

THE BALKAN FORUM

The Second Annual Balkan Forum on Regional Cooperation 19 – 21 March 2015

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2015

19:00 – 19:30

Reception

Location:

Makedonia Palace Hotel, 9th Floor Restaurant

19:30 – 22:00

Keynote Speeches & Dinner

Introduction:

Luna Kalas, The Balkan Forum

Speakers:

Yannis Boutaris, Municipality of Thessaloniki
Hoskuldur Thorhallsson, Nordic Council
Stephen Heintz, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2015

8:30 – 8:55

Registration

Room: *Aristotelis I*
(Ground Floor)

9:00 – 9:10

Welcoming Remarks

Room: *Aristotelis I*

Marika Theros, The Balkan Forum

9:10 – 10:45

Perspectives on Increasing the Region's Prosperity and Sustainability

Room: *Aristotelis I*

What are the region's prospects for economic and overall development within the framework of the EU 2020 growth strategy? Looking at the model of the Nordic region and within the framework of the commitments established by the Conference on the Western Balkans held in Berlin on August 28, 2014, known as the "Berlin Agenda", this panel aims to suggest avenues for advancing the Balkan region into a more competitive, knowledgeable, and vibrant market.

Moderator:

Haki Abazi, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Panelists:

Jelena Milic, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies
Cameron Munter, United Group, Serbia Broadband
Samira Nuhanovic Ribic, Foreign Policy Initiative
Harry Papanagos, University of Macedonia
Ryan Stoner, U.S. Department of State
Alexander Wojda, Embassy of Austria, Greece

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10:45 – 11:15

Room: *Aristotelis II*

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30

Room: *Aristotelis I*

The Role of Media and Civil Society in Transforming the Region

This panel will amplify the innovative voices exploring the potential of media and civil society to transform the region into a modern, productive, and unified force able to act as a credible partner in Europe and globally. Acknowledging obstacles and challenges in the region, it aims to identify joint civil society and media strategies to strengthen economic integration and accelerate sustainable development within a framework of participatory democracy and rule of law.

Moderator:

Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic, National Endowment for Democracy

Panelists:

Leila Bicakcic, Center for Investigative Reporting
Jelena Cosic, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
Zefi Dimadama, International Centre for Black Sea Studies
Dorian Ducka, Ministry of Energy and Industry Albania

12:30 – 14:30

Room: *Symposium Restaurant*

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Room: *Aristotelis I*

Unlocking Local Potential to Set in Motion Regional Change

How can good practices at the local level be best promoted, linked, and scaled to create a regional competitive market? Can innovation-driven entrepreneurship and increased decentralization foster mutually beneficial relationships across the region, encourage labor force mobility and intra-regional learning, and inspire joint ventures, e.g. into infrastructure projects? This panel aims to shed light on the role of different stakeholders in driving the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to scale up local initiatives towards regional development and competitiveness.

Moderator:

Marika Theros, The Balkan Forum

Panelists:

Yannis Boutaris, Municipality of Thessaloniki
Aphrodite Bouikidis, Ashoka Greece
Tim Clancy, Via Dinarica
Dardan Sejdiu, Pristina Municipality
Hoskuldur Thorhallsson, Nordic Council

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16:00 – 18:30

Parallel Workshop Sessions (coffee break included)

Workshop Objectives: to identify existing constraints, capabilities, opportunities, and assets in specific areas of regional collaboration; to suggest measures necessary to fill gaps and move forward with regional initiatives; and, to generate ideas for collaborative initiatives that can inform regional action-agendas

THEMATIC SESSIONS

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| <p>Education:</p> <p><i>Education for Sustainable Development</i></p> <p>Room: <i>Clio</i></p> | <p>Moderator: Juliana Hoxha, Partner Albania</p> <p>Discussants: Milorad Bjeletic, Belgrade Open School Kalinka Gaber, Progress Institute Dennis Gratz, Nasa Stranka Zorica Korac, Regional Environmental Center Larus Valgardsson, Nordic Council Miroslav Zivanovic, Human Rights Center</p> |
| <p>Human Capital & Labor Markets:</p> <p><i>The Potential for Green Employment</i></p> <p>Room: <i>Erato</i></p> | <p>Moderator: Kurt Bassuener, Democratization Policy Council</p> <p>Discussants: Aphrodite Bouikidis, Ashoka Greece Biljana Dakic Djordjevic, Trag Foundation Paul Stubbs, Zagreb Institute of Economics Dobrica Veselinovic, Collective Ministry of Space Manolis Vournous, Municipality of Chios Konstantina Zoehrer, 180 Moires</p> |
| <p>Economic Development, Energy, & the Environment:</p> <p><i>Grids and Liberalized Energy Market - Opportunities for South East Europe</i></p> <p>Room: <i>Kalliopi</i></p> | <p>Moderator: Julian Popov, European Climate Foundation</p> <p>Discussants: Visar Azemi, Balkan Green Foundation Anna Dimitrova, Centre for European Policy Studies Dorian Ducka, Ministry of Energy and Industry Albania Tryggvi Felixson, Nordic Council Antonis Metaxas, Hellenic Energy Regulation Institute</p> |

20:00 – 22:00

Dinner at B. Restaurant (The Byzantine Museum)

Bus leaves at 19:45 sharp in front of the hotel. If you are walking to the location, please note that dinner starts at 20:00.

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SATURDAY, 21 MARCH 2015

- 9:00 – 11:00 **Parallel Workshop Sessions: Finalizing Ideas** (coffee break included)
Return to respective working groups to prepare summaries and recommendations for collaborative action
- 11:00 – 11:15 **Break**
- 11:15 – 13:00 **Reporting Back, Open Discussion & Next Steps**
Room: Aristotelis I *Presentation from each workshop and facilitated discussion of ideas*
- Moderator: **Haki Abazi**, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**
Symposium restaurant
- 14:30 **Departures**