

# DRAFT AGENDA

05 March 2020

**14:00** Registration and networking coffee

**14:30** Opening remarks

**Ms. Tina Divjak**, BCSDN Board Chair

**Mr. Kelmend Zajazi**, NALAS Executive Director

**14:40** Keynote address

**Mr. Colin Wolfe**, DG NEAR, Head of Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programme

**Mr. Frédéric Vallier**, Secretary-General, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

**15:00** Panel I

LEARNING FROM THE PAST, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE: BRINGING THE EU AND ITS FUTURE CITIZENS CLOSER TOGETHER

The first panel-session will be devoted to the broader discussion about the role of the civil society, the Local Authorities (LAs) and the Local Authority Associations in a reformed EU Enlargement process. The aim of the session is to emphasize the need for a more bottom-up approach in the EU accession, with more meaningful involvement of the LAs and CSOs. It will call on the EU to treat the LAs in the Western Balkans as the key layer of governance they are. It will also raise the importance for a re-affirmed commitment and political support of the EU towards empowering civil society. The importance for Western Balkans citizens, civil society and local authorities to have a say in the FUTURE OF EUROPE Conference will also be discussed as well as the channels and means of involvement.

A NEW BOTTOM-UP  
APPROACH TO BRING  
THE EU CLOSER TO ITS  
FUTURE CITIZENS:  
**Rethinking the  
EU Support to Local  
Authorities and  
Civil Society in the  
Western Balkans**

BOTTOM-UP  
APPROACH TO BRING  
THE EU CLOSER TO ITS  
FUTURE CITIZENS:  
**Rethinking the  
EU Support to Local  
Authorities and  
Civil Society in the  
Western Balkans**

*Speakers:*

**Ms. Dušanka Golubović**, Mayor of the City of Sombor in Serbia,  
Vice-President of NALAS

**Ms. Juliana Hoxha**, Partners Albania/BCSDN

**16:00** Coffee break

**16:15** Panel II

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF THE NEW IPA III: HOW TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN AND  
EMPOWER KEY NON-STATE ACTORS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The second panel-session will be devoted to the planning of the IPA III, highlighting the need for a more meaningful financial support to Local Authorities, and reformed support to civil society. The panel will aim to highlight that the civil society and local governments can be drivers for change and development, and therefore they need to be considered by the EU as both beneficiaries and stakeholders of the pre-accession assistance. The session will include a presentation of the concrete policy proposals prepared by NALAS and BCSDN, as well as a discussion upon them.

*Speakers:*

**Ms. Biljana Spasovska**, Balkan Civil Society Development Network

**Mr. Darko Mrvaljevic**, NALAS Council member of Nikšić (Montenegro)

**17:20** Concluding remarks (NALAS/ BCSDN)

**17:30** Cocktail Reception

(Informal cocktail to be organized after the workshop)

**Location:**  
Representation of the  
State of North Rhine-  
Westphalia to the  
European Union,  
Rue Montoyer 47,  
1000 Brussels

