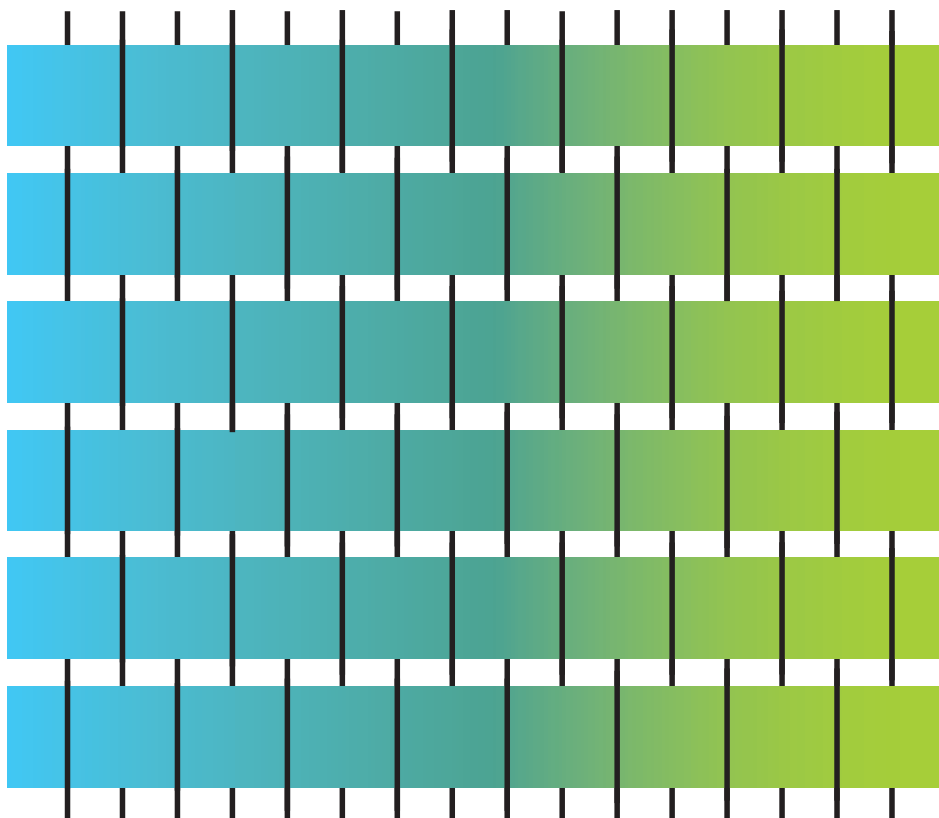


# What We Already Know About Young People in the Region

Desk research on existing data regarding RYCO priority areas:  
Youth mobility, Exchange, Participation and Ethnic distance







This research is a product of the RYCO strategic planning process and it was presented at the Strategic Dialogues Conference that was held on 20-22 March 2018 in Skopje, Macedonia.

## Introduction //////////////////////////////////////

The region of the Western Balkans is often righteously accused of not recognizing and implementing data and evidence-based policies. It is a common belief that public decisions are made without the previous testing of their possible outcomes and consequences. The same could be said for measuring the impact and post-factum evaluation of measures, policies, activities, and so on which are implemented by national and local governments. Usually, progress assessment is understood as simply enumerating and describing the activities that were implemented. The real change that was produced by these activities is rarely taken into account or estimated.

The reasons why this happens are manifold. First of all, we could point out the general absence of an empirical approach in social science and the lack of training that people that should be involved in the planning and implementation of public policies have. The second reason might be the dominant top-down approach to public policy-making in most of the Western Balkans<sup>6</sup>, which are under strong pressure from the international community and the European Union to produce change. Regardless of the fact that this pressure is an important and inevitable driver of political, economic and even social transformation, it often creates a strong stimulus for window-dressing the actual progress. That is the reason why strategies and policy evaluations in many cases take the form of merely counting both activities and money spent, rather than trying to assess the impact produced.

One might think that the situation is the same when it comes to evaluating the position of young people in the region. However, this might not be the whole truth. Although the policies and plans regarding young people in the region implemented so far have rarely included impact and effects measurement, there is a significant amount of data available. This data is being produced by research institutes, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and individuals and could be used for comparison and even tracking change.

This desk research was conducted in order to assess the current situation when it comes to the data that is being collected about young people in the region. The goal was to provide a comprehensive overview of which data is being collected regarding topics of interest to RYCO, who collects it, in which manner, how regularly and how many RYCO Contracting Parties it covers. The second goal was to distinguish between which data needs to be collected in the future and which information can be derived from previously collected data. Finally, the desk research yields some recommendations that could guide RYCO's activities in the future.

## Selection Criteria

By the region, we mean the Western Balkans<sup>6</sup> that is the primary target of RYCO's activities: *Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia*. In total, the desk research included over 70 documents, reports and data sources regarding the topic in the region that passed through several filters. In fact, there are many more studies about young people in the region than can be dealt with here (with some taking them as a primary topic, and others indirectly related to them) and a complete list would be impossible to make. That is why we focused on studies that include three specific topics that have been selected by RYCO as priority areas of activity:

- 1) Youth mobility, youth exchange and school exchange,
- 2) Ethnic distance and
- 3) Youth participation.

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<sup>\*</sup> 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

Since there are number of one-case-only studies, we had to introduce some additional selection criteria. Only studies that are either comparative or at least comparable were included. Comparative means that there are at least two cases compared within the study. Comparable means that the data is collected in a manner that has been used before or which could be used in the future in other RYCO Contracting Parties, which would enable us to compare the data. The time span of selected reports includes a period of 10 years – from 2008 to 2018.

There were some exceptions to the criteria. In some cases, the analysis included examples of interesting research exercises that could provide useful models for what should be done additionally in the region.

Besides the empirical studies that are the main focus of this desk research, we have included a presentation of additional useful sources. This includes online sources that contain information about young people in the region with regards to the three topics, but which use secondary and/or official data. Additionally, we have presented several evaluation studies, bearing in mind RYCO's commitment to evaluating the change produced by the activities it supports. These documents (both specific reports and evaluation guidelines such as *A Quality Framework for Learning Mobility in the Youth Field*) contain valuable instructions on how to implement a high-quality evaluation study. Finally, at the very end, we add a brief presentation of the relevant literature and links to National Youth Policy documents.

## **Research questions**

The main research question that drove the whole study was – what data is being collected about young people in the region regarding three RYCO priority areas, who collects it and how can it be used?

Within these areas there were some specific research questions that were guiding the process of analysis:

- What are the existing formats of youth mobility (group/individual exchanges) in Europe and the region?
- What are the advantages vs. disadvantages of the formats, bearing in mind the need to make these youth exchange/youth mobility formats accessible to “hard to reach” young people?
- How can we measure/set indicators related to youth mobility?
- What motivates/demotivates young people from the WB6 to apply for participation in youth mobility (group/individual exchanges) programmes? What are the obstacles?
- What are the attitudes of young people with regard to ethnic distance among the Western Balkans 6?
- What is the profile (ethnic background/age/gender/rural/urban areas/educational/economic) of participants in individual/group exchanges? Who goes where and for what purpose (within the existing formats) within the region? (data per territory)

## **Structure of the report**

The report is structured in the following way:

The first part of the report contains the introduction and a presentation of the way the data was collected.

The second part evaluates the situation regarding data collection and availability in each area of interest. This evaluation includes the identification of relevant information that is currently missing and should be collected in the future. In addition, this part provides a very brief summary of the main findings of each study that was included.

The third part contains recommendations and conclusions drawn from the specific studies that were analysed.

This desk study contains an annex in which each analysed report or data source is presented. This segment is divided in five sub-segments. The main segment is Empirical studies. All the identified empirical studies are described using the following criteria:

- Title of the report/survey,
- Topics included,
- Identification of organisations/individuals that conducted and analysed the data,
- Description of the timeline (whether it is one time only or it repeats and if so how often),
- Geographic coverage,
- Type of data and methods employed,
- A note about relevance (if necessary) and,
- Additional comments including what the main findings or contribution of the report is.

The other four segments are useful online resources, youth policy evaluation studies, relevant literature and national youth policy documents.

The reports and data sources were collected using internet searches with the significant help of RYCO staff (especially Local Branch Officers) and partners. Since it required national expertise to select the relevant documentations and reports, this desk overview would not have been possible without their help.

## Evaluation of the Existing Data and the Identification of What Is Missing

### Youth and School Mobility and Exchange

There have been number of reports and research exercises that have looked into school mobility and exchange. However, they miss the main problems that RYCO's mandate targets – the *motivation and willingness to be mobile within the region*. There could be several reasons for this. In the past there were very few mobility programs “within the region”. In general, young people would move to countries outside the region in order to study or work. European funded programmes very often require that the mobility is organized in the direction “Western Balkans to EU” or vice versa. Within the region people usually travel and move in private arrangements, using the “usual” routes. The second reason why we lack information about intra-regional mobility is the fact that most applied international survey instruments do not include questions about mobility within the region. There are only a few exceptions to this.

In most cases the existing data and reports include information about the motivation and desire to internally relocate within the territory (internal migration to cities or desirable regions) or to emigrate from the respective Western Balkan society. The best example would be questions such as those from FES Youth in East Europe (YEE) studies:

- Would you like to relocate to another city/village in your country?
- What is the main reason why you would relocate?
- How strong is your desire to move out of from the country?
- Where would you prefer to move<sup>1</sup>?
- What is the main reason why you would move out of your country?
- What do you need to do in order to leave the country?

In a study that uses all the then available FES YEE datasets, a group of authors found that the percentage of young people that reported the intent to leave their home was rather high in each of the Western Balkans <sup>6</sup> (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015). In Albania 66.7% of young people said that they intended to leave, 49.2% in BiH, 55.1% in Kosovo and 52.8% in Macedonia<sup>2</sup>. The main motives that young people mentioned were “improving their standard of living, better employment possibilities or better educational prospects” (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 42). Building upon existing literature, the authors of this study concluded that while in the past emigration intentions and desires were used as a proxy measure for the level of commitment young people had to the future of their own societies, today this does not necessarily have to be the case. In particular, in reviewing the contemporary literature, they found that a lot of young people today express both the desire to live abroad on the one hand and the wish to contribute to improving conditions in their own societies on the other.

The FES YEE study provides comparable data on the motivation and attitudes of young people about internal migration and emigration outside the region. The raw data and individual studies are available for five of the Western Balkans <sup>63</sup> but there are plans to include the whole region in the near future. In addition, the data is available in an open format, so it can be additionally analysed by any interested party. However, the FES YEE does not currently collect data about intra-regional mobility.

<sup>1</sup> The offered answers do not include the region. Their options are: Australia, Italy, Germany, Austria, Other EU countries, the USA, Canada or other.

<sup>2</sup> The data for Serbia and Montenegro were not included in this study.

<sup>3</sup> The data will soon be available for Montenegro as well.

The Balkan Barometer from 2017 does not focus on young people only, but rather on the population of SEE in general. However, it provides an indication of the barriers in the region that still exist and a lack of desire of the people from the region to be mobile within that region. Specifically, it finds that the majority of the people from the region would not even consider emigrating to other economies in the region (at an 81% average in SEE), but also that 61% haven't travelled in the region in the past 12 months.

The available studies do not cover the essential question that RYCO is interested in – the motivation and personal and societal impact of interregional mobility. However, they give us very important additional information. In particular, we know from different studies from the region that the number of young people who are willing to move away from the region is steadily increasing. We also know that the main reason why they want to leave is to search for better opportunities in life and unemployment. From other studies we know that the existing regional mobility institutional framework and support is weak and that when they move, people most often follow “inherited routes” (Montenegro-Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia, and so on). Finally, we know that opportunities to move within the region for the purpose of internships, volunteering, training and education (both formal and informal) are very limited and face many obstacles (even legal ones). One of the examples would be existing visa regime between BiH and Kosovo which significantly limits opportunities for young people to travel, meet and cooperate.

The desk study identified only one study that asked questions regarding the motivation for mobility among vulnerable youth groups and young people that are hard to reach, so we could fairly say that this group is outside of the focus, even where data collection is concerned. This study includes surveying respondents that belong to the Roma population, young people without parental care, young people with disabilities and young people that were subjected to a criminal investigation on more than one occasion. The study does not simply focus on mobility. It asks a number of questions about the general situation and life attitudes of the respondents belonging to the group of vulnerable youth. Among other questions, it asks several about the motivation of young people coming from vulnerable groups to leave BiH.

Studies that evaluate specific mobility programmes are very scarce. Even when they exist, they are not available publicly. One of the exceptions to this is the evaluation study *Impact of the Cooperation with South East Europe within Youth in Action Programme* (Slana, 2011/2012; Slana, 2015). This study represents a comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the Youth in Action (YiA) program in the SEE region that seeks to capture the impact of YiA at the individual level, on organizations in the field of youth, on youth work, local communities and youth policy. It also tries to estimate the sustainability of the desired effects. The main problem of the study was, however, a very low response rate (18.3%).

First of all, respondents agreed that the most popular type of activities in the YiA programme were youth exchanges. They highlighted a number of personal and organizational benefits that they received from participating, including establishing new international contacts, the use of non-formal education methods and the development of the organization's scope of action. In addition, they reported developing communication in foreign languages, learning to learn, improving social and civic competences, an increased sense of initiative, and so on (Slana, 2011/2012, p. 2). Some respondents expressed their opinion that participation in YiA projects enhances young people's employability.

When it comes to challenges, the respondents in this study highlighted bureaucratic, economic and communication obstacles. Interestingly, the main problems were in fact communication problems (notably long waiting periods for e-mail responses, language problems and cultural differences). In some cases, partnership challenges were the result of cultural differences,



while in other situations there were due to a lack of experience in international projects. The history of conflict in the SEE region is reported both as a benefit and as a challenge: *“In the Balkans, it is very difficult and we have to be very careful not to wound anybody, not to focus on the past and the conflict, avoid any political discussion, anything that can make bad memories come back and at the same time speak and make them have discussions and reflections about religion, communities, change some of their opinions and open their life to something else to be involved”* (Slana, 2015, p. 18). This observation might be an important cue for RYCO's activities, bearing in mind that one of the goals of this organization is to support youth projects that contribute to “fostering reconciliation and constructive approaches to remembrance”.

Finally, we can conclude that there are different studies that focus on the mobility of young people in the region. The most comprehensive and comparable is the FES YEE study. However, there are no studies that directly tackle the question of regional mobility and we can only learn about young people's attitudes to and motivations for such mobility indirectly. There is also some evidence that the consequences of the recent conflicts reflect in young people's attitudes and choice of the society from the region that they go to. Furthermore, evaluation studies that measure the impact of the existing regional mobility programmes are not public, with very rare exceptions. This means that we do not have enough empirical evidence to assess either the personal or societal change that the existing mobility programmes produce.

## Ethnic distance

Most of the Western Balkans 6 have available data on the ethnic distance between young people and other groups in the society. This information does not always contain data about the ethnic distance between all the ethnicities in the region, but it usually measures the distance between contextually relevant ones (Serbs/Kosovar or Montenegrin/Serbs, for example). The available data also provides information about social distance towards most susceptible segments of the population (for instance Roma people, migrants or homosexuals). In terms of instruments, the researchers usually use the adjusted Bogardus' scale in order to measure this distance, which means that comparability exists, but it is not always limitless.

Studies find that even though young people are less distanced than older individuals, the scores that they have on the ethnic distance scale are still very high.

The FES YEE study (as the most comparable one) includes the following items relevant to this topic:

→ Social trust – How much do you trust the following people (your colleagues, religious leaders, friends, people with different political views, relatives, neighbours, people of a different religion and family members),

→ Ethnic distance – How would you feel if following people/families moved into your neighbourhood: Roma people, a homosexual person or couple, a group of students, a retired couple, a family from a certain neighbouring place (e.g. Kosovo or Croatia), a family from China or Russia, a family of asylum seekers,

→ Feeling of discrimination,

→ Religious feelings and practice.

In the previously mentioned study that uses data from the FES YEE to analyse different youth attitudes comparatively in the region, there are some worrying conclusions (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015). For example, in analysing the data on social trust, the authors conclude that “youth in SEE have a limited potential for building social capital and extending their social networks, and especially in regards to creating the kind transversal ruptures that can overcome religious or political divisions” (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 24).

Looking into individual FES YEE studies we can find additional information about existing ethnic and social distance in the region. For example, according to a 2015 study, 55% of Albanian young people would feel bad or very bad if a gay couple moved into their neighbourhood, and 15% would feel bad if a Roma family did the same, while the percentage is 16% if a family from the Balkan moved nearby (Çela, Kamberi, & Pici, 2015). According to a 2013 Macedonian youth study the least acceptable close neighbours are homosexual couples, Roma people and families from Kosovo (Topuzovska Latkovic, Popovska Borota, Serafimovska, & Cekic, 2013). A similar distance is documented in a Kosovo youth study where “youth in general would ‘feel bad’ if a Serb/Albanian family or a Gay couple were to move close to their house” (Pasha, et al., 2012). In a study about Serbian youth, we can find the information that they have the largest distance towards gay couples, asylum seeking families, and Croatian and Roma families (Tomanović & Stanojević, 2015). In BiH young people are also most distanced towards gay couples and Roma families (Žiga, et al., 2014). In general, we can conclude that young people throughout the region exhibit certain levels of ethnic and social distance and that they are most distanced towards homosexuals, Roma people and members of contextually “opposed” ethnic groups.

Besides the FES YEE study which provides very valuable and comparable data on ethnic and social distance there are some other recent studies that are exploring the drivers of radicalization, stigmatization, Islamophobia or anti-immigrant attitudes (Batrićević, 2017). They yield the very important and RYCO mission relevant conclusion that both education and “contact” are negatively correlated with phobic sentiments. This means that the more a young person is educated and the more s/he has contact with different groups (e.g. ethnic groups) the less s/he is prone to radical attitudes and, consequently, behaviour. This finding confirms the so-called “contact” theory and is in line with RYCO’s goal – to foster reconciliation through exchange and basic contact. It would be very important to evaluate the impact that RYCO supported activities in the future have in this regard and to see and in fact measure how much “contact” adds to reducing distance among people from the region.

Another interesting topic would involve testing the impact different types of education (including civic education) produce on the change in attitudes among young population. So far, this topic has not received enough attention.

In the end, we can conclude that although there is a lot of research about the topic of ethnic and social distance, we still have some unanswered questions. There is no research or empirical evidence about whether regional mobility reduces ethnic distance, for example. Based on the general research we should expect this to be true, but the hypothesis has not been tested yet. This is especially true since we do not have data to control for pre-experience attitudes. Simply put, even if young people that have experienced regional mobility express less distance, we do not know how much of this difference can be attributed to the fact that people who have less distance are simply more likely to apply for such programmes in the first place.

Another topic that is under-researched is the impact of regional mobility on reconciliation. Reconciliation itself can be considered something of a fuzzy concept which lacks conceptual consensus. However, it is an important one and deserves due attention.

Finally, although a lot of attention is paid to terrorism at the current time, because of the general interest that this topic receives from the international and donor community, research about potential triggers of radicalization is scarce and limited to a few single society studies.

## Political participation

Most studies include standard variables that measure conventional (elections) and unconventional participation (signing petition, joining boycotts, and so on), interest in politics, ideological positions, satisfaction with democracy, belief in institutions, and perceptions of salient social and political problems. Some studies also include variables that measure some kind of civic participation, such as volunteering.

Here we can briefly outline what we know about the political participation of young people in the region using two different studies that are based on FES YEE surveys. These studies include 5 out of 6 RYCO Contracting Parties. The Montenegrin study has not been completed yet.

However, at the same time, even though existing data show that young people say that they prefer civic to political participation, they participate very rarely in any kind of these activities. Looking at the data in the Youth Development Index, the region overall does the worst in the field of civic participation. Additionally, if we look at the data from the FES YEE study we can see that 16% of young people from Albania had volunteered, 21% in Kosovo, 13% in Macedonia and 19% in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 25). In Serbia the percentage measured was 39.4% (Tomanović & Stanojević, 2015, p. 69). Furthermore, most young people from the region are not part of any civic organization or association.

The FES YEE study also finds that “religion is an important marker of their personal identity” and that “large segments of the youth population claim to belong to the dominant religion in their country”. Finally, “belief in religious dogma is also high” among young people in the region (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 26).

In Albania young people have the greatest trust in the media when it comes to institutions, in BiH and Kosovo in religious leaders, and in Macedonia the most trusted institution is the EU. As for the least trusted institutions, in Albania it is the Central Electoral Commission, in Macedonia and BiH political parties and in Kosovo UNMIK (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 29). In Serbia young people have the most trust in the military and the Church and the least in political parties (Tomanović & Stanojević, 2015, p. 104).

When it comes to satisfaction with democracy, young people are significantly more dissatisfied than satisfied. For example, only 18.4% of young people in BiH and 6.2% of young people in Macedonia are very or somewhat satisfied with the democracy in these societies (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 31). In Serbia 8.6% of young people reported being very or just satisfied with democracy (Tomanović & Stanojević, 2015, p. 125).

Most young people do not feel represented in politics and consequently, most of them do not participate. In Albania, 30.3% of young people reported that they have voted in the last national elections, in BiH 19%, in Kosovo 16.9% and in Macedonia 41.6% (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015, p. 47). In the Serbian survey, 20.6% of young people reported that they knew who they would vote for if there were elections held at the time of survey, while 46.1% said they did not want to vote, 15.5% that they did not know whom to vote for and 17.8% refused to answer (Tomanović & Stanojević, 2015, p. 100).

The figures above nicely demonstrate how we can use different surveys to compare societies when the research instruments are the same. The FES YEE study (as the most comparable study) includes the following relevant items concerning participation which can be regionally compared:

- Attitudes towards volunteerism and the practice of volunteering,
- Motivation for volunteering,

- How often young people discuss politics with parents and how much they agree with them,
- Which affairs are they interested in (world, Balkan, national or EU politics),
- Vote preference and abstention from voting,
- Perception of their own influence on national and local institutions,
- Information sources,
- Left – right position,
- Opinion about the representation of young people in national politics,
- Trust in institutions,
- Satisfaction with democracy,
- Government priorities and success,
- Salience of the main political and social issues,
- Perception of the economic perspective and
- Attitudes towards the main domestic and foreign policies (e.g. the EU).

## Using international indexes

One of the “under-used” opportunities is offered by the international indexes that collect and present data that can be used to track and compare trends over time. When it comes to young people one of the most important indexes is the Youth Development Index – which is composed of eighteen indicators that collectively measures the multi-dimensional progress of youth development. It includes data from 183 societies and defines young people as being between 15-24 years of age.

The index measures progress based on indicators within 5 main domains:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Education:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enrolment in secondary education</li> <li>- Literacy rate</li> <li>- Digital native rate</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Health and well-being:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth mortality rate</li> <li>- Mental illness rate</li> <li>- Alcohol abuse rate</li> <li>- Drug abuse rate</li> <li>- HIV rate</li> <li>- Score on Global Well-being index</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Employment and opportunity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NEET rate</li> <li>- Youth unemployment ratio</li> <li>- Adolescent fertility rate</li> <li>- Existence of account at a financial institution</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Political participation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existence of national youth policy</li> <li>- Existence of voter education conducted nationally</li> <li>- Voiced opinion to official</li> </ul> </li> <li>→ Civic participation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteered time</li> <li>- Helped a stranger.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|---|

An index such as this enables us to track changes over time and between societies. The data is available from 2010 onwards.

The main disadvantage of using this index for regional comparison, however, is the fact that it does not yet include data from Kosovo.

## Conclusion and Recommendations //////////////////////////////////////

It is important to distinguish between two separate types of measurement that it is possible to deploy:

1) The measurement of general trends and the situation of young people in the region using general and preferably internationally recognized tools and indicators.

2) The measurement of the specific impact that RYCO activities produce – this means following the projects funded and implemented by RYCO and evaluating the immediate and long-term impact that they have on both participants and society.

When it comes to the first measurement, this desk research has demonstrated that there is already a lot of data being collected all the time in the region by different institutions, organizations, research institutes and even individuals. This is true for all three main topics (school mobility and exchange, ethnic distance and youth participation) but to varying degrees.

The most complete data collection happens when it comes to the topic of ethnic distance. There are research centres and institutions in each RYCO Contracting Party that uses the adjusted Bogardus scale to measure the ethnic distance of young people from targeted groups including people from other RYCO Contracting Parties. It is also quite true in the case of political participation. Many studies include standardized questions to measure both conventional and unconventional participation. It is less true in cases of regional school and youth mobility programmes because currently the research is focused on internal mobility and out of region emigration.

The most feasible and effective way to correct these pitfalls would be to build upon the existing research, communicate the need for additional batteries of questions and increase the usage of the existing data and its research potential.

In that regard the main recommendations would include:

1) Since the most comprehensive and comparable regional study of youth is the FES study *Youth in East Europe* (<http://projects.ff.uni-mb.si/cepss/index.php/youth-studies/>) it would be sensible to **establish close cooperation that would include using the existing data** (open access already available) **and asking FES to include missing variables** that RYCO is interested in within the existing data collections. Since ethnic distance and political participation are already comprehensively covered in the national questionnaires, the priority would be to add a small battery of questions regarding attitudes towards regional mobility in the section of their study about mobility in general (Section D).

2) In order to best utilize the **existing knowledge and resources, reports and surveys** that were identified through this desk research and others that may be omitted or are yet to come **should be stored in one place** and made accessible online. This will enable both RYCO bodies and staff and potential partners to learn and understand what is going on in the region when it comes to young people.

3) One of the main findings of this desk research is that there is a lot of data being collected and analysed in the region in the field of RYCO interests. However, with a few exceptions, the raw data that was or is being collected is not openly accessible. This significantly limits its potential to single use only by the initial research team. RYCO should assist in increasing this

potential significantly by **urging researchers and organizations/donors that sponsor or conduct research to upload their data in an open data format**. This would enable researchers, organizations or others interested in most specific research questions concerning young people in the region to further use this data and come up with thorough analyses and recommendations. Additionally, it would be very useful if data producers could make an additional effort and translate it into English. It is notable that this desk research found that in many cases the collected data is not available to the broader community because of the existence of a language barrier.

4) Although this desk research has identified a number of researchers and organizations across the region that collect data about young people, it is obvious that resources overlap, people ask the same questions, and so on. It would be a good idea to **facilitate stronger cooperation between researchers in the region that study youth**, which might result in higher quality studies, cooperation and the further use of international science funding schemes, publishing, and other benefits. Creating incentives to encourage researchers to use the existing data and study youth is another option.

When it comes to the second measurement of the specific impact that RYCO activities produce this means that it would be necessary to follow the projects funded and implemented by RYCO and its partners and evaluate both the immediate and long term impact that they have on both the participants and society in general. In this context, the following might be seen as priority areas:

5) **Creating a unique RYCO evaluation tool** and making it compulsory for all grant recipients. The tool which could be based on the model of the evaluation instrument created by researchers from the Franco-German Youth Office and the German-Polish Youth Office would need to be specifically designed, but would have the following main features:

- a) A panel study format – each participant in the programme (in different roles - host, guest, organizer and so on) would fill in an evaluation form at least three points of time: pre-experience (e.g. of mobility.), immediately post-experience, and post-experience again after a certain period of time has elapsed.
- b) The tool should be unique to each programme and assess the change in attitudes and opinion of the young people involved in the experience. This would make the collected data comparable across the region and would generate a significant and relevant response rate.
- c) It should be web-based so that data collection is free.
- d) It should be linked to RYCO-owned or controlled database. In the future, RYCO might consider employing an in-house researcher who would be in charge of data analysis (the best option) or outsource this task to an external research institute/agency.
- e) Each grant recipient would have to commit to using the tool and ensuring responses from the participants.
- f) The evaluation questionnaire would be designed not only to measure satisfaction with the project but more thoroughly the impact that project had on the participants' attitudes, beliefs, distance, and so on. The pre- and post-questionnaire would enable the measurement of the change.
- g) The datasets should be anonymized and made available to the wider interested community that could be invited to use it and thoroughly study all aspects of the potential change that regional mobility produces.

Finally, it can be concluded that data on young people in the region exists and is often, although not continuously, collected. The researchers employ similar methods which enables moderate comparability. However, the data is not shared and is not used widely enough. We could in fact know more than we believe we actually do. This brings us to the last recommendation:

**6) Governments in the region should use the existing data and collect additional material** regarding young people's needs, mobility, ethnic distance and other relevant topics before engaging in youth policy-making. The policies should be based on evidence found by the vast research community in the region. Evidence should also be used in the evaluation of the policies' implementation.

RYCO can play an important coordinating and motivating role in enhancing the existing regional research potential and connecting it to both policy makers and other relevant stakeholders.

## Annex: Overview of the specific studies //////////////////////////////////////

In the following chapter, we will present individual empirical studies regarding topics of interest, additional online resources, youth policy evaluation studies from the region and provide a list of additionally relevant literature. Finally, we will list the youth policy documents for each of the RYCO Contracting Parties.

### Empirical studies

The following table contains an overview of the empirical studies about youth mobility, ethnic distance and participation. For each study, we provide basic information regarding the title, authors, the dynamic of implementation, geographic coverage, the type of data that is collected and information about its relevance with regards to the three topics. In addition, each study is then briefly described in terms of its value and/or main findings.

	Title	Author	Dynamic	Coverage	Data type	Relevance
1	<p>FES Youth in East Europe (YEE) studies</p> <p>Available at:  <a href="http://projects.fl.uniribn.si/cepas/index.php/youth-studies/">http://projects.fl.uniribn.si/cepas/index.php/youth-studies/</a></p> <p>Selected publications using the datasets:</p> <p>Lost in Democratic Transition: Political Challenges and Perspectives for Young People in South East Europe (Flere, Sergej, et al., 2015)</p> <p>Youth in South East Europe: Lost in Transition – Policy paper (Taleski &amp; Hoppe, 2015)</p> <p>The Excluded Generation: Youth in Southeast Europe (Jusić &amp; Numanović, 2017)</p> <p>Albanian Youth: "Between present hopes and Future Insecurities!" (Cela, Fshazi, Mazniku, Kamberi, &amp; Smaja, 2011)</p> <p>Albanian Youth: Slow change, Internet Dependency and EU Trust (Çela, Kamberi, &amp; Pici, 2015)</p> <p>Kosovo Youth Study: Forward looking grounded in tradition (Pasha, et al., 2012)</p> <p>Youth Study in BiH (Žiga, i drugi, 2014)</p> <p>Youth study Macedonia 2013 (Topuzovska Latkovic, Popovska Borota, Serafimovska, &amp; Cekic, 2013)</p> <p>Young People in Serbia (Tomanović &amp; Stanojević, 2015)</p>	<p>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), with its offices in Zagreb, Belgrade, Skopje, Bucharest, Sofia, Sarajevo, Pristina and Tirana initiated, implemented and financed FES youth studies in East Europe (FES YEE).</p>	<p>2011 onward</p>	<p>Albania (2011) B&amp;H (2014) Kosovo (2012) Macedonia (2013) Serbia (2015) + Bulgaria Croatia Romania Slovenia</p> <p>It is planned that Montenegro will be included as well</p>	<p>Quantitative survey (between 1000 and 1200 respondents) + qualitative focus groups</p>	<p>Mobility</p> <p>Ethnic distance</p> <p>Participation</p>

The studies from Albania (2011), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2014), Bulgaria (2014), Croatia (2012), Kosovo (2012), Macedonia (2013), Romania (2014), Slovenia (2013) and Serbia (2015) are part of a cross-national research project carried out by the FES and collaborating researchers. The topics include: Leisure and lifestyle (Section A); Religion and social affiliations (B); Family and friends (C); Concerns and aspirations (D); Education and employment (E); Democracy and politics (F); Governance and development (G); National and world politics (H); and a Demographic module. For Ethnic distance, Section B is relevant, while for Mobility, the most relevant section is Section D. However, the Migration Section does not cover intra-regional migration. Section F is relevant regarding participation. This study is very important for several reasons: its comparability within the region, the fact that it includes internationally recognised research instruments and the fact that its data is open and downloadable via the website.



2	Youth mobility in the Western Balkans – the present challenges and future perspectives (Popović & Gligorović, 2016)	Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue	N/A	BiH Kosovo Macedonia Montenegro Serbia	Content analysis, Desk research Online and offline survey – 1520 respondents Focus groups – 117 participants 17 interviews	Mobility
<p>The document states that societies in the region are putting a lot of efforts into regional and EU-WB networking in the sphere of formal education. The problem that the document emphasizes is that those programmes are mainly directed towards young people within the higher education system and that they do not cover vulnerable youth groups.</p> <p>The document emphasizes the mismatch between the educational system and enrolment policies indirectly recognizing it as one of the causes of structural unemployment which is perceived as a common characteristic of the labour market in all the observed societies. Other identified challenges include the poor economic situation coupled with high unemployment because of limited employment opportunities. The report remarks that unemployment is not primarily caused by a lack of qualifications.</p> <p>The report recognizes both poor infrastructure and the lack of support in obtaining working permits (paired with unclear work regulations) as other reasons for the absence of frequent youth regional mobility.</p> <p>The causes also lie in prejudices and the consequences of war that are still influencing the younger generations. It is perceived that the existing mobility follows ethnic lines and "inherited routes" (e.g. Montenegro/Serbia or BiH/Croatia).</p> <p>Finally, the economic crises and low wages stimulated out of region mobility.</p> <p>The document cites the following existing mobility programmes: Western Balkans - Research, Technology, Innovation - Information Platform (WBC-RTI.info platform); Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training; Regional Youth Co-operation Office RYCO; Regional Cooperation Council/SEE 2020 Strategy; Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue; IPA Funds for CBC and Regional CSOs thematic networking; The Council of Europe; The Partnership - The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership; Erasmus +; Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs; Creative Europe; Europe for Citizens; European Fund for the Balkans, and the Visegrad Scholarship Programme.</p>						
3	Public Opinion Survey Balkan Barometer <a href="https://www.roc.int/seeda/results/2/balkan-opinion-barometer">https://www.roc.int/seeda/results/2/balkan-opinion-barometer</a>	Regional Cooperation Council	2015 - 2018	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Kosovo Macedonia Montenegro Serbia	Quantitative survey with over 1000 respondents per wave per study	Mobility Social inclusion of vulnerable groups Ethnic distance
<p>This study is important as it tackles relevant topics such as mobility, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups, regional cooperation and EU Integration. We should note that the study is not limited to young people but rather more of a general population survey on public opinion. In cooperation with the RCC, information about youth specifically could probably be extracted. There are very important segments about attitudes towards mobility in the region. The survey is longitudinal so it can capture change and targets SEE societies.</p>						
4	Impact of the Cooperation with South East Europe within the Youth in Action Programme (Slana, 2015) (Slana, 2011/2012)	Urška Slana	2011 2015	Macedonia Serbia Montenegro Albania + Croatia	Online survey – 226 respondents (response rate 18.3%) 10 interviews	Evaluation study Mobility Youth participation
<p>The study is relevant because it measures the impact of the Youth in Action Programme on the people directly involved in it and on the wider communities in which the programme was implemented. The overall aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the Programme in the SEE region as well as the specific relevance of the cooperation with partners from SEE for project beneficiaries based in Programme countries (as defined by Erasmus+), and thereby supplement the existing Youth in Action evaluation studies which focused mainly on the Programme's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability in the Programme countries. The study covered the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Impact of Youth in Action on the individual level (young people and youth workers)</li> <li>→ Impact of Youth in Action on organizations in the field of youth</li> <li>→ Impact of Youth in Action on youth work</li> <li>→ Impact of Youth in Action on local communities</li> <li>→ Impact of Youth in Action on youth policy</li> <li>→ Sustainability of the changes</li> </ul>						

5	On the way to youth policy in BiH (Halimić, Koštrebić, & Neimarlija, 2013)	Šeherzada Halimić Kemal Koštrebić Nejra Neimarlija	2013	BiH	Survey 943 young people (15-30) 4 focus groups with young people (15-30)	Mobility Participation
This study includes a number of topics about young people in BiH. In the context of youth participation, the chapter named Youth participation is relevant. It contains data on interest in politics, participation in elections, and the ways in which young people are active and participate. The report also has a number of recommendations on how to increase the active participation of young people in public life.						
6	Young voices (Đipa & Fazlić, 2012)  Young voices (Đipa, Hadžić, Mijatović, & Bukva, 2016)	Dino Đipa SalminkaFazlić Dino Đipa et alt.	2012 2016	BiH	Quantitative research 2008/2016 respondents quantitative survey + 352/224 respondents coming from vulnerable groups + focus groups	Mobility Participation
This is a rare study that includes a significant number of young people coming from vulnerable groups (Roma people, people without parents, people with disabilities, and so on). However, most of the questions asked of people coming from vulnerable groups were not within RYCO's three areas of interest. The priority topics are attitudes towards education, employment, the economic situation, social protection and participation. The exception are questions about whether young people (including those coming from vulnerable groups) would be willing to move and why. It also includes comparison with the 2008 survey wave.						
7	Analiza: Mladinski potrebi i mladinsko organiziranje vo Republika Makedonija (Markovska, Spasenoska & Našovska, 2010)	ElizabetaMarkovska Spasenoska Marija Našovskova Agencija za mladi i sport SEGA Koalicija na mladinski organizacii	2010	Macedonia	Quantitative survey 1040 young people 15-29 years old + 10 regional focus groups	Mobility Social and ethnic distance Participation
This publication can only be found in Macedonian. It contains research on youth trends in Macedonia. It puts forth an analysis on youth education, participation, and the activism and volunteerism of youth in Macedonia, as well as defining deviant phenomena in terms of social exclusion.						
8	Multiculturalism and interethnic relations in education (Original title: МУЛТИКУЛТУРАЛИЗМОТ И МЕГУЕТНИЧКИТЕ ОДНОСИ ВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕТО) (Petroska-Beška, Najčevska, Kenig, Balaži, & Tomovska, 2009)	UNICEF Violeta Petroska-Beška Mirjana Najčevska Nikolina Kenig Safet Balaži Ana Tomovska	2009	Macedonia	Desk review Field research Questionnaire (Students N <sup>1</sup> = 506 (252 Albanians, 254 Macedonians) Teachers N=223 (104 Albanians, 119 Macedonians)	Ethnic distance
This Study on Multiculturalism and Inter-Ethnic Relations in Education provides an analysis of the capacities of the education system to promote and ensure respect, tolerance and acceptance. It examines the mutual perceptions and levels of communication between students, parents and teachers from the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic communities living in Macedonia. The purpose of this study is to create a baseline for UNICEF-supported activities as part of the Joint UN Programme for 'Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Dialogue and Collaboration in Macedonia', a programme primarily funded by the Millennium Development Goals Fund. This study was undertaken between						

<sup>4</sup> "N" stands for number of respondents.

June and October 2009 in two phases: a desk review phase and a field research phase. The results of the analysis performed in both phases are presented in the following two sections of the document. The desk review comprised:

1. A review of the relevant legal and policy framework.
2. A review of relevant research and analysis already undertaken in the field.
3. An analysis of the framework curriculum and the curricula of all the relevant compulsory and elective subjects in primary education.
4. An analysis of the textbooks for all the relevant subjects.
5. An analysis of the quantitative data related to multilingual schools in the society.

The field research took place in seven primary and secondary schools in three municipalities: Kumanovo (two primary and one secondary school); Kicevo (one primary school); and Struga (one primary and two secondary schools). The field research included respondents only from the Macedonian and Albanian ethnic communities. The rationale for this selection was that these constitute the largest communities in the society and it is the relationship between these communities which dominates the current debate about inter-ethnic issues.

9	Youth at Cross Road – Which is the Right Path? (Rrmoku, Zeqiri, Shabani, & Krasniqi, 2016)	NGO Make A Difference (MAD) supported by FES	2016	Kosovo	Qualitative method using behaviourism theory, comparative aspects and the quality of participation  Samples from the survey by a case study methodology	Youth participation
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The research tackled the engagement of young people in public participation by addressing the main challenges that youngsters face on a daily basis. The publication's target group is young people between 15 - 24 years old from the Prishtina Region. However, it could be said that they do represent the overall situation in Kosovo in terms of the involvement of young people in decision making processes. The research took as its starting point a focus analysis on the legislative framework of citizen participation, the arrangement format of public discussion, and more importantly the quality of communication between local institutions and young people. The analysis particularly explored the role of institutional mechanisms in representation and advocating marginalized groups, groups of interests and local communities, specifically with reference to young people.

10	Empower for Change of Stigmatizing Attitudes (Batrićević, 2017)	Center for Democratic Transition	2017 One time	SEE: Montenegro (157) B&H (184) Macedonia (112) Serbia (104)  WE: Germany (131) Belgium (119) Italy (185) Hungary (160)	Online survey N 1152	Ethnic distance  Stigmatization Islamophobia Violent radicalization Anti-immigrant attitudes
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The study concludes with the following relevant message:

"This brings us to a third noteworthy message – the importance of education and person experience with stigmatization. Sadly, it appears that young people who foster discriminatory political beliefs tend to be less educated on the very object of their discrimination. Islamophobia, as we saw, goes well in hand with a lack of knowledge about Islam. It is a worrisome fact that the majority of our respondents were unable to correctly answer basic questions regarding Islam. The same is, unfortunately, true with regards to contact with immigrants. The most negative attitudes on immigrants are held by those with the least amount of personal experience with them.

If one is to simplify, it would be reasonable to say that the level of stigmatizing attitudes is far better explained by a xenophobic search for identity mixed with an increased feeling of insecurity. It appears that what scares young people about immigration is much less related to the economy and narrow self-interest, and much more related to the intensive diversification of society."

Apart from the relevant findings this study offers a very useful definition of the relevant concepts:

- Violent radicalization. It is operationalized using (1) support for an organization that would sometimes resorts to violence; (2) willingness to take part in protests that might turn violent; (3) preparedness to disturb orderliness in a society; (4) belief in armed struggle as a tool for young people to achieve their goals; and (5) belief that enemies learn lessons only when they are threatened and through suffering.

- Stigmatization of immigrants. The scale measuring the stigmatization of immigrants is composed of eight survey items covering a wide range of subjects related to the immigration issue: (1) crime rates; (2) the economy ; (3) taking away jobs; (4) bringing new ideas and culture; (5) undermining of a culture; (6) legal immigrants should have equal rights, the same as citizens (R); (7) stronger measures to exclude immigrants are needed ; and (8) legal immigrants should have equal access to education, the same as citizens.

- Islamophobic attitudes. It is operationalized using ten questions (3 reversed), which are found in the previous literature to be a reliable measure (Imho and Recker, 2012): (1) The Islamic world is backward ; (2) The Islamic world cannot be uniformly characterized; (3) Muslim cultures have fundamentally different values; (4) Islam and Christianity share the same universal ethical principles; (5) Islam is an archaic religion; (6) Compared to Europeans, Muslims are irrational ; (7) Compared to other religious approaches, Islam is rather primitive; (8) Islamic religion is predisposed to terrorism; (9) Muslims are too different to demand equal access to positions in society ; and (10) Islamic religious education should be ordered in schools with Muslims.

All the survey items are measured on a 5-point scale where "1" refers to "strongly disagree" and "5" to "strongly agree".

11	Youth resilience to radical and extreme behaviour in Montenegro (Defacto, 2017)	Forum MNE De Facto	2016 One time only	Seven Montenegrin towns (Plav, Rožaje, Berane, Ulcinj, Herceg Novi, Nikšić and Podgorica)	17 Interviews 14 Focus groups with high school students	Ethnic distance
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Since the research was qualitative the results cannot "travel". However, they are valuable since it was found that young people were not very resistant to extreme behaviour triggers, such are – a lack of tolerance of diversity, high permissiveness of general violence and limited religious tolerance with high ethnic and religious distance. The most important finding was that such values are being transmitted through family channels and that it is often the case that the parents teach their children not to have contact with children of a different ethnicity.

The main questions were:

- What are the main agents of youth socialisation in Montenegro?
- To what extent are young people tolerant of various kinds of diversities?
- Are young people, and in which situations, permissive of violence?
- To what extent young people religious and what is their attitude towards other religions?

12	Perspectives of a Multi-ethnic Society in Kosovo (Teokarević, Beliqi, Surlić, & ed., 2015) (Only the first two chapters are relevant)	Group of researchers from Faculty of Political Science University of Belgrade and University of Pristina	2014 One time only	Kosovo Pristina Gracanica Mitrovica South Mitrovica North	F2F survey 754 respondents Bogardus' scale of ethnic distance + 10 additional questions Population representative	Ethnic distance
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No significant differences were found in this study when it comes to ethnic distance disaggregated by age, except when it comes to marriage and other types of relationships. Young people are found to be more open to inter-ethnic marriages or friendships compared to the general population. However, ethnic distance is found to be negatively correlated with education – the more people are educated, the less they avoid contact with "others". Valuable information comes from the part of the book in which data about ethnic distance is compared through time which shows worryingly negative trends. The scales that were used are internationally approved by the scientific community so the data can be compared.

13	Research Report on the impact of stereotypes and ethnic distance in emerging discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes (Stojanovski & Poposka, 2016)	Dr Strashko Stojanovski Dr Yhaneta Poposka OSCE Mission to Skopje	2016	Albania Macedonia	Survey	Ethnic distance
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This study could be relevant to compare data. However, it needs to be translated first. This research tackles the ethnic distance between the communities of Albanians and Macedonians in Macedonia. It offers a framework of existing stereotypes and their impact in creating interethnic distances, and the opportunity to monitor the situation in the field of ethnic interaction in the society. Hence the report focuses on the presentation of the results connected to discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in a national context. It includes questions about the ethnic distance between Albanians and Macedonians and focuses on different stereotypes. The problem is that the report is only available in Albanian and Macedonian, not in any other language.

14	Social distance between Youth from Serbia and Albania (2017)	Open Club and TIC	2017	Serbia Albania	1168 online survey respondents in Serbia and 335 in Albania	Ethnic distance
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This research was conducted within the project "Imaginary Distance" and was implemented by the Association for Development of Children and Youth – Open club from Niš in cooperation with Together in the Community for Development Society from Durres within the platform Humans of Albania and Serbia. It intended to determine the current state of closeness and distance, between young people (15-30) from Serbia and Albania using an online Facebook survey. Even though the survey found a larger distance in Serbia than in Albania this conclusion should be used carefully. In particular, while the report does not offer a conclusive explanation about why this might be the case, one of the possibilities could be methodological. Most notably, the sample size was much larger in Serbia and the demographic structure regarding gender and education was different.

15	Policy and legislative framework for youth participation in the Balkans (Petković & Rodić, 2015)	Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue/All Local Democracy Agencies in WB	Not continuous One-time collection in 2015	Montenegro Bosnia and Herzegovina Serbia Kosovo Macedonia	Policy and legislation review Online survey with 942 respondents Focus groups 8 Stakeholder interviews 23	Valuable overview of the legislative and policy context
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In the case of this report, the representativeness of results should not be taken for granted bearing in mind the sample structure and the sampling procedure (online survey). Comparison between cases is also not available. No relevant cross tabulations with demography (e.g. gender) are available.

#### Highlights:

"The majority of the local governmental representatives furthermore do not recognize their own role and responsibility in establishing the conditions which will encourage young people to actively participate and develop their sense of citizenship."

"Young people are not sufficiently informed about the possibilities of participation, not included, there are not sufficiently developed mechanisms or policies, or mechanisms are inadequate, or young people are manipulated."

The main obstacle for active participation is found to be insufficient funding (35%).

16	Analysis of the status of young people and youth sector in BiH (Đipa & Dervišević, 2008)	Dino Đipa Ervin Dervišević	2008	BiH	Survey 1500 young people  21 focus groups with 168 participants	Mobility  Ethnic distance  Youth participation
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The study contains Legal analysis and Empirical research.

The study is a very extensive report on the position and status of young people in BiH regarding a number of criteria, demography, education, employment, health, social policies, participation, mobility, culture, sport and others. Here it is most relevant in the part dealing with participation. It reports low level of participation of young people in political and social life and doubt as to their role and importance in the process. Not only did they not participate in the political process, they also tend not to participate in any other social process (such as volunteering, civic organizations' activities, and so on). They even show high levels of mistrust that volunteering for example brings any benefits to an individual.

17	Socio-economic Perception of Young People in BiH (PRISM, 2016)	Prism Research & Consulting d.o.o.  EU  UNDP	2017 (field research completed between August and October 2016)	BiH	Quantitative research method computer-assisted personal interviewing – CAPI  Young people 15 to 30 years old, N=1200	Political participation
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The goals of this survey were to examine the attitudes and opinions of young people in BiH regarding employment and work, the economic, social, and political situation, and other forms of political participation. The results show high levels of dissatisfaction among young people when it comes to the political, economic and social situation. Additionally, young people do not perceive that things are changing for the better. On the contrary, they believe that their quality of life is worse than it was for their parents at the time they were young. They also believe that "BiH is stagnating, that the ruling structures are not adequately dealing with a multitude of problems that BiH is facing". Finally, they do not trust the authorities to be able to solve the current problems. They also believe that citizens should be the drivers of change in the society and that everyone has a responsibility in that regard.

18	Participatory Monitoring for Accountability  Second Phase of Post-2015 Consultations (Gligorić & Brnović, 2014)	Biljana Gligorić  Lidija Brnović  UN System in Montenegro  UN Eco House	2012 - 2013  2014	Montenegro	National Consultations  Stock-taking (mapping)  Online survey (17-question questionnaire)  17 focus groups	Participation
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Data on youth can be found within this study as regards youth participation. The primary objective of the survey was to collect opinions about the main challenges that citizens face and their perception about the solutions to those challenges. The consultations were organized in the period between December 2012 and April 2013 and involved more than 8 000 people of Montenegro, or 1.3% of the whole population. People living in Montenegro identified the eight most prominent concerns around which priorities for the future should be set: Economic growth, unemployment, income generation and equal regional development, Fighting crime, corruption and nepotism, Health, Equality, Environmental sustainability, Infrastructure development, and Education and Values.

The purpose of the second phase of post-2015 consultations in Montenegro was to engage the public in a dialogue about the ways the government's performance can be monitored in the context of the post-2015 framework. A special emphasis is placed on "voiceless" groups of the population (the poor, disadvantaged, young/elderly, including women who live in remote or isolated communities, displaced people, and so on) who are traditionally excluded from the processes of policy development and the monitoring of their implementation.

19	Labour market transitions of young women and men in Montenegro (Djuric, 2016)	Dragan Djuric International Labour Office	Field activities between September and October 2015	Montenegro	Quantitative data School-to-work transition survey (15 to 29 years old) N=2,998	Mobility
<p>This report consists of seven sections. This section presents the main findings. Section 2 gives an overview of the labour market in Montenegro and provides details of the SWTS methodology. Section 3 presents the results of the SWTS, detailing the socio-economic characteristics of young people and their labour market outcomes. It includes an overall description of household characteristics, the aspirations and life goals of young people and their educational achievements. Section 4 introduces the specific characteristics of youth employment in Montenegro, including details on sector and occupation, wages, working hours, job satisfaction and qualifications mismatch. Section 5 discusses unemployed young people: their obstacles to finding work and the available routes for job searches. In Section 6, the classification of stages of labour market transition is introduced, along with an analysis of the factors determining the length of transition from school to employment. Finally, Section 7 presents the policy implications of the SWTS in Montenegro and concludes with policy recommendations drawn from the analysis of the survey.</p>						
20	KAP survey – Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey on youth employment and participation (IPSOS, 2013)	Ipsos Strategic Marketing	2013	Montenegro	Quantitative survey 1016 respondents	Participation
<p>This report includes a chapter on social and participation in decision making. The subject of the survey was, however, Montenegrin citizens age 15+, not only young people. The data can probably be cross-tabulated by age.</p>						
21	The Role of Youth in Political Entities in Kosovo (IFES, 2016)	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) USAID	2016 IFES Survey 2012	Kosovo	Quantitative and qualitative data N=300 Face-to-face surveys with youth, meetings, phone interviews	Participation
<p>This report presents information on the role of young people in political entities and youth organizations as seen from the perspective of young people in general, representatives of civil society organizations, and those youths who are currently members of the youth wings of political entity. The information presented in this report was collected through face-to-face interviews with young people, meetings and phone interviews.</p>						
22	Research on youth mobility in Serbia 2011 (2011)	Institute for sociological research in cooperation with MOS	2011	Serbia	Quantitative survey research National coverage N=1,530 Random sampling Respondents 15-30 years old	Mobility
<p>This presentation is only available in Serbian. The goals of this research were to question the character of youth mobility, the volume of mobility, the socio-demographic profile of young migrants, the recognition of existing mobility channels, and mitigating/aggravating circumstances to increase mobility.</p>						

23	Drivers of Youth Radicalism and Violent Extremism in Serbia (CeSID, 2016)	CeSID	2016	Serbia	Sample of 2,600 young citizens (aged 15 to 30) of Serbia	Ethnic distance
This research focuses on drivers that could lead to violent extremism. The key to preventing radicalization is to understand its causes and what drives people to become radicalized. The main conclusions are: "While the research provides reasons for moderate optimism in Serbia, it also reaffirms that the weak spots in Serbia are societal fragmentation within ethnic groups, a lack of possibilities for young people and especially the role of global and regional politics which contribute to the development of conflicts and represent the key identified drivers of radicalization. Young Bosniaks and Albanians both perceive religious discrimination, but both the minority and the majority population see themselves as victims of injustice. Two more findings are particularly noteworthy: this research dispels the notion that the banalization of violence in media is an important driver of radicalization and acceptability of violence. Also, young people in Serbia feel relatively safe in their local environments, which is a major prerequisite for reducing social tensions."						
24	Survey on youth	Nina media research	2016	Serbia	Quantitative transversal survey Face-to-face interviews (PAPI – Paper and pencil interviewing) Sample frame: 15-30 years' old N=1,500	Youth mobility Ethnic distance Youth participation
This survey aims to externally evaluate the current situation in areas of strategic interest for young adults as defined in the National Youth Strategy, a key mechanism for the implementation, coordination and improvement of youth policy and the creation of a supportive and respectful environment for young people and their initiatives. The conducted survey was meant to be the foundation for the monitoring of the implementation of activities and achieving the planned results and specific objectives defined in the National Youth Strategy. The questionnaire had the following sections: Introduction, Education, Employment and entrepreneurship, Youth health and well-being, Safety, Social inclusion, Culture, creativity and free time and Youth mobility and international perspective.						
25	The Complexity of Ethnic Stereotypes: A Study of Ethnic Distance among Serbian Youth (Pavasovic Trost, 2013)	Tamara Pavasovic-Trost	2013	Serbia	In-depth longitudinal survey N=400 Quantitative data (Bogardus scale) and qualitative data (Stereotype content model SCM)	Ethnic distance
Studies of ethnic distance among schoolchildren in the societies of the former Yugoslavia have shown that a strong prejudice between members of the majority ethnic groups and ethnic "others" exist. This study found that in Serbia, schoolchildren demonstrated high ethnic distance, primarily towards Roma, Albanians, and Croats. The study emphasizes that the intensity, quality and content of these stereotypes rarely receive attention. This study uses a rare in-depth longitudinal survey of 400 seventh and eighth grade Serbian children to assesses ethnic boundaries both quantitatively, using the Bogardus scale, and qualitatively, using the stereotype content model (SCM). The study concludes that "While ethnic distance scores shed light on the extent of ethnic animosity, they fail to capture the multi-dimensionality of children's attitudes towards other ethnic groups. Responses to open-ended questions demonstrate that Serbian schoolchildren align stereotypes of other ethnic groups neatly along the SCM model (envied, despised, or pitied out-groups), providing compelling information about the mechanisms and discourses of ethnic divisions".						



26	An Alternative Report on the Position and Needs of Young People in the Republic of Serbia (Stojanović, 2017)	Boban Stojanovic Krovna organizacija maldih Srbije	2017	Serbia	Desk analysis Focus groups Online 282 - question survey of 15-30 year-olds, N=396	Mobility Youth participation
<p>This report combines a number of techniques in order to present the situation regarding young people in Serbia over time. At the beginning of the report, it analyses the legislative framework as well as the way young people have been treated by different Serbian Governments. It also analyses the programmes and statutes of political parties in order to see how these subjects perceive and position young people in their structures and in society. In the empirical part, young people were asked about their attitudes towards political participation, information gathering habits, values, the labour market, activism, security, and other issues. According to this survey, most young people are interested in politics and find themselves competent to understand it. Most young people also use the internet in order to get informed. On the other hand, 48.8% of young people believe that they have none influence over political decision-making. Nine out of ten respondents believe that young people should participate more in decision-making. There are 35% of young people that believe that the general situation in the Serbia cannot be improved by turning out to vote. There are 11% of them that report being a member of a political party, which is far above the European average.</p> <p>There is only one question regarding mobility – “Where would you move to?” Most respondents answered Western Europe (44%). There are 16% of them that would move to a larger city. Only 3% would move elsewhere in the region.</p>						
27	Capitulation, confusion or resistance: social capital of Macedonian high school students (Korunovska Sribjanko, Korunovska Avramovska, & Maleska, 2010) (Original title: Капитулација, конфузија или отпор: Социјалниот капитал на македонските средношколци.)	Jana Korunovska Sribjanko Neda Korunovska Avramovska Tanja Maleska Youth Educational Forum	2011 Youth Educational Forum in May and September 2010	Macedonia	Correlative analysis Random sampling N=3,607	Youth participation Activism and volunteerism
<p>The report studies the attitudes of Macedonian high school students in order to understand their perspectives within the framework of youth participation, including civic participation and activism, volunteering, and voting behaviour. Finally, it compares the collected responses of Macedonian high school students to those of the members of youth clubs that were part of the project “Youth for Open Society – Local Youth Initiatives”. The study also emphasizes the differences between the active members of the Local Youth Initiative Clubs and the other high-school students. Here are some of the most interesting findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High school students in Macedonia are sceptical about their power to in any way contribute towards solving local problems.</li> <li>- High school students do not trust the local governments and trust the local elected officials even less.</li> <li>- An encouraging 65,8% of the students believe that they should voice their opinion.</li> <li>- Almost half of the students do not see themselves in Macedonia in 10 years.</li> </ul>						
28	Depopulation in the Western Balkan Countries (Lukić, Stojasavljević, Durdev, Nad, & Dercan, 2012)	Tamara Lukic Rastislav Stojasavljevic Branislav Durdev Imre Nad Bojan Dercan European Journal of Geography	2012	Albania Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Macedonia Montenegro Serbia	Quantitative data from statistical offices of the respective countries	Mobility
<p>Even though this paper does not directly target only young people, it is a valuable source that documents migration and depopulation trends all over the Western Balkans. The time span is the last decade of the 20th and the first of the 21st century. The paper uses data from different statistical institutions in the Western Balkans and maps the migration trends in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania.</p> <p>The most important conclusion is that the data is collected by different institutions in a manner which means it is not comparable, so we actually cannot assess the full scope of the problem which is evident.</p>						

## Useful online sources

1	<a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org">www.youthpolicy.org</a>	<p>It is an online resource lead by a think tank which is focused on youth and hosted by the NGO Demokratie &amp; Dialog e.v. The NGO supports the development of youth policies, promotes young people as researchers and fosters discussions about young people. This online source contains information about 196 societies around the world including GDP per capita, their human development index, their GINI index, their youth development index, literacy rates, secondary school enrolment rates, tobacco usage, voting age, and so on. It includes very informative sheets for each of the six RYCO CPs:</p> <p>BiH: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/bosnia-herzegovina/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/bosnia-herzegovina/</a></p> <p>Serbia: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/serbia/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/serbia/</a></p> <p>Montenegro: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/montenegro/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/montenegro/</a></p> <p>Kosovo: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/kosovo/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/kosovo/</a></p> <p>Macedonia: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/macedonia/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/macedonia/</a></p> <p>Albania: <a href="http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/albania/">http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/albania/</a></p>				
2	<p>Partnership between European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth</p> <p><a href="https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/portal/home">https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/portal/home</a></p>	<p>The web site contains significant amounts of useful information regarding youth and youth policies in many societies including the six RYCO Contracting Parties. One of the useful pages is Country information on Youth Policy (<a href="https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/all-countries">https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/all-countries</a>) from which a user can be directed to each society and the relevant information and resources about its youth policies.</p>				
2.1	<p>Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki</p> <p><a href="http://www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/contribution-eu-youth-wiki">www.pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/contribution-eu-youth-wiki</a></p> <p>Chapter I: Youth Policy Governance</p> <p>Albania (Loka, 2017)</p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jašarević, Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki: Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Policy Governance, 2017)</p> <p>Kosovo (Zeqiri, 2017)</p> <p>Montenegro (Petković, Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki: Montenegro Youth Policy Governance, 2017)</p> <p>Serbia (Perović, 2017)</p>	<p>EU</p> <p>Council of Europe</p>	<p>2017</p>	<p>Albania</p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Kosovo</p> <p>Montenegro</p> <p>Serbia</p>	<p>Desk survey</p>	<p>Resource study</p>
<p>This web site includes reports on the National Youth Policies in the targeted societies. Each report outlines the target population of the youth policy in each society, the national youth law, the national youth strategy and decision-making mechanisms, the cross-sectoral approach with other ministries, the evidence-based youth policy, funding for youth policy, cross-border cooperation and current debates</p>						

<b>2.2</b>	<p>Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki  <a href="http://www.zigp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/contribution-eu-youth-wiki">www.zigp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/contribution-eu-youth-wiki</a></p> <p>Chapter II: Voluntary actions Montenegro (Gligorović, 2017)</p> <p>Bosnia and Herzegovina (Jašarević &amp; Jevdić, Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki: Bosnia and Herzegovina Voluntary Activities, 2018)</p> <p>Serbia (Perović &amp; Ristić Beronja, Contribution of non-programme countries to EU Youth Wiki: Serbia Voluntary Activities, 2017)</p>	EU Council of Europe	2017 - 2018	Montenegro Bosnia and Herzegovina Serbia	Desk survey	Resource study
<p>Chapter II of this web site contains information about voluntary activities in three of the Western Balkans 6. Each study includes information about the general context, the administration and governance of youth volunteering, the national strategies on youth volunteering, laws and regulations, youth volunteering at a national level, cross-border mobility programmes, raising awareness about volunteering opportunities, skills recognition and current debates and reforms.</p>						
<b>2.3</b>	<p>Country Sheet on Youth Policy in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Kirkovski, 2017)</p> <p>Country Sheet on Youth Policy in Serbia (Perović, Country sheet on youth policy in Serbia, 2016)</p> <p>Country Sheet on Youth Policy in Montenegro (Kontić, 2016)</p>	<p>EU Council of Europe Aleksandar Kirkovski</p> <p>Bojana Perovic</p> <p>Vanja Kontić</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2016</p>	<p>Macedonia</p> <p>Serbia</p> <p>Montenegro</p>	Qualitative data and secondary data	Participation
<p>These three publications represent a report on youth policy in Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro. Chapter 2 covers statistics concerning young people while Chapter 3 covers the actors and structures, among which youth NGOs are included.</p>						

## Youth policy evaluation studies

There are two available youth policy studies in the region.

1	Youth policy in Serbia: Conclusions of the Council of Europe International Review Team (Potočnik & Williamson, 2016)	Dunja Potočnik Howard Williamson Council of Europe International Review Team	2 one week visits in April and September 2014	Serbia	Desk review Field visits Evaluation study	Participation Mobility
<p>Although this report is in fact an evaluation study, it might serve as a valuable example for similar evaluations of other National Youth Policies.</p> <p>The International Review Team (IRT) was invited by Serbia to carry out a review of youth policy. The review consisted of two visits organised by the Ministry of Youth of Serbia and insights gathered through studying documentation provided by the Ministry prior to the first visit. The first visit and the documents provided led to a focus by the IRT on seven priority issues of youth policy in Serbia: 1) Education; 2) Employment; 3) Information, access to rights and visibility; 4) Participation; 5) Social inclusion; 6) Health and safety/security; and 7) Mobility. The review produced conclusions on seven cross-cutting issues at the heart of youth policy in Serbia that suggest "there are serious obstacles to the further development and implementation of a coherent youth policy":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Centralisation and politicisation;</li> <li>- Transparency;</li> <li>- Civic versus traditional structures;</li> <li>- Horizontal and vertical communication;</li> <li>- Weaknesses in intersectoral co-operation;</li> <li>- Fragmentation of the youth field and resources;</li> <li>- Lack of sustainability.</li> </ul>						
2	Youth policy in Albania: Conclusion of the Council of Europe international review team (Maškova, Nilsson, Brandtner, Coussee, & Kišević, 2009)	Howard Williamson Zdenka Maskova Imse Nilsson Filip Coussee Srd Kisevic Council of Europe	2010	Albania	Evaluation study	Mobility Ethnic distance Youth participation
<p>The study evaluates Youth policy in Albania in different aspects. The relevant parts include recommendations regarding values, mobility and migration and youth participation.</p>						

There are several studies that did not meet the criteria to be included in the overview of the comparative and comparable studies of the young people in the region concerning mobility, ethnic distance and participation, but which might be relevant sources of information. In some cases, these studies focus on young people beyond the scope of the topics that RYCO is interested in but could be used as a support in contextualization. In other cases, these studies can provide an inspiration for organizing either the methodology of the research or specific activities and initiatives.

## Relevant literature

1	Change and continuity in youth transitions in Eastern Europe: Lessons for Western sociology (Roberts, 2003)
	This is an academic paper but contains interesting insights in terms of understanding why young people move from their homes. The author confronts evidence about the mobility of young people in post-communist societies with Western sociology that connects social origins, routes and destinations. Contrary to what might be expected, the Western theoretical framework provides a valuable tool for understanding the motivations of young people from the post-communist societies to move. The paper concludes that unlike what might be expected "that the exceptionally thorough changes that are still in process in East-Central Europe and the former USSR reveal with exceptional clarity the processes whereby young people's life chances are structured in ways that are not of the individuals' own making". One of the reasons can be found in the statement that: "Contrary to claims about postmodern fluidity, individualization, and a blurring of traditional structural boundaries, the expected links between origins, routes and destinations have persisted throughout the transformation of the former communist countries."
2	National Stereotypes as a Co-Determinant of Bilateral Relations: The Case of the western Balkans (Lovec & Bojinović Fenko, 2016)
	This is also an academic paper in which the authors find that stereotypes co-determine bilateral relations between Western Balkans and that they can be used as a proxy for ethnic distance which is one of the RYCO's priority topics. Even though the paper does not focus only on young people, it provides an interesting insight into how stereotypes function as a mechanism of creating distance.
3	Kako mobilnost mladih u svrhu učenja može povećati njihovu zapošljivost? (2015) (In English: How youth mobility with the aim of studying can increase their employability? An overview of European research and data on projects about mobility with the aim of studying and how it can improve the employability of young people?)
	<p>This report introduces concepts "mobility with the purpose of studying" and "employability" and then proceeds to present some key reports about the competences that a student can acquire during such mobility. Then it offers some interesting figures that show that higher education, professional education, mobility and employability correlate. Finally, it offers databases with programmes that enable European and international mobility.</p> <p>The databases with opportunities for European and international mobility mentioned in the report are:</p> <p>Eurodesk: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder</a> and <a href="http://lastminute.eurodesk.eu">http://lastminute.eurodesk.eu</a></p> <p>Baza podataka o prilikama za volontiranje: <a href="http://europa.eu/youth/vp/opportunity_list_en">http://europa.eu/youth/vp/opportunity_list_en</a></p> <p>ErasmusIntern.org: <a href="http://erasmusintern.org">http://erasmusintern.org</a></p> <p>Drop'pin@EURES: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eures/droppin">https://ec.europa.eu/eures/droppin</a></p> <p>European Mobility Programmes:</p> <p>Erasmus+ 2014. – 2020: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus">http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus</a></p> <p>EaSI-EURES: tvoj prvi EURES posao – ciljana shema mobilnosti: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000504">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000504</a></p> <p>Erasmus za mlade poduzetnike: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000401">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000401</a></p> <p>VIE – Volontariat en Entreprise: <a href="https://www.civiweb.com/international/EN/index.aspx">https://www.civiweb.com/international/EN/index.aspx</a></p> <p>Eurodyssée: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000009">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000009</a></p> <p>Ljetno sveučilište AEGEE: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000217">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000217</a></p> <p>International Mobility Programmes:</p> <p>Mladi za razumijevanje (Youth For Understanding - YFU) – međunarodna razmjena: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000384">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000384</a></p> <p>Međukulturalni programi AFS: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000276">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000276</a></p> <p>Program Svjetske banke za mlade profesionalce: <a href="http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000461">http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000461</a></p>

#### European Internship Programmes:

Stażiranje u Agenciji EU-a za temeljna prava (FRA):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000374>

Stażiranje u Europskom vijeću za izbjeglice i prognanike:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000244>

Stażiranje u Europskom zakladnom centru (European Foundation Centre):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000243>

#### International Internship Programmes:

Program stažiranja u Uredu Visokog povjerenika Ujedinjenih naroda za ljudska prava (OHCHR):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000150>

Program stažiranja u Organizaciji za europsku sigurnost i suradnju (OESS):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000223>

Stażiranje u Svjetskoj banci: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000263>

Stażiranje u UNESCO-u: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000285>

UNICEF-ov program stažiranja: [http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index\\_internship.html](http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/index_internship.html)

Program stažiranja Tajništva Ujedinjenih naroda u New Yorku:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/sds/internsh/index.htm>

Internship USA: <http://www.ciee.org/intern>

Sveučilište Ujedinjenih naroda: Portal zastažiranja: <http://unu.edu/administration/hr/internships>

#### European Programmes of Professional Praxis:

Stručna praksa u CEDEFOP-u: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000219>

Stručna praksa u Vijeću Europske unije: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000021>

Stručna praksa u Sudu Europske unije: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000180>

Stručna praksa u Europskom centru za sprječavanje i kontrolu bolesti (ECDC):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000389>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj agenciji za pomorsku sigurnost (EMSA):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000387>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj agenciji za lijekove: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000382>

Stručna praksa u Uredu za financijske mehanizme (UFM):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000559>

Stručna praksa u Zajedničkom istraživačkom centru:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000280>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj agenciji za željeznice (ERA):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000443>

Stručna praksa i specijalizacija u Europskom centru za moderne jezike (ECML):

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000192>

Stručna praksa i studentski ljetni poslovi u Europskoj investicijskoj banci:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000181>

Stručna praksa i studijske posjete u Europskom parlamentu:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000004>

Stručna praksa u Odboru regija (OR): <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000020>

Stručna praksa u Vijeću Europe: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000091>

Stručna praksa u Revizorskom sudu: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000212>

Stručna praksa u Europskom gospodarskom i socijalnom odboru:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000152>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj središnjoj banci: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000286>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj komisiji – administrativna stručna praksa:

<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000072>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj komisiji – prevoditeljska stručna praksa:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000090>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj agenciji za sigurnost hrane (EFSA):  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000586>

Stručna praksa u Europskoj zakladi za poboljšanje životnih i radnih uvjeta:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000220>

Stručna praksa u ustanovi Europski ombudsman: <http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000147>

Stručna praksa u Europskom parlamentu za osobe s invaliditetom:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000345>

Prevoditeljske stručne prakse u Europskom parlamentu za diplomante sveučilišnih studija:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000178>

Stručna praksa u Centru Sjever-Jug Vijeća Europe:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000352>

Stručna praksa za mlade stručnjake u Uredu za usklađivanje na unutarnjem tržištu (OHIM) – žigovi i dizajni:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000234>

Stručna praksa u Prevoditeljskom centru za tijela EU-a:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000306>

#### International Programs of Professional Praxis:

AIESEC-ov međunarodni program stručne prakse na razmjeni:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000105>

Stručna praksa u Europskom udruženju slobodne trgovine – EFTA:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000320>

#### European Professional Programmes:

Osposobljavanje prevoditelja kroz učenje uz rad u Europskom parlamentu  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000560>

Osposobljavanje kroz učenje uz rad u Europskom parlamentu:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000631>

Programi osposobljavanja u Europskoj svemirskoj agenciji:  
<http://eurodesk.eu/deadline-reminder?program=EU0010000151>

Mreža SALTO: <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/eecacooperation/SALTONetwork>

#### **4 Youth Challenges and Opportunities in the Western Balkans (2017)**

This briefing assesses the situation of young people in all RYCO Contracting Parties. It starts by outlining the main common challenges among which youth unemployment (which is seen as a result of region's difficult economic situation and outdated educational system that fails to connect to the labour market) stands out. The brief recognizes deeply entrenched regional stereotypes, a lack of awareness of other cultures and brain drain as additional regional challenges.

The briefing also recognizes the importance of RYCO: "Raising awareness about these challenges and the need for timely solutions is therefore crucial. The EU has been encouraging dialogue on the future of youth in the region through a number of projects and initiatives, including the Erasmus+ programme. In recent years, a series of conferences, including in the framework of the Berlin process, have given young people increased prominence, drawing attention to the difficulties they face and the opportunities they need to be given. The establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office in 2016 is a tangible development in this respect, seen as a positive step towards promoting dialogue, involving young people in joint activities and changing the regional narrative." According to this document, future priorities should include the modernization of educational systems, promoting mobility and exchanges within the region and with the EU and encouraging youth entrepreneurial skills and participation in civil society.

<b>5</b>	<b>Deconstructing Reconciliation in Kosovo (2017)</b>
The report first studies the concept of reconciliation as seen by the Kosovar population. It proceeds to explain why in spite of all the efforts, the transitional justice and reconciliation process has not been successful so far. It uses quantitative and qualitative methodology to support the claim of the necessity of a bottom-up approach in re-establishing confidence between the population of Albanians and Serbs. The report finds some positive trends when it comes to younger generations in this regard.	
<b>6</b>	<b>A Quality Framework for Learning Mobility in the Youth Field (European Platform on Learning Mobility in Youth Field, 2015)</b>
<p>This is a document that contains 22 principles that could be used for the evaluation of international youth mobility projects including youth exchanges, volunteering, school exchanges, youth worker mobility, vocational apprenticeships, and so on. There are three parts of the publication: The Charter, The Indicators and a Handbook (yet to be published). The principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project has clear learning objectives and these are known to all actors including participants.</li> <li>- The mobility project fits to the needs of the organisations.</li> <li>- The type of learning mobility is adapted to the profile of the participants and the learning objectives.</li> <li>- The organisers formulate indicators for assessing outcomes collaboratively with participants.</li> <li>- Information about the project and conditions for involvement are clear before participants decide to participate.</li> <li>- If there is selection, the criteria and procedures are transparent.</li> <li>- The organisers collect the needs of participants to create an inclusive environment.</li> <li>- The organisers make sure that the resources are adequate to reach the objectives and cater for the needs of participants.</li> <li>- The learning environment helps to achieve the learning objectives.</li> <li>- The programme is prepared well in advance together with all the actors.</li> <li>- Participants interact with the diverse cultures involved in the project, and in the hosting environments.</li> <li>- Actors in the project co-operate in a positive partnership.</li> <li>- The organisers arrange practicalities well in advance and inform participants about them in a timely manner.</li> <li>- Participants receive adequate preparation.</li> <li>- The methodology and methods used are appropriate for the participants to reach the learning objectives.</li> <li>- The organisers ensure adequate support during the project.</li> <li>- Organisers provide space and support for structured reflection on the experience.</li> <li>- The learning outcomes are evaluated at both project and individual level, and in both a short-term and long-term perspective.</li> <li>- The evaluation also includes non-intended outcomes.</li> <li>- Organisers support participants to document their achievements and help those to be recognised.</li> <li>- Organisers guide participants to capitalise on the outcomes of the experience.</li> <li>- Organisers capitalise on the outcomes of the project for it to have a wider impact.</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Impact Compendium on Youth Exchange: An overview of scientific research results on the impact of intercultural exchanges (Brunner, 2016)</b>
<p>This publication summarizes existing scientific knowledge and research on the impact youth exchanges have on young people and the overall society. Its topics include intergroup contact and its results, the consequences of school and youth exchange (both short- and long-term) on personal competence, self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-decentralization, psychological and emotional maturity, personal skills, intercultural sensitivity, contact, openness and knowledge.</p> <p>The study represents a comprehensive overview of the known and tested effects that different kinds of youth mobility have on young people and their surroundings.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Evaluation of international youth exchange programmes – presenting a new tool in “Easy English” (Ilg, 2013),</b>
<p>Since most youth exchanges do not include science-based methods of evaluation, but are only interested in “participants’ view”, the evaluation questionnaires are often designed unprofessionally so that the data cannot be compared and used. The aim of the project that this report is a result of was to move from evaluation methods developed ad hoc to a standard practice for generating data in the form of self-evaluation. The main principles of a good evaluation in the field of youth work include the fact that the evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- takes the participants view serious,</li> <li>- has a short questionnaire,</li> <li>- is easy-to-use, yet based on scientific development,</li> <li>- is free of charge,</li> <li>- takes the different profiles of exchange programmes into account (by asking the leaders for their aims).</li> </ul> <p>One additional value of the programme, called “joint-self-evaluation” is the number of responses. “During the years 2005 through 2012 more than 35.000 questionnaires were sent in to the Central Office: 31.345 participants’ questionnaires and 4.199 workers’ questionnaires from 1.131 groups (data from February 2013 – the real dates will be slightly higher after having finalized the data from 2012). If you compare this to other empirical studies, you will see the advantage of this system: While even the biggest youth studies (like for example the German Shell study)</p>	



collect no more than about 2.000 questionnaires, our system generates a huge data output for a very low budget."

The general principles included:

- The goal is to make the self-evaluation for every institution/organizer as easy and convenient as possible.
- The evaluation instrument is used exclusively for quality development and not as a "surveillance instrument".
- Whoever works with the data, commits him- or herself to dealing with it confidentially. Anonymity is guaranteed at all levels.
- The data of the individual institutions should be continually collected and combined.
- Taking the information on board and evaluating the data is open and self-critical.
- Evaluation and interpretation takes place in cooperation with all participants.
- Further development of the instrument is desirable, however only on the basis of firm scientific standards.
- Whoever uses the evaluation instrument ensures transparent implementation and the observance of these principles within his/her area of responsibility.

**9** The Next Generation  
<https://www.britishcouncil.org/society/governance-civil-society/next-generation>

According to the internet presentation of the project: "Next Generation" is a series of global British Council research focusing on the attitudes and aspirations of young people, and the policies and conditions that support them in becoming creative, fulfilled and active citizens. The research projects examine young people's views around education, employment, and lifestyle, as well as uncovering their hopes and fears for their country, their degree of international engagement and views on the wider world, and the values and beliefs that affect their lives. In countries where we have conducted multiple Next Generation reports, the first acts as a benchmark, with later reports taking more of a deep dive into a given area, such as democratic engagement or experience of conflict."

It was first conducted in Pakistan, and then replicated in Nigeria, Bangladesh, Tanzania, the UK and Ukraine. The idea is to enable young people to voice their opinion at important times for each society. The methodology and sample size is different in each case. The project is supported by the British Council.

**10** Long-term effects of the participation in international youth exchange programmes on the participants' personality development: Summary (Thomas, Abt, & Chang, 2005)

The report summarizes effects that were found as the result of international youth exchange programmes of the format "short term programme in groups" after six years. The other research questions included analysis of the fields of experience and actions that were addressed during the programme, the identification of the processes that had long-term effects, as well as psychological and biographical influences. The research tested the differences between various types of programmes. The methods employed included analysis of the literature and documents, interviews with specialists and former participants as well as surveys via questionnaire that included 532 respondents.

Interestingly, the study found that the following motives for participation were the most frequent:

- To get to know people from other cultures (56 %)
- Generally to get to know new people (36 %)
- To create international experiences (33 %)
- To get to know something new (32 %)
- Interest in a certain society (31 %)
- To get to know a culture/a society not as a typical tourist (30 %).

**11** Interethnic Relations in Macedonia (Original title: Меѓуетничките односи во Македонија) (Klekovski, 2011)

This publication is only available in Macedonian. It is a useful study on the quality of interethnic relations in Macedonia, providing a historical background and analysis of the attitudes, prejudices and stereotypes individuals may hold today. This study is not limited to young people but there are chapters which deal with education. Therefore, it may still support an apt understanding of the issue in question.

12	Process of reconciliation in the Western Balkans and Turkey: A Qualitative Study (Adamović, Gvozdenović, & Kovačić, 2017)
	<p>The report provides an excellent theoretical framework at the beginning when it comes to peacebuilding and reconciliation and proceeds with an empirical qualitative study that includes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia, Albania and Turkey. It does not, however, target young people in particular. It is valuable because it contains data that can be compared if the study is conducted on a sample of young people and because it includes a detailed guide to focus groups. The report includes a number of specific and interesting conclusions, but the main ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reconciliation is fostered by the desire to join the European Union and by demands coming from international institutions (especially regarding standards that need to be met in order to achieve EU membership)</li> <li>- There is a mismatch between the legal regulations and the implementation of reconciliation policies,</li> <li>- Administrations have not accepted their responsibility for their role in the conflicts,</li> <li>- Where continuity of power is retained in the post-conflict period "the process of reconciliation is most often marked by the nationalist discourse of political elites who want to remain in the position of power", and</li> <li>- Respondents believe that the public administration hinders reconciliation process in order to protect own particular interests (Adamović, Gvozdenović, &amp; Kovačić, 2017, p. 225).</li> </ul>
13	Connecting youth work and youth policy (Topali, Hadžibegović, Manevski, & Apitz, 2016)
	<p>The report is not a research paper per se but rather a stakeholder analysis of the challenges, causes and consequences when it comes to Youth Participation and Activism, European Citizenship and Civic Education, Entrepreneurship and Taking Initiative, Social Inclusion and Learning Mobility, Youth Employment and Employability and Radicalization and Extremism. Regarding Youth and school mobility the following analysis is relevant:</p> <p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programmes are not accessible to all.</li> <li>- NGOs (and others) are often not able to reach the most marginalized youth, especially those who need it most.</li> <li>- There is a lack of foreign language skills among young people needed to have access to different programmes</li> <li>- There is a lack of access on the part of youth workers to promoting nonformal education in schools</li> <li>- There is a lack of promotion of the value of mobility for learning</li> </ul> <p>Causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A lack of financial support to provide reimbursement of expenses.</li> <li>- Associations do not manage to reach marginalized youth.</li> <li>- Not enough cooperation among public and the NGO sector to create accessibility in/of institutions</li> <li>- A tendency to rely on the formal education system as the sole provider of education</li> </ul> <p>Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, do not access education in mobility activities.</li> <li>- There is no opportunity to learn/practice foreign languages</li> <li>- There is not enough support and understanding of the benefits of learning mobility</li> <li>- There is no motivation for NGOs to try to include marginalised youth due to the bureaucratic procedures necessary for accessing educational institutions</li> </ul>

## **National youth policy documents**

The following list includes links to National Youth strategic documents covering the WB6. BiH does not have a National Youth Strategy at the moment.

### **Albania: National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020**

[http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/plani%20kombetar%20i%20veprimit%20per%20rinine%202015-2020\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.un.org.al/sites/default/files/plani%20kombetar%20i%20veprimit%20per%20rinine%202015-2020_ENG.pdf)

### **Kosovo: Strategy for Youth 2013-2017**

[https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/KOSOVO\\_STRATEGY\\_FOR\\_YOUTH.pdf](https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/KOSOVO_STRATEGY_FOR_YOUTH.pdf)

### **Macedonia: National Youth Strategy 2016-2025**

[http://ams.gov.mk/images/dokumenti/mladi/National\\_Youth\\_Strategy\\_2016-2025\\_eng.pdf](http://ams.gov.mk/images/dokumenti/mladi/National_Youth_Strategy_2016-2025_eng.pdf)

### **Montenegro: Youth Strategy 2017-2021**

<http://www.strategijazamlade.me/>

### **Serbia: National Youth Strategy 2015-2025**

[http://www.mos.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/download-manager-files/nacionalna\\_strategija\\_zamlade0101\\_cyr.pdf](http://www.mos.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/download-manager-files/nacionalna_strategija_zamlade0101_cyr.pdf)

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### Disclaimers

The desk research is conducted by an external researcher contracted by RYCO. The opinions and recommendations expressed in the research do not necessarily represent those of RYCO or its bodies.

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### On RYCO

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an international organization, founded by the Western Balkans governments, aiming to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in the region through youth exchange programs.

Find more about our work at the organization's website: [www.rycowb.org](http://www.rycowb.org)





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