON FUTURE

With the main topic

YOUTH MOBILIZATION TO REDRESS THE PRESENT WORLDTRENDS

(Belgrade / Novi Sad, 26 - 27 October 2019)



CONCEPT NOTE

The 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro approved an action plan for sustainable development in the 21st century called *Agenda 21*, before most participants in this Forum were born. The call was renewed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, and again at Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. This led to the adoption at a UN General Assembly summit in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, together with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, calling for a fundamental transformation in our society and our economy. Despite all this, little has happened. We seem closer than ever to planetary boundaries, and have overshoot several, threatening the future survivability of human life on this planet.

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The older generations do not have the answers.

The preceding ECPD Conference has discussed this in detail, and some of the results will be available to you to support your own deliberations. In the preparations for the 2030 Agenda, the UN Secretary-General said: "Young people will be the torch bearers... the first truly globalized, interconnected, and highly mobilized civil society, ready and able to serve as a participant, joint steward, and powerful engine of change and transformation."

Today we see massive protests of young people around the world calling for immediate action on climate change and other threats to their future. They see the injustice in the failure of adults to take the environmental future seriously, living well while accumulating financial, social and environmental debts that younger generations of today will soon inherit.

There is no time to lose, but protest is not sufficient as an answer. It is not enough to point out what is wrong with society, to march in the streets, to call for a halt to damaging activities. The challenge is to find alternatives and to propose ways forwards. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be a useful guide to the many dimensions of the fundamental transformation that is needed, and it may be helpful to refer to them as you reflect on what needs to change. The following are some questions that can help to focus your discussions in this forum. It is for you to find the answers, since no one else can do it for you.

How do we get from here to a better society that is more just, more inclusive, more moderate, more sustainable? What is our vision of the society we should like to live in? What are inherited assumptions about our human purpose, our economic behavior and concepts of society that need to be challenged? What are the ethical values that should be the foundation of our individual and collective behavior? Creative consultation, drawing together a variety of perspectives and experiences, can put new constructive ideas on the table. How can we then turn our aspirations into practical sustainable action?

Consider the present situation in the Balkans and in your own communities, and how far they are from sustainability. What are the most threatening and unsustainable trends in your communities, countries and the Balkans region? What are their underlying causes? And what needs to be done to redress present trends? What are obstacles that need to be overcome? Where can youth have the most immediate impact? How can you use the new information technologies and possibilities for networking and organization to take your movement forward? And how do you stick to your values and avoid being manipulated or co-opted by



outside forces? How do you ensure that no one is left behind, as called for in the 2030 Agenda? What concrete proposals can we make?

This youth forum is also an opportunity for you to reflect on your own future. What are the interests, skills and talents that you have to offer? Where can you best make a contribution to a better future? What further education or training will best empower you to fulfil your potential? How can you prepare yourself for a life of service to your community and society? The Youth Forum provides you with space for creativity, a chance to more broadly network and to make a noticeable difference to the world's future,

This is your youth forum and the ECPD can accompany you on the difficult journey by providing hope on the way and celebrating with you on arrival. (It is not for ECPD to dictate what you decide here. All we can do is to accompany you in this process). The future is in your hands.



7TH GLOBAL ECPD YOUTH FORUM YOUTH MOBILIZATION TO REDRESS THE PRESENT TRENDS

Belgrade City Hall / Novi Sad City Hall
26 - 27 October 2019

To apply for participation in the 7th Global ECPD Youth Forum, please fill in the Registration Form, attach your short CV and send it back by **September 30, 2019** to the following e-mail address: office@ecpd.org.rs or ecpdrirs@t-home.mk.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name			
Surname			
Gender	male <input type="checkbox"/>	female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational background			
Organization (name, address, phone, fax)			
Workplace or position			
Address for correspondence and e-mail (if different than given one)			
Phone			
Form of participation	presentation of paper <input type="checkbox"/>	discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Topic of the paper*			

* only if you have marked presentation in previous question

Have you taken part in any previously held ECPD Youth Forums? yes no

If YES, please specify in what way and when

Place and date

Candidate

(Signature)