

GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum

A key part of the GLOBSEC success story is the fact that it grew out of a student project to become a major international forum. Youth engagement has always been an integral part of our work and we continuously look for ways to strengthen that element. In 2013, the first GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum (GYLF) took place on the sidelines of the annual GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum. It provided young professionals with an opportunity to **discuss current challenges** in international affairs, **improve policymaking skills** and **network with distinguished leaders and experts**. The only well-established forum of its kind in Central Europe, GYLF has since grown to become **one of the most prestigious meetings of young professionals and decision-makers in the world**.

GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum enables young professionals to participate in formal and informal discussions with high-profile politicians, decision makers, thought leaders and think-thankers. Participants also get to formulate **strategic policy proposals** and suggest plans for action through working groups focused on key issues discussed at the Forum. Over the course of its **6 editions**, GYLF has welcomed **over 180 participants** from **over 40 countries** and from **140 leading institutions in the realm of politics, business and the non-governmental sector**.

THE TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP

The very first young leaders' format organised by GLOBSEC was the 2012 Bratislava Young Atlanticist Summit. This event served as the European leg of a young professionals programme organised by the Atlantic Council, culminating in a Young Atlanticist Summit on the sidelines of the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago. The success of the Summit led to the establishment of the annual GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum.

One of the purposes of establishing GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum was to create a network of future leaders to work on strengthening transatlantic cooperation. From the very beginning, GYLF has maintained a strong and fruitful connection with Youth Atlantic Treaty Associations around the world. Each year, the Forum welcomes at least one YATA representative and their support in spreading the word about the Forum, promoting the work of GYLF participants and keeping the GYLF alumni community going has been invaluable.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

In addition to the annual Forum, GYLF has also become an umbrella term for additional activities aimed at engaging young leaders and professionals. These include participation at the Tatra Summit, GLOBSEC's autumn flagship event, which brings together key representatives from the public and private sector to address the most pressing European political, economic and financial issues.

To this end, **GLOBSEC Young Europeans Forum 2016** was organised on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the EU Council. Participants met for the first time at the European Council Summit in Bratislava, then reconvened at GLOBSEC Tatra Summit, where they participated in workshops, seminars and discussions focused on the future of Europe after Brexit. Under the supervision of senior experts, they formulated policy recommendations which formed part of the post-conference summary materials.

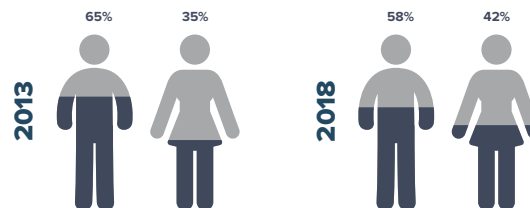
Tatra Summit Young Professionals 2018 was the first attempt to integrate young professionals into the main agenda. Apart from attending all discussions, selected GYLF alumni were actively involved in expert focus groups on a variety of topics including the eurozone, infrastructure investments in Central and Eastern Europe, sustainable mobility and the future of the European labour market. Their inputs were also included in pre-conference briefings presented to focus group participants and post-conference policy outcomes to be presented to key European political and business leaders.



208
GYLF
PARTICIPANTS

127
SPEAKERS AND
MODERATORS

54
GYLF
EXCLUSIVE SESSIONS



LOOKING BACK

GYLF 2014

- ▶ 10 GYLF exclusive sessions
- ▶ 26 speakers and moderators
- ▶ 32 participants

GYLF 2015

- ▶ 12 GYLF exclusive sessions
- ▶ 18 speakers and moderators
- ▶ 34 participants

GYLF 2016

- ▶ 10 GYLF exclusive sessions
- ▶ 18 speakers and moderators
- ▶ 32 participants

GYLF 2017

- ▶ 5 GYLF exclusive sessions
- ▶ 11 speakers and moderators
- ▶ 28 participants

GYLF 2018

- ▶ 9 GYLF exclusive sessions
- ▶ 20 speakers and moderators
- ▶ 24 participants
- ▶ 17 countries
- ▶ 3 working groups
 - Future of Europe,
 - Sustainable Societies,
 - Cyber Security



European Commission, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, French Ministry of Energy, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, National Bank of Austria, UNDP, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)



PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP., KPMG Finland, Statoil



Global Voices, BMW Foundation, Körber Foundation, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Warsaw Office, ACAPS, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), EIAS, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies, European Policy Centre (EPC), European Policy Centre, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, European Leadership Network, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), CNAS, Rasmussen Global, WEF, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)



King's College London, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), King's College London, Department of War Studies, New York University and University College London, University of Cambridge, King's College London, Columbia University, University of Oxford, King's College London, Central European University (CEU)



Teach for Moldova



ATA, YATA

13 DIFFERENT GYLF FORMATS

46 GYLF EXCLUSIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS
28 GLOBSEC DISCUSSIONS
22 NIGHT OWL SESSIONS
19 WORKING GROUPS
8 FOCUS GROUPS
6 CITY TALK DISCUSSIONS
4 KEYNOTE SPEECHES
3 GYLF CHAT
2 GYLF LABS
2 FEEDBACK SESSIONS
2 WORKSHOPS
1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSION
1 GYLF INSIGHT SESSION

7 WELCOME DINNERS/LUNCHES
7 GLOBSEC COCKTAILS
5 PUB QUIZES
4 US EMBASSY LUNCHES
2 NETWORKING SESSIONS
1 TOUR OF THE CITY
1 GALA DINNER
1 TRIP ON THE DANUBE
1 TREASURE HUNT
1 BRATISLAVA CASTLE VISIT

GETTING TO THE POINT

In keeping with both the Bratislava Forum and Tatra Summit, GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum, engages participants in discussions that address **the most pressing challenges facing Europe and the world**, with leaders who have a direct impact on proposing and implementing solutions to said challenges. Besides **traditional security** and **transatlantic relations**, both Forums have gradually widened their focus to cover **cyber security, digital technologies and innovations, and sustainable development**.

- ▶ **The EU's regional leadership**, especially in the Western Balkans, **developments in the Arab Spring countries and Afghanistan**, and the **growth of right-wing radicalism in Europe** were among the key topics of **GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum 2013**.
- ▶ In **2014**, GYLF participants discussed ISAF's Mission with **Gen. John Allen**, the changing role of NATO with **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**, and the global geopolitical situation with former UK Secretary of State for Defence **Liam Fox**. They also reflected on the **EU's role as a foreign policy actor in the European Neighbourhood**, the **Arab Spring three years on** and the **future of the EU** after the latest round of parliamentary elections.
- ▶ The **2015** discussions revolved around questions concerning **Ukraine's future**, with **Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze** delivering opening remarks to members of a GYLF working group dedicated to the topic. Participants also explored options for countering the so-called Islamic State **and terrorism in the West**, **how to build a modern European Union**, and **how to deal with the situation in the Middle East**. GYLF 2015 concluded with a session with **John McCain**, which framed the above developments within the **relationship between the US and Europe**.



John McCain
@SenJohnMcCain

Great discussion @GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum in #Bratislava - very impressed w/ these bright young participants!



- ▶ **GLOBSEC Young Leaders and Young Europeans Forum 2016** continued to monitor **the situation in Ukraine**, but also paid attention to **the migration crisis and (the lack of) responses to it**. The turmoil in **Syria** and **Brexit referendum** also made their way to the forefront of discussions.



Maria Mundt
@MariaMundt

Chairing crucial discussion on #leadership w. @SenRonJohnson at #GLOBSEC2017 #GYLF after #Trump visit at #NATOMeeting - Agenda via @GLOBSEC



- ▶ At **GYLF 2017** participants held conversations with **Ivan Korčok** and **Daniela Schwarzer** concerning **the European Project** and talked to **Ron Johnson** about **the future global role of US**. They also took part in a number of GLOBSEC sessions that explored **the impact of technologies** on the future of conflict and global affairs.



Karlijn Jans
@KCH_Jans

Talks on the future of the European project @GLOBSEC w/ @D_Schwarzer of @dgapev and Slovak State Secretary Ivan Korcok #GYLF



- ▶ **2018 GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum** continued to explore **the connection between technology and society**, particularly in the context of **disinformation, populism and radicalisation**. **Latha Reddy** and **Melissa Hathaway** also provided participants with their perspectives on **issues currently shaping the cyber security** agenda. Tatra Summit Young Professionals' discussions considered **sustainable development**, the economic **future of Europe**, investments in **CEE** and **digital technologies**.

LOOKING AHEAD

Enriching Debates with Fresher, More Innovative Ideas

GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum alumni have always been invited back to **moderate and speak at GYLF debates, discussions and events**. For instance, the Tatra Summit Young Professionals programme invited a selected group of GYLF alumni to play a much more active role as **rapporteurs at Tatra Summit 2018 expert focus groups**. GLOBSEC will continue this trend at Bratislava Forum 2019 by inviting **GYLF alumni and participants to speak at and moderate main**

sessions. We will also invite leading politicians and experts to 1) engage exclusively with the Young Leaders and 2) continue working with them and the policy recommendations they produce before and during the Forum. We're confident that discussions and cooperation between established political and business leaders and young professionals will not only increase the prominence of the Young Leaders Forum, but also greatly enrich the overall quality of the conference.

Increasing the Visibility, Quality and Outreach of GYLF Content

To date, most GYLF-exclusive sessions have been closed formats with content being shared only in the form of social media posts from the participants. Given the prominence of our speakers and the quality of discussions, the aim for GLOBSEC 2019 is to make selected sessions available to other conference participants and the wider public through **livestream recording**. The content of these sessions and the expertise of the young leaders will also be included in **daily summaries and social media posts** during the conference. The video material will form the basis of a promotional video for GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum 2019.

Each year GLOBSEC Young Leaders formulate **strategic policy proposals** which are published in the autumn edition of the GLOBSEC Magazine. Strengthening this element and adjusting the timeline of the programme to allow for content to 1) be developed for the Bratislava Forum, 2) become **an integral part of post-conference content outcomes and their subsequent distribution** would be a valued addition to the conference's pool of expertise and policy outreach.



Engaging the Alumni Community All Year Round

GLOBSEC Young Leaders network currently includes over 150 experts from around the world who are connected through several social media groups. We have created one platform for communication and begun the process of engaging youth expert voices in preparations for all GLOBSEC flagship events and initiatives. GYLF alumni have been invited to **lend their expertise to the GLOBSEC Forum**

team in terms of **content and speakers** and they will also **be actively involved in GLOBSEC City Challenge and GLOBSEC City Talks**. Engaging their expertise and networks to foster dialogue and inspire action throughout the year would keep the community lively and allow us to better spread the values that GLOBSEC stands for around the world.