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Position:	Advocacy Expert
Contract duration:	Until 31 December 2024
Contract Type	Service Contract
Expected start:	October 2024
Application deadline:	25 September 2024

About RYCO:

RYCO is an intergovernmental organization that stewards and promotes regional, cross-border and intercultural cooperation within and among the Western Balkans (WB) 6 Contracting Parties. The Agreement on establishment of RYCO was signed by the WB 6 Contracting Parties Prime Ministers on WB Summit held in Paris, on 4 July 2016, within the Berlin Process. RYCO's unique governance system brings together government and civil society representatives to ensure young people are represented at all levels within the organization. Its Local Branch Offices ensure RYCO is represented in all the six Contracting Parties, while its Head Office is the organizational hub situated in Tirana.

About the Project:

The "RYCOGNIZED - Enhancing peacebuilding and reconciliation in WB6" project contributes to the continuation of the "RYCOGNIZED YPS Advocacy Efforts in WB6" of 2023 which focuses on YPS actions in the WB6 region. Moreover, it serves to enhance RYCO's advocacy efforts and institutional capacities in the Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda in the region. The project supports RYCO's effort to create an enabling environment in the Western Balkans for peacebuilding, regional youth cooperation, and improving the position of youth. Among the activities planned under this project are the development of the know-how hub contributor's network, continuation of production of YPS-related knowledge and the implementation of the Youth shaping the peacebuilding process in the WB6 campaign. Additionally, the implementation of a three months long YPS academy will contribute to the YPS advocacy efforts as well as capacity building for CSOs and the expert community. Local activities supporting the establishment of the local YPS architecture in WB6 through NYCs and the development of the Peace Capital methodology. The project activities will also contribute to the development of RYCO's strategic approach on involvement of young people in peace and security and lastly the implementation of Peace Broadcasters Program.

"RYCOGNIZED - Enhancing peacebuilding and reconciliation in WB6" is financed by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and WB6 Governments.

Job Description

The advocacy expert is responsible for supporting the setting of the programmatic objectives of the project to be achieved through the project activities, and in line with the RYCO Strategic Plan. S/he is responsible for drafting and coordinating initiatives which bring



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together different governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in order to advocate for RYCOs core mission.

General responsibility: planning, executing and monitoring project activities aimed at promoting youth policies, reconciliation and peacebuilding in the region. The Advocacy Expert will be in close cooperation with the Project Manager.

Main responsibilities

- Conducts background and thematic research in order to provide substantive material serving the project purposes
- Supports the implementation of the respective activities based on the relevant project documents with a view to achieving project results
- Develops comprehensive/detailed program work-plans that include all project activities such as the Western Balkans Youth Forum, the YPS Academy, the YPS local activities and the Peace Broadcasters program
- Support the enrichment of the YPS subpage with materials and the implementation of the campaign 'Youth shaping the peacebuilding process in the WB6
- Supports and guides the experts engaged for the methodology of the Peace Capital
- Monitors the progress of implementation of project activities and key event schedules observing the work-plans
- Provides support in the draft preparation or review, as necessary, of ToRs for technical consultancies related to the project activities
- Prepares and ensures timely preparation and submission of required project reports and documents
- Support the implementation of the YPS Academy and work closely with the respective experts
- Support the local branch offices with the implementation of the YPS local activities
- Support the development of RYCO's YPS approach

The holder of the position agrees to take on activities to an appropriate extent that are not within the scope of the tasks resulting from the functional description.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with minimum of three (3) years of higher education;
- At least 5 years of progressively project management or senior management experience in a complex multi-stakeholder environment;
- Demonstrated leadership abilities and organizational capacity;
- Good understanding of the Western Balkan context (social, economic and political environment);
- Experience in organizing activities for youth, civil society organizations and institutions is considered an advantage;
- Experience and ability to work in intercultural environments;
- Previous experience in youth, intercultural and reconciliation-related projects;



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- Proven leadership skills and ability to delegate effectively;
- Resilient and able to make important decisions under pressure;
- Time management skills and ability to prioritize work;
- Results-oriented and process-oriented;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- Proficiency in English;
- Nationality of one of the WB 6 Contracting Parties;
- Knowledge of one official WB6 language is a must, while knowledge of other additional languages in the WB6 is an asset;

How to apply:

To be considered for this position, please send the application materials via email, with the subject line “**HR113 Advocacy Expert**” to recruitment@rycowb.org no later than **September 25th, 2024**. All applications **MUST** include:

- ✓ [Application Form](#) (*completed in English language*)
- ✓ [Europass CV](#) format (*completed in English language*)
- ✓ A scanned copy of your academic qualification
- ✓ A scanned passport copy
- ✓ Two written reference letters from previous employers

Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the next recruitment stage. The successful candidate will be required to submit a criminal record check before being offered a contract with RYCO.