



Sarajevo, May 17, 2021

Ref.: 5th International Mediterranean Forum, 29-30 October 2021

Distinguished colleague,

It is our pleasure to announce the upcoming 5th International Mediterranean Forum. The main Forum session is envisioned as a meeting of academia, government and business representatives, with the key goal of addressing the common problems and creating an impact on prospects of the Mediterranean region under the light of unexpected COVID-19 effects.

The main Forum session titled *Conference on Mediterranean Perspectives in The Next Decade* will be held on Friday, October 29th, 2021, starting from 11:00 AM, at the University Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST). Upon the preparation of the Mediterranean Forum 2020, little did we know that the pandemic will become such an important and devastating factor, protruding our private and professional lives and quite possibly changing the outlook for our future. **In this regard, the Mediterranean Forum Organizing Committee has decided to devote the main session, in which we expect your active participation (as a speaker/panelist), to the impact of the pandemic on the economy, education, sustainability and governance. This way, we can contribute to the worldwide discussion of the pandemic after-effects.** The topics listed are to be considered by our participants:

1. Post-Covid economic support measures and recovery and containment policies worldwide – which shape will they take in the Mediterranean region, especially for its economically challenged participants.
2. Setting a course for sustainable community development – green economy and renewable energy – the benefits and potential plans for the Mediterranean region.
3. Digital transformations shaping everyday life – setting up strong digital systems and databases as good governance policies. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an eye-opener when it comes to slow and inefficient public health systems, especially in terms of immunization application processes. In the last year, there have been many short and long-term digital solutions that could assist in preventing the pandemic spread. Do Mediterranean governments have the means to support these changes for the future?
4. Immunization processes – a measure for equality or further divide – solutions for countries facing the lack of vaccines and the insufficient economic support to boost their immunization process.
5. Education in digital colors – what lays ahead for the universities in terms of redefining teaching processes and how did the almost two-years hiatus affect the university policies and shaped their view for the future strategic plans? Will this change affect the quality of education when it comes to higher education institutions?



Besides the proposed topics, *all speakers are free to join in with the topic of their choice, best reflecting the main Forum outline.*

Moreover, four additional conferences will be held on the second day of the Forum (October 30th): *Digitization and Emerging Technologies (MeFDIGI2021); Expert Conference on: Human Migrations in Times of Global Change, Data Science Conference (MeFDATA2021) and Medical Conference 2021.* The immense 2021 success of these conferences has ensured us that these are the fields yet to be explored, and provide an opportunity for emerging new expertise. Please feel free to disseminate this call to your associates and members of your institution, should they wish to participate and join in to any of the discussions.

Furthermore, taking into consideration the worldwide economic challenges and specific reforms needed for maintaining economic balance, the Organizing Board has decided to dedicate an expert panel to the economic risks and challenges of post-Covid society. This new edition to the Forum will be held on the second day, coordinated by one of the leading economic analysts of the younger generation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We will be expecting the experts from your universities to join in the discussion and provide an outlook for each of the participant Mediterranean countries.

This year, being aware of the possible risks and travelling limitations to Bosnia and Herzegovina, we propose a **completely online event**. Zoom links will be distributed to all participants before the conference, with guidance and help from our coordination team. All presentations and talks are limited to 15 minutes. All individual sessions will be followed by a moderated discussion.

The list of panelists and the proposed topics will be available by the middle of June on the official webpage of the Forum, www.dubrovackirazgovori.org.

Please send us the selected topic at your earliest convenience. I will be happy to directly communicate with you through my Office (please contact jasmina.bajramovic@ssst.edu.ba; +387 33 975 003).

Looking forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Professor Ejup Ganić
Chancellor

Attachment:
-Map of participating Mediterranean countries