



INEES Introduction to EU Education for Secondary Schools



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



EU for Youth – Challenges and Opportunities

EU for Youth – Challenges and Opportunities



EU for Youth – Challenges and Opportunities



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



PUBLISHER:

Novi Sad School of Business
Vladimira Perića-Valtera 4
Novi Sad

For the publisher:

Jelena Damnjanović, Ph.D., Director

AUTHORS:

Nataša Papić-Blagojević, Ph.D., Project Coordinator
Ana Jovičić Vuković, Ph.D.
Biljana Stankov, Ph.D.
Dragana Tomašević

REVIEWERS:

Ph.D. Jelena Vapa Tankosić, University Business Academy Novi Sad, Faculty of Economics and Engineering Management
Ph.D. Đorđe Ćuzović, Novi Sad School of Business Novi Sad

ISBN: 978-86-7203-210-9

Novi Sad, September 2022

The *EU for Youth – Challenges and Opportunities* publication includes the conference's conclusions and is created within the Jean Monnet project "Introduction to the European Union: Education for secondary schools," number: 610767-EPP-1-2019-1-RS-EPPJMO-PROJECT, funded by the European Union and co-financed by the Provincial Secretariat for Finance.

CIP - Каталогизacija у публикацији
Библиотеке Матице српске, Нови Сад

316.663-053.6(4-672EU)

EU for youth [Elektronski izvor] : challenges and opportunities / [authors Nataša Papić-Blagojević ... et al.]. - Novi Sad : Novi Sad School of Business, 2022

Način pristupa (URL): <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs>. - Opis zasnovan na stanju na dan 19.9.2022. - Nasl. s naslovnog ekrana.

ISBN 978-86-7203-210-9

1. Papić-Blagojević, Nataša, 1977- [аутор]

а) Европска унија -- Могућности за младе

COBISS.SR-ID 74924553

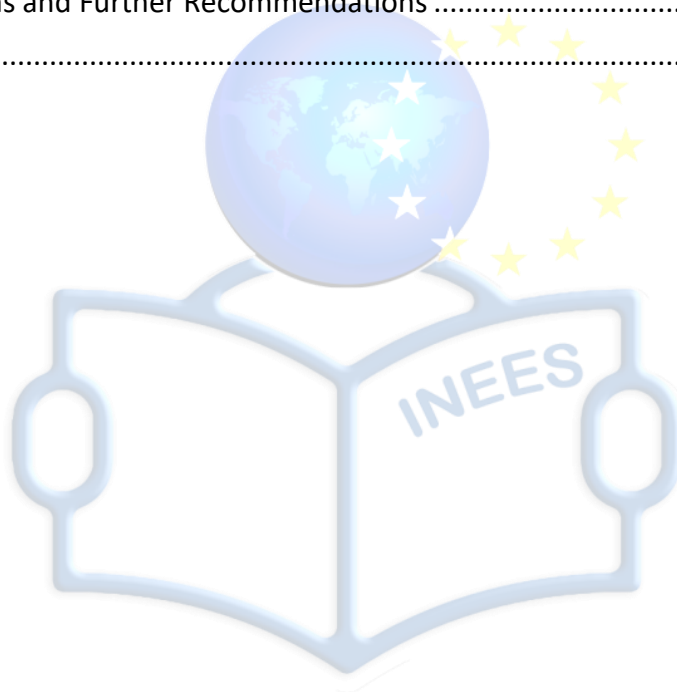
Cover illustration: European Youth Goals 2019-2027. <https://youthforeurope.eu/european-youth-goals-2019-2027/>



The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Table of contents

Conference “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities”	3
About INEES project	5
Conference participants.....	7
Keynote speakers	7
Participants of the First Panel	9
Participants of the Second Panel	11
Participants of the Third Panel.....	12
Participants of the Fourth Panel	14
Panel Discussion Topics.....	16
Conference Conclusions and Further Recommendations	17
The Book of Abstracts	19



ABOUT US



Nataša Papić-Blagojević, Ph.D. is a professor of applied studies and deputy director for projects at Novi Sad School of Business.

Her scientific and research interest is focused on the fields of economic statistics, higher education and the application of statistical models in economic research. She has presented and published more than 60 scientific and professional papers at national and international conferences and in journals. Professor Papić-Blagojević has been teaching courses at bachelor and master levels of professional studies for seventeen years.

She is the coordinator of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project "Introduction to EU - Education for Secondary Schools (INEES)" and a member of the project team of the Erasmus+ KA2 project "Professional Development of Vocational Education Teachers with European Practices (Pro-VET)". She has participated in several research projects and in a Tempus project as a manager or a researcher.

In 2018, she was elected a scientific associate at the Belgrade Institute of Agricultural Economics. She is a member of the Statistical Society of Vojvodina.



Ana Jovičić Vuković, PhD, is a lecturer at Novi Sad School of Business in the field of tourism and management. Thanks to her academic success, she received scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Erasmus Mundus, the Young Talents Fund, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Austrian Agency for International Mobility (OEAD), the Hemofarm Foundation and other organisations.

She participated in trainings and exchange programmes at BOKU University in Vienna, Split University, Trieste University and the DID Deutsch Institute in Berlin and Munich.

As a researcher, she has taken part in national, provincial and Erasmus+ projects and in various non-formal education programmes.

She authored and co-authored more than 60 scientific papers and co-authored the textbook "Management of services". She is a member of the Centre for Career Development, Marketing Team, and the Office for Projects at Novi Sad School of Business.

In 2017, she was elected a scientific associate at the Geographic Institute "Jovan Cvijić" at SASA, Belgrade.





Biljana Stankov, Ph.D., is a lecturer at Novi Sad School of Business and publishing coordinator. Her main areas of interest and future scientific development are foreign direct investments, national competitiveness, the competitiveness of the economy and enterprises, the European Union, international economics and EU integration economics.

She is the organizer of international scientific conferences and editor of the Book of Abstracts from the conferences "Economic Development and Competitiveness of European Countries: Achievements-Challenges-Opportunities" and "Economic Development and Competitiveness of European Countries: Challenges of Economic Integration". As a researcher, she has participated in research projects and is currently also an administrator and verifier within the Vojvodina Personal Scientific File Base.

As an author or co-author, Biljana Stankov participated in more than 40 scientific conferences, published more than 20 papers in scientific journals and thematic proceedings of national importance and 3 papers as part of monographic studies.



Dragana Tomašević is employed as a teaching assistant at Novi Sad School of Business. She received her bachelor's and master's degree from the Faculty of Economics in Subotica (Department of European Economics and Business). During her studies, she acquired exceptional knowledge and understanding of both European and international economics so she can perform critical comprehensive analysis of the European economy with its macro and microeconomic, economic-political, sectoral, and branchial aspects.

Dragana Tomašević has been a member of the Novi Sad School of Business marketing team for many years and, more recently, a member of the Center for Career Development and Internship. She advocates for correct and open communication, both with secondary school students and with the students she teaches. She is the author of many papers presented and published at national and international conferences and in prominent journals.

Conference “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities”

On May 18, 2022, starting at 12 o'clock, the closing conference, “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities”, was held at the Novi Sad School of Business conference hall as part of the realisation of the Jean Monnet project entitled “Introduction to EU Education for Secondary Schools.”



Figure 1. The conference opening ceremony

The conference’s goal was to open a dialogue between the participants, i.e., secondary school institutions represented by secondary school teachers and students, representatives of the academic community and higher educational institutions, representatives of the government and NGOs, and other stakeholders.

The panel discussion topics and the conference participants highlighted the most important aspects of the process of Serbia’s accession to the EU, taking into account all the challenges and the opportunities for involving young people in the changes that follow on the path to European integration. They also pointed out the importance of studying EU topics at all levels of education. Opening the discussion as part of the conference contributed to familiarising young people and other interested parties with European values by providing information on education, training, improvement of social life, and employment possibilities that the EU membership would bring.

At the same time, the conference made it possible to spread information on European values and raise awareness of the importance of Serbia’s accession to the EU. As part of the project realisation, the presentation of the research results also highlighted the significance of implementing EU topics into the secondary school curricula.

The possibilities of involving young people in the following changes related to Serbia’s path to integration were analysed both during the opening presentation and at the panel. The discussion topics highlighted the opportunities that Serbia’s accession to the EU will bring, which are related to continuing education, professional development, improving social life and employment, and other topics of interest to young people.

Serbia’s accession to the EU is considered one of the strategic priorities to which special attention has been given in research. Previous studies reveal that the support of Serbian citizens for the European Union and European integration has varied throughout the years. At the same time, the latest poll conducted by the Ministry of European Integration in December 2019 showed minimal growth in support for the European path.

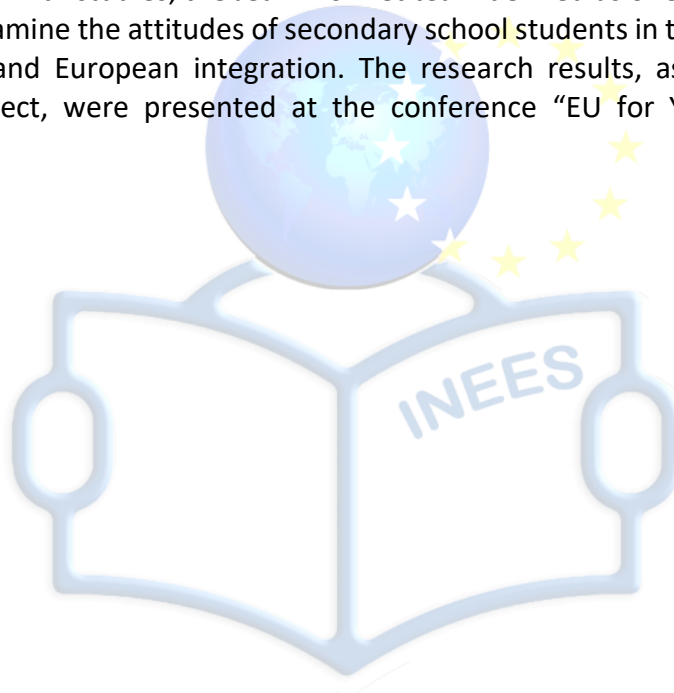
Until now, studies among young people aged 15-20 have been published as separate reports. However, this age category has not received much attention. These and similar reports very often



did not deal with issues of particular importance for young people related to the opportunities for studying, employment, internship, volunteering, and others, in the countries of the European Union. In 2018, The National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS) published a report on the position and needs of young people in the Republic of Serbia. The research showed that young people generally have a neutral attitude toward the European Union but also a tendency for negative attitudes to increase.

In 2014, BEUM Student Association conducted a survey about the European Union among Belgrade secondary school students. The research showed that students' awareness of the European Union is low. On the other hand, students are interested in becoming more actively involved in decision-making and obtaining more information on these topics. Students' attitudes towards the European Union are primarily negative. However, their leading associations with the EU are positive, so the general conclusion is that raising awareness on this topic is vital among young people, not only through curricula but also through extracurricular activities.

Relying on these and similar studies, the Jean Monnet team defined as one of its initial goals of the project the need to examine the attitudes of secondary school students in the Republic of Serbia on the European Union and European integration. The research results, as one of the significant outcomes of the project, were presented at the conference "EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities".





About INEES project

The **INEES** is the acronym of Jean Monet's project called "Introduction to EU: Education for Secondary Schools," which was planned to be implemented from October 2019 to October 2021. Under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impossibility of realising the project activities within the deadline, the project's duration was extended by one year. Extending the project's duration made it possible for all project tasks to be realised with the expected dynamics and within the newly determined time frame. Realised activities are presented on the project website <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/>.

The project logo (Figure 2) figuratively depicts a book with the project acronym as a need for learning and improving knowledge and a head "thinking" about the European Union, represented by a tight circle of golden stars.



Figure 2. The INEES project logo

The project was designed as an innovative method of bringing the process of European integration, institutions, and mechanisms of the European Union closer to secondary school teachers and students and raising awareness of the entire society about the EU through their cooperation and debate. In this regard, the project's primary goal is to educate teachers and students in secondary school on EU topics.

The members of the project team defined the following specific goals necessary for the successful implementation of the project:

- Dissemination of knowledge and information about the EU primarily addressed to teachers and students, but also the general public through the web platform EUTutor;
- Obtaining concrete information on students' knowledge of the EU and their understanding of the process of Serbia's accession to the EU;
- Training and raising teachers' awareness about the EU's importance and values.
- Informing and educating secondary school students in Serbia about the European Union;
- Opening a dialogue between policymakers, civil society representatives, the academic community and secondary education about the benefits and significance of the European integration process for young people and implementing EU topics into the secondary schools' curricula.



Specific goals were achieved as follows:

- 1) The EUTutor educational web platform was created, which contains the results of all activities:
 - The **COURSE** topic contains presentations, video lessons, knowledge tests and the “EU Handbook” intended for students and teachers in secondary schools:
<http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/kurs-2/>.
 - The topic **SEMINAR** contains an overview of planned and realised activities with accompanying reports and a video diary from realised seminars and EU Info days:
<http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/seminar/>.
 - The topic **WEBINAR** contains presentations from webinars held during the implementation of the project: <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/vebinar/>.
 - The **CONFERENCE** topic contains all relevant information about the final conference, “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities,” as well as the Book of Abstracts specially prepared for that occasion: <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/konferencija-2/>.
 - The topic **RESEARCH** includes the goal and significance of the research, as well as the questionnaire that was developed and distributed to secondary school students in four regions in Serbia, as well as the results of the research presented in the publication “How well do we know each other?": <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/istrazivanje-2/>.
- 2) The research was conducted on the level of young people, precisely secondary school students' awareness of the European Union and students' existing knowledge of these topics. The research was conducted on a sample of 995 students in 25 secondary schools from the territory of the Republic of Serbia and was summarised and presented in the e-publication “How well do we know each other?" <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/How-well-we-know-each-other.pdf>.
- 3) Seminars for secondary school teachers named „Towards the EU - Challenges and Opportunities” were organised and implemented. The seminars were held in 28 secondary schools in Novi Sad, Zrenjanin, Ruma, Belgrade, Sopot, Mladenovac, Užice, Kragujevac, Pirot and Leskovac <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Izve%C5%A1taj-o-realizovanim-seminarima-i-EU-Info-danima.pdf>.
- 4) During EU Info days held in secondary schools across Serbia, lecturers - experts in the field of the European Union informed students and held lectures about various EU topics <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Izve%C5%A1taj-o-realizovanim-seminarima-i-EU-Info-danima.pdf>.
- 5) The final conference, „EU for youth - challenges and opportunities”, was held and attended by representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations, higher and secondary education students, secondary school students and other interested stakeholders <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/agenda.pdf>.



Conference participants

Keynote speakers

According to the Conference Agenda (<http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/agenda.pdf>), during the ceremonial opening of the conference, the attendees were addressed by:

Dr Jelena Damjanović, prof. is the director of the Novi Sad School of Business and a professor of applied studies in the field of Trade and International Business. In the period from 1998 to 2006, she worked as a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Economics in Pristina on courses in the field of International Economy and Trade, and from 2006 she was employed at the Novi Sad School of Business, first as a lecturer, and then as a professor of applied studies. Prof. Damjanović has more than 20 years of work and teaching experience lecturing at undergraduate and master's professional studies in subjects such as International Trade, International Economy, Trade Management and EU Economy.



She was a guest lecturer at the International School of Florence in 2013 and 2014 at the University of Geneva and the City University of Hong Kong. In 2000, she received the Royal Norwegian Award for the highest academic achievements, and in 2008 she was appointed a member of the working group of the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia in charge of drafting the Law on attracting foreign investments.

She has participated in national and international conferences and has authored numerous papers published in scientific and professional journals. In addition, she is the author of the following books and textbooks: "International Economics," "International Business," "Trade Management," and "Serbia and the South East European Free Trade Zon". Key areas of interest relate to International Economy, European Union, Transnational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investments, Globalization, International Trade and Competition. She is a participant, as a researcher or coordinator, in a significant number of national and international projects.



Nela Milišić is the assistant provincial secretary for higher education and scientific research activities of AP Vojvodina. She completed her undergraduate and master's studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Novi Sad, where she enrolled in doctoral studies, too. She worked as a trainee lawyer in general and legal affairs in the Juznobačka administrative district. She has nine years of experience as a Head of a Department in the Juznobačka administrative District. She also gained work experience as head of the Department for legal and inspection affairs in the Provincial Secretariat



for Higher Education and Scientific Research. She participated in training on European Union policy within the SA4EU project organised by the Office for European Affairs of the Government of the RS and European Competence Ltd., as well as several trainings organised by the Personnel Management Service of the Government of the RS. She participated in several projects financed by the European Commission, GIZ, OSCE, etc. She is the author of several scientific papers.

Dr Dragan Stojanović, prof. is a professor of applied studies at the Academy of Professional studies South Serbia, Assistant President for Development and Business Cooperation and Head of Team for International cooperation. Since 2017 he has been Erasmus+ ambassador in Serbia for the promotion of European programs for higher education.

He was a member of the Accreditation team in all accreditation cycles (Institution, study programs) and an expert in creating new curricula for study programs, courses, and training. He was a team member for the implementation of the project “School for the future”, successfully finished in 2011, financed by the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

Prof. Stojanović was coordinator, contact person and expert at several projects co-funded by the EU since 2013, Tempus project 544543 MHTSPS (2013-2016), Erasmus+ K107 and KA103 projects, and IPA-Interreg. Erasmus’s project „Practical training - the link between education and the labour market“, realised with a partner from the Republic of Slovenia, was awarded as an example of good practice in this EU country. He is the author and co-author of one textbook and more than 20 scientific papers for journals and conferences, mainly in his areas of interest, Applied informatics and Risk management in Finance, Accounting and Insurance.



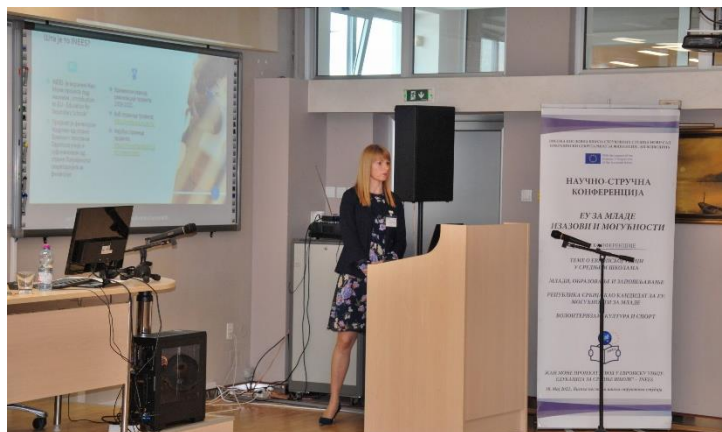
Dragan Filipović, prof. is the head of the School Administration Belgrade. Since October 2019, he has been employed at the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. Between 2004-2019, he was the head of the Agricultural secondary school with Students Dormitory PK Belgrade. As a professor of Ornamental Dendrology, Bio-decoration, Cultivation of Green Areas, Floriculture, and practical teaching, professor

Filipović made a significant contribution to the development of the Agricultural secondary school. Later, as a principal, he advocated re-introducing the Horticulture Technician course. He also developed a new educational profile, Organic Production Technician, in cooperation with the Norwegian Embassy to develop an ecological bio-garden project. Furthermore, he organised charity events to raise money for kindergarten and elementary school renovation, etc. Professor Filipović acquired formal education at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade, Department of



Landscape Architecture, as well as at the Boerma Instituut, International Floral Design School Holland, Department of Flower Design.

Dr Nataša Papić-Blagojević, prof. is a professor of applied studies and the deputy director for projects at Novi Sad School of Business, Serbia. Prof. Papić-Blagojević has seventeen years of teaching experience in undergraduate and master's studies courses such as Quantitative methods in business decision-making, Business statistics, Financial and actuarial mathematics and Application of statistical models in the business. The sphere of scientific and



research interest is focused on Economic Statistics, Higher education and the Application of statistical models in economic research. She has published over 60 scientific and professional papers at conferences and journals of national and international importance.

Prof. Papić-Blagojević is the coordinator of the Erasmus+ Jean Monnet project “Introduction to EU - Education for secondary schools (INEES)”. She is a member of the project team of the Erasmus+ KA2 project “Professional Development of Vocational Education Teachers with European Practices (PRO-VET)”. She participated as a manager or researcher in several projects financed by the Provincial Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research and as a researcher in Tempus project 544543 MHTSPS (2013-2014). During 2013 and 2014, as deputy director for international cooperation, she organised and managed the student exchange program with the University of Krakow, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski, Poland. Prof. Papić-Blagojević is a member of the Organizing Committee of the biennial international scientific and professional conference “Economic Development and Competitiveness of European Countries Achievements - Challenges - Opportunities” organised by the Novi Sad School of Business. In April 2019, as part of the Erasmus+ teaching staff mobility program, she was a guest lecturer at the University of Tourism Management and Informatics from Virovitica, Republic of Croatia. In 2018, she was chosen as a scientific associate at the Institute for Agricultural Economics, Belgrade. She is a member of the Statistical Society of Vojvodina.

Participants of the First Panel

As part of Panel I entitled “Topics about the European Union in secondary schools”, the attendees were addressed by:

Prof. dr Miroslav N. Jovanović teaches economic integration at the University of Geneva (The Alma mater of Jose Manuel Barroso, the former head of the European Commission) and Economics of the EU and Economics of International Integrations on master studies at Novi Sad School of Business as a guesting lecturer. He worked for the United Nations from 1989 to 2017, first at the UN Centre for Transnational Corporations in New York before moving in 1992 to the UN Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva.



Professor Jovanović's principal academic and research interests are in International economic integration, Evolutionary economics and geography, European Union, Enlargement of the European Union, Location of firms/industries and spatial economics, Industrial, trade and competition policies, Transnational corporations and foreign direct investment.



He is also known as a great connoisseur of the economic situation in transition countries. He is the author and editor of 25 volumes (including textbooks) that deal with economic integration. Most of them were published in Britain, while a few were published in the USA, China, Greece and Serbia. Jovanović is also the author of numerous articles on the issue of economic integration published in refereed journals and a contributor (with Jelena Damjanović) to the Palgrave Encyclopaedia. He won the Daeyang Prize for the Year 2010 for the best article ('Is globalisation taking us for a ride', September, pp. 501-549) published in the Journal of Economic Integration in 2010. He has given courses and public lectures at many academic institutions such as Austria: Johannes Kepler University, Linz; China: Nankai University, Tianjin;

Croatia: University of Zagreb; England: University of Cambridge; Germany: University of Reutlingen; University of Mannheim etc.

Professor Aleksandra Kovačević is employed at the Computing Gymnasium "Smart". She studied at the Faculty of Science, where she graduated with a degree in Computer Science. Since 1998, she has worked in various positions, building a computer network and introducing the ISO9001 quality management system. She gained experience in frontend development, working in several Serbian and international companies for several years.

She gained her first work experience in education as a teacher of Mathematics and Computer Science and as a class teacher in the "Svetozar Marković-Toza" Elementary School in Novi Sad. Since 2018, she has worked in the Computing Gymnasium "Smart" in Novi Sad, where she teaches Mathematics, Computer Programming, and Programming Languages. She has been a class teacher since 2021 and teaches initial face-to-face and online classes for eighth-grade students.



She participated in a charity event involving free online classes for the children of healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. She attended and completed several seminars on improving teaching and working with elementary and secondary school students and students with

learning difficulties. In the “Smart” Gymnasium, she organised employee training for Microsoft Teams and worked on implementing online classes during the pandemic. During May and June 2022, she participated in two conferences, presenting the results of using project-based learning in Computer Programming and Programming Languages. Today, she works in the “Smart” Computing Gymnasium and helps students with Computer Programming and Mathematics. She is the founder and member of the council of the Community Association “Myself, Others, the World.”

Participants of the Second Panel

As part of Panel II entitled “Youth, education and employment”, the attendees were addressed by:

Prof. dr Boban Vesin is employed at the University of Vestfold, Norway as an associate professor. He previously worked at the University of Trondheim, the University of Gothenburg, Sweden (2015-2017), Schneider Electric DMS Novi Sad (2015) and the Novi Sad School of Business (2002-2015). In 2008, he was elected to the position of lecturer for Applied Programming, Designing Electronic Business Systems and Programming Languages courses at the Novi Sad School of Business.



Prof. Vesin is the co-author of two exercise manuals in the subjects Application of Information Technologies and Software Engineering. He has published over 50 scientific papers in proceedings of international conferences and journals in e-learning, learning analytics, personalised learning, recommender systems and software engineering. He has been engaged as an expert witness in Serbian court since 2007, and so far, he has been involved in over 50 cases. He is registered on the official list of permanent court experts of Serbia by the decision of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia.



Sonja Marjanski-Lazić completed her master's studies at the Faculty of Economics in Subotica, University of Novi Sad. She is a teacher of the economic group of subjects at the Economic and trade school “Jovan Trajković” in Zrenjanin. She gained previous work experience as a lecturer in the field of Accounting at Pergament School and as an associate at the Marketing agency Ce-Mar. She gained professional knowledge

through participation in various conferences and courses organised by the Tempus Office, the National Agency Erasmus+ in Germany, the Institute for the Improvement of Education and Training,



the Center for Professional Development, etc. She participated in numerous educations to improve the teaching process, such as Learning new methods, Communication in the learning process or Virtual Hotel - practical training for hotel management teachers. She is the author of several scientific and professional papers in Economics and the European Union.

Participants of the Third Panel

As part of Panel III entitled “Serbia as a candidate for the EU: opportunities for young people”, the attendees were addressed by:

Mina Radmilović Pjevac is part of the first generation of students at the Department of European Economics and Business at the Faculty of Economics, University of Novi Sad. After her undergraduate studies, she continued her master’s studies at the Faculty of La Sapienza in Rome, the Department of European Studies, the so-called Eurosapienza, as a student with a Basileus Scholarship. Upon her arrival back to Novi Sad, she started her internship, and soon her work engagement in the newly established institution by the Provincial Government, European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina.

The Fund was established to monitor, study and implement European integration processes and build and strengthen the institutional capacity of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina to achieve economic, scientific, educational and cultural cooperation with European cities and regions and their institutions. During the first years of work, the focus was on local self-governments intending to upgrade their capacities for absorbing European Union grants as much as possible. During these ten years, Mina has held over 150 trainings, participated in developing project ideas and helped applicants “pack” them into the projects following the priorities defined by the calls. Also, she wrote and implemented projects in which the European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina participated as a partner. Given the component of social utility in solving local and regional priorities, the Fund’s projects are mainly financed from cross-border cooperation programs with Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as from the Adriatic-Ionian and Danube-transnational Programme.



Mina completed the program of the Diplomatic Academy “Koča Popović” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. At the same time, she enrolled in PhD studies at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade at the Department of International and European Studies.

Dr Željko Račić, prof., is a professor of applied studies, Erasmus coordinator and head of the office for international cooperation at the Novi Sad School of Business. Prof. Račić has more than 13 years of experience teaching undergraduate and master’s professional studies in Finance, International and national banking and Risk management. He has five years of experience implementing student internships through cooperation with numerous financial companies from Serbia. Also, he participated in the creation of new curricula and their adaptation to modern European study



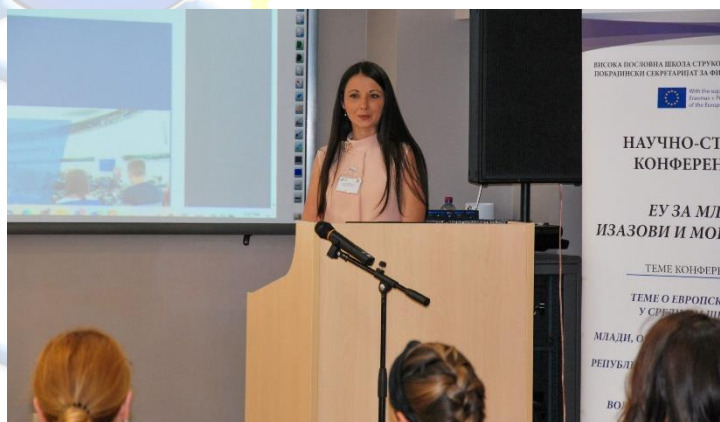
programs. As an Erasmus coordinator, he is responsible for all incoming and outgoing mobility of students and teachers.

So far, he has participated in several national and international projects: “Organisational and IT support for the quality management system as a key factor in increasing the competitiveness of our companies and their faster exit to the world and EU markets” (project manager: Economic Institute, Belgrade);

“Improving Serbia’s competitiveness in the EU accession process”, financed by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia (project manager: FEFA Institute, Belgrade); “Measuring the existing level of competitiveness of AP Vojvodina”, financed by the Provincial Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research (project manager: Novi Sad School of Business); “Professional Development of Vocational Education Teachers with European Practices (Pro-VET project)”, a project funded by the Erasmus+ program of the EU (project manager: JAMK University of Applied Sciences, Finland).

Dr Biljana Stankov is a lecturer in the Trade and International Cooperation Department at the Novi Sad School of Business. The primary areas of her current interest, teaching-scientific work and future scientific training are the European Union, the International Economy and the Economy of European integrations, Foreign direct investments and National competitiveness. She has organised many international scientific conferences and is the editor of the proceedings of the conferences “Economic Development and Competitiveness of European Countries: Achievements-Challenges-Opportunities” and “Economic Development and Competitiveness of European Countries: Challenges of Economic Integration”. As a researcher, she was engaged in developmental and research projects, and she is currently an administrator and verifier within the Vojvodina Personal Scientific File Base.

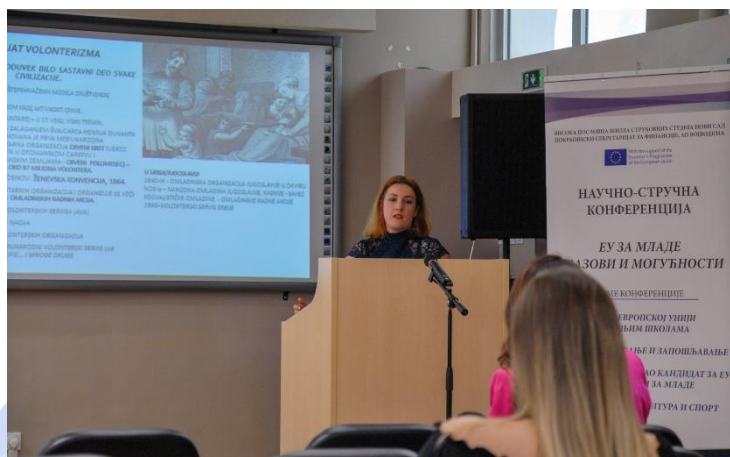
As an author or co-author, Biljana Stankov participated in more than 40 scientific conferences and published more than 20 papers in scientific journals and three papers as part of monographic studies.



Participants of the Fourth Panel

As part of Panel IV entitled “Volunteering, culture and sport”, the following addressed the attendees:

Dr Aleksandra Terzić is a senior research associate at the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Her scientific expertise is in Social geography, Tourism geography, Cultural studies and Sustainable development of local communities. She attended the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Novi Sad, where she received her PhD in geosciences (tourism) in 2012. Since December 2011, she has been permanently employed at the “Jovan Cvijić” Geographical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences. She obtained a scientific title in 2014 and was elected a senior scientific associate in 2019. From 2009 until today, she has been engaged in several scientific and development projects, participated in the work of scientific societies and conferences, and published over 80 scientific and professional papers in leading scientific journals and one book.



She is actively engaged in studying Cultural heritage, Public opinion, Local activism and practices of protection and management, and Methods for revitalisation and tourism affirmation of cultural heritage. She is a member of several international academic and professional networks - the International Geographical Union (IGU), the Danube: The Future academic network (Austria), the European cultural route “Sultan’s Trail” academic network (Netherlands), and others. She is the president of the Ethics Commission and a member of the Scientific Board of the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA. She was also a member of the scientific and organisational committees of several international conferences in Serbia and abroad. In addition, she is a member of the editorial boards of the magazine Megatrend Revija, Zbornik Geografski institut “Jovan Cvijić” SANU, Journal of Applied Economics (JAEB), and a reviewer of several renowned scientific journals in the field of tourism: Current Issues in Tourism, Tourism Management, Economic Research, Tourism and Hospitality Research, Ethnoanthropological problems, Culture, Megatrend review, etc. Since 2022, she has been the president of the Association of Tourists of Serbia, of which she has been a member since 2011.

Dr Ana Jovičić Vuković is a lecturer at Novi Sad School of Business on courses in the field of Tourism and Management. Thanks to her academic success, she received scholarships from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Erasmus Mundus, the Young Talents Fund, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Austrian Agency for International Mobility (OEAD), the Hemofarm Foundation and other organisations.

She participated in training and exchange programmes at BOKU University in Vienna, Split University, Trieste University, and the DID Deutsch Institute in Berlin and Munich.



INEES Introduction to EU Education for Secondary Schools



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

As a researcher, she has participated in national, provincial and Erasmus+ projects and various non-formal education programmes.

She authored and co-authored more than 60 scientific papers and co-authored the textbook "Management of services". She is a member of the Centre for Career Development, the Marketing Team, and the Office for Projects at Novi Sad School of Business.

In 2017, she was elected a scientific associate at the Geographic Institute "Jovan Cvijić" at SASA, Belgrade.





Panel Discussion Topics

The topics of the conference panel “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities” are divided into four categories, with the intention of drawing particular attention to the implementation of EU topics into the secondary schools’ curricula, the opportunities for young people when it comes to education and employment in the European educational and business environment, the options Serbia’s potential membership in the EU would bring to young people and, finally, cultural, sports, and volunteering aspects in EU countries.

The following panellists presented their observations on the given topics along with participating in the accompanying discussions:

- **I Panel: Topics on the European Union in secondary schools**
 - **Prof. dr Miroslav Jovanović**, Global Studies Institute, University of Geneva, Switzerland
 - **Aleksandra Kovačević, prof.**, Computing Gymnasium “Smart”, Novi Sad
- **II Panel: Youth, education and employment**
 - **Prof. dr Boban Vesin**, Department of history, business and social sciences, University of South-Eastern Norway, Vestfold, Norway
 - **Sonja Marjanski Lazić, prof.**, Economic and trade school “Jovan Trajković”, Zrenjanin
- **III Panel: Serbia as an EU candidate: opportunities for young people**
 - **Mina Radmilović Pjevac**, European Affairs Fund - AP Vojvodina
 - **Dr Željko Račić, prof.**, Erasmus coordinator, Novi Sad School of Business
 - **Dr Biljana Stankov**, Lecturer, Novi Sad School of Business
- **IV Panel: Volunteering, culture and sport**
 - **Dr Aleksandra Terzić**, Senior research associate, Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA, President of the Tourismologists Association of Serbia
 - **Dr Ana Jovičić Vuković**, Lecturer, Novi Sad School of Business

The presentations are available at the following link <http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/konferencija-2/>.



Conference Conclusions and Further Recommendations

Based on the discussion between the secondary education representatives, higher education institutions, and representatives of the government and NGOs, as well as the presented research results on the attitudes of young people towards the European Union and the process of Serbia's accession to the EU, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. **EU topics in secondary school programs are insufficiently discussed**, influencing young people to base their attitudes and opinions about the European Union on incomplete information from unreliable sources.

One of the ways to overcome this issue is to encourage secondary school teachers to ensure a higher level of information is available to young people by enriching their teaching subjects with EU content. The results of the INEES project in the form of EU manuals, presentations, video lessons, and other materials accompanying this publication are available on the EUTutor platform to everyone in formal and informal education fields.

All materials are universally presented so that secondary school teachers can implement the offered topics in their subjects, following the issues they deal with and students' preferences.

2. **Young people's lack of interest and indifference regarding EU topics** affects the students to superficially consider significant issues and information concerning their future and the future of all Serbian citizens.

This problem could be overcome with the help of modern forms of adopting various information and knowledge about the EU, with the digital environment as the basis for both spending free time and learning and obtaining information. In this sense, the EUTutor platform offers an innovative way of getting knowledge and education that encourages more flexible and creative ways of learning and self-education, which is crucial for a better understanding of the importance and the Republic of Serbia's place in the process of accession to the EU. It also helps Serbia understand its position and role and the opportunities the integration process could bring.

3. **Insufficient research** would focus on young people between the ages of 15 and 19 - secondary school students, as the age category that will decide on Serbia's entry into the European Union at the referendum in the following period.

The publication "How well do we know each other" is a basis for further research and results significant for researchers and policymakers. Conducting studies among young people and using them to devise innovative ways of informing, as well as opening a discussion and maintaining cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, can contribute to a better understanding of the importance of the process of Serbia's accession to the EU and the opportunities this membership will bring, and a long-term positive change of young people's attitudes on the European Union. Also, the research results can be the basis for further research at the national, regional, and European level.

4. It is necessary to **ensure a higher level of available information among young people about the positive aspects** and opportunities provided by the European Union.



INEES
Introduction to EU Education
for Secondary Schools



The cooperation of all relevant stakeholders should ensure that young people receive more information on the positive aspects of membership and their current opportunities related to different types of programs and donations in the form of Erasmus exchanges, volunteering opportunities, and cooperation through projects, scholarships, internships, and others. The possibilities of residing in the territory of the European Union, familiarising with the educational system, opportunities for employment and travel, and other activities can bring the European Union and its core values closer to the Republic of Serbia's youth.



The Book of Abstracts

A Book of Abstracts was also prepared as part of the Jean Monnet conference “EU for Youth - Challenges and Opportunities” (Figure 3).

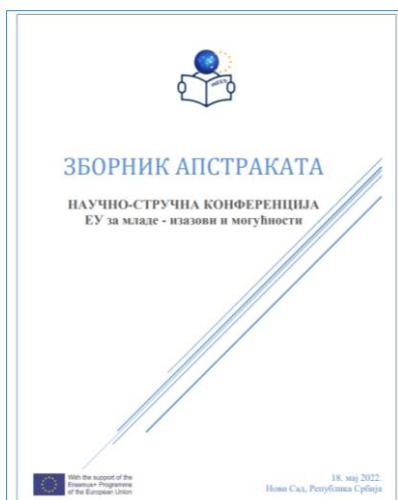


Figure 3. Cover page of the Book of Abstracts

In the Book of Abstracts, thirty-seven submitted papers are arranged thematically according to the conference panels. The Book of Abstracts can be accessed via the following link:

<http://inees.vps.ns.ac.rs/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/eu-zbornik.pdf>