

Youth Conference with participation of students and young people from
Bulgaria and North Macedonia

Title: „Addressing security Challenges in an unpredictable environment.
The Role of NATO“

Introduction

15 students from different Universities from North Macedonia will visit Bulgaria to discuss the security challenges that Europe faces, to meet with NATO officials and to visit Bulgarian state institutions.

25 Bulgarian students will join them in Sofia

Additional co-sponsoring institutions or own funds: Bulgarian MFA, MOD, Friedrich Naumann Foundation

3-5 December 2023 (3 days in total within the period)

Day 1 – Arrival, accommodation, and dinner

Day 2 - Conference day

9.00 – 9.30 Welcoming Address:

- M-r Yordan Bozhilov, President of the Sofia Security Forum
- Prof. d-r Nikola Dujovski, Dean of the Faculty of Security Skopje
- Representative of NATO Office in Sofia TBC
- Representative of Friedrich Naumann Stiftung TBC

9.30 – 10.10 – NATO at 75. Relevance of the alliance for the security and stability – Presentation of a representative from NATO

Discussion

10.00 – 10.40 – Peace in Europe at stake. Russian aggression against Ukraine as a threat to the European Security. NATO's defense and deterrence posture in the Balkans and Black Sea region. – Minister of Defense of Bulgaria

Discussion.

10.30 – 11.00 – Coffee break

11.00 – 11.30 – Economic impact of NATO Membership

Discussion.

11.30 – 13.00 – How the war on Ukraine ends? The future of the European Security Architecture. Presentations of Bulgarian and Macedonian Students.

Moderated discussion

13.00 – 14.30 – **Lunch**

15.00 – 16.00 – Visit to the MFA of Bulgaria and meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs/Deputy minister and Ambassador of the Republic of North Macedonia to Bulgaria Ms Agnesa Rusi Popovska.

Discussion on the status and development of the bilateral relations between Bulgaria and North Macedonia. Contribution of the both countries to the Alliance.

16.00 – 18.00 – Sightseeing of Sofia

18.00 – 19.00 – Free time

19.00 – 21.00 – Dinner

Day 3

10.00 – 12.00 – Visit to the Bulgarian Parliament and meeting with Bulgarian MPs.
Discussion

12.30 – 13.00 – Evaluation and certificate ceremony

13.00 – 14.00 – Lunch

14.00 – Departure of the Macedonian students