

-EaP Youth Conference speakers -



Andrej Kiska has been the President of the Slovak Republic since 2014. After receiving his engineering Degree in microelectronics at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, he worked as design engineer at *Naftoprojekt* Company in Poprad and then moved to the United States, where he worked as a shop assistant at a petrol station store and later as a construction site handyman. Back to Slovakia one and a half years later, he conducted business activities and held various management positions for more than 15 years, becoming one of the most prominent entrepreneurs of the country. He founded several companies, the most successful of which were *Triangle* and *Quatro*, established in 1996. In 2005, Andrej Kiska sold his entire stake in these companies and decided to devote himself to charity work. In 2006 he was co-founder of *Good Angel*, a non-profit company which helps families with children which have found themselves in financial distress because of a serious illness. *Good Angel* has become the most successful non-corporate charity in Slovakia. In 2011, he co-founded a *Good Angel* company in the Czech Republic. In 2012, Andrej Kiska decided to run for president as independent and non-partisan candidate. In the presidential election run-off on 29 March 2014 he was elected president of the Slovak Republic.



Katarína Mathernová is Deputy Director-General at the EC Directorate-General for the Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, where she is in charge of Eastern Neighbourhood, IFIs and Coordination of Roma Policy. She previously served as Director, Deputy Director – General and Hors Classe Adviser at the EC Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy. Before joining the European institutions, she held senior positions at the World Bank, the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Slovak Republic and leading international law firms. Ms. Mathernová is Board member of the Roma Education Fund and Open Society Institute Fellow.



Hovsep Khurshudyan is a citizen of Armenia. He holds a Diploma in Social and Economic Geography from the Yerevan State University. Before dedicating himself to civic activism, Hovsep was a leading member and spokesperson of the “Heritage” parliamentary party. Education, Culture and Youth are the primary focus of his current activities. He is Head of the “Free Citizen” Civic Initiatives Support Center NGO; Member of the Steering Committee of the EaP Civil Society Forum and coordinator of Working Group 4 on “Contacts between people”; Member of the Steering Committee for the EU-EaP “Culture and Creativity” Program; coordinator of the Working Group on “Education and Culture” of the Black Sea Forum and Director of “Arax Publishing House” LLC. Hovsep served as a member of the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia and authored several draft laws. He has more than seventeen publications in Armenian peer-reviewed public policy journals focusing on Economics, Diaspora and Political Sciences. Because of his socio-political activism, Hovsep was recently arrested and he spent one month in jail. The criminal case fabricated against him by the Armenian regime is not yet closed.



Ján Ondruš currently works as EU Liaison Officer at the United Nations World Food Programme Office in Brussels. He is also a PR expert at Visegrad Revue, a website providing political and economic commentary and analysis on Central European countries. Ján studied law at Comenius University in Bratislava and International relations and European studies at Central European University in Budapest. After his studies he worked at Transparency International in Bratislava, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development in Brussels and the European Commission, both in the headquarters and two Delegations (Eritrea and Azerbaijan). Ján, a Slovak national, specialises in topics connected to development, migration and EU external relations.



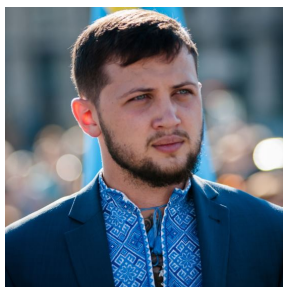
Satenik Baghdasaryan is Head of “Article 3” Human Rights Club based in Yerevan, Armenia. Formerly, she worked as Project Director at the Regional Studies Center (Yerevan based think tank) focusing on broad economic, political and security issues in the Black Sea region. She also served as a Teaching Assistant for graduate courses at the Yerevan State University Centre for European Studies (CES). Satenik holds an MA in European Studies and a BA in Political Science from the Yerevan State University (YSU). She also completed the American Institute on Political and Economic Systems (AIPES) academic program at Charles University in Prague. Satenik took part in the Professional Fellows Program sponsored by the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and had her fellowship in a leading think tank in Chicago, US. She also worked as Research Assistant at the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) and as Project Coordinator for the “Civic Forum” youth NGO.



Oleksandr Yarema has been the Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Youth and Sport since March 2016. Previously, he served as the Head of the Department for cooperation with civil society and political parties at the President’s Administration (2014-2016), Head of the Communications and Organizational Work Department at the Directorate-General of the Taxpayers Association (2011-2014), Executive Director of the Ukrainian Reform Support Foundation (2007-2011); and as the Director of the Youth Policy Department at the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports (2005-2007).



Rasul Jafarov is an Azerbaijani lawyer and human rights activist. Since 2007, he joined several organizations engaged in the protection of human rights, and was cofounder of the Human Rights Club (Baku, Azerbaijan) in 2010. Rasul organized numerous campaigns aimed at raising the attention of the local and international community on human rights violations in Azerbaijan. Among his most powerful initiatives, the “Sing for Democracy campaign” held in 2012, on the eve of the Eurovision song contest in Baku; the “Online Expression Initiative” during the 7th UN internet Governance Forum held in Baku in 2012; the “Art for Democracy” campaign, which since December 2012 organized numerous musical events, caricature drawing contests and film festivals. Rasul took part as a speaker in major events organized by the Council of Europe, OSCE and the UN. In 2014, he was charged with tax evasion, misuse of authority and illegal business and imprisoned. Major INGOs and international governmental organizations, including the European Union, expressed their concern for what has been widely acknowledged as a politically motivated sentence.



Gennadii Afanasiev was born in Simferopol in 1990, right before Ukraine gained its independence. He holds a Degree in Law and he is a professional photographer. During Russian annexation of Crimea, he helped Ukrainian soldiers based on the peninsula and took part in demonstrations against the occupation. On 9 May 2014, he was kidnapped by the FSB, tortured and held for 767 days in Russian prisons. He now engages in volunteering, civic activism and in human rights advocacy activities for the release of political prisoners. Gennadii is special representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for the release of political prisoners.



Tatiana Kulbakina is an activist from Murmansk, Russia. She is organiser of the Open Human Rights School at LGBTQIA-Initiative Maximum, and was a coordinator of the project “Youth Human Rights Newspaper” for the Humanistic Movement of Youth (which was considered as a foreign agent and closed). Tatiana is a member of the Youth Human Rights Movement, and she was a member of the Civil Control Commission on Human Rights in detention places. She is an environmental and antifascist activist.



Jana Žilková is Research Fellow at the GLOBSEC Policy Institute in Bratislava. She primarily focuses on the EU Neighbourhood countries, foreign policy of the EU and the ever-changing political and economic environment in Asia. She has received a BA degree in International Economic Relations from the University of Economics in Bratislava and a MA degree in European Affairs from the Aalborg University in Denmark. Prior to her current position, she worked as Researcher in Mongolia and contributed to debates on EU-Mongolia relations and establishment of the OSCE Office in Ulaanbaatar. She has contributed to several programmes and projects with the aim to promote the

voice of young professionals and women in international affairs and to increase the awareness of EU and Asia related issues.



Darya Mustafayeva works at the EaP CSF Secretariat in the capacity of Communications Manager since April 2015. She developed her substantial expertise in the Eastern Partnership at the DG External Policies of the European Parliament (EP) and within the office of a Member of the EP Foreign Affairs Committee. At the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) Darya was supporting the work of the General Committees on Human Rights and Economic Affairs focusing on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Darya’s experience in the NGO sector includes engagement in the Eastern Partnership

Project of the youth NGO “AEGEE-Europe” and its Belarusian branch representing young people on European level and managing international cooperation projects. She also served as international election observer during a number of elections, including presidential and parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Belarus and Lithuania. Darya holds a Master’s Degree from the College of Europe in European Interdisciplinary Studies with the focus on the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as a degree in international and European law from the Belarusian State University.



Vera Rihackova is Advocacy and Membership Manager at the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Secretariat. Her areas of expertise include EU foreign policy, EU instruments of external action, civil society, the European Neighbourhood Policy with focus on Eastern Partnership countries and security. Vera obtained a MA in International relations from Charles University of Prague and she was Alumna of the 2006 Fulbright Program on US National Security. In 2014, she obtained the PASOS Think Tank Publication Award for her paper entitled “Taking Stock of the EU Civil Society Funding in EaP Countries”. Vera is a Member of the Group of External Advisors on the EU policies for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



Doru Curoșu started his volunteer engagement as a student, when he joined AIESEC in 2009. As HR Department Coordinator, Vice President of AIESEC Chișinău and then Vice President of AIESEC in Moldova, Doru made a significant contribution in the organization development. In 2011, he was elected in the Executive Board of the National Youth Council of Moldova, as the responsible for Youth, Organizational Development and Youth Employment. In 2013, with the support of all members of the organization, he became President of the National Youth Council of Moldova. One year later, Doru has been elected as a Board Member of the European Youth Forum to represent the East European and Caucasus youth.



Karolina Pietkiewicz is project co-coordinator for the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and former member of the Executive Committee of the European Students' Union (ESU). She has worked for the local, national and international student movement for several years in the area of mobility and internationalization, focusing on visa directives, Eastern Partnership and recognition. Karolina was coordinator of *Bologna With Student Eyes 2015*, former representative at the Bologna Process Council of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and former International Officer for the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland.



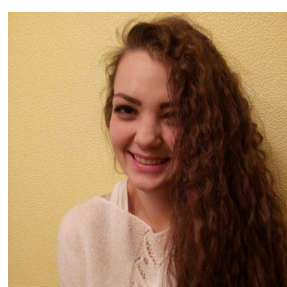
Tomáš Tatínek is currently Head of Academic Administration at College of Europe, Natolin campus. He studied political science, international relations, and European affairs at Sciences Po Paris, at the University of Oxford (PPE), at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (MALD) and the Harvard Kennedy School. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in Public International Management at Sciences Po Paris. Prior to joining the College, he has worked for a management consultancy, in project management, and as assistant for the Academy of European Law.



Olga Gordila-Bobeico is a consultant and trainer for the Foundation for Advancement in Moldova. She has worked for more than 10 years for non-governmental organizations, building a strong professional background in the civil society sector. Olga has a wide experience working for research projects on active citizenship and youth activism, projects focusing on the improvement of management tools in formal education and developing extensive training programs in intercultural education. Olga holds a Master's Degree in Management of European Projects. She was coordinator of WG4 “Contacts between people” for Moldova in 2011 and she was recently involved in the management of a joint project between Promo LEX Association (Moldova) and Foundation for Advancement (Moldova) focused on the situation of Human Rights in the EaP countries.



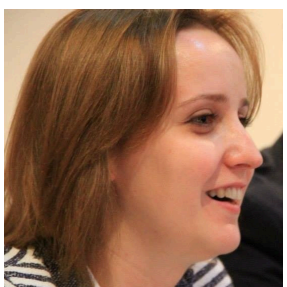
Gayane Sargsyan is the Director of the “Forum for the 21st Century Leaders”, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization aiming to promote new perspectives and opportunities for youth participation and active citizenship in Armenia and beyond. Gayane has 20 years of experience working with national and international organizations such as the Government of Armenia, UNHCR, Council of Europe, European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity, and Club de Madrid. She has also been active in various networks aimed at supporting and empowering young professionals networking in the region. Gayane earned her postgraduate Degree in English and German languages from the State Linguistic University in Yerevan, Armenia. She also holds diplomas in advanced, interdisciplinary study of Nonviolent Conflict from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University (2011), Fellowship Programme for Young Leaders from the Central Asia, Caucasus and Afghanistan at SAIS, JHU (2009); Conflict Resolution and Negotiations from Conflict Management Group (CMG), Harvard University (2001), and in Political Communication and Campaigning from the Amsterdam Maastricht Summer University (2001).



Mariya Symonova is communication manager at the Ukrainian national platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and coordinator of the Working Group 4 on “Contacts between people” in Ukraine. She has a solid background in communication, advocacy and representation, and she takes part in numerous initiatives aimed at countering corruption and fostering governance reforms in Ukraine, with special regard to education and youth. Since 2015, she has been executive manager and international communication strategist for the “Clean universities anticorruption campaign”. In 2015 she also worked as a consultant for “Counterpart International” NGO in Ukraine. Marina is a member of the US Youth Council of Ukraine and a member and former manager of the Youth Policy Working Group of the “Reanimation Package of reforms for Ukraine.”



Sophie Laurence Vêriter is Youth Network Coordinator within the ‘EU NEIGHBOURS east’ project (EU OPEN Neighbourhood Programme). Her fields of expertise include European foreign and security policy, Eastern Europe and youth policies. She was born in Brussels and studied Law (Universidad Autonoma de Madrid) and International Relations (Vesalius College). Sophie previously worked for the Global Governance Institute in Brussels. As part of the ‘EU NEIGHBOURS east’ project, she will be coordinating the activities of the ‘Young European Neighbours’ youth network. The initiative entails the appointment of 100 Young European Ambassadors (YEA) who can engage and contribute to the improvement of communication among young people from the EU Member States and EaP countries.



Alexandra Kalatozishvili is Chairperson of the Foundation “Multiethnic Recourse Center for Civic Education Development” and Executive Director of Public Movement Multinational Georgia. Her areas of expertise are electoral processes, integration of ethnic minorities, diversity and inclusion. Alexandra is an elected member of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform established within the framework of the Association Agreement. In 2016, she was contracted by IRI to train political party representatives for the October 8th Parliamentary Elections in Georgia. She is alumna of the Open World Leadership Program (US Congress, Washington, DC / Jacksonville, Florida, USA). Since 2016, she engages in the same program as Social Inclusivity Group Facilitator. Alexandra is currently responsible for various programs focusing on the political, civic and electoral engagement of ethnic minority groups and aimed at increasing the participation of these groups in the public sphere.

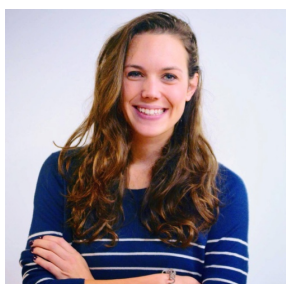


Andrij Pavlovych works for SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre (SALTO EECA) in Warsaw since its establishment at the end of 2003. The SALTO EECA Resource Centre is hosted by the Polish governmental Foundation for the Development of Education System. Andrij is in charge of devising Support Strategy for active involvement of Eastern Partnership countries and Russia into Erasmus+ Youth Programme. He is engaged in the international youth cooperation and development of non-formal education since 1993. His fields of interest include international project management, civic education and active youth participation. Andrij is Ukrainian and has been living in Warsaw since 1998. From 1999 until 2004, he was the International Programme Coordinator of the Polish NGO “School of Leaders Association”, where he was responsible for organizing events for young political and social leaders from Central-Eastern Europe. Between 1990 and 1997 he was one of the leaders of the reopened Ukrainian Scout Organisation “Plast”. He is a graduate of the School for Social Research, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Andrij Pavlovych has organized many international educational activities with a focus on European values, European Citizenship and Human Rights Protection.



Almut Brunckhorst works at the European Commission, in the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR). She heads the section dealing with the "People-to-People" dimension of the EU Eastern Partnership which includes the substantial Youth programme of the EU. She also deals with cooperation with Russia, mainly in the area of Civil Society. Formerly, she worked at the EU Delegations to Russia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan. She holds a Master's Degree in European Studies and a Master's Degree in History.

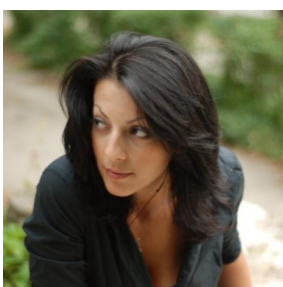
-Experts, facilitators and trainers for the “Thematic capacity building breakout Sessions” -



Eliza Popper is a trainer, facilitator and consultant, with extensive background in the field of youth work and youth policy. Her fields of expertise are intercultural learning, participation, leadership, communication and organisational development. She was one of the founders and the first president of the National Youth Council of Hungary. She has leadership experience in a number of national and international organisations and she recently founded a social initiative in Hungary, aiming at incubating young people's ideas that can bring positive change to their local community. She has years of experience in youth policy, as representative towards the European Youth Forum and member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. Eliza is from Hungary but is currently based in Brussels, where she works for the European Youth Forum as coordinator of the YO!Fest, a political youth festival taking place in February 2017.



Maryna Korzh is a freelance trainer in the field of non-formal education. She works as European Voluntary Service (EVS) trainer at SALTO EECA RC, and she is programme coordinator at the European Expertise and Communications Office in Belarus. Her activities focus on the development of youth work in the EECA region; active participation of young people in addressing problems affecting lives of local communities; gender-sensitive approach; intercultural learning; human rights. In 2016, she conducted an Analysis of the Youth NGOs sector in Belarus for the Office for European Expertise and Communications, and she is a member of the national team which works to develop Non-Formal Education Quality Standards in Belarus (project presented in 2016 and now led by the Association of Life-long Learning and Enlightenment). Maryna has a solid experience as facilitator for conferences, workshops and round tables, among which the “EU-Youth Conference” under the Polish EU Council Presidency, the Eastern Partnership Info Day in Brussels in cooperation with French and Belgian National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme, the "Eastern Partnership Youth Forum" under the Lithuanian EU Council Presidency.



Adelina Dulman is a citizen of Moldova. She is internal auditor for quality management systems ISO 9001:2008. Maryna holds a Bachelor's degree in Economic Law and a Master's Degree in Business and Administration. As Capacity Building and Grants Manager for a USAID/FHI 360 Project designed to foster a Sustainable Civil Society in Moldova, she is responsible for a successful resources allocation, organizational screening and capacity building of Moldovan Civil Society Organizations (CSO). Since 2004, she has worked to improve the internal structure of 40 CSO (including youth organizations) through trainings, coaching and mentorship in the fields of Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Human Resources management/Team management and Project Management. Overall, Adelina has dedicated 6 years to advocate for the rights of more than 1,000 disadvantaged young people providing them with social housing, studies, jobs, financial support and life skills.



Radoslav Považan is Project Manager and Forward-Looking Information and Services expert for environment at the Department of International Cooperation and Reporting, Slovak Environment Agency. Radoslav holds a M.Sc. Degree in Environmental Education, a M.Sc. Degree in Teacher training for general subjects – Biology & Ecology, and a PhD. in Synecology from the Matej Bel University of Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. He also obtained a M.Sc. Degree in Management of protected areas from Alpen Adria University of Klagenfurt, Austria. Since 2016, he works as a project manager for the “Transition to Green Economy” Horizon 2020 project for financing the high level SK PRES flagship conference of the Ministry of Environment and side events. Radoslav has a wide experience as project manager and expert for international projects led by the Civic Association Pronatur (Slovakia) and PROPARK (Romania). Between 2009 and 2011, he served as a national expert on ecosystem based management plans for the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak republic.



Shorena Kobaidze has twelve years of professional experience in the fields of development, poverty reduction, infrastructure rehabilitation, integration and promotion of the rights of the least protected groups in Georgia and the Eastern Partnership region. She has extensive experience in the management and evaluation of policy projects, as well as in grass-root level regional and country initiatives funded by major donors such as EC, UN, OSCE and USAID. Since 2013, she has been coordinating the activities of the regional network “Eastern Partnership Minorities Network” funded by the EC and run by the human rights organization “Minority Rights Group Europe”. Shorena is co-founder of the “Centre for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism”, non-governmental research organization working to promote the rights of ethnic, national and religious minorities in the South Caucasus.



Andrei Trubceac is project coordinator at the Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) based in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Andrei is currently researcher and mapping analyst of value-based conflicts which have the potential to escalate and lead to radicalisation and violent clashes in Romanian society. In 2015-16, Andrei worked on an international project aimed at improving the monitoring, evaluation and learning practices of youth peace building organisations in Europe. Andrei holds a Master’s degree in International Development Studies and he graduated with a thesis on the development and peace building challenges of de-facto states.



Marine Manucharyan works for Civic Forum NGO based in Yerevan, Armenia. She has extensive experience as a facilitator/trainer in non-formal education, with special focus on Human Rights Education, Intercultural learning and Conflict resolution. She is a former member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. Marine holds a Master's Degree in Educational Management and a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology from Yerevan State University.



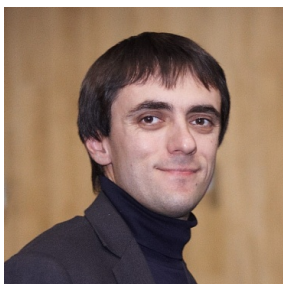
Galina Veramejchyk studied Geodesy at Saint Petersburg Mining University (Russia), General Pedagogy and History of Pedagogy at the Belarusian National Institute of Higher Education in Minsk and she obtained a Master's Degree in Adult Education from the Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Galina has been working in the area of non-formal and adult education for more than 15 years, gaining a rich experience as a trainer and project manager. She wrote over 40 articles on adult education in Belarus and Europe. Since 1996, she has been involved in the development of several non-governmental organizations in Belarus (Leu Sapieha Foundation, IPA "Education without Borders", The Association of Life-Long Learning and Enlightenment). Galina has been in charge of the Representative Office of DVV International (Institute for international Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association) in the Republic of Belarus since 2009. In 2015, she has been elected as Board member of the European Association for the Education of Adults.



Musa Akgül is a citizen of Turkey. He is currently Unicef Consultant for the Social Cohesion Programme for Youth and Adolescents. Musa has been involved in youth work since 2001 and has worked mainly as a trainer, member of the pool of trainers of CoE, YFJ and Turkish NA focusing on youth policy development, social cohesion and Human Rights Education. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics, a Master's Degree in European Studies and a second MA in European Youth Work Studies. Musa takes part in ISYEC (International Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges) organized by Abdullah Gul University, Turkish NA and Salto Euromed.



Dovilė Šukytė is a Policy Analyst at the Eastern Europe Studies Center in Vilnius. She also serves as a Steering Committee Member and EU Coordinator of the Working Group 2 on Economic Integration of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. Dovilė previously served as a Research Fellow for the New European Democracies Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. Her research interests include, among other issues, Russian foreign policy as well as democratization and reform in the Eastern Partnership countries.



Yurii Vdovenko is Deputy Head of the Center for cross-Border Cooperation of Ukraine. His activities focus on the reform of local self-governance and territorial organization of power. Yurii holds a PhD in Economics and has written more than 90 scientific, analytical and popular articles on integration, cross-border cooperation, local economic development, public-private partnership. Yurii is a Member of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and Coordinator of Working Group 2 on "Economic integration and convergence with EU policies".