

28  
October  
2022

# BeeEFB DIGEST

Dear alumni,

As you might have already seen from our activity in social media, a lot has been going on during September and October. We have finally launched the [#BeeEffect Programme](#), an important milestone for the beeEFB! This newsletter not only brings the stories and impressions of the Launching event, but also another important update: [the Call for the NEW beeEFB Board!](#)

## The beeEffect Programme



THE BEE  
EFFECT  
PROGRAMME  
Connect.  
Act. **Impact.**

The BeeEffect programme officially kicked-off with a week-long Launching event, taking place between 7-14 October in Belgrade and Divčibare. The very first beeEffect cohort of 13 participants started their journey with a Resilient leadership conference, an alumni joint initiative which was integrated into the programme to allow for more exchange among current and future alumni.

Numerous #beeEFB talks, workshops, and Belgrade City Rally's were able to create a positive environment for learning, discussions and thought provoking sessions. The Mentors have developed tailor-made agreements and will play a crucial role in delivering knowledge and useful set of skills in the upcoming 3-4 months, in the same way as case study advisors will help participants develop 4 case studies, which will be presented in the Annual event in early 2023. Meanwhile, participants will also get to engage in various online sessions during the upcoming period, in their quest towards learning and knowledge.

Everyone who was there could feel the energy among both participants and our fellow alumni! Here are some pictures from a fascinating week and stay tuned for more updates.





## Call for the NEW beeEFB Board, term 2023 - 2024

### beeEFB BOARD

It is always a pleasure to wrap up a year which has been highly productive, dynamic and full of activities for the beeEFB Alumni Network. With the beeEffect programme in full swing, the focus of the soon to be outgoing Board is on the selection of the new Board members.

New Board members, up to 6 of them, would join **Rudina Nallbani** and shape the beeEFB activities for 2023 and 2024. The new Board will have a chance to meet outgoing Board members in an in-person meeting to share experiences, lessons learned, as well as to jointly plan Annual event 2023, scheduled for Jan/Feb 2023.

The application process is as easy as before, with some small changes to ease the application process for repeat candidates. The text of the Call and the form are [here](#).

**Don't be shy and apply**



# HIVE FIVE!

## with Armin Sepic

**Your “blast from the PAST”: What’s your favorite memory/souvenir from your EFB?**

Having a privilege to spend three months in Potsdam, Berlin, Brussels and Brugge created a lot of unforgivable memories, therefore it is not easy to choose the favourite one. But just a fact that twenty people from different professional backgrounds met for the first time and immediately clicked as a group are memories that I will never forget or souvenir that I will always keep.

**Years after: How did the EFB experience added to your career goals and professional projections?**

I've spent almost three months gaining professional experience and education in the Federal Office for Construction and Spatial Planning in Berlin, with accent on sustainability in architecture and construction. It has definitely opened up new perspectives and that experience helped me tremendously in my professional practice.

**Your views on the EFB networking potential... Do you still buzz (with) the other bees from the hive?**

Networking is perhaps one of the biggest potentials of the EFB since this platform connects a respective number of experienced and enthusiastic professionals that could work together on different challenges. The second part of the question... I don't buzz with other participants of my Programme as often as in 2014 or later, but meeting them in person and seeing them growing professionally brings a lot of joy.

**On the way forward: Your two cents on how should we grow as a community and on the avenues of getting there?**

**One word: Visibility.**



# Blast from the PAST



“

Looking back at a decade ago, the first EFB Community Conference under the motto “People, Ideas, Networks” was carried out as a 3-day programme in October 2012 in Zagreb. Divided into two groups of Butterflies and Bumblebees, they were all following the rule of the Two Feet “Go to where you are learning and contributing”.

The result of the initial brainstorming among the different working groups gave extraordinary feedback on a list of important themes that deserved the special attention and interest for all the affected parties, the representatives from the Western Balkans and the political

”

## EFB NEWS



The study visit to Brussels of engaged individuals and representatives of civil society organizations from the Western Balkans took place between 10-13 October. The purpose of the visit was to create a strong network of these identified change-makers and to connect them with European counterparts, decision makers and journalists.

During the study visit, meetings were used to advocate for the greater engagement and visibility of the EU with the civil society in the Balkans. The environmental issues and challenges in the region were highlighted as exceptionally acute along with the vulnerable and fragile position that civil society faces.

The participants, even though coming from all countries from the Western Balkans, were speaking with one voice sending the message that European values are still alive and kicking in the region and that those who promote them deserve greater support.

In case you got ideas, questions, comments - email us at [efbalumni@gmail.com](mailto:efbalumni@gmail.com).

See you on the **BeeEFB Platform**

May the hive **Bee** with you