

B101-Summit 100 Young Leaders of South-Eastern Europe (27.11.-29.11.2015., hotel Crowne Plaza, Belgrade, Serbia)

REPORT

The Summit of 100 Young Leaders of Southeastern Europe gathered promising young people from the entire region for three days of lectures, learning, discussion and friendship in Belgrade late November 2015. The idea was to reknit the ripped multi-ethnic ties among the youth following the wars in the 90ties, infuse them with hope, give them a perspective and provide them with tools of the trade to achieve their dreams of success in a new society as befits the 21st century. The tightly-scheduled event assembling talented Serbs, Albanians, Bosniaks, Montenegrins, Croats, Slovenes, Greeks and Macedonians was such a success that the organizers agree it must become a traditional annual gathering.

The Summit was organized by Network for Business Development in partnership with the USA embassy in Serbia, the School for Young Leaders under the auspice of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, East-West Bridge, World Bank and Wharton Business School through Ideas for Action program, Serbian Trilateral Commission Group, Ministry of youth and sport in Republic of Serbia, City of Belgrade, Tagoras, and other partners from the region. Corporate sponsors of event were ERSTE bank, Delta Holding, Gorenje, NLB bank, Coca Cola.

The Summit started on Friday Nov 27, 2015 with the opening ceremony and speeches of Mayor of Belgrade Siniša Mali, Adviser to Serbian Prime minister Vladimir Božović, President of East West Bridge and Chairman of the Serbian Trilateral Commission Group Jovan Kovačić and President of Organisational Board and Summit Founder Marija Jelić.

The speakers stressed the need for regional collaboration between youth, prospective of building better entrepreneurship environment. Furthermore, they mentioned the importance of leadership from youth side and initiative of building bridges together for a brighter common future and dealing with the past without prejudice.





First panel discussion with title: **Venture Capitalists & Investment Funds**, with moderator Mihajlo Delić and next participants: *Daniel Berg, director at EBRD, Serbia; Rza Aliyev, private investment banker at ANDBANK, Spain; Djordjija Petkoski, ex adviser at World Bank and professor at Wharton Business School, USA; Hrvoje Stojic, Economic Research Director, Hypo Alpe Adria Bank, Croatia; Branko Greganović, President of Executive Board NLB Bank, Serbia.* Main discussion was about making good environment for investments. Also, one of the points was how to get investment, green field investment or how to catch up with venture capitalist fund.



Second panel discussion with title: **INNOVATION – Silver Bullet, Necessary Evil or Something In - between?**, with moderator Daniel Gjakjeski and next participants: *Gjoni Lorenc, director American Chambre of Commerce, Albania; Dan Carbanaru, director at European Media Connections, Romania; Drazen Komarica, Graduate Harvard University - John F. Kennedy School of Government (2012, MPA), Senior Executive Advisor to the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014-2015), advisor to Minister of Justice, Croatia (2005-2008); Endri Mataj, Co-Founder of ARPAD Parners, ex ICT adviser to Prime Minister, Albania.* How to be creative when almost everything is founded? What we have inside us to start innovation process and how to find creativity around us or in us? What is difference between Innovation and failure?



After two panels we move forward with **World Café: Coaching for Tomorrow's Leaders - TODAY's Youth, TOMOROW's Leaders**, lead by Carmen Majetić Pavić and speakers *Vedrana Jelušić Kašić*, director at EBRD, Croatia; *Nevena Radovanović*, Erste banka, Chief of HR department Erste Bank Serbia; *Daniela Bervar Kotolenko*, CEO, Buisness Intelligence Center, Slovenia; Igor Zgrabljić, Secretary-General, Foreign Investors Council Croatia / CEO, Eleos Consulting Ltd. In this part speakers were talking about ways of leadership, how to create leader in people and what are ways in learning about leadership.

We awarded one lucky participant with an MBA at Cotrugli Business School.

On Saturday, Nov 28, we started with the panel **Leadership – How to Inspire Young People in Transition Time** lead by Nataša Pavlović Bujas with participants: *Vedrana Jelušić Kašić*, director at EBRD, Croatia; *Jovan Kovačić*, Chairmen of Serbian Trilateral Group Commission, Serbia; *Nenad Borovčanin*, state secretary in Ministry of Youth and Sport, Serbia; *Veljko Lalic*, CEO Nedeljnik, Serbia. Panelists were discussing about ways of youth leadership empowerment, team working, dealing with the problems and pushing governments from youth side to build programs which can be helpful for youth.

After leadership panel we move forward with lecture Andrew Rabens, "**Entrepreneurship as a vehicle for youth empowerment and leadership**", Special Adviser to Secretary of State for Youth Global Issues, USA. Mr. Rabens informed us about his global work with youth and possibilities we can do and build together. After short introduction about his work and activities in next period, he was talking about entrepreneurship on facts, motivated young people and give them tools how to start and believe in their ideas.



Title of next lecture was **Being a leader** by Marija Desivojević Cvetković, vice president of Delta Holding where she had storytelling about leadership and through examples motivated young people about taking initiative and building their futures by them own.



Next part of conference was roundtable **Agribusiness in SEE – potentials** where moderator was Miroslav Kuskunović, Spokesperson, Public Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Croatia *and participants were Zvezdana Blažić, (ex)Assistant Minister of Agriculture, Croatia; Jan Marinac, president, Croatian Farmers Association AGRO; Zoran Rajic, state secretary in Ministry of agriculture, Serbia; Ivan Kostić director Delta Agrar, Serbia; Djordjija Petkoski professor Wharton Business School, USA.* Panelists were talking about potential of youth engaging in agribusiness and involving government in youth programs also with chambers of commerce. We have also heard good example from best agro-company in Serbia, Delta Agrar and their programs for students.



Panel SUPERSTE was branded panel by ERSTE bank where we had unique opportunity to hear young talented people with their ideas which were presented in front of investors, speakers at conference, mentors, venture capitalist.



Open platform for Start ups was part of conference where we had start ups from SEE presented their business plans and engaged audience to discuss about possibility of collaboration.

Presentation of program Ideas for Action powered by Wharton Business School and World Bank Group was presented by Djordjija Petkoski founder of program where he informed participants about competition and deadlines. Also, he mentioned great opportunity through this competition to grow up ideas which they suggested.



On Sunday 29.11.2015. we started with lecture **Conflict Frozen and Forgotten**, Iulian Chifu, Founder of Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Center and ex adviser to President of Romania, Romania where he was talking about history but also possible solutions to deal with conflicts in time of transition.



First panel on Sunday was **ENTREPRENEURSHIP – Way of Living / How to start, develop and survive?** lead by Ivana Popcev and with participants: *Vladimir Marinković, vicepresident at National Assembly, Serbia; George Meyer, owner at The Meyers Group, USA; Maryaam Atmar, owner at MAIH Group, USA; Slobodan Djinovic, owner Orion Telekom, Serbia; Boris Turkić, owner M+ International Services Agency, Croatia.* Because of variety of speakers we had opportunity to hear that next year in Serbia will be Year of Entrepreneurship, also we have seen good examples of starting businesses in the USA but also in Serbia and Croatia. What does it mean to live American dream and how all of us can be part of this.

The last panel was : **Business & Academic Community / Building Bridge Between Business and Academy**, where moderator was Sanja Domazet Daničić and participants were *Nakia Douglas, director at Barack Obama Leadership Academy, USA; Marko Pavić, owner at PAVKON consulting, Croatia; Aurora Martin, Senior Adviser, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, National Agency for Equal Opportunities; Walter Andrusyszyn, professor at USF, ex director at National Security Council at White House, USA; Prof.Zoran Ilievski, Political Affairs Adviser to the President of the Republic of Macedonia and Coordinator of the School of Young Leaders.*



Last lecture on Summit was lecture powered by **Maura Sweeney, American Journalist and Next Gen Thought Leadership** with title **"Exploring A New Paradigm in Sustainable Leadership."**

This lecture designed to inspire sustainable leadership for a new millennium discussed several items of interest for individuals working in any arena or discipline. It covered the origins and meaning of leadership as well as differences between traditional and new leadership paradigms. More importantly, it was focused on how changing one's perspectives and expectations from within help create uplift and innovative solutions in organizations, institutions, business and society. Expectations to leave this lecture feeling empowered, enlightened and positively charged.



Concrete Conclusions from first Summit 100 Young Leaders are:

- 1. Starting with Association of Young Entrepreneurs of SEE**
- 2. Starting online magazine RISE – Radical Innovation for Sustainable Economy**
- 3. Next Summit will be organize in Croatia in the end of May**
- 4. In each country making one day event/workshop where young people will write ideas and be part of competition Ideas for Action on world level.**

