



PROGRAMME

Right to Stay: local voices, joint action

international workshop
Sofia, Bulgaria, 4 November 2026

Time	Session	
15:00–15:10	Welcome and opening	Welcome by Miklos Barabas , Connect, the macro-regional CSO Network, European House Budapest Velko Ivanov , Union of European Federalists Bulgaria Introduction to the workshop's objectives and expected outcomes.
15:10–15:40	The EU Right to Stay: European context and civil society perspectives	Introductory presentation on the European Commission's initiative and its relevance to the Danube Region Johan Magnusson , European Commission (DG Regio) Ioannis Vardakastanis , European Economic and Social Committee
15:40–15:45	Clarification questions and introduction to the working groups	Brief questions; presentation of the two themes, working method and expected group outputs.
15:45–15:50	Formation of two parallel working groups	Participants join their preferred thematic group
15:50–16:20	Parallel group discussions	Working Group 1 <i>Making the Right to Stay Strategy work in Bulgaria: local challenges and citizen action</i> Moderator: Pejo Bosnic , economist and former member of the EUSDR Youth Council, Croatia Initial contributions by Dimitar Uzunov , former member of the EUSDR Youth Council, Bulgaria Stratsimir Trifonov , journalist, Ruse, Bulgaria Working Group 2 <i>Strengthening the Right to Stay Strategy in the Danube Region: territorial cohesion and democratic participation</i> Moderator: Yvan Pompert , Union Regionale des Acteurs Locaux de l'Europe, Lyon, France Initial contributions by Nadija Afanasieva , Ukrainian Institute for International Politics Kyriakos Kourtidis , Baltic Sea Region Youth Forum, Poland
16:20–16:25	Reporting back	Each group to present its main conclusions and priority proposal.
16:25–16:30	Next steps and closing	Agreement on follow-up actions and consideration of how to bring recommendations into action.

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