

IMPACT REPORT: 2022 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FUND



**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE
INTERNATIONAL EUROPE
NOVEMBER, 2022**

ABOUT THE 2022 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FUND

Through the 2022 Youth Development Conference Fund, PTPI Europe was able to select and support 9 PTPI Youth to attend the PTPI European Conference 2022 taking place in Skopje, North Macedonia. All scholarships were full scholarships that covered the conference fees, accommodation, travel expenses and in some cases visa costs. Without these scholarships the selected PTPI Youth could not afford to attend and participate in this event.

PTPI Europe asked the scholarship recipients to reflect on their experience from participating in the conference, and share their thoughts with you. Below you can meet the 2022 scholarship recipients and read their testimonials on their conference participation.

BLINA GASHI- REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO (PTPI KLINA, YOUTH CHAPTER)

I want to thank each of you for all the moments we spent together in this conference. For me it was the first time that I've been a part of a wonderful conference like the one we spent in Skopje. It was definitely a very nice experience for me as a young girl to be part of such a fantastic, energetic and positive group of people. This experience will remain in my memory for a long time.

I am very happy that I had the opportunity to meet good people like all of you. I hope you also feel satisfied for these 4 days we spent together; I hope that one day we will meet again.



BLINERA GASHI- REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO (PTPI KLINA, YOUTH CHAPTER)

The experience at this conference was the greatest support and inspiration for us as young people, listening and meeting people who love life and peace, and how much they support each other.

The good thing about this conference was that we exchanged contacts and continued to communicate with the friends we met there, talking about plans, ideas and how our lives are going. It is an experience that stays with you for a long time.



KALOYAN PETROV- BULGARIA (PTPI VARNA, THE DOLPHINS CHAPTER)

Overall, if I could describe the whole trip, experience, the people I met and got to know in one word it would be - amazing!

I enjoyed every single bit of the conference but if I had to pick a favorite activity it would be the Living Library. It was just so interesting and eye opening. Also, the people that we got to meet were so sweet and memorable. I will never forget PTPI's Conference in Skopje!



HELENA DONCHEVA- BULGARIA (PTPI VARNA, THE DOLPHINS CHAPTER)

I had the great pleasure of attending the European PTPI Conference this summer! The few days I spent travelling and staying in Skopje were remarkable for me! I met so many warm-hearted people, of different ages, with specific professions and interests. I lived in the same room with these wonderful girls with whom I built lasting friendships, also the guys in the next room will forever be my close friends. The places I visited, the people I got to know, the atmosphere I lived in those few days - it was one of the most unforgettable experiences I went through!



I joined PTPI The Dolphins Varna one year ago, and if someone had told me then that I would be attending a conference like this one, I wouldn't have believed them. My heartfelt thanks to the organizers for making our stay relaxed and enjoyable, for introducing us to their activities in Skopje and for seeing PTPI from a different perspective - once again we were convinced that PTPI helps in all areas of social work! We are also grateful that the experience for us - the participants with scholarships - was completely free, it definitely made a difference for us! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

ALEXANDRA NEDEVA- BULGARIA (PTPI VARNA, THE DOLPHINS CHAPTER)

For me the European PTPI Conference in Skopje was many things at one. I found some new friends, got to know how the other chapters work and learned many things about other people's cultures. As for work, the Conference helped a lot to our chapter in Varna too.



We made a lot of new contacts and even met a representative from another chapter in Bulgaria and we are now helping each other. Also, we got some great ideas from the activities you did and we are planning to use them too in Varna. After all, I really loved the whole event and enjoyed my time in North Macedonia. I miss and look forward to seeing again every person I met there.

MONIKA DOBREVA- BULGARIA (PTPI VARNA, THE DOLPHINS CHAPTER)

The time we spent in Macedonia was unforgettable. The program was filled with many activities both for the chapter and for getting to know the city.

I was able to meet people from other chapters and learn new things about their countries and work process. I got a lot of good advices for the future. I was able to try traditional Macedonian food.



BUTNARIU EMANUEL- ROMANIA (PTPI ROMAN, THE BEES CHAPTER)

The PTPI European Conference in North Macedonia was a unique experience for me and for my development in particular.

I met some wonderful people with whom I formed some very close bonds. I collaborated with them in creating a homestay. Upon my return in Romania, I shared with the members of our Chapter the things we did in North Macedonia and aroused their interest and at the same time the desire to get more involved.

BULGARU DRAGOȘ- ROMANIA (PTPI ROMAN, THE BEES CHAPTER)

The PTPI conference in Skopje was a unique experience. I met many new people both my age and older than me.

I was pleasantly surprised by the fact that the elderly members very open-minded and I received some advice that I will take into account in the future.

The conference for me was a new experience completely different from an ordinary trip. I liked the organization and the places I visited. I managed to retain some traditions specific to North Macedonia. I liked that I managed to meet and make new friends and that I got a general idea of what international PTPI means.

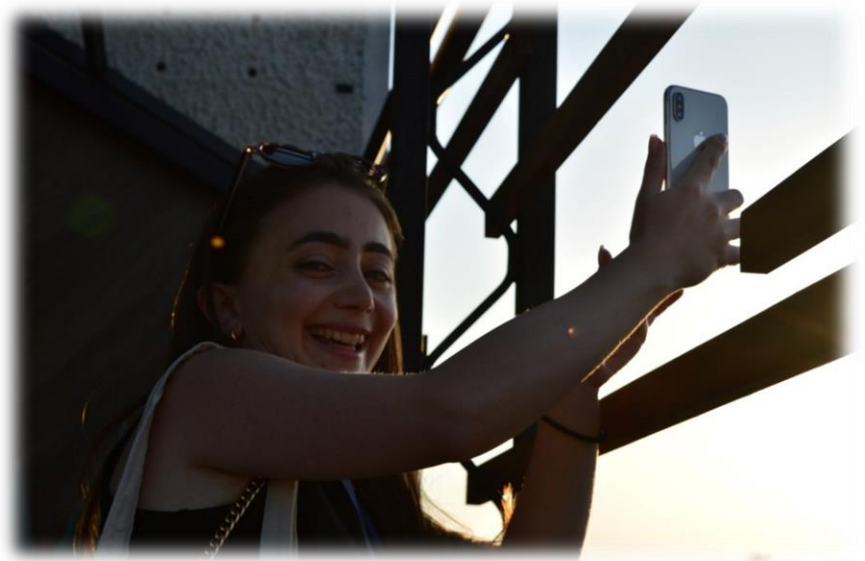


ANNA HARUTYUNYAN- ARMENIA (AT LARGE MEMBER)

I've been a PTPI member for several years and consider myself extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend an annual conference organized by PTPI. My first conference was in Katowice- Poland, and my second conference was in Skopje- North Macedonia.

In general, the main purpose of my participation is to meet new people and reconnect with old ones. Sharing ideas and thoughts during these difficult times is turning out to be something special for each of us.

When you are a scholarship recipient, you have the opportunity to spend the entire day with other scholarship recipients, and every night you sit with them and laugh, share ideas, or tell stories, making your trip unforgettable. I make new friends and gain new energy during the conference. And you are attempting to be the same for others in order to create positive memories.



My attendance at the conference primarily increased my personal growth. New ideas were born as a result from this conference, and the conference's value is immeasurable, and I am sure not only for me but, but also for everyone.

IMPACTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

PTPI's Europe Youth Development Fund provided scholarships for our youth who also need to implement a follow-up project in their local communities upon their return in their home countries. The projects and actions were small scale as PTPI Europe does not provide funding for the



projects. It is however a way for the scholarship recipients to be more engaged within their chapters, promote the conference to their fellow chapter members, build a culture of giving back to the community and even exercise local fundraising.

PTPI Europe strives for the scholarship program to be a platform where youth leaders are inspired to further develop their communities based on their participation at the European Conference. It is also a possibility for the chapters to establish bilateral cooperation (such as the Varna-Roman example) and potentially become sister chapters (even though the Sister Chapter program is not officially running anymore).

The scholarship recipients were supported by PTPI Europe to implement their projects in terms of logistical preparation, monitoring of their local implementation and reporting to PTPI Europe after their completion. We have trust in our local chapter and we think that the youth are the local experts in evaluating and deciding what kind of interventions they might want to implement in their local communities. Therefore, PTPI Europe gave the freedom for the scholarship participants to choose their own follow-up action.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BY KLINA YOUTH CHAPTER IN REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

After the conference we have developed a 2-week program in which we were engaged to work with young people and with our working team, together we organized a summer camp with children. In the 2 weeks program there were activities every day where children could participate.



For instance, every day children attended educational workshop with a certain topic about environment protection, recycling, nature, healthy food and outdoor games in the open space where a lot of children could participate. The aim of the summer camp was for young volunteers to learn how to organize and manage youth teams and, in the meantime, to learn how to work with children with non-formal education methods.

We contacted the participating members through our official Facebook page and through the posters we distributed in the city.

In the outdoor activities with children, it was an opportunity to involve also the parents of children in order to spend some time with their children and also



to know and meet the volunteers that work with their children.

During the small breaks also, few small local businesses were involved as we provided a food and drink to our youth. By involving the local community, we want to show that is important for us that the local community we value its support and hopefully the community values our youth work.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BY VARNA-DOLPHINS CHAPTER IN BULGARIA

The first thing we did after our return from the conference was to organize a homestay between ours and the Romanian chapter. We had three of their members: Dragoş, Emanuel and Sebastian spend a week (15 August 2022 - 22 August 2022) with us in the hometown of The Dolphins! Dragoş helped us tremendously in organizing their stay here. This homestay helped us learn so much about their culture, language, history, mentality of the Romanian people. They organized a Romanian evening with traditional food and also had the chance to listen to Romanian music. We keep in touch to this day; we have a common group and we write to each other often. We miss them tremendously and we are grateful to PTPI for bringing us together!



Most probably the biggest thing that we did after our return was the gathering of the new members of our chapter. After the conference we were extremely motivated to keep up our good work and we wanted new members and friends to

share it with. We went around 4 schools in Varna and promoted our chapter in the classes of students from grade 8 to grade 11. Through our words and efforts, we managed to gather 70 new volunteers ready to put their time and work for a greater cause.



Another thing that we did is our yearly campaign for the Day of the National Revival Leaders. Every year we print an enormous number of quotes from books or sayings from the National Revival Leaders. With the help of the dolphins, we cut them and roll them into little fortunes. After that we find many establishments and bars that agree to give these fortunes with the coffee, they serve their customers. We always had huge positive feedback from this campaign so we decided to make it a yearly one.

We involved our local chapter members in the homestay that we did. We are also preparing a new homestay with the chapter from Plovdiv because they need help with the gathering of new members.



The local community here is already familiar with us and know what wonders we can do. People are always keen on helping us. We are now in discussion of choosing the next establishment which we are going to help with our Christmas campaign!

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS BY ROMAN- THE BEES CHAPTER IN ROMANIA

Thanks to the conference, we managed to meet young people from Bulgaria and even became friends with them. We kept in touch with them and in August we organized a homestay together in Varna.



It was a new experience for us Romanians because we stayed in the house of some locals and visited the most interesting places in Varna. We were lucky and caught the Varna days too. For a week we felt like part of the family and that's all thanks to the PTPI and the connections that a conference offers. We made many beautiful memories to remember fondly. We hope that the PTPI keeps organizing the conferences because it helps a lot young people to open their horizons to the world and to see something else besides their own country.

We had fun on our homestay visit in Varna: we went together on different beaches; we ate together both their traditional food and our traditional food. Even if we are not the best cooks, we struggled to create a kind of food specific to Romanians and we hope they liked it. We got to know the family of friends from Bulgaria better and learned many specific customs. We want some of the volunteers from Bulgaria to come to Romania as well.



FOLLOW-UP PROPOSAL OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES BY PTPI AT-LARGE MEMBER ANNA HARUTYUNYAN

In her follow-up work, Anna Harutyunyan shared many project ideas she had in future. At the moment she is not part of a chapter in Armenia. However, she submitted a paper of ideas to PTPI Europe and communicated those ideas with PTPI's Europe Community Officer.

Anna has suggested local work in regard to the following areas:

1. Educational and social support for Nagorno Karabagh war returnees

Armenia has had a long history of conflict with Turkey and Azerbaijan. It has been going on for centuries; we have had several wars and genocides. My country, my nation, is still suffering and losing loved ones as a result of a never-ending war and conflict. The last war has officially ended, but they are still using weapons against our young soldiers. The youth who have returned from the war face numerous health issues. They also require psychological assistance. I would like to have a non-formal education method for youth to help them overcome the difficulties they face after the war, and then to help them start or restart their studies, or to help and direct them to find a specialization. The majority of the youth come from villages near the borders with Azerbaijan and Turkey. Their lives are not the same as those of the city's youth. The project's goal is to assist youth, particularly those from border villages.

2. Reopening of PTPI Chapter in Armenia

Anna has an idea of opening a new PTPI branch in Armenia. She has not been a member of the previous PTPI chapter for a long time and the Chapter itself is not very active according to her, so she decided to start a new chapter after the 2022 Conference. The process is still ongoing for her.

In her future endeavors with the chapter Anna would like to facilitate more youth programs and exchanges and potentially again host the PTPI EU Conference in Armenia.