

# Conference

speakers and moderators

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



**Development  
& Democracy**



27<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Bratislava, Slovakia

  
**pontis**  
foundation

## 09:00 – 09:15 OPENING REMARKS



### Lukáš Parížek

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Lukas Parizek became the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic in March 2016. Prior to that, he held positions in the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency and the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, where he worked in the Bilateral Relations and Defence Assessment Sections. He gained professional experience from Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Secretariat in Vienna, Austria, where he worked for the Action against Terrorism Unit. He also took part in various professional activities and trainings, among others, with NATO and OSCE. Lukas Parizek studied International Relations at prestigious Moscow State Institute of International Relations.



### Lenka Surotchak

Executive Director, Pontis Foundation

Lenka Surotchak graduated from Comenius University in Bratislava in Journalism and also from New York University in Management. After working for a couple of years in the Slovak Press and Information Service and Slovak Television, she started her career at the Slovak National Agency for Foreign Investment and Development (SNAZIR). Since then, her path has been linked with the NGO sector and philanthropy. In 1995, she held the post of program officer at the Foundation for a Civil Society (FCS) in Slovakia and since 1998 acted as the Chief Executive Officer of FCS in New York focusing on management, supervising and fundraising for the Foundation's programs in Central and Eastern Europe and in the Balkans. Lenka Surotchak is currently the Director of the Pontis Foundation. She led the foundation through the process of institutional restructuring, developing a new programmatic and donor portfolio, created a corporate philanthropy strategy and provided supervision in the establishment of the Business Leaders Forum in Slovakia, Democratization and Development Abroad portfolio and interactive donor platform. She also carried out trainings in different areas of transitional know-how, institutional capacity building, internal NGO management, and cross-sectoral cooperation, building up corporate donor strategies for different target groups in Slovakia, the Balkans and the Middle East.

## 9:15 – 9:45 INTRODUCTORY SPEECH



### Johanna (Yoka) Brandt,

Vice-Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Since this year, Yoka Brandt is the Secretary-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. During her long-standing career in the Dutch diplomatic service, having entered in 1985, Ms. Brandt has acquired extensive experience in the field of international development co-operation. She has served as the Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships at UNICEF in New York from 2012 to 2016 and as the Director General for International Co-oper-

ation from 2008 to 2012. She has also acted as the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda (2004-2007) and to Eritrea (2000-2004). Yoka Brandt completed her studies at the University of Utrecht.

## 9:45 – 11:15 PLENARY SESSION: How can development cooperation and humanitarian assistance work better together to address current migration and security challenges?



Moderator:

### Eva Svoboda

Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Eva Svoboda works in emergencies in the Middle East, Africa and Asia for NGOs and the ICRC, and focuses particularly on protection issues. She has degrees in both Middle Eastern Studies and International Law. Her current research focuses on civil-military relations and the history of humanitarian action. From 1999 to 2012, she held various positions within the ICRC (such as a protection coordinator, a head of office, a head of delegation) in operational contexts in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, as well as the Headquarters dealing with policy issues. Prior to joining the ICRC, she worked for NGOs and the Swiss Development Agency in the West Bank and Jordan.

### Speakers:



### Jean-Louis De Brouwer

DIR B in DG ECHO (Europe, Eastern Neighborhood and Middle East)

A Belgian Jean-Louis De Brouwer is the Director of Operations in the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). He joined ECHO in November 2012, having previously served as a Director in charge of the coordination of employment politics in the Commission's department for Employment and Social Affairs. Prior to that, he spent 18 years in the Justice and Home Affairs department, specialising in migration and asylum questions, and later he was a Director in charge of border and visa issues. Before joining the European Commission, Mr De Brouwer worked in the Belgian civil service (the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs). He has Masters Degrees both in Law and Sociology from the Catholic University in Louvain, where he also completed his undergraduate degree studies in Political Sciences. He is a lecturer in International Relations and EU Affairs at the same university.



### Michal Mlynár

Director General for International Organisations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Ambassador Michal Mlynár currently serves as Director General for International Organisations, Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. In addition to this, he serves as the Chair of the Governing Board of DCAF's International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) in Geneva, Switzerland. He is

a former Ambassador of Slovakia with residence in Nairobi, Kenya (2012-2015). He has been part of Slovakia's Foreign Service since September 2000. He twice served as the Deputy Chef de Cabinet for the Slovak Foreign Minister (2002-2004 and 2010-2011) and a head of units at the UN Department and at the Diplomatic Protocol of his Ministry. As the Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York (2004-2009), he was the Political Coordinator of Slovakia's diplomatic team on the UN Security Council (2006-2007). In 2013, he was elected the Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UN-Habitat in Nairobi for the 2014-2015 biennium.



### Zuzana Števuľová

Director of the Human Rights League

As the Director of the Human Rights League (HRL) – Slovakia's premier NGO providing legal and other assistance to foreigners – the attorney Zuzana Števuľová has emerged as the country's most prominent advocate for refugee and migrant rights. In a country where the majority of asylum applications are rejected, she has won numerous cases at Slovakia's Supreme Court on behalf of her clients in expulsion and asylum proceedings. Since the beginning of Europe's migration crisis, Števuľová has been a strong and unwavering voice for greater assistance to and compassion for refugees. She has not shied away from criticizing the anti-refugee and anti-Muslim rhetoric of certain politicians and regularly challenges social prejudice and fear by introducing Slovak citizens to refugees who have successfully integrated into the Slovak society.



### Natalia Alonso

Deputy Director of Advocacy & Campaigns - Advocacy Offices

Natalia Alonso is the Deputy Director of Advocacy and Campaigns of Oxfam International managing the influencing work of the Advocacy Offices in Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington. In her role, Natalia oversees Oxfam's advocacy and campaigning towards the EU, UN and IFI institutions. In Brussels, Natalia and her team coordinate the work across Oxfam's in 8 European countries, and thus foster an ambitious EU response to climate change, food security, tax justice, humanitarian crisis and development aid. In addition to this, she functioned in Brussels as the head of the EU office at the Plan International and as the Deputy Director at the Amnesty International's EU office. Natalia Alonso, a graduate from Agricultural Engineering, has over 15 years of experience in development and human rights issues, with 9 years working experience overseas, in India and the Dominican Republic, for the European Commission and INGOs.



### Seamus Jeffreson

Director of CONCORD

Seamus Jeffreson has been the Director of CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development since 2014. He is an experienced international development and humanitarian programme manager, with over 20 years of working experience in strategy, programme development, analysis and reporting, project management, technical assistance, training

and representation. Previously he worked for 8 years in Ethiopia and the Middle East with various NGOs including the International Medical Corps, CARE, Trocaire and Cafod. He also acted in Brussels for several years working on Eastern Europe and the Balkans, including some time spent at the European Commission.



### Loris De Filippi

President, Medecins Sans Frontieres Italy

Loris De Filippi serves as the president of Medecins Sans Frontieres Italy since his appointment in 2012. Prior to that, he was a humanitarian aid worker. For the last 2 decades, he has worked primarily with Medecins Sans Frontieres. He has assisted populations in precarious situations, in wars, natural catastrophes, urban violence and migration. Recently he has been involved in the Search and Rescue operations in Central Mediterranean. He has coordinated MSF programs on migrations for many years both from the field and HQs.

## 11:30 – 13:00 KAPUSCINSKI DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

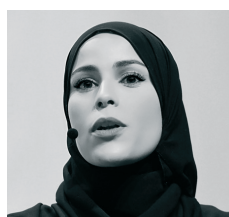


Moderator:

### Michal Vašečka

Faculty of Social Science,  
Masaryk University in Brno

Dr. Michal Vašečka is a sociologist by background and operates at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno since 2002. He focuses his interests on issues of ethnicity, race, and migration studies. He operated at the New School University in New York and at the University of London as a visiting scholar. He also lectured at the Georgetown University in Washington, DC and at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 2016, he was a scholar-in-residence in the ISGAP at Oxford University. Dr. Vašečka is a founder of the Center for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, he served also as the director of the CVEK. From 1998 to 2005, he operated at the Slovak think-tank Institute of Public Affairs as a program director on expert analysis of the Slovak transformation process with a focus on national minorities and the state of civil society in Slovakia. He has been a consultant for the World Bank. Since September 2012, Dr. Vašečka serves as a representative of the Slovak Republic in the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the human rights body of the Council of Europe; and since 2010, he is a chairman of the Board of the Fulbright Commission in Slovakia. Dr. Vašečka serves also as a non-resident research associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg.



Key Note Speaker:

### Alaa Murabit

Voice of Libyan Women, UN Sustainable  
Development Goals Global Advocate

Alaa Murabit is a UN High-Level Commissioner for Health Employment and Economic Growth, one of only 17 Sustainable Development Goal Global Advocates appointed by the UN Secretary General, and a MIT Media Lab Director's Fellow. Her TED Talk "What my religion really says about women" was "Talk of the Day" & one of four "moving TED Talks to

watch right now” as claimed by New York Times. At the young age of 15, Murabit graduated from high school and moved from Saskatoon, Canada, to Zawia in Libya. It was there that she completed her studies at a medical school and, driven by her desire to create inclusive processes and institutions, she founded the Voice of Libian Women in 2011, at the age of 21. With a strong focus on challenging societal and cultural norms and by utilizing traditional and historical role models, Murabit champions women’s participation in peace processes and conflict mediation. Her programs, such as the ground-breaking Noor Campaign, have been replicated internationally. Nicknamed “The Libyan Doogie Howser” by Jon Stewart and applauded for her innovative and inclusive approach to security, Murabit has become a champion for inclusive peace processes, and acts as an advisor to numerous international security boards, governments and organizations, including her service as a board trustee for International Alert and Keeping Children Safe. An Ashoka Fellow, Murabit is the youngest Marisa Belisario International Humanitarian Award recipient, New York Times “International TrustWomen Hero 2014”, Newsweek’s “25 under 25 to watch”, a BBC “100 Top Woman” and SAFE “Global Hero”.

Fellow, a Tech Awards Laureate, an Ashoka Fellow, and a National Geographic Emerging Explorer. He has been internationally recognised for his technology-based work. In 2013, he was nominated for the TED Prize and, in 2015, he was a Visiting Fellow at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. In late 2015, Ken was appointed the CARE International’s first Entrepreneur in Residence. He is also a published author with his first edited book, “The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator”, self-published in late 2013 with a follow-up, published by Kogan Page and released in March 2016.

**14:00-16:00 THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE DISCUSSION TABLE:  
Disrupting Development: Does Innovation Work  
for the Most Vulnerable?**



Moderator:  
**Rastislav Vrbenský**  
Manager, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky is currently the Manager of UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. From October 2011 until November 2014, he served as the UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Country Director in UNDP Tajikistan from November 2008 to October 2011, and as the Deputy Resident Representative in UNDP Serbia from 2004 to 2007. He joined the UNDP Bratislava Regional Centre in 2000 as a Sustainable Development Policy Advisor. Since then, he has also worked as the Regional Coordinator for Capacity 21 Programme, the Democratic Governance Practice Leader and the Assistant Director. Before joining UNDP, Mr. Vrbensky worked for the Slovak Government and the Regional Environmental Centre for the Central and Eastern Europe. Mr. Vrbensky holds a PhD degree in Development Studies from the Comenius University in Bratislava, a Master’s degree in Environmental Management from the University of Amsterdam, and a Master’s degree in Environmental Science from the Comenius University. In 2008, he was a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. He is fluent in English, Russian and Montenegrin.

**Speakers:**



**Ken Banks**  
Founder of kiwanja.net

Ken Banks, the Founder of kiwanja.net and the creator of messaging platform FrontlineSMS, is devoted to the application of mobile technology for positive social and environmental change in the developing world. He has worked at the intersection of technology, anthropology, conservation and development for the past twenty-five years and, during that time, has lived and worked across the whole African continent. He is a PopTech



**Ján Hargaš**  
Executive Director, Slovensko.digital

Jan Hargaš is a management consultant with several years of experience in the Public Sector and change management. Jan was involved in business development and delivery projects for national and multi-national institutions, working on transformation programmes in business and IT acting as a subject matter expert, business development specialist and engagement manager as well. Over the recent years, Jan has been a part of the Global Tax & Welfare practice in Capgemini Group, supporting cross-country collaboration, knowledge exchange and innovation. In this job role, Jan has led the development of Capgemini’s solution to Tax Evasion and Welfare Fraud & Error - TROUVE. For the past 2 years, he has been seconded to Capgemini UK, working in the Tax domain.



**Milica Begovic**  
Knowledge and Innovation Team Leader,  
UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub

As the Economy and Environment Team Leader in UNDP Montenegro in the past, Milica Begovic Radojevic supported Montenegro as it moved towards a low emission market economy in a way which promoted the well-being and prosperity of communities and their environment and local economies. She designed strategic programmes that promoted the efficient use of energy and renewable energy sources with the aim of assisting the country to strengthen the resilience of its ecosystems economy and communities. She also designed disaster risk reduction programmes, worked to increase the competitiveness of small- to medium-sized enterprises working in and around the protected areas, and to connect businesses across borders, she supported national and local partners with the management of the protected areas. Prior to joining the UNDP, Ms. Begovic Radojevic worked for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, followed by a posting at the UN as a coordination officer. Ms. Begovic Radojevic is a Montenegrin national and holds a PhD degree in Political Science, a Master’s degree in Political Science and Bachelor’s degree in ICT and Communications from the University of Alabama, USA.



**Gregor Virant**  
Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit, Serbia

Gregor Virant currently serves as a senior adviser for the UNDP, Serbia, leading the team for Public Administration Reform in the Delivery Unit within the Prime Minis-

ter's Office. He is responsible for leading and coordinating projects of optimization of administrative procedures with a high impact. Simultaneously he is an associate professor at the University of Ljubljana, where he studied law. Gregor Virant has rich experience in public service. Between 2004 and 2008, he served as a Minister of Public Administration; between 2011–2013 he was a Speaker of the National Assembly of Slovenia. He also served as a Minister of the Interior and Public Administration between 2013 and 2014. He has written several expert and scientific articles on constitutional and administrative law and on the public administration. He is also the author of university textbook entitled The Regulation of Public Administration.

**14:00-16:00 THE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ROUNDTABLE:  
How to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**



Moderator:  
**Deepali Sood**  
Director of Partnerships, Habitat for Humanity International EMEA

Deepali Sood is the Director of Resource Development at Habitat for Humanity's Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) office in Bratislava, the Slovak Republic. Deepali brings a high contribution with her two decades of experience in, knowledge and understanding of developmental issues, pertaining especially to the EU's development policies within the global MDGs and now SDGs contexts. Her thematic expertise has been in aid effectiveness, gender issues, and children's rights to development education in Europe. She has been the first Co-chair of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness as well as the chair of Development Education Working Group in CONCORD. In these and other roles she has chaired high-level meetings, facilitated discussions and forums, including the European Development Days in Brussels. Furthermore, she has addressed the European Parliament hearings and meetings as well as the MDGs meetings at the United Nations New York. In her career, she has led Qatar's Sheikh Moza's Educate a Child resource mobilisation campaign, worked at UNHCR in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and been the Director of Because I am a Girl campaign as well as the Head of the Plan International's EU Liaison office in Brussels.

**Speakers:**



**Ing.arch. Elena Szolgayová PhD.**  
Director General of the DG Housing Policy and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic

Elena Szolgayová, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. In 1999, she joined the state administration and has held several senior positions ever since, the most recent being the Director General of the DG Housing Policy and Urban Development at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. She has been involved in numerous UNECE and EU housing activities and working groups targeted at housing and urban development, and has contributed to several UNECE and research publications related to urban and housing issues. Since 2013, she has acted as the chair of the UNECE Committee on

Housing and Land Management. She also represents Slovakia at the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the coordination of the preparatory process towards the Habitat III Conference.



**Crystal West**  
Advocacy Manager, Habitat for Humanity South Africa

Crystal West is a passionate development specialist. She graduated from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Social Work. She has more than 20 years of experience from successful developmental interventions in varying capacities. Her skills and specialization are related to Community Organizing and Community Development, Human Settlements Planning (focusing on informal settlements upgrading and community-centred housing developments), Organisational Development and Capacity Building. West serves as the Head of Advocacy of the Habitat for Humanity South Africa (Habitat SA). Among others, Crystal had previously led and implemented two innovative subsidized human settlements projects from commencement of land tenure engagements to completion of top structures, while employed at the Development Action Group (a premier organisation in the housing, urban development and non-profit sectors). At Niall Mellon Township Trust (Ireland) and Mellon Housing Initiative (MHI) she acted as the Director of Social Development.



**František Kubeš**  
Head of the Urban Policy Department, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic

Mr. František Kubeš works as the Head of the Urban Policy Department at the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic. His responsibilities include the Urban Policy Principles update and Smart Cities agenda, further on methodical preparation of urban integrated tools, implementation of the Operational Programme URBACT III, coordination of the Czech Republic integration into the Urban Agenda for EU, and cooperation on departments' research projects. He is also active in the Committee for Sustainable Municipalities of the Government Council for Sustainable Development. He is responsible for a working group on Smart Cities. Mr. Kubeš participates in the preparation of the conference European HABITAT and activities that resulted into New Urban Agenda. The main focus of his activities is put on sustainable development of cities and regions. Between the years 2004 and 2014, he worked at Brno City Hall in the Office for City Strategy. During this period he also completed 9 months scholarship programme of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Germany. Mr. Kubeš studied Social Geography and Regional Development at the University of Ostrava.



**Tamzin Hudson**  
Advocacy Specialist, Habitat for Humanity International EMEA

Tamzin Hudson joined Habitat for Humanity International, in June 2015, as the advocacy specialist for the organization's Africa operations. Tamzin Hudson holds a BA (Inter-

national Relations) from the University of the Witwatersrand, a BA (Hons) in Political Science and an MA in International Studies from the University of Stellenbosch and recently completed a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of South Africa. Prior to Habitat, she worked at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs on women's political participation programmes implemented in Lesotho and Zambia. At the South African Revenue Service she worked on issues of institutional building for tax administrations in Africa as a way of leveraging greater tax revenues and a donor relations project. She started her professional career at the Department of Foreign Affairs with the South African government with postings to India and Pakistan and the Africa and Middle East divisions at Head Office.

**14:00-16:00 THE INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND  
ROUNDTABLE: Visegrad Partners and Western Balkan  
CSOs for Development**



Moderator:  
**Ulrike Bey**  
HORIZONT3000

Ulrike Bey currently leads the project "Western Balkan CSOs for Global Development" of HORIZONT3000, which is a continuation of the TRIALOG project. As the Capacity Building Officer during TRIALOG, Bey empowered the CSOs in the candidate and new EU countries in the process to set up national CSO platforms and engage the national as well as EU level in the development policy. The project "Western Balkan CSOs for Global Development" supports the capacity development of CSOs on development issues and strengthens the regional and international network of the development-oriented organisations. Prior to joining HORIZONT3000, Bey was responsible for advocacy and development education campaigns on human rights issues in Burma at the German "Stiftung Asienhaus". Bey also worked with the CSOs in Europe as well as in the Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa.

**Speakers:**



**Štěpán Šantrůček**  
Regional manager for Western Balkans,  
Czech Development Agency

Mr. Šantrůček joined the Czech Development Agency in 2013. He currently works as a Regional manager for the Western Balkans and is responsible for more than 20 development projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo. Mr. Šantrůček holds an MA Degree in Balkan, Eurasian and Central European Studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague. During his studies, he spent various study and research fellowships in Austria and the United Kingdom. Besides his engagement with the Czech Development Agency, he is also a PhD candidate at the Charles University in Prague focusing his research on post socialist and postwar transformation processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina with special attention to privatization of state-owned property.



**Marián Čaučík**  
Director of Dobra novina - Development  
Cooperation Programme of eRko

After democratic changes in 1990, Marián Čaučík was a co-founder of the Christian Children Communities Movement eRko which later became the largest youth organization in Slovakia. He served as the executive secretary and chairman of eRko and since 2007 he has been leading the development cooperation programme build upon successful annual children Christmas campaign Dobra novina. Under his leadership, since 1995, eRko has been supporting development projects in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan and became one of the leading development NGOs in Slovakia. Marián Čaučík has served in several boards and committees related to children, youth and development cooperation. He is a founding member of the Slovak NGDO Platform and served as its chairman and later on as a board member. He has been actively involved in setting up of the Slovak ODA system.



**Miodrag Milićević**  
Executive Director of NGO AKTIV, Kosovo

Miodrag Milićević is the Executive Director of NGO AKTIV and has over a decade of work experience and extensive knowledge of national, regional and international affairs, elections, institution building and non-governmental institutions. He was born in Pristina in 1971 where he completed his undergraduate studies at Faculty of Law. He is the chairman of the editorial board of the political talk show Sporazoom, a member of TACSO and the Civikos Platform in Kosovo. He was a co-author of the programme "Facilitation of Republic of Serbia Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Kosovo" delivered in 2012. In 2013 and 2014, in the capacity of the OSCE Field Election Specialist, he facilitated the delivery of the first Parliamentary and Mayoral elections in the North Kosovo under Kosovo legal framework and under the provisions of a Brussels agreement. Since 2008, he has managed transitional and capacity building programmes and, in 2009 and 2010, he provided technical support to the Central Election Commission and Municipal Election Commission of Kosovo for the first two independently run elections. During his assignment with the OSCE, he was appointed as a focal point on Anti-trafficking program for north Kosovo. Prior that, in 2006, he join the Swiss Peace early warning team and undertook monitoring and reporting of the most significant developments in non-majority areas in Kosovo.



**Goran Mitrovic**  
Director, Association "People's Parliament"  
Serbia

Goran Mitrovic is the director of the Association "People's Parliament", a national level public advocacy NGO from Serbia. He is also one of founders of the "Aid Watch Serbia" coalition of NGO's gathering CSO's motivated for more active participation of Serbian civil society in planning, delivery and evaluation of the existing and future development programs intended for Serbia, as well as promotion of international development cooperation among Serbian CSO's and citizens. Goran Mitrovic has, for years, been spearheading the effort of

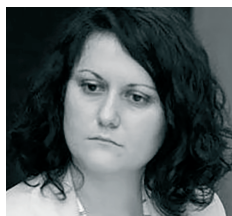
resource building of Serbian CSO's for the involvement in international development cooperation, as well as networking the effort to connect the domestic CSO sectors among themselves and with the development community and the civil society of the EU countries.



### **Dorian Jano**

Director, EU Policy Hub, Albania

Dr. Dorian Jano is the Jean Monnet Chair at Marin Barleti University and the director of the EU Policy Hub in Albania. Dr. Jano received his PhD Degree in Political Studies from the University of Milan. He also holds a Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Research and Studies on Eastern Europe (MIREES) from the University of Bologna, and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. After completing his studies, Dr. Jano served as research fellow at the Institute for European Integration at the Europa-Kolleg Foundation in Hamburg, Germany. He has also been a NewDem research fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Collegium Budapest (Hungary). His academic interest and research focuses on democratization, EU enlargement, Europeanization and South-Eastern Europe. He has presented on these topics at international conferences and has been published in international peer-reviewed academic journals.



### **Ilina Nesik**

Programme Manager, Balkan Civil Society Development Network

Ilina Nesik is the programme manager for the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), a leading regional network in the Western Balkans and Turkey that works on empowering the civil society and influencing European and national policies towards more supporting environment for civil society development. She has considerable international experience which she gained in civil society organizations in Germany and France during her studies of Strategic Communication and Public Relations in Europe in France. In BCSDN, she has been responsible for the programme management and outreach for the last 6 years. She has participated in mayor global processes like the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness and is currently working on the development on a Global Standard for CSO Accountability.



### **Zsuzsanna Végh**

Researcher, Center for European Neighborhood Studies, Hungary

Zsuzsanna Végh is a researcher at the Center for European Neighborhood Studies (CENS). Her research focuses on the Visegrad cooperation, the Visegrad countries' foreign and international development policy, as well as the European Union's relations with its Eastern neighbourhood (Eastern Partnership). At the CENS, she has been engaged, among others, in multiple research projects focusing on the Europeanization/transition experience of the Visegrad countries and its relevance for countries in the Eastern neighborhood. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and European studies from the Central European University (2012) and also in International Studies from the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest (2011). She studied at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, as well. She joined the CENS in August 2012. Previously, she worked at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs as an adjunct fellow.



### **Dardan Kryeziu**

CiviKos, Kosovo

Dardan Kryeziu has graduated in Psychology at the University of Prishtina. He had the opportunity to work for many different local and international organizations. For about five years he managed the Mus-e project. This project is a part of the International "Yehudi Menuhin" Foundation based in Brussels. Their activities are related to arts at school, presented with the help of professional artists, and aim at a better development of children by initiating intercultural communication among them. Later on, in 2013, Kryeziu joined, as a Monitoring and Evaluation officer, the CiviKos Platform which is the largest cross - sector civil society network in Kosovo. CiviKos is committed to the development of a favorable environment for the cooperation between the Civil Society and Public Authorities. He has been a part of the whole process of civil society cooperation dialogue with the government in Kosovo with the main focus on public consultations, public funding for CSO-s, volunteerism, etc. He has taken part in various training courses and conferences in the field of Civil Society Development, European Integration, Policy Development, Human Rights, and Intercultural Dialogue.



The conference is organized under the auspices of the Slovak Presidency in the Council of European Union. "The conference was co-funded by the Official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic- SlovakAid, the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Visegrad Fund and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic."