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Regional Youth Cooperation Office

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Ali Mir-Hallmayer

GERMANY'S FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ali Mir-Hallmayer is a Senior Policy Officer at Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, working on Southeast and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, with a focus on development cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina and good governance initiatives in the Western Balkans. He is committed to promoting peace, stability, reconciliation, and youth exchange in the region, including support for RYCO's institutional development and regional cooperation efforts.



Bisej Kapo

ART EXPLORA FOUNDATION, TIRANA

Bisej Kapo is the Executive Director of Art Explora Foundation in Tirana, leading Vila 31 x Art Explora, an international artist residency and cultural platform dedicated to artistic creation, cultural exchange, and public access to arts and culture in Albania and the Western Balkans. She previously served as Head of Cabinet and Advisor to the Minister at the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth of Albania, where she contributed to key national initiatives, including Akademi.al, RTSH Shkolla, and the National Education Strategy 2020–2025.



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Daria Burii

BOARD MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

A youth advocate from Ukraine. Her work connects grassroots youth initiatives, national representation and European advocacy, shaped by the experience of living and working in Ukraine during Russia's full-scale invasion. She focuses on democratic resilience, meaningful youth participation and youth-led recovery. Daria previously served as International Coordinator at the National Youth Council of Ukraine. She is particularly committed to ensuring that young people from EU candidate countries and non-EU contexts are recognised as equal partners in shaping Europe's future.



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Eljona Boce Elmazi

WORLD VISION ALBANIA

Dr. Eljona Boce Elmazi is the Executive Director and Board Member of World Vision Albania, with over 25 years of experience in education, social inclusion, child protection, youth empowerment, and sustainable development across Albania and the Western Balkans. She has held senior leadership roles with the Council of Europe, and Albania's Education Development Institute, and holds advanced degrees including a PhD in International Studies for Family and Community.



Frank Morawietz

CROSS BORDER FACTORY

Frank Morawietz is a Berlin-based project manager and intercultural trainer, and partner and managing director of crossborder factory, focusing on Western Balkans integration, European security policy, reconciliation, and cross-border dialogue. He previously served as Regional Representative of the Franco-German Youth Office for South-Eastern Europe, where he helped develop regional youth exchange programmes involving around 20,000 young people.



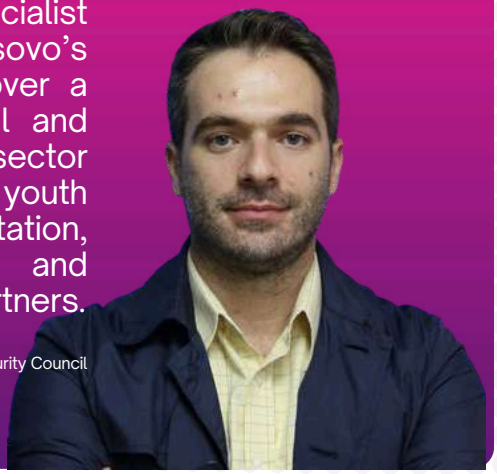
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Imran Rasimi

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, KOSOVO*

Imran Rasimi is a Youth Policy Development Specialist for Social and Economic Development at Kosovo's Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, with over a decade of experience in youth policy, social and economic development, and cross-sector cooperation. His work focuses on youth empowerment, policy drafting and implementation, strategic planning, program management, and cooperation with institutions and international partners.



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Kemal Salić

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AFFAIRS, SARAJEVO

Kemal Salić is a Senior Specialist for European Integration and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2016, his work has focused on youth policy, European integration, international cooperation, and evidence-based policy development, including coordination of the Youth Wiki project and cooperation with partners such as the Council of Europe, the European Steering Committee for Youth, and RYCO.



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Manel Sánchez

DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD ASSOCIATION (EYCA)

Manel Sánchez is the Director of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA). In this role, he supports cooperation among national Youth Card organisations, promotes youth mobility, access to opportunities, and youth participation, and represents EYCA in its relations with European institutions, governments, and partner organisations. He has also been involved in supporting the development and sustainability of national European Youth Card programmes, including through exchanges with public youth institutions and programme partners.



Miloš Popović

UNITED NATIONS, MONTENEGRO

Miloš Popović is a UN official and international development professional at the Office of the Resident Coordinator, currently based in Podgorica, Montenegro, with experience in economic policy, public finance, and sustainable development. He previously worked with Montenegro's Ministry of Finance, focusing on economic and fiscal policy documents, analysis, forecasts, and public finance methodology. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Oxford.



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Muhamed Veliu

CONSULTANT AND LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



Muhamed Veliu is a licensed psychologist and consultant based in Skopje with extensive experience in social policy, public sector reform, and psychosocial support. He has worked with organizations such as UNICEF and the Red Cross, focusing on strengthening social protection systems and designing evidence-based interventions for vulnerable populations. He holds a BA in Psychology and is completing a specialization in Gestalt psychotherapy, demonstrating a strong commitment to both practical and academic excellence in his field.

Niels von Redecker

FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE



Niels von Redecker is a German career diplomat, lawyer, and former reserve army officer, currently serving as Head of the Western Balkans Division at the Federal Foreign Office. Since joining the Foreign Office in 2003, he has held diplomatic and advisory roles in Washington, Warsaw, Berlin, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, including work on European law, political affairs, and regional cooperation. He holds a Doctor of Law from the University of Hamburg and a master's degree in Eastern European Studies from the University of Bradford.

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Nikolina Kosić

EXPERT ASSOCIATE AT THE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ŽEPČE (RAŽ)

Nikolina Kosić is an Expert Associate at the Development Agency Žepče in Bosnia and Herzegovina, specializing in agricultural advisory services and international project management. With a Master's degree in Agriculture (Plant Protection), she has extensive experience in preparing and implementing regional and international projects. She is also dedicated to youth empowerment, having contributed to the Youth Strategy for the Municipality of Žepče and supporting local youth initiatives.



Rozafa Kelmendi

UN WOMEN KOSOVO

Rozafa Kelmendi is a policy and programme specialist with over 15 years of experience in peacebuilding, transitional justice, gender equality, and youth participation, currently serving as Project Coordinator on Women, Peace and Security at UN Women Kosovo. Since 2011, she has contributed to projects with organizations including UN Women, UNDP, and the Global Fund, and has worked on regional initiatives advancing the Youth, Peace and Security and Women, Peace and Security agendas across Kosovo and the Western Balkans.



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Tobias Bütow

GERMAN SECRETARY GENERAL OF OFAJ

Tobias Bütow is the German Secretary General of the Franco-German Youth Office / Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse (DFJW/OFAJ). He is a historian and political scientist by background, with previous experience at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the OSCE in Sarajevo, the House of the Wannsee Conference, the German Historical Museum, and the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE) in Nice.



Tobias Flessenkemper

COUNCIL OF EUROPE IN STRASBOURG

Tobias Flessenkemper is Head of the Youth Department at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, with extensive experience in democracy, youth policy, European affairs, and international cooperation. He previously served as Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade and held senior advisory roles with the European External Action Service, the Council of the European Union, OSCE, and the European Youth Forum.



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Vukašin Grozdanić

OPENS, SERBIA

Vukašin Grozdanić is a Serbian youth worker and civil society leader with 25 years of experience in activism, volunteering, humanitarian work, youth work, and youth politics, currently serving as Executive Director of OPENS. He has held leadership roles in Youth of JAZAS, the National Youth Council of Serbia, and European Youth Capital Novi Sad 2019, with strong expertise in peer education, peacebuilding, and community-based youth participation.



Zoran Ilieski

COALITION OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS SEGA

Zoran Ilieski is a youth policy expert and civil society leader from North Macedonia with over 20 years of experience in youth empowerment, participation, employment, civic engagement, and regional cooperation, currently serving as Executive Director of the Coalition of Youth Organisations SEGA and President of the Youth Council Prilep. He has supported youth policy development and advisory work with organizations such as UNDP, UNFPA, the Council of Europe, and OSCE, and is pursuing a PhD in International Law and International Politics.

