

Dear colleagues,

The International Student Identity Card Association is proud to offer its candidacy for the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, as we are fully committed to use our experience to further advance the priorities of our collective community.

Personally, my civic engagement started as a student, being a founder and leader of a number of student movements that fought against the repressive regime of Slobodan Milosevic during the turbulent Balkan conflicts of the 1990s.

After the Serbian democratic changes in 2000, I dedicated my life to processes leading to the development of democracy and human rights. I devoted special attention to inclusion of Serbian students and youth in numerous international initiatives and programs. We are Serbian members of EYCA (www.eyca.org) since 2001 and ISIC (www.isic.org) since 2005.

I have had the privilege of serving the EYCA community as a Board member from 2005 through 2012. Additionally, I was a Board member of the ISIC Association (founded in 1953) from 2012 through 2020. Since 2020, I have had the special honor of representing ISIC in the vibrant global community (currently active in 100+ countries) as Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

One of my priorities as Chairperson of the ISIC Association is to further advance the collaborations ISIC has developed over the past decades with various intergovernmental stakeholders - UN, UN Tourism, UNESCO, Organization of American states, European Union (EU), African Union (AU), Council of Europe and many others.

In the past decade, we have given special attention to the digitalization of education and its implementation in student and youth global study exchange opportunities. As such, ISIC is recognized as one of the key stakeholders in the EU's lead European Student Card Initiative, as well as in the AU/EU led Youth Mobility for Africa program. In this capacity, we have extensive collaborations with a number of peers - international NGOs such as the European University Association, International Association of Universities, European University Foundation, European Students Union, and Erasmus Student Network.

Our collaboration with UNESCO since 1963 spans across program sectors including education, youth, and World Heritage. The importance of UNESCO's core mission is even more relevant having in mind the critical moment we live in.

It is my honor to present this candidacy for the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to you, esteemed colleagues, being fully committed to invest our knowledge, time and passion in further advancement of close collaboration we have with UNESCO and to support many relevant initiatives we will jointly work on.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Milos Milenkovic