

## 4th Eastern Partnership Youth Conference - Youth for Revitalisation of Democracy

11 – 12 July 2022

Prague, Czech Republic

### Agenda

#### 10 July 2022 – Arrival day

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| Entire day    | Arrivals and registration of participants at Hotel NH Prague City (address: Mozartova 261/1, 150 00 Praha 5) |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Depolarisation workshop - 'Broadening Our Horizon' in the context of the climate crisis                      |
| 16:00 – 16:30 | Break  |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Input session for Open Government Partnership's strategy   |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | Welcome reception  |

#### 11 July 2022 - Day 1 - inspire and motivate

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|---------------|--|
| 07:45 - 08:20 | Departure from NH City Hotel to the Parliament of the Czech Republic |
| 08:20 – 08:55 | Entry and registration at the Parliament of the Czech Republic       |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | Opening Ceremony   |

***Venue: Parliament of the Czech Republic, Sněmovní 4/176, 118 00 Malá Strana***

Opening speeches will highlight the importance of the conference for youth in the EaP region as well as the major role that youth can and should play in building democratic and

resilient societies, and will briefly introduce the context, goals, agenda and expected outcomes of the event.

**Speakers:** **Ana Furtuna**, Director of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

**Marketa Pekarova Adamova**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

**Josep Borrell Fontelles (video address)**, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

**Michael Siebert**, Managing Director for Russia, Eastern partnership, Central Asia, Regional cooperation and OSCE, European External Action Service

**Lawrence Meredith**, Director for the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood & Institution Building, DG NEAR, European Commission

**Martin Dvorak**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic

**10:00 - 10:30** **Coffee break**

**10:30 - 12:00** **First Panel - Shrinking civic spaces: ensuring a safe and enabling environment for youth participation**

**Venue: Parliament of the Czech Republic, Sněmovní 4/176, 118 00 Malá Strana**

The civil society in the EaP region continues to face challenges that threaten its existence and fundamental principles. According to international reports from Amnesty International, CIVICUS, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, there is increasingly limited democratic space and influence for civil society, with restrictions in terms of legal and regulatory frameworks, and violence against human rights activists calling for transparency, freedom, equality, and justice. CIVICUS' 2019 report- People Power Under Attack - stated that youth were one of the five groups most commonly exposed to assaults on fundamental freedoms in civic space; the conclusions of the 2019 report were found to be consistent also in 2020. Of particular concern, in the EaP region, are Belarus - where the regime's liquidation campaign against civil society organisations and activists fully excluded young people from any decision-making

processes, confronted them with unprecedented pressure, and led to more than 400 political prisoners among youth activists - and Azerbaijan where authorities are mired in systemic corruption, political opposition is persecuted, and civil society is infringed. Even in the associated countries and Armenia, the civic space has considerably shrunk following democratic backsliding triggered by cumbersome reform implementation in the sectors of judicial independence, anti-corruption and the rule of law.

Against this backdrop, the panel will discuss the implications of shrinking civic space for youth activists and human rights defenders, the main barriers and threats to young people's participation (e.g. political, legal, financial, etc.) and possible ways to overcome them, the main vulnerable groups within youth groups, and, most importantly, will present recommendations for ensuring safer and more enabling civic spaces for youth addressing a wide range of stakeholders (youth, international and regional organizations, donors, social media and tech companies, etc.)

**Speakers:** **Valeriu Dragalin**, President, European Democracy Youth Network

**Alexandra Kirby**, Senior Programme Manager, European Endowment for Democracy

**Peter Varga**, Program Lead - Eastern Partnership / EU for Integrity, Open Government Partnership

**Marharyta Vorykhava**, Chairperson, Belarusian National Youth Council RADA

**Alona Romaniuk**, Founder of the fact-checking project "NotaEnota"

**12:00 - 13:00** **Lunch**

**13:00 - 14:00** **Transport back to conference hall at the NH City Hotel**

**14:00 - 15:30** **Second Panel - Youth as a driving force for change in times of crises**

**Venue: NH City Hotel, Mozartova 261/1, 150 00 Praha 5**

This panel will address several aspects related to youth leadership in times of crises: actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, resilience-building, peacebuilding.

The potential of youth to contribute to peace processes was recognised by the United Nations Security Council in 2015 through the adoption of Resolution 2250, which included a commitment to ensuring the participation of young people in conflict

prevention and resolution, violence prevention, and the promotion of social cohesion. Resolution 2535, adopted in 2020, reiterated the role of youth in preventing and resolving conflict, as well as in building and maintaining peace, encouraging Member States to include young people in decision-making processes across these areas. Despite these steps, the important role that young people can play in peace processes is often under-acknowledged. Therefore, the panel aims to raise awareness about the major contribution that youth can have to peace processes by discussing their potential roles in achieving sustainable peace, main challenges to their inclusion in peacebuilding and ways to overcome them, effective tools for ensuring meaningful youth participation in all the stages of the peacebuilding programming, and concrete steps for youth-inclusive peace processes, and how to cultivate a culture of tolerance.

**Speakers:** **Petra Gombalova Kyslingerova**, Head of Division, Regional Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation, and OSCE, EEAS

**Denys Ganzha**, Founder of Public Diplomacy Platform, EDYN Ukraine Ambassador, Member of the Youth Affairs Council under the President of Ukraine

**Christiana Xenofontos**, Board member, European Youth Forum

**Aleksander Lapko**, Executive Director, Belarusian Youth Hub

**Mariana Turcan**, Advisor on Youth and Education to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova

**15:30 - 15:45**      **Coffee break**

**15:45 - 18:00**      **Field trips**

Field trips to local organisations in Prague will be a welcome change to the conference dynamics and an opportunity to tap into the host city's pool of projects addressing youth for democracy and resilience. Participants have the chance to discover best practices, to visit project sites, to interact with project implementers, and even to identify potential partners for their projects in the field.

- Amnesty International
- Center for Democratic Education
- Europeum Foundation
- Forum 2000

- People in Need
- Prague Civil Society Centre

**18:00 - 20:00      Networking dinner**

**12 July 2022 - Day 2 - train and empower**

**09:00 - 09:05      Opening and overview of the day**

***Venue for the entire day: NH City Hotel Prague, Mozartova 261/1, 150 00  
Praha 5***

**09:05 - 10:30      Creative ways to reach, educate and foster the participation  
of EaP youth in building democratic and resilient societies - best practices  
and youth stories**

Parallel best practice sessions are held based on the projects selected through an open call for participation to EaP CSF members, EaP/EU organisations in general, as well as based on review of specialised publications, databases and recommendations of European organisations and institutions active in the field of youth (e.g., Eastern European Network for Citizenship Education, European Youth Forum, EU-CoE Youth Partnership Office, etc.)

Best practices involve partners from different fields (civil society organisations, educational institutions, public authorities, mass media, etc.) in order to ensure a balanced perspective and a collaborative approach to educating youth for democracy and resilience-building.

**Project presentations** are grouped under four clusters in accordance with the main thematic pillars of the conference:

## **I. Youth Take the Floor: Innovative Tools for Engaging Young People in Decision-Making**

The session will allow participants to become familiar with tools that have been successfully used through projects across Europe for actively and meaningfully involving youth in decision-making at local, national, regional levels. A special emphasis will be put on projects that have managed to reach out to and effectively engage youth with fewer opportunities.

Presenters:



- Marina Bakaenko, World of Communities, presenting the project Gamification & Game-based solutions for social impact
- Bakhtiyar Hajiyev, Public Policy Institute, presenting the project Caspian PlatForum
- Anna Yeghoyan, Gyumri Youth House

## II. Youth Leaders for Community Development

The session will introduce participants to best practices showcasing youth-led solutions for more democratic and resilient communities. A special emphasis will be put on projects promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights as a means for thriving democracies and on projects promoting a gender-sensitive approach to leadership.

Presenters:

- Tamara Martseniuk, Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Ukraine
- Vardan Ghaplanyan, Teach for Armenia, presenting Innovation Accelerator
- Khrystyna Chushak, European Wergeland Centre, presenting Schools for Democracy

## III. Youth and Peacebuilding: Key Insights and Lessons from Youth Engaged in Peace Processes

The session will bring to the forefront projects that have successfully raised awareness about the major role that youth can play in peace processes, and that have taken concrete steps for their inclusion in peacebuilding.

Presenters:

- Melita Phachulia, DVV International, presenting WE CARE: Cartoons for mutual understanding and trust
- Linda Skogsby, Fryshuset presenting Empower
- Marharyta Vorykhava, Belarusian National Youth Council RADA

## IV. Youth Online: Promoting Youth Media Literacy and Engagement through Digital Democracy Tools



The session will showcase initiatives that have helped youth to improve their media literacy, and that engaged youth in the development of digital democracy tools at community level.

Presenters:

- Anzhelika Pylypenko, Local Democracy Agency Dnipro, presenting the development and advocacy project of the concept of e-democracy of the Dnipro city until 2020
- Radu Danu, IREX Europe, presenting BRYCA: Building Resistance in Youth in Central Asia to the influence of illegal hate speech and misinformation online and on social media
- Grigor Yeritsyan, presenting activities of Armenian Progressive Youth

**10:30 - 10:45**      **Coffee break**

**10:45 - 12:15**      **Parallel capacity building workshops**

### **I. Unlocking Potential in Youth-Inclusive Peacebuilding**

The workshop enables participants to better understand the needs, challenges and potential of young people in peacebuilding, as well as to explore possible entry points for their active involvement in peace processes. The session will enhance participants' basic skills that are essential for their successful contribution to peacebuilding, and will also provide them with ideas for youth empowerment strategies.

Facilitator: Yaroslav Minkin, Youth Organisation STAN, Ukraine

### **II. Learn to Discern: Tips and Strategies for Spotting and Countering Fake News and Disinformation**

The workshop will enhance the capacity of youth organizations in their support for young people to interpret, analyse, and combat fake news, and will provide participants with a practical toolkit that they can use in their activities.

Facilitator: Maiko Ratiani, Researcher, Media Development Foundation (MDF), Georgia

### **III. The Power of Youth Leadership in Advancing Young People's Access to Rights**

Youth have the passion, energy and creativity to challenge entrenched patterns of exclusion and injustice and are uniquely placed to bring positive change in society. The

workshop will introduce participants to concrete strategies and tools that youth leaders can use for successfully advocating for the participation of young people at the highest levels of decision-making.

Facilitator: Grigor Yeritsyan, Armenian Progressive Youth

#### **IV. Opportunities available to EaP Youth for Designing and Implementing Projects on Democracy and Resilience**

The workshop will discuss the main opportunities and programs available for youth in the EaP region, aimed at building democratic and resilient societies.

Facilitator: Behrooz Motamed-Afshari, Team Leader, EU4Youth Coordination and Support

**12:15 - 13:30      Lunch**

**13:30 - 15:00      World Café “Improving youth engagement mechanisms”**

For this session, the World Café method will be used. Several major questions are asked, and a corresponding number of groups of participants are set up and seated at café-style tables. Participants put down their ideas on tablecloths or placemats in the center of the table. One person remains at the table as a “table host” to welcome a new set of participants whereas the others travel to other tables, carrying key ideas, themes and questions into their new conversations. At the end, table hosts present their reports from the World-Café Groups.

The ultimate goal of the session is to draft a recommendation paper about how to improve mechanisms of youth engagement on local and national levels in the EaP. The recommendation paper will be shared with all EaP CSF members and stakeholders following the event.

**15:00 - 15:30      Coffee break**

**15:30 - 16:30      Revitalisation of Democracy Lab - Developing a joint statement with recommendations from the Youth Conference**

The session will invite participants to work together to adopt a Statement of the Youth Conference on the situation of democracy and human rights in the EaP region. The statement will include commitments and recommended actions for surmounting authoritarianism, radicalisation, nationalism and xenophobia, populism, and other anti-democratic tendencies in the EaP region, and will specify what participants demand of EU and EaP countries’ governments to do in this regard.



**16:30 – 16:45 Break**

**16:45 - 17:15 Closing ceremony and concluding remarks**

The closing ceremony will highlight the conclusions from the event and announce the winner of the photo competition.

**18:00 - 19:30 Farewell dinner**

**13 July 2022 - Departure of participants**