

REPORT ON THE SECOND ANNUAL BALKAN FORUM ON REGIONAL COOPERATION

Thessaloniki, Greece, 19-21 March 2015



Regional Cooperation for Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

The Balkan Forum on Regional Cooperation is a cross-sectoral platform for advancing sustainable and participatory development. It promotes a resource efficient, greener, and more competitive Balkan region that is based on collaboration and diversity. The Balkan Forum aims to leverage the region's strengths, and each country's comparative advantages, to catalyse innovation and development within a framework of democratic values and the rule of law. The Balkan Forum aims to create a new vision for the Balkans based on economic integration, prosperity, and sustainable peace.

The Second Annual Balkan Forum, held in Thessaloniki in March 2015 brought together regions' diverse stakeholders and emerging leaders to work on joint action plans for the three interconnected thematic pillars that are crucial for economic development of the region: (1) Energy, Environment and Economic Development, (2) Education, (3) Human Capital and Labour Markets.

This report summarizes the purpose and parameters of the Second Annual Balkan Forum, the discussions and recommendations of participants, and 'next steps' in developing a process to transform innovative ideas into concrete actions.

ABOUT BALKAN FORUM (OR CONTEXT)

The Balkan Forum is a platform for advancing sustainable and participatory development in the Balkans. It aims to create a new vision for the region based on economic integration, prosperity, and sustainable peace. The organization focuses on the countries between Croatia and Greece—the newest and oldest EU members—with aspirations to involve more countries after establishing a solid and functional network. The Balkan Forum works to promote a green, resource efficient, and competitive Balkan region by leveraging regional strengths and each country’s comparative advantages, and by catalysing innovation and collective growth within a framework of democratic values and the rule of law.

The inaugural Balkan Forum on Regional Cooperation, held in Thessaloniki, Greece in February 2013 enabled a group of diverse stakeholders and emerging leaders to achieve a mutual understanding of the advantages of cooperation and opportunities for economic development, grounded in a commitment to

Vision and Mission of the Balkan Forum

We aspire to help transform the region into a unified force poised to act on the European and global stages. The attributes that unite Balkan cultures—hospitality, generosity, and solidarity—together with its diversity, are the best tools for tackling global challenges. We aim to utilize the region’s strengths, and each individual country’s comparative advantages, to catalyse innovation and development, within a framework of democratic values and the rule of law.

collaborative action. The meeting was held in collaboration with former Prime Minister George A. Papandreou of Greece and the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Yiannis Boutaris. Since that first meeting, the organization’s work has centred on four interconnected thematic areas: **Regional Educational Approaches; Human Capital and Labour Markets; Energy, Environment, and Economic Development; and Tourism and Infrastructure Development.** An Advisory Committee made up of diverse regional and European representatives—including members of the Nordic Council, which has served as an important model for the Balkan Forum—provides continual support and insight.

GOALS

1. Promoting a shared vision based on economic integration, prosperity, and sustainable peace.
2. Facilitating cross-border and cross-sector dialogue to generate new thinking on regional challenges and opportunities through the annual Balkan Forum and other convenings.
3. Incubating ideas for and catalysing regional initiatives in four key issue areas.
4. Building a knowledge base and providing research and policy analysis to foster mutual learning and accelerate progress toward innovative solutions to regional development challenges.

ACTIVITIES

The Balkan Forum operates within the framework of the commitments established at the Conference on [the Western Balkans held in Berlin on August 28, 2014](#), known as the “**Berlin Agenda**”. Toward this end, the Balkan Forum serves as a link among various regional stakeholders within this process across the private, public, and government sectors.

In between the two annual forums and based on the First Annual Forum participants’ recommendations, the Balkan Forum team established Balkan Forum organisation, developed Balkan Forum advisory board, expanded existing network of partners and implemented proposed activities:

- **Filling Gaps & Mobilizing Action**

Together with wide range of regional researchers and volunteers, the Balkan Forum has developed a **database on regional cooperation**, [BalkanFiles](#). This free online resource will serve as the primary tool for leaders in government, business, media, civil society, and academia looking to accelerate progress on regional development challenges. The database highlights existing and potential cross-border connections and relevant references and legal frameworks for each country as well as the European Union.

- **Building Political Will for Policy Action on Regional Cooperation Initiatives**

In September 2014, in cooperation with the Deputy Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of Albania, the Balkan Forum hosted a [regional meeting on energy efficiency in the Western Balkans](#) that brought together regional and European stakeholders to discuss concrete energy efficiency measures and agree on methods of regional energy cooperation including those established by the European Energy Community Treaty.

- **Facilitating Consensus Building & Dialogue**

Continuing to focus on its four main pillars of work, the Balkan Forum Annual meeting in Thessaloniki convenes a diverse set of regional stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable and participatory development in the Balkans.

SECOND ANNUAL BALKAN FORUM TAKING REGIONAL COOPERATION A STEP FURTHER

The Second Annual Balkan Forum was held in Thessaloniki between 19th and 21st March 2015. The program of this Forum was based on recommendations from the First Annual Forum; continuous cooperation with relevant stakeholders and priorities defined through the Berlin Agenda. For three days, over 60 participants of different professional backgrounds worked towards defining the priorities and the position of the Balkan Forum in three interconnected thematic areas: (1) Energy, Environment and Economic Development; (2) Education and (3) Human Capital and Labour Markets as well as defining activities and initiatives that can improve the current state of affairs in mentioned areas.

PILLAR 1: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GRIDS AND LIBERALISED ENERGY MARKET: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH EAST EUROPE

BACKGROUND

Western Balkan Countries have signed the Energy Community Treaty that regulates the relationship and collaboration among the country-parties. The treaty requires countries to liberalize their energy markets on January 1, 2015. According to this agreement member countries should open their markets for all customers, including individual households. In order to develop a competitive energy market, which will advance the public interest, it is crucial for the whole region to establish a liberalized energy market. Economic growth for the Balkans could be realized through a reliable and affordable energy supply, as well as diversification of the region's energy mix. For that to be achieved and in order to secure a prosperous future for the next generation, it is necessary to apply EU sustainable development rules.

The European Commission's Communication "Energy Union Package" published on February 25, 2015, recognizes the special strategic position of South East Europe. However, the region should also explore its own energy security and its capacity to contribute to Europe's energy agenda. The Western Balkan countries are an integral part of the energy system of South East Europe. Their energy infrastructure is interconnected with Europe's, and energy should be traded freely with neighboring EU countries.

The goal of this workshop was to consider connections between the liberalization of energy markets (the role of energy regulators) with energy security and a more energy efficient region and, therefore, a more energy efficient Europe.

This workshop resulted in a joint statement and conclusions, reflecting on the EC Communication about the Energy Union. This statement, which reflects the position of South East Europe towards the Energy Union, will be communicated to the European Commission and other relevant stakeholders.

Some questions that have been considered:

1. What would the real energy demand in the region be after addressing energy efficiency measures?
2. What are the shares of renewables in an integrated energy market in the Western Balkans?
3. Where do we stand in fulfilling Energy Community targets?
4. What are the legal and technical obstacles preventing liberalized markets?
5. Could we develop regional policies and modelling to help regional markets?

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Position

South East Europe should develop an integrated energy infrastructure and market in support of an efficient low carbon economy that advances the interconnectivity of the region, protects its rich natural heritage and provides strong incentives for people to collaborate.

The Balkan Forum recognises:

- the abundant, highly diverse and economically viable renewable energy resources in South East Europe,
- the region's difficulties in implementing the EU Third Energy Package,
- the low level of energy efficiency and waste recycling in most of the countries in the region,
- the potential the region offers, through enhanced cooperation, for advancing Europe's sustainable economic development and energy security.

welcomes:

- The European Commission's Communication for an Energy Union and its specific emphasis on
 - South East Europe, its vulnerability and significant energy efficiency and renewable energy potential;
 - The need for more transparency of gas supply;
 - Energy efficiency in the building sector;
 - Regional approach to building an internal EU energy market;
 - The importance of involving citizens in advancing the transition to a low carbon economy.
- The European Commission's determination to address the issues of enforcing EU energy policies through building an Energy Union promoting regional partnerships, solidarity and trust.

and calls for:

1. Recognising the potential of South East Europe as an electricity and not just a gas corridor;
2. A European framework for flexible, adaptive and dynamic governance guaranteeing the implementation of the Energy Union package and existing EU energy regulation.
3. Accelerated development of a properly integrated regional electricity market and grid infrastructure.
4. Full integration of the Western Balkan Countries into the Energy Union process;
5. Expanded and deepened transparency of energy sector contracts at every step and all levels to build trust between regional and European stakeholders;
6. Regional harmonisation of energy regulation across all members of the Energy Community in the Balkans;
7. Categorical end to retroactive legislative measures;
8. Strong energy efficiency measures across the region;
9. Development of a regional energy storage strategy;
10. Regional approach to the integration of renewables potentially through regional and local targets or support mechanisms;
11. Strong focus on demand side management and smart energy solutions;
12. Energy market liberalisation both on supply and demand side ensuring long-term energy security and access to competitive energy prices for all consumers;
13. Reducing energy poverty through energy efficiency measures and means-tested financial support;
14. End to remaining subsidies for fossil fuels and mature alternative energy technologies;
15. Local energy planning through community consultation, participation and benefit-sharing;
16. Renewable energy technologies to respect local environmental, cultural and landscape characteristics.
17. Development of a wide range of innovative and smart regional financing mechanisms for supporting small-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
18. Support for the development of distributed energy production in the region and the development of energy cooperatives as community solutions;
19. Strengthening cross-border cooperation and public consultation in developing hydro energy projects.

Action

Participants proposed wide range of activities, some of which can directly be undertaken by the Balkan Forum network and partners and some of which make a base for joint advocacy efforts.

- Catalogue existing funding mechanisms and make it available to local authorities in order to encourage local energy projects. Advocate and support national governments to implement needed changes in regulations in order to be able to utilise available funding for energy projects.
- In-depth analysis on long term demand projections in the region.
- Organise a study visit of relevant regions' stakeholders to institutions in charge of Nordic energy cooperation.
- Support and ask for integration of region's countries to the Energy Community.

- Amplify voices of the region in the processes within the Energy Union so the interests of South East Europe can be fairly represented.
- Converge the various definitions of the region, as partitioning of the region in different subcategories (West Balkans vs Balkans, for example) hinders the holistic approach to energy cooperation.
- Include discussion on renewables into the official gas/oil summits.
- Research and promote successful existing models (ex. loan repayment through utility companies, [REScoop](#), [German Energy Transition](#)).
- Sustainable use of waste for energy production would have numerous positive effects on the region.
- Urgent modernisation of existing infrastructure.
- Every energy project should be accompanied by raising awareness activities and consultations with local population.

PILLAR 2: HUMAN CAPITAL AND LABOUR MARKETS

A VISION FOR GREEN AND SOCIALLY JUST EMPLOYMENT IN THE BALKANS

BACKGROUND

The 2015 Annual Balkan Forum sought to generate ideas and strategies for collaborative actions that can support the smooth transition towards a regional green economy and the human capital policies and practices required to match this growing demand. It built on discussions held at the 2013 Annual Balkan Forum, which analysed the opportunities and challenges to fostering an inclusive regional market based on sustainable development and quality educational and training systems.

The transition toward a sustainable 'green' economy offers opportunities to green growth, conceived locally and built on the comparative advantages of different areas within and across countries. It can encourage regional competitiveness and employment generation while paying attention to environmental sustainability, social justice, equity and rights. Yet, to take advantage of these opportunities, labour market and human capital policies must also match the development of a regional strategy. Existing initiatives at local and regional levels, such as [Ashoka](#), [180 Moires](#), the [Philanthropy for Green Ideas](#), and [Via Dinarica](#), can help build a foundation for long-term sustainability by nurturing and investing in sustainable business ideas. New approaches and frameworks to collaboration can help accelerate a regionally sustainable and competitive market.

This workshop focused on exploring the potential of green growth and promising practices for preparing talent in an emerging green economy. Participants were invited to consider the following questions:

- Where are the opportunities for green jobs creation and green growth in the region, e.g. resources, sectors, and other assets? What are the challenges and how can be they addressed?
- What are examples of good socially-rooted practices and initiatives that include

innovation and localization? What kind of strategies, policies, and collaborative frameworks are required to interlink and/or scale up initiatives in a competitive and sustainable manner? Who are the key stakeholders that need to be brought in?

- What are the skills and competencies necessary for this kind of growth? How can cooperation between education and training systems and employers be fostered and tightened to ensure a relevantly skilled, yet adaptive workforce? How might the Balkan Forum support productive partnerships and relationships?
- What is the potential for cooperation on innovative solutions on regional level that go beyond funding models? What is the value added of regional approach and where should the focus be?

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Position

The transition to a green and just economy in the Balkans will require both policies that address social and environmental goals, and collaborative mechanisms that leverage local and regional strengths and comparative advantages.

Green employment presents a path to achieving regionally healthy communities that are economically viable, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable. Integrating these goals demands strategies that (i) prioritize sustainable development rather than merely growth; (ii) embrace a wide definition of green jobs to also mean decent, livable incomes, e.g. in care work; (iii) involve the transformation of existing practices/jobs as well as the creation of new ones and, (iv) support community participation and empowerment in addition to skills trainings and entrepreneurship. In particular, “green-streaming” can ensure all actions entail social, political, and environmental dimensions, and are embedded in institutional change; for example, “green hospitals” where food is healthy and locally sourced, and facilities and practices are eco-friendly.

The key sectors that offer sustainable economic opportunities for greening the economy and generating jobs include: localized and eco-friendly agriculture, energy efficiency and renewable energy, ethical financing, eco-tourism, and responsible shipping and marine industry. The transition has to be supported through continuous collaboration and alignment among: European Union, international and foreign organization, national and local governments, socially responsible businesses, chambers, and business associations, civil society organizations and platforms, diaspora and individual investors, and academics.

Action

In advancing a shared agenda and recommended action-plan, workshop participants established a framework of cooperation and the principles underlying it. These include:

- Regional initiatives that empower local communities, maximize sustainable use of local resources, connect good local initiatives, and acquire and innovate existing jobs.
- Actions through value-based networking, cross-border and regional approaches that seek comprehensive solutions and communicate across all sectors of society

Participants recommended collaborative work with Balkan Forum to:

1. Promote responsible investments in regional green energy projects informed by lessons learned and good practices
2. Connect innovative communities/municipalities through, for instance “green scorecard” project, or re-creation and innovative usage of public spaces
3. Connect businesses, cooperatives, and social innovators in the region to foster peer-learning and contribute to better understanding of market demand
4. Promote cross-border youth mobility schemes, exchanges, and apprenticeships, similar to the Nordic model
5. Build upon existing regional eco-business initiatives such as “Via Dinarica” to create more jobs in eco-tourism, organic agriculture, and renewables; and promote regional branding
6. Support standardized regional certifications, e.g. in organic food, touristic services, etc.
7. Explore and promote ethical banking, social financing, and potential of EU funding in interlinking cross-border local initiatives

PILLAR 3: EDUCATION

A VISION FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

Education is a cornerstone of the region’s economic development and of Balkan integration into the European and global communities. Close cooperation on practical education initiatives can produce benefits that improve the lives and prospects of all citizens of the Western Balkans. The Berlin Agenda asserts that “the participating states believe that needs-based academic and vocational training is essential in order to reduce youth unemployment”. The Balkan Forum seeks to help develop a workforce to address this need and prepare the region for a greener future that is poised to meet EU targets.

The goal of this workshop was to consider the social dimensions involved in transforming the Balkans into a green, resource-efficient, and more economically competitive region. By determining the implications of developing a green economy on formal education, training, and employment, participants defined what kind of changes are necessary to advance regional sustainable development and help build a relevant workforce.

Building upon existing educational programs, the region’s strengths and advantages, and environmentally friendly traditional practices, participants aimed to outline project ideas that might assist the region to:

- identify green skills and knowledge needed across the region
- prioritize target groups for permanent education
- propose methodologies that can lead to efficient educational transformation

- utilize opportunities for cross-border knowledge-sharing/skills-transfer

Questions to consider included:

- What are the existing vocational training programs and learning outcomes in the region? What are the similarities and differences among vocational schools? What exists that can be built upon and replicated and what is missing in vocational training regionally? What needs to be addressed through transnational education programs, such as internships and/or through the design of regional programs (possibly supported by the European Union)?
- How might the Balkan Forum's Knowledge Database "BalkanFiles" improve tertiary education for sustainable development in the region? Can it become a referential source for high school and university students?
- What kind of education policy is required in each country and what are the advocacy targets? Can the Balkan Forum help establish a policy that allows for cross-border degree recognition?
- How might the Balkan Forum help to reform and align the region's education systems and narrow the gap between those systems and their European counterparts?

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Position

Education for sustainable development is critical for overall employability of the region's working population. Integration of the Balkans into the European and global community can be achieved only through substantive educational reforms and policies that are aligned with country and regional development strategies, and built on their human and natural resources.

Along these lines and in accordance with Conclusions of the Berlin's Conference on the Western Balkans in August 2014, the Vocational Education Training (VET) system is recognized as essential for reducing significantly high youth unemployment - the biggest social and political problem in the region. While there is a real demand for green jobs, the real job opportunities are generated by regulatory framework and policy instruments and incentives such as those introduced through energy and environmental policies. Countries' development strategies should be more synchronized with educational policies or even shape the education including VET. At the same time, education systems should increase their overall adaptability to support innovation and respond to rapid changes.

To support education for sustainable development in the region, it is necessary to: (i) improve the status of teachers; (ii) support apprenticeship and internship type of training; (iii) incorporate sustainable development principles into primary and secondary education and use current educational reforms as a momentum to introduce these changes; (iv) advance career guidance and counselling system and promotion of perspective

occupations; (v) affirm reforms and changes grounded on the “leading by doing model” and championed by proactive educational institutions, civil society, and companies; (vi) initiate greening of educational institutions; (vii) experiment through piloting to minimize risk, decrease costs, and support innovation; (viii) improve student mobility in the region and secure diploma recognition across the region;; and, (ix) “demystify” VET to better communicate with region’s people.

Action

Participants recommended collaborative work with the Balkan Forum to:

1. Make Balkan Forum’s Balkan Files a hub for information sharing on funding opportunities in support of VET and Sustainable Development (Erasmus +, IPA CBC),
2. Provide labour data on the regional level to better utilize the capacities of VET system
3. Advocate with regional governments to recognize vocational trainings certification in line with Copenhagen Declaration,
4. Identify and promote models of green institutions within the region’s education,
5. Use the Balkan Forum as a platform to advocate in Brussels for more targeted support for VET in the Balkans (Erasmus+, IPA),
6. Map out VET providers, donors, and other relevant institutions at the regional level in order to enable coalition building around joint regional projects, experience sharing, and the promotion of good examples,
7. Facilitate regional cooperation among public institutions and CSOs to better inform Erasmus + and CBC initiatives,
8. Promote entrepreneurship and start-up culture within VET (e.g. on line platform that support the development entrepreneurship skills in VET and encourages innovation),
9. Develop advocacy campaign to introduce entrepreneurship as part of VET education system.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2015

- 19:00 – 19:30 **Reception**
Location: *Makedonia Palace Hotel, 9th Floor Restaurant*
- 19:30 – 22:00 **Keynote Speeches & Dinner**
- Introduction:* **Luna Kalas**, The Balkan Forum
- Speakers:* **Stephen Heintz**, Rockefeller Brothers Fund
Hoskuldur Thorhallsson, Nordic Council
Spyros Pengas, Municipality of Thessaloniki

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2015

- 8:30 – 8:55 **Registration**
Room: *Aristotelis I (Ground Floor)*
- 9:00 – 9:10 **Welcoming Remarks**
Room: *Aristotelis I* **Marika Theros**, The Balkan Forum
- 9:10 – 10:45 ***Perspectives on Increasing the Region's Prosperity and Sustainability***
Room: *Aristotelis I*

What are the region's prospects for economic and overall development within the framework of the EU 2020 growth strategy? Looking at the model of the Nordic region and within the framework of the commitments established by the Conference on the Western Balkans held in Berlin on August 28, 2014, known as the "Berlin Agenda", this panel aims to suggest avenues for advancing the Balkan region into a more competitive, knowledgeable, and vibrant market.

The Western Balkans has long been defined by its past and the events that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall. The impacts and consequences of conflict have made the transition to democratic, functional states, and the process of economic recovery, long and fraught with challenges. This has hindered the region's ability to compete within European and global markets and painted the Balkans with an image of a region that is "stuck in the mud". Yet, the Western Balkans possess a set of rare and unique natural resources. It also holds a very important geostrategic position as a transition route between West and East and, most importantly, is one of the most ethnically, culturally, and religiously diverse regions. The richness of diversity has never been explored and celebrated in a way that would contribute to a better image and an attractive climate for investment. In today's world, where innovation and creativity are key to designing sustainable economic and low carbon development, the Balkans has an opportunity to put forward a new vision. This vision should advance current levels of cooperation and place people at the centre of a viable development path based on principles of equality and sustainable development that generate opportunity and constructive regional partnerships.

- Moderator:* **Haki Abazi**, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Panelists: **Cameron Munter**, United Group, Serbia Broadband
Samira Nuhanovic Ribic, Foreign Policy Initiative
Harry Papapanagos, University of Macedonia
Ryan Stoner, U.S. Department of State
Alexander Wojda, Embassy of Austria, Greece

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 2015

10:45 – 11:15 **Coffee Break**
Room: Arstotelis II

11:15 – 12:30 ***The Role of Media and Civil Society in Transforming the Region***
Room: Aristotelis I

The Balkan Forum aims to serve as coordinator and facilitator for various civil society initiatives in the region and support for their enhanced, articulated, and reform-oriented voice within the EU. It recognizes the potential of interlinked and complimentary work of media, civil society, and academic institutions in transforming the region into a modern, vital, and unified force.

This panel will discuss constructive and innovative ideas of regional civil society cooperation that can secure sustainable transformation and underpin the region to act as credible partner in Europe and globally. Acknowledging obstacles and challenges in the region, it aims to identify joint civil society and media strategies to strengthen and accelerate economic integration that is based on valuing environmental protection, innovation, knowledge-societies, diversity, and accountability. The goal of the panel is to outline possible trajectories in achieving this goal within the framework of participatory decision making. The discussions will be centered on following questions: What is the civil society transformational capacity? Who are the key change agents in the region and what competencies do they carry? How do we ensure full inclusiveness yet prevent overlapping in addressing challenges? What would be the best methodology to coordinate diverse voices and promote positive narrative and forward-looking agendas?

Moderator: **Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic**, National Endowment for Democracy

Panelists: **Leila Bicakcic**, Center for Investigative Reporting
Jelena Cosic, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
Zefi Dimadama, International Centre for Black Sea Studies
Dorian Ducka, Ministry of Energy and Industry Albania

12:30 – 14:30 **Lunch**
Symposium Restaurant

14:30 – 16:00 ***Unlocking Local Potential to Set in Motion Regional Change***
Room: Aristotelis I

The Balkan Forum aims to advance multi-sector cooperation in the region by playing on local and regional strengths, individual countries' comparative advantages, and a uniformly held vision for EU integration. It tends to identify and nurture community-rooted economic relations embedded in local realities and add to them regional value.

This panel aims to sketch the role of different stakeholders in stimulating necessary cross-sector cooperation able to bring forward an integrated green growth strategy. It will aim to shed light on positive examples and/or productive relations, especially between local and regional actors. More, the panel will try to identify skills, knowledge, and resources needed to scale up locally driven initiatives towards regional development and competitiveness. It will explore the following: How can good practices at the local level be best promoted, linked-up, and scaled to create a regional competitive market? What are the comparative advantages of regional cooperation worked thorough local rather than national representatives? Can increased decentralization allow for more accountable joint ventures, e.g. into infrastructure projects? Can innovation-driven entrepreneurship foster mutually beneficial relationships across the region, encourage labor force mobility and intra-regional learning?

Moderator: **Marika Theros**, The Balkan Forum

Panelists: **Spyros Pengas**, Municipality of Thessaloniki
Aphrodite Bouikidis, Ashoka Greece
Tim Clancy, Via Dinarica
Dardan Sejdiu, Pristina Municipality
Hoskuldur Thorhallsson, Nordic Council

16:00 – 18:30 **Parallel Workshop Sessions** (coffee break included)

Workshop Objectives: to identify existing constraints, capabilities, opportunities, and assets in specific areas of regional collaboration; to suggest measures necessary to fill gaps and move forward with regional initiatives; and, to generate ideas for collaborative initiatives that can inform regional action-agendas

<p>Education:</p> <p><i>Education for Sustainable Development</i></p> <p>Room: <i>Clio</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Juliana Hoxha, Partner Albania</p> <p>Discussants: Milorad Bjeletic, Belgrade Open School Kalinka Gaber, Progress Institute Dennis Gratz, Nasa Stranka Zorica Korac, Regional Environmental Center Larus Valgardsson, Nordic Council Miroslav Zivanovic, Human Rights Center</p>
<p>Human Capital & Labor Markets:</p> <p><i>The Potential for Green Employment</i></p> <p>Room: <i>Erato</i></p>	<p>Moderator: Kurt Bassuener, Democratization Policy Council</p> <p>Discussants: Aphrodite Bouikidis, Ashoka Greece Biljana Dakic Djordjevic, Trag Foundation Paul Stubbs, Zagreb Institute of Economics Dobrica Veselinovic, Collective Ministry of Space Manolis Vournous, Municipality of Chios Konstantina Zoehrer, 180 Moires</p>

<p>Economic Development, Energy, & the Environment:</p> <p><i>Grids and Liberalized Energy Market - Opportunities for South East Europe</i></p> <p>Room: Kalliopi</p>	<p>Moderator: Julian Popov, European Climate Foundation</p> <p>Discussants: Visar Azemi, Balkan Green Foundation Anna Dimitrova, Centre for European Policy Studies Dorian Ducka, Ministry of Energy and Industry Albania Tryggvi Felixson, Nordic Council Antonis Metaxas, Hellenic Energy Regulation Institute</p>
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20:00 – 22:00

Dinner at B. Restaurant (The Byzantine Museum)

Bus leaves at 19:45 sharp in front of the hotel. If you plan to go by foot, please note that dinner starts at 20:00.

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH 2015

9:00 – 11:00
included)

Parallel Workshop Sessions: Finalizing Ideas (coffee break included)

Individual working groups resume to prepare summaries and recommendations for collaborative action

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 13:00

Room: Aristotelis I

Reporting Back, Open Discussion & Next Steps

Presentation from each workshop and facilitated discussion of ideas

Moderator:

Haki Abazi, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

13:00 – 14:30

Symposium restaurant

Lunch

14:30

Departures

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Name	Surname	Organisation
1.	Haki	Abazi	Rockefeller Brother Fund
2.	Ioannis	Armakolas	ELIAMEP/ University of Macedonia
3.	Visar	Azemi	Balkan Green Foundation
4.	Nikolaos	Bakirtzis	The Balkan Forum
5.	Anne	Bartley	Rockefeller Brother Fund
6.	Kurt	Bassuener	Democratization Policy Council
7.	Leila	Bicakcic	Center for Investigative Reporting
8.	Milorad	Bjeletic	Belgrade Open School
9.	Aphrodite	Bouikidis	Ashoka Greece
10.	Yiannis	Boutaris	Municipality of Thesslaoniki
11.	Tim	Clancy	United Nation Development Program
12.	Jelena	Cosic	Balkan Investigative Reporting Network
13.	Ivana	Cvetkovic Bajrovic	National Endowment for Democracy
14.	Biljana	Dakic Dordevic	TRAG Foundation
15.	Zefi	Dimadama	International Centre for Black Sea Studies
16.	Anna	Dimitrova	Centre for European Policy Studies
17.	Dorian	Ducka	Ministry of Energy and Industry
18.	Romeo	Ekonomidis	The Balkan Forum
19.	Tryggvi	Felixson	Nordic Council
20.	Alkisti	Florou	Aegean Energy Agency
21.	Kalinka	Gaber	Progress Institute for Social Democracy
22.	Ilir	Gashi	Slavko Curuvija Foundation
23.	Dennis	Gratz	Nasa Stranka
24.	Stephen	Heintz	Rockefeller Brother Fund
25.	Juliana	Hoxha	Partners Albania
26.	Dragana	Ilic	Rockefeller Brother Fund
27.	Nedim	Jahic	The Balkan Forum
28.	Luna	Kalas	The Balkan Forum
29.	Zorica	Korac	Regional Environmental Center
30.	Zoran	Kordic	UNDP

31.	Alma	Kovacevic	Centre for Environment and Energy
32.	Fedja	Kulenovic	IT Consultant
33.	Ioannis	Liontos	Municipality of Ioannina
34.	Leonidas	Makris	Municipality of Thessaloniki
35.	Antonios	Metaxas	Hellenic Energy Regulation Institute
36.	Jelena	Milic	Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies
37.	Cameron	Munter	United Group
38.	Samira	Nuhanovic Ribic	Foreign Policy Initiative
39.	Ariadne	Papagapitos	Rockefeller Brother Fund
40.	Harry	Papapanagos	University of Macedonia
41.	Julian	Popov	European Climate Foundation
42.	Helena	Qirici	The Balkan Forum
43.	Boris	Raonic	Civic Alliance
44.	Damijan	Sedar	European Union Office in Kosovo / EU Special Representative
45.	Dardan	Sejdiu	Municipality of Pristina
46.	Jasna	Sekulovic	German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)
47.	Nikos	Servos	The Balkan Forum
48.	Ryan	Stoner	U.S. Department of State
49.	Paul	Stubbs	The Institute of Economics, Zagreb
50.	Despina	Syrri	Regional Cooperation Council
51.	Marika	Theros	The Balkan Forum
52.	Hoskuldur	Thorhallsson	Nordic Council
53.	Giorgos	Triantafyllou	Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
54.	Larus	Valgardsson	Nordic Council
55.	Dobrica	Veselinovic	Collective Ministry of Space
56.	Ljubisa	Vrencev	Symbiosis
57.	Emmanouil	Vournous	Municipality of Chios
58.	Bodo	Weber	Democratization Policy Council
59.	Alexander	Wojda	Austrian Embassy to Greece
60.	Miroslav	Zivanovic	Human Right Centre
61.	Konstantina	Zoehrer	180 Moires