



## The Igman Initiative

*20 years of existence, 2000 -2020*

Founded in November 2000, as a single network of more than 100 NGOs, public figures, professors, anti-war activists, analysts, journalists and cultural figures from Serbia, Croatia, BiH and Montenegro, the Igman Initiative was created in memory of April 1995., when a group of 38 intellectuals from the former Yugoslavia, managed to enter besieged Sarajevo across the Igman Mountain and thus demonstrate civic solidarity, defiance and resistance to war and the policy of destruction.

After two decades of action and significant results achieved by the European Union, the mission of the Igman Initiative is not over, because in the Western Balkans there are still active policies and forces that oppose the processes of mutual respect, understanding, regional cooperation and the necessary progress of individual countries in the region in the process of European integration and their internal construction on the principles of civic values and the rule of law has been achieved. Therefore,

**expressing** respect for the founders of the Initiative and with a sense of responsibility towards the generations to come;

**committing** to overcoming negative experiences of the recent past and restoring mutual understanding, trust and cooperation;

**wishing** to continue to contribute to and support efforts to make the whole of the Western Balkans an integral part of the European Union as soon as possible;

**On September 30, 2020**, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Initiative in Podgorica, the members of the Council of the Igman Initiative and coordinators of the Igman Initiative for BiH, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro adopted:

### **T H E D E C L A R A T I O N**

On the program tasks of the Initiative

In the coming period, the Igman Initiative will focus its activities on the following 10 program-defined tasks:

1. **Will engage** in resolving the remaining disputes in the relations between the states of the Dayton Tetragon and in further building and strengthening mutual understanding, trust and cooperation in the region;

2. **Will support** and contribute to a higher level of regional cooperation, with its institutionalization following the example of other successful models of regional cooperation (eg Nordic model), which will be in the interest of each country, their accelerated development and faster progress in European integration processes;

3. **Work towards** the identification, isolation and suppression of policies and forces that hinder the progress and functioning of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that threaten its integrity and territorial integrity, and thus peace, stability, progress and cooperation of the entire region;

4. **A higher level** of cooperation with the European Union will be committed through programs, initiatives and mechanisms that should lead to the strengthening of mutual and regional cooperation of the countries of the region in order to promote democracy and equality, rule of law, dealing with the past and prosecuting those responsible for crimes during the 1990s, mutual respect, the elimination of clerical nationalism, crime and corruption, and the use of benefits due to the similarity of cultures and languages;

5. **Will strive** to achieve a satisfactory way of achieving the free movement of people, goods, services, capital in the countries of the Western Balkans and the removal of remaining obstacles;

6. **Pay attention** to the situation of young people, in particular with a view to reaching an agreement on the mutual recognition of diplomas, improving the economic, social and overall environment for their training and employment;

7. **Develop** and further strengthen the network of organizations, institutions, civic activists committed to improving relations between the countries of the region and developing quality regional cooperation, with greater participation and engagement of young people, academia, professional associations and the media;

8. **Implement** projects aimed at improving the quality of life of citizens, especially those who, by the nature of their profession or origin, are referred to two or more state entities;

9. **Establish** an Igman Club that will operationalize the activities of the Initiative and ensure their implementation in each of the countries of the region and at intervals (every three months) in one of the Igman Four countries discuss topics and implement projects in various fields (diplomacy, education, transport, energy, protection from natural disasters, etc.), which are of common interest;

10. **To help** the public and civil sector of the Western Balkan countries to continue cooperation within the framework of the Berlin Process, so that its potentials can be used to improve cooperation and the overall situation in the region and in each country separately.

**Signatories:**

Mr. Branko Lukovac - President of the Council of the Igman Initiative

Mr. Aleksandar Saša Popov - President of the Council of the Initiative for Serbia

Mr. Vehid Šehić - President of the Council of the Initiative for BiH

Dr. Branislav Radulović - Co-President for Montenegro

Mr. Eugen Jakovljević - Co-President for Croatia

Mr. Milan Antonijević - Co-President for Serbia