

Conference report





**SAFEGUARDING THE  
FUTURE**

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**5 – 6 Sep 2016**

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## 2016 BLED STRATEGIC FORUM: SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

### CONFERENCE REPORT

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# 11<sup>th</sup> Bled Strategic Forum

We have concluded yet another successful Bled Strategic Forum (BSF), which brought together a remarkable group of people from various regions, backgrounds and affiliations to discuss the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow. With more than 70 countries represented and around 1000 participants, the forum has established itself as one of the most important venues for strategic discussions on politics, security and business in Southeast and Central Europe.

This year, under the title “Safeguarding the Future”, special emphasis was put on our collective diminishing sense of security in this deeply uncertain and volatile world, where everything is changing before our eyes, and we do not seem to find satisfactory ways to grasp these changes and use them to build a safer and more sustainable international community.

Times of uncertainty and crisis are always also times of opportunity if we try to understand the new trends in our societies, the new reality, which is the result of globalisation and increasing connectivity.

In this deeply interconnected and globalised world, we have to look for comprehensive answers, which must include collective political, security, social and business endeavours in order to properly safeguard our future.

We will continue to work in this direction, because we want to be an integral part of these endeavours and be a crucial platform for forward-looking discussions among the leading political, security and business minds of today and tomorrow.

In this context, we would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the success of the forum and especially our partners, who have stood by us and worked closely with us all these years in order to create and build a resilient, effective and successful forum.

Peter Grk,  
Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum

# Safeguarding the Future



Peter Grk, Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Seeking common visions and solutions against the backdrop of growing uncertainty in the world were the two main points highlighted by the speakers at the opening of the 11th Bled Strategic Forum.

“To create and then safeguard our future is not an easy task,” stressed Mr Peter Grk, the Secretary General of the BSF, who believes the key question we must ask is in what kind of world do we wish to live in the next 10 or 20 years - a world dominated by wars, instability, poverty, or a world of stability, peace and prosperity? In his own words, “the choice is quite simple, and we can agree that the second option looks much more inviting, especially for those who will follow us.”

Mr Karl Erjavec, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, stressed the need for common visions, solidarity and understanding. In his opinion, BSF can aid in achieving this. The topics addressed by this years' forum – migration, the future of the EU, energy geopolitics or water risks in the global perspective – “are closely connected elements, and if the international community fails to tackle one of them, we will all be affected”.



Karl Erjavec, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Touching on the title of this year's BSF, Dr Miro Cerar, the Prime Minister of Slovenia, stressed in his keynote speech that unless “we resolve the problems of security and migration effectively, we will not be able to focus our efforts on development issues like the economy and, most importantly, on our young people” and “we will not be able to focus on our future as such”.



Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

“Contemporary challenges are growing. They are more complex and more frequent... Our response in dealing with them must be better managed. And above all, it must be global,” he stressed.

Turning to the EU, the Prime Minister noted that the EU had been facing growing populism, scepticism and even isolationism, which required serious reflection and the restoration of trust to continue building “an even stronger and more efficient EU”. Despite the challenges in its six decades of existence, the Union has become a synonym for peace, security, democracy, wel-



Janez Fajfar, Mayor of Bled / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

## Opening of the 2016 Bled Strategic Forum

5 September, 16:00–17:00

@ Bled Festival Hall

Welcome address: **Karl Erjavec**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Mayor’s welcome: **Janez Fajfar**, Mayor of Bled, Slovenia

Keynote speech: **Miro Cerar**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia

Chaired by **Peter Grk**, Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum

fare and development. “Europe must uphold the norms of humanity, solidarity and responsibility, while keeping in mind its integration capabilities”.

“The title of this year’s Bled Strategic Forum is a good reminder to us all. It indicates a link between today and tomorrow, and reminds us that our current behaviour and actions affect our future... We must be willing and ready to act now in order to create a bright and secure future for generations to come. We need to ‘safeguard the future’,” Mr Cerar concluded.

Several hundred participants from 70 countries were also welcomed by Mr Janez Fajfar, the Mayor of Bled, who wished them an enjoyable stay in Bled.

# Leaders' Panel



Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva / Photo: Nebojsa Tejic, STA

Leadership and vision – or the possible absence thereof – was the main topic as the BSF got under way, with the Leaders' Panel debating what we need to do, now and in the future, in the face of increasing global uncertainty.

The debate was opened by Mr Michael Møller, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, delivering a keynote on behalf of Mr Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations. Noting that there was an increase in unilateral approaches to challenges when multilateral cooperation was better, he said that an inclusive and comprehensive approach is needed to safeguard the future.

“We’re at a crossroads: we can deepen the EU and preserve the legacy of the last 50-plus years and ensure young people have a safe and secure future... or go back to national politics,” said Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, continued by pointing out that the world is faced by a fundamental choice between closed and open societies. She also pointed out that migration, along with terrorism, was an “existential threat” to the EU. “We must be humane, but not delude ourselves...that by accepting a million refugees we’ve cleared our conscience,” she said, noting that more needed to be done to help countries that are the source of refugees. She argued that leaders needed firm action and should stop blaming each other.

President Pahor similarly said that migration was the basic issue now for the EU, which would face a huge crisis if the European Commission and the European Council do not deliver solutions soon. If the people perceive the EU as failing to address the most pressing issue, Europe faces serious challenges. “This is the turning point,” he said and proposed a new convention on the future of the EU to produce a pragmatic vision addressing the concerns of those concerned about the future.



Mr Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, also cautioned against a return to national politics, emphasising that it was impossible to address global issues at the national level. Indeed, there is a need to reform and strengthen institutions at the international level. As things stand now, however, the solution throughout Europe appears to be a return to the past of national politics, he said.

Mr George Furey, Speaker of the Canadian Senate, opined that there was no lack of leadership, but that it has to refocus on a global level. “Stability and security are not simply issues for point-of-contact countries, transit countries and destination countries, but albeit global issues...which require thinking about them in a global context.”

The panellists also discussed their visions for the future, with a view to including all stakeholders, in particular young people, in the debates so as to preclude the feelings of alienation that, for example, led to the British decision to leave the EU. Touching specifically on job prospects for youth and equality, the panellists said that more should be done to address people’s concerns. President Pahor suggested some kind of “positive populism” may be needed, one delivering a message of solidarity and values important to the future of the continent. Equality needs to be on the agenda of debates on the future as well, he added. As for young people, President Grabar-Kitarović said that they have great expectations, but also needed to become active and offer solutions.

## Leaders’ Panel

5 September, 17:00–19:00

@ Bled Festival Hall

Keynote address on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

**Michael Møller**, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Speakers:

**George Furey**, Speaker of the Senate of Canada

**Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović**, President of the Republic of Croatia

**Borut Pahor**, President of the Republic of Slovenia

**Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania

Moderated by **Nik Gowing**, International broadcaster and visiting professor, King’s College, London, United Kingdom

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- We need to build bridges, not erect walls.
- Isolationism of individual countries must be prevented.
- International institutions need to reform and obtain a supra-national mind-set.
- Young people need to take a more proactive role and start acting as agents of change.
- We must remind people about our fundamental values to counter negative forms of populism.
- As well as a vision for the future, we need a strategy to implement it.

# Ordinary radical(s): In Search of a Meaningful Response



Adam Deen, Managing Director of Quilliam Foundation / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Held in cooperation with the Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) – a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics – the Night Owl Session termed “Ordinary radical(s): In Search of a Meaningful Response” focused on preventive action and on how to slow the increase in the number of radicalised individuals. Participants addressed the root causes for the increasing radicalisation of youth towards extremism and discussed the reasons leading to intolerance, but also reflected on the importance of integration, better education, future perspectives, and the eradication of poverty in countering it.

After a brief introduction, Mr Adam Deen, Managing Director of Quilliam Foundation, previously a senior member of the Islamist extremist organ-

isation, Al-Muhajiroun, began the session with his personal story about radicalisation. Contrary to what many participants believed to be the norm, he came from a wealthy Western family, not from poverty. At some point as a teenager, he became “enamoured with Islam,” but his elders did not answer his questions about it, or about the world around him, to his satisfaction. He encountered another young man who preyed on his questioning and eventually was able to recruit and “radicalise” Mr. Deen. Ultimately, a few years after 9/11, he was taking part in a ceremony to celebrate the hijackers when he became disgusted by what he was doing and thus began his process of de-radicalisation.

Stressing that radicalisation is a process, he explained that it builds on an individual’s grievances and is driven by ideology. Critical to this is a binary view of the world – in the case of Islamic extremism, by the division between Muslims and infidels – further underpinned by the use of lies, most effectively those lies containing an element of truth. During the de-radicalisation process, he argued, the most important part is deconstructing this exact binary world view as a means to pursue in-depth dialogue and reasoning.



Night Owl Session / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA



Individual table debates / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Commenting on his experience, Ms Julia Reinelt, Head of the International Affairs Division of Violence Prevention Network, stressed that de-radicalisation takes much longer than radicalisation itself, and deconstructing the radical outlook takes patience and knowledge about the particularities of each human experience. “Empathy is very important in this process,” because it is always easier to hate an abstract enemy than an individual, Ms Reinelt clarified. Being a non-one-size-fits-all approach, it requires a deep understanding of the reasons that lead to radicalisation in the first place.

Following the introductory part, the discussion, led by table moderators, moved to individual tables, where experts representing national governments, the European Union, civil society organisations, academia and the media provided their contributions.

After the working group sessions, the respective experts convened for a short panel to summarise

the main results and findings of the discussions they participated in. Ambassador Ahmed Farouk, the Consul General of Egypt in New York, affirmed that terrorism is “a heavily politically charged” term, allowing multiple and at times opposite understandings, which hinders a common strategy to fight it. Building on this, Mr Ahmad Saiful Rijal Bin Hassan, the Religious Counsellor of the RRG Initiative, stressed that politicians who were willing to fight terror groups “the hard way” need to invest equally in soft measures, such as efforts to support de-radicalisation.

Ms Elena Gonzalez, a freelance journalist from Morocco, and Mr Matjaž Gruden, Director of Policy Planning at the Council of Europe, pointed to the implications of media depictions of Islam, as did Mr Jakob Sheikh, author and investigative journalist at Politiken, who stressed the need for caution when discussing such a multifaceted issue. According to Ms Gonzalez, a wall is being built between Muslims and non-Muslims by both



Individual table debates / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA



Concluding panel debate / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA



Jakob Sheikh, Author and Investigative Journalist at Politiken / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

ISIS and Islamophobia. Mr Gruden noted that the key question is what it means to be a Muslim, “not a radical one, [but] an ordinary Muslim, maybe even a non-practicing one”, in Europe today. He proposed that in order to successfully reverse the trend of radicalisation, we must look at the ways and processes whereby it took happened, even at the stories of those who defied radicalisation while coming from backgrounds similar to those who became radicalised.

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- Radicalisation and de-radicalisation are processes; they do not derive from a single disruptive event.
- There is no one-size-fits-all approach to deradicalisation
- We need a strategy to combat radicalism, not tactics. For this, an agreement on the meaning of terrorism is needed.
- Education, awareness, empowerment and a sense of belonging are essential factors in preventing radicalism.
- We all have a role to play in the fight against radicalisation.

## Night Owl Session

5 September, 22:00

@ Grand Hotel Toplice, Lake Lounge

Storyteller & Commentator:

**Adam Deen**, Managing Director of Quilliam Foundation, United Kingdom

**Julia Reinelt**, Head of the International Affairs Division of Violence Prevention Network, Germany

Speakers:

**Ahmad Saiful Rijal Bin Hassan**, Religious Counsellor of the RRG Initiative, Singapore

**Ahmed Farouk**, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in New York, United States of America

**Elena González**, Freelance Journalist, Morocco

**Matjaž Gruden**, Director of Policy Planning at the Council of Europe

**Jakob Sheikh**, Author and Investigative Journalist at Politiken, Denmark

Moderated by:

**Nicola Forster**, Founder and President of foraus–Forum Aussenpolitik, Switzerland

**Magdalena Kirchner**, Transatlantic Fellow at RAND Corporation, United States of America

Table moderators:

**Hanina Ben Bernou**, Adviser to the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kenya

**Martin Castro**, President of Castro Synergies, United States of America

**Kyle Matthews**, Senior Deputy Director of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University, Canada

**Ivana Ponjavic**, Associate of the Head of the Negotiating Team for Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union, Global Diplomacy Lab, Serbia

**Mome Saleem**, Programme Coordinator Energy innovation, Resource Equity and Climate Change at Heinrich Böll Foundation, Pakistan



# European Union: Integration vs. Disintegration



Panel on European Union: Integration vs. Disintegration / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

The panel discussing whether the EU is disintegrating following the UK's decision on Brexit mostly agreed that the EU was not actually in crisis, but needed to refocus, deal with issues from a broader perspective, and reconstruct its relationship with the UK.

Speaking on the panel, Mr Lazăr Comănescu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, said that we are lacking the sight of a broader picture. He argued that “we need to talk about development and international cooperation” and that the EU should “deal with big things in a big way”.

Mr Nikola Dimitrov, a Distinguished Fellow at the Hague Institute for Global Justice, does not see the EU as being in a crisis, as it was still

by far the most successful political cooperation project in history, and noted that “Brexit was a reaction to global structural changes.”

Ms Reva Goujon, Vice President of Global Analysis at Stratfor, agreed that the EU was not in crisis, but warned that its focus on the economy went too far. She said that there was a “fault line” in the EU between Germany and France, with the latter representing the south, adding that addressing this issue was very important for the future.

Mr Vijay Rangarajan, Europe Director in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, argued that Brexit was not really a crisis. The UK is not leaving Europe, but is only constructing a new relationship with the EU, he added.

His view was shared by Dr Sabina Lange, Senior Associate Analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies, who said that Brexit forced “us to think of new possibilities”. According to Dr Lange, like-minded countries might seek joint interests, but the EU will survive, as “we have lived through a succession of crises, including those with a security dimension”.

Mr Harlem Desir, the Minister of State for European Affairs at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, said that

the EU should focus on peace, stability, prosperity and social justice; otherwise, its integrity would be at stake. “We must preserve our values and norms, as well as project them externally to create stability,” he noted.

Wondering what “the glue for the EU” was, Mr Nikolaos Xydakis, Greece’s Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that the EU was about democracy, peace and stability, but also argued that Europe needed to be more socially-oriented.

Dr Žiga Turk, Professor at the University of Ljubljana, meanwhile wondered what the EU actually was, saying that it could not be based on things like human rights or a fight against climate change alone. “This is not enough to build a viable state”, said Dr Turk.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Brexit is a consequence of existing societal, structural and economic fractures.
- We have lost sight of the broader picture and need to form comprehensive approaches that attend to the root causes of contemporary developments.
- Brexit should be seen as an opportunity to think outside the current paradigm.
- We are entering a post-globalisation world in which regional structures are gaining importance.
- Some things in Europe are done better at the national level (subsidiarity).
- EU leaders should also discuss visions and details, not only sign agreements.

#### **Panel Discussion**

6 September, 09:00–10:30

@ Hotel Golf, Jupiter Hall

Speakers:

**Lazăr Comănescu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania

**Harlem Désir**, Minister of State for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the French Republic

**Nikola Dimitrov**, Distinguished Fellow at The Hague Institute for Global Justice, The Netherlands

**Reva Goujon**, Vice President of Global Analysis at Stratfor, United States of America

**Sabina Lange**, Senior Associate Analyst at the European Union Institute for Security Studies

**Vijay Rangarajan**, Europe Director in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom

**Žiga Turk**, Professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Nikolaos Xydakis**, Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

Moderated by **Thomas Kirchner**, Correspondent for *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Belgium

# Water Risks in Global Perspectives

The panel on water highlighted the importance of international cooperation on water issues, ever more so in the context of peace and security, as well as climate change.

Presenting the US perspective, Mr Tom Harvey, Co-Chair of the US Water Partnership, said that the severity of water risks could not be understated and that even top US military officials considered water risks to be the most “significant, toxic threat”.

Dr Danilo Türk, the Former President of Slovenia and Chairman of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, said with content he finds it very beneficial when the security issue is expanded to water, adding that this was not a new concept. “Change starts with fear. If an issue becomes worrying, people start looking for solutions,” he said.

Turning to the situation in the Alpine region, Mr Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, stressed that the provisions of the Convention on protecting water sources are part and parcel of our history. Adding that the situation in Europe might seem very good at the moment, he noted that the region faced two pressing issues: climate change and rising population numbers.

Ambassador Pio Wennubst, Assistant Director General and Head of Directorate Global Coop-



Danilo Türk, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia and Chairman of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

eration at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, said that in 2009 Switzerland had launched blue diplomacy to “institutionalise processes leading to a compromise”. “We are trying to instigate dialogue among countries on very pressing issues, including water...By working with countries, we are slowly moving forward and, eventually, we will be able to reach some political commitments,” he explained.

Ms Pamela Goldsmith Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senate of Canada, noted that Canada is seen as a trustworthy actor when dealing with water-related issues. As a country where water is an essential part of the national identity, Canada has lot of expertise and is offering its expertise in many countries. But it also has a lot to learn, she said.



Ambassador Mohamed Elorabi, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Egyptian House of Representatives, highlighted the conflict between people's right to exist and people's right to develop in the Nile Basin. "The Nile Basin should be a place of cooperation, harmony, working together between African countries... The situation is now very unbalanced, unfortunately," he said, adding that this conflict should be resolved internationally, multilaterally and in compliance within the framework of international law.

Ms Susanne Melde, Research and Policy Officer on Migration and Environment at the International Organization for Migration, noted that the lack of water or floods were displacing just as many people as armed conflicts, if not more. "Even local development plans such as dam construction dam or flow mitigation can misplace huge numbers of people," she said.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- The number of water-related issues will continue to increase dramatically, mainly due to climate change.
- Water should not be used as a political instrument.
- We need to uphold international law; water stress cannot be resolved through bilateral policies alone.
- Water security is no longer only about water scarcity, but presents a dynamic and multi-level challenge.
- Water security is becoming a pressing national security challenge in many countries.

#### **Panel Discussion**

6 September, 09:15–10:45

@ Hotel Golf, Libertas Hall

Speakers:

**Mohamed Elorabi**, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Egyptian House of Representatives, Egypt

**Pamela Goldsmith Jones**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senate of Canada

**Tom Harvey**, Co-Chair of the US Water Partnership, United States of America

**Susanne Melde**, Research and Policy Officer on Migration and Environment at the International Organization for Migration

**Markus Reiterer**, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

**Danilo Türk**, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia and Chairman of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, Slovenia

**Pio Wennubst**, Assistant Director General and Head of Directorate Global Cooperation at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

Moderated by **Angela Wilkinson**, Independent, United Kingdom

# Energy Geopolitics



Panel on Energy Geopolitics / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Price fluctuations, the uncertain geopolitical and security situation, the entry of new players on the global energy market, and commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement were the topics addressed by the energy panel.

Dr Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, emphasised low oil prices, new players such as the US and Australia on the gas market, the declining costs of renewables, and flat consumption of coal as the main trends at the moment. Turning to climate change, he said that the Paris Climate Agreement needed to be implemented, with the energy sector at the core of the activities, for it accounts for two-thirds of global emissions.

Mr Leonid Grigoryev, Chief Advisor to the Head of the Analytical Centre for the Government of the Russian Federation, acknowledged that low

prices had hit Russia hard, but the treasury had borne the brunt of the decline in oil prices, while producers had not been affected too much.

Mr Peter Fischer, the Deputy Director General for Energy and Climate Policy and Export Control at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany, focused on the *Energiewende*, Germany's overarching policy of transitioning from fossil fuels and nuclear energy to renewables. Pointing out that the share of renewables had already increased to a third of overall electricity consumption and was projected to rise further, this had not come at a great cost to the German economy. On the contrary, it has generated jobs, reduced reliance on energy imports, reduced air pollution, and resulted in a significant drop in the price of renewable energy, he said.

Mr Christian Burgsmüller, a member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, highlighted trade as an important aspect of energy security. He said that the forthcoming free trade deals with the US and Canada, TTIP and CETA, respectively, were a good way to improve energy policy while also allowing the bloc to diversify its sources. "To have privileged access to the North American energy market is part of that strategy," he stated.

Similarly, Ms Mary Warlick, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources at the US Department of State, noted

that the US had an interest in the EU diversifying its resources, which would help individual countries' political independence and promote regional integration.

Mr Janez Kopač, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat, noted that the Energy Community, an international organisation which comprises EU and non-EU countries, was promoting the transposition of EU legislation as well as competitiveness as a way to improve energy security and reduce prices. He also stressed that existing infrastructure was often underutilised.

Mr David Wells, Canadian Senator and former Deputy CEO of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, said that his constituents were concerned about declining public revenue as a result of low prices, but were nonetheless reassured by continued investments in offshore drilling, which is a long-term endeavour.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Rapid changes in the global energy supply and demand are creating real geopolitical impacts that energy policy and foreign policy must address.
- There is a real and profound tension between how to balance the role of the energy markets and the role of governments and regulators in the energy sector.
- The share of renewables in energy production is increasing worldwide, which has an important effect on energy markets and climate commitments.
- Energy-efficiency measures can significantly reduce energy consumption.

#### **Panel Discussion**

6 September, 11:00–12:30

@ Hotel Golf, Jupiter Hall

Speakers:

**Fatih Birol**, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, France

**Christian Burgsmüller**, Member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, European Commission

**Peter Fischer**, Deputy Director General for Energy and Climate Policy and Export Control at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

**Leonid Grigoryev**, Chief Advisor to the Head of Analytical Centre for the Government of the Russian Federation

**Janez Kopač**, Director of the Energy Community Secretariat

**Mary Warlick**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Energy Resources, US Department of State

**David Wells**, Senator and former Deputy CEO Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, Canada

Moderated by **Thomas Cunningham**, Deputy Director of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council, United States of America

# Human Security: You and I Matter



Panel on Human Security: You and I Matter / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Taking on security from an individual perspective, the panel on human security established that a concerted and comprehensive approach at the global level was needed to enhance human security, with education on human rights being one of the key elements.

During his keynote speech, Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, highlighted that Japan, after it started offering official development assistance abroad, soon recognised that a more comprehensive approach was needed in order for the assistance to be effective.

Ambassador Damjan Bergant, Director of ITF Enhancing Human Security, said that human security was a right in itself, and that human

security and human rights were two mutually reinforcing concepts. Accordingly, the latest challenge is to reach a global consensus on providing human security. “We have seen the return of state security being prioritised, sometimes at the expense of human security,” he said, adding that a solution was to make state security and human security coexist and to reinforce them.

Sir Fazle Abed, Chairperson of BRAC, called for a comprehensive approach to human security under the UN Millennium Development Goals umbrella. The eradication of poverty, protection of the environment and fight against climate change are only some of the measures governments need to tackle to ultimately provide for human security, Sir Fazle added.

Mr Mangala Samaraweera, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, admitted that his country was an example of what can happen “when you allow human security to erode”. According to him, Sri Lanka has taken up the challenge of putting the foundation for a new vision for regaining human security by means of reconciliation and the promotion of self-respect and human rights. If they do not do this, the development of the country could be seriously impeded.

Ms Montserrat Feixas Vihe, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe, pointed to the refugee crisis. “While it was essential that the root causes be addressed, it is just as important to mitigate the pain and suffering of refugees,” she noted, stressing that the issue can only be addressed if there is concerted, global action.

Mr Michel Chikwanine, a student at the University of Toronto and motivational speaker, warned about the issue of child soldiers, as he presented his personal experience from DR Congo at the age of five. Mr Chikwanine said that eradicating poverty and addressing the lack of education was perhaps a solution to preventing children from being enlisted as soldiers, as well as the need to connect the child soldier issue to the concept of human security.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- The individual should become the basic starting point towards a new comprehensive approach to complex problems of modern mankind.
- Only physical safety, a sustainable livelihood and universal respect for the human dignity of everyone, seen in their parallel and constant interaction, can guarantee lasting co-existence on all levels.
- There can be no economic development without peace or respect for human rights, nor can human dignity be respected in an insecure environment or in extreme poverty, nor can lasting peace be established without securing sustainable economic development and universal respect for collective and individual human rights.

#### **Panel Discussion**

6 September, 11:15–12:45

@ Hotel Golf, Libertas Hall

Keynote address: **Yasuhisa Shiozaki**, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan

Speakers:

**Fazle Abed**, Chairperson of BRAC, Bangladesh

**Damjan Bergant**, Director of ITF Enhancing Human Security, Slovenia

**Michel Chikwanine**, Student at University of Toronto and Motivational Speaker, Canada

**Montserrat Feixas Vihé**, UNHCR Regional Representative for Central Europe

**Mangala Samaraweera**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Moderated by **Matjaž Kovačič**, Member of the Advisory Board on Human Security, United Nations

# Gradual Disintegration of the EU Political Orbit and a New Geopolitical Configuration of the Euro-Asian Space



Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey / Photo: Nebojsa Tejić, STA

Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey noted in his introductory speech the complicated relationship between the EU and Turkey, and urged the EU to reform and start viewing Turkey as an equal partner.

He continued by saying that the EU had long been a defender of liberal democracy and human rights, but in the past ten years it has lost credibility with its failure to respond to the crises in Iraq, Syria and Ukraine. It also lacks leadership. Instead of adopting a single model to deal with the migration crisis, he pointed to the lack of leadership, and noted the building of fences by individual countries.

“Additionally, there has been a rise in racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia”, he said, which

are no longer fringe phenomena, but have been rather “adopted by mainstream politicians”, which has normalised extremism and intolerance. The result is a gap between the notion of what the EU can do and reality, which is affecting the bloc’s credibility, said Mr Çavuşoğlu.

According to the Minister, the EU needs to regain its transformational capacity, which it had in the past and which had been shown through the enlargement process, the biggest source of its soft power. Nonetheless, the EU needed to change its conduct, Mr Çavuşoğlu said in reference to Turkey’s EU accession talks, which he said were little more than the adoption of EU standards with virtually no negotiations.

“Unlike two decades ago, there are new regional and global powers... and the EU needs to change its perceptions,” he said. Having been founded to establish a balance of power between Germany and France, it now needs to accommodate and perceive “third countries as equals”. “At this age, nobody wants to hear lectures... if policies are imposed unilaterally, irrespective of differences...this can only create divisions,” he said.

While critical of the EU, Turkey is nevertheless interested in membership, because Europe is “the most stable, the most developed and the





Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey / Photo: Nebojsa Tejić, STA

most democratic” continent. However, in order for Turkey to join, the EU needs to become “dynamic and courageous” as well as inclusive, multicultural and multi-faith.

During the Q&A session with the audience, the Foreign Minister spoke about the normalisation of the relationship between Turkey and Russia after the shooting down of a Russian aircraft, and their common objective to defeat Daesh, as well as apply a political, inclusive and a non-sectarian solution to the current crisis in Syria. He also touched upon the migrant crisis, stressing that capacity, responsibility and burden sharing are required for Europe and Turkey to successfully cope with it.

### Debate with the Turkish MFA

6 September, 13:30–14:15 @ Hotel Golf, Jupiter Hall

Speaker:

**Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Moderated by **Dan Damon**, Presenter / Reporter at the BBC World Service, United Kingdom

# The Key Disruption of the Future



Panel on The Key Disruption of the Future / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

This year's hidden dimensions panel on trust heard that people's trust in institutions and policies had greatly declined in recent years, especially during this period of economic crisis. However, despite inevitable disruptions, trust is vital for ensuring a future of well-being and security.

To jump-start the debate, Ms Mari Kiviniemi, OECD Deputy Secretary General, delivered a keynote speech, stressing that "trust matters a great deal to people's well-being", while she was also critical of the delivery of major policies by highlighting that "low trust in government means low capability to act."

According to Ms Romina Boarini, Head of Monitoring Well-Being and Progress at the OECD, the OECD average decline in trust after 2008 was

10%, while it as much as halved in the countries most affected by the 2008 crisis. "Our numbers show that in the OECD, the crisis has taken its toll on trust."

Similar arguments were presented by Dr Mattia Romani, Managing Director for Economics, Policy and Governance at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who pointed to the EBRD study *Life in Transition* for 2016. While the figures have not been published yet, Dr Romani noted that they showed that trust had decreased. Broken down into two major groups – trust in institutions and policies has decreased more than trust in society.

The EBRD figures were somewhat challenged by Mr Boštjan Jazbec, the Governor of the Bank of Slovenia, who stressed that what people said and how they acted showed a slightly different picture. Touching on trust as such, Mr Jazbec noted that in order to induce trust, one must be willing to trust. Ms Martina Larkin, Head of Europe and Eurasia and a Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, noted that tectonic shifts were happening in the world, the 4th industrial revolution and the end of the age of rationality – the fact that decision-making of various actors is based more and more on lies and misperceptions – among other factors.



Mr Ravi Chaudhry, Chairman of CeNext Consulting and Investment Pvt. Ltd, meanwhile turned to history and the future. “There had been five transformational moments in history,” he said. With the latest, the shift to the knowledge economy, trust was the victim. Those who have knowledge do not have power, and those who have power often do not have knowledge.” However, he believes in a gradual transition from a knowledge economy to a wisdom economy. According to Mr Chaundry, leaders must have three major qualities: integrity, compassion and transparency; only then will they be able to earn the trust of others.

Touching on knowledge, Mr Alastair Teare, CEO of Deloitte Central Europe, pointed to the internet as a way of providing information. However, this has led to much more plurality in debates, because the internet is a magnet for people who want to promote their views, he stressed.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Public trust is a cornerstone of effective governance and the main ingredient in promoting economic growth and social progress.
- Trust is an important factor to measure, albeit with many differences in individual countries, with no single, prevalent trend.
- Connecting the different bases for measuring trust yields better data.
- The root cause of distrust is inequality, either of wealth or opportunities.
- In every period of history, the people are more trustworthy than elites.

## **Hidden Dimensions of International Relations**

6 September, 14:15–15:45

@ Hotel Golf, Libertas Hall

**Keynote address:** Mari Kiviniemi, OECD Deputy Secretary-General

Speakers:

**Romina Boarini**, Head of Monitoring Well-Being and Progress at OECD

**Ravi Chaudhry**, Chairman of CeNext Consulting and Investment Pvt Ltd, India

**Boštjan Jazbec**, Governor of the Bank of Slovenia, Slovenia

**Mari Kiviniemi**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General

**Martina Larkin**, Head of Europe and Eurasia and Member of the Executive Committee of the World Economic Forum, Switzerland

**Mattia Romani**, Managing Director for Economics, Policy and Governance at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

**Alastair Teare**, CEO of Deloitte Central Europe, Hungary

Moderated by **Timotej Šooš**, Slovenia Development Strategy Leader, Government of the Republic of Slovenia

# Reinventing European Security



Panel on Reinventing European Security / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

Various security threats to the Euro-Atlantic area, including Daesh terrorist attacks on European soil, conflicts in Syria and Ukraine, the refugee and migrant crisis, as well as hybrid and cyber threats were discussed by the panel dedicated to European security.

Mr Craig Kennedy, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute, highlighted that there was a lack of trust in institutions in Europe, which is why leaders should re-establish their own faith in these institutions and reassure the public. He also said that he found it surprising that Europe was divided on several key issues.

Dr Michael Carpenter, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence at the US Department of Defence, pointed to the importance of transatlantic

cooperation in overcoming a mutually reinforcing variety of security threats, including the presence of potential terrorists in Europe.

Mr Witold Sobkow, Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, said that security in Europe should not be taken for granted, and that “global issues demand A global response”. He noted the need to adapt to the new circumstances and geostrategic realities.

Mr Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General, on the other hand turned his attention to the world, saying that the present time represents a most challenging situation He reminded the participants of the constructive cooperation between NATO and Russia in the 1990s, which has gone awry, however. “Divisions are growing, and there is no dialogue,” he warned.

Ambassador Tacan Ildem, Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO, echoed his words regarding the challenging situation, stressing that the world was facing a complex security environment. He pointed to the importance of cooperation between NATO and the EU, which should be taken to a completely new level.

Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Latvia, highlighted two crucial issues Europe would have to face, namely the internal



Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary-General / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

and external security and a debate on Europe's defence capabilities.

Dr Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, highlighted the importance of the relation between strategic and social communication when it comes to reassuring our populations.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- We are witnessing a complex security environment with a plethora of various challenges.
- No single country, region or organization can face contemporary security challenges alone.
- We need to urgently tackle the root causes of extremist and terrorist movements.
- New attention needs to be paid to having an appropriate assessment leading to the modernisation of existing security mechanisms.
- There is a lack of leadership in Europe, which is a major obstacle to building a comprehensive approach to common security challenges.

#### **Panel Discussion**

6 September, 14:15–15:45 @ Hotel Golf, Jupiter Hall

Speakers:

**Michael Carpenter**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, US Department of Defense

**Tacan Ildem**, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Diplomacy Division

**Craig Kennedy**, Senior Fellow at Hudson Institute, United States of America

**Edgars Rinkēvičs**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia

**Witold Sobków**, Political Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

**Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE Secretary-General  
Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

Moderated by **Borut Grgič**, ship owner and managing partner, Quarterdeck Shipping GmbH

# Terrorism and the Media: An Uneasy Relationship



Panel on Terrorism and the Media: An Uneasy Relationship / Photo: Stanko Gruden, STA

The hidden dimensions panel on the relationship between terrorism and the media discussed various aspects of the correlation between the media and terrorist propaganda, including whether blanket bans on reporting terrorist attacks would work, and which party is more dependent on the other.

Ambassador Dr Patricia Flor, Head of the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at the German Federal Foreign Office, believes that the German media report on terrorists's backgrounds correctly. As terrorists attack our way of life and principles, and freedom of the media and expression, it would be wrong to restrict media coverage in any way, since this would be exactly what terrorists want to achieve, Dr Flor said.

On the other hand, Canadian Senator Terry Mercer argued that self-regulating media and accountable media should not play into the terrorist game. "You should stop giving them credit; they want to be recognised, so don't recognise them; this is what they want."

According to Senator Mercer, one way to prevent radicalisation is to stop saying that a terrorist group is taking credit for the attack, as the job of the media is to provide news, not to promote terrorists.

But Mr Aidan White, Director of the Ethical Journalism Network in the UK, said that blanket bans would probably have created more fear and intolerance, and that terrorists have two objectives when manipulating the media: to spread fear and to inspire potential followers.

Mr White added that journalism had difficulties coping with the new media context, as journalism leaned on accuracy and fact-based communication as well as impartiality, transparency and accountability. "The media environment has changed dramatically. Facebook and Twitter are massive new players in the media, but where is the commitment to former values," he wondered.

Dr Klaus Unterberger, Head of Public Value at the Austrian public broadcaster ORF, admitted

that the internet was a part of the problem. However, “what we are also seeing is accountable media that provide some independence and quality,” said Dr Unterberger, adding it did not make sense to criticise journalists for focusing on bad news.

Mr Marko Milosavljević, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, said that there is no way to prevent broadcasting of violent attacks, as the media operate in a capitalist world where profit is the main motive. He had also noted that social media are not accountable in the same way as the traditional media, while the role of journalism and editors is now quite different.

Turning to media coverage of terrorism, Mr Emre Kizilkaya, journalist and Digital News Coordinator of Hürriyet, said that terrorist organisations in Turkey actually owned media outlets.

“There are so many grey zones,” said Mr Kizilkaya, wondering whether you should ban symbols or show ISIS members marching with their own flags. “The best thing to do is to stick to ethical principles; otherwise, it is not journalism at all,” he concluded.

## Hidden Dimensions of International Relations

6 September, 16:00–17:30 @ Hotel Golf, Libertas Hall

Speakers:

**Patricia Flor**, Head of the Directorate-General for International Order, the United Nations and Arms Control at the German Federal Foreign Office, Germany

**Emre Kizilkaya**, Journalist and Digital News Coordinator of Hürriyet, Turkey

**Terry Mercer**, Senator, Senate of Canada

**Marko Milosavljević**, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Klaus Unterberger**, Head of Public Value at ORF, Austria

**Aidan White**, Director of the Ethical Journalism Network, United Kingdom

Moderated by **Mitja Meršol**, Journalist at the International Media Center, Slovenia

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- Media reporting needs critical observation, and also needs to be a subject of journalist’s introspection and self-criticism.
- Investing in good journalism means investing in democracy and a qualified public sphere.
- Journalism is based on the observation of ethical standards and principles.
- We can no longer rely on the traditional media as the sole disseminator of information (i.e. impact of social media).
- The role of editors is decreasing and being replaced by algorithms which show popular information only.
- We all need to relearn how we communicate with each other in the public information domain.

## Western Balkans: Is the EU Still a Pull Factor?



Nikola Poposki, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

The European Union remains a pull factor for Western Balkan countries, but risks losing its appeal if it leaves the candidate countries in the waiting room for too long, was the conclusion heard at the traditional closing panel of the Bled Strategic Forum, which was dedicated to the Western Balkans.

The speakers largely agreed that the accession process should be accelerated, a point raised by Mr Peter Szijjarto, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. The Minister stressed that integration should be accelerated “very rapidly”; Kosovo should be granted visa-free travel immediately, and the accession of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be proposed very soon, while Serbia should become a member by 2020.

Dr Dejan Jović, Professor of International Relations and Head of the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Zagreb, added that past experience had also shown that a speedy accession process yields better end results. Letting countries wait for 30 or 40 years is not a recipe for change, he said in reference to Turkey. In the Western Balkans, the risk of excluding countries out outweighs the risk of including them, he stressed.

Similarly, Mr Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the US Department of State, said that a one-size-fits-all approach may not be appropriate. However, he also suggested that membership per se should not be a goal: reforms should. Accordingly, the candidate countries need to be helped to reform, whether inside or outside the EU. He added that integration alone would not meet the challenges, while additional mechanisms were needed to prevent crises in the Balkans instead of subsequently reacting to them.

Mr Štefan Fule, Special Envoy for the Western Balkans at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, on the other hand disagreed with the need to accelerate accession, recalling the experience of Romania and Bulgaria. “Are we forgetting the lessons learned?” he wondered,





Panel on Western Balkans: Is the EU Still a Pull Factor? / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

adding that the two countries' reform processes were had yet been completed. Theoretically, it would be possible to institute some sort of semi-membership status, but merely transposing EU laws will not help these countries to work in the EU, he said.

Ms Tanja Fajon, a Slovenian Member of the European Parliament, similarly said that accession was not a matter of negotiating chapters, but of creating a safe environment for people. This requires responsible politicians, and Balkan governments need to change their rhetoric, she said.

Ministers from the region stressed the need to accelerate the accession process if it is to re-

main a pull factor. Mr Enver Hoxhaj, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, said that the accession process was a very good basis for Kosovo to modernize politics, the economy and society. However, the EU needs to be mindful of the time factor, a point also raised by Mr Igor Crnadak, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Crnadak said it was crucial for enlargement to speed up, but on the other hand, he said his country was not keen on overnight entry, as it needed to build up its institutions. "We do not need shortcuts," he said, calling for a strict but fair approach.

Similarly, Ambassador Aleksandar Pejović, Secretary of State for European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Inte-



Panel on Western Balkans: Is the EU Still a Pull Factor? / Photo: Tamino Petelinšek, STA

gration of Montenegro, said that the process itself was a pull factor and very helpful for Montenegro, as it had helped in the state-building process.

Mr Nikola Poposki, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Macedonia, said that the long wait was making it very difficult to sustain the EU's appeal, with time being the critical factor for those who were on the outside.

Mr Ivica Dačić, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, said that the EU was not perfect, but "what other option do we have?"

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- The pull factor of the EU remains closely linked to the state-building agenda in the Western Balkans.
- Experience in personal and social transformation shows that reforms need to happen in a certain timeframe, which also provides predictability and guidance.
- Additional tools will need to be applied to attract investment in the region, e.g. further acceleration of functional integration into EU structural and regional policies.
- The EU has not managed to push political elites towards lasting behavioural and attitudinal change, which is hindering integration with respect to mutual acceptance.



## Panel Discussion

6 September, 16:00–17:30 @ Hotel Golf,  
Jupiter Hall

Speakers:

**Igor Crnadak**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Ivica Dačić**, First Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Serbia

**Tanja Fajon**, Member of the European  
Parliament

**Štefan Fule**, Special Envoy for the Western  
Balkans at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
the Czech Republic

**Enver Hoxhaj**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Kosovo

**Dejan Jović**, Professor of International  
Relations and Head of Department of  
International Relations at the Faculty of  
Political Science, University of Zagreb,  
Croatia

**Aleksandar Pejović**, Secretary of State for  
European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro

**Nikola Poposki**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the Republic of Macedonia

**Péter Szijjártó**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Trade of Hungary

**Hoyt Yee**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the  
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, US  
Department of State

Moderated by **Tobias Flessenkemper**, Senior  
Fellow and Balkans Project Director at the  
European Institute - Centre international de  
formation européenne, France

# Digital Transformation



Anil Menon, Global President of Smart+Connected Communities at Cisco Systems Inc. / Photo: Nebojša Tejić, STA

A third wave of digital transformation – the growth in global urban services – is coming, and it will be bigger than the first two, Dr Anil Menon, Global President of Smart+Connected Communities at Cisco Systems Inc., stressed on the panel dedicated to digital transformation.

This wave is a huge opportunity for countries like Slovenia, Mr Menon added, stressing that it was all about “who will win the race” of becoming a digital country. For this, leadership/vision, global standards, smarter regulations, public-private partnerships and a local ecosystem are of the essence.

Mr Boris Koprivnikar, the Minister of Public Administration of Slovenia, noted that we were facing a 4th industrial revolution. While the

technology is already here, the real revolution lies in how to use it. According to the Minister, the state has one role in this revolution – to provide open data and open communication – and thereby improve “the lives of citizens and improve opportunities for businesses”. “A country without big data is just another country hoping for the best,” he pointed out.

Mr Joseph Macri, Vice-President Public Sector for Europe, Middle East & Africa at Microsoft Corporation noted that Slovenia was at the same time small enough to be agile and big enough to have an impact as a reference country.

Mr Dieter Brunner, CEO of Iskraemeco, Slovenia, pointed out that people needed an “internet of energy” as a precondition for digital transformation, while Mr Boris Sovič, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Slovenian power utility Elektro Maribor, stressed that the energy sector was the forerunner in the digital transformation, where smart grids are an instrument for achieving this.

Mr Luciano Cirinà, CEO of Generali CEE Holding B.V. from the Czech Republic, believes the energy industry will play an even more important role in improving people’s lives, but we will need to adapt to servicing our clients through various channels.

Mr Primož Pucar, Partner and CEO of the Slovenian consultancy and communications company Pristop, stressed, on the other hand, that “pain is around the corner if you don’t change immediately”. “Digital transformation is becoming a race to adapt to a new reality,” he pointed out, and highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships as the ‘holy grail’ of the digital transformation of society as a whole.

Mr Mitja Jermol, Head of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer at the Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia, noted that society faced a clash of generations. “It is not only about opening the minds, it is also about opening institutions,” he stressed. Reforming the educational system here will be of the essence, urging the importance of introducing flexibility in an otherwise rigid system.

On the sidelines of the panel, a Cisco Service Provider Certificate was handed to Mr Koprivnikar by Mr Anil Menon for establishing the State Cloud and the Data Centre service in Slovenia.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Digital transformation is a prerequisite for adapting to contemporary realities.
- Digitalisation improves citizens’ lives and opens up opportunities for businesses.
- Leading companies in the field of digitalisation need to act as platforms and enablers only – the solutions have to come from local environments.
- Public-private partnerships will be essential in achieving the digital transformation of society as a whole.

#### **Business BSF, Panel Discussion**

6 September, 09:00–11:00 @ Hotel Golf, Concordia Hall

Opening remarks:

**Boris Koprivnikar**, Minister of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

Keynote address:

**Anil Menon**, Global President of Smart+Connected Communities at Cisco Systems Inc.

Speakers:

**Dieter Brunner**, CEO of Iskraemeco d.d., Slovenia

**Luciano Cirinà**, CEO of Generali CEE Holding B.V., Czech Republic

**Mitja Jermol**, Head of the Centre for Knowledge Transfer at Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

**Boris Koprivnikar**, Minister of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

**Joseph Macri**, Vice-President Public Sector, Europe Middle East & Africa, Microsoft Corporation

**Primož Pucar**, Partner and CEO of Pristop, Slovenia

**Boris Sovič**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Elektro Maribor d.d., Slovenia

Moderated by **Hellmut Schütte**, Professor Emeritus at INSEAD, Singapore

# Security and Sustainability in Tourism



Taleb Rifai, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization / Photo: Stanko Gruden, STAV

Tourism creates a better world, but it also brings more responsibilities, was the view of the panel on security and sustainability in the field of tourism.

Addressing the panel, Mr Zdravko Počivalšek, the Minister of Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia, said that tourism faced increasingly more challenges, primarily connected to terrorism and migration. Calling for the sustainable development of tourism he said “there can be no security without sustainability and no sustainability without security”. Ms Maja Pak, Director-General of the Slovenian Tourist Board, similarly echoed his words by pointing out that Slovenia is dedicated to green and sustainable tourism.

“1.2 billion people travelling across the borders of their country can present 1.2 billion opportunities or 1.2 billion catastrophes,” Mr Rifai, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, warned, adding that tourism must constantly seek ways to make the world a better place. Peace should not be taken for granted in today’s globalised world, as no country can sustain peace on its own. “Peace in Slovenia depends on peace in the region and in the world. A problem anywhere is a problem everywhere,” he said in his keynote speech to the panel debate.

He believes a key challenge for the future will be to enable obstacle-free travel despite security measures. The countries should not react in panic to security threats, but work together instead. “People should not be advised against travelling to places where the local people need their help and support the most,” he stressed.

Ms Helen Marano, Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs at the World Travel & Tourism Council, UK, agreed that tourism can contribute to a better understanding of different cultures and thus to peace. She too warned against closing borders and building walls. “World leaders have a great responsibility,” said Dr Terry Stevens, MD at Stevens & Associates and Professor at the School of Management, Swansea University, UK. Panic and overreactions should be avoided, deci-

sions must be proportionate and reasonable, he warned. Ms Tatjana Juriševič, CEO of the Slovenian travel agency Kompas, said that panic among tourists was often created by the media. “It is important to stay rational,” she stressed.

Ms Eva Štravs Podlogar, Director-General of the Directorate for Tourism and Internationalization at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia, pointed to the importance of cooperation of stakeholders in the sector. Ms Irena Gueorguieva, the Deputy Minister of Tourism of Bulgaria, similarly stressed that tourism connected people, and warned that stakeholders bore responsibility for the overall situation. Ambassador Dr Gusztav Bienerth, the Government Commissioner for Tourism at the Hungarian Prime Minister’s Office, also pointed to the importance of cooperation, in particular cross-border cooperation. Dr Mario Hardy, CEO of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, Thailand, called on European countries to present themselves to Asian tourists as safe countries that were far away from France.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Tourism brings opportunities, but also challenges.
- A vision of sustainable tourism can help us make the world a better and safer place.
- Tourism helps to open the mind sets of people and provides a sense of global belonging.
- The challenges to tourism need to be addressed in a comprehensive, rational and proportional way, while also being global in nature.

#### **Business BSF, Panel Discussion**

6 September, 10:00–12:30 @ Grand Hotel Toplice, Grand Hall

Opening remarks:

**Zdravko Počivalšek**, Minister of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia

**Maja Pak**, Director-General of the Slovenian Tourist Board

Keynote speaker: **Taleb Rifai**, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization

Speakers:

**Gusztav Bienerth**, Government Commissioner for Tourism, Prime Minister’s Office, Hungary

**Irena Gueorguieva**, Deputy Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria

**Mario Hardy**, CEO of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, Thailand

**Tatjana Juriševič**, CEO of Kompas d.d., Slovenia

**Helen Marano**, Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs at the World Travel & Tourism Council, United Kingdom

**Terry Stevens**, MD at Stevens & Associates and Professor at School of Management, Swansea University, United Kingdom

**Eva Štravs Podlogar**, General Director of Directorate for Tourism and Internationalization at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderated by **Igor Bergant**, Chief commentator and news reader at RTV Slovenia, Slovenia

# Smart Cities and Cognitive Communities



Panel on Smart Cities and Cognitive Communities / Photo: Nebojša Tejić, STA

Smart cities are around the corner, as the use of information and communications technologies is propelling humanity towards the age of smart cities. We are now facing the question of how to transform these urban environments into comprehensive, intelligent and cognitive communities.

During the panel debate on smart cities and cognitive communities, moderated by Ms Ajša Vodnik, Executive Director of AmCham Slovenia, Dr Maja Makovec Brenčič, the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia stressed that moving towards smart communities was not only a matter of digitalisation. Knowledge is also important, and it should be available to all in open platforms. “It is a question of responsibility for improving the lives of all, at the global level”, she said.

Dr Anil Menon, Global President of Smart+ Connected Communities at Cisco Systems Inc., stressed that in building smart communities it was important to be globally aware and teach “our children that they are part of a vast global network”. “You can’t be a great leader if you’re not a great follower; this is important in the new, smart world,” Dr Menon stressed.

This was built upon by Dr Yoshiaki Ichikawa, Head of Chief Architect Office at the Global Center for Social Innovation, Research and Development at Hitachi, who stressed that the economy was changing, and social innovation was very important in building up smart cities. Mr Makoto Watanabe, Executive Director of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan, however, remained on the more technical side, highlighting the importance of introducing new systems to enable smart communities.

The panel debate also touched on the collection of data, which comes with smart cities, as well as on smart mobility, calling for transparency in collecting data – what data is collected, who uses them and how.

Mobility was gladly taken on by Mr Davor Tremac, General Manager for South East Europe at Uber, who believes his company is building the next platform. “While water and electricity have been



Maja Makovec Brenčič, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia / Photo: Nebojša Tejić, STA

taken for granted for years, we want to make transport something that is also taken for granted.”

Turning to the development of smart cities, Mr Blaž Golob, Director of SmartIScity, Slovenia, noted that his company was focusing on how to improve smart cities, because while there are over 120 definitions of what a smart city is, they all focus on technology. What is more, very few strategies in moving towards smart cities have been drafted in cooperation with mayors and cities.

#### **MAIN TAKEAWAYS:**

- Efficient transfer of knowledge is a crucial component in designing smart cities and enabling smart communities.
- Involving and engaging the general public in these processes is essential – it is citizens who own cities, not governments or businesses.
- Technology is only an enabler for smart cities and cognitive communities.
- Harnessing and using big data will allow for better decision making than that made by humans, e.g. energy grids.

#### **Business BSF, Panel Discussion**

6 September, 11:30–13:00 @ Hotel Golf, Concordia Hall

Speakers:

**Blaž Golob**, Director of SmartIScity Ltd, Slovenia

**Yoshiaki Ichikawa**, Head of Chief Architect Office, Global Center for Social Innovation, Research and Development Group of Hitachi, Ltd., Japan

**Maja Makovec Brenčič**, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia

**Anil Menon**, Global President of Smart+Connected Communities at Cisco Systems Inc.

**Davor Tremac**, General Manager, South East Europe at Uber, Croatia

**Makoto Watanabe**, Executive Director of New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), Japan

Moderated by **Ajša Vodnik**, Executive Director of AmCham Slovenia, Slovenia



# Mobility and the Future of the Automotive Industry



Panel on Mobility and the Future of the Automotive Industry / Photo: Stanko Gruden, STA

Established concepts of mobility are rapidly changing, and this will have a significant impact on the entire society, most significantly in urban areas. Local and national governments have no other option than to adapt to the new circumstances as rapidly as possible with modern and progressive mobility policies.

We are moving from an economy of ownership towards an economy of sharing. “This is logical, because an average car today is used less than 10% of the time,” said Mr Matej Čer, an entrepreneur from Slovenia. With digitalisation comes a revolution that will change the way that transport is used, ordered, paid for and shared.

Dr Annalisa Primi, Head of the Structural Policies and Innovation Unit at the OECD, warned

however that even in the sharing economy, someone was still the owner, and this role would be important. Uber, for example, is already planning autonomous cars that will be owned by the company. An alternative will be a platform through which individuals, who are still the car’s owners, decide on sharing it.

The car industry will need to change its mindset as well. Rather than cars, it will be offering mobility. Cars are increasingly disappearing from cities. The price of cars has been increasing and the price of sharing has been decreasing, said Mr Matej Zakonjšek, Head of the Cabinet of European Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc.

The participants agreed that there could be no standardised mobility solutions, because the needs of those living in the countryside – still the majority of the population – were different from those living in big cities.

Dr Uroš Rosa, CEO of Akrapovič, Slovenia, therefore expects more diversification in the future, based on the actual needs and lifestyles of individuals. While agreeing that car-sharing services will be popular among the young in 2050, Mr Rosa doubts that car ownership will disappear completely. “Many people will still want to have a car as part of a way of lifestyle.”



Mr Zakonjšek also said that an average car in future would have fewer emissions, and would be interconnected, largely automated and shared, while Dr Primi begged to differ, saying there would be no average cars, but many different vehicles of different design and fuel.



Felix Ang, President of the Auto Nation Group, Inc. / Photo: Stanko Gruden, STA

Mr Felix Ang, President of the Auto Nation Group, Inc., Philippines, believes that in the future, road usage will be a payable service. Mr Čer, meanwhile, believes the car industry as we know it will not exist in 20 years.

## Business BSF, Panel Discussion

6 September, 14:00–15:30 @ Hotel Golf, Concordia Hall

Speakers:

**Felix Ang**, President of the Auto Nation Group, Inc., Philippines

**Matej Čer**, Entrepreneur, Slovenia  
Annalisa Primi, Head of Structural Policies and Innovation Unit at OECD

**Uroš Rosa**, CEO of Akrapovič d.d., Slovenia

**Matej Zakonjšek**, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Violeta Bulc, European Commission

Moderated by **Jaka Repanšek**, Partner at RePublis Consulting, Slovenia

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

- The rapidly changing concepts of mobility are already having a huge impact on the automotive industry as well. Companies failing to adapt their production to new social, economic and technological realities will cease to exist.
- New generations of citizens (i.e. the digital generation) and social change will demand different concepts of mobility from those we know today.
- Car ownership will no longer be (so) important; the use of shared vehicles and public transport will increase, which will have many positive effects, i.e. on urban development and environmental protection.

# Ministerial meeting “Digital Transformation in the Region of Western Balkans”

## BSF side event

5 September, 9:00–14:00 @ Hotel Golf

On the sidelines of the 2016 Bled Strategic Forum, ministers and representatives of governments from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia, as well as representatives of the chambers of commerce of these countries came together for the first time with to discuss opportunities for accelerating digital transformation and strengthening cooperation in the region of the Western Balkans.

Mr Boris Koprivnikar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, highlighted that digital transformation is a global trend which has numerous positive effects, as it connects the digital ecosystem of the state, economy and citizens with completely different business and organisation models, new business opportunities and improved quality of life. In addition, the Minister presented Slovenian achievements and best practices in the field of digitalisation, as well as the vision of Slovenia to become a green reference country in digital Europe. “Slovenia is a country that can offer an excellent development environment and partnership in introducing cutting edge IT solutions in public sphere,” he said.

The representatives of Croatia and Western Balkan countries shared their best practices in the field of digitalisation and discussed open questions and challenges. They agreed that co-operation and integration in the area of digitalisation would further enhance the flow of data, unification of regulatory frameworks, standards, competencies of citizens, business models and infrastructure of the 4th industrial revolution.

The companies Telekom Slovenia, Mercator Slovenia and NLB Slovenia noted that digital transformation had a crucial role in their development strategies and that it would substantially change their business models in interaction with their customers. The Jožef Stefan Institute presented the benefits of using big data in different fields of the public sector.

In the round table on the future of the region, with representatives of both governments and chambers of commerce, the speakers tackled the challenges of digital transformation in EU Member States and in the Western Balkan region. Mr Zoran Stančič, Head of the European Commission Representation in Slovenia, raised the importance of national digital strategies that are in line with the European Digital Agenda. He added that it is crucial for countries to cooperate in order to accelerate their development and European integration processes in the Western



Ministerial meeting / Photo: Anže Malovrh, STA



Ministerial meeting / Photo: Anže Malovrh, STA

Balkan Region. “Digitalisation enables such co-operation,” he concluded. The representatives of chambers of commerce expressed their hopes for establishing a system of networks between the countries in the region and between the economy and governments in an efficient digital ecosystem.

The participants concluded that the role of the state is to ensure an appropriate environment for the implementation of an efficient digital transformation of society. Therefore, the governments in the region and present members of the EU should strive to set up sustainable cooperation in this field.

The event concluded with the Single Digital Initiative, which was signed by the representatives of chambers of commerce and the adoption of the Conclusions of the Ministerial Meeting, which will provide a good starting point for successful and efficient cooperation of the region in the future.

Speakers:

**Marta Arsovska Tomovska**, Minister of Information Society and Administration of the Republic of Macedonia

**Marko Babić**, Assistant Director of International Affairs and EU at the Croatian Chamber of Economy

**Nihad Bajramović**, Deputy General Secretary at the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Blaž Brodnjak**, President of the Management Board of NLB, Slovenia

**Marko Čadež**, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

**Safet Gërxhaliu**, President of the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce



Participants of the Ministerial meeting / Photo: Ana Kovač

**Samo Hribar Milič**, General Manager of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

**Mitja Jermol**, Head of Centre for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technologies at Jožef Stefan Institute, Slovenia

**Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović**, Minister of Administration of the Republic of Croatia

**Ismir Jusko**, Minister of Communications and Transport of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Drago Kavšek**, Member of the Management Board of Mercator, Slovenia

**Boris Koprivnikar**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

**Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications of Montenegro

**Suzana Leben**, Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer at Telekom Slovenije

**Irena Malloli**, Director of Electronic Communication and Integration, Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration of the Republic of Albania

**Antoni Peshev**, President of the Assembly of the Macedonian Chamber of Commerce

**Ivan Saveljić**, Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro

**Zoran Stančič**, Head of European Commission Representation in the Republic of Slovenia

**Dušan Stojanović**, Head of the Directorate for eGovernment, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of the Republic of Serbia

**Mahir Yagcilar**, Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo

# Generation of Global Citizens

## Young Bled Strategic Forum

2–5 September

The 6th Young Bled Strategic Forum (Young BSF), held between 2 and 5 September, hosted 30 young prominent young leaders from Japan, Switzerland, Austria, USA, Iraq, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Croatia, Slovakia, Canada and Slovenia. The overall topic – Generation of Global Citizens – provided participants with considerable flexibility in discussions with guests, with sub-topics about smart cities, youth mobility and political participation, and intergenerational cooperation. Moreover, in the smart cities framework, the participants also worked on a specific Business Challenge.

On Friday, 2 September, the Young BSF began with an opening ceremony and networking event in Bled hosted by Mr Peter Grk, Secretary-General of the Bled Strategic Forum, Mr Klemen Ponikvar, Young BSF Programme Director and Ms Sabina Đuvelek, Business Challenge Coordinator.

More serious work started on Saturday morning, when the participants travelled to Ljubljana to engage in a debate on smart cities at Ljubljana Town Hall. Firstly, the participants were given a presentation by Ms Simona Berden of

the Municipality of Ljubljana of the city's stint as the European Green Capital of 2016 and Ljubljana's vision by 2025, which is focused on the preservation and protection of the environment, which is to include a green zone in the city centre. The short presentation was followed by a panel discussion titled "Smart City – City of Tomorrow", moderated by Mr Blaž Golob, the CEO of SmartIscity. He pointed out that there were more than 120 definitions of what a smart city is. Broadly speaking, smart cities are places where traditional networks and services are made more efficient with the use of digital and telecommunication technologies to the benefit of its residents and businesses. "Is there a cognitive, self-learning city somewhere in the future?" was his challenge to the participants.

Ms Mai Araki, chief officer at Japan's NEDO and one of the panellists, stressed in her address that the concept of the smart community had been introduced in Japan in 2010. Following the devastating earthquake and tsunami in 2011, the energy market was reformed and is now more regulated. Ms Araki also noted that, before the reform, smart cities had been introduced by property developers or real-estate agencies and everything had been very much individualised. However, now, utilities operate the basic infrastructure required for smart cities, making it easier to implement the concept. On the other





Klemen Ponikvar, Young BSF Programme Director / Photo: Anže Malovrh, STA



Ljubljana Town Hall debate / Anže Malovrh, STA

hand, Mr Rajendra Kumar, an architect at 100 Indian Smart Cities, presented the initiative to turn 100 Indian cities into smart cities. “Cities are always for citizens, whether we’re dealing with a population of 100,000 or a million,” he pointed out. And last, but not least, Mr Mark Boris Andrijanič, a member of Uber’s public policy team for Central and Eastern Europe, stressed that smart cities also include car sharing, which “can solve a lot of problems for cities, such as air pollution and congestion”. “We are competing with the notion that everyone must have a car. We believe that services like Uber can make our cities smarter, greener...” This was echoed by Mr Julij Božič, Chief Innovation and Digital Officer at BTC, who stressed that “it is all about changing the mind-set in mobility”.

The participants were also addressed by Mr Zoran Jankovič, Mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana, who turned to the Slovenian capital, explaining that it was all about vision. “We started to teach our children in kindergartens ten years ago to sort waste,” he stressed, pointing to the

need to educate people to bring about change. Since its decision to introduce waste sorting, Ljubljana has come a long way: as much as 65% of waste is now sorted at home, the mayor added. The debate in Ljubljana was the basis for the future decision-makers to start drawing up strategic solutions for a sustainable intersection in Ljubljana, consisting of a zero-waste shop, a café and bed & breakfast – a task for the weekend in a seven-team competition – with the help of experts from the municipal utility Snaga and SmartIScity.

To help the teams better shape their projects, the organisers of Young BSF – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia in partnership with Zavarovalnica Triglav, Association Ypsilon, Snaga, SmartIS City, Municipality of Ljubljana, Adriatic Grupa, IEDC, and the traditional partner, the Centre for European Perspective – arranged two more debates, one on youth mobility and participation, and one on intergenerational cooperation.





Mark Boris Andrijanič, a member of Uber's public policy team for Central and Eastern Europe / Anže Malovrh, STA



Panel on Youth Mobility and Political Participation / Anže Malovrh, STA

On the second panel, “Youth Mobility and Political Participation”, the panellists agreed that while young people may feel their voices are not heard, they are, as long as their views are substantiated and based on critical thought. This was pointed out by Mr Igor Cesarec, the president of the Association of Slovenes Educated Abroad VTIS, who believes that young people should move past the mind-set that their voices are not heard. Mr Samo Novak, a senior adviser at the Office of the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, pointed out that young people should be empowered, but that empowerment does not come “through an EU-funded project, because it is a long-term project”. Young people have to be taught how to use their voices, because empowerment comes only through critical thought. What is more, empowering “young generations with a voice that is heard and based on critical thought, on genuine arguments” can lead to incremental change – a middle path between no change and revolutionary change. He also suggested that “critical thinking should be part of the school curriculum.”

The role of mass media in encouraging participation among the young was also touched on in the debate, with Ms Irena Joveva, a journalist at POP TV, stressing that it was journalists' job to report and help people get a picture of events around them. According to her, the media should encourage people to participate, because everyone, “especially young people should be involved in daily political developments”. Young people must stand up and must be active; they need to follow developments, she concluded. Mr Lawen Hawezy, UNDP Consultant on Syrian Refugees and Iraqi IDPs, meanwhile connected participation to mobility, stressing that refugees who do not leave their countries of their own volition constitute another group of people whose voices are not heard.

On the other hand, the moderator, Mr Miha Pongrac, a former Youth UN Delegate and journalist, raised the question of the brain drain, of young educated people leaving their home country and not returning. Mr Cesarec, who currently lives in New York, stressed that the brain drain had a



Blaž Golob, CEO of SmartlScity / Anže Malovrh, STA



Business Challenge winning team / Anže Malovrh, STA

very bad connotation in Slovenia. However, he believes that this should not be the case, as “you can be sitting in the middle of Ljubljana and be less active, contribute less than someone on the other side of the world.” What is more, a country needs to be attractive for people to live, work or study there, regardless of their nationality. “At the very core, you should enable people to come back.” Wherever they have lived, they will bring something back to their country; if they are not enabled to come back, they will not bring back a fresh perspective, Mr Cesarec stressed.

Participants on the third and final panel “Intergenerational Cooperation” highlighted the need for the inclusion of the young as well as the elderly in society. Ms Tjaša Sobočan of Simbioza Genesis and Ms Đuvelek, the programme director of Association Ypsilon, agreed that intergenerational cooperation was a two-way process. “Intergenerational cooperation and dialogue are not that simple. The issue needs to be spoken about and acted upon. We have found our place in the world, but we must not forget about others,” Ms

Đuvelek pointed out to the young leaders participating in the forum.

Mr Jernej Pikalo, professor of Political Sciences at the Ljubljana Faculty of Social Sciences and former Minister of Education, Science and Sports of Slovenia, said that demographic trends in Slovenia, as well as in many other countries, were not sustainable in the long run. “Today, we are deciding for the next 20 or so years,” Mr Pikalo stressed, pointing to the need to involve young people in decision-making. This was gladly taken up by Mr Tin Kampl, the president of the National Youth Council of Slovenia, who firmly believes that the young should be included in social dialogue, as they will be reaping the fruits of today’s efforts. “Politicians must see that the interests of young people are important in shaping society,” Mr Kampl stressed.

Geared up with all the information from the panels, the teams took the Sunday afternoon to fine-tune their entries before the evening challenger round of presentations in the Business



Participants of the 2016 Young BSF / Anže Malovrh, STA

Challenge – drawing up strategic solutions for a sustainable intersection in Ljubljana consisting of a zero-waste shop, a café and bed & breakfast – presented their projects.

The jury, consisting of Mr Janko Kramžar, CEO of Snaga, Mr Klemen Ponikvar, Programme Director of Young BSF, Mr Blaž Golob, CEO of SmartIScity, and Ms Sabina Đuvelek, programme director of Ypsilon Institute, declared the Game Changers team the winners.

The team, Nina Pižorn, Luka Jesenšek, Zala Velkavrh and Gašper Kos, came up with a solution dubbed World 2.0, a place where sustainable community could grow and promote ideas through active participation. “It throws out old habits, and promotes a new, sustainable, and environmentally and socially conscious mind-set,” the group wrote in their presentation. “The World 2.0 intersection functions as a hub that satisfies several day-to-day needs: eating and drinking, shopping for groceries, learning and making, and last but not least, socialising.” They added to the

main concept the idea of a digital platform because “World 2.0 is also a virtual world, based on a platform where people live their virtual lives in our sustainable intersection”.

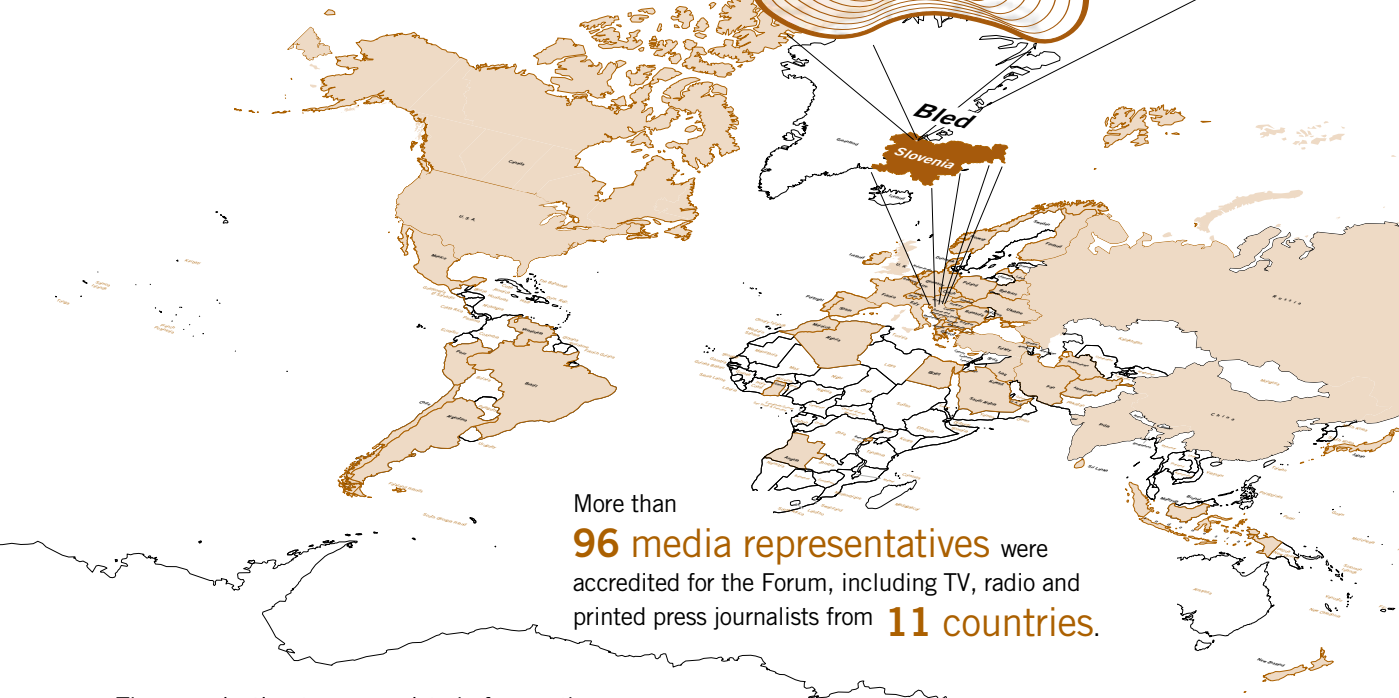
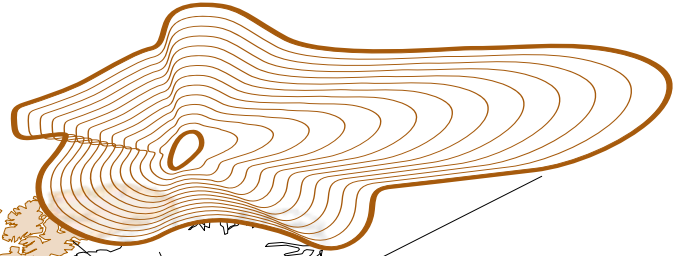
The Young BSF closed over breakfast on Monday morning with addresses by the Programme Director of Young BSF, and Mr Janez Fajfar, Mayor of Bled Municipality. Mr Ponikvar expressed the hope that the panels, which addressed important challenges “that Slovenia and other developed countries are facing these days”, had been useful. He pointed out intergenerational cooperation and demographic change, political participation and the case study on smart cities. Mr Fajfar stressed the importance of such events, as they are a good way to meet new people, exchange views and create networks. “Especially at your age, it is important to make a kind of network,” he added, pointing to how knowing people can improve their lives. “I hope you made some friendships.”

# 2016 Bled Strategic Forum: Facts and Figures

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 **2016 Bled Strategic Forum** was the

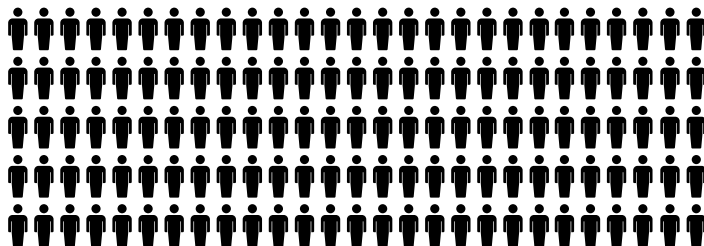
**11th** in a

Altogether, **1000** people from **67** countries, **5** continents and **8** international organisations registered for the forum.



More than **96** media representatives were accredited for the Forum, including TV, radio and printed press journalists from **11** countries.

The organisation team consisted of more than **150** people, including



**42** drivers

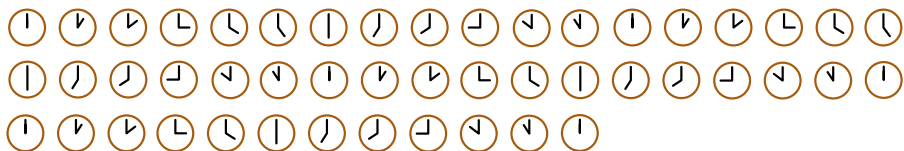




row.

Participants took part in  
more than **2,835** minutes or

**47** hours of sessions



and discussions, totalling

**30** separate events.



Mercedes-Benz provided **18** vehicles  
for the transportation of participants.



**23** musicians



+

**25** volunteers



+

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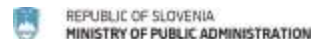
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