

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# LIVING TOGETHER ONLINE: POSITIVE MESSENGERS PROMOTING TOLERANCE

21-22 June 2018

The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate  
15 Lyuben Karavelov Str., Sofia

## SPEAKERS

**Aggeliki Oikonomopoulou** is Director of Social Policy Department - Municipality of Aghii Anargiri-Kamatero, Athens, Greece. Psychologist with specialty in European Social Policy (MSc).

**Anastasios Sotiriou** is a photographer holding a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Middlesex University and a Master of Arts (Honours) in Photography. He has great experience in organizing photo exhibitions.

**Anton Kutev** is a Member of the 44-th Bulgarian National Assembly and Chairperson of Committee on Interaction with Non-Governmental Organizations and the Complaints of Citizens. He was elected Member of Parliament in the 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> National Assemblies. He was elected municipal councillor in the Sofia City Council 2003 – 2007.

**Bistra Ivanova** is a Bulgarian social entrepreneur and integration expert, co-founder and chairperson of Multi Kulti Collective. Country coordinator of the European Commission's European Website on Integration. Awarded Volunteer of the Year, 40 under 40, WEF Global Shaper, Community Leader, ICF Idea Maker.

**Denitsa Lyubenova** is Founder of the Youth LGBT Association DEYSTVIE. She graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of National and World Economy, Sofia. She has a specialization in European Law at the University of Malaga, Spain. She completed a second Master's degree in Public International Law at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. She has specialized in the protection of human rights and has led numerous cases in this area.

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### Partners:

**Denitsa Lozanova** is Program Director at Sofia Development Association, started her career in the late 90s and worked in the Balkans for about ten years. She was Program Director at the Bulgarian School of Politics and Manager of the School's Regional Program for South-East Europe. She manages several European projects in the area of civic participation, regional and urban policies, innovations.

**Denitsa Sacheva** is Deputy Minister of Education and Science. In the period from 1999 until 2001 she was Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Health, in charge of the relations with international institutions, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Commission. She served as Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy from 2016 to April 2017.

**Dobroslav Dimitrov** is Co-founder and CEO at Imperia Online JSC. From the Mathematical High School in Pleven after the 8th grade through a student exchange program, he goes to the United States, where he enters the 12th grade and finishes his secondary education in one year. BA in Finance (USA). In 1999, he returns to Bulgaria and is engaged in private business in a variety of fields. Creator of a chain of computer clubs. Entrepreneur and investor. Chairman of BASSCOM.

**Emil Jassim** is expert at the Safer Internet Centre. Currently, he works in Association Roditeli (Parents) as program coordinator "Digital and Media Literacy," where he is in charge of the management of Helpline 124123 of the Safer Internet Centre. He has also managed the ReporTeen Project aiming to develop digital and media literacy among teenagers through short film making.

**Eric Murangwa Eugene MBE** is a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, former Rwandan international footballer (and national captain), a genocide education campaigner and sport for development and peace advocate. He founded two charitable organisations: *Football for Hope, Peace & Unity* – known as FHPU Enterprise and *Survivors Tribune*. Both organisations use the power of sport and storytelling to build equality, tolerance and lasting peace in Rwanda and the UK. In 1994, Eric was a goalkeeper for the renowned Rayon Sports Football Club. He and his immediate family survived the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda in part thanks to the courage and humanity shown by his teammates. As a result, he became convinced that sport and storytelling have the power to influence society and to be a positive force for social change. Eric leads UK peace-building workshops during the commemoration period of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda every year in London. In 2018, Eric he was awarded an MBE by the Queen in recognition of his services to the community.

**Eva Maydell** is a Member of the European Parliament. She has previously worked for the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO). She is a member of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), as well as the trade delegations to the People's Republic of China and the

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United States. She is also the sole Bulgarian representative on the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON). She is President of European Movement International (EMI) – the largest umbrella body for civil society groups and associations in Europe.

**Ferdaws Benselloum** is responsible for planning and public relations at the local level of the Young Muslims of Italy-Perugia. At the national level, she is member of the association's Para-directive. In 2015, she founded the Mai + project, monitoring anti islamophobia. Last year she was selected to work as a member of the national civil service, helping refugee children to learn Italian.

**Guido Ferrili**, PhD, is currently Assistant Professor of Economics at the Department of Humanities, IULM Libera Università di Lingue e Comunicazione di Milano. He has extensive experience in research and project development in economic policy analysis, cultural and creative industries, neural network analysis.

**Iliana Iotova** is Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria. She was Member of the 40<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. She has been Chairperson of the Bulgarian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie and Deputy Chairperson of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). She was Member of the European Parliament from 2007 – 2017. The basic priorities and topics she has been working on include: fighting terrorism, personal data protection, the refugee crisis, Bulgaria's membership in the Schengen area. She is author of reports and proposals in the European legislation on tackling the migration crisis. She has worked as a reporter, editor, news presenter and Head of the News Directorate at Bulgarian National Television (1990-1997).

**Irina Nedeva** is a journalist and author of documentary films with years of professional experience in public broadcast media. She is senior editor of the morning program of the Horizon program of the Bulgarian National Radio. He has experience in independent film, television and radio projects. She is part of the Red House Center for Culture and Debate team since its foundation in 2000. She is Chairperson of the Association of European journalists.

**Ivanka Ivanova**, is Program Director of the Law Program of Open Society Institute - Sofia, Bulgaria ([www.osi.bg](http://www.osi.bg)). She has more than 15 years of professional experience in the non-for-profit sector in Bulgaria as a manager and researcher in projects aimed at protection of human rights, improving the access to legal aid for vulnerable social groups, promoting the democratization of the police and the modernization of the national justice system. Mrs. Ivanova has completed a doctoral degree in Sociology (2016) and a Master degree in Law (1996) from the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

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**Jaroslav Valuch** is Project Leader at Press Start, a new global crowdfunding platform developed by media support organization Transitions for journalists in countries where the press cannot work freely. He leads a project Factczech.cz that provides support to Czech journalists and students in the field of verification and factchecking. He joined Budapest Centre for Mass Atrocities Prevention as a senior researcher and recently led a nationwide communication campaign focused on monitoring, awareness raising and mapping of hate motivated violence and hate speech organized by The Office of the Government. He is a co-founder and member of Board of Directors of the Standby Task Force – Online Volunteer Community for Live Mapping.

**Katerina Kosti** is head of the Culture Department of the Municipality of Agii Anargiri Kamatero with great experience in implementing workshops of theatrical education for children, adolescents and adults. She is experienced in organising empowerment workshops for preschool children, adults, and parents. She has studied Media and Communication and holds an MSc in Cultural Studies and Human Communication.

**Prof. Levan Khetaguri** is member of A Soul For Europe Strategy Group and Director of the Arts Research Institute of Georgia. International expert in Theatre Studies, Higher Arts Education, Cultural Policy, Cultural Research. Invited international expert in EU Eastern Partnership Cultural Program. Founder member of EC world traditional theatre forum. He is Director and Professor of Arts Research Institute of Georgia, Ex-Chair of adviser's board of Eastern European Partnership culture program. In 2000 was awarded by Swedish Writers Guild. Since 2008 member of European Cultural Parliament and strategic group of Soul for Europe movement. Since 2008 Secretary General of Georgian Regional Theatre Network and since 2011 Secretary General of UNIMA Georgia. Since 2012 member of advisory committee of Eastern Partnership Cultural Program.

**Lid King, Ph.D.**, is Director of Languages Company, UK, established the Languages Company in 2008 in order to support the National Languages Strategy. From 2003 until 2011 he was National Director for Languages taking forward the implementation of the National Languages Strategy for England. He was co-author of The Languages Review. Since 2011 he has worked in particular on Language Policy, the Multilingual City and Language pedagogy. He has been an adviser in many international contexts and represented the UK on languages at both the European Union and The Council of Europe.

**Malina Edreva** is Chairperson of the Education, Culture, Science and Cultural Diversity Standing Committee /since 2007/, member of the Economy and Property Standing Committee. She is Board member of the Sofia Development Association. She is Member of the Committee of Regions and EPP Group in CoR Vice- President.

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ΚΑΜΑΤΕΡΟΥ



MultiiitluX  
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**Maria Koreck** is Director of Divers Association", Rumania. Her 25-years experience in the field of interethnic relations includes 16 years activity within an international organization working between 1993-2009 as project manager, moderator, trainer, mediator and consultant at Project on Ethnic Relation's and partner organizations projects forming public opinion and opinion leaders on interethnic relations and minority issues. Special focus of her work are projects improving the situation of Roma and marginalized communities in general. This work continues at Diverse Association co-founded (2007) and managed by her.

**Mariya Borisova** is EU Project officer for FORMA.Azione srl in Perugia, Italy. Mariya is responsible for the design and management of European Projects and is responsible for the Local Coordination Point of the No Hate Speech Movement Italy. She worked also on the candidature of Perugia for European Capital of Culture 2019, managing international relations and on the candidature for European Youth Capital being responsible on the project design and representing the city of Perugia in various contexts at international level.

**Maria Marinova-Alkalay** is an independent expert in the domain of human rights, access to justice and non-discrimination. Since 2013 she has been coordinating the CoE No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) in Bulgaria. Maria's main areas of intervention focus on vulnerable groups – ethnic minorities in particular Roma, women and children, people with disabilities. She has been consulting governmental bodies in Bulgaria and European umbrella NGOs on anti-hate speech, human rights-related aspects of their work, inclusive education and non-discrimination.

**Monika Panayotova** is Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018. Doctor of Political Science, MA in International Economic Relations and Bachelor in International Relations. She holds a number of specializations and trainings in the field of international relations: "Public Leaders" within the Southeast Europe Program, John Kennedy Institute of Public Administration; leadership programs in the US, France and NATO headquarters in Brussels. Works actively for the benefit of young people and their opportunities for development and realization.

**Nadya Obretenova** is journalist with years of experience. She worked at the Bulgarian National Television. Her production solutions are the basis for national campaigns related to historical personalities and events for which in 2017 she was awarded the "Worthy Bulgarian" award. Her journalist investigations, related to election violations and financial abuse, have been awarded by the Guardian Foundation, the UBB, the Detective Fest, Moscow, the Radostina Konstantinova Foundation and others. She teaches at the Faculty of Journalism at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

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**Philip Harding – Esch** is an expert at Languages Company, UK. He was raised bilingual and studied French & Linguistics at St John’s College, Oxford and is also a qualified translator. From 2000 – 2011, he worked for CILT, the National Centre for Languages, supporting the national primary and secondary programmes. He is an experienced project manager and has coordinated many language-related initiatives - on language teaching, technology and language policy for example.

**Raya Tsvetkova** is Head of Training and Education Department „Law and Internet foundation“. She is a certified and registered mediator with the Ministry of Justice in Bulgaria. After successfully completing of several internships and a number of volunteer engagements, she joined the team of the Law and Internet Foundation in the summer of 2016 immediately after graduating as an EU Projects and Programmes Management Associate, and is now Head of the Trainings and Education Department.

**Raycho Raychev** has been a youth leader and an activist since his high school days when he and his fellow students from over a hundred schools in Sofia founded the Sofia Student Council. His work continued when he joined the team of the Bulgarian Debate Association where he is currently a Board Member. Right now he is also the Vice President of the biggest formal youth platform in Bulgaria which unites 48 organizations and represents more than 120 000 young people – the National Youth Forum.

**Sabine Brachmann-Bosse** is deputy director of Goethe-Institut Bulgaria, studied Linguistic, Social and Media Sciences at the University of Potsdam (M.A.) and spent a study year abroad in Israel and Lebanon. She started working for Goethe-Institut in 2008, first at the head office in Munich followed by a 3 years stay in Nairobi and 4 years in Muscat (Oman). Since 2016 she is the head of the language department at Goethe-Institut in Bulgaria.

**Sevdalina Voynova** is Program Director of Sofia Development Association. She is an expert in public policy for innovation, sustainable urban and social development. She has led numerous research and strategy projects at the local and national level, has authored several books and has gained broad training experience in the area of cultural policy and art management. Her prior positions include Government affairs Director of AMCham and Director of National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. She holds degrees from Sofia University and Oxford University.

**Simeon Vassilev** is founder and president of the Glas Foundation. Creator of the online platform for reporting hate crime [wearetolerant.com](http://wearetolerant.com).

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**Partners:**

**Snezhina Gabova** is a researcher and international projects officer at Sofia Development Association. She has worked as a project manager on a number of projects related to civic education, democracy and rule of law, human rights and migrants integration. She holds an MA in Philosophy from Sofia University and a PhD in Philosophy from Villanova University (US).

**Svetlana Lomeva** is Executive Director of Sofia Development Association, directly elected to this position by Sofia Municipal Council. A political scientist by education, she has vast experience in adult learning, policy development, implementation and evaluation. She has been involved in diverse local, national and international research projects as well as teaching activities in the fields of entrepreneurship, open innovation, city branding and process management. Her prior positions include Deputy Minister of Education and Science and Director of the Bulgarian School of Politics.

**Assoc. Prof. Todor Chobanov** is Sofia Deputy Mayor for Culture, Education, Sport and Prevention of Addictions. He has international experience related to EU activities and projects, Council of Europe, UNESCO, international non-governmental organizations, scientific networks. In the period 2009-2011, Todor Chobanov was Deputy Minister of Culture, Head of the Cultural Heritage Inspectorate at the Ministry of Culture, PHARE Expert at the Regional Ministry, as well as civil projects coordinator.

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