



Vojvodina WORLD

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“Entrepreneurship Education for Economical Growth”

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 Umbria (IT),
 Varaždin County (HR),
 Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (RS)

**“Youth Entrepreneurship:
 the key to boost
 competitiveness and growth
 in the regions”**

11th October, 09.00 - 13.00 hrs
 Northern Ireland Executive Office
 180 Chaussée d’Etterbeek,
 1040 Brussels

**European Week of
Regions and Cities**
Brussels 10-13 October 2016

**Regions and cities
for sustainable and inclusive growth**
Regional partnerships

Regional Partnerships

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INTERVIEW

Igor Mirović – President of the Provincial Government

After the elections in Vojvodina in April, there has been a change of political parties in power and the change of policy that the Democratic Party with its coalition partners led for 16 years. The changes would be clearly visible through the new budget of Vojvodina, implementation of large projects and cooperation with the Serbian Government, said the newly elected President of the Provincial Government Igor Mirović.

What are the plans of the new Provincial Government?

The Provincial Government has a new programme which is not overambitious, but the needs of Vojvodina are significant. The first need is to be better organized, to act jointly in a coordinated fashion, to respect the priorities and for the priorities to really have a developing character. When the whole system is set in that manner – and we make efforts to do so – then one can see that the programme is not really too ambitious. Until now, only one part of mechanisms has been used for the overall economic development of Vojvodina. With joint efforts, we will endeavour to get great results. Afterall, if we do not have great ambitions then we do not have concrete programmes and therefore we cannot reach great achievements.

What do you want to achieve?

We do not wish to be mere political actors who only enjoy the privileges that the public work entails. We want to do something concrete, something substantial that, in a way, we all have to participate in. The Republic and the Province, cities and municipalities, businesses and institutions, national and foreign companies.... In my opinion, the new concept is well received by the general public and this public will be the most valuable one. I am convinced that everyone's energy can be directed towards certain priorities. This is why I think the programme is not overambitious but realistic. I am convinced that we are fully capable of directing the potentials of Vojvodina towards its actual needs – according to the new governing concept. If we succeed in that, if we change the former elements of organization, the success itself will be clear and visible.

What is the scope of your activities?

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia and the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina are our confines and frames we move within. It is necessary to have a dialogue on new laws. We will support the dialogue and participate in it. In the process, we will be some kind of corner pillar, respecting the constitutional principles our state is based on.

Development of Vojvodina is the responsibility of the Government of Serbia, the Provincial Government, as well as businesses, individuals, and all entities that may contribute to it using their knowledge and business con-



Photo by Đorđe Kuzmirović

tacts. In this respect, I would like us all to share it. This is a great opportunity for us to gather around a new Vojvodina development programme, and I believe that no one should miss the opportunity, and everyone is obliged in some way to participate in this important business.

What is the future of Vojvodina, in your opinion?

The efficiency of the Provincial Government and the Republic's Government is a key to overall political stability in our country. It is the key to a faster economic development of the Province. Vojvodina, as a part of Serbia that holds the biggest potential, should be primarily open to the Government of the Republic of Serbia's investments and its promotion of big investments. When coming to our country, the majority of investors contact the ministries, competent state agencies, and companies having their headquarters in Belgrade. Jointly, we will build Serbia – a country of peace and good organisation, new plants that emerge almost every day, new factories and new successes. In that context, we do not have a right to define our priorities in no other way, but only through cooperation and joint work with the Republic's Government. Therefore, the essence of the new policy is actually preservation of the political stability, joint work, more investments, and more employed individuals in all municipalities and cities in Vojvodina.

INTERVIEW

István Pásztor - President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina



The eight convocation of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina was constituted on 2 June 2016, which is the number that we reach if we analyse the political history through the prism of the past quarter-century since the introduction of multiparty system in Serbia. The Assembly is the highest authority of the AP of Vojvodina, which performs normative and other functions, in conformity with the Constitution, law and Statute. Without a difference in their political orientation, all political groups (seven formed in this convocation) unambiguously confirmed that in the next four years they will strive for a dignified life for the citizens of Vojvodina in a safe and secure environment and social security, which is based on the principle of individual, family, social and institutional solidarity.

Statistics confirms that in relation to the convocation 2012-2016, we have made a serious step forward – female deputies made up 18.33% in the last convocation of the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina, whereas today, out of 120 deputies in total, 42 are women, i.e. 35%! If we analyse regional representation, deputies come from 37 out of 45 municipalities of Vojvodina. The statistics only numerically reflects the essence of the political involvement of deputies and the Assembly as the highest authority, which (essence) is based on a simple premise: the dignity of the Assembly is based on decency, conscience and responsibility of all deputies elected in the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina.

The Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina will monitor, control and by adopting the Provincial Assembly decisions, programming, development and planning documents and other documents in the manner prescribed by the Statute of the AP of Vojvodina, strengthen the institutional framework of the strategic development of the Province. With the opening of the negotiation chapters, in the period 2016-2020, the Republic of Serbia will continue with the alignment of all segments of life with the rules, values and norms of the European Union, and in this respect, the Assembly of the AP of Vojvodina will, in accordance with the tasks set out in the negotiation chapters, strive for transposing the European regional policy into everyday life, starting from the fact that more than 70% of the EU legislation refers to the regulation of life on regional and local level and that the European regions and cities are involved in the management or spending of more than 75% of the EU budget.

The anchorage of strategic development of the Province in the next four years will be the following areas of work: 1. advocacy for the adop-

tion of the law on financing and amendments to the law on the competencies of the AP of Vojvodina; 2. boost of economic growth and employment, tourism, strengthening of family farms and small and medium-sized enterprises; 3. better use of the potential of renewable energy sources, particularly biomass and geothermal sources; 4. promotion, protection, enhancement and respect of fundamental human and minority rights and the rights of vulnerable groups; 5. continuation of cooperation in the framework of the Euro-regional initiatives: the Danube Strategy, DKMT and the AER, as well as participation in joint IPA projects under the cross-border cooperation (CBC) programmes.

Special attention will be devoted to a more active involvement of Vojvodina municipalities and cities in the programmes of the European Partnership for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC). The ratification of the Madrid Convention opened the possibility for our cities and municipalities to establish good neighbourly, economic and cultural contacts with other European cities and municipalities through the EGTC programmes, in order to promote regional development, transport, tourism, environmental protection, culture and mutual assistance in emergency situations.

For us, the Danube and Tisa are the main streets of Europe, and in this sense all CBC programmes are for us a possibility for an economically more advantageous use of their status as international waterways. We would like the municipalities in the Danube and Tisa region to improve water management, transport infrastructure and environmental standards by means of joint CBC projects, but also to generate revenue from profits in trade, transportation of passengers and goods and tourism. We will initiate discussions with the partners involved in the Danube Strategy, as well as other relevant institutions in order to include the Baja-Subotica-Szeged railway and the Tisa River in the system of the Trans-European Transport Network, which is a prerequisite for participation in EU funds to finance such strategic projects.

In the process of Serbia's accession to the EU, special attention will be paid to the implementation of the Minority Action Plan prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the Action Plan for Negotiation Chapter 23 - Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. By adopting the Minority Action Plan, which resulted from the joint work of the representatives of national minorities, the Provincial Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, an important step has been made in the institutional protection of the rights of national minorities. The objectives of the Minority Action Plan, covering key areas of the rights of national minorities and in particular, their implementation in various areas of life and work, represent, at the same time, the criteria through which Serbia's progress in the EU accession process will be monitored and evaluated.

If at this point, we stop and read once again the text above, we will agree, I believe without a doubt, that the planned four-year activities represent a serious challenge. A completely logical question imposes itself: with political will and readiness to tackle serious reforms, what are the assumptions that the set tasks will be achieved? I am sure the answer is contained in one word: knowledge. We are prepared to follow the Europe 2020 Strategy – the strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU integration process. The challenge facing all of us is: how to retain talented, professional, creative people who will create a society of knowledge, innovation and new technologies by smart policy? If we take the knowledge of professional and creative people as an Archimedean point of support, I am sure we will be closer to the achievement of the policy which brings citizens, their needs and dignity into focus.

NOVI SAD: European Capital of Culture



Jam session

the only city in Europe whose every bridge was destroyed in the recent past. Not only those real bridges, but also those symbolical ones. It is with new bridges that Novi Sad represents and strengthens its capacities and potentials. On the other hand, the candidacy for the prestigious title is a unique opportunity to face our city with some of the important challenges and solve some of those matters.

Apart from the fullest possible support from its citizens, its institutions and cultural organizations, Novi Sad also received selfless support from all sides. The Government of the Republic of Serbia and its Prime Minister Mr. Aleksandar Vučić extended their support for Novi Sad's candidacy for

the European Capital of Culture 2021. The Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia also supported our city's candidacy, with hopes that Novi Sad, along with its rich cultural tradition will represent the Republic of Serbia and its culture in the best possible way, as well as that it will influence the further development of intercultural exchange in Europe. The Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU) was among the first institutions to support Novi Sad's candidacy for the European Capital of Culture, and placed its capacities at disposal for the successful realization of the project. The City of Novi Sad–Novi Sad University Cooperation Protocol was also signed, with the purpose of including the Novi Sad University into the Network of European Culture Capitals, improving thereby inter-university cooperation within the context of projects and of Novi Sad European Capital of Culture candidacy. Full support has been received also from the EU Delegation to Serbia, as well as from the cities previously awarded with the proud title of centres of European cultures – Rijeka, Plzen, Osijek, Pécs, Larissa, Ulm, Wrocław... over 30 cities, candidates, former and current Capitals.

This year, Novi Sad achieved a historic success by entering the finals of the European Youth Capital 2019 and for the European Capital of Culture 2021. On that occasion, this year's EXIT Festival and the State of Exit Zone, an increasingly important socially responsible segment of the EXIT Festival, were branded with the 'Novi Sad – capital of youth and culture'. The realization of the project's program concept 'Novi Sad 2021', named 'For New Bridges', and the synergy accomplished with the EXIT Festival has been continued with the 'Four Days of Culture' Program.

For decades, Novi Sad has been building its recognizable image and diversity on the basis of its multicultural character and its numerous cultural and educational institutions. Even today, nationally known and acknowledged as the centre of cultural scene, Novi Sad is the first city coming from a non-EU Member State shortlisted for the prestigious title European Capital of Culture, and now it is within the finals for the European Capital of Culture 2021.

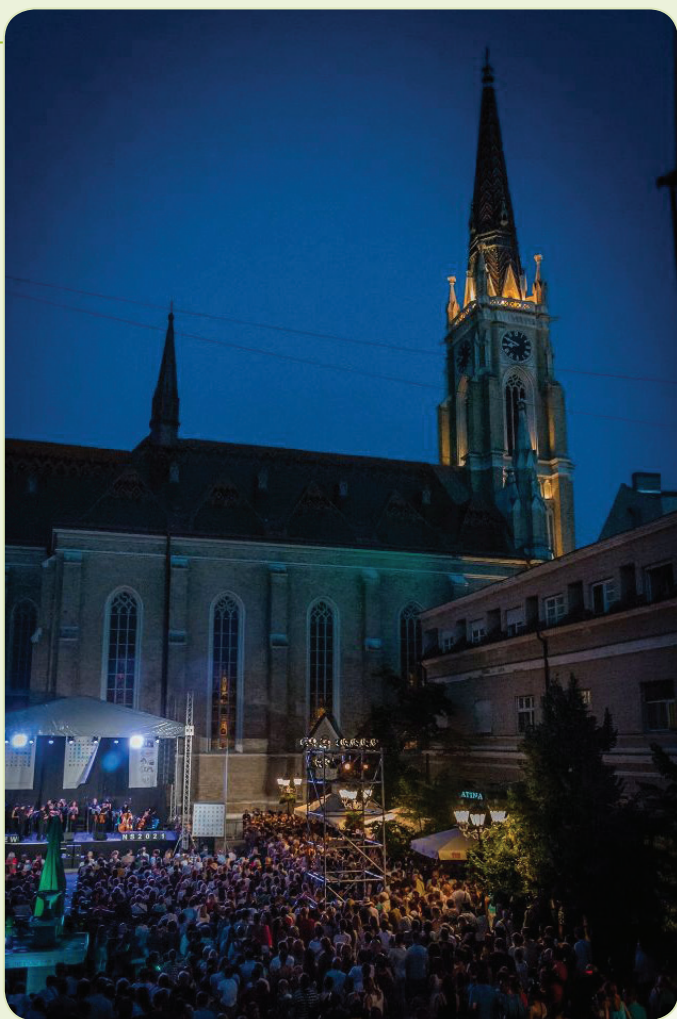
The unintentional process of branding Novi Sad and Serbia commences with the EXIT Festival, one of the best European music festivals, which positioned 'Serbian Athens' for the first time on the tourist map of Europe, and has become an essential part of a long-term branding process of Serbia. In order to make this process and its perpetuation even more strong and purposeful, EXIT Foundation was one of the first to nominate Novi Sad for the European Youth Capital 2019, as well as for the European Capital of Culture 2021.

The 'Novi Sad 2021' Project was launched with the aim of, above all, motivating and inspiring cultural workers, but also all other citizens to re-examine the values hitherto, and setting up new goals towards the city's democratic, urban, sociological and cultural development. It is thanks to these activities, that the City of Novi Sad Culture Development Strategy was designed and adopted, as an unavoidable element of the Novi Sad's bid for the European Capital of Culture 2021.

The candidacy slogan of Novi Sad for the European Capital of Culture 2021 is 'For New Bridges'. Bridges have symbolized Novi Sad throughout its entire history: they imply links between people, cultures, religions and traditions which have, for centuries, made Novi Sad an example of intertwining and opulence of diversity of every kind. Bridges are the key identity matter for each individual, each organization, but also for the city itself – especially for a city such as Novi Sad, which is

Exceptional four open-air events taking place in early summer promoted the 'Novi Sad 2021' Project and the European Capital of Culture 2021 candidacy concept in the best possible way, with its slogan 'For New Bridges', to the widest possible audience. Each of the four cultural

Culture and European Youth Capital



Stefan Milenković's concert

and artistic events symbolized one of the 'bridges' of the candidacy's program concept.

First of the four events was a jazz concert, i.e. a jam session of the Novi Sad-Dortmund Summer Jazz Academy, followed by the concert given by 100 youth symphonic musicians from the VU Orchestra, founded at the Free University Amsterdam, the Netherlands. What followed next was the performance of "Naše mesto" given on the Theatre-boat, and the last in the row was the fantastic show by the world famous violinist Stefan Milenković and the "Camerata Academica" Orchestra.

In the lights of final preparations of the Novi Sad candidacy for the prestigious title European Capital of Culture, during last days of summer Novi Sad once again hosts four key cultur-

al events. The program started with the international film festival organized by the New Cultural Settlement Association, '21114'. In early September, the 'Danube Dialogues' International Contemporary Art Festival was organized with the key theme 'Art in the Uncertain Global Environment'. Novi Sad's candidacy concept was presented at the regional literature conference 'Book Talk', while one of the most awaited cultural events, not only in Novi Sad but for the entire region, certainly is the 'New Religion' exhibition by the British artist Damien Hirst.

Under the auspices of the 'Novi Sad 2021' project, there are also several construction endeavours: firstly, the New Pedestrian Bridge to connect the Fisherman's Island, followed by the Ballet and Music School with the concert hall, whose construction has already commenced, and the development of numerous small and large city 'pockets' in the pipeline, such as St. Nicholas Church Square, which are all to be modified and become points on the cultural map of Novi Sad, pending final definition of locations and spaces. One could, however, freely say that the heart and soul of our city's candidacy is the 'Youth Creative Polis', as the centre of the Novi Sad's wildflower creative industry, youth activities, non-government sector, where the people will be making connections, finding work, self-employment, as well as create new values, for which the City will become even more recognizable. Finally, our expectation is that the location itself will become in future an entirely new touristic micro-destination in its own right.

Selection of the European Capital of Culture 2021 is definitely what Novi Sad sees as the most important point until the end of this year. Winning this prestigious title would be an exceptionally important success not only for the City of Novi Sad, but for Serbia as well, and not only in the field of culture, but in all other aspects of life as well.



Stefan Milenković's concert

City of Novi Sad

The City of Novi Sad, as the administrative, economic and university centre of Vojvodina, is nowadays a synonym for the City which, through the development of its economy, the creation of a favourable business climate and infrastructure modernization, ensures the quality of life of citizens in all areas. Dynamic conditions of life and economy make strategic planning a necessary pre-condition for the management of local development.

The pro-active city administration, together with its numerous partners from the private and civil sectors, has created the Sustainable Development Strategy of the City of Novi Sad. This document represents an umbrella strategic planning document which defines the directions of development of the City in the period from 2016 to 2020, and it combines different processes, taking into account different needs in the field of economic development, infrastructure and utilities, spatial and urban planning, environmental protection, social development and poverty reduction.

Creating conditions for new investments and job creation are the main goals of economic development as well as strategic direction of the City of Novi Sad. Owing to its favourable geographical position and connectivity by road, rail and river, the City of Novi Sad has an exceptional competitive advantage, being competitive not only in the frame of Serbia, but also in a wider context.



Creating a favourable business environment in the City of Novi Sad, which makes it attractive for investments, both domestic and foreign, and contributes to job creation, can be achieved by the development and furnishing of existing greenfield sites, by the purchase of new ones, as well as by equipping certain parts of the City with utilities. In order to support this process, it is also important to improve the competitiveness of the work force - through the Employment Action Plan in cooperation with partners, such as the University of Novi Sad, the National Employment Service and different business associations. The City of Novi Sad has good conditions for the development of organic agriculture, vegetables and fruit, because of its significant raw ma-



City of **Novi Sad**



Miloš Vučević

Mayor of Novi Sad

terial base for the development of food industry; hence, a special emphasis is being placed on this area, as well as to tourism.

In recent years, the City has positioned itself as one of the most important centres in the production of software and video games, providing a strong support for the high-tech industry. The City provides the necessary logistics in the creation of new business incubators, accelerators and creative hubs, within which the creation and development of new ideas is being encouraged, together with the development of technological entrepreneurship, which represents the best employment of the potential that the City of Novi Sad as the University Centre possesses.

By implementing the solutions based on modern technologies, Novi Sad is gradually adopting the concept of a smart city. Consequently, the citizens of Novi Sad will have the opportunity not only to use modern "smart" services that already exist at the EU level, but will be among the first in Europe to use certain innovative public services.



Disaster Reduction, Standardized Analysis and Risk Evaluation – DR SHARE



Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

The project “Disaster Reduction, Standardized Analysis and Risk Evaluation - DR SHARE” has resulted from the partnership of Vukovar – Srijem County (Croatia), Vukovar-Srijem County Development Agency HRAST Ltd (Croatia), National Protection and Rescue Directorate (Croatia), Provincial Secretariat for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government (Serbia), European Affairs Fund of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Serbia) and the Ministry for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, Posavina County (Bosnia and Herzegovina) to work together to develop tools that will help to promote a common understanding of cross-border risk assessment and risk management plans, practices and processes sharing best practices in the border region covering the Vukovar-Srijem County (CRO), Srem District of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (SRB) and Posavina County (BiH). This will be achieved through the exchange of collected data for risk management in the cross-border area using standardized tools on one central location, allowing for better use of existing data and increasing the ability of response and cooperation on risk management system at local, regional and cross-border level.

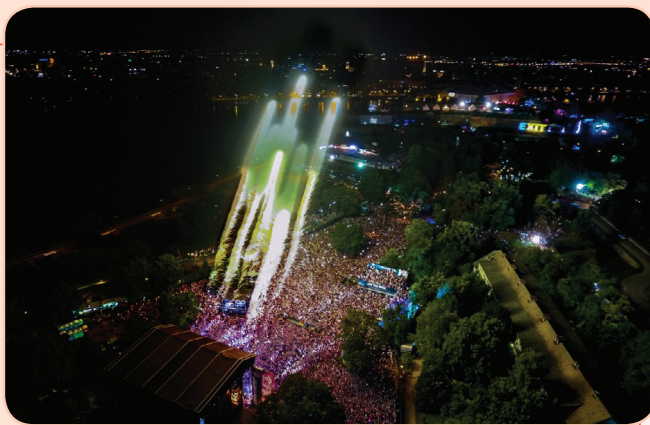
The project was presented at the kick-off conference held at the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) in Brussels on 20 January 2016 marking the beginning of the implementation of 25 projects approved for funding by the European Commission under the 2016 Call for proposals for prevention and preparedness projects.

The project objective is to improve risk management in order to reduce the consequences, intensity and frequency of natural disasters and major

accidents and protect the population, environment and property through the exchange of best practices, harmonization of methodologies in three states and the creation of new IT solutions that can help manage risks in the cross-border region among Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project duration is January 2016 – June 2017, whereas the total value of the project amounts to EUR 281,222. The expected project outcome is an IT tool to improve the linkage and cooperation between relevant stakeholders and policies throughout the complete disaster management cycle (prevention-preparedness-response-recovery). Reports and analyses obtained and lessons learned during the project with the application of the integrated IT tool in real life in the transnational environment will provide invaluable grounds for various scenarios where the same results could be easily reproduced and/or transferred to other countries, regions or organizations. In addition to enhancement of cooperation, the exchange of good practices and support for capacity building in prevention actions outlined in Chapter 2 of the Decision No. 1313/2013/EU (including risk assessment, risk management planning, risk prevention measures) are an integral part of the project in such a way that the system will contain combined data about the civil protection capabilities of the regions in three different states, so as to improve the response effectiveness to major emergencies and enhance the prevention and preparedness measures for all kinds of emergencies, including the continuation of measures taken previously in compliance with the Council Decision 1999/847/EC.

EXIT FESTIVAL

This year's EXIT Adventure, festivals EXIT and Sea Dance, held on two locations, Petrovaradin fortress and Jaz beach, in two neighbouring countries, Serbia and Montenegro, took over 270.000 visitors, from more than 60 countries. The busiest edition of EXIT festival in its 16 years of existence marked a record attendance with 194.000 visitors who went through the gates of the Petrovaradin fortress. And yet another record was surpassed with 55.000 people at the Fortress for the closing night, which was the biggest daily attendance at EXIT.



immeasurable influence over contemporary music as well as culture at large. The peace sign, colourful clothes and flowers in hair are the first things that come to mind when talking about the Summer of Love, whilst its vast legacy embodies the universal quest for peace, freedom of speech, human rights, and social, racial and gender equality.

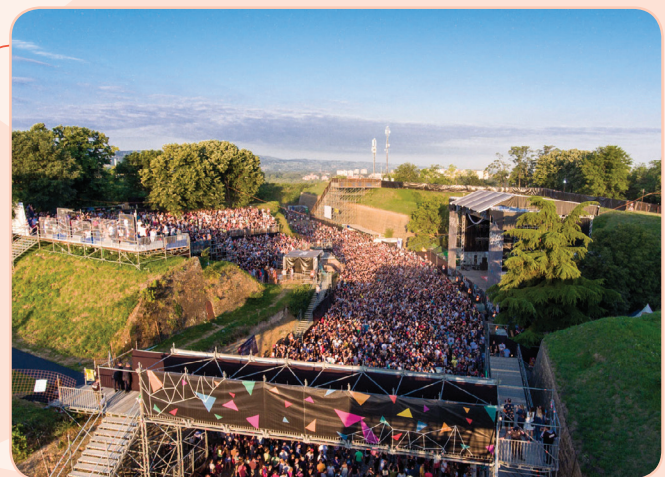
Atmosphere from Exit is often referred to as magical, both in international and local media accordingly, which is why this year's theme was – Exit Magic. It stands for particular emotion that all those who partake in EXIT festival share and feel. Emotion of love for music and freedom, emotion that can change the world for the better.

EXIT 2016 hosted some of the most prominent performers in the world, such as Ellie Goulding, Bastille, David Guetta, The Prodigy, Wiz Khalifa, The Vaccines, George Clinton, Tinariwen, Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike, Solomun, Maceo Plex, Richie Hawtin, Marco Carola, Nicky Romero, Dave Clarke, Nina Kraviz, Oliver Heldens and many others.

Exit festival is so much more than just a summer music festival. It's more than the line-up and the stages. Exit is made up of its people - the festival was founded in 2000 as a student movement, so as to fight for freedom and democracy in Serbia. It was the first place youth gathered at from all former Yugoslav republics after a decade of civil wars. Now, its uniqueness lies in its mind-blowing location, artistic diversity, and local flavour.

Exit has gained international media attention over the years. This year only EXIT was featured in the articles about the best festivals in world in The Guardian, The New York Times, CNN, Daily Mail, Vogue and many more.

EXIT Festival in 2017 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love. Next year, EXIT will mark some of the most important events from 1967 when the revolutionary Peace Movement began and changed the world forever. This social phenomenon gathered people from all over the world around the idea of community, peace, solidarity and love; it held in



EXIT 2017 is likely to be the best and most visited so far, as more than 20.000 fans from more than 50 world's countries already registered for early-bird tickets.

