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**Centro Europeo
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**Европейский центр
мира и развития**



**University
for Peace**



Tenth ECPD Global Youth Forum **YOUTH POWER FOR THE COMMON FUTURE**

With the main topic

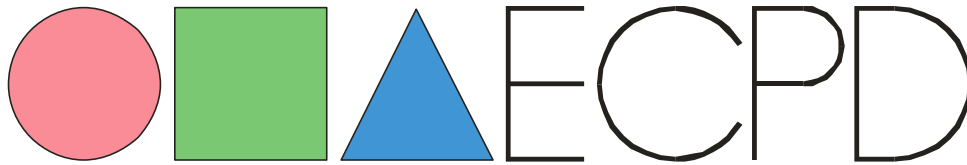
“Building Forward Together - Towards Resilient Youth”

Belgrade, 22-23 October 2022

(The Central House of The Army of Serbia – Francuska 2)

CONCEPT NOTE



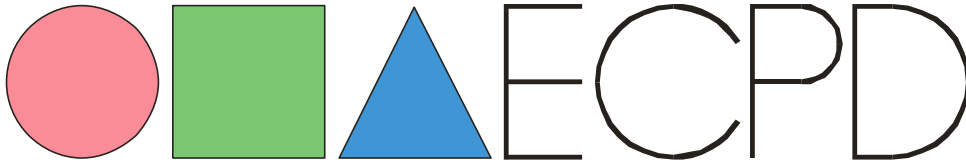


1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 The 2022 **Tenth ECPD Global Youth Forum — Youth Power for the Common Future**, organized by the European Center for Peace and Development University for Peace est. by the United Nations, will be held in Belgrade from **22 to 23 October 2022**, focusing on the topic: “Building Forward Together— Towards Resilient Youth” which corresponds well to the society’s expectations of youth and aspirations for a brighter future. In the Post-Covid 19 period, the youth population should recognize themselves as the most dynamic and powerful group to face future challenges and take positive actions.
- 1.2 We cannot afford to leave our future leaders’ potential and talent untapped, due to the worldwide pandemic and ongoing conflicts in different regions. We can always initiate a positive change to promote meaningful youth engagement and empowerment. The Tenth Youth Forum seeks to bring together youth representatives, researchers, and practitioners from different parts of the world to discuss the global crisis and its impact on youth. The Tenth Youth Forum will function as an international platform to assess the current situation from various perspectives, in order to encourage young people to make valuable contributions by sharing their vision and passion, as well as by striving to find solutions to secure a more peaceful and safer future.
- 1.3 The jubilee **Tenth ECPD Global Youth Forum** invites all interested young people, ideally **between the ages of 17 to 35**, to get involved in the dialogue on understanding the context and building resilient youth through public speaking, storytelling, brainstorming, and focusing on several identified priority issues.

2. Context

- 2.1 We are living in a hypercomplex world characterised by an alarmingly high degree of volatility, fragility, vulnerability, and consequent unpredictability. In this time of crisis, there is an imperative need to reconceptualise the traditional paradigms, and to find new mechanisms for managing the whole spectrum of numerous and diverse challenges that we face, both collectively and individually. The growing destructive potential of risks and threats are different in causes, nature, and characteristics, leading to their rapid multiplication and the emerging of crises that can spread over all spheres of public and private life.
- 2.2 We are witnessing the transformation of a primary health crisis into a geopolitical, economic, social, psychological, and moral crisis. A highly globalised, interconnected, and intertwined society is a sufficient precondition for any crisis to result in an existential crisis of global proportions in an extremely short time. One thing is for sure – challenges, risks and threats are yet to come and we must face them as prepared as possible. Therefore, we must ask the right questions, in order to become able to define useful and practically applicable solutions!
- 2.3 Throughout human history, no great social change or historical evolution has been possible without the active participation of youth. We should recognize that youth play an increasingly important role in promoting international communication and advancing the peace process around the world. As a result, youth, especially those who have the potential to be future leaders, decision-makers, and policymakers, share the responsibility of their national fate and global future. In that regard, youth must vigorously and wholeheartedly fight for the right to vote and act, and to be treated as relevant participants in constructive discussions on all priority issues!
- 2.4. However, despite the increasing youth involvement in the peace process, the opportunities for them are insufficient, according to the UN Secretary-General Guterres. Therefore, tapping into young talents to be change-makers is a long-term mission. To make this



happen, youth should have sufficient opportunities to develop their capacity for logical reasoning and critical thinking, in order to better understand the world, and then to develop their resilience and capabilities.

3. Objectives of the Tenth Youth Forum

- 3.1 Accordingly, in the light of the above, there is an urgent need for youth voices to be heard, in order to create a positive influence gradually. The Tenth Youth Forum provides an ideal opportunity to discuss issues pertinent to the comprehensive development of the world, and to contribute not only to the problem of insufficient participation of youth representatives in the world peace processes, but also to the complexity of world peace itself, with its diverse origins/sources.
- 3.2 Therefore, the Tenth Youth Forum will address the question of how youth could be more resilient in the age of crisis, with a wider mandate to promote youth involvement in achieving the global agenda. The Tenth Youth Forum is expected to draw on lessons learned from the ongoing global platforms for youth, in order to ensure that we cover as many urgent topics for youth as possible, and thus facilitate the visualisation of a higher percentage of youth involvement in the peace process, regarding both traditional and contemporary threats/challenges.

The specific objectives of the Tenth Global Youth Forum will be to:

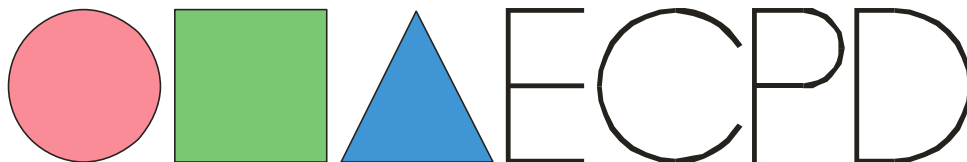
- Foster dialogue and mutual understanding that promote the exchange of ideas about the global crisis among the youth population.
- Provide insights as to how the youth build their resilience to adapt themselves to the world full of uncertainties.
- Provide guidance on how the youth should respond actively to the global crisis, and to contribute coherently to the lofty mission of peaceful resolution of world conflicts by acting in a contextualised way.
- Propose practical initiatives for further youth-networking and capacity-building, as well as for launching youth-led projects, with focus on strengthening their resilience and leadership roles.

4. Format of the Tenth Youth Forum and Sub-topics

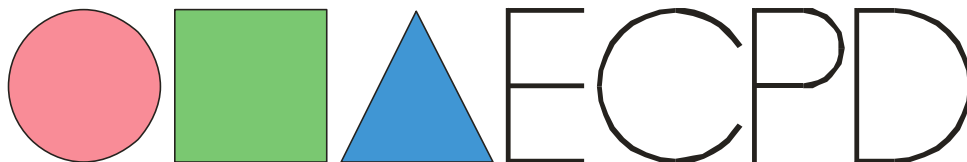
- 4.1 Since its inception in 2013, the ECPD Global Youth Forum series has functioned as a dynamic platform for youth gathering, exchanging knowledge and practices, and sharing passions and dreams. It will be the tenth edition of the ECPD Youth Forum series, and the Tenth Youth Forum will be held from 22 to 23 October 2022, both onsite at Belgrade City Hall and online, considering the difficult circumstances for global travel caused primarily by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.2 To achieve its objectives on building resilient youth, the Tenth Youth Forum will be centred on **Three Pillars** and each with sub-thematic focus areas for presentation and discussion. The ECPD Global Youth Forum welcomes diversity on any level (national, ethnical, religious, educational, and social, etc.).

Follow the brief introduction and instructive questions below for your research and brainstorming.

#	Three Pillars	Introduction to sub-thematic focus areas
1	Geopolitics and security	<p>1.1. Armed conflicts and instabilities : Towards world peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can youth contribute to peace building and reconciliation? - What is their vision of world order that could provide world peace? - What can be done in the post Russia-Ukraine war period to create a realistic European security order? - How to build a strong security infrastructure, based on proper conflict management and post-conflict recovery? - How to resolve decades-old disputes, rooted in history and tradition? - How to prevent isolated incidents from producing a cumulative effect, leading to the outbreak of numerous conflicts in the different hotspots of the world?



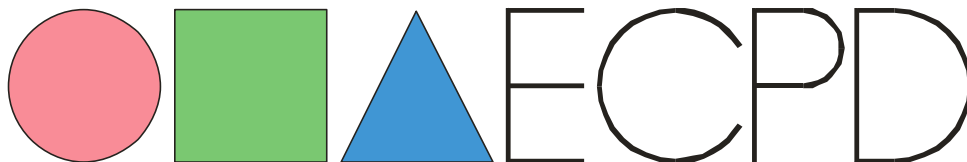
		<p>1.2. Climate change and environmental challenges: Towards sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can youth contribute to dealing with issues that traditionally urge the need for constructive discussion, such as climate change, natural disasters and hazards, environmental protection, Green Strategy, and especially the human impact on them? - Is an ecological collapse a scenario that awaits us in the future? - How can youth leaders become politically viable to lead us from the abyss? - How to approach those challenges related to population growth and reproduction rights, as one of the causes of the aforementioned problems?
		<p>1.3. Cyber threats, mass media and social networks – Towards a safer cyber reality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the modern world, being present in cyberspace is an imperative! The benefits of digitalisation and internet networking are undeniable, but the dangers they pose could be destructive. - Since it is not enough to be digitally literate, it is necessary to recognize cyber threats in a timely manner. What is the best way to teach youth about IT security, cyber-criminality, dark web, and data privacy, etc.? - Since social networks have recently been recognized as one of the greatest dangers for youth, how do we deal with issues such as bullying, addiction, depersonalisation, psychological and sociological impacts, etc.? - In the age when we are all bombarded with an abundance of diverse information, through the mass media continuously exposing us to various misinformation and disinformation, and when media literacy is a necessity, how is youth able to recognize proper communication channels, hidden media content and false news, as well as to become familiar with a spectrum of media rights and freedoms?
2	Societal inequalities and injustices	<p>2.1. Transformation of work – Towards greater youth employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to create more employment through public sector jobs (with living wages) and to cope with climate and other public needs (such as help with children, the old, schools and parks, etc.)? - How to adapt to the transformative nature of work and the employment? - How to deal with phenomena such as “portfolio” careers, multi-occupation, self-employment, distance work and work from home, as well as the changes during the working lifetime? - How to compete with advanced robotics, automation, mechanisation and similar processes? How to preserve a human-centred job market? -In this regard, a financial governance in an international context should also be mentioned, i.e., how to curb rewards to the rich and capital while preserving capitalism?
		<p>2.2. Transformation of education – Towards quality and open-access education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to adapt to the transformative nature of education? How to better adapt education to the new requirements of the labour market? - How to achieve the goal embodied in a quality education with an open-access to everyone anywhere in the world? - How to strengthen a position of those with lesser opportunities and to ensure at least a basic level of literacy for all? - How to reduce the gap between the educated and the uneducated? How can the less well-educated contribute?



		<p>2.3. Social inequalities and anti-discrimination – Towards equality and diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing conditions for a dialogue among the youth, as a key driving force in our societies and future leaders, in a form of round tables on many important social, cultural and educational topics, particular focus should be on gender and any other equality, anti-discrimination, multiple discrimination, marginalization, social deprivation, poverty, etc. - How to ensure the protection of basic human rights and the satisfaction of vital needs? How to ensure adequate health management, especially bearing in mind the social determinants of health? -How to achieve conditions for a truly inter-cultural, inter-faith and inter-generational dialogue?
3	Vision of the future – Towards resilient youth	<p>3.1. Youth leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to reconceptualise strategic risk and crisis management paradigms in order to create space for youth leadership? - How to learn to map risks, to conduct proper prioritization, and to treat them adequately? - How to strengthen not only practical skills and capabilities of youth, such as strategic thinking, logical reasoning, innovation and creativity, but also the flexibility needed for adapting to changes in such a dynamic environment?
		<p>3.2. Strengthening the position of youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to redesign legislative and institutional frameworks in order to strengthen the position and roles of youth? - How to properly identify and formulate needs and interests? - How to ensure development of youth in practice, through youth-led initiatives and youth-networking and capacity-building mechanisms and tools?
		<p>3.3. Strengthening the visibility of youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can youth connect with all relevant stakeholders and become more visible? - How can youth advocate for themselves in order for their voices to be heard and their needs to be addressed? - How can youth become more incorporated in labour markets, in both the public and the private sectors? - How can youth promote their own solutions for various issues that are of priority to them?

5. Submission Guidelines and Deadlines

- Interested presenters must submit their papers/presentations **via e-mail** address: forum@ecpd.org.rs. Only full structured presentations addressing the theme of the Tenth Youth Forum will be considered for presentation. All quotations must be attributed; otherwise, they will be considered as plagiarism and will not be selected. The Youth Forum will give priority to originality and innovation.
- A distinguished panel will assess the quality of submissions and performances and award **a prize to the best speaker** and **a prize to the best paper/presentation** submitted. The winners will be announced at the closing ceremony.
- We encourage all female and male presenters and participants to take this opportunity to understand the context by studying the topic based on the wisdom of previous generations. All presenters and participants should remember this is an opportunity not only to share their ideas in front of a broader audience but also to expand their networks internationally.



- 5.4 All presenters and participants have the freedom of sharing constructive ideas and must bear in mind that considering the representative country of each participant's national policies and regulations in this global platform is a prerequisite for its success and the achievement of fruitful results.
- 5.5 All presenters and participants must adhere to the following key deadlines:

Annotations	Deadlines
Paper/Presentation submission	10 September 2022
Notification of acceptance	1 October 2022
Registration	10 October 2022
Tenth ECPD Youth Forum date	22-23 October 2022

6. Expected Accomplishments

- 6.1 The Tenth ECPD Global Youth Forum is expected to result in:
- A Press Release on the Tenth ECPD Global Youth Forum.
 - A Youth Forum report collecting all papers and presentations for dissemination.
 - Enhanced consciousness for building youth resilience through the engagement of youth activities either on global platforms or in local communities.
 - Guidance for the daily practice and the strategic implementation for building youth resilience and spreading into wider communities.
 - Recommendations for future series of the ECPD Global Youth Forum.

7. Contact Information

- 7.1 Information about the agenda, registration process and participation format will be posted on the ECPD Youth Forum webpage and will also be sent through an official email address. For more information about the Tenth Youth Forum, please contact:

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