



BOOK OF PENALISTS AND SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

BENJAMIN HADDAD

Minister Delegate for European Affairs of the French Republic

Benjamin Haddad is Minister Delegate for Europe and a former Member of the French National Assembly for Paris. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris and HEC, he worked as a researcher and lecturer in international relations and spent several years in Washington, including as Director of the Atlantic Council's Europe Center.

His political work has focused on European affairs, foreign policy, security, migration, and strategic autonomy. As an MP, he served on the Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees, chaired the France-Ukraine Friendship Group, and worked on issues including terrorist content online, the Wagner Group, and EU migration policy.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PETER FELTEN

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro

Peter Felten is the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro, a position he has held since August 2022. He is a German diplomat with extensive international experience and a background in economics, having studied at the universities of Augsburg and Lyon before joining the German diplomatic service in 1993.

Throughout his career, he has served in German diplomatic missions in Russia, Portugal, Pakistan, Iraq, and South Sudan, where he became Germany's first ambassador after the country's independence. He has also worked on human rights, international cooperation, and humanitarian assistance within the German Federal Foreign Office. Before coming to Montenegro, he served as Deputy Head of the German Embassy in Baghdad.





FROM PARIS TO BUDVA: A DECADE OF YOUTH, DIALOGUE, AND CHANGE



PANELIST

MAIDA GORČEVIĆ

Minister of European Affairs

Maida Gorčević is the Minister of European Affairs of Montenegro and a former Member of Parliament. She graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Montenegro, specializing in civil law, and is currently working on her Master's thesis. From 2012 to 2020, she worked at the publishing house Nova knjiga, where she led book promotion strategies, coordinated the International Podgorica Book Fair, and managed international literary projects.

During the 42nd Government of Montenegro, she served as Advisor to the Prime Minister for Minorities, focusing on human, minority, and youth rights. She also chaired the Management Board of the Official Gazette of Montenegro and served on several government committees. Mrs. Gorčević is an alumna of the U.S. State Department's IVLP program on Women, Peace and Security and a member of the Women's Leadership Network. She speaks fluent English and has basic knowledge of Italian and Russian.



PANELIST

MIODRAG MILOSAVLJEVIĆ

Deputy Director for WB at Open Society Foundation

Miodrag is Deputy Director for the Western Balkans at the Open Society Foundations, based in Belgrade. Working closely with the Director, he oversees cross-regional programmatic work and coordinates a diverse regional team. His work focuses on the Europeanisation of the Western Balkans, democratic institutions, just green transition, digital rights, and anti-corruption.

He has extensive experience in democratic reforms, citizen participation, and oversight of public institutions. Previously, he worked with the Center for Free Elections and Democracy on political party finance, local governance, and election monitoring. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Belgrade and specialized at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia and Montenegro.



PANELIST

ANDREA MIĆANOVIĆ

Former RYCO Youth Governing Board Representative

Andrea Mićanović is a legal and public policy expert with extensive experience in youth policy, human rights, regional reconciliation, cooperation, and youth participation in decision-making. She has contributed to youth policy development at national, regional, and European levels, including as a former member of the Governing Board of RYCO and Observer to the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth. She has worked with national institutions, civil society, regional initiatives, and international partners on democracy, social inclusion, and civic participation. As former Program Manager at CEDEM, she led projects supporting a more enabling environment for young people. She is a Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Law of the University of Donja Gorica, a PhD candidate at the University of Miskolc, a Researcher at the Central European Academy, and founder of Solon Legal Consulting.



PANELIST

TOBIAS BÜTOW

Secretary General of the
Franco-German Youth Office

Tobias Bütow is the German Secretary General of the Franco-German Youth Office, a position he has held since 2019. He is a historian and political scientist by background, with experience in youth education, remembrance culture, and international cooperation.

Throughout his career, he has worked at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the OSCE Mission in Sarajevo, the German Historical Museum in Berlin, and the Wannsee Conference Memorial. He also led international mobility and education programmes at CIFE in Nice, including projects for DAAD. He is a co-founder of the Franco-German Cultural Centre in Nice, a board member of the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe, and a jury member for the Adenauer–De Gaulle Prize.



PANELIST

KRESHNIK LOKA

RYCO Deputy Secretary General

Mr. Loka is Deputy Secretary General of RYCO, after previously serving for eight years as Head of RYCO's Local Branch Office in Tirana. He has over ten years of experience in youth policy and regional youth cooperation, working across international organizations, civil society, and public administration. His expertise includes project management, intercultural learning and dialogue, dealing with the past, reconciliation, human rights, and youth participation.

During his work with Albania's National Youth Agency, he represented the Albanian government in the process of establishing RYCO. He has also worked as a youth policy expert for several international and local organizations, including the European Commission–Council of Europe Youth Partnership and USAID. He holds law degrees from the University of Tirana and an MSc in Human Rights from LSE, completed in 2023 as a Chevening Scholar.



MODERATOR

BOJANA LALATOVIĆ

RYCO Program Coordinator

Bojana Lalatović is a Program Coordinator at RYCO, working on regional cooperation, youth engagement, reconciliation, peacebuilding, democratic development and EU integration of the Western Balkans. She holds a Master's degree in European Integration from the University of Belgrade and is pursuing a PhD in International Public Law, focusing on CFSP and democracy promotion in the region.

Her experience includes work with We Balkans, the Council of Europe's Horizontal Facility, anti-hate speech campaigns, The Balkan Forum, and other regional initiatives. She has published academic articles and received several awards and scholarships, including the EU DG NEAR Youth Activist Award, the Cohesion Builder Award, the British Scholarship Trust award for research stay at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and the KAS Rule of Law scholarship. She speaks Montenegrin/Serbian, English, Russian, and Italian.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

LARS WESTRA

European Union Youth Delegate
to the United Nations

Lars Westra (19) is the EU Youth Delegate to the United Nations. He represents the voices of young people from the European Union at the UN and other international events by giving speeches, participating in negotiations and meeting with diplomats.

He works to bridge the gap between young people and institutions such as the EU and the UN by encouraging diplomats and policymakers to actively listen to youth, while empowering young people to value their own opinions and stand up for their views.





REGION IN MOTION: YOUTH SKILLS, MOBILITY AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS



PANELIST

MATTHIAS HERR

Project Manager, SOS Children's Villages International, North Macedonia

Matthias Herr is Regional Director for Eastern Europe at Helvetas, where he leads programmes and partnerships across the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe focused on inclusive economic development, governance, skills development, and systems-oriented approaches to sustainable change. Based in Belgrade, he oversees a regional portfolio spanning 11 countries and works closely with governments, private sector actors, civil society, and international donors to promote youth employment, market inclusion, and regional cooperation.

With more than 20 years of experience in international development and regional cooperation, Matthias has led and supported initiatives in vocational education and training, labour market systems development, private sector engagement, and green and digital economic transformation. He is a strong advocate for youth inclusion and for creating economic opportunities that enable young people to actively shape the future of the Western Balkans.



PANELIST

DARKO IVANOVIĆ

Founder of Digital Den Hub, Montenegro

He graduated in Film and TV Directing and received a Humphrey Fulbright Scholarship in 2015 at Arizona State University, where he specialized in mass communication and developed his entrepreneurial skills. He also worked as a video producer at CNN New York in 2016 and was named Montenegro's Innovator of the Year in 2019 for patenting "The Badger," a wearable digital badge for conferences, tourism, and trade fairs.

He is a co-founder of Digital Den venture studio, which supports innovative startups seeking investment in the U.S. and EU, and has led accelerator programs across several regions. Previously, he was known as a media innovator, journalist, author, and editor-in-chief, creating shows such as Insider, Intriga, and Robin Hood. He has produced over 1,000 TV shows, 100 documentaries, and numerous campaigns, and works as a media consultant and lecturer on digital marketing, entrepreneurship, and campaign management.



PANELIST

DARKO RADIČANIN

Director of Junior Achievement, Serbia

Darko Radičanin has 34 years of experience in strategic project design and management. He studied at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering at the University of Belgrade, gained professional knowledge at the Adizes Institute SEE, and graduated from the Aviation Academy in Belgrade.

After ten years in sales and marketing, he shifted his career toward the development and implementation of USAID community development programs, working with CHF International, Booz Allen Hamilton, and DAI. He has experience working with national and local government officials, designing sustainable programs, tracking performance indicators, and leading teams. His cooperation with Junior Achievement began in 2003, and he officially joined JA Serbia in 2010.



PANELIST

ARSILD TEPELIJA

Program Analyst, WB Open
Society Foundations

Arsild Tepelija is a Program Analyst at the Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans, working on European Union Integration and Regional Cooperation program. His work covers EU enlargement in the region, the socio-economic and policy convergence of the Western Balkans with the Union, and the role of civil society in shaping the accession process. He coordinates the pillar's youth-related initiatives, which bring young people from across the region into the enlargement debate, support youth-led organizations doing policy and advocacy work, and push their analysis into Berlin Process and EU channels.

Arsild holds an MSc in Law and Economics of the European Union from Sapienza University of Rome, where his studies focused on the legal and economic architecture of European integration. He worked for several years across think tanks and civil society organizations on regional cooperation, EU integration, and democratic reform, with a continuous involvement in youth organizations along the way.



PANELIST

KORNELIJA CIPUSEVA

Project Manager, SOS Children's Villages International, North Macedonia

Kornelija Cipuseva is a senior programme and partnership management professional with over 20 years of experience in international development, regional cooperation, and youth empowerment across the Western Balkans. Currently serving as Regional Project Manager at SOS Children's Villages International, she leads the multi-country Youth Empowerment Enabling Prospects (YEEP) programme implemented across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia. YEEP is focused on youth employability, social inclusion, skills development, and economic opportunities for marginalized groups, including women, Roma communities, and young people transitioning from alternative care.

She has extensive experience managing complex donor-funded programmes, regional partnerships, grants and sub-granting mechanisms, monitoring and evaluation systems, and stakeholder engagement with governments, civil society, and international donors.



MODERATOR

BRENTON BËNJA

Tech Journalist, Geek Room

Brenton Bënja is a tech journalist, producer, and the founder of Geek Room, a media ecosystem dedicated to digital innovation in the Western Balkans. With extensive experience in high-end media production and regional tech ecosystems, he specialises in bridging the gap between emerging technology and professional development. Brenton is a passionate advocate for youth empowerment, leveraging his platform to champion education, digital skills, and sustainable economic growth across the WB6.





YOUTH-LED PEACE AND SECURITY

BUILDING RESILIENT SOCIETIES ACROSS GENERATIONS



PANELIST

CAROLINE TISSOT

Resident United Nations Coordinator
in Montenegro

Ms. Caroline Tissot is a Swiss development cooperation, humanitarian aid, and peacebuilding professional with more than 30 years of experience. She has served as Regional Head of Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission at the Swiss Embassy in Amman, Director of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, Deputy Regional Director for the Great Lakes based in Rwanda, and Senior Advisor at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Bern.

She also headed Switzerland's peacebuilding program in the Western Balkans and previously held several senior roles with the International Committee of the Red Cross, including in South-East Asia, Guatemala, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. In 2008–2009, she chaired the International Working Group on Missing Persons between Serbia and Kosovo. She holds a master's degree in economics and a post-graduate diploma in development management.



PANELIST

ANDI RABIAJ

Executive Director of the Youth Voice Network of Organizations

Andi Rabiaj is the Executive Director of the Youth Voice Network of Organizations (YVNO). He is a public health and youth development professional from Albania with experience in youth participation, gender equality, peer education, peacebuilding, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Since 2016, he has led YVNO in empowering young people, especially those from marginalized communities, through non-formal education, advocacy, volunteering, and community-based initiatives. He has worked with national and international partners, including UN agencies and civil society organizations, to promote inclusive youth leadership, peacebuilding, and social change in Albania and the Western Balkans.



PANELIST

HRISTINA BOZINOVSKA

Advocate for youth with disabilities, North Macedonia

I am Hristina Božinovska Đikova, a graduate special educator and rehabilitator. Today I work as a teacher at the DSU RC "Partenija Zografski", where high school students with hearing impairment are educated.

As one of the founders of the youth association of the deaf and hard of hearing "Mlad znak", I actively advocate for greater accessibility and use of the Macedonian sign language, as well as for raising awareness of the importance of inclusion and equality in society. I firmly believe that sign language deserves an important place in social life.

In addition to my professional engagement, I am particularly fulfilled by working with children with hearing impairment, because I want to be a personal example for them and contribute to a more humane and inclusive society.



PANELIST

DARKO STOJANOVIĆ

Director of the Directorate for Youth at
Ministry of Sports and Youth in Montenegro

Darko Stojanović is an experienced public official with expertise in public administration, local governance, and public policy. He currently serves as Director General of the Directorate for Youth at the Ministry of Sports and Youth of Montenegro, where he oversees national youth policy development and implementation.

Throughout his career, he has held senior roles in several institutions, including the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, and the Municipality of Berane. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the European Youth Capital Podgorica 2028 initiative and the Council of Europe's European Steering Committee for Youth, contributing to youth policy, international cooperation, and youth participation.



PANELIST

OGNJEN MARKOVIĆ

Team Leader at WB Youth Policy Lab of RCC

Mr. Ognjen Marković is Team Leader of the Western Balkans Youth Lab 2 Project, an EU-funded initiative implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council. The project supports youth participation in decision-making across the Western Balkans Six by strengthening formal and informal mechanisms for youth engagement and policy co-creation.

Before leading the project, he worked as a Youth Policy Expert at RCC and spent five years in a prominent Montenegrin think tank focused on EU integration and youth participation. He studied political science, gained experience with international organizations, embassies, and civil society, and participated in exchanges in Italy, Slovenia, Poland, and Azerbaijan. He also served as Youth Delegate of Montenegro in the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.



MODERATOR

JELENA MILJANIĆ

UNDP Programme Manager in Montenegro

Jelena brings 20 years of experience in human development, working across civil society, government, and international organisations. Her expertise includes policy and programme design, peacebuilding, social cohesion, youth development, democratic governance and the socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable groups.

Driven by a deep commitment to human rights and sustainable development, Jelena believes that lasting change comes from moving from ego to eco - beyond individual interests toward shared responsibility - bridging people, systems and perspectives.

She passionately facilitates connections within and between people and systems, advocating for collaborative, human-centred approaches and inclusive, coherent and impact-driven action. At the heart of her work is a conviction that empathy and an awareness of interconnectedness are the most powerful vehicles for peace and sustainable impact.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ENA PORČA

Environmental activist, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Porča is a startup co-founder and youth advocate from Bosnia and Herzegovina with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations. She is a Young European Ambassador, TEDxYouth organizer, and the founder of the first Climathon in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Her work focuses on sustainability, innovation, and youth engagement, with a particular interest in how young people can shape the green transition and more forward-looking societies in the Western Balkans.





YOUTH LEADING THE GREEN TRANSITION: SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE AND STABLE REGION



PANELIST

ADEA KONDIROLI

Project Manager, Open Society Foundations
– Western Balkans

Adea manages the Twin Transition portfolio at the Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans office in Kosovo. The Twin Transition program focuses on green energy transition, energy democratization, and the digital transformation of societies. In her role, she contributes to program strategy, project development, and overall program management, including the design and implementation of OSF-WB initiatives, review of project proposals, management of grantees, and monitoring and evaluation activities.

Adea has over a decade of experience in civil society in Kosovo, with expertise in project management, research, civic engagement, and youth activism. She is a Chevening Scholar and holds an MSc in Research Methods in Psychology.



PANELIST

FRANCESKA KORANCE

EIT Community Officer, Albania

Policy driven leader with over a decade of experience in green transition, sustainable development, environmental governance, and strategic leadership. 12+ years of experience in the CSO sector, complemented by work in academia.

As Founder and Executive Director of Build Green Group (NGO), guided the organization's growth from grassroots (since 2015) to a regionally and internationally recognized platform for research, innovation, and sustainable development. Serving also as EIT Community Officer for Albania, fostering partnerships between Albania and EU quadruple helix stakeholders in innovation and technology. Consultancy portfolio includes collaborations with leading international organizations such as GIZ, UNIDO, World Bank etc.



PANELIST

EMIL BALAVAC

Minister of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Emil Balavac serves as the Minister of Trade, Tourism, and Environmental Protection for the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC). He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the State University of New York (SUNY) and the Bachelor of International Law from American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Minister Balavac has an extensive background in public administration, international development, and youth policy. His professional career includes serving as a Grant Manager for the International Organization for Migration (IOM – UN Migration), Advisor to the Mayor of Jablanica, and a consultant/trainer for major international organizations including the OSCE, UNDP, the Council of Europe, and the Central Election Commission of BiH.



PANELIST

TIJANA LJUBENOVIĆ

Project coordinator at Young Researchers of Serbia

Tijana has more than 10 years of experience working on environmental protection and sustainability issues, coordinating diverse stakeholders across the public, private, and civil sectors. Her work focuses on advancing sustainable development, environmental responsibility, energy transition, and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans.

She is particularly dedicated to supporting young people in implementing green initiatives within their local communities, empowering them to become active citizens and meaningful contributors to the green transition. Through her engagement, she promotes inclusive, future-oriented approaches that help build greener, more resilient, and sustainable societies.



MODERATOR

TEODORA STOLEVSKA

RYCO Head of Programs

Ms. Teodora Stolevska is an experienced project management professional with over a decade of work in North Macedonia's civil society sector. She has extensive experience in project design, management, monitoring, reporting, policy advocacy, campaign coordination, and cooperation with domestic and international donors.

She previously served as Executive Director of the Youth Educational Forum, managing a large team, multiple programs, a media platform, and 21 local offices. She has worked closely with state institutions and international organizations and has participated in over 20 governmental working groups, contributing to key policies and laws, including the Law on Higher Education, the Law on Youth Participation, and the National Youth Strategy.





WORLD CAFFEE SESSION: STRENGTHENING MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING



PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE REGION

NIKOLA ZIROJEVIĆ

Member of the Parliament of Montenegro

Nikola Zirojević is a Member of Parliament of Montenegro and spokesperson for the Social Democrats of Montenegro. He graduated from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Montenegro, Department of Electronics, Telecommunications and Computers, where he is currently pursuing specialist studies in telecommunications.

He previously served as Secretary of the Social Democrats' parliamentary group and is serving his third term as a councilor in the Nikšić Municipal Assembly. He is Deputy Chair of the Committee on Defence and Security, a member of the Council for National Security, and a member of the Committees on International Relations and Diaspora, and Political System and Judiciary. He speaks English fluently and has working knowledge of Italian and Turkish.



PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE REGION

ANĐELA VOJINOVIĆ

Member of the Parliament of Montenegro

Anđela Vojinović is a Member of Parliament of Montenegro and holds an MA in International Relations. She serves on the Committees on European Integration, Human Rights and Freedoms, and the Commission for Monitoring and Control of the Privatization Process. She is also President of Montenegro's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie and Deputy Member of the SAPC.

Before entering parliament, she worked with the Police Directorate, Democratic Montenegro, Human Rights Action, and the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism. She has received several international awards and academic recognitions and participated in numerous international training programmes. She speaks English, Italian, Spanish, and French fluently and has advanced knowledge of Chinese.



PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE REGION

PETAR MARKOV

Member of Club of Young MP's of Parliament of North Macedonia

Born in the Southeastern part of Macedonia in the city of Strumica, on the border with both Bulgaria and Greece. Active in NGO's since high school. Participated in forming Local Youth Councils in the Southeastern region. Graduated as Medical Doctor after which took residency in Abdol surgery.

During the studies begun activity in VMRO-DPMNE, conservative party in N.Macedonia. Led the youth local branch of the party for 6 years and later appointed to party's National healthcare committee. 2021 became Member and President of a Municipal council of Novo Selo, and 2024 Member of Parliament.

Currently serving as both, Member of Parliament, and Abdol Surgeon in Strumica General Hospital.



PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE REGION

MARJANA KOÇEKU

Member of Parliament of Albania

Marjana Koceku is a Member of Parliament in Albania, representing the Shkodra region. She holds degrees in Political Science and International Relations, as well as Sustainable Development and Tourism Management. In 2021, she founded Neomalsore Agrotourism, a community-based initiative promoting sustainable tourism, rural development, local culture, and environmental protection in the Albanian Alps.

Since September 2025, she has served as an MP and Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee on Europe and Foreign Affairs. Her work focuses on environmental protection, sustainable development, European integration, youth empowerment, and regional development. She has also promoted initiatives to protect and clean the Drin River and has been actively engaged in civic and social causes from an early age.



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS

VLADIMIR PERAZIĆ

Secretary General of Youth Network of Montenegro

Vladimir Perazić is Secretary General of the Youth Network of Montenegro (YNM) and a youth policy professional engaged in democratic participation and European integration processes.

He serves as Co-Chair of the Executive Board of European Youth Capital Podgorica 2028 and is a member of the Youth Council of the President of the European Commission. He regularly contributes to national and regional initiatives focused on youth participation, public policy, and EU integration.



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCILS

MILICA BORJANIĆ

Secretary General of KOMS Serbia

Milica Borjanić is the Secretary General of the National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMs), the highest representative body of youth and network of 106 youth-led and youth oriented organizations in Serbia. She holds a BA in Political Science, specializing in International Studies, from the University of Belgrade. With more than 13 years of experience in civil society, she has worked extensively in project management, youth policy, and youth rights advocacy.

Throughout her career, Milica has focused on strengthening youth political participation, particularly the participation of young women, and on developing mechanisms for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes at the local level.

She is a member of the Youth Council of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Council for Creating an Enabling Environment for the Development of Civil Society.



RYCO YOUTH GOVERNING BOARD AND PARTNERS

NICOLAS VUITTON

European Commission, Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (ENEST)

Nicolas Vuitton is a Programme Manager at the European Commission (DG ENEST), overseeing regional programmes on youth, education, and reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

With expertise in international affairs, EU enlargement and multi-stakeholder engagement, he previously worked at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on Mediterranean cooperation, civil society and youth engagement, before joining DG ENEST's Western Balkans regional unit.



RYCO YOUTH GOVERNING BOARD AND PARTNERS

ISMET KRASNIQI

RYCO Youth Governing Board Member, #Kosovo

Ismet Krasniqi is a young professional from Kosovo with experience in youth empowerment, civic engagement, advocacy, and participation in decision-making processes. He holds a degree in Political Science and is currently pursuing a Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy at the University of Pristina.

Through his work in the NGO and civil society sector, he has contributed to youth representation, community mobilization, project implementation, and public advocacy. He currently serves as Student Senator at the University of Prishtina and previously held several student leadership roles, including President of Students at the Faculty of Philosophy. His work focuses on promoting democratic values, active citizenship, youth participation, and regional cooperation.



RYCO YOUTH GOVERNING BOARD AND PARTNERS

ARSILD TEPELIJA

Program Analyst, Open Society Foundation

Arsild Tepelija is a Program Analyst at the Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans, working on EU Integration and Regional Cooperation. His work focuses on EU enlargement, socio-economic and policy convergence with the EU, regional cooperation, and the role of civil society in the accession process.

He also coordinates youth-related initiatives that engage young people from across the Western Balkans in EU enlargement debates and support youth-led policy and advocacy work. He holds an MSc in Law and Economics of the European Union from Sapienza University of Rome and has worked with think tanks and civil society organizations on EU integration, democratic reform, and regional cooperation.



RYCO YOUTH GOVERNING BOARD AND PARTNERS

MINA MEĐEDOVIĆ

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Mina Međedović serves as a Programme Coordinator at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) in Montenegro. She holds an MSc in International Relations and specialises in democratic governance, political party development, gender equality in politics, and public policy reform.

Alongside her professional work, Mina remains actively engaged in youth empowerment and civic participation through Club Alpbach Montenegro, drawing on a strong background in volunteering and youth organisations to help enable spaces for youth engagement.



RYCO YOUTH GOVERNING BOARD AND PARTNERS

INA DJUGUMANOVA

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD)

Ina Djugumanova is a legal and governance practitioner with experience in democracy support, parliamentary engagement, human rights, and civic participation. She currently serves as a Programme Coordinator at the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in North Macedonia, working on strengthening democratic institutions, citizen participation, and inclusive governance.

She holds a Master's degree in Criminal Law and previously worked with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, providing legal aid and supporting reporting and advocacy on human rights, gender equality, vulnerable groups, and detention conditions. Through national and international initiatives, she has contributed to policy development, institutional reform, and cooperation between institutions, civil society, and citizens.

