



**Berlin  
Process  
Summit**  
2024

Your Excellencies,  
Honorable Ministers of Foreign Affairs,  
Distinguished Leaders of Regional Cooperation,

Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin Process, a driving force in enhancing regional cooperation!

As you see from the video, youth don't just bring positive vibes in this table, but they clearly appeal to all of us to free them from fear of the future by contributing to peace and security in the Region.

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude for your continuous support to the youth of the Western Balkans and your crucial role in assisting RYCO throughout its reform process.

The Youth Cultural Fund has already reached over 10,000 participants in just one year. Imagine the outreach of the other five great youth programs throughout RYCO's 8 years of existence, it is for sure over **60,000**. Furthermore, our **Shared Futures study** indicates over 68% of young people are willing to engage civil society and political activities.

Our latest **Systemic conflict analyses study** acknowledges that young people are aware of the shared concerns across the region, particularly regarding good governance and the decline in democratic standards. These challenges are not isolated to any single community or society. Despite the growing disenchantment with political systems, there is a tangible momentum—an opportunity to create a common WB reform agenda that bridges the divisions and contributes to stability. In this context, the European Union's credibility and the prospect of integration remain crucial.



The very existence of RYCO is a political statement of your commitment to cooperation based on shared values, values that are aligned with the European Union. Your presence today it is a political statement also, let us all make use of all the friends around in this table and bring new hope for the region. I hereby take this opportunity to call on the international community to further acknowledge and support your efforts in this regard.

What sets RYCO apart from is our commitment to fostering cooperation based on shared values rather than solely on interests. Our focus goes beyond the mere signing of agreements; we aim to dismantle the stereotypes that often hinder genuine cooperation between communities that still, all too often, view each other as enemies. While politics may align around interests, true progress will be made when we lift the weight of these historical stereotypes.

RYCO also fosters a sense of ownership in the processes you are leading and the agreements you are finalizing.

Moreover, RYCO's existence represents the voice of the youth of the Western Balkans, who strive for equality with their European peers, let us all create their future here in our Balkan.

Our youth have entrusted us with their future. They believed in us when we needed support to reach where we are today. We owe it to them to provide hope, a better future, and a region ready to join the European family.

Thank you.