

Positive Foresight is an Important Pillar for Building a Better Future for Europe of the Future

The South East European Node of The Millennium Project, The Bled Forum on Europe, held a foresight conference at Bled, Slovenia from March 29th to March 30th 2012. More than 70 academic, business, and civil society representatives from 19 countries shared their ideas and discussed new ideas for future European development. The key conclusion from the conference was the need to integrate positive foresight in the planning and policy-making for Europe to move Europe from status quo to a more positive future.

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The Bled Forum on Europe conference, held at Bled, Slovenia from March 29th to March 30th 2012, offered the opportunity to discuss current and future challenges for Europe and explore opportunities to change these challenges into opportunities for future development. Mr. Blaž Golob, Chairman of Bled Forum, opened the conference by presenting the main theme of the conference: Europe could offer much more than just 2020 Agenda objectives, namely Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable. Mr. Jose Cordeiro, Director of Venezuela Node of The Millennium Project, confronted the audience with the fact that there is a too much negative thinking in Europe. He said that "Even if there is a crisis, we cannot look only at the danger, but we have to focus on the opportunities that can and will arise from it. Therefore it is important to use positive foresight and foresight methodology for successful future development,".



The importance of the development of information society in the South East European region and the importance of cloud computing development for economizing, sharing of knowledge and data protection was stressed later on by Mr. Božo Cerar, State Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, and Mr. Hido Biščević, Secretary General at Regional Cooperation Council, for building prosperity. Ms. Sanja Vlahović, Minister of Science of Government of Montenegro, stressed the need for building cooperation, networks that create synergies, and expressed the importance of cooperatively building future visions. Innovation, creation of new methods and models of future development, alongside with greater regional cohesion, and creating an understanding of diversity have been exposed during the conference as crucial elements for success.



The conference highlighted that the advantages that IT services and cloud computing have to offer can greatly assist in improving governance in Europe throughout eGovernance development. Many interesting regional projects and project initiatives for the Danube region and Balkan region have been presented, each offering a view about creating a way forward for Europe. Turkey presented its great progress in the last period and its future growth potential.

XIII Bled Forum Award Winner

The Futures Committee of Bled Forum selected Mr. Milan Marić, chair of the Montenegro Node of the Millennium Project, Country Manager of S&T Montenegro to get an award in respect to the 13th Bled Forum on Europe Foresight Conference.

Mr Milan Marić received the Bled Forum award for translating and publishing the 2011 State of Future in Montenegro. This was the first and the fastest translation and publishing of the State of the Future in the region. He is also developing TeleMontenegro to connect Montenegrins overseas with the development process back home. Bled Forum on Europe, The South East European Node of The Millennium Project, is an international think-tank gathering that promotes knowledge-based governance, the use of future studies and foresight in policy making and business processes.

The Millennium Project was established in 1996 as the first global futures research think tank. It conducts independent futures research via its 40 Nodes around the world that connect global and local perspectives. Nodes are groups of individuals and institutions that pick the brains of their region and feedback the global results. It is supported by UN organizations, multinational corporations, universities, foundations and the national governments.

For more, please visit:
<http://www.bled-forum.org/>
<http://www.cegd.eu/>
<http://www.millennium-project.org>

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Attachments

