

## ROUND TABLE

### “Challenges and opportunities for meaningful Youth engagement in the EU integration process in Albania”

**Date:** Friday, May 31th, 2019 | 11:00 - 13:00

**Venue:** ‘Hotel Rogner’, Hall Stockholm

Accession negotiations dynamics are gradually but certainly moving from the procedural adoption of *acquis communautaire* (often described as the entrance examination) towards making sure that this *acquis* is properly implemented by the accession country, and that it is sustainable. This dynamics involves a shift away from the technocratic and mechanic process of opening / closing chapters led by the public administration, and towards a more citizen-centric approach. In this optic, the necessary technicality of accession negotiations are to be complemented with citizen-friendly information, impact-oriented communication adapted to different interest communities in the whole territory of the country, and clear and friendly procedures of involvement of non-government actors in the negotiation process.

The project “Applying Sector Approach to Civil Society Contribution in EU Integration of Albania - CONNECT” is the newest initiative lead by Cooperation and Development Institute focusing on the Albanian path to EU integration. It aims to support CSOs and youngsters by increasing their involvement in policy dialogue, as well as increase the general awareness on how to actively contribute to the European Integration process.

In this framework, Cooperation and Development Institute is organizing the Round Table “Challenges and opportunities for meaningful Youth engagement in the EU integration process in Albania”. This roundtable aims to provide a useful contribution to ongoing discussions on the degree and effectiveness of Albanian local civil society and youth involvement in the domestic reforms and policy making. It will also cover the challenges towards a meaningful inclusion in the regional processes where Albania is engaged. During the Round-table, relevant new findings resulting from many local consultations held by the project team with CSOs and other interest groups from Korca, Vlora and Shkodra, will be presented.

With the participation of the Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU Prof. Dr. Tanja Mišćević, this Round Table will complement the domestic angle with a regional perspective. Participants will learn from the Serbian experience with the accession negotiations, in particular with already closed Chapter 26 “Education and Culture”, and on the role of Serbian youth and civil society during the negotiation process.

The social and economic dimension of the Regional Economic Area is another topic that this table will discuss, by focusing on the policies and instruments in place for the recognition of diplomas and qualifications, enhancing academic mobility and generally lowering the social barriers, boosting a digital economy and society, etc.

Participants of this Roundtable will come from civil society and youth organizations from Vlora, Korça, Shkodra, Public administration, Chamber of Commerce, Academia, Media, etc.

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## ROUND TABLE AGENDA

### “Challenges and opportunities for meaningful Youth engagement in the EU integration process in Albania”

- 10:45 – 11:00 Registration
- 11:00 – 11:15 Welcoming Remarks
- Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development Institute*  
*Mimoza Halimi, General Director for Political and Strategic Issues at Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs*  
*Enkelejda Kokthi, Head of Central Finance Contracting Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economy*
- 11:15 – 11:35 Non-state actors’ role in EU accession negotiations: what’s in for the youth?
- Prof. Dr. Tanja Miščević – Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the EU*
- 11:35 – 11:50 Recognition of diplomas and qualifications, enhanced mobility and digital economy: youth and regional dimension
- Odetta Barbullushi – National Coordinator for Regional Economic Area*
- 11:50 – 12:05 Presentation of Key Findings of the local consultations on role of civil society in the EU integration process
- Anisa Seferaj – CONNECT Policy Coordination Expert*
- 12:05 - 12:30 Open Discussion and Wrap Up
- 12:30 – 13:00 Light Lunch
- Moderation of the roundtable will be conducted by Dafina Peci, Secretary General of the National Youth Congress and CONNECT-FES Project Liaison*

Coffee will be served before and during the Roundtable.

There will be simultaneous translation Albanian-English-Albanian.

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