



Practitioners' Network
for European Development Cooperation

ENEST Working Group

The Berlin Process & Civil Society Forum 2025

25 November 2025, 11:00 – 12:30, Online

MEETING REPORT

Presenters:

The Berlin Process, Dan Hadary, who replaced Alisha Patel, Development Counsellor and Deputy Head, Western Balkans Department, FCDO

Civil Society & Think Tank Forum 2025, Jeremy Lang, Non-Formal Education Lead, Wider Europe Region, British Council

Participants :

Arthur Langlois - Expertise France

Alberto Dotta - Expertise France

Alberto Navarro Alvarez - AECID

Annamaria Jacsó – HHA

Anna Drufva - SIDA

Anna Kontny - GIZ

Biljana Džartova Petrovska – Swedish Embassy in Skopje

Dan Hadary - FCDO

Eduardo Sanchez Campos - FIAP

Francesca Pozzebon - British Council

Giacomo Miserocchi - EEAS Pristina

Jean Silouane Dubois - Expertise France

Jeremy Lang - British Council

Joaquin Caudeli – Practitioners Network

Klaus Kapper – Austrian Development Agency



Lisa Curman - Sida

Louise Poudret Hardy - Expertise France

Laurent Goncalves – Expertise France

Magdalena Wawrzonkowska - GIZ

Marta Turkopule – CFLA Central Finance and Contracting Agency, Republic of Latvia

Milan Gnjdic – British Council

Niklas Wu Hansson - SIDA

Patrick Gaudissart – ENABEL

Paul Bertehezene - Expertise France

Roxana Nan – Enabel

Sarah Fossey - Expertise France

Serena Daoli - DG ENEST

Tamara Ristic – British Council

Vlad Petrea - Expertise France

On the UK chairmanship:

- UK had a special interest in hosting the summit, since it is a platform outside the EU to promote European integration for the Balkans. Last time chairing was in 2018.
- UK focused on migration. Among the outcomes can be mentioned advances on coordination of intelligence and border police.
- UK promoted their export instrument which has been increased.
- UK also promoted gender, especially economic empowerment through SMEs and care systems, and promoted women in diplomacy.
- The UK also rejoined the RCC.

On the civil society forum:

- The UK aimed to create a seamless connection to the previous CS Forum
- 6 thematics - 3 rapporteurs continued from 2024, 3 rapporteurs selected 2025
- Searched symmetries between the six thematics and geographic representation.



- In-country meetings held all around the region in June.
- Stakeholders invited from different sectors, not only the CS, so that they can give new angles and spread the word.
- Other thematics in spotlight discussions - on media (recommendation that it is being dealt with as specific issue coming years), youth, shrinking space
- 2 products, the set of recommendations and the conference report (which reflects the spotlight discussions). The set of recommendations is attached to these minutes, and the report will be published in March. The ministerial statement made reference to these recommendations.

Open floor:

- Participants exchanged on the possibility to expand PNs participation in the Berlin Process and the summit, which could be strengthened.
- **Sida (Lisa Curman)** informed of the bilateral programs in five countries through the embassies, and about the phase out of their regional portfolio. Two partners were mentioned that are particularly relevant to good governance, and therefore for the Berlin Process; BIRN, and independent media network, and BCSDN; Balkans Civil Society Development Network, who promote and coordinate the advocacy towards the EU in the accession process. Both lose financing from Sida, phased out by June 2030 due to reorientation of funds to Ukraine. Sida has good experience from both organisation and see them as very relevant. Especially BCSDN is highly dependent on Sida funding.
- **GiZ (Anna Kotny, private sector, Belgrade)** – Mentioned that GiZ has many relevant programs in the region, for example on media and good governance in Serbia. Anna works on private sector, and received information on how the PN functions, and was welcomed to propose events.
- **EF (Vlad Petrea)** - presented the French funded "Shared Horizons" project, and found connections with BC, with plans to coordinate. The project aims to address issues of collective memory and outline common future perspectives, particularly within the EU and the broader European framework. "Shared Horizons" was designed based on key factors that could foster the anchoring of shared historical narratives in the Western Balkans, specifically: (i) The development of exchanges between youth from the Western Balkans, (ii) The promotion of a shared historical heritage, (iii) The fight against nationalist hate speech and the promotion of a positive European narrative, (iv) The development of idea exchanges on a common European future.
- **DG ENEST (Serena Daoli)** – Expressed appreciation and encouraged participants to please share notes from the meeting and short descriptions of projects if we would like them to be shared to relevant colleagues at DG ENEST.



Resources:

- Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2025 Conference Report:
<https://wb-csf.eu/docs/Conference-Report-CSF-2025.pdf.pdf>
- Civil Society and Think Tank Forum 2025 Policy Recommendations:
<https://wb-csf.eu/docs/-186.pdf>
- WB6 Media Programme – GIZ :
<https://www.wb6media.eu/>
- Shared Horizons – Expertise France:
<https://www.expertisefrance.fr/en/projects/shared-horizons>
- Report Building a “Shared Horizon” for youth in the Balkans and countering misinformation:
<https://www.expertisefrance.fr/en/news/building-shared-horizon-for-youth-balkans>