

EXTENDED LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PANELISTS & WORKSHOP-HOSTS

WELCOME - MONDAY, 10.00



ANDRÉ HELLER

Act.Now
Co-Founder
AUSTRIA

André Heller is one of the most influential and successful multimedia artists in the world. In 2016 he co-founded Act.Now with Patricia Kahane and entrepreneur Elke Zuckermann to work towards a respectful and appreciative social coexistence in the near and distant future.



JÜRGEN CZERNOHORSZKY

Executive City Councillor for
Education, Integration, Youth and
Personnel of the City of Vienna
AUSTRIA

Since January 2017 Jürgen Czernohorszky is the City Councillor for Education, Integration, Youth and Personnel; previously holding office as Executive President of the Vienna City School Council.



PATRICIA KAHANE

Act.Now
Co-Founder
AUSTRIA

Patricia Kahane, born 1953, is President of the Swiss Kahane Foundation and supervisory board member of the family's companies. In 2016 she co-founded Act.Now with media artist André Heller and entrepreneur Elke Zuckermann to work towards a respectful and appreciative social coexistence in the near and distant future.



ELKE ZUCKERMANN

Act.Now
Co-Founder
AUSTRIA

Elke Zuckermann is a communications and organisational development consultant. In 2016 she co-founded Act.Now with entrepreneur Patricia Kahane and artist André Heller to further a respectful and appreciative social coexistence.



PRESS CONFERENCE - MONDAY, 11.15



ANDRÉ HELLER

Act.Now
Co-Founder
AUSTRIA

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DIANA GUENTHER

Researcher and community
development worker in
Vancouver
CANADA

I started my career in the early 1990s working in a community youth development context and I have worked in that context in various capacities (government, NGOs) . My early career has focused on working with marginalised youth and marginalised communities in Europe (UK, Netherlands, Germany) and as of 2003, Vancouver, Canada. In recent years, I have re-focused my career as a researcher and policy analyst with a particular focus on involving marginalised populations into policy environments.



NATALIE HAAS

Austrian Youth Delegate to
the United Nations
AUSTRIA

Has a diploma in Elementary Pedagogy from BAKIP Salzburg (2014), a BA in Political Science from Universität Salzburg (2017), a MSc in Conflict Resolution from University of Essex (graduated with distinction) (2018). She currently serves as the Austrian Youth Delegate to the United Nations. She is the founder of ZIAG (www.ziag.at), a small organisation supporting the integration of refugees and positive coexistence. Particular interests are: SDGs in elementary education, Youth participation, International Relations, Migration, Integration.



SPARKLING INPUTS - MONDAY, 10.30



FAHIMA ELMI

Student, Netherlands-Child ambassador for the Forgotten Child Foundation

NETHERLANDS

My name is Fahima Elmi, I am 17 years old and I live in the Netherlands. I'm a child ambassador for the Forgotten Child Foundation; Member of the Youth Taskforce and Youth Council Safe Future. My passion lies in helping vulnerable children. I try to give homeless/abused/poor children a voice in decisionmaking. On the age of 15 I was the first Dutch nominee for the intentional Children's Peace Prize for my work for children that stay in shelters.



ALI MAHLODJI

whatchado Founder & European Youth Ambassador

AUSTRIA

Ali Mahlodji was born in Tehran in 1981. When he was two, his family fled to Austria. He is a multiple award winning co-founder of an internationally acclaimed start up called WHATCHADO, an online video platform, which functions as a „manual“ for life stories and jobs. His passion is to start new ventures and help people find their calling. In 2013, the European Union appointed Ali Youth Ambassador for life. In 2015, he was awarded European Ambassador for the New Narrative.

SPARKLING INPUTS - MONDAY, 17.00



GARI PAVKOVIC

Municipality of Stuttgart
Commissioner for Integration

GERMANY



AJETE KËRQELI

Foundation Shtatembdhjete

Co-Founder

KOSOVO

Ajete Kërqeli is co-founder of Foundation ‚Shtatëmbëdhjetë‘ (17), based in Prishtinë. She holds a master degree in Psychology and Counselling from the University of Sheffield. Ajete has been involved in civil society developments and international organizations for approximately 12 years now. She has experience in fundraising, program management, monitoring and evaluation, research, gender issues and youth empowerment.



SPARKLING INPUTS - TUESDAY, 10.00



BERNHARD FRISCHMANN
Provincial Education Authority, Tyrol
Primary School Inspector
AUSTRIA



UMBERTO COSTANTINI
Mayor of Spilamberto
ITALY

I am Umberto Costantini, Mayor of Spilamberto. I studied Political Science at the University of Bologna. I have been active for years in the world of volunteering through the scout movement. At the age of 25 I ran for the primaries of my party to become the mayoral candidate of my city. In 2014 I won the primaries and the elections and so I became one of the youngest mayors of Italy. I have been part of the National Committee of the Italian Democratic Party since 2017.

SPARKLING INPUTS - TUESDAY, 14.00



RUI TEIXEIRA
Gaia Youth Council
Member
PORTUGAL

Rui Teixeira was born in Gaia, Portugal in 1999 and is currently studying Computing Engineering at the Porto University. He founded the National Federation of Students Unions and took part in several international conferences about youth participation and education. He was also an invited speaker in several conferences at a national level. He has been the president of the Permanent Commission of the Gaia Youth Council and still is a member of the council. He is also a member of the City Council.



PROMISING PRACTICES PRESENTATORS



RAKEZ AL-KHALAILEH

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Director of Studies and Development

JORDAN

An accomplished expert in all areas of municipal work and sustainable development, with a demonstrated track record of achievement spanning over 30 years in the public sector. Particular areas of experience include the design and implementation of different public service and sustainable development projects in a large number of Jordanian municipalities, the development of local, national, regional and international functional collaborations to serve local communities.

Promising Practice: Khair Al-Koura



HASSAN AL-RAHIBH

Municipality of Umm El Jimal

Mayor
JORDAN

President of Ibn al-Sabil Charity Association from 1988-2017, President of Al Hussein Cultural Club from 1998-2000, Deputy Mayor Of Umm Jemal municipality 2003-2007, Mayor Of Umm Jemal municipality 2013-2022.

Promising Practice: Khair Al-Koura



SIMON ANLIKER

Dachverband Schweizer Jugendparlamente - DSJ

Team Leader *Gemeinden engage.ch*

ENGAGE.CH

SWITZERLAND

Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (University of Geneva), Master of Law (University of Bern) (ongoing) and working experience as trainee at the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Staff Office (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), project assistant in the Team „liaison and communication“ where we elaborated the exhibition „Displaced“ (www.flucht-fuir.ch/en), assistant for Mission and Event Management at the Swiss Cooperation Office in Amman, Jordan.

Promising Practice: Engage.ch



TJARK BARTELS

Hameln-Pyrmont District

Head of Administration

GERMANY

Tjark Bartels ran as a mayor of the municipality Wedemark and is in this function since September 2006. In October 2013, he won in a runoff for the district election, chosen by the SPD of Hameln-Pyrmont. His activities include opportunity management in rural areas and the economic reorganisation of municipal enterprises. One of his most significant projects was the spontaneous opening of a first reception facility in Hameln, in September 2016, in which up to 1000 refugees found a safe shelter.

Promising Practice: Cuckoo's nest



SIHANA BEJTULLAHU

Peer Educators Network

Project Manager

KOSOVO

I am a psychologist. Working in the sector of civil society for more than 6 years now. Currently, I am leading a project called Social Act. The aim of the project is to support youth people with lack of opportunities.

Promising Practice: Social Act





REBEKKA DOBER
YEP - Stimme der Jugend
 Initiator & Co-Founder
 AUSTRIA

I work in the field of education, youth empowerment and participation for several years now, using methods of theatre pedagogy and digital tools. I developed „Students As Experts 4 Change“ - an educational design to foster co-creativity and self-efficacy - and implemented it in different schools and fields. Now I founded a youth organisation/social business YEP, which facilitates youth participation processes and aims to encourage, enable and empower young people to lead social change.

Promising Practice: Students Experts for Change

**SUZANNE GARCIA
 IMBERNON**
 Office of the Commissioner
 for Children Malta
 Task Manager
 MALTA

Promising Practice: Rights 4U



DIANA GUENTHER
 Independent Researcher,
 Community Development
 Worker
 CANADA

I started my career in the early 1990s working in a community youth development context and I have worked in that context in various capacities (government, NGOs). My early career has focused on working with marginalised youth and marginalised communities in Europe (UK, Netherlands, Germany) and as off 2003, Vancouver, Canada. In recent years, I have re-focused my career as a researcher and policy analyst with a particular focus on involving marginalised populations into policy environments.

Promising Practice: RISE - Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment



TATJANA HVALA
 Unicef/ MCP/ Boreo
 Advocacy Manager
 SLOVENIA

I have a clear vision how to make a world a better place for all - no matter where - at the international, national, regional level or in the local community, by connecting and managing social innovations & local partnerships. I'm also very passionate about collaboration with organisations, as well as with enthusiastic people and their innovative project ideas, trying to connect them with the right key donors and stakeholders to make an social impact or innovation.

Promising Practice: Stop on a lively street



MAIDA KASUMOVIC
 Municipality of Sjenica
 Head of Economy and Development
 Department
 SERBIA

I have a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Belgrade University, Faculty of Philology and am currently at my Master Studies of European Integration, Faculty of Law. Working experience: Municipal Administration of Sjenica Municipality for 7 years, UNOPS – EU PROGRES Programme for 1 year. Trained in: Project cycle management, social protection services, Prince2 Foundation Examination, Good governance training.

Promising Practice: Protecting me





NIKA KURTI
 Youth Council Opatija
 Photographer
 CROATIA

Student in Management of Sustainable Development. Currently working as a photographer for the Youth Council Opatija and during students' events at the the University (Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Opatija). In the 2018, participation in two local projects: „Creative Tourism Lab“ and „Local youth programme (a.k.a. LPZM)“. In April, volunteered at Digital Marketing and Technology in Tourism Conference - „Internet Adria“.

Promising Practice: Youth Council Opatija



LEFKI LAMBROU
 Home for Cooperation (H4C)
 Director
 CYPRUS

Lefki Lambrou is the Director of the Home for Cooperation, a community center located in the heart of Nicosia. She studied Political Science and Public Administration (BA), Public Relations (MSc) and she holds an MBA. Her previous work experience includes programme development in Business and Non Profit Organizations. She has been a very active member of civil society for many years with the aim of allowing all communities to engage, communicate, meet and present their culture and history.

Promising Practice: Home4Cooperation



EMILY MCDONNELL
 Civocracy
 Head of Communication and Partnerships
 GERMANY

Emily McDonnell is a communications and community expert with a focus on political and technological innovation. She has experience working with policy academics and practitioners, and with developing digitalisation within the private and public spheres. She is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, and a freelance travel writer.

Promising Practice: Civocracy



MERHEJ NAJEM
 Municipality of Habbariyeh
 Advisor to the Mayor
 LEBANON

Merhej Najem is a member of the Habbariyeh Municipality staff, involved in organising education and media activities in this region.

Promising Practice: Social Cohesion Summer Camp



PETRA NAVARA
 Alpine Peace Crossing
 Former Secretary General
 AUSTRIA

Petra Navara is a social anthropologist by education, who gained most of her working experience in the field of development cooperation, being desk officer for projects in Africa and PNG, press-officer, CEO of the (then) biggest NGO in Austria and later CEO of the umbrella organisation of NGOs in the development and humanitarian business. After working as a free lance journalist in Kampala for 3 years, she established an association of charitable foundations and worked for Alpine Peace Crossing.

Promising Practice: Wir geben / We give





LASSE PAETZ

Bildungsfestival

Founder

GERMANY

Seven years' experience of empowering socioeconomically disadvantaged teenagers. Inter alia: full-time teacher for two years, qualification programs for schoolteachers, teaching materials author. Founder and programme manager of the Bildungsfestival („Education Fair“), a four-day network event empowering 100+ socioeconomically disadvantaged teenagers each year. Education: M.A. in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (to be completed) and M.Sc. in Mathematics.

Promising Practice: Education Fair



SARA SUŠANJ

Youth Council Opatija

Vice President

CROATIA

Graduate student of Philosophy and Pedagogy and a volunteer for Society Our Children Opatija in charge of planning and leading the workshops for the members of Children City Councils. Since 2017, member and a vice president of the Youth Council of Opatija which is engaged in ensuring active inclusion of young people of Opatija in contributing to all kinds of decision-making processes related to the city's development.

Promising Practice: Youth Council Opatija



EKATERINA PETRIKEVICH

D21

Senior International Project Manager

CZECH REPUBLIC

An alumnae of Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris, I worked as a democracy coach teaching basics of civic engagement to students from underprivileged communities. At the moment, I support D21 international operations and the development of new methodologies. I participated in the research on current trends in innovation for the EU Commission, trained young Western African leaders in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and continuously promote youth engagement through school participatory budgeting.

Promising Practice: My school, my vote!



PETER SCHIPEK

Schule im Aufbruch, lernwelt. at, Akademie der Potential-entfaltung

AUSTRIA

Promising Practice: Schule im Aufbruch



UDO WENZL

Child- Youth & Citizenparticipation, Baden-Württemberg

Community Advisor

GERMANY

Udo Wenzl ist Dipl.-Sozialpädagoge, von 2001 bis 2014 war er Bildungsreferent und Referent für Jugendbeteiligung beim Landesjugendring Baden-Württemberg. Heute ist er systemischer Kommunalberater für Kinder-, Jugend- und Bürgerbeteiligung.

Promising Practice: Mobile in the valley



NOW WORKING GROUPS PRESENTATOR - MONDAY, 14.15



NERGIZ ABI
 Kurdistan Regional
 Government-Iraq (KRG)
 Public Affairs Officer
 AUSTRIA

Nergiz J. Abi was born in Ontario, Canada to Kurdish parents. She graduated from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby where she double majored in Criminology and Psychology. Her undergraduate studies focused on forensic psychology, social psychology, counselling, and restorative justice. During her studies, she trained and worked as a crisis-line operator as well as a public affairs officer at the Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group focused on social and environmental justice.

NOW Working Group Gender Equality

CARE International: I have been working as a project coordinator for last 8 years, training, supervising and monitoring local partners organisations in the Balkan region for the project Men and Boys as Partners in Promoting Gender Equality and Violence prevention. I have been organising trainings with fathers and fathers to be for the program Engaging Men in Fatherhood, Care giving. I have also been implementing trainings for Media and Journalists on Gender Sensitisation on Media and Reporting.

NOW Working Group Gender Equality

Co-Founder and psychotherapist at Hemayat - Organisation for Torture and War Survivors in Vienna. Lecturer for Psychotraumatology, Crisis Interventions and Community based intervention after Desasters in Austria and internationally. Author of publications in Psychotraumatology. Latest publications: "Grief and Disappearance". Los Angeles, London, Delhi: Sage. and „An ihrer Seite sein. Psychosoziale Betreuung von traumatisierten Flüchtlingen." Innsbruck: Studienverlag.

NOW Working Group Trauma Surviving

Shams Asadi is the Human Rights Commissioner of the City of Vienna. She studied architecture and urban planning. She has many years of practical and academic experience in urban regeneration and urban development with a focus on European and international affairs The human rights dimension of urban development accompanied her from beginning of her professional life and since 2010 human rights are the main subject of her career.

NOW Working Group Exploitation & Human Trafficking

Helmut Sax is a Key researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna. His main areas of work address human rights of children and of victims of trafficking in human beings; current research interests include child protection systems, protection of children from violence and exploitation, child trafficking and children on the move, children's rights at school, juvenile justice, and the generational dimension of human rights, reaching out to rights of older persons.

NOW Working Group Children's Rights



BESNIK LEKA
 CARE International
 Project Coordinator
 KOSOVO



BARBARA PREITLER
 Hemayat
 Psychotherapist
 AUSTRIA



SHAMS ASADI
 Human Rights Office of
 the City of Vienna
 Commissioner
 AUSTRIA



HELMUT SAX
 Ludwig Boltzmann
 Institute of Human Rights
 Key Researcher
 AUSTRIA



YOUTH AND MAYORS - TUESDAY, 09.00

GABRIELA TREVISAN

Researcher at CIEC/University of Minho | Adjunct professor at ESEPF, Porto

PORTUGAL

Porto, Portugal, 1975. Phd in Childhood Studies (University of Minho, Institute of Education), specialised in Sociology of Childhood. Adjunct Professor at the Higher School of Education of Paula Frassinetti, teaching social and educational intervention and community work. Researcher at the CIPAF/OBIS/ESEPF, and PI in research projects investigating autonomy processes of young people leaving care. She is an external researcher of the CIEC/University of Minho.



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CHARBEL MATTAR

Municipality of Naameh
Mayor

LEBANON

Charbel Mattar has a law degree and is currently Mayor of the Naameh Municipality in Lebanon.



LEFTERIS PAPAGIANNAKIS

City of Athens
Deputy Mayor

GREECE

After working for the European Parliament, Lefteris Papagiannakis was elected in the municipality of Athens in 2014 and is responsible for Migrant and Refugee Affairs as Vice Mayor since 2016.



BENEDETTA BORTOLINI

Student

ITALY

I attended Linguistic High School in Bologna, where I studied English, Spanish and German. I work as a babysitter for a boy and his sister. Now I'm attending the Nursing University in Bologna and I am an ambulance volunteer. I enjoy drawing, painting, listening every kind of music, dancing and swimming. I find fascinating the melting pot of different cultures, because the consequence of this connection can produce a beautiful mosaic of traditions, religions and believes.





AURELA KADRIU
Oral History Initiative
Junior Researcher
KOSOVO

Currently, I work as a Junior Researcher for the Kosovo Oral History Initiative which is a research-based organisation using the methodology of oral history to document the past of our country through people's personal stories. I am also working as an assistant director within a movie company, currently we are working on a documentary depicting the political situation of Pristina after the armed conflict of 1999, we are looking at it through the lens of urban development of the city.



YIGIT AYDEMIR
ODGEDER
Volunteer
TURKEY

I am Aydın Yiğit Aydemir, from Istanbul, Turkey and I am 19. I have attended İstek Belde Science High School, currently enrolling at Istanbul Technical University. I have worked at Newko Balkan L.L.C at Prizren, Kosovo as a marketing intern. I have served as the Secretary General Belde Model United Nations at 2016. Now, I am a volunteer at ODGEDER.

WORKSHOP PEN - TUESDAY, 11.15



SIHANA BEJTULLAHU
Peer Educators Network
Project Manager
KOSOVO

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