

**RYDE**

Regional Youth Dialogue  
for Europe



Funded by  
the European Union

# Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe

ILLUSTRATIVE REPORT 2023 -2026



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# Project Report 2023-2026

**Publisher / Izdavač**

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Pozitiv MVP

**Štampa**

Grafolik, Beograd

**Printrun / Tiraž**

100 pcs

Belgrade, 2026.



This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Center for Democracy Foundation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

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# Project Report 2023-2026

## Introduction

This publication is an illustrative testimony of three extraordinarily interesting and exciting years of our work on the RYDE project. We started RYDE in early 2023, just two years after we completed the previous three-year regional project RYCE (Regional Youth Compact for Europe). The environment changed significantly in those two years. First, our new consortium included previous and new partners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia. In spite of our wish to have a partner from Montenegro on board, we did not partner formally with an organization from Montenegro. However, our efforts were placed to secure adequate participation from civil society, policy makers and youth from Montenegro. Second, since 2022 the EU enlargement process obtained new momentum and the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union once again rose to the top of both the EU's agenda and that of national policymakers. Therefore, RYDE focused much more on specific policy areas relevant for the youth with the aim to motivate and mobilize youth in the region for a more comprehensive and effective participation in public policy debates. Third, new geopolitical circumstances and war on the European territory, in Ukraine, imposed new topics whose inclusion in civic education programs was necessary, such as digital and media literacy and fight against fake news. Rising doubts in the efficiency of democracy, promulgated by the growing populist movements, required that a new democratic narrative be formulated when working with the youth in the region. Finally, technological advances with the appearance of the AI, diversification of social networks and new channels of communication developed and used by young people required that our tools and dissemination channels were innovative and attractive so as to ensure that young people are reached on local, national and regional level. Along the way, we were monitoring, evaluating and adapting to new circumstances, responding to the assessed needs of our target groups and mitigating the risks we encountered in our work. We state with pride and pleasure that all our previewed indicators were met.

Together with our grantees, supported informal groups, participants in our activities, from various ways of life, we developed a potent network and new partnerships within civil society in the region. We raised capacities and contributed to the increased knowledge and skills of many. Youth voices were made more vocal. Opportunities for regional cooperation were created and well used. Young men and women, civic activists, experts, policy makers engaged in debating a variety of issues of the highest concerns of youth and our societies: youth participation, youth employment, education, youth health, youth attitudes towards cultural heritage and culture in general. EU values of democracy, rule of law and human rights were promoted as well as the benefits of the EU integration of the Western Balkan economies were discussed and made more visible to citizens.

## What is RYDE?

RYDE is the acronym for the three-year regional project Regional Youth Dialogue for Europe.

RYDE was coordinated by the Center for Democracy Foundation (Serbia) and was implemented by 7 partner organizations from the WB: Academy of European Integrations and Negotiations (AIEN) from Tirana, Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS) from Pristina, Network of Progressive Initiatives (NPI) from Sarajevo, NGO Info Center (NGO IC) from Skopje, Regional Academy for Democratic Development (ADD) from Novi Sad, Youth Act Center (YA) from Tirana.

RYDE was implemented from January 2023 until January 2026 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia and Serbia, with participating students and organizations from Montenegro.

RYDE was financed by the European Union.

RYDE was, in many of its segments, the follow-up of the previous three-year regional project RYCE implemented from 2018 until 2021.

## What were the RYDE objectives?

The overall aim of the RYDE project was to contribute to strengthening participatory democracy, EU integration and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans through supporting increased role and impact of CSOs, including youth organizations, in promoting democratic values and political, economic and social benefits of the EU integration for the WB societies.

**RYDE specific objectives were:**

- To increase participation of CSOs and youth in dialogue on public policies on national/ regional level, with focus on human development and social investment policies relevant for youth and other marginalized groups;
- To strengthen capacities and foster cooperation of CSOs and youth in the WB in addressing political, economic and social challenges and development of the social resilience;
- To promote participatory democracy, democratic values and tolerant political culture

## What were the expected results of RYDE?

Increased capacities and participation of CSOs, youth and women organizations in monitoring and promoting public policies and participate in structured dialogue;

Increased cooperation of CSOs in regional projects/activities;

CSOs in the WB are more vocal in advocating EU integration of the Balkans due to up-graded and consolidated regional coalitions;

WB youth is empowered with knowledge and skills to fight discrimination, intolerance, political and social polarization and to promote European values and EU integration of the WB;

Awareness is raised and increased support is ensured for EU integration process in the WB;

## What were the achieved results?

Nearly 9,000 participants from across the Western Balkans were engaged, representing a wide range of stakeholders' groups, including young people, civic activists, CSO representatives, youth and women's organizations, youth councils, policymakers and public institutions, activists and officials of political parties, media, social partners and experts. They took part in over 145 activities implemented by project partners, sub-grantees and informal groups.

**Participation of CSOs and youth in structured dialogue on public policies significantly increased.**

- As a basis for dialogue, two regional research and analysis reports on policy-making processes and youth policies were conducted and presented across the WB region
- Dialogue was further strengthened through 30 policy labs organized at national and regional levels, engaging 356 participants, including 127 CSOs, and resulting in 70 policy recommendations adopted at both levels. These recommendations addressed key issues such as youth participation mechanisms, employment (with a focus on the Youth Guarantee), sexual and reproductive health, media and digital literacy, and youth participation in cultural life.
- Six public debates engaged nearly 257 participants,
- High-level regional conference gathered 515 participants and produced 25 recommendations.
- Through financial support to CSOs (Youth Fund) and informal groups (Youth Achievement Fund), dialogue was further expanded, engaging more than 800 participants across various exchange formats and generating over 200 additional policy recommendations.

**The capacities of CSOs and youth to address political, economic, and social challenges in the context of EU integration were strengthened.**

- 2 six-day Politeia regional schools for youth participation engaged 50 young professionals increasing their knowledge on the EU, EU integration process, public policy cycle, human rights, democratic governance, media and digital literacy
- 6 Politeia thematic sessions involving 75 young people and resulting in 131 recommendations proved to be an interactive tool for learning and participation in public policy dialogue
- Online youth forum with 1,169 participants generating over 588 contributions and exchanged information and experience
- 10 interns participated in two-month regional internship programme
- 9 CSOs and 10 informal groups were financially supported through Youth Fund and Youth Achievement Fund through which their knowledge and organizational capacities were strengthened
- Regional cooperation was notably enhanced, with 105 new partnerships established at the regional level, bringing the total number of partnerships across all levels to 401.
- Synergies were also maintained with key regional and youth initiatives, including the RCC, WBYL, RYCO, TACSO, national youth councils and many others, as well as some EU based organizations, such as ALDA, CEE Gender Network and others.

**Participatory democracy, democratic values, and the benefits of EU integration for Western Balkan societies were consistently promoted across all activities.**

- The Awareness Raising Strategy was effectively implemented across the Western Balkans promoting youth participation and youth policy concerns
- 24 blogs and opinion pieces were produced
- 2,035 social media posts were created
- 36 newsletters were published
- 5 outreach videos were produced and transmitted through various communication channels.
- The overall outreach was nearly 1,800,000 citizens across the region

# Monitoring and Advocacy

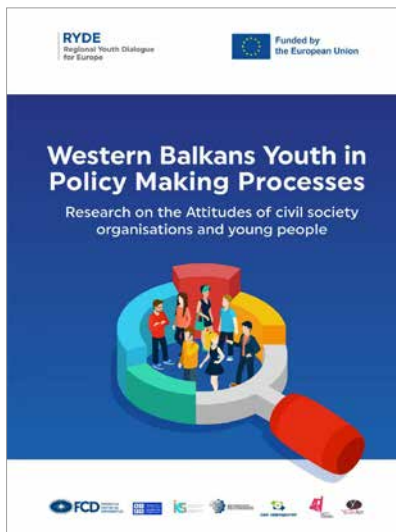


Monitoring and Advocacy work package consisted of activities that

- provided data and enable sharing of knowledge on public policies relevant for youth in the WB
- brought in good practice and innovative EU based policies (EU Youth Strategy and related policies)
- increased CSOs and youth organizations` participation in monitoring youth related public policies and engaged in dialogue with policy makers at local/national/regional level
- promoted the formulated policy proposals and advocate for mainstreaming of youth policies on local/national/regional level and developed the needed cross sectoral cooperation and planning in addressing youth needs in the region.

# Survey on youth policies and social investment in the Western Balkan

The Survey on the attitudes of youth organizations and activists about youth policies in the Western Balkans aimed to collect data on youth organizations' approach for improving youth policies, experienced obstacles and lessons learnt from the participation in policy making processes. The Survey was conducted through the Online Survey and through in person interviews with 150 civil society organizations. The Survey was published in January 2024, with the summaries in Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian and English. It was presented to the public on media events organized by project partners.

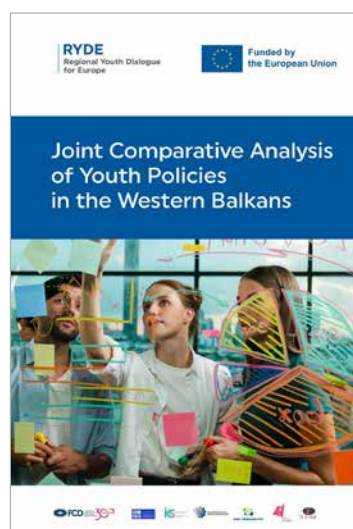


The respondents identified the list of priority issues for young people in the WB:

- YOUTH PARTICIPATION
- MEDIA & DIGITAL LITERACY
- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
- SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
- CULTURE AND YOUTH
- QUALITY EDUCATION
- HOUSING AND AFFORDABLE LIVING CONDITIONS
- MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT

Significant majority of the respondents shared the same perception of the status of youth participation in the region and of the quality of youth related policies:

- The policy making process vis a vis youth shall be improved and become more transparent and inclusive.
- The youth related priorities shall be incorporated in all relevant policies.
- The priorities of marginalizes groups are not best addressed in relevant policies.
- The efficiency of the policy-making process was best ranked in Kosovo\*, followed by Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (listed from best to lowest ranked).



## Desk study

The Desk study produced new knowledge and provided comparative insight of youth policies, coherence of measures previewed in youth public policies with policies in other related areas.

The Study was focused on three key areas identified as particularly relevant to youth in the WB:

- Socioeconomic field: employment, education and the sexual and reproductive health;
- Youth participation: civic and political engagement, social inclusion and youth in decision-making process;
- Media, culture and the digital world: youth media and digital literacy and strengthening of critical thinking, representation of young peo-

ple in the media space, visibility and media affirmation of marginalized youth, and youth participation in creating cultural policies;

The Study produced 45 recommendations for improving youth policies in the field of employment, education, sexual and reproductive health, youth participation, media and digital literacy, and culture, as served as a basis for the Policy Labs.

## Youth Policy Labs

RYDE Youth Policy Labs are dialogue sessions aimed at strengthening structured dialogue between young people and policymakers at national and regional levels in order to jointly formulate recommendations for improving public policies relevant for youth in the Western Balkan countries.

The Labs provided a platform for the young people from the region for active involvement in decision-making processes that address their needs and priorities and have an impact on their everyday lives. The Labs also encouraged and strengthened capacities of civil society organizations, particularly youth organizations, to take part in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies related to young people.



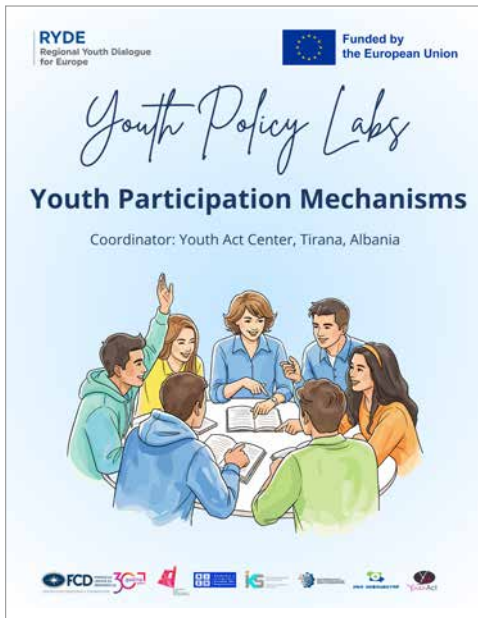


- Five youth-related thematic areas were covered through the Youth Policy Labs.
- Six sessions were organized at national and regional levels for each of selected topics.
- Each topic was coordinated by one project partner:
  - > **Media & Digital Literacy**, coordinated by NGO Info Center, Skopje, North Macedonia
  - > **Sexual & Reproductive Health**, coordinated by Kosovar Stability Initiative, Pristina, Kosovo
  - > **Youth Employment / Youth Guarantee**, coordinated by the Network of Progressive Initiatives, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - > **Youth Participation**, coordinated by Youth Act, Tirana, Albania
  - > **Culture & Cultural Heritage**, coordinated by the Center for Democracy Foundation, Belgrade, in cooperation with the Regional Academy for Democratic Development, Novi Sad, Serbia
- During 2024 and 2025, 30 Youth Policy Labs took place at national and regional level, bringing together over 350 participants, including young people, decision-makers, civil society organizations, youth organizations, members of political parties, and experts. Seventy recommendations for improving youth policies in the Western Balkans were formulated across five key areas and submitted to public institutions across the region.



# Key recommendation

## 1. Youth Participation - Recommendations

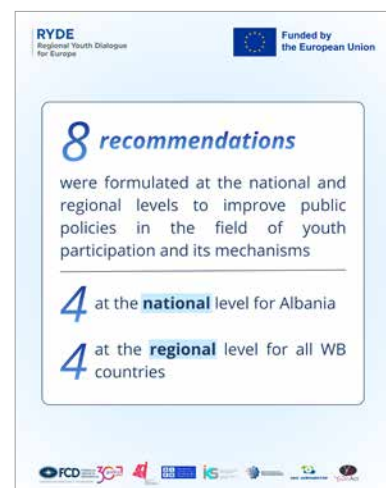


### National level (Albania):

- Establish a permanent parliamentary youth sub-committee to ensure consistent attention to youth-related issues, strengthen oversight of youth policies and provide an institutional channel for youth participation
- Establish a structured youth dialogue platform enabling continuous communication between young people and policymakers and supporting their active participation in decision-making
- Increase investments in youth infrastructure, including schools, sports facilities, and community spaces, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to support youth development and social inclusion
- Integrate comprehensive civic education into school curricula, strengthening civic competencies, practical understanding of governance, and active participation of young people in public life

### Regional level:

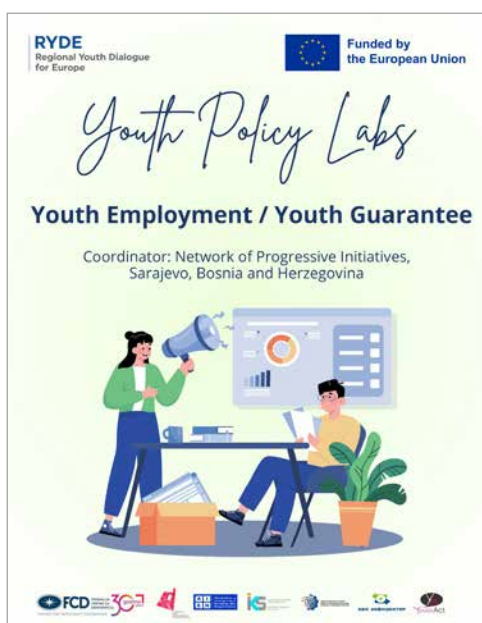
- Establish dedicated and sustainable funding mechanisms for youth-driven initiatives in the WB, ensuring access for youth councils, youth organizations and community-based initiatives
- Strengthen youth policies through cross-sectoral cooperation, active involvement of civil society, and inclusive mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in decision-making
- Establish regular communication channels between youth representatives and young people across the WB, including consultations, surveys and community engagement
- Develop structured and accessible youth volunteering programmes in the WB, in partnership with education institutions, civil society, and local authorities, supporting active citizenship and skills development



## 2. Youth Employment / Youth Guarantee - Recommendations

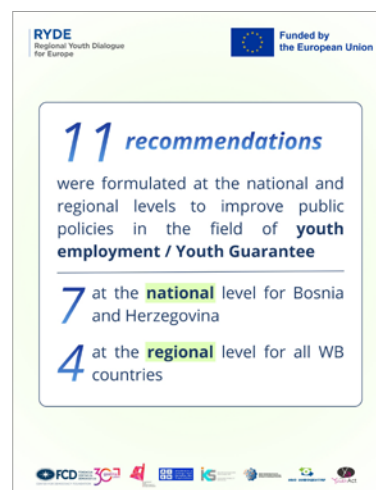
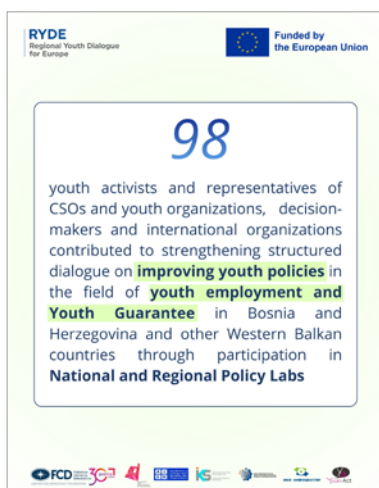
### National level (Bosnia and Herzegovina):

- Accelerate the adoption of the Youth Strategy 2025–2034 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and ensure effective implementation of measures on youth employment and social inclusion
- Align youth laws and strategies with the Youth Guarantee Scheme across all levels of governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Strengthen the implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Brčko District through adequate funding, improved institutional cooperation, capacity building, and stronger monitoring mechanisms
- Strengthen multi-sectoral cooperation on youth employment by improving coordination across governance levels and engaging key stakeholders, including the private sector
- Integrate training facilities and career counselling services into strategic frameworks, with focus on vulnerable groups and policy coherence

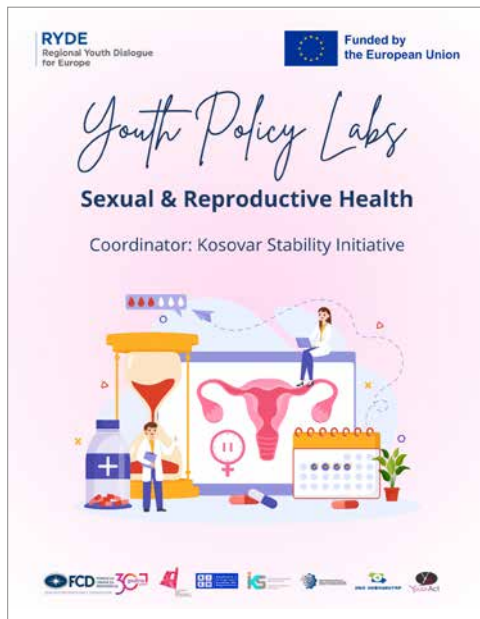


### Regional level:

- Strengthen multisectoral cooperation across the WB by establishing structured frameworks, improving cross-border coordination, and involving relevant stakeholders in Youth Guarantee programs
- Improve monitoring of Youth Guarantee implementation through EU-aligned indicators, strengthened data collection, and involvement of civil society and youth representatives
- Enhance youth outreach across the Western Balkans through exchange of good practices, joint regional approaches, and stronger cooperation between institutions and youth organizations
- Strengthen capacities of public employment services through regional cooperation, peer learning, staff exchanges, and joint training programs

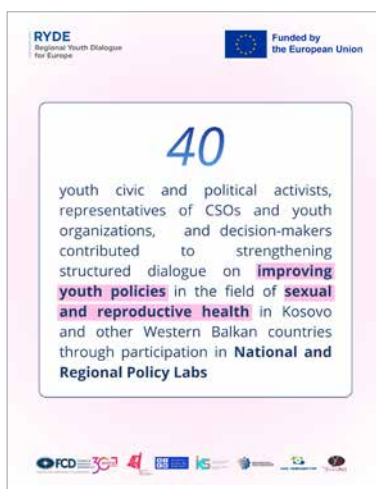


### 3. Sexual & Reproductive Health - Recommendations



#### National level (Kosovo):

- Revise Kosovo Curriculum Framework by introducing sexual and reproductive education as a mandatory subject in pre-university education, supported by an teacher training and revise the Law on Pre-University Education to provide legal backing for mandatory sexual and reproductive education
  - Reduce VAT on menstrual products to improve affordability and access and exempt menstrual products from customs duties to ensure equitable access
  - Revise the Health Strategy to introduce subsidies for contraceptives and strengthen youth-friendly health services and align the reproductive health policy framework with international standards to ensure access to services for youth and vulnerable groups
  - Revise the Primary Healthcare Reform Plan to establish dedicated sexual and reproductive health service units
  - Implement nationwide awareness campaigns and preventive youth-friendly SRH programs
- Establish youth advisory councils on sexual and reproductive health within relevant ministries
  - Revise the National Youth Strategy and Law on Youth to strengthen youth participation in SRH policy-making



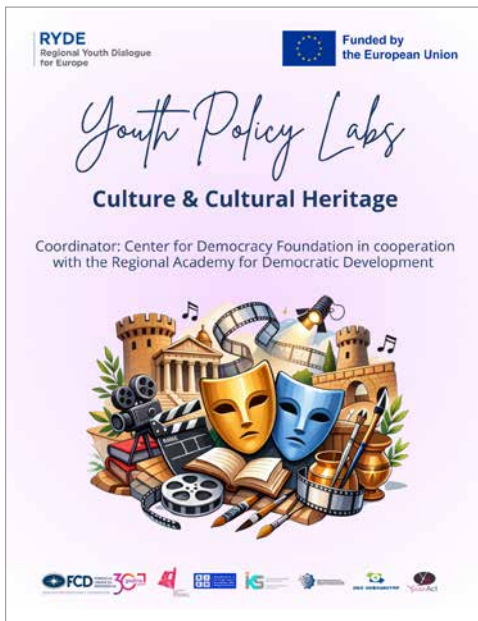
#### Regional level:

- Reduce VAT on menstrual products and essential contraceptives in Albania to improve affordability and access
- Standardize youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services across Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Develop a unified national SRH framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina ensuring equal access across entities
- Introduce comprehensive sexual education in Montenegro through amendments to education laws
- Ensure free and youth-friendly SRH services in Montenegro through health policy reforms
- Establish a centralized system for monitoring youth SRH indicators in North Macedonia
- Align SRH strategies in North Macedonia with international standards and strengthen implementation mechanisms
- Introduce comprehensive sexuality education in Serbia through amendments to education laws
- Ensure affordable and confidential access to SRH services for youth in Serbia through health policy reforms
- Strengthen gender equality legislation in Serbia to ensure free access to SRH services and sustainable funding

## 4. Culture & Cultural Heritage – Recommendations

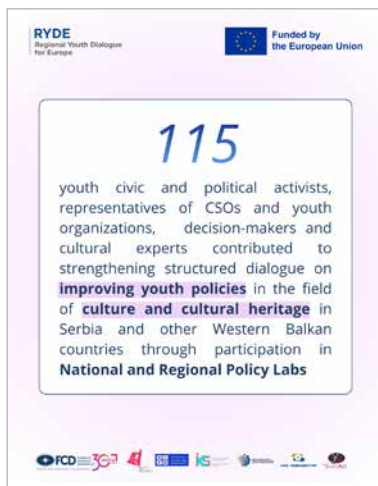
### National level (Serbia):

- Increase youth participation in the development of cultural policies and systematically include youth representatives in cultural policy-making bodies at the national, regional, and local levels
- Initiate public consultations for drafting a new national strategy for the development of culture
  - Align national cultural strategies with the National Youth Strategy and with action plans in cities and municipalities
  - Increase budget allocations for culture and establish a long-term financial framework for cultural initiatives and activities
  - Integrate green, digital, and social transition into youth cultural policies
  - Create a comprehensive strategic framework for youth participation in the EU cultural funding programmes
  - Ensure inclusive youth cultural policies for vulnerable and marginalized groups
  - Align laws on culture with ratified European and international conventions and standards

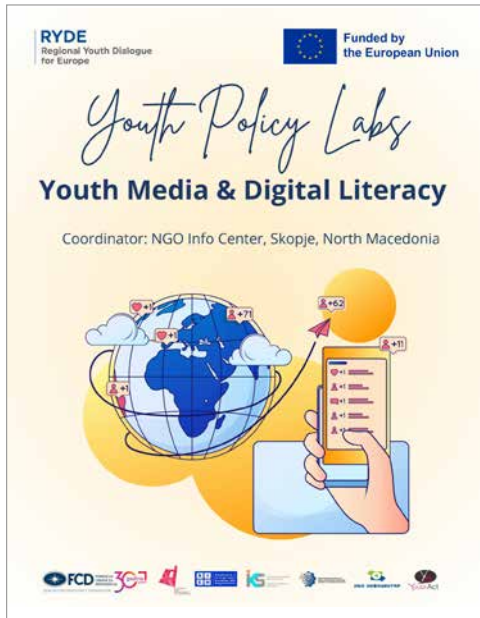


### Regional level:

- Increase public investment in culture in the Western Balkans in line with EU and UNESCO standards
- Develop new or update cultural strategies in the WB with a strong youth mainstreaming approach
- Institutionalize youth participation from the earliest stages of cultural policymaking in the WB
- Establish a regional platform for culture and youth in the WB
- Integrate culture in a more substantial way into school curricula in the WB
- Develop new pedagogical approaches and digital skills for cultural education in the WB
- Integrate culture and youth into public media policies and media funding schemes in the WB
- Decentralize cultural infrastructure and develop networks of youth cultural spaces in the WB

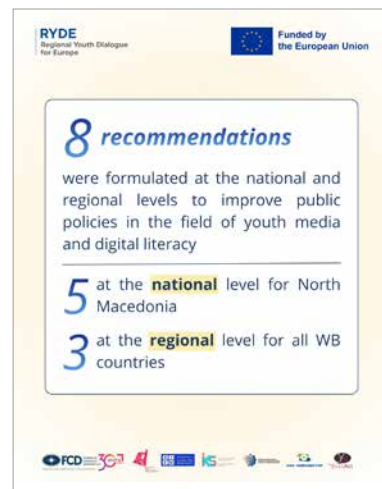


## 5. Media & Digital Literacy - Recommendations



### National level (North Macedonia):

- Revise the Law on Media and the Law on Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services in line with EU legislation, through consultation with civil society and stakeholders
- Adopt a comprehensive national strategy for media literacy, developed through an inclusive process, defining priorities and measures to improve media literacy among young people
- Adopt a national strategy for digital literacy aligned with the EU Digital Competence Framework, , integrating digital literacy into formal education, and strengthening online safety
- Adopt a national strategy for artificial intelligence aligned with the EU AI Act, introducing ethical standards, monitoring mechanisms and safeguards, while enabling young people to benefit from AI-driven innovations
- Establish sustainable public funding for media literacy programs through a dedicated national funding stream, supported by independent monitoring mechanisms



### Regional level:

- Revise and update public policy documents on media and digitalization in the WB in line with EU legislation, ensuring inclusive and participatory processes and effective implementation
- Integrate media and digital literacy into national education systems across the WB at all levels, through critical thinking approaches, teacher training, adapted learning resources and support for non-formal education
- Establish sustainably funded national platforms for media and digital literacy in the WB and develop a regional network to strengthen cooperation, exchange of practices and joint initiatives

# 6

## Public debates on issues relevant for youth in the WB

# 257

## participants

**Six public debates were held in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Tirana, and Pristina, bringing together 257 participants from the Western Balkans.**

The debates addressed some of the most pressing and challenging issues affecting young people in the region.



## 1<sup>ST</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE

### Youth Participation in Political Processes in the Western Balkans

organized by ADD on 14 December 2023 in Belgrade

The debate was attended by 66 representatives of civil society and youth organizations, civic and political activists, institutional representatives and members of the media.



#### PANELISTS

**Natalija Stojmenović**, a political youth activist from Serbia and a parliamentary candidate from the Serbia Against Violence list

**Sofija Kirsanov**, a youth activist and co-founder of the NGO "Network for Youth Activism" in Montenegro

**Sofija Todorović**, director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Belgrade

**Damir Zejnullahović** from the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade

**Mia Bjelogrić**, journalist was moderating the debate

#### The participants agreed that:

- Youth participation in political processes in the WB is significantly below desired level, with substantial room for improvement
- Young people remain distanced from decision-making positions as it is discouraging and demotivating for them
- The level of involvement is usually limited to voting, which is also at the low level
- Significant percentage of young people hold radical standpoints
- Young people, particularly women and members of marginalized groups, face discrimination and challenges when joining political processes
- Regional cross sectoral cooperation needs to be improved in order to better address the youth needs.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE

### The Role of Youth in the EU Integration Process of the WB

organized by CDF on October 2, 2024, in Belgrade

Forty-five debate participants discussed the role of youth in the European integration process in the region.

**The key questions were addressed:** What obstacles do young people in the Western Balkans see in the EU integration process? How can cooperation between youth, civil society, and decision-makers be improved in terms of youth participation in decision-making regarding reform processes? What concrete benefits can youth expect from EU membership, particularly in terms of education, employment, and freedom of movement? How can young people contribute to the improvement of democracy, rule of law, and regional cooperation in their communities?



#### PANELISTS

Jelena Banjac, Movement of Free Citizens

Milica Borjanić, National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS)

Antonella Valmorbida, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

Aleksandar Nikolić, Union of High School Students of Serbia (via Zoom)

Jovana Božičković, Youth Expert

Miloš Pavković, Center for European Policies

Vladimir Perazić, Network for Youth of Montenegro

Ismar Ajkunić, Youth Council of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (via Zoom)

Lazar Paunović, National Movement of Serbia

Mina Rolović Jočić, CDF



## THE 3<sup>RD</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE

### The Impact of Migration on Regional Youth: Workforce in Transition

organized by IKS on 15 January 2025 in Europe House in Pristina

The debate brought together 26 participants, including representatives of CSOs and youth organizations, youth council members, youth activists, representatives of public institutions, youth political party members and media representatives.



#### PANELISTS

**Marigona Nikçi**  
from the Ministry of Health in Kosovo

**Brikena Hoxha** from IKS

**Jeton Qengaj,**  
Director of Avoko NGO

**Renisa Selenica,**  
a youth migrant worker in Kosovo

**Brikena Berisha** from IKS

**Arrnise Xharra** from IKS

Their combined expertise provided an advocacy perspective, policy insights, and lived experiences related to youth migration and employment opportunities in the region. The discussions helped identify policy gaps, address migration misconceptions, and provide actionable recommendations for enhancing youth employment opportunities in Kosovo and other WB countries.



## 4<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE

### Youth Employment, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurship: From Awareness to Concrete Policy Measures

organized by NPI on 15 December 2025 in Sarajevo

The debate brought together 54 participants, primarily youth activists, university students, and representatives of relevant institutions.

The key questions addressed in the debate were: the transition from education to labour market, ensuring access to quality employment opportunities for young people, strengthening financial education systems, and creation of a more supportive environment for youth entrepreneurship.

Participants also explored the role of public institutions, education systems, and the private sector in addressing these challenges.



#### Key recommendations are:

- It is necessary to move beyond short-term and fragmented interventions and instead develop long-term, systemic solutions.
- Gradual introduction of Youth Guarantee principles shall be applied
- Career guidance and work-based learning shall be improved
- Financial literacy shall be integrated into formal education
- Access to funding and mentorship for young entrepreneurs shall be established
- Coordination between different policy sectors needs to be improved



## 5<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE Youth Against Corruption

organized by AIEN on 20 January 2026 at DUA Space in Tirana

The debate brought together 36 participants who participated in a structured and interactive dialogue on the role of youth in anti-corruption efforts, transparency and good governance. The discussion was led by a panel of experts from relevant institutions and organizations who provided insights into ongoing anti-corruption efforts in Albania, with a particular focus on the importance of youth engagement in strengthening transparency and accountability mechanisms. The debate contributed to strengthening public dialogue on anti-corruption in Albania, while highlighting the role of youth as active contributors to policy development and reform processes in the area of transparency and good governance.



**The policy recommendations** focused on the strengthening civic education for anti-corruption programs, increasing structured youth participation in decision-making processes, improving corruption reporting mechanisms, and expanding the use of digital tools and open data to enhance transparency. The participants also highlighted the need to promote culture of integrity among young professionals through education, training, and mentorship.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> PUBLIC DEBATE

### Youth and the 2030 Agenda

organized by the CDF on 28 May 2025 in Belgrade

Thirty representatives of public institutions, CSOs, youth organizations, political parties and independent institutions took part in the debate which was aimed to strengthen dialogue on the role of youth in achieving the 2030 Agenda and to explore how public policies and local initiatives can better respond to the diverse needs of young people.



Particular emphasis was placed on the principle “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB), highlighting the importance of inclusive, tailored, and coordinated policy measures. The discussion highlighted gender disparities in employment and education, as well as the need to integrate gender equality into labor market and education policies. Challenges faced by young people at risk of poverty and social exclusion and high NEET rates in the Western Balkans were given special attention.



#### The debate resulted in several policy-oriented conclusions:

- Strengthen support for young people at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- Improve the effectiveness and coverage of employment measures
- Ensure better integration of gender-sensitive approaches in public policies
- Continuous monitoring of strategic documents
- Stronger alignment of national and local policies with the 2030 Agenda

# Regional youth conference on the future of the WB

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE

### Western Balkan Youth and EU: Shaping Our Common Future

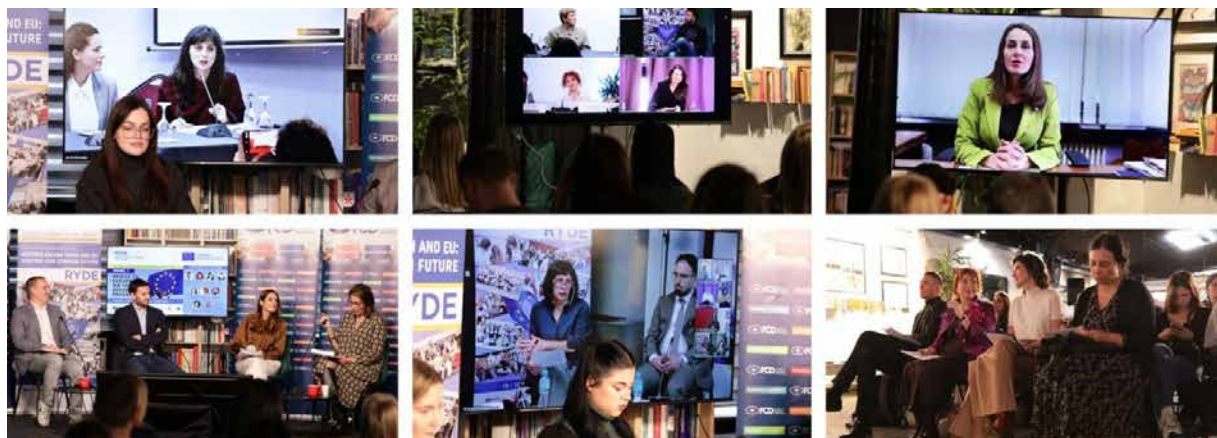
took place on 18–19 November 2025 as a high-level hybrid event

515 participants (247 in vivo and 268 online) participated at the Conference which was simultaneously organized across five regional hubs in Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana, and Pristina, and streamed live via the Zoom platform, ensuring wide accessibility and cross-border participation.

The event was organized through real-time coordination across multiple locations, synchronized program delivery and seamless digital connectivity between participants. The conference was conducted in four languages, with simultaneous interpretation provided to ensure full accessibility and effective communication among participants from across the region. Partner organizations from all five regional hubs (Belgrade, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tirana, and Pristina) had opening remarks, reflecting the strong regional ownership of the event.



Opening remarks were followed by keynote contributions from **Plamena Halačeva**, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia, who emphasized the importance of dialogue and youth engagement in addressing key societal challenges, and **Nataša Vučković**, Secretary General of the Center for Democracy Foundation, who highlighted the role of young people as drivers of democratic change and European values in the Western Balkans. In a video address, **Brankica Janković**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia, encouraged young people to actively participate in shaping inclusive and resilient societies.



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WESTERN BALKAN YOUTH AND EU: SHAPING OUR COMMON FUTURE

ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE – FIVE CITIES – ONE VISION  
BELGRADE • SARAJEVO • SPOJJE • TIRANA • PRISTINA

**PANEL I**

**BRIDGE TO EUROPE:  
WB YOUTH  
IN REFORM  
PROCESSES**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 / 11:00-12:15**

Participants: Perla Geković, Maja Vranar, Ksenija Barilević, Irma Bešlićević, Deshanje Ahmeti, Emir Corić, Mark Budenjak, Moderator: Ljubica Gogić, Facilitator: Boris Kullmann.

Logos: FCD, Center for Democracy Foundation, and various partner organizations.

**PANEL I**  
**A Bridge to Europe – Western Balkan Youth in Reform Processes**

focused on strengthening youth participation in policymaking, with key recommendations emphasizing the establishment of institutional mechanisms such as youth councils, parliamentary bodies, and the introduction of Youth Test tools in public policy development.

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**PANEL II**

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT  
IN AI ERA: YOUTH  
GUARANTEE IN THE  
WB – CHALLENGES  
& OPPORTUNITIES?**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 / 12:30-13:45**

Participants: Saimira Kopani, Anil Gashi, Sara Zekaj, Marijana Anđelkova, Ljiljana Pendić, Jovan Pristić, Moderator: Briljana Barisic, Facilitator: Erhino Ajdari.

Logos: FCD, Center for Democracy Foundation, and various partner organizations.

**PANEL II**  
**Youth Employment in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: The Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans – Challenges and Opportunities**

addressed structural challenges in youth employment, highlighting the need to strengthen institutional capacities, improve outreach to vulnerable youth, and enhance cooperation with the private sector in implementing Youth Guarantee measures.

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**PANEL III**

**YOUTH WELL-BEING  
IN FOCUS:  
HEALTH, HOUSING, CULTURE**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 / 10:15-11:30**

Participants: Dragana Karavaska, Nedica Skoparaska, Mehmet Selihu, Katerina Vučković, Vukasin Gvozdenović, Dorinda Tanellari, Biljana Dukovska, Moderator: Ana Zdravna.

Logos: FCD, Center for Democracy Foundation, and various partner organizations.

**PANEL III**  
**Youth Well-being in Focus: Health, Housing, Culture**

emphasized the importance of integrated, youth-centred policies, recommending the development of accessible health services, sustainable housing solutions, and inclusive cultural frameworks that support youth participation.

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**PANEL IV**

**YOUTH IN THE DIGITAL LANDSCAPE: SECURITY, TRUST AND RESILIENCE**

Armando Bado, Advisor Sloba, Albania  
Sead Džepić, International Balkan University, N. Macedonia  
Mirala Bikić - Bogačević, PhD, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Andriana Ristić, Share Foundation, Serbia  
Fajla Zejneliher, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo  
Facilitator: Fjorelisa Gackaj, Researcher AIEA, Albania  
Moderator: Luqman Lala, Development Communication Officer, Albania

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 / 11:30-12:45

## PANEL IV

### Young People in the Digital Landscape: Safety, Trust, and Resilience

focused on digital transformation, underlining the need for improved digital literacy, inclusive and evidence-based digital policies, and stronger alignment with EU standards, including the development of trust and resilience in the online environment.

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**PANEL V**

**YOUTH AND NATURE: A PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE GREEN FUTURE**

Ermina Selković, "Džardević", Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Amela Jusufović, JF Romantir, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Leyla Juska-Sardović, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Lilijana Dineva, IFCC Institute, North Macedonia  
Kostjan Jann, s&A Consulting Group, Albania  
Skrepso Krasniqi, Kosovo Stability Initiative, Kosovo  
Jenka Jecović, Open School, Serbia  
Facilitator: Ines Berdimirzajeva, Research Assistant and Youth Activist, BiH  
Moderator: Matej Mujeković, International Burch University, BiH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 / 13:00-14:15

## PANEL V

### Youth and Nature: A Partnership for a Sustainable Green Future

addressed environmental sustainability, with recommendations calling for meaningful youth involvement in climate policymaking, the development of green skills, and improved access to funding for youth-led environmental initiatives.

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**ONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE - FIVE CITIES - ONE VISION**

**BELGRADE • SARAJEVO • SKOPJE • TIRANA • PRISTINA**

**WESTERN BALKAN YOUTH AND EU: SHAPING OUR COMMON FUTURE**

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2025

The conference provided a platform for presenting the results of projects supported under the Youth Fund and Active Achievement Fund. It demonstrated the impact of small-scale projects in promoting youth participation, policy advocacy, and regional cooperation.

# 2 |

## Capacity Building

This work package aimed to raise capacities of CSOs, youth organizations, students and civic activists from the Western Balkan. CSOs and youth organizations increased their knowledge on EU integration process, youth related reforms and structural dialogue. They were also empowered with new knowledge on drafting project proposals, management of the projects and policy design processes. Students obtained new knowledge and skills about the functioning of the European Union, reform processes in the Western Balkans and about the policies affecting young people.



# Regional School Politeia

Politeia is more than just a school – it is a space for learning, exchanging ideas, building connections and strengthening European values.

Out of 316 applicants, 50 young professionals from all WB6 countries took part in the two Politeia Schools, and all of them, based on evaluation questionnaires, reported improved knowledge and skills in the EU integration process, public policymaking, youth participation mechanisms, structured dialogue, human rights and EU values, as well as enhanced capacities in critical thinking, debate, and project design. Participants of the Politeia School included representatives of CSOs, youth council members, youth activists, representatives of political parties, media representatives, and young professionals working in public institutions. Politeia School courses channeled the life of those young people of different background, ethnicity, education, coming from all over WBs. Seven-day programme resulted in a dynamic learning environment which provided a platform for building long-term personal and professional connections across the WB.

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**Applications  
for POLITEIA Regional School  
for Youth Participation  
are open!**

Deadline for submitting application is June 4, 2023

Free participation - Accommodation and travel costs covered

INSTITUT | INSTITUTE |  
**POLITEIA**  
SINCE 2012

FCD CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY FOUNDATION

ALBA INSTITUTION FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS

IS

НВО ИНФОЦЕНТАР

YOUTHACT

## What Politeia offered to young people in the Western Balkans?

- Connecting with young people from the region
- Learning through participants'-oriented approach
- Talks about young people' priorities
- Creating their own group projects and obtaining initial financing
- Possibility to participate in other RYDE project activities

During Politeia Schools, Viber and WhatsApp groups were established, bringing together all Politeia alumni from 2023 and 2025. These platforms are actively used for communication, exchange of information, sharing opportunities and experiences, photos and updates from joint events and informal meet-ups. This ongoing interaction demonstrated a sustained level of engagement, strengthening mutual understanding, fostering regional cooperation, and maintaining long-term connections among young people across the WB, and sustaining long-term engagement among young people across the region.

# 1<sup>ST</sup> POLITEIA REGIONAL SCHOOL FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

6-12 July 2023 in Niš (South Serbia) / 24 young persons from all WB6



## 2<sup>ND</sup> POLITEIA REGIONAL SCHOOL FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

21–27 September 2025 Belgrade • 26 young participants from across the WB



Participants engaged in a series of modules addressing key topics such as

- EU identity and values
- National and European identity
- Political, economic, and social implications of EU enlargement for the Western Balkans
- Policy dimension of EU integration, including rule of law, anti-corruption frameworks, and democratic resilience in times of polarization and declining trust in institutions
- Key social and youth-related policy areas, including social cohesion, gender equality, inclusion of minority groups, and the "Leave No One Behind" principle
- Public policy making, including the policy cycle, stakeholder mapping, and mechanisms of structured dialogue
- Climate change challenges
- Civil society in the WB
- Media, media literacy and toxic media narrative
- EU programs for youth
- Youth participation in structured dialogue



### Achievements:

- Enhanced participants' knowledge through interactive discussions, group work, and exchanges with experts from academia, civil society, and policy making institutions
- Participants exchanged views about contemporary challenges: youth and the impact of artificial intelligence on the labour market, the rise of populism, the role of media and toxic media narrative
- Participants explored how public policies are shaped within the EU integration process and how these reforms impact governance and societal development in the region
- Participants increased their debating capacities during discussions with lecturers and panelists
- Participants were empowered to actively engage in structured dialogue.



## Politeia Thematic Sessions

Six Politeia Thematic Sessions were organized with 75 young professionals from all WB6 countries. The topics of the sessions included education, youth employment, youth health, digital literacy, green agenda and climate change and housing. All sessions combined two parts: in the first part, participants learnt about main theoretical approaches to address the problems in the specific area, and they learnt about relevant key public policies in the WB economies. In the second part participants learnt how public policies are designed, adopted, implemented and monitored. Public policy stages were presented as well as the different types of policies, instruments, and actors involved in the policy process. Participants learned how to identify and define policy problems, analyze policy options, and formulate evidence-based recommendations. Finally, they formulated some policy recommendations which would improve the youth quality of life in the WB.

## 1<sup>ST</sup> POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSION

### Youth and employment policies in the Western Balkans

organised in Skopje by NGO Info-centre from 21-23 November 2023

- The interactive group work encouraged participants to critically reflect on existing frameworks, including questions related to policy coverage and existing gaps.
- Through dedicated sessions on the policy cycle, participants were introduced to the stages of policy development, from problem identification and agenda setting to implementation and evaluation.
- Participants developed four policy briefs addressing key regional challenges. These included:
  - > strengthening social cohesion among ethnic groups in Kosovo, with recommendations focusing on inclusive political discourse, economic integration of marginalized communities (particularly Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities), and the promotion of interethnic cooperation through education and local initiatives;
  - > advancing inclusiveness in democratic processes for minority groups in Albania, proposing improvements in the legal framework, better recognition of minorities, enhanced access to education and public services, and increased political participation;
  - > addressing youth unemployment in North Macedonia, with a focus on reducing the skills mismatch, improving data systems, strengthening education-labour market linkages, and enhancing the implementation of the Youth Guarantee;
  - > enhancing youth engagement for inclusive development, recommending stronger youth representation in policymaking, reforms in education systems, and the creation of mechanisms that encourage youth participation in political processes.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSION

### Green Agenda and Policy Making in the Western Balkans

organised by the CDF from 27-29 November 2023 in Belgrade

The workshop combined a thematic focus on environmental policies with a strong emphasis on public policymaking skills, enabling participants to better understand and engage with the Green Agenda within the EU integration framework.

The introductory session focused on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, highlighting key regional environmental challenges.

- A central part of the workshop was dedicated to analyzing key policy frameworks related to EU integration.
- Participants explored how environmental policies intersect with other sectors such as energy, transport, and industry, and how these reforms directly affect young people and their future opportunities.
- Particular attention was given to the importance of youth engagement and cross-sectoral cooperation in ensuring effective implementation of the Green Agenda.

Participants developed three policy briefs addressing key environmental challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- *Enhancing Sustainable Management of Rivers in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, proposing measures such as stricter environmental regulations, ecosystem protection, integrated water resource management, and stronger community engagement in environmental governance;
- *Hydropower in the Western Balkans: Case of Bosnia and Herzegovina*, focusing on the environmental impact of small hydropower plants and recommending a transition towards more sustainable energy sources, particularly solar and wind energy, alongside stronger regulatory frameworks;
- *Air Pollution in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, addressing severe air quality challenges through recommendations such as transitioning to renewable energy, improving industrial standards, reforming transport systems, and strengthening regulatory and monitoring mechanisms.



### 3<sup>RD</sup> POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSION

#### Education and Policy Making in the Western Balkans

organized by NPI from 21–23 January 2025 in Sarajevo

Participants analyzed key challenges in the education sector, including the mismatch between education systems and labour market needs, digital transformation of education, and issues related to inclusiveness and equal access.

Through group work and guided exercises, participants learned how to define policy problems, set objectives, formulate measures, and assess the potential social impact of policies. This process was further supported through a structured mentoring programme.

Participants developed 31 policy recommendations within 6 policy briefs for each country regarding the following:

- aligning education in the region's countries with the modern labour market
- enhancing inclusive education for blind and visually impaired students in Kosovo through assistive technology, the digital transformation of higher education institutions in Montenegro,
- advancing digitalization in Serbia's education system
- promoting digital and media literacy in elementary schools in Montenegro
- modernizing North Macedonia's vocational education and training system and
- boosting business-university collaboration in Albania through knowledge transfer offices and tax incentives.



#### 4<sup>TH</sup> POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSION

**Youth and Digital Agenda: Digitalization Impact on Western Balkans Youth**  
organized by AIEN from June 19-21, in Tirana

- Key topics included the right to privacy and data protection, freedom of expression, access to information, and ensuring equality and non-discrimination.
- Participants examined the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation in the context of human rights.
- Participants also discussed the right to digital education and the importance of cybersecurity rights.

Participants successfully developed 21 policy recommendations within 2 policy briefs.

- Introducing digital transformation within Montenegro's higher education sector.
- The brief "Consequences of Cyber-Violence Against Girls and Women in Albania" addresses the critical issue of cyber-violence and its impact on girls and women in Albania.



## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> THEMATIC SESSION

### The Role of Youth Mental Health in Building a Resilient Society

organized by YA from November 12–14, 2025 in Belgrade

- The session focused on youth mental health in the Western Balkans, combining a thematic understanding of the issue with a policy-oriented approach
- Participants explored digital well-being, particularly the impact of social media and constant online exposure, as well as the role of mental health in strengthening youth resilience in the context of social and economic crises.
- The importance of social inclusion and belonging was also emphasized, reinforcing the need for inclusive and youth-oriented public policies.
- Particular attention was given to assessing the social impact of policies, especially on youth and vulnerable groups, and to promoting evidence-based and human-centered approaches.

#### Participants created a set of five recommendations:

- Strengthening evidence-based policymaking through increased investment in research and systematic data collection.
- Improvement of the access to mental health services within the education system by introducing mandatory psychologist-to-student ratios in schools, thereby ensuring more adequate and timely support for young people.
- Establishment of regular certification and continuous professional development requirements for psychologists is to be introduced.
- Strengthening institutional support mechanisms is needed, particularly by enhancing support for intern psychologists working in schools through structured mentorship and system-wide backing.
- Facilitating smoother transitions from education to the labour market by expanding apprenticeship opportunities in high schools, supported through stronger government incentives and increased co-operation with industry.



## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSION

### Public Policies for WB Youth Housing Independence

organized by ADD from December 22–23, 2025 in Belgrade

- Participants discussed limited access to affordable housing, high rental costs, delayed home-leaving, and the interconnection between housing, employment, education, and migration trends in the region.
- Through comparative analysis, participants explored similarities and differences in youth housing policies across Western Balkan economies, identifying both good practices and existing gaps.
- The role of various stakeholders, including government institutions, local authorities, civil society, private sector actors, and youth organizations, was also discussed, highlighting the importance of inclusive and participatory policy-making processes.



Participants successfully developed 36 policy recommendations across five policy briefs.

- “Social and Public Housing” brief: introducing legal definitions of social housing, harmonising eligibility and allocation criteria, prioritising vulnerable groups, establishing dedicated national housing funds co-financed by public budgets and EU funds, integrating social housing into urban planning, and strengthening monitoring systems.
- “Rental Market Regulation in Montenegro” brief: improving the functioning and fairness of the rental market through stronger legal protections for tenants, regulation of rental prices and contracts, incentives for formalising informal rentals, improved enforcement mechanisms, and the development of monitoring systems to ensure transparency, affordability, and better access to housing for young people and vulnerable groups.
- “EU vs. WB Housing Gap” brief: aligning housing systems in the region with EU standards through the adoption of national affordable housing strategies with binding targets, the establishment of a dedicated EU–WB housing fund, the introduction of rent control mechanisms and minimum housing standards, targeted subsidies for young first-time buyers.
- Supporting youth independence in Serbia through a comprehensive “First Step” program combining education grants, state-guaranteed housing loans with favorable conditions, tax incentives for youth employment, the development of affordable student and youth housing, and financial support for young entrepreneurs to facilitate their transition to independent living.
- “Promoting Green Housing Through Incentives and Sustainable Urban Planning in the Western Balkans” envisages promotion of green housing through financial incentives and sustainable urban planning. Proposed measures include tax reductions and subsidies for energy-efficient buildings, low-interest loans for green construction and renovation, stricter enforcement of energy efficiency standards, integration of renewable energy and green infrastructure into urban planning.

## Online Youth Community Forum



The forum is an interactive platform for learning and exchange, designed to enhance communication and relationships among young people from the Western Balkans. Currently, 1169 people from the WB region are registered on the forum and they exchanged nearly six hundred comments on various topics.

The discussions are grouped into two main sections: the first section covers topics related to RYDE project activities, providing young people from the region with an opportunity to network and exchange key information about opportunities for participation in regional activities. The second section addresses issues that are relevant to all young people in the region, such as housing issue, opportunities for jobs and volunteering, youth migration, mental health and the influence of social networks.

## Internship program

The internship program provided a framework for young people in the region to learn and gain new work and regional experience, by spending two months on the internship program focused on monitoring reforms, either in youth policies or in other policies impacting the youth. They learned about civil society organizations' work, forms of structured dialogue, and contributed with their innovative ideas to the work of the organization they were assigned with; Interns were placed in one of the partners' offices.

In the selection phase, 155 applications were received and ten interns were selected for the programme in 2024 and 2025. They gained new **knowledge and practical skills** in advocacy and communication, the EU integration process, structured dialogue, and mechanisms of youth participation in decision-making processes, as well as project cycle management and event management.

**RYDE Interns:** Laila Šašivarević from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kimete Arifaj from Kosovo, Renisa Selencia from Albania, Sofija Petrović from Serbia, Dea Bislimi from Kosovo, Emina Odošić from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rina Cakani from Albania, Ena Bertok from Serbia, Bleona Abazi from Kosovo, Iva Dragojević from Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## Sub-granting Scheme



**Through this work package financial support to third parties (FSTP) was provided in the amount of 280.000 Euro through the sub-granting scheme for CSOs and informal groups.**

The biggest portion of the FSTP was provided through Youth Fund for CSOs, while small portion of the FSTP was provided through Active Achievement Fund as support to regional creative groups (informal groups).

Politeia fellows and participants of other RYDE activities were given the opportunity to apply for support under the Active Achievement Fund.

Financial support included capacity building for project development, management and reporting, through training, mentoring and intensive monitoring activities.

# Youth Fund


The Youth Fund for Local Youth Initiatives provided grants to support civil society organizations (CSOs) across the Western Balkans.

Nine CSOs were supported under the Youth Fund with an average budget of 25.000 EUR. These initiatives made an exceptionally significant contribution to the achievement of the RYDE Action's objectives, playing an important role in advancing its overall impact across the region.


## The supported small projects:

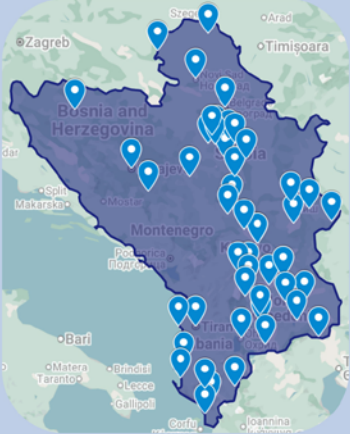
- Contributed to enhanced regional cooperation and mutual understanding among young people from diverse communities across the Western Balkans.
- Strengthened the capacities of a large number of youth and CSO representatives in areas such as evidence-based policymaking, monitoring and advocacy, leadership and communication, intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding, media and digital literacy, and environmental protection.
- Improved dialogue between youth, CSOs, and policymakers on issues relevant to young people, engaging a wide range of participants from youth groups, civil society, political actors, and public institutions through various public dialogue formats.
- Raised awareness of key issues affecting young people and societies in the region, including youth participation and civic engagement, education and local governance, employment and economic opportunities, environmental sustainability, media literacy, intercultural dialogue, reconciliation, social inclusion, and gender equality.
- Promoted democratic values, tolerant political culture, gender equality, and highlighted the broader political, economic, social, and cultural benefits of European integration for young people and citizens across the Western Balkans
- Resulted in the development of numerous recommendations and policy proposals aimed at improving the position of young people and advancing youth-related policies in the WB.

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## RYDE Sub-granting Program: What We Achieved and Where?

-  Enhanced **regional cooperation and mutual understanding among young people** across the Western Balkans.
-  **Strengthened the capacities of over 1,000 youth and CSO representatives** in evidence-based policymaking, advocacy, leadership, communication, intercultural dialogue, media literacy, environmental protection, women's political participation.
-  **Improved structured dialogue between youth, civil society, and policymakers** through engagements involving more than **550 representatives of youth, CSOs and public institutions**
-  **Increased awareness** of key issues for young people and societies in the region, including **youth participation, the benefits of the EU integration process, gender equality, tolerant political culture, reconciliation, sustainability, inclusion**
-  Developed more than **160 policy recommendations to improve youth position and policies** in areas such as **participation, sexual and reproductive health, education, employment, media literacy, digital safety, housing, women inheritance rights, environmental protection, regional cooperation**





## 1. PROJECT

### European Academy: fostering peace and integration through youth engagement

**Sub-grantee:** Albanian Institute for International Studies, Tirana, Albania in cooperation with European Movement Serbia

**Objective:** to increase the capacities and the engagement of young people from Albania and Serbia in shaping policies and promoting narrative of peace that bring their countries and the region closer to the European Union.

#### Key results:

- The European Academy served as a high-impact, capacity-building platform that brought together 21 young professionals from Serbia and Albania, significantly strengthening mutual understanding, trust, and cross-border cooperation.
- The Academy gathered representatives of key institutions and stakeholders, including the EU Delegation to Albania, represented by Ambassador Silvio Gonzato, and the Ambassador of Spain to Albania, Alvaro Renedo Zalba.
- Participants substantially enhanced their knowledge and analytical capacities on key regional and EU-related topics, including the EU Growth Plan, the Common Regional Market and EU integration of the Western Balkans, challenges in transatlantic relations and third-party influence in the region.
- Visits to the House of Leaves Museum and BunkArt Museum in Tirana were part of the programme, contributing to a deeper understanding of dealing with the past.
- Joint Youth Declaration for Peace resulted from the project: it includes recommendations aimed at improving cultural exchange programmes, promoting inclusive and intersectional approaches to youth engagement, establishing participatory advocacy platforms for youth involvement in decision-making processes, integrating peacebuilding and intercultural dialogue into formal education systems, and strengthening efforts to combat disinformation and enhance media literacy.
- The Declaration was promoted through meetings with high-level stakeholders.
- The project ensured strong outreach and visibility through engagement with national and international media, including coverage by the public broadcaster RTSH and the English-language outlet Tirana Times.



## 2. PROJECT

### Voice & Impact: Empowering Youth Councils for Community Change

**Sub-grantee:** Beyond Barriers Association, Tirana, Albania

**Objective:** to strengthen participatory democracy by enhancing the operational effectiveness and influence of Local Youth Councils in four cities in Albania and to ensure that young people are active citizens in shaping and implementing local policies that directly affect their lives and well-being.

## Key results:

- Strengthened the capacities of 53 youth council members from four municipalities in Albania (Erseka, Saranda, Tepelena, and Gjirokastra) in policy analysis, youth-related policy advocacy and negotiation, monitoring, communication, leadership and public speaking, strategic thinking, and influencing local decision-making processes, through Leadership and Advocacy Trainings and ACTivate Bootcamp using simulation exercises, case studies, and role-playing activities.
- Memorandums of Understanding with four Albanian municipalities were signed: Erseka, Saranda, Tepelena, and Gjirokastra – marking a significant step toward institutionalizing cooperation between local authorities, CSOs, and youth councils.
- Strengthened cooperation with national-level institutions, including a high-level meeting with the Minister of State for Youth and Children of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Bora Muzhaqi, contributing to the alignment of project activities with national youth policies and reinforcing the institutional recognition of youth participation in policymaking processes.
- Enhanced structured dialogue between youth and local decision-makers by actively engaging 200 young people and institutional representatives in the development of local youth policies in Albania through consultative workshops and advocacy and public forums.
- Developed four Local Youth Action Plans in the municipalities of Erseka, Saranda, Tepelena, and Gjirokastra through an inclusive and participatory process involving more than 100 youth and policymakers.



## 3. PROJECT

### Empowering Youth to Advocate for Green Future

**Sub-grantee:** BFPE Foundation for Responsible Society, Belgrade, Serbia

**Objective:** to strengthen the role of local youth councils in decision-making processes pertaining to environmental policies that affect youth.

## Key results:

- Updated and improved database on Local Youth Councils in Serbia through a comprehensive mapping process covering 174 municipalities, with 106 responses collected, identifying 12 municipalities with inclusive but insufficiently functional councils.
- Cooperation has been established with 5 priority municipalities (Dimitrovgrad, Leskovac, Raška, Senta, and Kraljevo) for the implementation of project activities
- Cooperation was established with key institutional stakeholders across five selected municipalities, including Dimitrovgrad, Leskovac, Raška, Senta, and Kraljevo, engaging representatives of local governments, Local Youth Councils, Youth Offices (notably in Leskovac and Senta), and municipal environmental protection departments.
- Enhanced capacities of 21 CSO and Local Youth Council representatives from Dimitrovgrad, Leskovac, Raška, Senta, and Kraljevo to actively engage in youth-related policymaking and advocacy in the field of environmental protection. The training strengthened their ability to apply advocacy tools, participate in decision-making processes, and address key environmental challenges.
- Five local CSOs gathered valuable inputs from 498 young people on local environmental issues through a combination of surveys, focus groups and consultations.
- Developed 55 public policy recommendations based on inputs from young people and analyses of local strategic documents in five municipalities. In several municipalities, the process contributed to strengthening the functionality and activation of Local Youth Councils.



#### 4. PROJECT

##### Youth – Media Network for Reforms

**Sub-grantee:** I would like to be in the EU in cooperation with Media Center Sarajevo

**Objective:** to amplify young voices, enabling them to advocate for necessary reforms and engage with the media, with a strong focus on accuracy, representation of vulnerable groups, and gender equality, through networking events, digital tools, meetups, and campaigns.

#### Key results:

- Enhanced cooperation among youth, CSO representatives, and media professionals from Bosnia and Herzegovina through the establishment of the Youth-Media Network, bringing together more than 80 members.
- Built CSOs capacities: skills for advocacy campaigns, promoting media literacy, critically assessing media content, and building effective networks.
- Raised awareness among young people and CSOs about the importance of free and independent media for a democratic society, the role of media in promoting diversity, tolerance, and intercultural understanding, the ability to recognize manipulation, stereotypes, disinformation and the significance of youth voices in local communities.
- Youth participants translated new knowledge into concrete civic and advocacy initiatives at the local and community level: their initiatives addressed youth mobility and access to education in Breza through improved public transport, as well as an environmental initiative in Banja Luka advocating for the development of a green student park based on sustainable and youth-friendly urban planning solutions.
- Developed advocacy-oriented recommendations aimed at improving media accountability: recommendations emphasized the importance of professional and ethical journalism, fact-checking, responsible reporting, protection of personal data, fighting hate speech and sensationalist content.
- The project also ensured strong media visibility through a comprehensive communication campaign (64 posts, reaching over 857,000 users), as well as coverage on national broadcasters such as TVSA and RTRS.



#### 5. PROJECT

##### Local Engagement, Activism and Participation – LEAP

**Sub-grantee:** Association Leaders for Education, Activism and Development – LEAD, Skopje, North Macedonia

**Objective:** to provide practical knowledge to young people in North Macedonia about local governance structures, electoral processes, and the political system in general in order to increase their political and social participation.

## Key results:

- Two innovative civic education tools for youth were developed – the online simulation game “You(th) Rule/Mayor” and the “Localize Yourself” simulation game on local governance and inclusive decision-making. The “You(th) Rule/Mayor” game is available at: <https://gradonachalnik.lead.org.mk>
- The online game included more than 150 real-life scenarios simulating decision-making processes of a mayor across key areas such as relations with citizens, political actors, media, municipal councils, and personal responsibilities, enabling users to understand the complexity of governance and consequences of policy choices. More than 1800 users have interacted with the game.
- Increased political literacy and understanding of local governance among 167 young people who participated in eight “Localize Yourself” simulation sessions across eight municipalities in North Macedonia (Kumanovo, Veles, Kavadarci, Makedonski Brod, Gostivar, Skopje, Bitola and Ohrid). Structured Training of Trainers involved youth workers from local youth centers, ensuring sustainability and further replication of the methodology.
  - > A digital pocket manual for young voters was created and promoted, providing clear and accessible information about local governance, elections, voter registration, and informed decision-making, helping first-time voters participate with confidence.
  - > User-friendly, mobile-accessible tool, combining simplified explanations, step-by-step voting guidance, and frequently asked questions.
  - > The Manual was disseminated through digital channels ahead of the 2025 local elections to maximize its relevance and reach among young voters.
- A three-day Youth Civic Assembly was organized in Veles and attended by 50 young people from all regions of North Macedonia. They increased understanding of municipal governance mechanisms and developed skills in deliberation and consensus-building through.
- 49 policy recommendations for future mayors were developed at the Assembly and formally disseminated to political parties, youth wings, and other relevant stakeholders ahead of the local elections. Notably, almost 70% of these recommendations were integrated into mayoral programs!
- Through 4 podcast episodes, awareness was raised among young people in North Macedonia about the importance of voting, the role of their voice in shaping electoral programs, the presence of politics in the classroom, as well as innovative approaches such as gamification in political education.
- The podcast series was strategically released in the final phase of the local election campaign, complementing a broader digital awareness campaign that promoted youth participation, civic responsibility, and democratic engagement through multiple channels, reaching thousands of young people across the country.



## 6. PROJECT

### Future Bridges: Empowering Youth for Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

**Sub-grantee:** New Social Initiative, North Mitrovica, Kosovo

**Objective:** to contribute to the normalization of relations between Kosovo\* and Serbia by engaging youth and civil society in inclusive dialogue initiatives and fostering innovative approaches to address societal divisions and mistrust.

## Key results:

- Enhanced capacities of 36 young people from different ethnic and social backgrounds in Kosovo by engaging them in practical simulations of the Belgrade–Pristina dialogue, enabling them to develop negotiation, trust-building, policymaking, and advocacy skills.
- Fostered dialogue among various stakeholders, including youth, civil society organizations, media, policy makers, and representatives of the international community from Kosovo and Serbia, through Final Advocacy Conference.
- Developed advocacy-oriented recommendations to enhance youth inclusion and quality of reconciliation processes, focusing on promoting reconciliatory narratives in public discourse, reducing political instrumentalization of youth, increasing institutional transparency, and expanding opportunities for meaningful youth participation in policymaking and democratic processes.
- Contributed to improving intercultural dialogue and intercommunity understanding among young people from Serbian and Albanian communities through a six-episode podcast series featuring activists, researchers, and media professionals from Kosovo and Serbia. The series achieved social media reach of over 11,700 users, ensuring visibility and continued accessibility beyond the project duration.



## 7. PROJECT

### Youth Action for EU Integration: Advocating the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan

**Sub-grantee:** Progressive Reinforcement of Organizations and Individuals – PROI

**Objective:** to empower youth advocates to drive forward the adoption of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina through targeted advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity building, and constructive policy dialogue.

## Key results:

- Strengthened dialogue among government bodies, employment agencies, parliaments, youth councils, academia, and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, engaging 77 stakeholders in info sessions, multi-level policy meetings and two roundtables, including key institutions such as the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, Agency for Labour and Employment of BiH, Directorate for European Integration, entity-level ministries, and employment services.
- Enhanced advocacy capacities of 10 CSOs and 18 youth representatives by improving their understanding of the Youth Guarantee, EU standards, advocacy tools, political mapping, and message development through targeted capacity-building activities, including a CSO workshop and a two-day advocacy training for youth in Sarajevo.
- Produced a comprehensive package of policy recommendations for integrating the Youth Guarantee into strategic and legal framework, including proposals on financing models, institutional coordination mechanisms, monitoring systems, and local-level piloting. These recommendations were developed through structured consultations, validated with institutional stakeholders, and are now being used as a central advocacy framework for the finalization of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan and future pilot implementation at the local level.

- Established a strategic partnership with public institutions, particularly the Agency for Labour and Employment of BiH, through a Memorandum of Cooperation, enabling concrete joint actions such as trainings, study visits, and development of tools for career guidance and youth employment.
- Supported the launch of the national Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan. Project activities directly contributed to positioning the Youth Guarantee as a key policy priority within Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU integration agenda.



## 8. PROJECT

### School Student Lab - Enhancing Youth Activism on Local and National level

**Sub-grantee:** Union of Secondary School Students of Serbia, Belgrade

**Objective:** to strengthen national school student activism movement in Serbia for greater impact on youth and educational policies on local and national level, through participation in policy making and monitoring and supporting structured activism.

#### Key results:

- Published policy analysis "A Chewing Gum for Every Student? Overview of the Republic Budget for Education for 2025": provided an evidence-based assessment of education financing in Serbia, highlighting significant disparities in funding between pre-university and higher education, limited transparency in the Ministry of Education's financial planning, and the growing reliance on parental contributions as a source of funding.
- Two policy proposals submitted to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia proposing to amend the key education laws and to introduce stronger mechanisms for student participation.
- Declaration of High School Students on the Quality of Education and Active Participation was adopted by 40 representatives of UNSS member schools at the National School Student Conference "School Students in Focus" while engaging 162 school students in a participatory process to co-create the Declaration which reflects students' views on participation, rights, and education quality.
- Marking of the International School Students' Day and promoting student rights, participation, and democratic values while strengthening youth engagement and solidarity by coordinating democracy-focused school activities involving 700 students and teachers across 11 school student councils.
- Five local trainings across Serbia (Apatin, Lajkovac, Sremska Mitrovica, Niš, and Novi Pazar), piloting UNSS's Training Curriculum and School Student Councils Development Matrix Strengthened were organized 111 student activists. The trainings improved skills of 111 students activists' skills in democratic governance, decision-making, advocacy, rights protection, and cooperation with local institutions.
- Improved resilience, leadership, and organizational skills of 47 youth activists from the Activist Pool through two online workshops, strengthening their capacities in crisis leadership, policy engagement, time management, burnout prevention, peer support and sustainable activism.
- Enhanced analytical and advocacy capacities of 23 UNSS staff members, volunteers, and youth representatives through two capacity-building trainings. These activities resulted in concrete policy outputs, including an Overview of the Republic Budget for Education 2025 and a Critical Review of the Draft Law on Textbooks, strengthening UNSS's role as a credible policy actor.

- Supported a nationwide student movement through real-time monitoring, coordination, and documentation of youth activism, reaching approximately 54 local communities and 14,000 school students.
- UNSS developed a publicly accessible interactive map presenting 164 solidarity actions initiated by high school students across Serbia, providing visibility, data, and advocacy leverage for youth-led initiatives.



## 9. PROJECT

### Increasing political participation of young women

**Sub-grantee:** Women's Association of Kolubara Region

**Objective:** to increase the political participation of young women in Serbia by equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and networks to overcome barriers to their full involvement in political processes and decision-making roles.

#### Key results:

- Secured institutional support and cooperation from six municipalities and high schools, enabling the implementation of political empowerment of young women and strengthening collaboration with local authorities, schools, and civil society organizations for sustained youth engagement in decision-making processes.
- Engaged 209 participants through information sessions and workshops on women's political participation and democratic processes, including young women, representatives of civil society organizations, local institutions, schools and media.
- Educated and empowered 169 young women on political participation, advocacy and democratic processes through information sessions, workshops, and mentorship activities.
- Reached 211,377 people through a multi-platform awareness and advocacy campaign on women's political participation.
- Strengthened leadership, public-speaking, and advocacy capacities of 26 young women from six municipalities through a two-day intensive training, supported by six mentors.

## Active Achievement Fund



The aim of the program was to empower youth in the Western Balkans to participate in a structured dialogue on public policies relevant to youth, advocate for the adoption of European values and strengthening of democratic and responsible institutions and promote regional cooperation and political, economic and social benefits of the EU integration for the Western Balkans societies. The Active Achievement Fund was open to the **regional groups composed of at least 5 young people from at least 3 Western Balkan countries**. These groups were not formally registered, had low level of formality and weak technical and managerial skills. During the implementation of the Action, two Calls for Proposals were launched under the Active Achievement Fund for Regional Informal Groups. In the selection process, 30,000 EURO was allocated to support ten informal groups. The groups were supported through RYDE partners as intermediary organizations.

## Supported informal groups

### 1. The Diversity Youth



Informal group was composed of five young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia

**Project name: "Building youth policies of young people from single-parent and one-parent families in North Macedonia, Serbia & Bosnia and Herzegovina"**

**Intermediary partner organization:** NGO Info Center Foundation, Skopje, North Macedonia

**Project duration:** 1st September 2024 – 31th December 2024

The project contributed to raising awareness of the specific challenges faced by young people from single-parent families, while also strengthening regional cooperation and knowledge exchange among youth from the three countries. The '*Comparative Analysis of Compliance of Existing Youth Policies with the Needs of Young People from Single-Parent Families in North Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina*' was published in English, Macedonian and Serbian. Through the analysis of existing policies, the study also assessed the role of governmental and non-governmental actors and proposed solutions for more equitable and inclusive outcomes. The findings were disseminated through accessible formats, including multilingual infographics and a video, thereby increasing their visibility and outreach.

Policy recommendations for improving the position of young people from single-parent and one-parent families were formulated and addressed to relevant ministries in the three countries. Importantly, the project enabled direct engagement with institutions, including a meeting with the Minister of Education in North Macedonia, during which the recommendations were presented, marking an initial step towards policy dialogue and potential institutional uptake.

Participants of this group were invited as key speakers at the round table on social policy in Serbia, organized by the Platform Sustainable Development for All to present their work and results. (1.4.2025)



## 2. Organized group "STAV"



Informal group was composed of nine young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia

**Project name: "Western Balkan Student Mobilization and Advocacy Network (WB-STAW)"**

**Intermediary partner organization:** Regional Academy for Democratic Development (ADD), Novi Sad, Serbia

**Project duration:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Objective:** to strengthen democratic engagement by supporting and establishing active student organisations in Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- The project contributed to familiarizing young people with student organization structures and electoral processes, and strengthening their capacity to effectively communicate, advocate and engage with institutions and broader stakeholders.
- Educational and strategic planning activities were carried out in Niš, Sarajevo, and Belgrade, combining training, mentoring and practical support.
- Educational sessions on legal frameworks, student rights and electoral processes, as well as training in advocacy, communication, and public engagement were organized.
- Continuous mentoring and hands-on support were provided to emerging student groups, alongside opportunities for regional exchange and collaboration, fostering peer learning and joint action on shared challenges across the Western Balkans.
- Participants were supported in developing key organizational capacities, including strategic planning, branding, outreach, and visibility.
- Student groups from Sarajevo and Nis transitioned from informal student initiatives into structured and visible student organisations: In Sarajevo, DIREK, and in Niš, Student Initiative of the Faculty of Medicine in Niš (SIMFUN) registered their organisations, developing visual identities, establishing a social media presence, and launching their websites.
- Mini online campaign was also implemented and it highlighted common challenges across the Western Balkans, such as limited transparency and accountability of student bodies, and insufficient student involvement in decision-making.

### 3. Generations United Initiative



**Informal group composed of five young people from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo\***

**Project name: "Promotion of dialogue between generations in the Western Balkans"**

**Intermediary partner organization:** Kosovar Stability Initiative, Pristina, Kosovo

**Project duration:**

1st September 2024 – 31th December 2024

**Objective:** to promote mutual respect, understanding and collaboration between generations, by empowering young people to engage constructively with older generations.

The project contributed to strengthening youth engagement in democratic processes and intergenerational dialogue through a series of targeted activities.

An awareness-raising meeting held on 20 December 2024 in Tirana, Albania, gathered 30 young activists from across the country, providing a platform for discussion on youth participation in policymaking processes and the role of intergenerational support.

An awareness-raising video was produced in cooperation with youth activists from Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of informal groups, and prof. dr Arbi Agalliu, Member of the Parliament of Albania. The campaign contributed to increased motivation among young people to engage in political processes by showcasing diverse role models and promoting inclusive participation, particularly among underrepresented groups.

### 4. Artvist Voices



**Informal group was composed of five young girls from Albania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo\***

**Project name: "EmpowerArt Balkans"**

**Intermediary partner organization:** Youth Act Center, Tirana, Albania

**Project duration:**

1st September 2024 – 31th December 2024

**Objective:** to empower young people by using art as a tool to address issues such as skill mismatches, labour market challenges and brain drain, while providing a platform for creative expression to raise awareness and propose solutions.

The project contributed to raising awareness of youth unemployment, brain drain and labour market challenges in the Western Balkans by engaging young people through creative and participatory formats.

Art competition 'Future Unwritten: Western Balkan Youth Dilemma on Employment', providing a platform for young people to express their perspectives on socio-economic challenges through digital and hand-drawn artworks, including caricatures, cartoons, doodles and abstract pieces was launched on 26 September 2024

Ten artworks were submitted, reflecting themes such as migration, educational imbalance and underemployment.

Five winners were selected and awarded gift cards, including one selected through public voting on Instagram and four selected by the project team, thereby combining participatory and expert-based evaluation approaches.

The results of the competition were further amplified through an Art Exhibition and Coffee Talk titled 'Connecting with the Western Balkan Youth', held on 17 January 2025 at Europe House in Tirana. The event brought together 15 young people from across the Western Balkans and created a space for dialogue on key issues such as unemployment, education gaps and brain drain, as well as on the effectiveness of EU programmes and the gap between policy and implementation. Participating artists presented their work and shared the stories and messages behind their artworks.

Three podcast episodes entitled 'Youth Talks' featured winning artists Pegisa Balliu, Angela Bajrami and Maylinda Bajrami. Through informal and accessible dialogue, the series created a platform for authentic discussions on systemic barriers, education, working conditions and needed policy changes, while encouraging young people to engage, reflect and explore solutions related to their future in the region.

## 5. Fighters for improving the conditions of student accommodation facilities and other rights



**Informal group was composed of five young people from Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia**

**Project name: "Students from the Western Balkans in a battle for European living conditions"**

**Intermediary partner organization:**

Network of Progressive Initiatives, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Project duration:** 1st January 2025 – 30th June 2025

**Project aim:** to contribute to improving living conditions in student dormitories in the Western Balkans by addressing longstanding challenges related to substandard student dormitory conditions, including delays in scholarships, malfunctioning meal voucher systems and inadequate living standards.

### Project results:

- The project contributed to raising awareness of student living conditions, strengthening evidence-based advocacy, and encouraging institutional dialogue on improving dormitory standards in line with European standards.
- The project output was „*The Comparative Analysis of Conditions in Student Dormitories in Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia versus EU Member States: Slovenia and Germany*“ covering six dormitories in the Western Balkans and selected dormitories in EU Member States (Slovenia and Germany), with the aim of assessing gaps and identifying pathways for aligning living conditions with EU standards.
- The research included interviews with students from Skopje, Tirana, Niš, Bochum and Ljubljana, as well as a mini survey conducted among several dozen students, covering key aspects of student life such as accommodation conditions, hygiene, access to hot water, internet, food quality, transport, scholarships and accessibility for students with disabilities. The analysis was further enriched by data and findings from relevant state institutions, ministries and civil society organizations across the three countries.
- The Analysis developed 7 policy recommendations for improving student living conditions. These recommendations were addressed to public institutions in Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia.
- The findings were publicly presented on 13 June 2025 in Skopje.

## 6. United for Property Justice



Informal group was composed of five young people from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro

**Project name:** "Property Rights Beyond Tradition: Her Land - Her Voice"

**Intermediary partner organization:** ADD, Serbia

**Project duration:** 1 September 2025 – 1 December 2025

**The project aim:** to contribute to reducing the gender gap in inheritance and property ownership in the WB by raising awareness and strengthening knowledge among women, particularly young women, about their rights and available protection mechanisms.

### The project results:

- Contribution to generating evidence-based insights on women's inheritance and property rights in the Western Balkans through research conducted via focus groups and an online questionnaire. The study included 75 participants exploring their perceptions, experiences, motivations for renouncing inheritance in favor of male family members, and knowledge of inheritance procedures and protection mechanisms.
- The results were translated into accessible and widely disseminated formats, including infographics shared via social media and other channels, contributing to increased awareness of women's inheritance rights.
- A video awareness campaign was produced promoting positive narratives around women's ownership and encouraging informed decision-making.
- A manual was produced providing women with clear, accessible and actionable information on inheritance and property rights, as well as on mechanisms for their protection, based on the findings of the research conducted in the four countries.

## 7. GenWB - Generation Western Balkans



Informal group was composed of five young people from North Macedonia, Albania, and Serbia

**Project name:** "Plan B(alkan): Youth for Reform"

**Intermediary partner organization:** NGO IC, North Macedonia

**Project duration:** 1 September 2025 – 1 December 2025

**Objective:** to raise youth awareness, and simplify the visibility process and understanding about the Western Balkans Growth Plan, focusing on Albania, Serbia, and North Macedonia, as a major EU initiative aimed at accelerating regional cooperation, economic development, and reforms in the Western Balkan countries.

### The project results:

Increased youth awareness and understanding of the Western Balkans Growth Plan in Albania, Serbia and North Macedonia, while simplifying complex policy frameworks and making them more accessible to young people.

Increased knowledge through publishing of the Comparative Analysis of the Growth Plan's implementation in the three target countries, published in four languages (Macedonian, BSH, Albanian and English). The publication examined reforms, funding distribution and youth-specific dimensions, with a focus on education, employment, funding opportunities and youth participation. The analysis covered three main areas for each country: youth-related reforms within the EU integration process, available opportunities and funding for young people, and the main challenges and gaps that persist. It identified common regional issues, including brain drain, limited access to opportunities and insufficient involvement of young people in decision-making processes. Given that the Growth Plan is a relatively new instrument, the analysis focused primarily on expected results and potential impacts, while still providing evidence-based insights into what works, what does not, and where young people can have the greatest influence.

Five concrete recommendations proposed enhancing youth impact and making the EU Growth Plan more responsive to the needs of young people.

The analysis, together with the accompanying recommendations, was disseminated to relevant institutions and stakeholders, including EU Delegations in the Western Balkans, ministries responsible for youth, and civil society organisations. The Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, acknowledged the research and expressed positive feedback, encouraging further communication and engagement.

SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) Simulator was promoted through short, engaging video content: video reels explained the real-life benefits of SEPA for young people, including in areas such as travel, freelance work and digital banking, using humor, storytelling and practical examples.

## 8. Youth Pulse Network



Informal group was composed of five young people from Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia

**Project name:** "Youth Pulse: Health Talks Forum"

**Intermediary partner organization:** YA, Albania

**Project duration:** 1 September 2025 – 1 December 2025

**Objective:** to raise awareness among youth about mental and reproductive health and involve them in structured conversations with health decision-makers, such as Local Units of Health Care Services or Health Care Centers in localities.

### The project results:

- Contribution to increasing awareness and understanding of mental and sexual and reproductive health among young people in the Western Balkans.
- Online survey conducted across three countries generated evidence on youth knowledge, needs and concerns, revealing key challenges such as stigma, stress, limited access to reliable information and services, as well as barriers including high costs, lack of privacy and fear of judgment.

- Three 'Youth Health Talks' forums were organized in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, contributing to structured dialogue between young people, health professionals and institutional representatives, bringing together 73 young people, healthcare professionals and institutional representatives.
- A co-creation workshop titled 'Youth Mental Health: Facing Today's Challenges' was held on 9 December 2025 in Tirana. The workshop brought together 25 young people, mental health professionals and institutional representatives, creating a participatory space for structured dialogue and joint problem-solving.
- Development of three youth-driven policy recommendations aimed at improving youth health outcomes: (1) integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education into schools; (2) strengthening school-based mental health support; and (3) expanding youth-friendly mental health services.

## 9. BaICANians



Informal group was composed of five young people from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia

**Project name: "Opportunity RYDErs"**

**Intermediary partner organization:** CDF, Serbia

**Project duration:** 1 September 2025 – 1 December 2025

**Objective:** to empower 18 young ambassadors from Bela Palanka (Serbia), Foča (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Štip (North Macedonia) to promote EU mobility and volunteering programmes such as Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps (ESC), and DiscoverEU within their communities. It sought to contribute to increasing applications for these programmes and to highlight the tangible benefits of EU integration for young

people, while fostering a stronger sense of connection to the European community through collaboration with schools and local authorities.

### The project results:

Strengthened capacities of young people to access and promote EU mobility and volunteering opportunities through targeted training and knowledge-sharing activities.

The 'Opportunity RYDErs' training, held from 26–28 September 2025 in Bela Palanka, gathered 18 young participants from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, increasing their awareness and understanding of key EU programmes. Through interactive sessions, participants developed practical skills in preparing Europass CVs, writing applications and designing local initiatives, enabling them to translate their ideas into concrete actions within their communities. The training contributed to increased motivation and readiness among participants to apply for EU programs and to act as multipliers of knowledge at the local level.

Development of the 'Pocket Guide to EU Opportunities for Youth', produced in BSH, English and Macedonian. The guide provided clear and practical information on available EU-funded opportunities, including youth exchanges, training courses and volunteering activities, as well as step-by-step guidance on the application process. It also identified key sources of information, such as NGOs, youth networks, EU platforms and national agencies, and offered practical advice on preparing strong applications, including the use of the Europass format, while highlighting common mistakes to avoid.

Three local info sessions were organised, two in-person events in Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, and one online event in Serbia, enabling young people to share their experiences and transfer knowledge gained through the project to their local communities.

## 10. Red Lines



**Informal group was composed of five young people from North Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo**

**Project name: "Red Lines - Breaking the lines of menstrual stigma and silence"**

**Intermediary partner organization: IKS, Kosovo**

**Project duration: 8 September 2025 – 8 December 2025**

**Objective:** to contribute to raising awareness of menstrual health as a human rights and social equity issue in the Western Balkans, while challenging stigma, myths and taboos through youth-led dialogues and a regional social media campaign.

### Project results:

Empowered 69 young people to advocate for menstrual justice and resulted in concrete policy recommendations aimed at improving access to menstrual products, education, infrastructure and support services in local communities.

Two 'Youth Dialogues for Menstrual Justice' were implemented in North Macedonia, in Kruševo and Tetovo. The sessions focused on challenges specific to smaller and rural communities, including limited access to menstrual products, stigma and lack of institutional support, cultural taboos, lack of information in multiple languages, and the need for stronger institutional support from schools, municipalities and health services.

Participants developed a set of recommendations addressing these challenges, including improving access to menstrual products, overcoming stigma and cultural barriers, increasing access to information, and strengthening institutional support.

A youth-led social media campaign was implemented to amplify these messages and demands.

# 4

## Media and Visibility



Freedom of media is an open issue in many parts of the WB region, but their attitude towards the youth related issues is rather open and positive. It was expected that media would be an ally in the process of raising awareness of the importance of regional cooperation, youth mobility in the region, social investment relevant for the youth, protection of vulnerable young groups.

Visibility of the RYDE activities was continuously in focus of all RYDE partners. Promoting RYDE objectives in the context of the needs of the target groups – civil society organizations, youth organizations, policy makers, members of political parties` youth forums in the WB – was enabled through creating effective messages and through selection of adequate communication tools and dissemination channels.

## Communication Strategy

The Communication strategy was developed in the first project year, streamlining the public relations along the RYDE project, including target groups, messages to be sent, communication channels, visual identity and evaluation. Innovative ways of communication were identified and youth friendly language and tools selected. The aim was to achieve the presentation of the RYDE impact and results through a variety of activities undertaken. By using interactive communication channels, RYDE fostered citizens' and, particularly, youth involvement, including direct communication with citizens.

**Strategy was updated on the basis of monitoring and recommendations from on-field activities, collected inputs from workshops, policy labs and public debates, as well as by inputs of participants.**

With the adopted Awareness-raising Strategy, communication goals, tactics, channels, expected results, and indicators were defined.

**The slogan outlined in the communication strategy was used: *Talk. Act. Activate.*** This slogan was intended to promote youth participation, dialogue, and tolerance in the WB. The slogan "Talk. Act. Activate." encapsulates the essence of the awareness-raising strategy by emphasizing the importance of taking action and making a difference.

**"Talk"** signifies the power of dialogue, discussion, understanding, and open communication to address issues, exchange ideas, and create awareness among CSOs, youth individuals, and policymakers.

**"Act"** highlights the need for proactive engagement, involvement, and the call to take concrete actions and initiatives that contribute to positive change.

**"Activate"** emphasizes the empowerment of young people to engage in political and social processes and become agents of change in Western Balkan societies.

## Production of promotional material

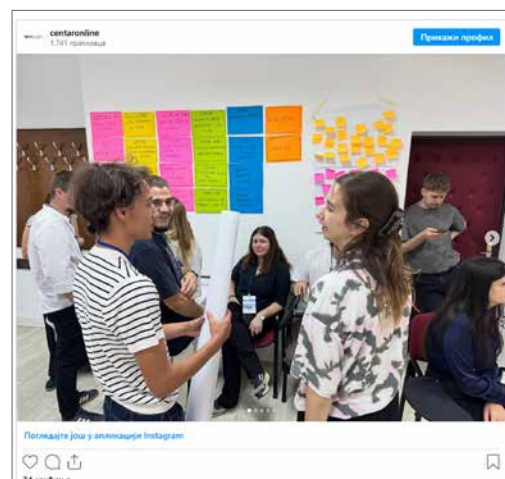
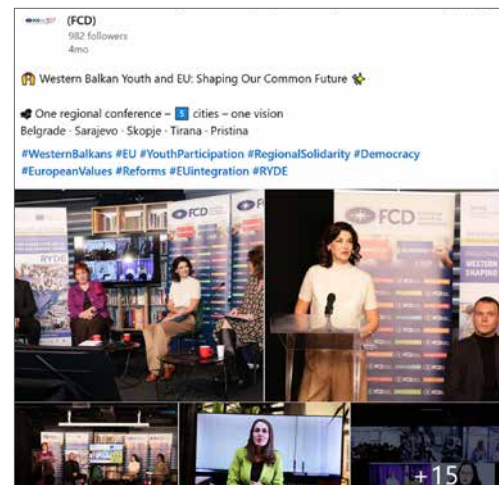
**320 sets of promotional materials were produced!**



## Media Activities

Media activities had special relevance for RYDE stakeholders, particularly RYDE target groups. This activity was conducted by all RYDE partners. The media activities promoted RYDE objectives and messages, EU values, democratic and inclusive processes while focusing on issues that relate to youth.

- 2035 social media posts across all social media platforms were published,
- 36 newsletters disseminated
- Approximately 1.800.000 citizens in the region were targeted and outreached.
- 5 survey public presentations,
- 5 desk research public presentations
- 6 info sessions for Youth Fund
- 18 blogs and 6 opinion pieces were published by 24 CSOs representatives, youth political and civic activists, media professionals, and other experts.
- 13 TV and radio show featured representatives of the CDF, sub-grantees, as well as young participants at the RYDE activities.
- 8 TV and radio programs dedicated exclusively to Politeia - its participants, regional dimension, youth engagement and EU integration
- 5 outreach videos were published in accordance with the Awareness Raising Strategy.





## Key topics:

- Western Balkans Youth in the European Commission's Progress Report 2023 for WB6
- Civic and Political Engagement of Youth in the Western Balkans
- Is there any progress in Western Balkan economies in implementing the Youth Guarantee programme?
- Navigating the EU Youth Dialogue and Strengthening Youth Decision-Making in Serbia
- The participation of young people in elections is of vital importance for democracy
- Youth, mobility and regional cooperation in the Western Balkans
- Hate Speech and Tolerant Political Culture in the Public Space of the Western Balkans
- OP-ED: Where the EU has benefits, the Western Balkans has potential
- How Young People Can Contribute to the European Integration Process of the WB6?
- Political, Social, and Economic Benefits of the EU Integration Process for the Western Balkans
- The Role of Civil Society Organisations in Defending Democratic Values
- Disinformation and Media Propaganda as Obstacles to the EU Integration Process in the Western Balkans
- Environmental Issues as Drivers of Youth Activism in the Western Balkan
- Importance of using gender-sensitive language in public space in the Western Balkans
- Countering Attempts to re-traditionalized Gender Roles in Western Balkan Societies
- Fostering Youth Empowerment and Social Cohesion In Kosovo: A Pathway to EU Integration
- Tomorrow Vote, Youth Engagement and Political Strategies for the European Election 2024
- Regional Cooperation as a Shared European Value in the Western Balkans
- Financial Literacy as a Pathway to Youth Economic Independence in the Western Balkans
- How EU Integration Can Restore the Trust of Western Balkan Youth in Democratic Institutions





## PARTNERS

### Center for Democracy Foundation – lead partner



CDF was lead partner in the RYDE consortium. It coordinated the work of all RYDE partners, created project management templates, exchange and planning tools and streamlined all activities ensuring fulfilment of objectives, reaching of the key performance indicators, communication and media content. It also coordinated the Youth Fund and Youth Achievement Fund by ensuring that RYDE criteria for selection of small projects and by organizing training, mentoring and monitoring of the supported projects.

- In 2024, CDF marked 30 years of work in Serbia and in the region.
- CDF is Serbian based a not-for profit, non-governmental and non-partisan organization which, along 30 years of operation, has had a remarkable impact in advancing resources for democratic governance and EU oriented reforms in Serbia.
- CDF is member of the National Convention on the EU, member of its Programmatic Council, coordinator of the Working Group on Social Policy and Employment, and of the Working Group on regional cooperation.
- CDF is member of the Foundation of European Progressive Studies FEPS (Brussels), European Association for Local Democracy ALDA (Strasbourg), UN Global Compact.
- Our main donors were European Union, SDC, GiZ, UNFPA, Olof Palme Center, Fund for an Open Society, USAID, Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

### Network of Progressive Initiatives (NPI)



**Network of Progressive Initiatives (NPI)** is an experienced CSO in Bosnia and Herzegovina that collaborates with government institutions, parliamentarians, and policymakers to advance democratic processes, civic participation, and policy reforms. NPI also has very good cooperation with political parties. NPI played a significant role in mobilizing participants for all the project activities, particularly policy makers to be part of the policy labs, bringing together 15 representatives from local, national and regional institutions who contributed to strengthening the dialogue between young people, CSO representatives, and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, NPI organized a very productive Politeia thematic session in Sarajevo with highly qualified participants from all countries in the region, which resulted in 31 recommendations related to the improvement of educational policies in WB6. Building on NPI's expertise in environmental field, NPI staff successfully coordinated Panel V "Youth and Nature: A Partnership for a Sustainable Green Future", at the RYDE Regional Conference, which focused on environmental sustainability, green initiatives and the involvement of young people in ecological planning in the Western Balkans. In addition, a public debate "Youth Employment, Financial Literacy, and Entrepreneurship: From Awareness to Concrete Policy Measures" was organized by NPI in Sarajevo. NPI coordinated the work of the informal group "Fighters for Improving the Conditions of Student Accommodation Facilities and Other Rights", which produced a comparative regional analysis of student dormitory conditions in the Western Balkans against EU standards and generated concrete policy recommendations.

## Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS)



Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS) from Kosovo made a very significant contribution to achieving the goals of the RYDE project. The structured dialogue between young people, CSOs, and representatives of institutions resulted in 22 high-quality recommendations for improving sexual and reproductive health for youth in Kosovo. The contribution is even greater because this topic is not widely developed in the rather conservative communities such as Western Balkan societies, especially in Kosovo and Albania. Additionally, IKS played a very proactive role in finding a solution to the issue of bringing interested participants from Kosovo to the thematic session in Sarajevo organized by NPI, due to visa requirements for Kosovo citizens to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina. IKS managed to bring together 26 young people, mostly from rural areas in Kosovo, to participate in a debate with representatives of CSOs and institutions on the causes and consequences of youth migration in the region. Building on IKS's experience and expertise in youth employment and the Youth Guarantee in Kosovo, they successfully coordinated Panel II at the RYDE Conference, titled "Youth Employment in the AI Era: Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans – Challenges and Opportunities?". During the second and third years of the project, IKS successfully coordinated the work of two informal groups: Generations United Initiative and Red Lines.

## Youth Act Center (YA)



Youth Act Center (YA) made a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the RYDE Action. YA maintained a large network of young people, which it successfully mobilised to participate in project activities. The highest number of applications for various RYDE activities was recorded in Albania. In addition, YA engaged 12 policymakers in the policy labs, including representatives from nine municipalities in Albania, thereby contributing to the strengthening of structured dialogue, which is of particular importance for the RYDE Action. The policy labs coordinated by YA resulted in the formulation of eight policy recommendations aimed at improving mechanisms for youth participation in Albania. Furthermore, YA effectively coordinated the work of informal groups supported through the project. This included the Artist Voice group, which used art and creativity to address issues affecting young people, such as unemployment and brain drain. YA also successfully coordinated the Youth Pulse Network, whose project engaged young people across Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia in structured dialogue on mental and reproductive health, generating evidence-based policy recommendations and strengthening partnerships with public health institutions.

## Academy of European Integration and Negotiations (AIEN)



Academy of European Integration and Negotiations (AIEN) also made a significant contribution to mobilizing young people from Albania to participate in project activities, due to its large alumni network, similar to YA. Although YA coordinated the work of the informal group Artist Voice, AIEN played a key role in promoting their project and the results achieved. Additionally, AIEN brought together 12 proactive young professionals for a Politeia thematic session on digitalization in Tirana, which produced 21 recommendations for improving the environment for young women in Albania and the digital transformation of the education system in Montenegro. AIEN successfully led Panel IV at the RYDE Regional Conference, titled "Youth in the Digital Landscape: Security, Trust and Resilience", which focused on the impact of digitalisation on young people in the Western Balkans. Building on its expertise in the field of anti-corruption, AIEN also suc-

cessfully organised the public debate "Youth Against Corruption", which engaged 36 young participants, as well as representatives of civil society organisations, public institutions and experts, in discussions on anti-corruption.

## NGO Info Center (NGO IC)



**НВО ИНФОРЦЕНТАР**

NGO Info Center (NGO IC), Skopje, successfully coordinated the work of the informal group "Diversity Youth", which produced 16 important recommendations aimed at improving policies to enhance the position of young people from single-parent and lone-parent families in three countries of the region. In addition, NGO Info Centre coordinated the work of another informal group – GenWB, whose project produced a comparative analysis of the EU Growth Plan in three Western Balkan countries, developed five concrete policy recommendations, and implemented a youth-oriented communication campaign to increase awareness and understanding of the Plan among young people. Panel III of the RYDE Regional Conference, titled "Youth Well-being in Focus: Health, Housing, Culture", was successfully coordinated by NGO Info Centre. They organised the 2nd Politeia Thematic Session on "Youth and Employment Policies in the Western Balkans", which resulted in the development of four policy briefs addressing youth employment, social cohesion, minority inclusion and youth participation, through a structured mentoring process that strengthened the capacities of 13 young participants from across the Western Balkans to engage in evidence-based policy-making. They successfully brought together experienced CSOs and youth organizations, youth activists, as well as media representatives. For the RYDE project, the participation of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services in the dialogue was crucial, as they actively participated in all policy labs. This resulted in important recommendations for the development of strategies on digital literacy, media literacy, and artificial intelligence, which are essential for young people in North Macedonia.

## Regional Academy for Democratic Development (ADD)



Regional Academy for Democratic Development (ADD), Novi Sad, successfully contributed to strengthening the capacities of young people from across the Western Balkans to analyse and develop youth housing policies, while fostering regional exchange and a shared understanding of key challenges and EU standards in improving youth housing independence, through the organisation of the 6th Politeia Thematic Session. In close cooperation with CDF, ADD successfully brought together representatives of youth, civil society organisations, public institutions and youth councils at the regional level during the 2nd and 3rd regional policy labs on culture and cultural heritage, resulting in the formulation of eight regional recommendations aimed at improving youth-related cultural policies. ADD made a significant contribution to the finalization of the Comparative Analysis of Youth). ADD maintained continuous communication and provided ongoing support to group members from Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina enabling the completion of the informal group project in Serbia. ADD successfully coordinated the work of the informal group United for Property Justice, whose project increased awareness, knowledge and empowerment of young women in the Western Balkans regarding their inheritance and property rights, contributing to challenging patriarchal norms and reducing gender inequality in property ownership. ADD successfully brought together more than 60 participants, including young people, civil society organisations, policymakers, political party representatives and other stakeholders, at a public debate. The discussion generated key insights on the low levels of youth political participation and highlighted the need to strengthen mechanisms for meaningful youth engagement in decision-making processes across the Western Balkans.

## TEAM MEMBERS



**Nataša Vučković,**  
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**Dajana Ostojić,**  
Center for Democracy  
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**Anida Šabanović,**  
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**Elena Simonoska,**  
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**Biljana Bejkova,**  
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**Matea Trajković,**  
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**Ivana Stojanović,**  
Center for Democracy  
Foundation (CDF),  
Belgrade

## TARGET GROUPS PARTICIPATING

### CSOs, incl. particularly youth and women organizations

Approximately **330 unique civil society organisations** from the Western Balkans were engaged across a wide range of activities, including dialogue sessions, capacity-building and research activities and presentations.

RYDE recorded **983 instances of CSO** participation across more than 140 activities. This reflects a high level of sustained engagement, with many organisations taking part in multiple activities and formats throughout the project duration.

New partnerships were established by the implementing partners and sub-grantees with **168 civil society, youth and women's organisations at local, national and regional levels.**

**127 organisations** actively participated in policy lab dialogue sessions.

### Youth from the Western Balkans

**7,558 young people** from the Western Balkan countries participated in RYDE activities: **6054 youth activists, 222 representatives of youth organizations, at least 540 representatives of CSOs, 293 members of youth councils, 359 youth members of political parties, and at least 90 young media representatives.**

### Policy makers (in parliaments, governments, local governments):

**355 policymakers** from more than **100 public institutions** across the region participated in dialogue activities with representatives of civil society organisations and young people. New partnerships were established by the implementing partners and sub-grantees with **93 public institutions across the Western Balkans.**

### Members of political parties` youth forums in the WB:

**359 members** of political party youth forums have participated.

**30 partnerships with political parties** were established at local, national and regional levels.

### Media-members of Local/national/regional media, TV stations, portals and press

**139 media representatives** attended the project activities.

Representatives of media and media associations from across the region, particularly from North Macedonia and Kosovo, actively contributed to policy lab sessions focused on youth media and digital literacy.

### Other third parties involved

Particular emphasis should be placed on the cooperation established with a wide range of international organizations and independent institutions.

Cooperation was established with **33 international organizations**, including **European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA**, as well as with four independent institutions: the **Ombudsperson Institution in Kosovo, the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce, the Agency for Audio-visual and Media Services in North Macedonia, and the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality in the Republic of Serbia.**

At the regional level, key partnerships were established with the **Regional Cooperation Council - RCC, RYCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), UNDP (including the ReLOaD programme), the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), TACSO, etc.**

## KEY SPEAKERS AT RYDE EVENTS

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**Gordana Adamov**, National Youth Council of Serbia

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**Branka Anđelković**, Co-founder and Programme Director of the Public Policy Research Centre, Serbia

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**Mateja Agatonović**, Assistant General Manager, New Economy, Serbia

---

**Dashurije Ahmeti**, Directorate of Culture, Youth and Sports (DCYS), Kosovo

---

**Erblin Ajdini**, Civil Society Activist, Kosovo

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**Mariana Angelova**, Secretary General of National Youth Council of Macedonia

---

**Ismar Ajkunić**, Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

---

**Jelena Banjac**, City Councillor, Movement of Free Citizens

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**Jonida Begaj**, PhD, Lecturer at Faculty of Law in Tirana, Albania

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**Jovana Božičković**, Youth issues expert

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**Tijana Bugarski**, Gallery of Matica Srpska

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**Mirela Biković – Blagovčanin**, Social media manager, PitchSee, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**Armando Bode**, Advisor SciDev, Albania

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**Ksenija Borilović**, Senior Adviser for Cooperation with NGOs and for Coordination and Implementation Affairs, Capital City Podgorica, Montenegro

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**Ariana Čaka**, Programme Manager for Civil Society, Media, and Youth at the European Union Office in Kosovo

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**Alba Cela**, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Albania

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**Emir Ćorić**, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, European Association for Local Democracy, North Macedonia

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**Eralda Cani**, Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana, Albania

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**Đorđo Cvijović**, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, Serbia

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**Benjamin Couteau**, Research Fellow specializing in the European Union enlargement policy (with focus on the Western Balkans and Turkey), "Grande Europe" Centre of the Jacques Delors Institute, Paris, France

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**Miloš Đajić**, Center for Modern Skills, Belgrade

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**Marija Dragišić**, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Serbia

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**Gordana Đurović**, Professor at the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Political Science, University of Montenegro, Podgorica, former Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro

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**Liljana Dinev**, IPECC – Institute for Good Governance and Policies in Environment and Climate Change, North Macedonia

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**Biljana Dukovska**, Macedonian Anti-Poverty Platform, North Macedonia

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**Sead Dzigal**, Communications Asst. Prof. at International Balkan University, North Macedonia

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**Mojca Krisper Figueroa**, Head of Cooperation Team at the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina

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**Črtomir Peter Fišinger**, Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation to Serbia

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**Ivana Filipov**, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality Office

---

**Kalinka Gaber**, State Advisor in Government of North Macedonia, former State Secretary for EU Affairs

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**Anil Gashi**, Employment Agency of RKS

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**Fjoralbo Gockaj**, Researcher AIEN, Albania

---

**Ljubica Gojgić**, Journalist, Serbia

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<b>Pavle Grbović</b> , Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, Movement of Free Citizens
<b>Vukašin Grozdanović</b> , OPENS, Serbia
<b>Plamena Halacheva</b> , Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia
<b>Irena Ivanova</b> , Task Manager at EU Delegation in Skopje
<b>Iman Ibrahimović</b> , Research Assistant and Youth Activist, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Janko Jačović</b> , Belgrade Open School, Serbia
<b>Kostian Jano</b> , Junior Project Manager for Western Balkans, GFA Consulting Group, Albania
<b>Ivan Jovanov</b> , Association Leaders for Education, Activism and Development, North Macedonia
<b>Brankica Janković</b> , Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, Republic of Serbia
<b>Vladimir Janković</b> , PhD, Manchester University, United Kingdom
<b>Ognjen Janeski</b> , CoE and EU's No Hate Speech Ambassador for WB6 and President of AJM's Council of Honor, North Macedonia
<b>Igor Jojkić</b> , Center of Modern Skills, Serbia
<b>Amela Jusufović</b> , Master of Applied biology – Landfill Manager at JKP Komunalac Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Boris Kaličanin</b> , Youth Policy Expert & Researcher, Faculty of Political Science, Serbia
<b>Dragana Karovska</b> , HERA-Health Education and Research Association, North Macedonia
<b>Sajmira Kopani</b> , International Labour Organization, Kosovo
<b>Shpresa Krasniqi Demhasaj</b> , Project Coordinator, Kosovar Stability Initiative
<b>Hata Kujraković</b> , Projects and Research Office, International Burch University, BiH
<b>Lutjona Lula</b> , Development Communication Officer, Albania
<b>Nevena Letić</b> , Knowledge to Work
<b>Lejla Mehmedi</b> , Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth of North Macedonia
<b>Mihajlo Mitić</b> , Informal group Opportunity RYDErs
<b>Dobriša Marković</b> , OPENS, Serbia
<b>Ognjen Marković</b> , Team Leader of the Western Balkan Youth Lab, Regional Cooperation Council, Sarajevo, BiH
<b>Saša Magazinović</b> , MP, House of Commons, Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Sanja Mešanović</b> , Deputy Director, Secretariat for Public Policies, Serbia
<b>Tanja Mišćević</b> , Minister of European Integration, Government of the Republic of Serbia
<b>Kejda Nuhu</b> , PhD, Youth Act, Albania
<b>Anxhela Omeri</b> , Informal group EmpowerArt Balkans
<b>Ljiljana Pandžić</b> , EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Sofija Petrović</b> , Green Policy Expert, Serbia
<b>Jovan Protić</b> , Coordinator, International Labour Organization, Serbia
<b>Lazar Paunović</b> , Youth President of the People's Movement of Serbia
<b>Miloš Pavković</b> , Center for European Policy, Serbia
<b>Miljana Pejić</b> , National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMs)
<b>Vladimir Perazić</b> , Youth Network of Montenegro

<b>Klark Radoniqi</b> , Program Director, National Agency of Youth Albania
<b>Irma Rešidović</b> , General Secretary, Youth Council of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Joana Rista</b> , Beyond Barriers Association, Albania
<b>Andrijana Ristić</b> , Share Foundation, Serbia
<b>Jelena Ružić</b> , Women's Association of Kolubara Region, Serbia
<b>Mehmet Salihu</b> , Civil Society Activist, Breathe Freely campaign, Kosovo
<b>Ermina Salkičević-Dždarević</b> , Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Marina Savković</b> , Roma Education Foundation, Serbia
<b>Layla Jusko Serdarević</b> , Project Coordinator, Disaster Preparedness and Climate Action Adaptation, Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Nadica Skeparoska</b> , Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Certified Psychotherapist in Transactional Analysis, North Macedonia
<b>Dušan Spasojević</b> , Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade, Serbia
<b>Aleksandar Šljuka</b> , New Social Initiative, Kosovo
<b>Staniša Stanković</b> , Informal groups The Diversity Youth and GenWB
<b>Žarko Šunderić</b> , Director, Center for Social Policy, Serbia
<b>Doralda Tanellari</b> , Sociologist and Project Coordinator, Albania
<b>Marija Ivković Trkulja</b> , Youth Sector, Ministry of Tourism and Youth of the Republic of Serbia
<b>Daliborka Uljarević</b> , Executive Director, Center for Civic Education, Montenegro
<b>Antonella Valmorbida</b> , Secretary General, European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)
<b>Maša Vračar</b> , National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS)
<b>Maša Vukanović</b> , Institute for Cultural Development Research
<b>Vuk Velebit</b> , Foreign and security policy expert, Serbia
<b>Predrag Voštinić</b> , Founder of the Local Front, City Councilor in the Assembly of Kraljevo, social and political activist, Serbia
<b>Katarina Vučković</b> , Expert in Youth Work and Leadership, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Ana Zafirova</b> , Communication Expert, North Macedonia
<b>Danica Zdravković</b> , Youth and Pro-Natalist Policy Commission, Medijana Municipality (Niš)
<b>Fjolla Zejnullahu</b> , Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo
<b>Sara Zekaj</b> , Partnership Officer, YPN, Albania

## IN NUMBERS

127 CSOs participating in design of youth related policies

640 CSOs representatives participating in multi-stakeholder dialogues at national and regional level

9,000+ participants took part in over 145 project activities

495 policy recommendations produced

401 partnerships established at local, national and regional levels

19 CSOs and informal groups supported

2,139 media activities and social media posts

1,800,000+ citizens reached via awareness activities

1 survey, summarized findings in 4 short brochures in ENG, BSH, MAC, ALB

1 publication, 4 summarized brochures in Albanian, Macedonian, BHS and English languages

### 15 YOUTH POLICY LABS ON NATIONAL LEVEL

197 participants on national level;

15 regional policy labs,

330 participants on regional level;

70 recommendations for both levels, advocacy moments

6 PUBLIC DEBATES with 257 participants

1 regional conference, 5 cities, 515 participants, 25 youth-led recommendations formulated

50 young professionals from all WB6 countries took part in the two Politeia Schools

### 6 POLITEIA THEMATIC SESSIONS

Total of 75 young professionals (38 men and 37 women) from all WB6 countries strengthened their knowledge and skills in public policymaking + mentoring sessions (69 mentoring days)

### ONLINE YOUTH COMMUNITY FORUM

1,169 people from the WB region are registered on the forum

### INTERNSHIP YOUTH PROGRAM

ten volunteers participated (10 interns attended two-month internship programme)

36 newsletters

18 blogs and 6 opinion pieces

5 outreach videos published

13 TV and radio shows



**RYDE**

Regional Youth Dialogue  
for Europe



Funded by  
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April 2026