

THE ART OF CONNECTING

National Citizen Participation Meeting

Sofia 16-17 May



FORUM

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

National Citizen Participation Meeting

THE ART OF CONNECTING

IN A MACRO-REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

16 – 17 May 2017, Vitosha Park Hotel

Agenda

16 May 2017 (Tuesday) – Vitosha 1 Hall


Time	Agenda Items and Speakers
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Registration</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Official opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Art of Connecting – Iva Taralezhkova, Board Chair of Citizen Participation Forum ➤ Networking and participation in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and beyond - Daniela Urschitz, PA 10 of EUSDR, Vienna Municipality <p>Session 1: Networks and values Introduction: What connects us? Angela Rodel, Executive Director, Bulgarian-American Commission for Educational Exchange Fulbright</p> <p><i>Networks and values: interactive exercise and plenary</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30 – 15:30	<p>Panel 2: Networks and coalitions: impact, approaches, and challenges – stories from various angles: Formal and informal networks and coalitions; sectoral and multi-sectoral; National, macro regional, and European causes and networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach for Bulgaria • Tuk Tam • European Citizen Action Service • Danube Civil Society Forum • National Youth Forum • Multi Kulti Collective <p>Discussion: What makes it challenging to network together?</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>






16:00 – 16:45	The network in rhythm and the rhythm of networking – group exercise
16:45 – 18:15	Session 3: The network – points of intersection <i>Identifying common goals, shared values, campaigns and next steps – interactive exercise bringing together the participants around national and Danube region common causes and campaigns</i>
19:00	Presentation of ideas and potential next steps; closing comments <i>Dinner: The Art of Connecting... let's make the first step</i>



17 May 2017 (Wednesday) – Medium Hall, 2 Mezzanine floor

Time	Agenda items
9:00 – 10:30	Citizen dialogues: Networks and public institutions – effects and defects in communication (<i>public debate with representatives of Bulgarian institutions</i>)
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>

S P E A K E R S

 <p>Angela Rodel</p>	<p>Affiliation: Bulgarian American Fulbright Commission</p> <p>Field of activity: Established in 1946 by senator Fulbright and the American Congress, Fulbright is the most widely recognized and prestigious international exchange programme in the world. <i>The Bulgarian American Fulbright Commission</i> is officially inaugurated in 1993. Since then, about 1200 Bulgarian and American citizens working in the area of science, management, culture, business and arts have participated in the exchange program between Bulgaria and the USA.</p> <p><i>“To me the network is... is a source of strength and success. We are connected, even if we don't realize it.”</i></p> <p>What connects us? - Common values and common interests which nurture our dream to create something meaningful. As the English poet John Donne wrote more than 4 centuries ago:</p> <p><i>“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.</i></p> <p><i>If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were.</i></p> <p><i>Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee”</i></p>
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 <p>Daniela Urschitz</p>	<p>Affiliation: Vienna Municipality</p> <p>Field of activity: I have been working for Vienna municipality and for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.</p> <p><i>“To me networking is... tiring and it can take a lot of resources- but it also brings the best results and can be great fun!”</i></p>
 <p>Stefan Lutgenau</p>	<p>Affiliation: Danube Civil Society Forum</p> <p>Field of activity: DCSF is a platform for civil society dialogue in the Danube region under the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The DCSF aims at strengthening cooperation of civil society actors within the Danube region and their involvement in policy processes related to the EUSDR and European integration.</p> <p><i>“Networking is one of the main tasks of the Danube Civil Society Forum. The organisation strives to strengthen the structured participation of civil society and local communities in the EUSDR.”</i></p>
 <p>Neil Kocheva</p>	<p>Affiliation: TEACH FOR BULGARIA</p> <p>Field of activity: Teach For Bulgaria believes that education is crucial for the development both of individuals and of society at large. We believe that education inequalities will be overcome when all children have the opportunity to fully realize their abilities. One day the teaching profession in Bulgaria will enjoy the prestige and respect that it deserves. Teach For Bulgaria encourages young people to become inspiring teachers and leaders in order to facilitate the access to quality education for every child in Bulgaria.</p> <p><i>“To me the network is... a community in which people support each other to achieve a common goal”.</i></p>
 <p>Assya Kavrakova</p>	<p>Affiliation : European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)</p> <p>Field of activity: The <i>European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)</i> is a European, Brussels-based non-profit organisation with a pan-European membership (more than 80 members from Europe). ECAS has 26 years of experience in empowering citizens to defend and fully enjoy their EU rights.</p> <p><i>“To me networking is.... a prerequisite for efficiency especially when your activity has impact on a variety of people with different interests.”</i></p>
 <p>Ina Moutatchieva</p>	<p>Affiliation: National Youth Forum</p> <p>Field of activity: The National Youth Forum is the biggest platform of youth organizations in Bulgaria aiming at promoting the development of youth organizations and encouraging their participation in the social and political processes. The platform strives to ensure effective structural dialogue with different stakeholders and institutions, decision-makers in the area of youth policy.</p> <p><i>“To me networking is... an obligatory prerequisite for sustainable improvement of the public environment.”</i></p>

<p>Mila Natudova</p> 	<p>Affiliation: Tuk-tam</p> <p>Field of activity: Tuk-tam is an association of Bulgarians who have studied and lived abroad. We believe in Bulgaria's potential; we also believe that together (from here and there – tuk-tam in Bulgarian) we can work to make it a better place. Since 2008 we have been creating and sustaining a community of entrepreneurial, inspiring and capable Bulgarians with international experience by organising social, educational and professional initiatives in Bulgaria and abroad. You can find more on our website: www.tuk-tam.bg</p> <p>To me network is... the way we achieve more.</p> <p>What connects us? We are glued together by the belief that the progress depends on our common efforts.</p>
<p>Bistra Ivanova</p> 	<p>Affiliation: Multi Kulti Collective</p> <p>Field of activity: Since 2011 Multi Kulti Collective has been working for community development, citizen participation, solidarity and integration of refugees and migrants. The organisation works both at grassroot and policy level. It also develops social entrepreneurship. Muti Kulti is based in Sofia but since 2015 it has expanded as a social franchise in 6 of the biggest cities in Bulgaria. Our projects are often featured as social innovations and good practices at national and international level. Since 2014 Multi Kulti is a national partner of SIRIUS - a European Policy network on education of children and young people with a migrant background. Since 2013 Multi Kulti is the national coordinator of European Website on Integration.</p> <p>"To me the network is...</p> <p>A community of like-minded people with big hearts, inspiration, perseverance and strength.</p> <p>What connects us?common values, vision, dreams.</p>