

International Youth Conference ‘European values for the Future of SEE countries’ 2025

Draft Agenda

25.09.2025 [Thursday]

18:00 – 20:00 Opening Ceremony

26.09.2025 [Friday]

10:00 – 12:00 Future Forward Session

Topic: From waiting room to action room: RESETting the EU integration process for the region

The EU integration process for the Western Balkans has long been marked by delays, uncertainty, and growing skepticism among young people. It's time for a strategic reset — moving beyond passive waiting to active regional leadership. This session will explore how youth can reclaim agency in the enlargement process by fostering democratic reforms, strengthening regional cooperation, and pushing for a results-oriented EU agenda. Young leaders will examine innovative tools, bold narratives, and actionable roadmaps to transform the region from a "waiting room" into a vibrant "action room" for European integration.

12:00 – 12:45 Coffee Break

12:45 – 14:00 Youth Experiences Space

OPEN YOUR MIND: SHARE YOUR STORY	OPEN MIC: BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO!	FIRESIDE CHAT
<i>Credibility Crisis and Enlargement Fatigue</i>	<i>Democratic Backsliding</i>	<i>Lack of Youth-Centered Vision and Participation</i>

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:00 Future Forward Session

Topic: A Theory of Change for the Western Balkans in Building a Peaceful and Secure Europe

This session explores a forward-looking Theory of Change that traces how the Western Balkans' reconciliation efforts, regional cooperation, and democratic reforms contribute to building a more peaceful and secure European continent. Through evidence-based dialogue, the session will examine key levers such as transitional justice, youth leadership, inclusive governance, and cross-border collaboration. Participants will co-reflect on what is needed to shift from fragmented transition to

transformative impact—where the WB6 are seen not only as future members but as co-architects of Europe's peace and security framework.

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 19:30 Living Lab Spaces

Before the lab's living spaces the participants will have Gallery Walk where posters with key identified success stories from the region will be displayed. Each poster will include QR codes that link to short videos or audio clips of the presenters explaining their work, as well as a digital feedback form. The goal of the Living Lab Space is twofold: first, to establish a community of action among participants, and second, to collaboratively seek solutions to larger, cross-cutting challenges faced by youth in the region. Utilizing social innovation approaches, such as simulations, pop-up policy labs, and "Walk in My Shoes" experiences, each group will delve into real-world issues, brainstorm innovative strategies, and develop actionable plans that can lead to meaningful change. This collaborative effort will empower participants to take ownership of their ideas and contribute to the broader discourse on youth empowerment and engagement.

27.09.2025 [Saturday]

10:00 – 12:00 Future Forward Session

Topic: DigiPath to Europe: REROUTing Youth Cooperation for a Smarter EU Integration

By bridging the gaps between education, labor markets, and the youth sector, the platform offers circular and inclusive pathways for young people to access meaningful opportunities — both at home and across borders. This session will present DigiPath as a tangible example of rerouting the EU integration process: from passive waiting to active co-creation, powered by digital youth work, cross-sector collaboration, and regional solidarity.

12:00 – 12:45 Coffee Break

12:45 – 14:00 Youth Experiences Space

OPEN YOUR MIND: SHARE YOUR STORY	OPEN MIC: BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO!	FIRESIDE CHAT
<i>Creating Regional Pathways, Not Just EU Destinations</i>	<i>Studying, Working, and Volunteering in the Region</i>	<i>Digital Transitions Must Include the Region</i>

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:00 Future Forward Session

Topic: From Insight to Impact: RECOGNITION of Youth Voices in the Digital Age

This session will be a bold step toward the recognition of youth voices across the Western Balkans and neighboring EU countries. In a region shaped by crisis, transition, and emigration, young people often

remain unheard in decision-making processes. Through digital tools and participatory polling, the session will create space for youth to express their realities, priorities, and visions. This is not just about collecting data — it's about legitimizing youth perspectives as essential input for policy, development, and regional cooperation.

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee Break

17:30 – 19:30 Living Lab Spaces

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28.09.2025 [Sunday]

10:00 – 12:00 Future Forward Session

Topic: Reframing YOUTH NARRATIVES: Recognition, Reroute, and Reflection in the region and in EU

In an era of rising disillusionment and polarized discourse, youth narratives are often overlooked or oversimplified. This session brings together journalists from North Macedonia and Germany to explore how youth perspectives are framed in national and European media—and how these narratives influence public perception, policy, and EU integration efforts.

12:00 – 12:45 Coffee Break

12:45 – 14:00 Youth Experiences Space

OPEN YOUR MIND: SHARE YOUR STORY	OPEN MIC: BE A VOICE NOT AN ECHO!	FIRESIDE CHAT
<i>Youth on the Move, Media on Alert: Students Reclaim the Regional Narrative</i>	<i>"Regional Champion" in Youth Eyes?</i>	<i>EU-WB6 "Youth Experience Scheme" - Is it possible?</i>

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 18:00 Idea Showcase

The conference participants will be invited to an Idea Showcase, presenting project ideas and action plans developed during the Living Lab Space. Each group has a limited time to showcase their results to the audience. Peer Voting wherein audience will vote on their favourite ideas based on categories like "Most Innovative," "Best Visuals," and "Most Impactful."

20:00 – 22:00 'European Values Changemakers'

A ceremony to recognize the Youth Ambassadors and Living Lab participants to award the "European Values Changemaker" Award will be conducted and concluded with a networking picnic where participants get to share their experiences at the conference and their hopes for the next year using the conversational dinner methodology.

29.09.2025 [Monday]

10:00 – 12:00 Conference evaluation and final session