

# YOUTH AS A (FUTURE) (RE)SOURCE



Young BSF

31 August – 2 September 2019  
Ljubljana/Bled, Slovenija  
[www.bledstrategicforum.org](http://www.bledstrategicforum.org)

## ORGANIZING TEAM



**Nika Gregorin Juranovic**

Advisor  
Ministry of Education  
SLOVENIA

I am finishing my master thesis on European Identity (study programme Sociology of culture, University of Ljubljana), however I hold a bachelor's degree in European studies (University of Ljubljana). As a student, I work at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, department of International Cooperation and European Affairs Service. Bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of Education, Science and Sport are our main priority, as well the EU cooperation, especially in regard with upcoming Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU.



**Petja Oplotnik**

Student  
Faculty of Social Science, University of Ljubljana  
SLOVENIA

A student of international relations, who loves to meet new people, travel and is interested in Asian region. I am also learning Chinese, as well as speak German.



**Meliha Muherina**

Programme Director  
Young BSF 2019  
SLOVENIA/BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Meliha Muherina is a Project Manager at Centre for European Perspective, where she mostly focuses on role of youth and the Western Balkans Euro-Atlantic integrations. For last two years she is serving as a Programme Director of Young BSF 2019. She has graduated in International Relations at Faculty

of Social Science, University of Ljubljana. She is also a Vice President of Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations.

## PR TEAM



**Magdalena Rakovec**

Student  
Faculty of Social Science  
SLOVENIA

I have been an active member of the MUN Slovenia Club for which I served as Vice President in the year 2018/2019. The event of the year for the club is a 5-day international MUN conference called Salient. I have also participated in ŠIPK project writing guidelines for UNESCO creative cities application, volunteered at BSF as a member of the social media team, worked as a volunteer with migrants and was a member of the UN Slovenia Youth Association. My main areas of interest are development, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, Middle East and the international protection of the environment. I would like to gain experience and insight into international relations as one of the EU aid volunteers and get a job in a non-profit sector in my field of interest, hopefully somewhere abroad in the field.



**Giorgio Trichilo**

Master's Degree Student International Security Studies  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Università di Trento  
ITALY

Giorgio is completing his Master in International Security Studies and is passionate about geopolitics and political economy. He is currently an intern at the CEP, handling organizational work for the BSF and YBSF. He holds a bachelor in Political Science from LUISS University in Rome with a dissertation in international law on the theme of humanitarian demining in the framework of the Ottawa Convention.



**Laura Martinčič**  
Graphic Designer/Copywriter  
Revolver d.o.o.  
SLOVENIA

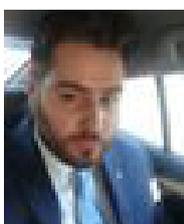
I got my bachelor's degree in International Relations. I was particularly interested in international business, which I successfully paired with working at an entrepreneurship accelerator. I have 5 years of experience working with startups and mentoring people, who are just starting their business journey. The achievement I'm most proud of is helping two startups get seed capital, and I wish to continue helping young businesses overcome all sorts of difficulties when starting out. Currently, I'm working as a Graphic Designer and Copywriter at an advertising agency.

## PARTICIPANTS



**Klajdi Kaziu**  
Graduate  
CIFE - Centre International de  
Formation Européenne  
ALBANIA

I consider myself as a highly motivated, strongly systematic and socially engaged person, who believes that a solid and sustainable democracy may only be achieved through massive and consistent civic activism. In this framework, I believe that the deep knowledge on how Europe currently works, its political, social, economic and cultural trends, that I possess, represent a valuable asset for this programme. In addition, I plan on utilizing my strong, analytical capacity, critical thinking and deliberative potential in the benefit of this organisation, thus triggering constructive discussion and exchange of ideas, which in conclusion may lead to new and innovative understandings of what being a citizen in an ever globalised world means, and to how we could make use of such a potential in the best interest of our communities.



**Elio Lleshi**  
Assistant Inspector  
HIDAACI  
ALBANIA

I'm a young professional currently residing in Tirana, Albania. My main drive is to improve myself day by day, as well as a positive attitude even in the face of defeat. My biggest achievement so far was the successful graduation for my MSc in Insurance & Risk Management at Cass Business School. My main objective for this forum is to learn as much as I can and also spread my knowledge and energy to help the forum in any way shape or form.



**Viviana Kalaejian**  
Attache in MFA Armenia  
Department of Europe – EU Division  
ARMENIA

I did my bachelor in International Relations and my Masters in International and European Law. During my studies I was introduced to the world of politics and learned about the different political systems and governing policies around the world. While studying International and European Law I was introduced to the main branches of international law, and explored the European Law. I continued my studies in the Diplomatic School of Armenia, after which I was admitted to work as an Attache in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.



**Adam Urosevic**  
Associate Fellow  
Austrian Institute for European and  
Security Policy  
AUSTRIA

Adam currently researches on EU-China relations and is a member of the "European Think Tank Network on China". He has previously worked for the Austrian Permanent Mission to the UN on nuclear security and proliferation matters, for a political risk consultancy on investment-related rule of law issues in the Western Balkans and, most recently, in the cabinet of the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. Adam is a graduate from University College London and Sciences Po Paris, where he focused on post-Soviet foreign and security policy. He speaks German, English, French, Russian, and Serbo-Croatian fluently as well as intermediate Mandarin.



**Billur Ahmadova**  
Attaché  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
AZERBAIJAN

I graduated from Azerbaijan State Economic University with a Bachelor of Economics and with a Master of Business Administration both with honors. I have been working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2018. From the very beginning of my work in the Ministry, I was appointed as an executive secretary for negotiations between EU and Azerbaijan on the new bilateral agreement, which helped me to improve my negotiation skills. I am also a desk officer of the EU – Azerbaijan Partnership Priorities document, as well as for cooperation under ENP and EaP. My ambition to learn best practices and expand my network of foreign colleagues inspired me to apply for YBSF.



**Dmitry Shchepachev**  
 First Secretary  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
 Republic of Belarus  
 REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Mr. Dmitry Shchepachev holds the position of a First Secretary of the Directorate General for Europe and North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and deals with cooperation with the European Union and European sub-regional organizations.



**Cocou Marius Mensah**  
 Research Associate  
 University of Maribor  
 BENIN

Dr Mensah C. Marius is a Research Associate at the Law Faculty of the University of Maribor. He is from Benin Republic but completed elementary and high schools studies in Ottawa, Canada and International legal studies in Moscow. He successfully defended his PhD degree in 2015 on the regulations of the use of natural resources in West Africa under the conditions of Climate Change. He has acquired extensive experience from living in multicultural societies and speaks English, French, Russian, Slovenian and two African languages.



**Mak Selimovic**  
 President  
 BiH Association for United Nations  
 BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mak is a passionate activist for regional reconciliation and cooperation. He graduated from Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service where he developed a strong interest for Peace and Justice studies, regional cooperation and development. In the past, Mak served for the United Nations - ICTY and was a member of BiH's delegation to the UNODC Congress. Mak currently heads the Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations. Mak is fluent in English and Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, and thinks he still remembers some German and Arabic.



**Kemal Nedzibovic**  
 Representative Associate for Digital  
 Media Marketing  
 Europa-Universität Flensburg &  
 CENSOR  
 BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA BOSNIA  
 HERZEGOVINA/GERMANY

Kemal Nedžibović holds a Master's degree in European Studies from the Europa-Universität Flensburg in Germany, where he holds a scholarship of the Ger-

man foundation Konrad Adenauer. He is educated in the field of European law and politics and European integration. He has previously completed undergraduate studies at the International Relations and European Studies Department at the Burch University in Sarajevo. Currently he works on the project HOLICOB in Bosnia-Herzegovina, focusing on housing and living conditions of young people. He holds the Erhard Busek Award for outstanding dedication and commitment to European integration, the UNICEF Award for the Best Youth Project in BiH, the Schuler Helfen Award for the cross-border cooperation project and governmental awards for the youth work in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



**Jana Juzová**  
 Research Fellow  
 EUROPEUM  
 CZECH REPUBLIC

I work as a Research Fellow in the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy in Prague while also pursuing my PhD at the Masaryk University in Brno. In the past, I studied for one semester at the University of Bologna and did an internship in the EULEX Mission to Kosovo and Institute of International Relations in Prague. In my research, I focus primarily on the Western Balkans, its democratization process and European integration but also on the Visegrad cooperation and regional cooperation in general. Currently, I lead two international projects – one dealing with reconciliation in Visegrad countries and in the Western Balkans and one focused on supporting independent journalists in Serbia.



**Amélie Jaques-Apke**  
 Head of the Franco-German  
 Department  
 EuropaNova  
 FRANCE

Currently head of the Franco-German department of the think tank Europa Nova in Paris (multilateral EU projects and research) and co-teaching at SciencesPo Paris, I had several missions in the public sector (French Parliament, Ministry of Interior, Delegation of the EU in Washington D.C.). Main interests : Franco-German innovation, European integration/fragmentation dynamics, diplomatic security policy, Internet & Society, Research and Innovation. Before, I researched on Franco-German security policy after the Berlin Wall and the diplomatic security environment at SciencesPo Paris and Cergy Pontoise. Previously working at the Franco-German Youth Office (OFAJ) and the Ministry of Interior in Paris (refugees, asylum and European Affairs) and the European Union Delegation in Washington DC (PSD section).

**Tamar Papavadze**

Counsellor  
MFA Georgia  
GEORGIA

Mrs. Papavadze joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in 2016. Throughout her career, Tamar has worked on various regions with main focus on bilateral relations, she has covered Central Asia, the Pacific and Eastern Europe. Currently, she performs as a desk officer for the UK. Mrs. Papavadze also pursues an academic career. Tamar holds MA the Degree in Peace and Conflict Research from Uppsala University. She also studied at Tbilisi and Lomonosov Moscow State Universities in the framework of the BA Programme. As a young diplomat, Tamar aspires to develop a professional career and serve her country at best of her abilities.

**Jessica Berlin**

Founder and Managing Director  
CoStruct  
GERMANY

A security and foreign policy expert turned sustainable business and development innovator, Jessica Berlin helps governments, companies, foundations, and nonprofits tackle global challenges with sustainable, scalable solutions. As founder and Managing Director of CoStruct, she designs innovative PPP, CSR, and economic development programs that drive both business growth and societal impact. Her work is grounded in 12+ years of cross-cutting experience in foreign policy, security, economic development, entrepreneurship, and tech innovation in Africa, Asia, Europe, MENA, and the US. A frequent panelist and keynote speaker, Jessica's TEDx talk on the transatlantic democratic crisis has been described as "one of the most powerful and inspiring TED talks". She holds an M.Sc. in Political Economy of Emerging Markets from King's College London, a B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University, and speaks five languages.

**Ferenc Nemeth**

Researcher  
Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade  
HUNGARY

I hold a Master's degree in International Relations from the Corvinus University of Budapest and I am enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Joint Master's Programme in Southeast European Studies at the University of Graz. I had 19 articles and 5 analyses published, participated in as well as organized 12 scientific conferences – including one at UC Berkeley – on topics related to the Western Balkans and/or security studies. Owing to my experience as a journalist and as an intern within the Press Office of the EULEX, I am

a strong advocate for media freedom, effective (online and offline) communication strategies and the Euro-Atlantic integration.

**Federika Fait**

Co-founder and Board Member  
V4SDG  
HUNGARY, ITALY

I am the co-founder, board member and Hungarian Country Lead of V4SDG - Visegrad for Sustainability, a youth-led non-profit initiative aimed at encouraging cooperation and action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the countries of the Visegrad Group, namely the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Our ultimate goal is to make sustainability integral to decision-making in the respective countries and to build a platform for know-how and best practice sharing in the V4.

**Lilla Judit Bartuszek**

Relations Team Officer  
V4SDG  
HUNGARY

A Hungarian law student and an aspiring diplomat. My fields of interest are public international and European Law, international relations and diplomacy. My biggest aim is to work for EU and UN institutions one day, and in the meantime I'm proud to be part of several youth-led initiatives and organisations, since I honestly believe that by showing example, we can motivate our generation in great length. Beside being a law student, I often participate in MUN conferences, other UN-related workshops, seminars and conferences relating to the field of international relations.

**Krenar Shala**

Researcher  
The Balkan Forum  
KOSOVO

Krenar Shala is a researcher and MA Graduate in International Relations. His primary focus is in analyzing the regional integration and security context of the Western Balkans. In addition, he is also a civil society activist. He has been engaged in various initiatives that aimed to foster change through advocating for adjusting public policies according to the citizens' needs. He is also active as a political analyst contributing to the most well-known media outlets by giving opinions concerning internal political dynamics as well as regional.



**Emir Hasanovikj**  
Program Development Officer  
Chemonics  
NORTH MACEDONIA

Development professional with extensive experience in media, public relations and government advisory. Previously worked in the US, Qatar and currently in North Macedonia. Very passionate about development, civic engagement, media freedom, and regional cooperation. Program Development Officer at Chemonics by day, mediocre guitar player after hours. Graduate of Georgetown University '14.



**Dejan Ilioski**  
Executive Director  
European Youth Association  
NORTH MACEDONIA

The curiosity and the urge to discover new things, to discover news is my biggest driver. I am motivated by my dreams and I work with sincere heart toward achieving them. I am motivated by great leaders such as Mandela, Jobs... They always motivate me to do the hard work with systematic rules and regulations. Set high goals, be honest, never say no and work with people who share your passion for doing their best. I am very self motivated, determined and honest.



**Enisa Musai**  
Erasmus Coordinator  
EMUNI University  
SLOVENIA/NORTH MACEDONIA

I am always challenging my self to explore new places, new people and new knowledge. I see my participation at Young BSF as a new experience in combination with the above-mentioned features. This year's topics are so interesting and will be very beneficial to my career as an Erasmus coordinator that is all about youth, mobilities, education, and innovation. Because of the impacts that come from Artificial Integelligence, technological and business development, the job markets are witnessing dynamic changes and most young people fail to cope with so many requirements. I want to learn from best practices that we will share with everyone at Young BSF and contribute with this knowledge in the workplace and most importantly, in the society where I live.



**Ivan Nikolovski**  
Junior Researcher  
Intitute for Democracy  
NORTH MACEDONIA

I graduated from the Political Science Programme from the Central European University in Budapest obtaining an MA degree in Political Science with a specialisation in Comparative Politics. The main fields of my academic and professional interests include European integration / Europeanisation, international affairs, divided and post-conflict societies as well as social movements. I have authored or co-authored fifteen works on European integration, international affairs, and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans including policy briefs, commentaries, and book chapters.



**Vadim Sobol**  
Government of Moldova  
MFA  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

I love to travel and visit other countries and cultures, get to know different people and traditions. I also like to spend my time surrounded by people with whom I can find interesting subjects to talk about and have a real dialogue. Apart from that I like sports, especially football, swimming and to read a good book.



**Aleksandar Vucinic**  
Executive Director  
OMSA  
MONTENEGRO/HUNGARY

Bachelor graduate in Power Engineering. Ongoing Master studies in the field of International Business and Economics. Executive director of Organization of Montenegrins Studying Abroad(OMSA). Passionate about and devoted to the belief that students that are pursuing their studies abroad can give tangible contribution to the growth and development of the home country. Acting in the way to stimulate young fellow citizens from abroad to establish professional, scientific and other types of cooperation. Various projects and activities have been carried out throughout the active role of Aleksandar in OMSA.



**Aleksandra Pikus**

President  
BETA Poland (Bringing European Together Association)  
POLAND

Aleksandra is leading Polish branch of BETA Europe network (BETA - 'Bringing Europeans Together Association'). Since 2014, BETA Poland is organising its annual conference 'Model European Union Warsaw' with an aim to support European education through explanation of functioning and aims of the European Union and to encourage youth to participate in decision-making processes. Additionally, as an NGO, BETA Poland aims to encourage youth to act towards the development of the EU, fostering mutual understanding and international cooperation. Personally, Aleksandra is graduating in International Economics with a Master Thesis focusing on regional convergence process across EU regions.



**Daniel Gheorghe**

Researcher  
Centre of Israeli Studies, Bucharest  
ROMANIA

Daniel Gheorghe is currently working at Centre of Israeli Studies within the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest. He is also a PhD student with a topic covering the relations between the European Union and Israel. Daniel has been for almost 5 months a trainee with the European Commission where he worked with the European Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism. His interests cover areas like international affairs, security, European politics, Middle East and Russian foreign policy. Besides English language, Daniel is fluent in Russian, and Hebrew.



**Strahinja Subotic**

Researcher  
European Policy Centre Belgrade  
SERBIA

I work as a researcher at the European Policy Centre in Belgrade and I am a PhD candidate in Political Science. Over the past few years I have dedicated myself to arguing that the Western Balkans are an essential part of the European puzzle. As the problems Europe faces today are increasing in number and complication, I believe that only joint action can lead to success. One way to find solutions is by building connections at events such as this. Hence, at this event, I hope to meet people from whom I can learn, and with whom I can share my own ideas.



**Jovana Stajic**

Marketing Coordinator  
Criterion AI  
SERBIA/DENMARK

I have a BA degree in Scandinavian studies and a MA degree in Political Sciences, with focus on Peace studies and conflict resolution. At the moment, I am living in Copenhagen where I am working as a marketing coordinator in a Danish startup named Criterion AI. Criterion AI is a platform that improves Pharma industry with the use of Artificial Intelligence. Even though I am currently working in a different field, I am very dedicated to peace and conflict resolution and I am very happy challenging myself all the time since it helps me learn new things and gain new skills.



**Juraj Hajko**

Project Manager  
SFPA  
SLOVAKIA

Researcher and project manager in SFPA with main focus on EU, France and Balkans. Worked in media and NGO sector before entering SFPA. Reported on EU topics as a foreign correspondent in Brussels. Holds degree in International Relations from Masaryk University, Czech Republic.



**Mart Dekleva**

Managing Director  
Adriatic Business Group  
SLOVENIA

I take pride in the integrity for which I am known among business partners and clients; I have worked beyond my personal limits while still having fun, to earn that reputation while running my own business. With a proven record of performing well under pressure, I always aspire to improve results in all the areas of my endeavors and aim to deliver on my promises. As one of my proudest achievements I would mention that I was able to provide logistics services to competing companies, which, in spite of this fact, all continue to use the services of my company, for they know only too well they can all always count on our integrity.

**Adriana Aralica**

Policy and Information Officer  
SLOGA Platform  
SLOVENIA

Adriana Aralica is a human rights and development enthusiast, currently working with two NGOs. As the Policy and Information Officer with the NGO Platform SLOGA, she focuses on advocacy activities on the Sustainable Development Goals (she attended the UN Sustainable Development Summit in 2015) and migration-development nexus. Her tasks as the Expert Associate with the Legal-Informational Centre for NGOs, include research and advocacy activities on migrant children's rights, with focus on unaccompanied children (she is a deputy member of the Government Working Group developing the care system for unaccompanied children). She is the Capacity Building for NGOs Working with Refugee Communities in Europe Professional Fellow by the U.S. State Department (2016) and the International Visitors Leadership Program on Refugee Integration participant (2018).

**Veronika Rožmanc**

Entrepreneur  
OLI  
SLOVENIA

Veronika Rožmanc is a young slovenian designer with a unique sense of aesthetics who keeps in mind the environmental aspect of her products. This vision is particularly embraced in her product OLI, a multifunctional tent designed for children in shape of a whale. In fact, Oli is not only a tent which enhances child's imagination but also a fashionable piece of furniture which brings freshness to every home.

**Nikolina Cenic**

Communities Protection Officer  
OSCE Mission in Kosovo  
BIH/SLOVENIA/KOSOVO

Young professional working on human rights, minorities' protection and migration. Studied both in Ljubljana and Prague and about to become a proud holder of a Master's degree in Defence Studies. Currently, at the OSCE Mission in Kosovo focusing on return migration and inter-community dialogue. Previously engaged with EULEX, European Defence Agency as well as civil society sector in Slovenia. MUNer by heart.

**Urban Jakša**

PhD Student  
University of York  
SLOVENIA

Urban is currently completing a PhD in Politics at the University of York. His dissertation focuses on geopolitics of 'frozen conflicts' in post-Soviet space, specifically the foreign policies of unrecognized and partially recognized states. His wider interests include women peace and security (UNSCR 1325), ethnic conflict, political transitions, borders and security in its wider sense (human, ontological). Urban is currently one of twelve UN Alliance of Civilizations 2019 Fellows. In 2016-2017, he was a Fulbright scholar at Columbia University and a year before that a visiting researcher at the Higher School of Economics Moscow.

**Maja Stanišič**

Researcher  
Regional Academy on the United Nations  
SLOVENIA

Maja is currently pursuing her masters degree in law (LLM) in Ljubljana. She graduated from the field of International Environmental Law (Bachelor of Law - LLB) and from the field of Epistemological Anarchism (Bachelor of Political Sciences - BSc). Currently she is working in a law firm in Ljubljana and participating as a researcher at the Regional Academy on the United Nations: "Environmental and Socioeconomic Sustainability: How to Create Lasting Impacts, where her research focuses on IoT (4.0. Industrial Revolution technology) application in developing countries.

**Katarina Trstenjak**

Expert Associate  
Jozef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana  
SLOVENIA

I currently work at Jozef Stefan Institute-Energy efficiency centre, where I joined the team on the LIFE project Climate Path 2050. I have been involved with climate change for several years. As part of mine marine ecology studies (University of Bremen, Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research) I spent half a year in Ghana researching coastal erosion. Under the aegis of the British Council, I was chosen as a climate advocate. I am also collaborating with WWF-Adria on marine topics. Being a geographer and a (marine) ecologist, I share an interdisciplinary view on environmental topics.



**Dominik Derencin**  
Project Officer  
National Youth Council of Slovenia  
SLOVENIA

Dominik Derencin is a project officer at the National Youth Council of Slovenia. He works on development of youth politics and participation. Furthermore, he is genuinely passionate about research.



**Oleksandra Garshyna**  
Senior Assistant  
OSCE Office for Democratic  
Institutions and Human Rights  
(ODIHR)  
POLAND/UKRAINE

At ODIHR Oleksandra is involved in project coordination work. Prior to joining ODIHR she was a Fellow in the EU funded project "Association4U", providing support to the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. Oleksandra's previous professional experience includes also positions within the public administration in Ukraine, in particular at the Directorate of Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. She holds a Master Degree in Public Policy, jointly awarded by Barcelona Institute of International Studies (Spain) and Central European University (Hungary), and a Bachelor Degree in Law from Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs (Ukraine).



**Nikita Biloblovskyi**  
Diplomat  
Government of Ukraine  
UKRAINE

Young Ukrainian diplomat who is constantly striving for the better understanding of the European geopolitical landscape.



**Anna Korienieva**  
Secretary General  
Model UN Prague  
UKRAINE/CZECH REPUBLIC

Anna is a student of International Relations and Affairs at the University of Economics in Prague. Desire to make this world a better place to live motivated her to join MUN Prague organization, where she has been active member for three years and has started her new position as Secretary General. MUN Prague is a student organization that arranges and participates in various international conferences. Its main focus in this arena is the organization of the Model United Nations conference which is held annually in Prague. Anna has taken part in numerous MUNs around Europe, among others in Germany, France and United Kingdom. In past years she has completed two exchange programs - in the US and in Germany. Having itchy feet she is very passionate about travelling and craves to see the whole world.