

Press Release – Bled Strategic Forum 2024

Bled Strategic Forum 2024 calls for cooperation in a divided world

The 19th International Conference Bled Strategic Forum 2024 took place in Bled on 2 and 3 September 2024. This year's event was titled "A World of Parallel Realities" and was marked by new innovative approaches in the programme and even greater involvement of young people. This year's Forum hosted more than 2,200 participants from 95 countries in 32 debates, confirming the Bled Strategic Forum as the leading conference in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The 20th Bled Strategic Forum will take place on 1 and 2 September 2025.

Bled Strategic Forum 2024 calls for cooperation for the common good

In line with its mission, the conference addressed the most pressing and topical issues of the moment and offered a space for the exchange of different points of view.

"The Bled Strategic Forum provided lively and very frank discussions on all the current challenges facing the international community. On the first day, the war in Ukraine and Gaza and the EU enlargement were at the forefront, while today's topics include cyber security, the fight against disinformation, energy and water security, the green transition and climate change, tourism and migration," emphasized Tanja Fajon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs.

Peter Grk, Secretary General of the Bled Strategic Forum, concluded this year's conference by underlining that "as a platform for inclusion, equality and diversity, the event has enabled the exchange of diverse ideas and viewpoints and brought together social actors such as global thinkers, experts, decision-makers, academics, businesspeople and young people in a common space."

The Bled Strategic Forum - a symbol of cooperation

This year's programme featured 32 debates with more than 180 speakers from 48 different countries. The conference hosted the President of the country, four Prime Ministers, nine Foreign Ministers and 18 other ministers, as well as more than 60 other distinguished guests,

confirming the Bled Strategic Forum as the leading conference in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, in her address announced the appointment of a European Commissioner for Enlargement in the new Commission's mandate.

Yulia Navalnaya received the BSF Distinguished Partner Award.

In the framework of the Bled Strategic Forum, the Biotech Hills Institute signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to cooperate and build an integrated ecosystem in the field of biotechnology.

The evening discussion and concert "Night Owl", with a joint performance by Israeli musician Shachar Ziv and Palestinian soprano Nour Darwish, symbolised the importance of cooperation.

Young actively involved in the Bled Strategic Forum 2024

This year, the Young Bled Strategic Forum played a more prominent role in Bled. Nine participants of the Young Bled Strategic Forum took part in the Bled Strategic Forum debates, and on all the panels they were the first to ask the speakers a question. Highlights included a conversation with the famous South African human rights activist Albie Sachs about his remarkable life journey, and a discussion with the Forum's Secretary General Peter Grk and long-time moderator Ali Aslan about the limits of dialogue and the importance of such meetings in an increasingly divided world. Both discussions are an example of the slightly different approach of the Young Bled Strategic Forum, which puts the focus on in-depth reflection with fewer guests and more involvement of the audience.

The same approach was also the basis for the main part of the Young Bled Strategic Forum, which this year took place in Pokljuka. There, 42 young experts from 30 countries gathered to explore what lies behind the fragmentation of perceptions of societal realities and how to bring them back together.

About the Bled Strategic Forum international conference

The Bled Strategic Forum international conference is the leading international conference in Central and South-Eastern Europe, bringing together participants from diverse fields and backgrounds to exchange views and generate ideas to overcome current and future challenges.

The conference is the flagship event of a global platform of the same name, which aims to generate ideas and exchange views on contemporary society and its future. As a soft power of the Republic

of Slovenia's foreign diplomacy, it hosts and participates in key debates in Slovenia and abroad throughout the year.

The Bled Strategic Forum is an intergovernmental project of the Republic of Slovenia, organised by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Centre for European Future, and is one of the most visible foreign policy events in Slovenia.

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Contact

PR & Communications Bled Strategic Forum

Marjana Tišler, marjana.tisler@cep.si