



May 2024

This newsletter brings you the latest news, stories and opportunities – all you need to know about the European Union and the Western Balkans.

#EUandYOU

This month's [Growth Plan Summit in Kotor](#) brought together Western Balkans leaders and EU representatives to discuss the EU's Growth Plan.

Montenegro's Prime Minister, Milojko Spajić, and European Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi highlighted commitments to further integration with the EU's single market, focusing on participation with the EU's critical medicines

alliance, the EU digital identity wallet, and agreements on conformity assessment. The summit also addressed progress made in integrating the region into SEPA, boosting digital connections through the WiFi4WB and European Digital Innovation Hubs, and establishing “Green Lanes” to reduce costs, reinforcing that regional collaboration is key to EU integration.

At the same time, the European Commission continues to support Western Balkan governments individually. This time, [North Macedonia received €50 million](#) as Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA). This financial support aims to address economic challenges from the energy crisis, stabilise the economy, and support essential reforms. It aligns with North Macedonia’s European integration ambitions and follows key policy commitments, including fiscal reforms and enhanced public investment management.

Check out the latest posts in the [YEA Blog](#) where our Young European Ambassadors, Marija Blažević and Ema Mečaj from Montenegro and Albania, have shared a compelling new entry that you don't want to miss.

Happy reading!

The WeBalkans.eu team.

Featured stories



[BALKAN TRAFIK FESTIVAL - A SYMPHONY OF CULTURES IN BRUSSELS](#)

Embracing Cultural Diversity: YEAs Unite at the Balkan Trafik Festival.

[Read story](#)

News highlights



20/05/2024



22/05/2024



EU Support Brings
Smart Meters to
Serbia

[Read more](#)

Bosnia and
Herzegovina part of
Digital Europe
Programme

[Read more](#)

21/05/2024

Young European
Ambassadors
celebrated Europe
Day across Western
Balkans

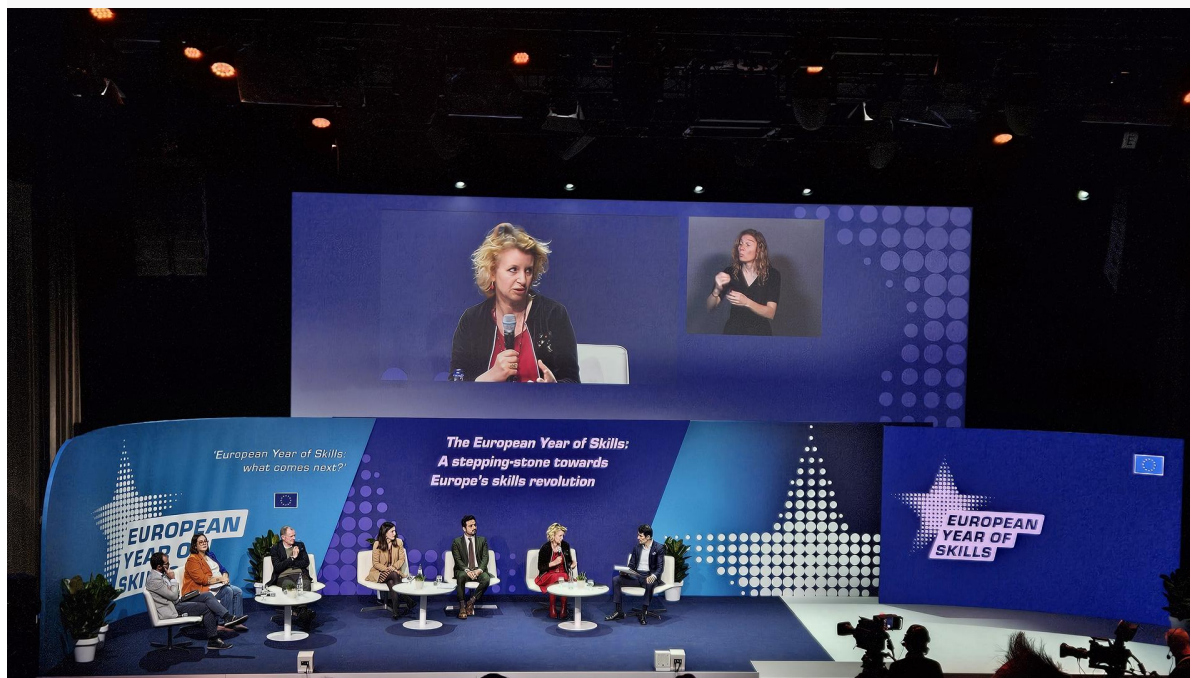
[Read more](#)

Don't miss these opportunities

- ✓ [Culture Moves Europe call for artists opens again](#)
- ✓ [Open Call: Regional Summer Camp “Youth in Action: SHAPE THE FUTURE 2024”](#)
- ✓ [Call Opens for EU Award for Investigative Journalism 2024](#)
- ✓ [Apply now for the Superschools Programme](#)
- ✓ [Youth4Regions – The Programme for Aspiring Journalists](#)
- ✓ [Call for proposals for innovative solutions for the green transition of the Serbian economy](#)

[Discover all opportunities](#)

YEA Blog



Empowering Future Leaders: Lessons from the European Year of Skills

Author: Marija Blažević, Young European Ambassador from Montenegro

When we think of skills, we often imagine something tangible, something we can create with our hands. However, skills are not only that; they also encompass emotional intelligence, negotiation power, proactivity, leadership, and many others.

Hello everyone! I am Marija Blažević, a 25-year-old Young European Ambassador representing Montenegro. Join me as I recount the highlights of the recent European Year of Skills conference hosted by the European Training Foundation (ETF), where discussions were robust, and ideas flowed freely. Read the full blog [linked here](#).

#YEStoYEA



Stories

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