

Newsletter

Academic network supporting EU policies towards Western Balkans with emphasis on regional cooperation based on reconciliation

ANETREC summer school



Participants of the ANETREC summer school, 4-11 September 2022, Bitola, North Macedonia.

The project invited the authors/students of the essays, which were published in a ANETREC special publication, to the ANETREC summer school titled **"EU POLICY TOWARDS WESTERN BALKANS WITH EMPHASIS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION, BASED ON RECONCILIATION – RESULTS AND CHALLENGES"**, which took place between **4 and 11 September 2022 in Bitola, North Macedonia**.

The summer school was a unique gathering of more than 40 students from all countries of the Western Balkans, Slovenia and Croatia. After the professors' lectures, they organize debates on various topics concerning the EU's policy towards the Western Balkans and the "open questions" that these countries face on the way to European integration. Students develop their personal views on issues that are of utmost importance for the process of European integration and development of their countries and the entire region.

Olivér Várhelyi, the European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and EU Enlargement, in a written address to the school.

Participants emphasized, among other things, that "the EU is more than ever committed to the integration of the entire region into the EU as soon as possible." He thanked to the ANETREC academic network "for their efforts to prevent the painful past from being an obstacle on the way to a successful future". The participants of the summer school were also addressed by Ambassador David Geer, head of the EU delegation in North Macedonia. He talked about the current support of the EU to the countries of the Western Balkans, and emphasized the particularly important role played by students from universities participating in the ANETREC project, as future "decision-makers" in the process of reconciliation and cooperation in the region.

Project coordinator

ISCOMET Institute for Ethnic and Regional Studies, Maribor
Pupinova ulica 6
2000 Maribor, Slovenia
www.iscomet.org

ANETREC coordinator

Prof. emeritus Dr Silvo Devetak
iscomet@siol.net

Project manager

Franc Mlinar, MA
franc.mlinar@ecers-um.si
+386 41 373 199



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