

EXPERT ADVOCACY PANEL

WITHIN THE CROATIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

EU as a Forgotten Peace Project?

Vukovar, 14th and 15th January 2020



Republic of Croatia is the youngest EU member state that joined the Union after direct experience of war. Even during the pre-accession negotiations between Croatia and the EU, it was obvious that there was an insufficient level of understanding within the EU in relation to all of the consequences of war which Croatia would bring into the EU. A typical example are the large minefield areas in Croatia whose demining was not a priority for the EU. Psychosocial and economic consequences of war were also not sufficiently considered and analyzed.

As a country presiding over the EU Council in 2020, Croatia has a unique opportunity to open the discussion on whether we have forgotten that peacekeeping is one of EUs fundamental roles. Today, when the EU is increasing its funding of defense projects and when arrival of people fleeing wars, poverty and consequences of climate change is seen as a threat to the Union, we are obliged to speak out on the need for greater efforts to build peace, both within and outside our borders.

For these reasons, civil society in Croatia has decided to mark the beginning of the Croatian presidency of the EU Council by reminding the EU about the importance of peacebuilding. In cooperation with civil society from the EU and South Eastern Europe, in Vukovar - a town which represents a symbol of war-time destruction, on the date of international recognition of Croatia and completion of peaceful reintegration of its Danube region, we will gather and discuss what further actions can be taken to strengthen peace - inside and outside of the EU.

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14th January

12:00

Departure from Zagreb by bus

16:00

Arrival to Vukovar

17:00 - 18:30
VUKOVAR CITY
LIBRARY

PANEL DISCUSSION: CROATIAN AND POST-YUGOSLAV PEACEBUILDING EXPERIENCE AS A CONTRIBUTION TO EU PEACEBUILDING POLICY

Staša Zajović, Women in Black, Belgrade, Serbia

Katarina Kruhonja, Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights Osijek

Goran Bubalo, Network for Building Peace, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Moderator: **Goran Božičević**, peace activist, Buje

19:00 - 20:00
HOTEL LAV

Dinner and reception for guests

20:15
CINESTAR VUKOVAR

**Film projection in cooperation with Zagreb Film Festival
„Jojo Rabbit“, Director: Taika Waititi, 2019. – free entrance**

15th January

09:00 - 10:00

Visit to Vukovar remembrance sites (Documenta - Centre for Dealing With the Past). Departure from Hotel Lav.

10:15 – 10:30
VUKOVAR CITY
MUSEUM

Performance by Domino Association, Nina Bačun: Imagine

10:30 - 11:00
VUKOVAR CITY
MUSEUM

Opening of the Croatian presidency of the Council of the EU on behalf of the Croatian civil society

INTRODUCTION SPEECH, Dijana Antunović Lazić, Europe House Vukovar

Representative of the **Government of the Republic of Croatia**

Türkan Karakurt, Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Croatia

Opening of the exhibition “Faces of Resistance”

Vesna Teršelič (Documenta - Centre for Dealing With the Past), **Boris Pavelić** (journalist)

11:00 - 12:30

INTRODUCTION PANEL:

EU AT THE CROSSROADS: ACTUAL CHALLENGES TO THE PEACE PROJECT – PERSPECTIVES FOR INTEGRATION OF “OTHER EUROPE” AND DEVELOPING GLOBAL PEACEBUILDING MECHANISMS

Žarko Puhovski, professor

Markus Meckel, theologian, former foreign minister of the GDR, former member of the German Bundestag

Ben Moore, Assistant Director of European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

Moderator: **Marina Škrabalo**, European Economic and Social Committee

12:30 - 13:00

Coffee break

13:00 - 13:45

PEACEBUILDING IN EU FOREIGN POLICY: CASE STUDIES

a) Documenting war crimes from the first day of military conflict

Vesna Teršelič, Documenta

Hadi Al Khatib, Syrian Archives

Moderator: **Gordan Bosanac**, peace activist

13:45 - 14:30

b) Peaceful reintegration of Danube region

Projection of a film-trailer about Peaceful reintegration of Croatian Danube Region by Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights Osijek

Sandra Kasunić, Centre for Peace Studies

Tomislav Dagen, Academy for Arts and Culture, Osijek

Moderator: **Boris Pavelić**, journalist, Novi list

14:30 - 15:00

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EU

Kristijan Kovačić, CROSOL

Gordan Bosanac, CROSOL

15:00 - 16:00

Lunch at the museum

17:00

Departure

12:00 - 14:00

VUKOVAR CITY MUSEUM

YOUTH WORKSHOP ON VUKOVAR REMEMBRANCE

Organised by: Documenta

**This programme is organized in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Croatia and European House Vukovar.*

Forum 2020 members: ADRA – Adventist Development and Relief Agency Croatia; B.a.B.e - Be active. Be Emancipated.; Centre for Democracy and Law Miko Tripalo; Center for peace, nonviolence and human rights - Osijek; Center for Peace Studies; Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past; Forum for Freedom in Education; Gong; IPE – Institute for Political Ecology; Human Rights House Zagreb; MIRamiDA Center - Regional Peacebuilding Exchange; Croatian Youth Network; ODRAZ - Sustainable Community Development; Terra Hub; Association "Mi" – Split; Association „Earthlings - Are You Syrious?"; VUK – Youth Association Varaždin Underground Club; Association for Self Advocacy; Friends of the Earth Croatia; The Women’s Room – Center for Sexual Rights, CROSOL – Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity