

Debates in GRAD 2009-2010

Many debates have been held in GRAD – and also outside Belgrade - ranging from politics, urban planning, European integration (including the Kosovo issue) to climate change and the creative economy:

On 6.11.09 the debate “*Made in Sumadija*” was held on promotion of projects’ development in the Sumadija region focusing on administrative, cultural and economic development of this agricultural region. In the exposition, developmental possibilities of local partnership communities (Kragujevac, Batočina, Lapovo, Knić) were presented. Speakers included: Dragan Zlatković, the Mayor of Lapovo municipality, Borislav Busarac, the Mayor of the Knic municipality, Aleksandar Jovanovic, deputy mayor of Batocina municipality, and Dragan Stevovic, representative from Kragujevac City Council for local government, regional development and cooperation; experts and analysts: professor doctor Vlade Zaric (University of agriculture in Belgrade), doctor Goran Nikolic (Institute for European studies) and Maja Todorovic (Institute for examination Zavod za proučavanje kulturnog razvitka Srbije).

The debate “*Feminism in Serbia Today*” took place during a festival about promotion of ideas and policies of feminism in Serbia emphasizing on more involvement of all women in general into the public and civil sector. Lively discussions were driven between women from Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. The programme was divided in three units: the first one *Politics, Action, Creation* (discussion, forums, workshops), the second *Projection* (female film opus) and the last *Body, Soul and Voice* (female art opus). Some of the important issues discussed were What’s the point of feminism in Serbia today?, How to deal with the violence against women? Speakers were Tamara Skrozza from the newspaper “Vreme”, Dragana Vuckovic from the “Labris”, organization for LGBT rights in Serbia, Milica Gudovic from the organization “Women at work”, Katarina Loncarevic from the Centre for Women Studies, Johanna Palmström and Elf-Karlen, author of two feminist guides and founders of the feminist think-tank Lacrimosa; workshop on gender roles and sexuality with Frida Darj from the Swedish Youth Federation for LGBT rights.

As part of the campaign “*Openly about Public Spaces*” (see above) public discussions were organized together with Civic Initiatives’ Youth Programme in August 2009. Youth groups, civil society representatives, youth institutions and local authorities from Kruševac, Zrenjanin and Belgrade participated in these discussions. The discussions were held with Husein Orucevic from the Mostar based Youth Cultural Centre “Abrasevic”, Emina Buzinkic from the Croatian Youth Network, Goran Radomirovic, Deputy Mayor in Krusevac, Vesna Veskovic, chairwoman of the City Assembly, Marko Vukojevic, President of the Association of Youth in Krusevac, Ivana Brankovic, President of Photo Expo from Aradac (Vojvodina). The main idea was to create a useful strategy for other organisations in different cities such as the partnership between Cultural Front and Felix Meritis for Belgrade.

The debate on 9.09.2009 was in the framework of **Belgrade of Light**, nurturing cultural architectural, urban and social values of Belgrade, promoting the quality of local design with ambition of sustainability. With Vesa Honkonen, multi-awarded architect and designer from Helsinki (Finland), Pernilla Jansson, designer from Stockholm (Sweden), Corado Terzi, professor and lightning designer from Italy, Mitja Prelovsek (Sydney, Australia), Federico Favero (Stockholm, Sweden), Milos Mirošević (Belgrade), Nebojsa Radivojević (Belgrade) and Predrag Stojicević (Belgrade).

In Kragujevac the debate “*Serbia in Transition*” is about the problems Serbia is dealing with towards its way to EU integration. Guests were Jugoslav Ristic, President of Association of independent syndicates in Kragujevac; Branimir Stojanovic, actor in film “Old School of capitalism”; Vuk Vukmirovic, film producer; Kevin Robins, professor of sociology from the City University in London, Zelimir Zilnik, film director from Novi Sad.

On 15.12. 2009 the discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands **Maxime Verhagen** during his official visit to Serbia . It was initiated by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. The group of participants included 45 young Serbians from various areas (civil society, business, faculties, media) They interviewed Verhagen on his ideas on the integration of Serbia in the EU.

Within the framework of the conference **Beyond the Wall** several debates were organized in GRAD: After the film screening “Snow” / “Snijeg” from Bosnia and Herzegovina, on December 13, 2009 was organized the discussion with the film leading actress Zana Marjanovic with moderator Milan Rakita. With the insights of the film elements, they discussed about old but maybe still present issues during war years: facing male-female identity problems in the post-war situation. On 14.12. 2009 after the Bulgarian film screening “*Whose song is this*”/ “*Chia e тази pesen?*”, Milan Rakita discussed with the film director Adela Peeva about ethnological and topographical elements in ethnomusicology in the Balkan region.

Public readings and debates were held with Muharem Bazdulj, one of the leading writers of the younger generation from the ex-Yugoslavia, Vesna Goldsworthy, the British Serbian writer, Igor Stiks, writer (born in Sarajevo, emigrated to Zagreb) and Dragan Velikic, writer from Serbia on 15.12. 2009. Authors discussed about identity problems of emigrants, their efforts to assimilate in foreign countries after war migration. On the last evening of conference, 16.12.09 after the film screening “Atorzija” and “Gypsy magic”, a discussion was held with Nevena Dakovic, professor of Film theory/film studies from Belgrade university, Dimitrije Vojnov, writer, director and former film critic from Belgrade, Vladimir Blazevski, a director and screenwriter from Macedonia.

“*Eco-architecture, design and sustainable development*” was the topic of the debate on 1.02.2010 with Ranko Bozovic, “En Plus Tech” from Belgrade/London, an expert in the field of energy optimization in construction; Dr Branimir Jovanovic from the “Center Tesla Belgrade” for renewable energy; Tatijana Rajic, an architect from an NGO supporting a sustainable development concept *Expeditio* from Kotor, Montenegro; Natasa Ilincic and Jugoslava Kljakic designer and architect from “OD-DO Studio” from Belgrade.

The Regional Office for the Youth in Kragujevac organized the debate “*What are NGO’s and the civil sector?*” on 18.02.2010 discussing about the meaning, the principles and purpose of NGOs in Serbia and abroad with Zarko Paunovic, professor from the Faculty of Political Sciences from University of Belgrade.

Another debate was held in Kragujevac on 13.04. 2010 entitled “*Advantages of entering the EU*” with the lecturer Tanja Miscevic, professor from the Faculty of Political Sciences form University of Belgrade and the former director of Office for EU integration and another one “*Steps towards and onwards to the EU*” with Branko Budimir adviser from the Office for EU integration from the Republic of Serbia.

In the first half of April GRAD celebrated its first year of existence and on that occasion a debate was held on the April 15, 2010 on the theme "***A Parallel Economy of Culture - models and options for financing outside of local public funds***". The aim is to create a platform for multilateral cooperation by bringing together different stakeholders and also to discuss opportunities and obstacles of financing culture. Perhaps by modifying certain articles of the tax policy of the Republic of Serbia.

On this occasion, models of financing culture in Sweden and Holland were presented with the speakers Joanneke Lootsma and Steve Austen, from the Dutch foundation Felix Meritis, Helene Larsson, Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of Sweden in Belgrade. Among the participants from Belgrade were Ana Krstić (Telenor Foundation), Andrea Brbaklić (Erste Bank), Nadica Momirov (Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia), Darka Radosavljević Vasiljević (Remont), Ivan Lalić (Mixer), Katarina Zivanović (Museum of 25th May).

In cooperation with the students' organization "Cultural compass" GRAD organized the debate "***Occupations and professions in culture and media***" on 22.05 2010 with participants from the field of theatre, film and music industry from Belgrade. Speakers were Bogdan Petkovic, producer, and Jovan Todorovic, director of the film "Belgrade phantom", both active experts from Emote production (audio & visual production); Jovana Karaulic, executive producer from the "Universiade Belgrade 2009"; Igor Brakus, manager director from the theatre "Atelje 212" and author of the radio show on local radio station B92; Rade Santrac, sound designer and the owner of the "Etar" production house; Ivan Tasovac, pianist, manager and director of the Belgrade Philharmonic; Jasna Dimitrijevic, director from the Turistic organization of Belgrade; Ivan Lalic, organizer and producer of several eminent festivals in Belgrade; Aja Jung, director from the Belgrade Festival of Dance.

Debates Autumn 2010

On 01.07.2010 a debate was held at the Centre for Culture in Paracin especially for representatives of youth NGOs and political parties. The speakers were Marko Savković (Centre for Civic-Military Relations, Belgrade) on "***The importance of NATO and Partnership for Peace?***" and Jelena Milic (Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies, London) who spoke about "***The relationship of the EU and NATO***".

The first debate in GRAD was held on 23.09 on a topic much connected to the local area where the ECCD is based: "***Urban pockets and other parts of the landscape in an urban setting.***" with professor Zoran Djukanovic from the Faculty of Architecture, Dunja Predic (planner) and Lori Konjam (landscape architect, France).

Outside Belgrade in a local government building of Jagodina on 08.09 GRAD organised a debate on "***History of European Integration and what Serbia did until now in the process of European integration?***" with Jelena Stevanov (Advisor to the Office for European Integration of Serbia) and Vladimir Međak (Assistant Director of the Office for European Integration of Serbia) who spoke on the topic: "***The current situation in the European integration of Serbia***" on the current obstacles, the steps to follow as well as the fatigue in the EU enlargement.

At the Youth Centre in Kragujevac GRAD held a debate on 15.09 with the participation of Cedomir Antic (historian, Belgrade), Dusan Pavlovic (Political Analyst, London) who spoke on the theme "***The relationship of Serbia, Kosovo and the EU***" on the Serbian resolution regarding Kosovo, the rationale of the Kosovo issue and Serbia's own integration in the EU, the status of the northern part of Kosovo and models of co-existence and co-operation between Serbs and Albanians.

The next debate took place at Grad on 28.10 with the title "***European Trash***" which is the title of the book from one of the speakers. GRAD had invited Peter Halberg, Swedish journalist and writer, and two young members of the debating club from the Faculty of Political Science. This debate is also the introduction to a new GRAD initiative: a school for public debating to start in January 2011.

One of the most interesting and very popular debate was held on 29.10 entitled "***Socio-linguistics cartoons in Serbia and Croatia***" on the translation and synchronization of animated films for children from Serbian to Croatian language and vice versa including the absurd situations in that process. Speakers were Ivan Colovic (sociologist), Ivo Zanic (sociologist), Nikola Petkovic (film director).

The debate on 05.10 and was dedicated to climate change and the consciousness of the citizens about this problem. For this occasion an exhibition of caricatures from the Balkan was organized to enhance the theme of '***Facing the climate***' with the speakers Srdjan Stankovic (Supernatural festival, Belgrade), Karin Suvinson (cartoonist, Sweden), and Dobrica Veselinovic (Civic Initiatives, Belgrade).

And on 29.11 a debate was held on the possibility of Serbia's participation in the global creative economy called "***The Boat***" with young creative minds such as Hrvanović Mladen, Vladimir Milovanovic, James May and Toby Brundin as well as Danko Runic (director of the Agency for European Integration and Cooperation with the Civil sector).