As mandated by the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) works to build friendly, peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic, cultural, sports, and professional exchanges, as well as public-private partnerships. ECA builds networks through academic, professional, youth, sports, cultural, and private exchanges, as well as through cultural heritage preservation. ECA funds more than 55,000 exchange participants each year, both Americans who travel abroad and international visitors to are hosted in all 50 states. Overall, ECA has had over one million program participants to date, including more than 75 Nobel Laureates and nearly 450 current and former heads of state and government.

Founded in 1978 in honor of the late Senator and Vice President, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program provides a year of professional enrichment and leadership development in the United States for mid-career professionals from designated countries throughout the world. The Humphrey Program fosters a mutual exchange of knowledge, builds professional capacity, promotes lasting ties, and enhances international cooperation in areas critical to U.S. engagement with developing and transitional countries. Each year approximately 150 fellows, funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, are grouped by professional focus area and engage in graduate-level study and related professional experiences at leading U.S. universities. The program now has a network of nearly 6,000 alumni in 162 countries around the world working to improve their communities and the lives of those in need. This year, to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, the State Department aims to acknowledge the extraordinary professional achievements and impact of Humphrey alumni during the Fellowship's first 40 years through a series of events around the world.

The Humphrey Program is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, supported by the people of the United States, and implemented by the Institute of International Education.
Dear Humphrey Alumni and Conference Participants,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, thank you for lending your expertise and spearheading the conference Brain Gain in the Balkans: Economic and Development Strategies for a Better Future.” We applaud your goal of building a broader network of fellow leaders to advance transparency, education and economic development in the Balkans.

This event is planned during the 40th anniversary of Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and exemplifies the program’s goals to develop professional capacities and foster a network of global leaders who will work together to create a better future for the citizens of our local, regional, and international communities. I also want to recognize your extraordinary professional achievements and contributions to public service through your work as journalists, policy makers, healthcare professionals, project managers, and entrepreneurs which have strengthened your communities and nations in Europe and beyond.

On March 7 and thereafter, we hope that you will take every opportunity to share your own experiences and expertise so that you may learn from one another and further positive change in the Balkans and around the world. Please also join us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter using #Humphrey40.

Sincerely,

Anthony Koliha
Director Office of Global Educational Programs
Dear Humphrey Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of the Institute of International Education, I am pleased to send warm greetings and best wishes to all attending 2019 Brain Gain in the Balkans: Economic and Development Strategies for a Better Future. This Conference and Networking Event is an opportunity for you to meet Alumni and other professionals from various fields to share impactful experiences and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Inspiration for this Conference comes from Mila Moralic and Marina Ridic, and their appreciation for the strategic agility and robust development that grow out of strong networks. The format for the conference provides many options for learning new perspectives and techniques, dialog with a cross-section of field experts, and an invitation to pursue ideas and actions during this 40th year of the Humphrey Fellowship.

Although the Conference is one day, I challenge you to make the impact life-long!

With best regards,

(Ms.) Nancy Overholt,
Director, Humphrey Fellowship Program
Institute of International Education
SPEAKERS

Arjana Blažić
Teacher Trainer & Curriculum Designer, Experimental Program School for Life
CROATIA

Milena Vučinić
Special advisor Sector for financial stability, research and statistics Central Bank of Montenegro
MONTENEGRO

Darko Ivanović
CEO and Founder of the BADGER
MONTENEGRO

Szabolcs Panyi
Investigative Journalist
HUNGARY

Vesna Travljanin
Director of Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Fadila Serdarević
Epidemiologist
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Maja Čakarun
PR Consultant
CROATIA

Mila Moralić
Political Scientist & Journalist
CROATIA

Lela Vujanić
Programme Manager at Rijeka 2020 - European Capital of Culture
CROATIA
SPEAKERS

- **Anita Kazamer**
  - Legal officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Energy and Climate Diplomacy Department
  - HUNGARY

- **Nataša Tomić**
  - M.D., MSc, Health Care Manager
  - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- **Holger Roonemaa**
  - Investigative Journalist
  - ESTONIA

- **Marina Ridić**
  - TV Anchor and Communication Specialist
  - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- **Nora Buklevska**
  - Project Manager
  - NORTH MACEDONIA

- **Daria Marjanović**
  - Media professional
  - CROATIA

- **Dr. Sc. Vesna Pusić**
  - Member of Croatian Parliament, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
  - CROATIA

- **Dr. Bill Silcock**
  - Humphrey Program Curator at Arizona State University
  - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Registration and Networking

09:30 – 09:45
Welcoming remarks:
Professor Blazenka Divjak, Minister of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia
Mr. Robert Kohorst, the U.S. Ambassador to Croatia

09:45 – 10:30
Opening speeches:
Ms. Cheryl Francisconi, Head of the Institute of International Education for Europe
Ms. Vesna Pusic, Member of Croatian Parliament, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
Dr. Bill Silcock, Humphrey Program Curator at Arizona State University

10:30 – 12:00
Leadership, Collaboration and Innovation through the Lens of the Humphrey Program
1. Holger Roonema (Estonia), Inga Springe (Latvia) and Szabolcs Pany (Hungary)
(I spy – A successful cross country investigative journalism project on Russian meddling, fighting counter information and preventing fake news) Focus on Humphrey collaboration
2. Lela Vujanic (Croatia)
(Alumna of the University of Maryland, Lela is leading the most important cultural projects in the region – Rijeka 2020, European capital of culture) Focus on Humphrey leadership
3. Darko Ivanovic (Montenegro)
(During his fellowship at Arizona State University, Darko developed a start-up that is today a successful company) Focus on Humphrey innovation

12:00 – 13:30
PANEL:
Sustainable Economic Development: Challenges and strategies for a better future
This panel will broadly discuss economic development challenges facing Eastern Europe and highlight entrepreneurship, innovation in education, and the formulation and implementation of public policy as levers to foster economic development Focus on solutions
Panelists:
Arjana Blazic (Croatia) Education innovator and trainer - School for Life
Nora Buklevska (North Macedonia) expert in digital transformation of the public sector
Fadila Serdarevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Epidemiologist
Vesna Travljanin (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nataša Tomic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Health-care management
Milena Jovovic Vunicic (Montenegro) Central bank of Montenegro

13:30 – 15:00
Lunch and coffee break

15:00 – 16:30
Concurrent Workshops
Focus on Knowledge sharing
(TRANSPARENCY) Media and Communications Skills: Trainers, Daria Marjanovic (Croatia) and Maja Cakarun (Croatia) /// (COOPERATION) NGOs Working Together: Trainers, Nora Buklevska (North Macedonia) and Darko Ivanovic (Montenegro) /// (PROSPERITY) Regional Challenges in Sustainable Development: Trainers, Anita Kazamer (Hungary) and Milena Jovovic Vunicic (Montenegro)