

2024

PROGRAM BOOK

Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Dialogue Bratislava



September 24-25, 2024

Štefánikova 864/4, 811 05 Bratislava

Hotel Loft



**Humphrey
Fellowship**

A Fulbright Exchange Program



The Power
of International
Education



FULBRIGHT
Slovakia





HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright exchange, enhances leadership among international professionals who collaborate to address local and global challenges and foster change for the collective good. Through academic study and professional development with U.S. counterparts, this growing global network shares best practices and builds expertise in fields of critical importance to advance societal and institutional capacity, promote human rights and freedoms, ensure sustainable environments, and develop thriving communities.

HUMPHREY ALUMNI GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE

The Humphrey Fellowship recently launched the Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Series. This policy series will convene Humphrey alumni across world regions to address crucial global concerns and challenges at the national, regional, and local levels.

Humphrey Alumni Global Policy Dialogue in Slovakia: "Building a Resilient Future in Central and Eastern Europe" will take place in Bratislava on September 24-25, 2024, with a focus on civil society, social and economic development, the rule of law, good governance, media, and education. This event will feature panel discussions, workshops, and collaborative networking, aimed at nurturing a resilient future by strengthening democracy and addressing the critical issue of reversing brain drain in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Venue: Hotel Loft, Štefánikova 864/4, 811 05 Bratislava

Dates: September 24-25, 2024





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PARTICIPANTS

Aleksandra Dukovska

North Macedonia
Journalist
Freelance Reporter

Alena Vachnová

Slovakia
Chair of the Board of Directors
Foundation DEDO

Ana Bachurova

Bulgaria
Consultant
UNEP FI

Ana Simonovska

North Macedonia
University Professor
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in
Skopje

Andrea Danihelova

Slovakia
PR Consultant
Freelancer

Andrii Paziuk

Ukraine
Professor
National Aviation University

Arian Boci

Albania
Senior Researcher
Institute for Health, Social Policy and
Research Development

Arlind Rama

Albania
Senior Manager
Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Boban Bragorski

North Macedonia
Public Policy Manager
American Chamber of Commerce in
North Macedonia

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Montenegro
CEO; Editor in Chief
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Bulgaria
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Association

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Serbia
Head of International Relations and Project
Office
University of Novi Sad

Ioana Mihaela Morar

Romania
Deputy General Director
Romanian National Administration of
Penitentiaries

Iryna Drobovych

Ukraine
National Consultant on Women Leadership &
Political Participation
UN Women Ukraine

Julius Rozenfeld

Slovakia
Assistant Professor; Deputy Head of the
Dept. of British and American Studies
Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice

Katalin Hubai

Hungary
Mentor Teacher; Secondary School TEFL;
University Lecturer
Eotvos Lorand University

Kenan Zekić

Bosnia and Hercegovina
Creative Director; Founder of Association
Publishing House Vrijeme & Association;
INDI+E Innovation, Design+Education



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Laura Dittel
Slovakia
Executive Director
Carpathian Foundation

Lela Vujanic
Croatia
Regional Research Manager for CEE
SembraMedia

Lívia Elškova
Slovakia
Manager
Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs
and Family

Marietta Le
Hungary
Advisor on Citizen Participation
Mayor-elect of Budapest District 12

Marijan Mišić
Serbia
IB Diploma Programme
CAS/Extended Essay Coordinator
Gimnazija 'Svetozar Markovic'

Marina Tuneva
North Macedonia
Independent Expert in
Communications and Journalism;
Associate Professor
Institute for Communication Studies;
PROSOFT dooel

Mario Mara Milakovic
Serbia
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
Consultant and Trainer & Social
Enterprise Director
Self-Employed

Mila Moralic
Croatia
Senior Editor
N1 Television; CNN Affiliate

Nada Rostek
Slovakia
Lawyer; Attorney; ESG Consultant
Law Firm Bratislava/Prague

Ruslana Kuzina
Ukraine
MSCA4 Ukraine Fellow
KU Leuven, Belgium

Trim Berisha
Kosovo
Head of Department for Intermunicipal and
Cross Border Cooperation
Ministry of Local Government Administration
in Kosovo

Vladislav Slavov
Bulgaria
Associate Professor; Head of Department
Technical University of Sofia

Štefan Hudec
Slovakia
Press Attaché
European Parliament, Slovakia



AGENDA

MONDAY - September 23, 2024

- 12:00 - 17:00** **Individual Arrivals/Hotel Check-ins**
- 17:00 - 18:30** **Bratislava Sightseeing Tour**
Meeting point at Hotel Loft at 17:00
- 19:00** **Dinner at Hotel Loft**

TUESDAY - September 24, 2024

- 8:30 - 9:00** **Opening Remarks**
Deputy Chief of Mission Heather Rogers
Executive Director of Fulbright Slovakia Lýdia Tobiášová
- 9:00 - 10:30** **Panel Discussion I**
Strengthening Civil Society Through NGO Work
Alena Vachnová, Laura Dittel, Arian Boci, Marijan Mišić,
Iryna Drobovych
- 10:30 - 10:45** **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 - 12:15** **Panel Discussion II**
**Social and Economic Development as a Condition for
Talent Retention**
Andrea Danihelová, Lívia Elková, Ana Simonovska, Ana
Bachurova, Arlind Rama, Mario Mara Milakovic, Ruslana
Kuzina
- 12:15 - 13:15** **Lunch**
- 13:15 - 14:45** **Panel Discussion III**
**Rule of Law and Trust in Democratic Institutions as a
Condition to Build Resilient Society**
Naďa Rošteková, Andrii Paziuk, Ioana Mihaela Morar,
Marietta Le, Trim Berisha, Boban Bragorski
- 14:45 - 15:00** **Coffee Break**



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- 15:00 - 16:30** **Panel Discussion IV**
Media as a Watchdog of Democracy
Štefan Hudec, Marina Tuneva, Aleksandra Dukovska,
Lela Vujanic, Darko Ivanovic, Mila Moralic
- 16:30 - 16:35** **Group Photo**
- 18:00 - 20:00** **Reception Hosted by H.E. Ambassador Rana**
Stará Vinárska cesta 14/A, Bratislava

WEDNESDAY - September 25, 2024

- 8:30 - 10:00** **Panel Discussion V**
Educational Reform to Keep Talents at Home
Július Rozenfeld, Elisaveta Petrova-Geretto, Gordana
Vlahovic, Kenan Zekić, Vladislav Slavov, Katalin Hubai
- 10:15 - 10:30** **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 - 12:30** **Practical Workshop with VAIA**
Talent Retention and the Recovery Plan in Slovakia
- 12:30 - 13:00** **Wrap-up**
- 13:00** **Lunch & Individual Departures**



PROFILE OF GUESTS, SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



H. E. Gautam Rana
Ambassador
US Embassy, Slovakia

Gautam Rana is the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic from September 2022. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Ambassador Rana previously served as the Deputy Chief of Mission and long-term Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Embassies of the United States in Algeria and Slovenia. He also served as a Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the National Security Council (NSC) from 2014-15. Prior to the NSC, he was the Deputy Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the American Embassy in New Delhi. From 2009-10, Ambassador Rana worked for Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg as Special Assistant for South and Central Asia, the Middle East, and counterterrorism. Prior to joining the Deputy Secretary's staff, he was the Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried. His overseas diplomatic postings also include Khost, Afghanistan; Peshawar, Pakistan; and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 2002, he was a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society in New York City, and a civil rights fellow with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium. He speaks Hindi, Gujarati, and Spanish, and has studied French, Slovenian, Arabic, and Pashto. He is currently learning Slovak. Ambassador Rana has degrees in Economics and International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, a law degree from Vanderbilt University, and a Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies from the National Defense University. He is married, with two children.

OPENING REMARKS



Heather Rogers
Deputy Chief of Mission
US Embassy, Slovakia

Heather Rogers joined U.S. Embassy Bratislava as the Deputy Chief of Mission in July 2024. Before she served as the Economic Counselor at U.S. Embassy Warsaw (2020-23) overseeing bilateral economic relationship and supporting Poland's response to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine and largest displacement of refugees in Europe since WW II. Heather worked as the Deputy Economic Chief at U.S. Embassy Hanoi (2015-18), where she helped lead a team to improve the overall economic, trade and labor relationship and Vietnam's chairmanship of APEC. As the senior Burma Desk Officer in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (2012-14) in Washington DC, Heather was part of a team that won recognition for significantly advancing democratic values. As a Watch Officer in the Executive Secretariat's Operations Center (2011-12) in Washington DC, she supported the Secretary of State's global reach. Her consular tour was at Embassy Bogota (2009-11), during Colombia's internal and armed conflict when violence displaced hundreds of thousands every year. Heather's first tour was serving as the human rights officer at Embassy New Delhi (2006-08). Before joining the Foreign Service in 2006, Heather served as a Presidential Management Fellow and civil servant at the Department of State. She worked as the Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for India, Nepal and Sri Lanka in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (2003-06), in the political section at Embassy Skopje (2002-03), and with the Office of Inspector General (2001-02). Heather earned a BA from the College of Saint Benedict/St. John's University, a Masters in Public Administration from Rutgers University, and a Masters of Science in national security and resource strategy from National Defense University. She has studied Slovak, Polish, Vietnamese and Spanish. Heather is married to American diplomat, and they have three children and a dog.



Lýdia Tobiášová
Executive Director
Fulbright Slovakia

Lýdia Tobiášová assumed the position of the Executive Director at Fulbright Commission in June 2020. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava. During her professional years, she served on different positions in academia and civil service. She was an Assistant Professor at the Department of Criminal Law in 2007-2015, teaching criminal law courses and publishing in law journals and textbooks. She has been awarded with several scholarships abroad, including Fulbright Scholar Program at Fordham Law School in New York City and Pittsburgh University School of Law as a recipient of Ruth Crawford Mitchell Fellowship. She acted as a Vice-Dean for International Relations and Erasmus Mobility Coordinator in 2011-15. In 2015, Lýdia joined the Slovak Ministry of Defence as a legal adviser at international law department focusing on international law, international humanitarian law and law of armed conflict, and was engaged in several professional courses with Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in Newport, Rhode Island, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense. As a proud Fulbright Alumna she also served as a Board Member at Slovak Fulbright Alumni Association in 2018-19.

PANEL DISCUSSION I: Strengthening Civil Society Through NGO Work



Laura Dittel
Humphrey Fellow
Syracuse University, 2014-2015

Laura Dittel is the executive director of the Carpathian Foundation (Karpatská nadácia) in Košice, Slovakia. She has spent most of her professional life in the civil sector, establishing non-profit organizations and serving on different advisory boards. She was a member of the Governmental Council for NGOs – a permanent advisory body to the Slovak Government until 2024 – and other platforms focusing on the development of an enabling environment for NGOs and the defense of civil society. Four years of service on the Executive Committee and Working Group 2 of The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum helped her understand the specifics of civil society in these six post-Soviet countries and provided space for sharing the Slovak experience from the EU pre-accession process. Laura graduated from the Faculty of Public Administration at the University of P. J. Šafárik in Košice, and in 2014, she was awarded the Humphrey Fellowship, which allowed her to study leadership, NGO governance, and conflict management.



Alena Vachnová
Humphrey Fellow
Boston University, 2017-2018

Alena Vachnová is an accomplished professional who has dedicated her career to equitable development and social justice. She has studied law and social work and earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard Kennedy School. Her focus for the past decade has been on ending homelessness by promoting and developing affordable rental housing and building integrated health and social services for homeless families and individuals in Košice and Prešov. As the Chair of the Board of Directors of the DEDO Foundation, she is committed to advocating for systemic change and a paradigm shift from managing to ending homelessness. To achieve this, Alena is actively involved in various governmental working groups at the national and European levels. Alena's accomplishments include being a two-time Fulbright scholar and receiving the SDGs 2022 prize for sustainable development from the PONTIS Foundation.



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Arián Boci
Humphrey Fellow
Virginia Commonwealth University, 2007-2008

Arián Boci, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Sc, is the director of the Institute for Health, Social Policy, and Research Development, an NGO supporting vulnerable communities in Albania. He is an experienced program manager and researcher with 20+ years of national and international experience. He has a strong track record in public health issues, gender and social inclusion, thought leadership, and program management. He has worked extensively with Civil Society Organizations, media, and community organizations to strengthen community rights and governance transparency. He has consulted for the European Commission, UN Agencies, WHO, the Global Fund, and prestigious U.S. organizations. He is a well-known researcher, published author, and peer reviewer for the Bulletin of the WHO and the International Journal of Prison Health. He is a part-time lecturer at Albanian medical universities and serves as a Goodwill Ambassador of Arkansas State and an Honorary Citizenship Diplomat in Georgia, USA.



Iryna Drobovych
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2023-2024

Iryna Drobovych is a civil society leader in Ukraine and an advocate for gender equality and democracy. She co-founded the Foundation 'The Day After,' a nonprofit promoting women's leadership, national unity, and preparing the women's movement for post-war peacebuilding. During Humphrey Fellowship, she expanded her expertise on gender policy and women's role in post-war recovery. She is a visiting scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace (Washington, D.C.) and a fellow at the Salzburg Global Seminar. Iryna is a National Consultant on women's leadership, and recovery at UN Women Ukraine. Previously, she was CEO and Strategy Director at the Ukrainian Women's Congress (2019-23), Government Relations Advisor with the Kyiv Security Forum and Open Ukraine Foundation (2016-19), and Executive Assistant to the Prime Minister of Ukraine (2014-16). Iryna holds a BA in International Relations and an MA in International Strategies and Security from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University. She completed the Good Governance program at the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Sustainable Public Management program at the Swedish Institute.



Marijan Mišić
Humphrey Fellow
Pennsylvania State University, 2020-2021

Dr. Marijan Mišić, born in Niš (Serbia), holds a PhD in Comparative Literature, earned in 2015 after completing his undergraduate studies in Serbian Literature and Language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš. In 2021, he was a Humphrey Fellow at Penn State University, enriching his international academic and professional experience in educational planning, administration, and policy. Dr. Mišić currently serves as the CAS/EE Coordinator in the IBDP program at Grammar School "Svetozar Marković" and as Grants Manager at the National Coalition for Decentralization. From 2015 to 2022, he held the role of school principal and was a member of the National Board of Grammar School Directors in Serbia. He has contributed to various Ministry of Education working groups, focusing on educational policy reform and IBDP program implementation in Serbia. His expertise includes grant management, project development, monitoring and evaluation, and research and analysis in the civic sector.



PANEL DISCUSSION II: Social and Economic Development as a Condition for Talent Retention



Livia Elková
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2023-2024

Livia Elková is a specialist in state social policy and works at the Department of Social Affairs in Slovakia's Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family. During her professional career, she has held leading positions in important roles, especially in social benefit systems. With 20+ years of experience in the public sector and state administration, she has a strong background in policy formulation, public financial management, social work, and leadership. Livia holds a Doctorate in Andragogy as well as a Ph.D. in Social Work from the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work in Bratislava and earned MBA degrees in Executive Master of Business Administration. During her fellowship, she learned about US approaches to addressing the rights and needs of refugee children and deepened her knowledge and skills related to social policy design, implementation, and evaluation, as well as public finance management and leadership.



Andrea Danihelová
Humphrey Fellow
Michigan State University, 2020-2021

Andrea Danihelová has been the Head of the Communication Department and spokesperson for the Slovak-German energy company based in Košice since 2005. Since April 2024, she has been working as a freelancer in PR. She studied English and American Studies at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica. In 2021, she completed the Humphrey Fellowship Program focusing on economic development. She has extensive experience in PR, retail marketing, as well as various international projects within the EU. She began her career as a project manager at the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Košice and later worked as a marketing manager for a foreign retail company. Andrea is actively involved in charity work, focusing mainly on helping families in need of accessible social housing. She also mentors high school principals and program coordinators within the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DoE) program and serves on various committees for international events and PR competitions.



Arlind Rama
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2018-2019

Dr. Arlind Rama was a Humphrey Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, where he studied Public Policy Design. Upon his return, he joined PwC as the leader of Public Sector Advisory and helped establish advisory operations in Albania and Kosovo. In 2022, Arlind co-founded ICG Research, a research center based in Tirana focused on socio-economic welfare and the public-private nexus in the Western Balkans Region. Since 2023, he has served as Senior Manager at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, providing strategic advice to the Government of Albania on economic transformation and industrial policies. Arlind is a lecturer in the Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana.



Ana Simonovska
Humphrey Fellow
Duke University, 2019-2020

Dr. Ana Simonovska is an Associate Professor at the Institute of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences and Food, 'Ss. Cyril and Methodius' University in Skopje, where she completed her PhD in Agricultural Economics. She earned her MSc in Business Administration from University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Department of Economics. Currently, she teaches Statistics and Financial Management, Advisory Services and Communication, Rural Finance, and Mathematical and Statistical Methods, and Scientific and Research Methods and Statistics. Her research interests cover a range of topics in agricultural economics and rural development, including farm financial and investment performance, agricultural credit and land markets, community development, and socio-economic aspects of rural areas. She is the author and co-author of 70+ scientific and has contributed to developing national strategic documents and legislation. She has been a Deputy Member of the Working Group on Land Consolidation at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Economy since 2023. She has also been a Deputy Member of the IPARD Monitoring Committee since 2020; a Member of the Working Group on Advisory Services (2022-24); and a Member of the Council for Monitoring and Coordination of ASARD and AKIS since 2024.



Mario Mara Milakovic
Humphrey Fellow
Michigan State University, 2021-2022

Mario Mara Milakovic is an award-winning entrepreneur and consultant committed to working in the fields of social entrepreneurship and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). A firm believer in the power of sustainable social enterprise, Milakovic founded Super Bake in 2018, a social enterprise that reintegrates senior women into the workforce on a part-time basis to combat ageism and social isolation, providing opportunities for meaningful engagement through baking and selling authentic local goods. Milakovic holds a BA in Fine Arts and an MA in Cultural and Gender Studies and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Belgrade's Faculty of Organizational Sciences, researching how attachment styles affect leadership performance and how traditional holistic practices can enhance it. During the Humphrey Fellowship year, Milakovic focused on professional development in DEI. An internationally recognized scholar, Milakovic has received multiple awards and scholarships, including those from the Indonesian and Japanese governments.



Ana Bachurova
Humphrey Fellow
University of California, Davis, 2022-2023

Ana Bachurova is a sustainability professional with 15 years of experience in environmental governance and climate finance. Prior to her Humphrey Fellowship, Ana worked at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, where she managed a portfolio of policy dialogue assignments for the countries in the Western Balkans. Right after that, she joined the Stockholm Environment Institute and worked on climate investment plans for EU cities. Currently, Ana is a Consultant for UNEP FI, managing a Europe-wide initiative to promote investments in energy efficiency among financial institutions. Ana holds a B.Sc. in Environmental and Resources Management from the Brandenburg University of Technology, an M.Sc. in Environmental Governance from the University of Freiburg, and an MBA from the Yale School of Management. Her academic training, multidisciplinary skills, and on-the-ground exposure to decision-making processes allow her to position environmental and climate topics at the heart of local and regional development initiatives.



Ruslana Kuzina
Humphrey Fellow
Pennsylvania State University, 2018-2019

Prof. Ruslana Kuzina is a Postdoctoral researcher in KU Leuven (Belgium), MSCA fellow 2023- 2025, Doctor of Science, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow (USA), Pennsylvania State University (2018-2019), Accounting professor at the Odessa National University of Economics (Ukraine). Since March 2022 she has been a Visiting professor in KU Leuven and then obtained the MSCA4Ukraine fellowship. With a solid background in accounting and finance, she specializes in integrating international standards and sustainability concepts into university curricula and professional development programs in Ukraine. Her journey began at Odessa National Economic University, where Mrs. Kuzina explored the intersection of accounting and sustainability, culminating in doctoral research on corporate reporting. She was a Head of Department of accounting (2015-2018) at the Odessa National University of Economics (Ukraine). Methodologist, accredited tutor of the Institute of Certified Financial Managers UK, International Network ICB & ICFM (UK). She is certified auditor and member of Chamber of Auditors (Ukraine).

PANEL DISCUSSION III: Rule of Law and Trust in Democratic Institutions as a Condition to Build Resilient Society



Naďa Rošteková
Humphrey Fellow
American University, 2007-2008

Naďa Rošteková is a lawyer by profession. Her main focus is on compliance issues and topics such as competition, business ethics, whistleblowing, and GDPR, among others. After years at the top management in the refinery Slovnaft, leading a team of lawyers and compliance specialists across various countries in the CEE region, she has moved back to legal services. Currently, she focuses on business sustainability and EC regulations on ESG (environmental – social – governance) aspects and their meaningful implementation across various types of businesses. She practices in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.



Andrii Paziuk
Humphrey Fellow
American University, 2017-2018

Dr. Andrii Paziuk was a Humphrey Fellow at the American University Washington College of Law. Currently, he serves as a Professor of International Law at the National Aviation University in Kyiv. He specializes in cybersecurity, cybercrime, cyberwarfare, technology, and human rights law. Beyond academia, Dr. Paziuk is deeply engaged in international development, particularly in his role since December 2023, supporting the World Bank-funded Digital Resilience Strategy for the Government of Ukraine. His responsibilities include researching cybersecurity, privacy, and digital resilience policies, identifying regulatory gaps, and providing strategic recommendations. Dr. Paziuk advises the Ukrainian government on cybersecurity and data governance strategies, risk analysis, and national preparedness and has served as a legal expert for the Council of Europe and USAID.



Trim Berisha
Humphrey Fellow
Syracuse University, 2023-2024

Trim Berisha was part of the 2023-24 Humphrey Fellow cohort at Syracuse University, where he studied Leadership, Public Administration, and Public Policy Analysis at the Maxwell School. He earned a Certificate in Public Leadership and Management and is now enrolled in the Executive Master of Public Administration program. During his fellowship, Trim made his professional affiliation with Onondaga County's Infrastructure Department for four weeks, where he helped prepare the Capital Improvement Plan and develop an online management program for capital investments.



Ioana Mihaela Morar
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2022-2023

Dr. Ioana Mihaela Morar is a driven mid-career leader in public service, with 20+ years of continuous work in the prison system (at both middle and top-level management - deputy general director, director general ad-interim, director of the Social Reintegration Department, head of the Psycho-social Assistance Service). Her areas of expertise include: Prison management and administration, knowing the system from the inside; Treatment of inmates and rehabilitation; The academic perspective, holding a PhD in Psychology.



Boban Bragorski
Humphrey Fellow
University of Minnesota, 2020-2021

Mr. Boban Bragorski is a Public Policy Manager at the American Chamber of Commerce in North Macedonia. He is primarily responsible for defining the strategic approach and coordinating activities related to public policies for which members advocate. Mr. Bragorski's work spans multiple policy areas: enhancing the rule of law, improving public policymaking, advancing digital transformation, improving the healthcare system, and helping businesses integrate sustainable practices. His public policy career began at the Ministry of Finance in 2014, where he was responsible for policy development in the field of payments and accounting.



Marietta Le
Humphrey Fellow
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2022-2023

Marietta Le is an expert in citizen participation from Hungary. In 2019, she founded and led the Citizen Participation team for the Municipality of Budapest, where she launched the city's largest participatory budgeting program as Senior Advisor to the Mayor. Marietta is also the founder of Jarokelo.hu, Hungary's street-fixing online community. In 2022-23, as a Humphrey Fellow, she participated in the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She holds a BA in Communication and Media Studies and an MA in Sociology and Social Anthropology. Currently, she is an advisor on citizen participation to the mayor-elect of District 12 in Budapest. In her spare time, she promotes citizen science as the ambassador of the European Citizen Science Association in Hungary.



PANEL DISCUSSION IV: Media as a Watchdog of Democracy



Štefan Hudec

Humphrey Fellow

University of Maryland, College Park, 2009-2010

Štefan Hudec is an accomplished journalist and educator with extensive experience in international affairs. Since completing the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship at the University of Maryland, he has served as a Foreign Correspondent for Radio and Television Slovakia in Washington, DC, where he covers transatlantic relations and U.S. affairs. His notable work includes reporting on the 2020 U.S. presidential elections, the Capitol attack, the U.S. pandemic response, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.



Mila Moralic

Humphrey Fellow

Arizona State University, 2017-2018

Mila Moralic is an Editor and Reporter at N1 television, a regional news channel and a CNN affiliate. With 20 years of experience in journalism, she has hosted broadcasts and special coverage events, participated in round tables and seminars around the world, and has taught classes on a wide range of subjects, including democracy and rule of law, voting, minority rights, and pluralism. Moralic holds a Master's degree in Comparative Politics from the University of Zagreb and is a Fulbright scholar, having spent a year as a H. Humphrey fellow at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University in the United States.



Darko Ivanovic

Humphrey Fellow

Arizona State University, 2015-2016

Darko is an entrepreneur, media innovator, and educator with extensive experience in technology and communication. He is the founder of the media nonprofit 35mm, and serves as General Partner at the Balkan Tech Fund and CEO of The Badger Crew, which developed a digital badge for conference networking. Darko was formerly CEO and is now a co-founder of the Digital Den venture studio, a key hub for innovative startups seeking U.S. investment through a State Department-funded program. Darko teaches economic systems related to startups at the University Donja Gorica and the University of Economics, Montenegro. With MA in movie and TV directing and a 25-year career in journalism, Darko has been a leading media figure in Montenegro. He was awarded the Humphrey Fulbright Scholarship at Arizona State University in 2015, where he enhanced his entrepreneurial skills. Darko later worked as a video producer at CNN New York. Currently, he produces "Regional Robin Hood," a show broadcast in five Balkan countries. Darko has created over 800 TV shows and 100+ documentaries and has managed numerous campaigns. He also serves as a media consultant and lecturer on digital marketing and entrepreneurship.



Lela Vujanić
Humphrey Fellow
University of Maryland, College Park, 2011-2012

Lela Vujanić is a media policy researcher, educator, and editor from Croatia specializing in media funding and revenue models. Currently, she contributes to Project Oasis, led by SembraMedia, as a regional research manager for Central and Eastern Europe. She is a lecturer and trainer, mainly at Vern University Zagreb, teaching students about European programs and funds and training adults in project management. Previously, she worked for the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia as Head of the Media Department, responsible for implementing various mechanisms of support for the media sector. She was principally responsible for developing the first national fund for non-profit media support. She has initiated, edited, and managed numerous non-profit media projects and initiatives, both print and digital, focused on social movements, social rights, and culture. She was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow in Journalism at the University of Maryland.



Marina Tuneva
Humphrey Fellow
George Washington University, 2021-2022

Marina Tuneva is an Independent PR and Media Consultant, as well as an Associate Professor at the Institute for Communication Studies in North Macedonia. From 2015 to 2022, she served as the Executive Director of the Council of Media Ethics of Macedonia, the country's media self-regulatory body. With over 20 years of experience, she has developed deep expertise in strategic communications, public relations, intercultural communication, and media self-regulation, while extensively collaborating with international organizations such as the United Nations, OSCE, and USAID on numerous global initiatives. Marina holds a PhD in Public Relations and Interculturalism, an MA in IT and Diplomacy, an MA in Peace and Development, and a BA in Journalism. She is also a Distinguished Humphrey Fellow, having completed the program in Media and Information at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Aleksandra Dukovska
Humphrey Fellow
Arizona State University, 2010-2011

Aleksandra Dukovska is a dedicated professional with a diverse skill set. As a journalist, she has honed her expertise in multimedia journalism, including writing, editing, and content creation. In addition to her journalism career, she is passionate about making a positive impact on the lives of others. She works part-time as a personal assistant to children with difficulties and special needs, providing them with the support and care they require. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. In 2011, she further enhanced her professional development by completing the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship. With a strong commitment to journalism, social, and educational work, she is a compassionate and skilled individual who strives to make a difference in the world.



PANEL DISCUSSION V: Educational Reform to Keep Talents at Home



Július Rozenfeld
Humphrey Fellow
Vanderbilt University, 2018-2019

Dr. Julius Rozenfeld is an assistant professor and the deputy head of the Department of British and American Studies at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Kosice. He has been working in academia since 2007. His main area of research is culture in various contexts. Currently, he focuses on political discourse analysis. In his research, he seeks answers to the question of how political debates interact with different realms of culture and influence processes of identity formation. Dr. Rozenfeld is a teacher trainer and leads a number of courses such as Contemporary USA, European Studies, and Intercultural Communication.



Gordana Vlahovic
Humphrey Fellow
Pennsylvania State University, 2018-2019

In her capacity as the Head of the International Relations & Project Office, Gordana actively leads the processes of comprehensive internationalization of higher education and research on the institutional level, coordinates academic mobility and studies abroad, institutional capacity building, and policymaking. Among the highlights of her Humphrey alumna professional achievements is that the ACE Model for Comprehensive Internationalization, which she explored during the fellowship, is successfully implemented to reflect the needs of her own academic landscape and beyond. In addition, Gordana managed to capitalize on her Humphrey heritage in many practical ways. She kept the ties alive and initiated joint projects with her colleagues from Penn State through several U.S. Embassy grants that were submitted to boost academic partnerships between the U.S. and Serbia. Gordana's professional expertise was enhanced during the fellowship to the extent that she gained more visibility and recognition, helping raise awareness of how important the job of research and education managers is. Gordana is a National Contact Point for the EU Horizon Europe program for research and innovation and is proactive in projects that promote academic excellence, networking, and joint initiatives through intersectoral, international, and interdisciplinary collaborations.



Kenan Zekić
Humphrey Fellow
Pennsylvania State University, 2016-2017

Upon completing his HH fellowship, Mr. Zekic advanced to full professorship, continuing as the Head of the Art Department at the International University of Sarajevo. In 2019, his work earned him the Cumulus+ award from the global association of art and design education, and he actively participated in their "Design After" Conference in Colombia. He successfully integrated the International University of Sarajevo into Cumulus and recently secured membership for Sarajevo University's Architecture Faculty. In 2019, Mr. Zekic joined EU COST, fostering research networks and innovation. He also worked on the British Council's Schools for the 21st Century program, aimed at enhancing critical thinking and programming skills among students in BiH. In 2021, he shifted his focus back to industry, seeking new approaches to education and innovation. In 2022, he co-founded INDI+E (Innovation, Design+Education), a dynamic association dedicated to creative resilience. INDI+E actively engages in educational and creative practices, organizing workshops and collaborations that blend education with innovative design methodologies and apply the most relevant approaches in methodology, technology, and practices, impacting a wide range of fields.



**Humphrey
Fellowship**

A Fulbright Exchange Program



Elisaveta Petrova-Geretto
Humphrey Fellow
Emory University, 2021-2022

Elisaveta Petrova-Geretto is an assistant professor at the Department of Bioethics, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University-Sofia, and is passionate about teaching and education as crucial for societal change. Her research focuses on medical ethics, patient safety, health literacy, human capital, and healthcare management. With a background in humanities and multiple degrees, including a PhD in Public Health, Elisaveta has participated in international leadership programs and fellowships such as the Hubert Humphrey and Woodruff Health Educators Academy. Elisaveta has worked for the Bulgarian government, EC, intergovernmental, and international institutions, as well as for the Task Force for Global Health and the Emory Global Health Institute. Elisaveta is committed to social justice and volunteers for initiatives related to children's rights, poverty alleviation, and animal rights. Elisaveta is also an international relations officer at the Bulgarian Medical Association.



Vladislav Slavov
Humphrey Fellow
Pennsylvania State University, 2020-2021

Vladislav Slavov is an Associate Professor at the Technical University of Sofia, specializing in automation, information, and control systems. He holds a PhD from 2011, focused on developing virtual measurement systems. His expertise has expanded to AI, particularly in education, having been a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Penn State and a Fulbright Scholar at Western Carolina University. He actively contributes to AI research and discourse, including his role in the European Commission's expert group on AI in education. Currently, Vladislav leads the International Programs and Exchange Department and coordinates the EMPOWER ERASMUS+ project on ethical AI in education.



Katalin Hubai
Humphrey Fellow
Vanderbilt University, 2023-2024

Katalin Hubai has just returned to Hungary from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she completed her Humphrey Fellowship. She works for Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, teaching English as a foreign language and mentoring teacher candidates at the university's on-site secondary school. She is a part-time lecturer at the Department of English Language Pedagogy and is now working on her PhD in teacher preparation. Katalin has two master's degrees and 18 years of experience in language education, including a year in California as a Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange grantee in 2012-13. She is currently focusing on fostering dialogue and conducting research on supporting novice teachers' transition into in-service teaching, as well as sharing her knowledge and experiences newly gained in the U.S. around teachers' professional learning and coaching in schools.



WORKSHOP

VAIA - The Research and Innovation Authority

VAIA is a governmental unit tasked with developing and coordinating research and innovation policies to help transform Slovakia into an ambitious and forward-thinking nation. Through strategic initiatives, VAIA aims to foster a robust ecosystem for innovation, ensuring Slovakia's competitiveness in the global landscape. Within VAIA, the Department of Talent Policies focuses on nurturing and retaining skilled talent, essential for driving research excellence and technological progress in the country.





The Kamzík TV Tower, stands 196 meters tall. Situated at 437 meters above sea level on Kamzík Hill, part of the Little Carpathians, it offers expansive views of the city. The tower features a public observation deck, providing clear views of Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic on days with good visibility. Built in 1975, it replaced an older transmission tower.

The Slovak Radio Building, often called the Radio Diamant by locals, is designed in the form of an inverted pyramid. It was created by architects Š. Svetko, Š. Ďurkovič, and B. Kissling and was finished in 1983.

The Old Town Hall, a 14th-century complex in Bratislava's Old Town, houses the Bratislava City Museum, the city's oldest museum, established in 1868. It offers exhibits on local history and torture devices. The tower provides panoramic views of the Old Town.

The Secondary Industrial School of Mechanical Engineering is one of the oldest specialized schools for technical fields in Slovakia and is located on the left bank of the Danube River.

St. Martin's Cathedral is originally a Gothic sacred building located in the historic zone of Bratislava. It is the most significant and largest church in Bratislava. It is one of the most prominent landmarks in Bratislava and, after Bratislava Castle, is the second most visited tourist attraction in the capital of Slovakia.

The National Bank of Slovakia was founded in 1993, succeeded the Czechoslovakian central bank and managed the Slovak koruna until 2008. Its headquarters, inaugurated on May 23, 2002, reaches a height of 111.6 meters with 33 floors, making it the tallest non-antenna building in Bratislava until 2020.

The historic Neo-Renaissance building of the Slovak National Theater on Hviezdoslav Square, a national cultural monument served as the theater's main venue until the newer building was completed in 2007.

In Bratislava, Michael's Gate is the only remaining city gate from the medieval fortifications and is among the oldest buildings in the city. Constructed around 1300, it was remodeled in Baroque style in 1758, when the statue of St. Michael and the Dragon was added to the top.

Bridge of the Slovak National Uprising, referred to as UFO Bridge is a road bridge over the Danube with restaurant on the top. It is the world's longest bridge to have one pylon and one cable-stayed plane.

