

## **Symposium, Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society** **Belgrade 27-31 July 2015**



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Representatives from 30 countries participated in the World Symposium, Unity in Diversity–World Civil Society held in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Symposium was a collaboration between members of Unity in Diversity, International Youth Media Summit, Danube Peace Boat Project, Media Education Centre and partners. It presented roundtables, workshops and a group team-building game.

GDF's CEO Peter (Pece) Gorgievski said, "This has been a really good opportunity to explore how to engage with media, film and animation in the field of Dialogue among people of cultures and religions. It also sets the pace and future activities of Unity in Diversity in the Balkans, Danube Region and South-East Europe."



During brainstorming sessions, participants explored the following ideas about "Unity in Diversity" and what it means:

*What is Unity in Diversity?*

Respect, various, credibility, acceptance, empathy, mosaic, care, understanding, collaboration, nations cooperating with each other, opportunities, individuals, unique, accepting varieties, meeting new people, learning about cultures and religions, change, exchange, interaction, one community, open minded, freedom, one world, peace, humanity, fun, challenges, mutual respect, responsibility, compassion, keeping cultural heritage, friendship, giving back, open communication, social media, listening, no borders.

### *How to build it?*

Talk, listen, communicate, learn, share, tolerate, strengthen, cooperate, invite, be rational, break borders, observe, help others, lead and follow, take risks, break rules, dare to thrive, take action, open your heart, change yourself first, accept, invite, no prejudgement, brief, no discrimination, create space, sing, dance and listen to music together, give, intimacy, understanding, accepting, trust, learn about others, be thankful, laugh, do not judge, work.



Unity in Diversity - World Civil Society's Iliana Schmatelka - Vice President Business and Corporate, facilitated an exciting team-building game. Some of the participant remarks included:

*"I actually learned a lot. I learned that you have to trust and cooperate with people."*

*"At first I found it confusing because there was a lot going on. But at the punchline, I found it really inspiring."*

*"It was very inspiring for everyone because it showed that everyone can help each other out."*

Ms. Schmatelka said, “ Such kind of games bring you to discover something about your own actions, but actually you will start to discover what you learned with time... and change your actions in your life.”



The International Youth Media Summit is in its 10th year and brings together filmmakers from different countries and cultures, to address issues ranging from poverty, to women’s rights, environment, health, youth empowerment, discrimination.

The future of building Unity in Diversity - intercultural, inter-ethnic, inclusive and sustainable societies in the Balkans, Danube Region and South-East Europe, as with other parts of the world, is challenging but rewarding for people of all cultures, ethnicities and civilizations.

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