



RYCO and UNFPA invite you to apply for becoming a participant of Training of Trainers through the y-peer<sup>1</sup> methodology to peacebuilding and reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

Call for Applications

**Western Balkans Y-Peer Training of Trainers**

**Deadline to apply 23 June 2020**

Currently, there is a clear momentum and support from the international community to recognize young people's active and integral role in peacebuilding, as asserted in [UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security](#): 'affirming the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.'<sup>2</sup>

Cultivating a culture of tolerance that brings young people from diverse social groups together and which promotes peace and security in the region is necessary. Peace education in this regard is a useful tool to achieve this goal and to break the intergenerational transmission of violence and conflict, as educational institutions are central socializing institutions for youth and adolescents that have a critical role in shaping perceptions, beliefs and ideological commitments.

Through this initiative we are aiming to develop the capacities of young people from targeted hard to reach groups through Training of Trainers (TOT) on the youth, peace and security. Participants will build skills to become peer trainers and transfer newly acquired competences and knowledge to other hard to reach youth, using y-peer methodology.

The training methodology focuses on collaborative and interactive workshops, online and face-to-face sessions, and will be done through an inclusive approach.

This Training of Trainers is undertaken in the framework of the "Supporting the Western Balkan's Collective Leadership on Reconciliation" a joint UN-RYCO project, funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. It is implemented by the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) and the three UN Agencies – UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF. The project aims to build capacities and momentum for RYCO, empower young people in having their voice heard in public decision-making processes that affects their lives, as well as strengthen their role in building and maintaining safe and peaceful environments for themselves and their communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Y-peer model is a powerful tool to promote greater understanding among young people of diverse national and ethnic backgrounds. Peer education is also a way to empower young people to be actively involved in peacebuilding in the society; it offers them the opportunity to participate in activities that affect them and to access the information and services they need.

<sup>2</sup>UNSCR 2250 (2015).



## Call for applications

RYCO and UNFPA are calling for **18 enthusiastic young people**, ages 18 to 27 from the Western Balkans 6, **who will become peer trainers**. The participants will take part in the main training based on y-peer methodology adapted to peacebuilding and reconciliation, and continue to work at local level in their communities with grassroots youth organisations and individuals from hard to reach groups<sup>3</sup>.

The training aims to further develop thematic and training competencies of the participants and equip them with the tools needed to engage, understand and then address the issues that affect personal and community peace, safety and security among young people. The participants will become a network of trainers which will teach and transfer the acquired knowledge to other youth from their local communities, ensuring that more young people are taking an active and leading role in peacebuilding activities.

The goal is also for this group to become advocates of peace and security in their environments bringing change to their societies in the long run. This group will work in a multicultural environment of young people together with experts and facilitators starting from June to the end of 2020. The participants need to commit to engaging from the beginning to the end of the process, and their engagement will require up to 30 days (and up to 5 days at a time) during the course of the initiative.

The ToT will kick-start in July with the first sessions, to continue in September with a face-to-face training workshop. After the ToT's finalization, the participants will have the opportunity to organize and facilitate two local workshops based on the skills acquired during the ToT, during October and November. Best innovative ideas by young people identified in the local workshops (locations in the Western Balkans to be confirmed) will be supported and implemented in the following months.

Participants are expected to work in teams and engage with other participants, as well as to be able to work face-to-face and remotely. Internet connection and willingness to travel for the face-to-face activities is a precondition for the participation.

## Eligibility criteria:

Youth, age of 18-27, all genders, from the Western Balkans 6: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*,<sup>4</sup> Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia;  
Having some experience in facilitating and/or delivering trainings and workshops with youth;

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<sup>3</sup> Roma, LGBTQ+, youth from rural communities and girls in particular, youth who are not in education, employment and training (NEETs), youth with disabilities, youth coming from conflict-exposed communities, minorities, etc.

<sup>4</sup> For the UN, all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). For RYCO, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with Security Council Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



- Interested in participating in peacebuilding-related activities and general interest in human rights, activism and similar topics;
- Open to learning, growing, challenging opinions and accepting of diverse cultures;
- Open to and some experience in non-formal and informal educational processes;
- Open to understanding variations of human experience and personal identities, including: age, income, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, social status, area of origin, other;
- Committed to stay engaged in community peer education efforts/networks, advocacy and youth related activities or other youth networks;
- Having leadership spirit and a creative mindset and innovative thinking skills;
- Fluent in English, with other languages as an asset.

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### Selection

The selection of the group will be done based on duly submitted applications. Three participants from each of the Western Balkans 6 (equal representation of all genders will be observed), considering a balanced representation of urban and rural areas and minority groups will be selected to participate. The selected participants will be notified by early July.

### What we offer

- An opportunity to meet and network with a diverse group of youth activists across the region;
- An opportunity to shape the discussions that the UN, RYCO, policy-makers and decision-makers in the region are conducting around youth and sustaining peace, and advocate for regional youth priorities in national and regional platforms;
- Interactive face-to-face trainings with lead experts on y-peer, peacebuilding, conflict analysis, gender equality and advocacy;
- Certificate of participation in the UN-RYCO project and your name as a Trainer in y-peer to peacebuilding;
- Travel expenses covered and a [daily subsistence allowance](#) for the consultation, workshop and dialogue events that will take place in the Western Balkans between July and December 2020.

### Application

You can submit your application at the following link: <https://forms.gle/QiQLbMrFosfpTQVx8> , **no later than 23 June 2020.**

In the application form, you will be asked to present your motivation to apply and how you can specifically contribute to the goals of the event that are mentioned above. Please make sure to describe your background, experiences and interests with this in mind. The selected participants will be notified by early July. For queries, please email [albania.office@unfpa.org](mailto:albania.office@unfpa.org) and/or [sokol.zeneli@rycowb.org](mailto:sokol.zeneli@rycowb.org).