



International Conference
„The European Union and the opportunities for the Youth 2014 Erasmus+“
11 May 2015, Bratislava

INFORMATION BROCHURE

ORGANISERS

INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN DEMOCRATS (IED)



is an innovative non-profit, political and cultural Research Institute based in Brussels. It has been established in September 2007 as an independent Research Institute. The IED offers fresh political ideas as well as a strong and respected cultural background to the Parti démocrate européen-European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP) to which it is formally affiliated. Like all political foundations at the European level formally recognised by the European Parliament, the IED was established with the support of the European institutions in order to be a political think tank. The Institute of

European Democrats promotes a wide range of activities that include studies and analysis, workshops and public conferences. In order to contribute to develop a political debate at the EU level, where alternative policies confront each other, thanks to a well-developed European-wide network, IED organizes international conferences and seminars where politicians, experts, EU and national officials, academics and others can discuss and share ideas. Such events are mainly organised in EU Member States, in order to discuss concrete issues closer to EU citizens and EDP member organisations and, also, in order to contribute to the national discussion with a European perspective ensured by the international dimension of the events. IED events are nevertheless also organised in Brussels and the Institute promotes and maintains an extra-European network of academic and political contacts, to be able to focus on EU relations with key global areas and policies. The IED also delivers policy papers and publishes studies thanks to its research fellows and also through external projects. In all its activities, the Institute of European Democrats operates in connection with other European and International Foundations, Universities and Centres of Research, European and national Institutions. The program of activities of the Institute is planned by its members represented in the Board of Directors and the General Assembly, and it is coordinated by the office in Brussels. The primary goal of IED is to promote a better understanding of the main aspects of the European integration process and to play actively in strengthening the confidence of European citizens towards European institutions and, above all, the idea of a united Europe. In this view, the Institute of European Democrats works actively to close the gap that now stave off citizens from European public policies. What is more, IED promotes a closer cooperation with the most significant personalities and institutions in the political, economic and cultural fields. The President of IED is Jean Claude Casanova; the IED's Chief Executive Officer is Luca Bader.

www.iedonline.eu

YOUNG EUROPEANS /MLADÍ EURÓPANIA (ME)/

is a non-profit Slovak youth organization which gathers young people who are not careless about the world around. It supports an idea that young people have to be active and therefore they try to show, through their activities, to other young people that public affairs as well as the life within the European Union directly concern us and affect our everyday lives. Through their projects, they contribute to the basic cornerstones of healthy society and its balanced future in favour of the development of democracy, tolerance and gender equality. The goal of organization is the general enlightenment, education, gathering of youth, development of their cooperation and raising awareness of the life within the Community (not only) in Europe. Thanks to their activities, Young Europeans want to strengthen the participation of young people in the decision-making processes at all levels. They also directly support the aspirations of all politically active young people and participate on the action programmes for youth as an



inseparable component of social and economic development in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations. The current president of the organization is Lýdia Hirošová.

www.mladieuropania.sk

MODERATOR OF THE CONFERENCE



François Lafond

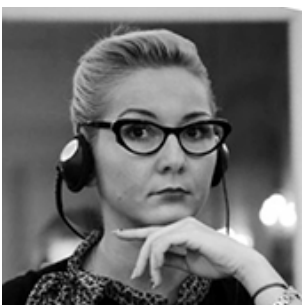
is the Executive Director of EuropaNova, member of the scientific committee of the Institute of European Democrats, (Brussels/Paris), member of IDEFIE (Paris), and a regular collaborator of the daily Italian Newspaper Europa (Roma). Previously, he was the executive director, member of the managing board of the French Aspen Institute and, director of the Paris office director of The German Marshall Fund of the United State. Before, François Lafond was a special adviser of the Italian Minister for Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies, responsible for international relations of the think tank Glocus in Roma, and associate professor at the Centre for European Studies of Sciences-Po Paris).

He was also special adviser of the Italian undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, deputy director of Policy Network in London, researcher and then deputy secretary general of the think tank Notre Europe in Paris, chaired by Jacques Delors, and research associate at the European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre in Florence.

MAIN REPRESENTATIVES

Luca Bader

is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of European Democrats (IED). He is Chief of Staff of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy. In the past ten years, he has served as responsible for Europe and North America at the Democratic Party (PD) in Italy and as advisor of the Committees of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Italian Parliament. Also, he has advised several Italian ministries and private companies on EU and international affairs and has regularly written on Italian and EU affairs for several Italian publications. Luca has done research at the School of International and Public Affairs at the Columbia University in New York and at the Institute of International Affairs in Rome, where, as Senior Research Fellow, he researched, organised conferences and wrote on European Integration, Transatlantic Relations and International Economy. He has worked for the National Democratic Institute of Washington D.C., advising the program on building Institutions and Political Parties. In 2005, he was selected by the US Department of State for the "International Leaders Programme". From 2004 to 2006 he worked as advisor at the European Parliament in Brussels.



Miroslava Calegari

is the President of the youth organization Young Democrats for Europe (YDE). She is also a professional interpreter, public activist and volunteer. She is one of the founders of the Slovak European Democratic Party (EDP) which was established in 2009 – since then she has been leading its youth platform. For 4 years, she had been the president of Young Europeans (Mladí Európania, ME), the Slovak youth partner of EDP. Currently, she is the president of Young Democrats for Europe (YDE), youth organization of international political fraction of Parti démocrate européen-European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP), a member of ALDE Group of the European Parliament. Besides that, she cooperates in the

projects focused on legal recognition of young people in decision-making and she fights against discrimination, human rights violations and xenophobia.

Lýdia Hirošová

is the President of the Slovak youth organization Young Europeans (Mladí Európania, ME). She studies the political science at the University of Alexander Dubček in Trenčín, Slovakia and Prešov University in Prešov, Slovakia. She believes young people have to be active. Through her activities within Young Europeans, she tries to show that public affairs as well as the life in the European Union affect us directly. Thanks to her involvement and organization of various projects with young people, she tries to motivate youth to continuous self-improvement and personal development and the advancement of their key competences necessary for successful adaption to the labour market.



PANELLISTS

1. PANEL: “The Youth in the EU – situation and facts”



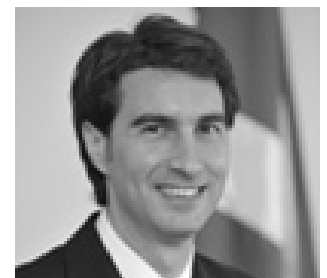
Vlasta Kunová

is the Associate Professor and Vicerector of the Pan-European University in Bratislava, Slovakia academic and scientific Professor in the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia and Faculty of Law of University of Matej Bel in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. She is a Jean Monnet Holder at the Comenius University and a holder of other 32 Slovak and foreign grants. Her specialisation is the Human Rights Protection in the EU and European Constitutional Law, External Relations of the EU and Economic and Monetary Union. Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair and Jean Monnet Module, she delivered lectures at many prominent Universities

in the EU, USA, and Asia. In past, she worked in the Slovak Government Office, Ministry of Culture and in the EU institutions in Brussels. She was an expert for the SlovakAid projects in Belarus and projects dealing with the state administration reform in the new EU member states. She published many textbooks and articles mainly on effectiveness of the EU decision making processes, human rights protection and harmonization of law. Her Jean Monnet Chair has been listed as one of the Top 20 Success Stories in the World.

Xabier Iñigo Ochandiano Martínez

is the Director of Planning and Innovation in Employment, at the Department of Employment and Social Policy of the Basque Government. He studied Business Studies with specialization in Business Management, Marketing Management and Business Administration at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). He has been Technical manager supporting SMEs and Commerce under the Special Plan of Bilbao La Vieja, San Francisco and Zabala and the Coordinator for Intervention Strategies in the Districts Lan Ekintza-Bilbao, SA and Head of the Promotion of Economic Activity.



Igor Hraško

is the Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, the sole constitutional and legislative body of the Slovak Republic. He is also an individual and independent member of the international Parti démocrate européen-European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP). In the National Council, he dedicates his parliamentary work to the sectors of education and culture and he specializes in the control of effective use of financial resources in both sectors. He tries to enhance the educational system in Slovakia and advance it to the EU level. He is a great supporter of the EU mobility programmes and Erasmus programme and he tries to support these platforms in the Parliament. He is also active folklorist and he

tries to improve the conditions for people dedicated to folklore music and dance in Slovakia.

Peter McGuigan

is a researcher of the Institute of European Democrats (IED) and an assistant in the European Parliament to Irish MEP Marian Harkin (ALDE). His role consists of coordinating and advising on EU policy, specifically, on EU agricultural policy, EU public health and the Petitions Committee. He is also a member of the European Health Parliament, a new and innovative project which aim is to create and facilitate an idea-generating platform with 80 young professionals and students who want to help shape the outlook of future European healthcare. Prior to working in the European Parliament, Peter worked as a research fellow for the IED where he authored a research paper on rising populism and the 2014 European Parliament elections. He also worked as a Policy and Strategy Assistant for the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. His role consisted in helping to develop the College's key policy areas, with the aim to influence healthcare policy in Ireland.



Marcela Hajtmánková

is the Director of the Department of Support and development of work with Youth of IUVENTA, Slovak Youth Institute. Within the department, she provides entire administration of grant programmes of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. She also organizes the subject olympiads and competitions for students. She also prepares the state policy materials and documents influencing life and status of the young people or entities working with youth (civil associations, youth centres etc.) and directly supports activities for children and youth work development through grant programmes administration. She supports activities in the area of work with talented young people by organizing of nation-wide round competitions, winner's meetings and committee meetings.

Sarah Robin

is the Deputy Secretary General and a member of the Bureau of youth organization Young Democrats of Europe (YDE), youth platform of international political fraction of European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP). After graduating from an international school in Lyon in France, she has lived more than 5 years in Canada where she studied business administration, political science and international relations. Then, she worked for the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland and for the International Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe in Denmark. After, she came back to France where she currently studies defence, security and crisis management. She is also a member of the Bureau of the youth of UDI in Paris and responsible for the project for the youth of the Parti Radical.



2. PANEL: “Beyond Erasmus – after 20 years of success”



Slavomír Rudenko

is a member of the Board of Institute of European Democrats, the Chancellor and Director for International Affairs at the Pan European University in Bratislava, Slovakia and a Lecturer in Public International Law and the Law of International Organizations at many universities in Bratislava, Slovakia. He did the Research project under the supervision of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Institute for Public Law at the University of Oslo and he completed the special semester of foreign studies with the specialization on Public international law and European law at the University of Vienna. He was also a lawyer with Breyer Rechtsanwälte Law Firm in Stuttgart, Germany. He has worked within many international academic programmes, many of which have been dedicated to youth mobility, for more than 10 years. He published many articles and textbooks dedicated to Public International Law, External Relations of the EU, EU Constitutional Law and Comparative Constitutional Law. He is one of the most significant experts on the international law in Slovakia.

Štefan Grajcár

is the Head Consultant of the National Agency for Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Sectors, Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation and Euroguidance Centre. He is one of the best experts on the EU mobility programmes and Erasmus programme in Slovakia. He was one of the founders and stood at the beginning of the creation of the National Agency for Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Sectors as well as its follower Euroguidance Centre. Through his work, he has had a chance to cooperate with many important European institutions, including the European Commission. He is also a founder of e-magazine “Career Consultancy in theory and practise”, which he considers as one of his most significant achievements.



Zuzana Poláčková

is the Head Coordinator of the programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs in Slovakia. She is also a Regional Coordinator of EPIC Employment Service in Slovakia, a non-profit international organization which finds employment solutions for jobseekers and businesses. As a main officer for the programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs in Slovakia, she coordinates the programme for new or aspiring entrepreneurs in order to give them the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running businesses in many European countries.

Ondrej Mäsiar

is a Chairman and co-founder of Mladiinfo Slovakia, a well-established non-profit organization promoting education and youth mobility. The inspiration for establishment of this organization was a voluntary work in the Macedonian organization Mladiinfo within the programme Youth in Action – European Voluntary Service for him. His aim is to inform and inspire university students and young people on possibilities to spend their time during their studies actively. He also wants to help them with their personal and educational realization within other EU programmes.



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation (SAAIC)

National Agency for Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Sectors

Euroguidance Centre Slovakia



all three platforms form together a non-governmental, non-profit organisation which objective is to support and coordinate international co-operation of Slovak universities and other educational institutions, especially with the EU Member countries within the framework of education, training and research programmes. Since its establishment in 1992, SAAIC has been assembling and distributing information for universities and other relevant institutions



concerning the possibilities of participating in educational and research activities through international programmes. SAAIC is also National Agency for the Erasmus+ Programme for Education and Training Sectors. Euroguidance Centre Slovakia, established in 1998, is focusing on promoting of lifelong career guidance and counselling in the Slovak Republic, mainly through transnational exchange of information, knowledge and experience. Euroguidance Centre is part of Euroguidance network and is supported by the European Commission as well as by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

www.saaic.sk

Slovak Youth Institute IUVENTA



is a state institution, directly managed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. Its scope of activities includes youth work outside school and family and the youth policy in the Slovak Republic and beyond. The aim of its activities is to implement the state policy

towards children and youth. The organization also offers educational, methodical and informational activities for various target groups. It further performs tasks resulting from the state policy towards children and youth, coordinates and implements activities to promote and develop research in the field of youth, administrates grant programs of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR (ADAM) and the European Union (Youth in Action). IUVENTA also operates in the sphere of work with talented youth (school subjects' competitions called „Olympiads“). It is the seat of Eurodesk – European information network for youth and youth workers.

www.iuventa.sk

Young Democrats for Europe

is the youth wing of the international Parti démocrate européen-European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP), a member of ALDE Group of the European Parliament. Their mission is to maintain high participation rates and to foster greater political involvement of European youngsters. The members of the youth organization try to let the European Institutions consider the youth unemployment a key problem to fight and not a group of indignados in the squares and to persuade them to increase fundings for Education, Research and Development within EU member states. In addition to their activities focusing on youth issues, they help to shape the European Democratic Party (PDE-EDP) across the Continent. The seat of the organisation is Brussels. The organization has members across almost EU member states. The current president of the organization is Miroslava Calegari.



www.youngdemocrats.eu

Mladiinfo Slovakia



is a well-established non-profit organization promoting education and youth mobility. It is an initiative that helps young people to fulfil their

educational potential. It was established by former EVS (European Voluntary Service) volunteers in 2010 in Bratislava, Slovakia, as the first branch of a Macedonian NGO Mladiinfo. Mladiinfo supports young people with information about the EU programs, internships, trainings, conferences, volunteering and other opportunities abroad but also in Slovakia. Internet is used as the main tool to spread calls, success stories and motivate for participation. Mladiinfo office is located in Bratislava Mlynska dolina, which is the largest complex of student



dormitories in Slovakia with almost 10 000 students. Mladiinfo is one of the most active EVS sending organization in Slovakia.

www.mladiinfo.sk

EPIC

is a non-profit organization, which parent organization EPIC Employment Service, Inc seated in Brisbane (Australia), which follows the values and mission of its parent organization. EPIC is a member of the American Chamber of Commerce and Social Innovation Europe. Main goals of the organization are influencing public policies on employment and social inclusion of marginalized groups, initiating and assisting in preparation and implementation of programs targeting increased employment on the local level, awareness-raising on employment of people with various types of disabilities and providing individualized employment services designed for disadvantaged groups. EPIC is the agent for the programme Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs in Slovakia. Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs is a cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other Participating Countries. The exchange of experience takes place during a stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps the new entrepreneur acquire the skills needed to run a small firm. The host benefits from fresh perspectives on his/her business and gets the opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets. The stay is partially funded by the European Union. The programme can offer strong added value to your business: possible benefits include exchange of knowledge and experience, networking opportunities across Europe, new commercial relations or markets abroad. A local contact point for Slovak applicants is located in Bratislava's office of the Head Coordinator of EPIC Zuzana Plačková.



Erasmus for Young
Entrepreneurs

www.epic-org.eu

www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/index.php



*The Conference is organized with the financial support of
the European Parliament.*

