



Regional Youth Cooperation Office

## **Call for Project Proposals**

**“A Better Region Starts with Youth”**

## **GLOSSARY**



This project is co-funded  
by the European Union

## ***Definitions and terminology<sup>1</sup>***

Definitions of the key concepts and terms most relevant for our work can be contested and even controversial. To avoid any misunderstandings in reading our documents, we shall clarify these terms as we understand them. These definitions are consistent with the dictionary and encyclopedic definitions. They have, however, been developed and adapted in view of the discussions that have taken place during the strategic process and during the negotiations that have taken place on the establishment of RYCO.

### **A**

**Advocacy**: to publicly support or suggest an idea, development or way of doing something.

**Affirmative action**: action taken by a government or private businesses to make up for past discrimination in, for example, education and work against, for instance, women, those of specific ethnic groups, religions or disabilities. Affirmative action is one way to give disadvantaged groups substantive equality. Affirmative action should be seen as a temporary measure until such time as equality is achieved.

**Antisemitism**: fear, hatred, resentment, suspicion, prejudice, discrimination or unfair treatment of people of Jewish origin or those who confess Judaism. Modern forms of antisemitism include Holocaust denial.

**Association**: an organisation formed by a group of individuals to accomplish a defined purpose. Such organisations may also be called voluntary organisations, voluntary associations and unincorporated associations. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are associations. Associations form the basis for what is called “civil society”.

### **C**

**Civil rights**: (sometimes known as civil liberties) a category of rights and freedoms that protect individuals from unwarranted government action and ensure their ability to participate in public life without discrimination or repression.

**Civil society**: refers collectively to voluntary civic and social organisations, associations and institutions, for example, registered charities, non-governmental organisations, community groups, women’s organisations, faith-based organisations, professional associations, trade unions, self-help groups and advocacy groups that form the basis of a functioning democratic society. Civil society is seen as distinct from the governmental and commercial institutions of the market.

**Conflict transformation**: the process by which conflicts such as wars and inter-ethnic and inter-religious violence are changed or transformed into peaceful outcomes. It is a long-term process that addresses the root causes of the conflict as well as the behaviour and attitudes of the parties involved.

**Conflict prevention**: actions undertaken over the short term to reduce manifest tensions and/or to prevent the outbreak or recurrence of violent conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document we have referred to the Merriam-Webster online encyclopaedic dictionary of the English language: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> and a variety of specialist literature developed in the European and international youth, education and mobility sectors.

Conflict management: actions undertaken with the primary objective of preventing the vertical (intensification of violence) or horizontal (territorial spread) escalation of existing violent conflicts.

Conflict resolution: actions undertaken over the short term to end violent conflict.

Contracting Parties: parties that signed Agreement on the Establishment of RYCO: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Cooperation: The process of working together in a joint effort.

Culture: a broad set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices, often based on historical traditions shared by an institution, organisation or group.

Cultural rights: the right to preserve one's cultural identity and development.

## **D**

Dealing with the past: to address the past, especially painful periods of history, to increase knowledge and (self)critical approaches about history and memory, to acknowledge and deal with different interpretations and existing divisions, and to promote dialogue as a way of reaching shared values for a common future.

Declaration on the Rights of the Child: adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1959, this non-binding instrument sets forth ten general principles, which later formed the basis for the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which was adopted in 1989.

Democracy: a form of government where the authority to govern is derived from the people, either by direct referendum or through representatives elected by the people entitled to vote.

Discrimination: any distinction, exclusion or restriction of preference, which is based on any ground such as race, culture, ethnic origin, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, physical handicap, or other characteristics not relevant to the issue in question.

Dialogue: The exchange of ideas and opinions and discussion between representatives of parties to a conflict that is aimed at resolution.

Diversity: The inclusion of different types of people (such as people with different cultural backgrounds) in a group or organisation.

## **E**

Eligibility: the state of having the right to do or obtain something through the satisfaction of the appropriate conditions.

European Union (EU): an economic and political union of member states located in Europe and committed to regional integration and social cooperation. The Treaty of Maastricht established the EU in 1993.

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\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Evaluation: a structured conversation between facilitators and participants to enable participants to analyse and appraise what they have learned from an experiential and participatory activity. In the process, participants reflect on how this learning relates to what they already know and how they may use the learning in the future.

## **G**

Gender: A social construct that informs roles, attitudes, values and relationships between women and men. While sex is determined by biology - the biological differences between men and women - gender is determined by society; almost always functioning to subordinate women to men.

Gender mainstreaming: a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality. It is not an end in itself, but a means to achieve the goal of gender equality through ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all activities including policy development, resource allocation and planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes and projects.

## **H**

“Hard-to-Reach Youth”: refers to youth who are disconnected from social structures and services through which other youth are normally engaged. This may include youth living in remote areas without access to youth services, associations, groups or clubs, youth neither in employment, education or training, youth with little or no telephone, computer or internet access, homeless youth or migrant youth. Youth who make their own choice, for a variety of reasons, to disconnect from the mainstream social world, including youth services and associations.

Human rights: rights that universally belong to all human beings. Human rights are indivisible, inalienable and universal and respect the equality and dignity of each individual.

## **I**

Informal education: the lifelong process whereby every individual acquires attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educational influences and resources in his or her environment (family, peer-group, neighbours, market place, library, mass media, work, play, etc.).

Intercultural: refers to the interdependency and interaction between various linguistic and ethnic communities. An intercultural perspective requires us to recognise that reality is plural, complex and dynamic, and that interaction is an integral part of all life and culture.

Intercultural learning: A process of education that supports people to both understand the culture and interact with people from cultures different than their own. In this understanding, culture can be many things (political, social, religious, national, community, regional, gender, etc.), and individuals can identify with or belong to more than one.

## **K**

Key workers: These are people that work with young people in different kinds of educational, leisure-time, volunteering, sport and cultural processes. They may be educators, working in formal or non-formal settings, they may be volunteering or exchange programme managers or implementers, they may be youth workers or social workers, they may be sports trainers or cultural operators, they may be paid, or voluntary staff of different institutions or organisations and they are often young themselves. More often than not, key workers combine several of these profiles in their work with young people. The criteria for being a key worker is that the person concerned is

engaging directly with young people in a nominally organised manner (even if that is an informal group/initiative).

## **L**

**LGBT**: an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

## **M**

**Marginalised youth**: refers to youth who are discriminated against by society, pushed to the margins and allowed little or no power to decide on factors that affect their lives. This can include youth who are discriminated against on the basis of their gender, sexual identity, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, physical appearance, lifestyle, subculture, political orientation, (dis)ability, or other characteristic. Marginalisation begins with negative stereotypes and prejudices against certain youth and results in them being socially excluded from the spaces and opportunities that other (socially approved) youth have access to. Marginalised youth are thereby deprived of their rights to participate fully and equally in society. Youth who are marginalised youth often report feel invisible, unwelcome and/or devalued.

**Minority**: any ethnic, linguistic or religious group within a society, in a non-dominant position, consisting of individuals who possess a sense of belonging to that group and determined to preserve and develop their identity.

**Mobility**: the act of moving from one place to another for a purpose such as education, work or volunteering.

**Monitoring**: observing and checking the progress or quality of (something) over a period of time; keeping under systematic review.

**Multicultural**: people of different cultures living side by side in a community, interacting to various degrees but at the same time retaining their distinctive features.

## **N**

**Non-formal education**: any planned programme of education outside the formal educational setting that is designed to improve a range of skills and competences, for example, youth work. Non-formal education is also referred to as non-formal learning.

**Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)**: organisations set up to be independent of government, generally with a lobbying, charitable, or activist role. Some are large and international, e.g. the Red Cross, Amnesty International, the Scout movement, Human Rights Watch, the European Youth Forum. Others may be small and local, e.g. an organisation to advocate for people with disabilities in a particular city; a coalition to promote women's rights in one refugee camp.

## **P**

**Participation**: taking part in the public life of a community or society. The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life is an international policy document to promote youth participation at the local level; adopted by the Congress of the Council of Europe in 2003.

**Peace-building**: (including post-conflict peace building); actions undertaken over the medium and longer-term to address the root causes of violent conflicts.

Policy: a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an institution, organisation or individual.

## **Q**

Quality: A degree of excellence.

## **R**

Reconciliation: the restoration of friendly relations. A process that brings together individuals, groups and societies burdened by past or present conflicts and negative representations and perceptions of 'the other'. Through shared experience, cooperation and on-going exchange, new pathways can be built to reconcile people who would otherwise remain trapped in the past.

Regional youth cooperation: cooperation of the young people from the Western Balkan 6 Contracting Parties.

## **S**

Skill: and ability to do an activity or job well, mainly because you have practised it. The ability to defend human rights includes, for example, skills of communication, problem-solving, creative thinking, negotiation and teamwork.

Stereotype: an oversimplified, generalised and often unconscious preconception about people or ideas that may lead to prejudice and discrimination. A generalisation in which characteristics possessed by a part of a group is extended to the group as a whole.

Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The term was first used by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), convened by the UN in 1983.

## **T**

Tolerance: willingness to accept behaviour and beliefs which are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them. Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (UNESCO 1995).

Trainer: a person who prepares programmes of learning activities, for instance, debates, study visits, viewing films and running Compass activities for a group of participants. When doing Compass activities, the trainer or teacher works democratically with the group of young people and has the role of facilitator.

Training: the process of learning the knowledge, skills and attitudes that you need to do a job or activity, for instance, to enable you to defend human rights.

## **V**

Vulnerable youth: refers to youth who are at higher risk of harm or mistreatment. This can include youth living in poverty, on the street or in unstable settings, youth without parental care, youth exposed to family dysfunction, conflict, violence and/or bullying, youth with emotional, mental and physical health disorders, youth with disabilities, youth minorities, migrants and refugees, youth involved in conflict with the law, and youth at risk of harming themselves or others. Vulnerable youth are often dependent upon social systems of support as they face additional barriers to completing

their education, gaining access to employment and housing, and/or maintaining healthy and secure relationships.

## **X**

Xenophobia: (irrational) fear of foreigners, of persons from other societies or of things foreign generally. Xenophobia can lead to discrimination, racism, violence and even armed conflict against foreigners.

## **Y**

Young people: people from 15 to 30 years of age.

Youth exchange: Youth exchanges allow groups of young people from different societies to meet, live together and work on shared projects for short periods of time.