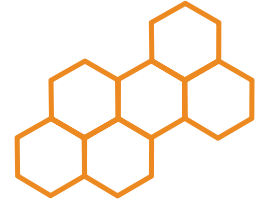



10
October
2023

 **beeEFB**
Buzz



Dear members of the beeEFB community,

Happy 15th Anniversary to our incredible European Fund for the Balkans! Fifteen years ago, we embarked on a journey to grow, connect, and inspire, and today we celebrate this milestone with an established Alumni Network. As we step into the next phase of our journey together, we invite you to look at a few milestones achieved in the past 3 months. The launching event of the second edition of the beeEffect programme, selection of the National Coordinators, and Joint Initiatives projects are some of the opportunities extended for connecting, professional development, and personal growth.

Your support to the Alumni Network and contribution to its growth remains a source of pride and a driving force that moves us forward.

EFB 15 ANNIVERSARY

September 27th in Belgrade was all about the EFB 15. The European Fund for the Balkans gathered its friends, partners, alumni, beneficiaries and collaborators from all across the Western Balkans and EU for marking its 15th year anniversary.



The panel organized in honor of the 15 years of dedicated work in and for the region included the representatives of the EFB founding partners and Foundations Franz Karl Pruler (ERSTE Foundation), Atje Drexler (Robert Bosch Stiftung), and Stefan Schafers (King Baudouin Foundation) who were joined on the stage by Florian Bieber (Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group), Vedran Džihic (Engaged Democracy Initiative) and Vladica Jovanovic (beeEFB Alumni Network). The discussion focused on EFB's past, how it all began and developed, what were the milestones, but also the current state of play, and the changed context in which EFB functions.

This occasion was a nice opportunity to gather a significant part of the EFB Alumni at the event, and the fact that the members of the previous and current beeEFB Board together with the new bees from the second edition of the beeEffect programme and the local alumni from Serbia outnumbered the other guests speaks volumes of the importance of the beeEFB network and its potential to continue to be recognized as a huge human capital which is fundamentally connected to the current and future work of the Fund.



THE BEE
EFFECT
PROGRAMME

2023/24

LAUNCHING EVENT OF THE SECOND EDITION OF THE BEEFFECT PROGRAMME

The Launching Event of the second edition of the beeEffect Programme, which was held in Belgrade and Divčibare from September 27 to October 1st, was all about buzzing energy, ideas, peer learning, and exchange with the members of the beeEFB Alumni Network and the new bees.

5 days of mentoring sessions, lectures, and workshops, but also lots of networking and fun activities. The agenda concept was divided into 3 thematic pillars – the Future of Technology, the Future of Society, and the Future of Power, along with the introductory sessions, case studies work, and the kick-off of the immersive mentoring process.

The participants from Albania, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Greece, and Croatia were introduced to the programme and the dynamic of the learning exchange and curriculum planning for the next few months, which also includes different online and offline activities.

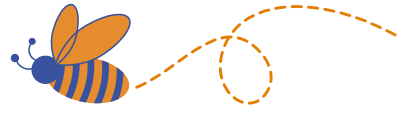
This is just the first stop of the busy schedule of the whole beeEffect learning journey for the amazing participants from across the Western Balkans and EU, who will be partnered with their mentors and EFB alumni who have already had the chance to be part of the EFB previous programmes.

Check the photo gallery to grasp the good vibes and the positive atmosphere created by this great mix of work and fun.





National Meet-ups



North Macedonia

North Macedonian Meet-up in Brzanov Winery:

After successful national meet-ups in Sarajevo and Tirana, Skopje has a tough challenge, but stimulating and creative surroundings and gastronomy of Brzanov winery put the bar much higher.

North Macedonian EFB alumni gathered on 14 September. After winestorming and reconnecting with their fellows many new ideas were born, so cheers!



National Meet-ups Open Call

Initiate the upcoming National Meet-up in your city.
Meet your fellow country Alumni before the end of November!!



For more details, drop an email to efbalumni@gmail.com

NATIONAL COORDINATORS



We recently opened a call for National Coordinators and we are delighted to announce we now have **seven (7) National Coordinators** within our Network.

A National Coordinator (NC) is an EFB Alumni who builds and maintains beneficial relationships, facilitates communication and coordinates activities among the country Alumni.

Now we proudly present you our new **NC's**.

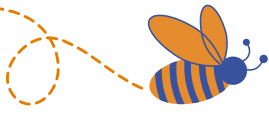
Bojana Laković - Montenegro

Bojana Laković has more than 15 years of experience in project management, EU development, community and youth work, and events management. For over 12 years she has been dealing with the preparation and implementation of projects under IPA (EIDHR, TA, and Framework), ERASMUS+, Programmes in the field of social work, rehabilitation, social entrepreneurship, social inclusion, and inclusive labor market, career guidance of youth, community youth work, employment, education, VET, including cooperation with LSGs, SMEs, and Governmental institutions. She is fluent in English, Montenegrin, and Spanish.



Chrysa Petala - Greece

Chrysa Petala is co-founder and COO of the social innovation agency Among (www.among.gr). Alongside her roles in Project Management and Facilitation, she also works as a Visual Notetaker. Chrysa studied Accounting and Finance and is certified in Service Design by IDEO. An economist by profession and a social entrepreneur at heart, she combines rationality with creativity providing clients the support they need most.



Romina Kali - Albania

Romina Kali is an accomplished lawyer and dedicated civil servant whose professional journey began in 2016 within the Municipality of Shkodra, Albania. Her early passion for the legal field has propelled her to become a specialist in labor rights, where she contributes her valuable expertise to the Human Resources Department. Romina actively participates as a researcher, expert, trainer, consultant, and lecturer in numerous projects supported and funded by prestigious national and international organizations, including OSCE Presence in Albania, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Albania, Caritas Albania, Global Initiative for Justice, Truth, and Reconciliation, and the Albanian American Development Fund.



Georgi Michev - Bulgaria

Georgi Michev is the Founder and Chairman of the Executive Board of the Global Organization for Development /G.O.D/. He is a Member of the Community Advisory Boards to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the Minister of Youth and Sports in the Republic of Bulgaria and Member of the National Working Group for Youth Work created by the Minister of Sports in the Republic of Bulgaria. He was awarded with the medal Pro Merito Melitensi in 2021 by the Sovereign Order of Malta. Mr. Michev has extensive work experience on national and international level. For the last 15 years he initiated, coordinated and realized lots of educational projects (most of them youth ones) in Bulgaria and abroad.

Ružica Jurčević - Croatia

Ružica Jurčević holds a PhD degree in Pedagogy and currently works as a post-doc researcher at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences University of Zagreb, Croatia. Before that, she has worked as a project manager for ESF and Erasmus+ projects. Her expertise lies in pedagogy and education, more specifically in education for sustainable development and global citizenship. Her area of interests includes intercultural education, human rights education, education for (global) democratic citizenship and peace education.



Ana Zamboni Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ana Zamboni has extensive experience in different branches of civil society organizations, both in creation, as well as implementation of planned projects. Currently, her main focus is on the challenges regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina's European integration process.

She graduated from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, in the field of international politics and diplomacy, as well as public policies, management and development. Subsequently, she started working for the Federal Ministry of Finance, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she currently holds the position of Expert Advisor on Reporting.

Nina Branković - Turkiye

Nina Branković is a scientist with 20 years of experience in research and evaluation in European countries and focuses on Western Balkan Countries. With an affiliation with University Paris Saclay she currently leads all monitoring and evaluation activities on all EU funded projects in Turkey on Employability and Social Protection of Migrants, supporting EU Delegation in Turkey. She is an experienced Business Development Manager with a history of working with private sector and international organizations.





**2023 Joint Initiatives Projects
supported by our Network!
Follow our Facebook community
page for the events dates and
locations and become part of it :)**

Connecting the dots between the EU and the Western Balkans

Initiators: Doru Toma and Miruna Butnaru Troncotă

Under the premises of the Timișoara 2023 European Capital of Culture and with the support of the European Fund for the Balkans, we are delighted to invite you to the "Connecting the dots between EU and the Western Balkans" public event with the declared aim to create synergies among Balkan candidate countries and the EU. Doru Toma and Miruna Butnaru



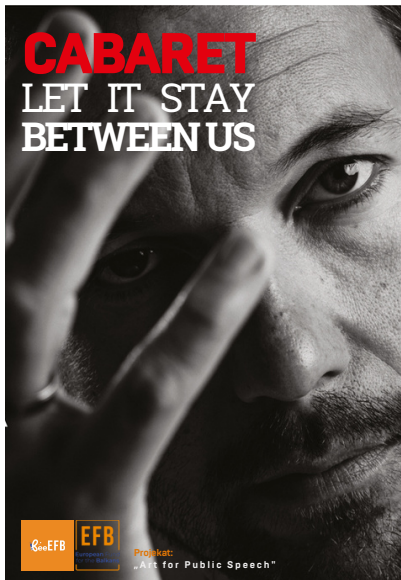
Troncotă have envisaged an evidence-based discussion, forward looking to supporting the enlargement agenda in the context of the 2024 European elections. The event will take place on Friday, 17th of November in Timișoara and the concrete discussions will be gathered in a policy document to be the platform for a future event organized in Brussels in 2024.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage in a lively, informative, and meaningful discussion. **We invite you to join in this upcoming debate and contribute your experience on the topic.**

Art of Public Speech - Let it stay between us

Initiators: Nebojša Kuruzović, Dragan Popović, Nejra Hiroš, Nina Zelić, Beba Tanasković

The unique interactive cabaret is an initiative of 11 EFB alumni from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, and Serbia will provide an opportunity for the poet and mastermind of this concept Nebojša Kuruzović to open a dialogue with his fellow EFB Alumni and the citizens about the key problems of this society. It coincides with the values recognized by EFB as well, such as political freedom, regional connectivity and reconciliation, as well as the challenges of the new digital age.



During the cabaret performance, four guests will be selected to come onstage, with a minimum of two EFB ALumni from the local city. The aim is to facilitate discussions on socially relevant topics, incorporating the perspectives of poets, EFB alumni, and ordinary citizens. Depending on the chosen topic, the guests will randomly select a song to be performed by the renowned Banja Luka jazz band "Kombine." This initiative serves to promote freedom of speech, civic engagement, and public awareness of diverse viewpoints. The cabaret events are scheduled in three cities: Sarajevo, Skopje, and Belgrade, and everyone is encouraged to check the event calendar and attend to support the organizing alumni group.

Kinoteka, Skopje 13.10.2023 (20h)

Kulturni Centar Vlado Divljan, Belgrade, 14.10.2023 (20h)

Kamerni teatar, Sarajevo 12.11.2023 (20h)

Theory of Systems Change Online Training **Initiator: Chrysa Petala**

Training on the "Theory of System Change" is a comprehensive program designed to equip individuals and organizations with the knowledge and tools needed to drive meaningful societal impact and create lasting change. The training delivered by Chrysa Petala and the team from Amon.gr covers various essential aspects, including defining the organizational direction, systemic change theory, identifying target groups and needs, translating goals into action, strategic partnerships and sustainability and alliance with "competitors" among others. This training equips participants with a holistic understanding of creating

positive societal change. It emphasizes clarity of purpose, strategic planning, collaboration, and adaptability as essential elements in navigating complex social challenges and working towards a better future.



The training will be delivered through an **online mode** to beeEFB Alumni members. Stay tuned as you will soon receive a registration link for **21-22 November** training!



Bosch Alumni Network

Being an EFB alumni makes you a member of the wider **Bosch Alumni Network** (BAN). It provides many opportunities to be engaged or participate in a global community of over 8,000 members. Our fellow member Armin Šepić together with Silvia Chakarova (Urban Practitioners Network within the Sustainable Living Spaces Cluster of BAN) submitted a proposal **"UPN meets Sarajevo: Spaces on the crossroads"** where among 60 proposals from all over the world was one of the five selected projects and the only selected in Europe. The workshop took place from 28th September to 1st October in Sarajevo.

The Urban Practitioners Network (UPN) was established within the Bosch Alumni Network in 2021 under the Sustainable Living Spaces **2020 Call for Ideas**. It is a space for common support and sharing of innovative practices between motivated professionals who care for the quality of the urban environment. After a successful bonding event in Bodrum in 2022 and strengthening the community of urban practitioners from different backgrounds and with a variety of professional expertise, this year it was organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia–Herzegovina.

Altogether 14 participants from Bosnia–Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland, Romania, Turkey, the UK, and the USA had a main challenge to rethink the Olympic bobsleigh track and its surroundings, its place in the present, but also possible development in the future.



Only 7 minutes from the Old Town by the cable car a concrete structure tells the stories of happiness and tragedy at the same time, looking for its place in the future. The workshop was sequenced in fieldwork and working sessions in a very beautiful venue of the **Olympic Museum**. After the presentation of the Museum, history of the XIV Winter Olympics, and their future plans by director **Senka Ibrišimbegović** and watching documentary movie Souvenirs of War by Bosch alumni Georg Zeller, participants split into three groups according to their professional or topic preference. Many ideas were born and this cooperation will continue in the future, so stay tuned.

This fruitful event wouldn't be possible without **Bosch Alumni Network** and **International Alumni Center Berlin**, but also without the local support of our EFB alumni **Dajana Džindo** and her **Foundation 787**. If you are still not a member of BAN go to their website <https://www.boschalumni.net/> and sign up to organize or participate in many global events.

For your ideas, questions, comments - email us at efbalumni@gmail.com.

May the hive  **Bee** with you!