

General Information on Call for Proposals

“A BETTER REGION STARTS WITH YOUTH”



The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an independently functioning institutional mechanism, founded by the Western Balkans 6 participants (WB6): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, the Macedonia and Serbia.

RYCO is seeking proposals of CSOs and secondary schools for supporting projects in the fields of promoting the reconciliation in the region of the Western Balkans by increasing youth mobility, cooperation and activism.

Through this **PILOT Open Call for Proposals**, RYCO is establishing itself as a leading regional initiative for supporting young people in the Western Balkan. RYCO wants to empower youth for setting the course to a better society in the Western Balkans and for ensuring further progress towards European integration of the region.

The exchange of experiences between young people from regional contracting parties will help form new ideas for the future of the region, contribute to the better understanding of human rights, initiate intraregional exchange and cooperation, and help foster trust building between youth from different ethnic groups. In piloting this regional Open Call, RYCO will provide necessary regional perspective and support a regional approach to continuous sector development in WB6. RYCO believes that only this is possible path to sustainable and peaceful development of the region.

The **General Objective** of this Call for Proposals is to contribute to the process of reconciliation in the region of the Western Balkans through increasing youth mobility, cooperation and activism.

To contribute to the global and specific objectives (SO) of this Call for Proposals, actions should fall into the one of the following priority areas (PA):

Priority Area 1: INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

- SO1: Ensuring a safe environment for young people for constructively dealing with the past
- SO2: Providing opportunities for intercultural learning and enhancing intercultural competences
- SO3: Enabling intercultural dialogue and tolerance through decreasing the level of hate speech, negative stereotypes and prejudice among young people in the region
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Priority Area 2: ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- SO4: Fostering active citizenship and participation in decision-making processes by young people
- SO5: Strengthening capacities of key actors¹ working for and with young people for civic participation and social inclusion
- SO6: Promoting social inclusion of young people through mobility, cooperation and shared projects

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

¹ KEY ACTORS from both the youth and the education sectors active in the region: governmental departments/agencies responsible for “international” work in school education, governmental departments/ministries responsible for youth, associations of key workers that will promote youth and school exchanges in the contracting parties and the region - youth workers, school principals/directors, other potential promoters of youth and schools exchange - youth/community/cultural centres (municipal/ NGO), etc.

RYCO will support projects built upon a partnership, with at least one partner from WB 6 (please check the Guidelines).

The overall financial envelope for this call is EUR 900, 000.

Indicative allocation of funds by lot:

LOT 1 for Priority Area 1 - INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE: EUR 500,000

- a) EUR 400,000 for CSOs
- b) EUR 100,000 for secondary schools

LOT 2 for Priority Area 2 - ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION: EUR 400,000

- a) EUR 300,000 for CSOs
- b) EUR 100,000 for secondary schools

THE FULL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, AS WELL AS THE SCHEDULE OF THE INFO SESSIONS ARE PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE, UNDER OPEN CALLS:

www.rycowb.org

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE CALL:

ACTIVITY	DEADLINE	TIME
Opening of the Call	October 16,2017	13pm
Deadline for requesting any clarifications from RYCO	November 10, 2017	23.59pm
Deadline for submission of applications	November 15, 2017	23.59 pm
Information to the applicants on selection	December 22, 2017	17am
Contract signature	By 26 January, 2018	

This indicative timetable may be updated by RYCO during the procedure. In such cases, the updated timetable will be published on the RYCO website: www.rycowb.org