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FACTS COME First



PARTICIPANTS OF PODGORICA WORKSHOP
(in alphabetic order)



Alb Muhaxhiri

Producer, vlogger and filmmaker (Kosovo)

Strong background in documentary filmmaking, vlogging, and commercial production. His ability to connect with people and translate complex themes into authentic, human-centred stories makes his work stand out. Alb's productions often highlight cultural heritage, social impact, and real-life experiences. Alb proudly represented Kosovo in "Made of Us I", a WeBalkans campaign, where he travelled Kosovo capturing EU-supported initiatives through a creative and down-to-earth lens. For Alb, every project is a chance to dive into something new, meet people, and turn real moments into powerful visual stories that speak to today's audience.



Biljana Matijašević

Journalist (Montenegro)

Works in journalism since 2003, building extensive experience in both daily news reporting and in-depth investigative work. Over the years, she has covered key economic, political, and social developments in Montenegro and the region.

She began her career as a reporter and editor at the Mina-business news agency, followed by a position as economics editor at the daily newspaper Vijesti. Her investigative work at the Centre for Investigative Journalism of the NGO MANS and the Centre for Investigative Journalism of Montenegro (CIN-CG) contributed to several high-profile stories exposing corruption and promoting transparency.

Currently, she is a political reporter for Vijesti daily and serves as an editor and journalist for Forbes Montenegro online portal. She is known for her analytical approach, attention to detail, and commitment to journalistic integrity. In recognition of her work, she received the EU Award for Investigative Journalism in 2021. She frequently collaborates with international media and networks, and regularly participates in professional trainings and conferences on investigative journalism and media freedom.



Bojan Ristovski

Young European Ambassador (North Macedonia)

An experienced activist with over 11 years of dedication to youth empowerment, recognized with the "13th of November Award" for his work improving the lives of Young Cancer Survivors in North Macedonia. Professionally, he is a social media manager and content creator with more than a decade of experience in building engaged communities and driving positive change. Passionate about connecting and empowering young people across the Western Balkans, Bojan thrives in environments where he can make a visible impact.



Dallandyshe Xhaferri

Journalist and fact-checker (Albania)

She has expanded her expertise through exchange programs in Poland and the USA. Over the past four years, she has worked on various journalism projects supported by organisations such as IFES, the East West Management Institute, and Rana Labs, with a focus on promoting high-quality journalism and human rights



Dejan Šajinović

Journalist (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

With over two decades of experience as a journalist and editor, he works at Nezavisne novine. In addition to covering domestic politics, he focuses primarily on European integration, as well as energy and defence issues.

Dejan actively participated in various projects and programs supported by the EU, the United States, the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany, and other countries — mostly related to freedom of speech, European reforms, and the education of young journalists.



Elena Prnjić

Fact-checker, School of journalism Novi Sad (Serbia)

Elena Prnjić is a graduate journalist from Novi Sad, Serbia. Since 2023 has been enrolled in a Master's program in Communication Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. In February 2024, she started working as social media manager and content creator for the Novi Sad School of Journalism and the fact-checking portal FakeNews Tragač (Tracker).

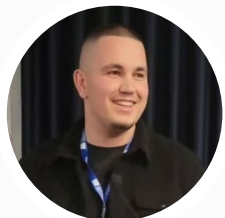


Emina Odobašić

Young European Ambassador (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Emina Odobašić is a 19-year-old youth activist from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the coordinator of the Local Team Zenica for the Organization of High School Students, she organizes workshops and discussions on social justice, mental health, sustainability, and human rights. She is passionate about empowering young people to become informed and active citizens who contribute to positive change in their communities.

Alongside her activism, Emina has a strong interest in democracy and international relations, particularly in how youth participation can strengthen democratic values and cross-border cooperation. She is also passionate about photography. Through visual storytelling, she strives to raise awareness of key issues and amplify the voices of marginalized groups. Her vision is to combine activism, global understanding, and creative expression to inspire others and build a more just, connected world.



Flori Imeri

Young European Ambassador (North Macedonia)

Born on December 9, 2003, in the picturesque town of Debar, North Macedonia. Growing up with a curious and dedicated spirit, he pursued a path in medicine and is currently studying General Medicine at the University of Medicine in Tirana. With unwavering determination and commitment, Flori is building a promising career, aiming to make a positive impact on people's health and well-being.

Beyond the university lecture halls, Flori stands out as a young leader actively engaged on the international stage. He is part of prestigious programs such as Young Climate Professionals (YCP) 2.0 and Young European Ambassadors (YEA), where he has made meaningful contributions to environmental issues and youth empowerment. As a member of the CIVICS Innovation Hub, Flori brings energy and fresh ideas to projects that promote civic innovation and sustainable development.

His experience as a project manager and organiser showcases his ability to coordinate diverse teams and turn ideas into reality.



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Geri Emiri

Journalist (Albania)

The founder and director of Amfora.al Media. He graduated in “Journalism and Communication” from the University of Tirana and continued his qualifications in Europe, the United Kingdom and the USA. He has worked in several online and television media. He has been awarded several prizes, including the “EU Prize for Investigative Journalism in Albania”, second place, for the year 2020 and third place together with a team of journalists in 2024, for the article published in Amfora.al



Hyrije Mehmeti

Fact-checker (Kosovo)

Hyrije is part of Hibrid.info team, a fact-checking platform, and also serves as a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Journalism, University of Prishtina “Hasan Pristina.” She has over 11 years of experience in the media communications industry.

Ms. Mehmeti is currently pursuing a PhD in Media and Communication at South East European University in North Macedonia. She is also an alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) of the U.S. Department of State.



Ioana Avadani

Moderator (Romania)

She is the president of the Center for Independent Journalism in Bucharest, Romania. In 2013 she was awarded the European Citizen of the Year prize of the European Parliament.

Avadani has an experience of over 25 years in the media field, having worked as a news agency deputy-in-chief editor, a TV editor and as a media developer with CIJ.

As a CIJ director (1998-2019), Avadani coordinated programs ranging from professional training for journalists to targeted assistance for media operations, from advocacy for transparency, press freedom and protection of journalists to curricula development and strengthening the journalist’s associations in Romania. She was instrumental in the passing of critical legislation such as Access to Information and sunshine laws, Broadcast law, Public Broadcast Services and public procurement legislation. She has also been central to the media self-regulation in Romania. In 2018, she was elected president of the board for a 5-year mandate.

Between 2004 and 2006, she served two successive mandates as the president of the South East European Network for the Professionalization of the Media, a network gathering 18 training centers and media institutes in 10 countries in the South-Eastern Europe. She has served as a member of the Council of IFEX, one of the largest global networks of organizations specialized in freedom of expression (2015-2019).

Avadani published numerous articles and studies dedicated to the media developments in Romania and SEE region. She was a Visiting Research Fellow with the Media and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe Program, St. Antony College, University of Oxford. She appeared as a speaker in many national and international events and taught numerous courses for various audiences. She has a MA in Anthropology and a MA in Applied Ethics. She is currently completing a PhD in Anthropology.



Jovana Đurišić

Journalist (Montenegro)

More than 10 years of experience, currently working at the Centre for Democratic Transition (CDT) as an editor of digital and researching projects.

She began her journalism career at the daily newspaper Dnevne novine in the politics desk, where she reported on political developments in Montenegro as well as on European and NATO integration. After five years at Dnevne novine, she continued her career at the oldest daily newspaper Pobjeda, also in the politics desk, where she reported from major European institutions, NATO ministerial meetings, and summits.

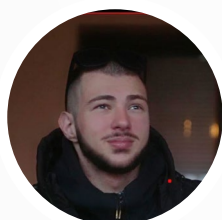
From 2019 to 2024, she was Editor-in-chief of the Pobjeda news portal. She holds a degree in journalism from the Faculty of Political Science in Podgorica. She is an alumna of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for journalists organized by the U.S. State Department, as well as the German program for journalists organized by the Foreign Office, focused on «Germany's approach to EU reform and enlargement.» She has also participated in the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security Program, among many other trainings related to European integration and security.



Kleidi Memo

Young European Ambassador (Albania)

Studying International Relations at the University of New York Tirana. Kleidi started his activism and volunteering path at Blueprint and afterwards in October 2022, he was elected as an Young European Ambassador. Since his childhood and teen years, he has always continued to be eager and motivated to give his contribution to Democracy, European Integration, Human Rights and other areas. His long-term goal is to bring a change in his country and help it on the path of European Integration with the dream of wanting Albania to be like the whole Europe, a free and democratic country as part of the EU. Therefore, he wants to see this dream become true by giving his full contribution to it.



Kurt Dobrača

Media/film creator (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Video editor with experience in camera with a passion for media and the film industry. He is creative and staying active with ambitious in filmmaking. One of the things he appreciates most is the collaborative spirit—working with a team. Filmmaking brings together imaginative, driven individuals to creatively tackle challenges.



Marina Trajkovska

Influencer/trainer (North Macedonia)

Leading the department of International Project Management at Loesje e.V. in Berlin, at the same time working as a freelance trainer and educator in many Erasmus+ and Council of Europe projects and events. The experience in youth work and youth participation progressed through design of different programs for young people especially in Human Rights Education and non-formal education for inclusion. She is the author of the trilogy "Perfect Chaos" which tackles the role of women in different societies and currently is doing her PhD at the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki, Greece in the field of radicalization of young people and counterterrorism in Kosovo and North Macedonia.



Matej Trojchanec

Journalist and researcher (fact checking) (North Macedonia)

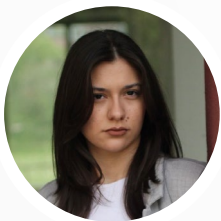
He is with Metamorphosis foundation, also, a Ph.D. student of psychology. He is interested in world politics, deep analysis and the intersection of theoretical and practical know how and why we consume news and how we act on it in the real world.



Mladen Savatović

Journalist (Serbia)

A reporter for N1 television for the past six years. The topics he deals with are corruption, high politics, environmental protection, and media manipulation. Winner of several awards, including the award for investigative journalism, awarded by the Independent Association of Journalists of Serbia.



Naida Odošić

Young European Ambassador (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

A 23-year-old genetics and bioengineering student from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Growing up in a small, close-knit community, she discovered the importance of knowledge and how science can create meaningful change in people's lives. Her fascination with science started early and has grown into a passion for exploring how it can drive progress and innovation.

Through her work and studies, she wishes to encourage members of her community to prioritise their health and well-being by showing them how small, science-based changes can enable them to lead healthier, happier, and more fulfilling lives. I also believe in the importance of inclusive healthcare and ensuring that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity to benefit from advancements in science and medicine.



Neda Dimova Prokic

Journalist (North Macedonia)

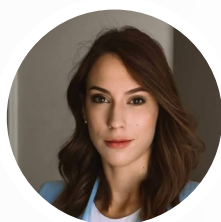
She is also assistant editor in MIA (Media Information Agency), covers foreign policy, as well internal policy, areas related to the EU integration of North Macedonia, international institutions, investigative journalism - interviews, topics, analyses related to the EU and international issues, social media management of the agency, editing the MIA website with texts, videos, photos.



Nerma Šehović-Kašić

Journalist and a researcher (fact checking) (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

She is with Raskrinkavanje, a fact-checking platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the previous years, she worked on several projects regarding media literacy and disinformation and is in the process of getting a master's degree in journalism at Sarajevo University. Prior to her work on Raskrinkavanje, she worked for a couple of local online media outlets."



Nina Đuranović

Fact-checker and communication specialist (Montenegro)

With extensive experience in public opinion research and strategic communications. She holds a degree in journalism from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica. Nina's professional journey began with an internship at the Center for Monitoring and Research (CeMI), where she gained valuable experience in election observation across Montenegro and Europe. She later worked at PR & Media Consultancy, refining her skills in strategic communications, and then joined DeFacto Consultancy as a communications and research associate. Currently, she is a researcher and analyst at the fact-checking platform Raskrinkavanje.me, where she focuses on combating disinformation.



Nina Pavićević (Kritički)

Content creator, influencer (Montenegro/Serbia)

Nina is a creator of content on social networks, where she is better known as the profile Kritički, which deals with various socially relevant topics. With Iva from Tampon Zona, she started the podcast Tampon Zona * Kritički, and recently also her own Kritički quiz. She constantly works with young people, and has recently started organizing workshops "Žena ženi nije vuk".



Vjosa Çerkini

Journalist and documentary filmmaker (Kosovo/Germany)

Based between Pristina, Kosovo, and Munich, Germany, she reports for German broadcasters such as DW – Deutsche Welle, MDR, and various regional outlets across the Balkans, Europe and US. She also contributes to U.S. media, including New Lines Magazine in Washington, D.C., covering a wide range of critical issues including politics, crime, corruption, human rights, minority rights, environmental justice, extremism, and social inequality in Western Balkans. Her transatlantic work connects Europe and the United States through bold investigative reporting and documentary film. In her role with WVN, she leads Girls' Voices Now workshops across Europe and Africa, mentoring young women from underserved communities to become storytellers and changemakers.

As the European Liaison for Women's Voices Now in Los Angeles, she leads impactful film workshops across Europe and Africa, mentoring and empowering young women to become storytellers and agents of change.

Her work has received international recognition, including Best Documentary of the Year (2021), selection among Europe's Top 10 Investigative Stories (2023), and the title of Trustbuilding Champion in Media (2025).



Xhorxhina Roçi

Influencer, book blogger (Albania)

A young Albanian woman who has become known for sharing her personal journey of overcoming bullying and self-esteem struggles. Xhorxhina is passionate about literature and has transformed this interest into a platform to inspire others as a book blogger. She runs an Instagram page and a YouTube channel "Jo vetem libra " where she shares book recommendations, featuring both Albanian and international authors. Through her online presence, she aims to motivate individuals facing challenges, encouraging them to find strength and purpose in their lives.

Xhorxhina's story serves as a powerful reminder of resilience and the importance of self-worth, inspiring many to persevere through difficult times.



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