

## FINAL LIST OF SELECTED CANDIDATES

### Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund – 4<sup>th</sup> Open Call

#### LOT 1 (Individuals)

Ref. No.	Full Name of Applicant	Title of the Project	Contracting Party	Project Summary	Thematic Area
Final List 14 projects)					
001322	Jolin Matraku	Let's meet where the mountains meet! A love letter to the Balkans	Albania	Let's meet where the mountains meet, is a coloring book rooted in shared experiences, designed to highlight the deep cultural threads that connect the Western Balkans. Built on commonalities rather than divisions, it opens up space for dialogue about the region's rich, intertwined social fabric. Why a coloring book? Colors have often been used to divide—to mark territory, identity, or allegiance through ultranationalist symbolism. With this coloring book, we offer the opposite: a blank canvas. A clean slate where everyone, regardless of background, can add their own colors and create a shared, inclusive vision of the Western Balkans.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
001307	Delvis Beljeri	Seashores of Unconsciousness	Albania	"Seashores of Unconsciousness" is a cross-border artistic performance and youth engagement project that explores the emotional and psychological toll of emigration among marginalized young people—particularly those facing long-term unemployment—in the Western Balkans. Through a powerful blend of theater, poetry, and youth-led dialogue, the project gives voice to the often-silenced experiences of youth leaving their homelands in search of a “better life.”	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001341	Xhemali Moku	Sparks of Heritage	Albania	This project proposes the development and presentation of a photographic exhibition that documents and artistically interprets the traditional craft of blacksmithing in Albania, with a particular focus on practitioners from the Egyptian community. This project aims to inspire a new generation to recognize the value of traditional knowledge and to see creative fields like photography as a tool for cultural advocacy and social inclusion.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001362	Amar Komić	Safe War Experience	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Safe War Experience is an experimental hybrid film project that critically examines the commodification of war and the role of media in shaping narratives. Inspired by contemporary conflicts and the political crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the film follows a European tourist who arrives in the Western Balkans seeking an “authentic war experience.” Aligned with RYCO's objectives, this project seeks to empower youth to question dominant narratives, understand the complexities of their shared history, and contribute to a more peaceful and inclusive regional identity.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
001355	Laura Brunner	Between us	Bosnia and Herzegovina	"Between Us" is a short documentary film that, through parallel interviews with young people from Sarajevo and Belgrade, explores the question: What does peace mean? The film follows ten young individuals (five from each city – Sarajevo and Belgrade) in their everyday environments – at home, on the street, at school, or in places where they spend time with friends.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001360	Linda Suhodolli	BalkanExpress	Kosovo*	The “BallkanExpress” project aims to confront nationalistic narratives, cultural prejudice, mobility and gendered barriers within the Western Balkans' nightlife scenes. By engaging in honest discussions, highlighting regional solidarity and offering a safe, inclusive space for youth to connect, this project uses nightlife as both a platform for visibility and a tool for dialogue. Framed as an exchange, it brings together distinguished women and LGBTQ+ artists from the region, including Nevena Vuković (Belgrade), BIZARR Duo (Podgorica), and Ivana Dragšić (Skopje), into a cross-border weekend of artistic performances and critical dialogue in Prishtina.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
001346	Željka Četković	"We are you!"	Montenegro	The project aims to challenge the harmful view of the Western Balkans past through intercultural learning of the youth, their networking and deconstruction of learned and passed-on prejudices about different people through an appealing medium of art and creativity by respecting and representing all differences be it national/ethnic and similar or gender, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, capacities and opportunities. The main goal is to heal the individual war-induced and collective traumas by networking and learning through creating new and joint striking artworks that encourage mutual respect and connection.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation

\*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

001333	Filip Kecina	Bridging Voices: Elsa Mala Live & Dialogue in Podgorica	Montenegro	This project brings Kosovo-born singer-songwriter Elsa Mala to Podgorica for a live performance, a filmed one-on-one interview and a youth-focused workshop. By exploring Elsa's trans-border musical practice and her reflections on regional identity, we foster intercultural dialogue, empower local young musicians, and strengthen Western Balkans cultural ties.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001315	Ivana Sekuloska	Reclaim & Reimagine: Youth Upcycling Workshops for Peacebuilding and Creative Dialogue	North Macedonia	This project will bring together young creatives from North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo through a series of fashion upcycling workshops in Skopje, Tirana, and Pristina. Focused on sustainability, intercultural cooperation, and youth-led creativity, the workshops will guide participants (ages 18–30) in transforming used materials into expressive fashion and accessories. The project will culminate in an improvised runway show and a collaborative Instagram platform showcasing participants' upcycled designs.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001332	Stefan Aleksandar Jovanovski	YUth on the Move	North Macedonia	The project is initiated by me as a young artist and community organizer who owns a Yugo car from the 1980s, turned into an artwork during the 2022 public space exhibition "Where Yu-Go?" by artist Davor Keskec. Building on this artwork, I am now transforming a BRAKO camping trailer, now painted by other young local artist, into a mobile cultural center. Together, the Yugo and the trailer will travel to four rural villages in the Skopje region to bring youth-led cultural programming to communities that rarely have access to such events.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
001324	Darko Jovanoski	Echoes in the Wild	North Macedonia	Echoes in the Wild is a youth-led cultural event that takes place in the forest near the village of Ehloec, in the Kicevo region of North Macedonia. Unlike conventional cultural events held in cities or clubs, this project brings music and film into a remote, natural setting. There are no stages, VIP areas, or commercial sponsors, just a sound system, movie projection, a forest clearing, and a group of people working together to make it happen	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001344	Dunja Jeremić	Hands Are Bridges	Serbia	The project "Hands Are Bridges" aims to amplify the voices of marginalized youth, particularly young people with disabilities, by creating a space where their stories, emotions, and perspectives are heard, respected, and artistically represented. At the same time, it seeks to educate and engage young people from the wider community in meaningful dialogue, using art as a tool for empathy, learning, and social change.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
001327	Uros Janjic	Sloboda ili Ništa: The Story of the Walls	Serbia	As an informal collective Sloboda ili Ništa, known for our direct, activist approach to journalism and documentary work, we plan to produce a mid-length documentary film exploring how history is told unofficially through graffiti and murals in Belgrade and Sarajevo. In post-conflict societies, walls are more than just construction elements, they become public canvases where memory is expressed and contested. The goal is to use an accessible, critical, and creative documentary style to inspire youth activism and spark cross-regional dialogue on freedom, identity, and youth expression. The project responds to the need for decentralizing cultural production, empowering independent voices, and connecting young artists across the Western Balkans.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
001317	Teodora Marković	"About love"	Serbia	This project would unite five young people each from: Organization Zvezda (Belgrade), Home for children without aging parents (Sarajevo), and the Center for Social Work in Podgorica. The aim of this regional network would be to hold several drama workshops with young people from these groups for a duration of 2 months, and then present the play "About Love" performed by their peers in their cities. The goal is to transform a group of strangers into a connected community through shared love experiences and reflections. The project seeks to address the growing need for love and emotional connection, offering a universally relatable yet innovative addition to cultural scene.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society

**Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund – 4<sup>th</sup> Open Call**

**LOT 2 (CSOs)**

Ref. No.	Full Name of Applicant	Title of the Project	Contracting Party	No. of Partners	Project Summary	Thematic Area
Final List (20 projects)						
002341	Escoop European Social	WB Artistic Residency in 'Bed Station'	Albania	1	As part of the project, we will create an artistic residency in the premises of the Bed Station hostel and bar in Shkodër. Bed Station Hostel & Bar in Shkodër is trying to strategically position itself as an artistic hub by providing young artists with access to its spaces for performances and creative projects. Located centrally in the city of Shkoder, the hostel cultivates a dynamic cultural environment, hosting artistic events.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
002304	Institute for Activism and Social Change	Exhibition “Exchanging Cultural Heritage history through photos”	Albania	1	The project idea comes from the discussion of both CSOs to bring a project which will satisfy the objectives of the call. Organizing a 2 day exhibition with photos which showcase the cultural heritage of both countries will be a great way to involve youth to know more about the cultural heritage. The photos which will be taken by the youth or selected by them and put in larger frameworks so that people can see and read the script at the bottom of it. During the first day of the exhibition 20 young people (10 from Albania and 10 from North Macedonia) will bring a photo which displays the cultural heritage and will be able to narrate a story behind the photos. The 20 pictures will be donated to the municipality of Pogradec city.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002343	Womens Democracy Network Albania	" Regional Youth Dialogues: A Writeathon for Democratic Development and European Integration”	Albania	1	A Writeathon for Democratic Development and European Integration" is a regional cultural initiative that empowers at least 15 young people from Albania and 15 from Kosovo to become active drivers of democratic development, peacebuilding, and European integration through creative writing and intercultural exchange. Participants will engage in a guided writeathon, supported by a capacity-building workshop focused on writing about these themes, along with ongoing mentorship from experienced experts.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002327	Udruženje za psiho-socijalnu podršku i bolju budućnost "Progres" Sarajevo	Theatre from the Margins	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	Theatre from the Margins is a bold, community-driven initiative that uses applied theatre to amplify the voices of LGBTIQA individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through this process, participants co-create performances based on their lived experiences of discrimination, transforming personal narratives into powerful tools for public dialogue and social change. This project offers a rare, safe space for self-expression, healing, and advocacy, combining mental health support, artistic mentorship, and participatory theatre. Final performance will engage wider audiences in Sarajevo, opening channels for empathy and inclusion.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002353	Udruženje za razvoj i podršku mladih Plus Ultra	GROKA – Glorious Radiations Of Kreative Arts	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	GROKA – Glorious Radiations Of Kreative Arts is a dynamic youth exchange initiative designed to enhance both individual and collective identities through the power of artistic expression. The word “Grok” is a verb which means: To understand something deeply and intuitively, almost to the point of becoming one with it. It implies a profound, holistic comprehension that goes beyond just intellectual knowledge. Just as to “grok” is to fully connect with an idea or person, GROKA brings together youth from the Western Balkans to explore identity and shared humanity through art. It’s more than exchange—it’s a creative journey toward mutual understanding that transcends borders and stereotypes.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
002333	Udruženje porodica "Porodični ruralni edukativni centar" Živinice	Stitches of Heritage	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	The project aims to empower young women from rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro through a creative sewing and fashion design program inspired by traditional cultural motifs. A total of 15 participants (5 from each country) will engage in a two-part educational process led by a professional trainer, learning both basic and advanced sewing techniques, and how to reinterpret their cultural heritage into contemporary clothing pieces.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society



002303	Molla e kuqe	PRISONERS OF REMEMBRANCE	Kosovo	1	PRISONERS OF REMEMBRANCE is an interdisciplinary artistic project that will take place in the spaces of the "Muzeu i Burgut të Idealit" in Kosovo. The project aims to create a performance based on real events that took place within the prison walls. Through a creative process, young actors, dancers and visual artists will engage in an artistic experiment under the guidance of an experienced director and choreographer. This project aims to showcase the experiences of former prisoners and to encourage reflection on historical injustices and oppression.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002307	Youth Center Lipjan	Verses Without Borders- Festival of poetry	Kosovo	1	"Verses Without Borders" is a one-day poetry festival held in Lipjan, bringing together young poets from Lipjan and Skopje to celebrate creativity, cultural exchange, and reconciliation through the power of words. Over the course of three months, participants will connect online, attend virtual writing workshops, and collaborate on multilingual poems exploring themes like identity, peace, and unity. The project culminates in a vibrant one-day festival featuring poetry readings, an open mic session, collaborative performances, and the launch of a bilingual printed poetry zine.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002313	Qendra për Politika Hulumtuese	Amplifying Young Women's Voices Through Cross-Border Culture and Creativity.	Kosovo	1	The general objective of this project is to empower young women from diverse ethnic, social, and geographic backgrounds across Kosovo and Albania by creating safe, inclusive, and creative spaces for cultural and artistic expression. Through cross-border collaboration, the project aims to promote intercultural dialogue, gender equality, and meaningful youth participation, in line with the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)'s core mission, as well as previous experience of partnering organizations CRP and LaraLara.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002324	UOSI Elipsa	Visible through the word: Youth, art and inclusion	Montenegro	1	The project "Visible Through Words: Youth, Art, and Inclusion" aims to promote inclusive dialogue, artistic expression, and regional cooperation among young people with and without disabilities from Montenegro and Serbia, using literature and cultural activities as tools to challenge stereotypes and foster social cohesion. A total of 16 young participants will take part in the project, half of whom are persons with disabilities – 6 from Bijelo Polje, 7 from Leskovac, and 3 from Petrovac. The exchange will last for 4 days. Key activities include creative writing workshops, facilitated discussions, a panel titled "Disability, My Identity," and two literary evenings featuring young authors with disabilities from both countries.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002309	NGO ŠkArt	Art is not silent	Montenegro	1	A dynamic two-day event will bring together artists, activists, and the public for an engaging program of artistic expression, dialogue, and cinematography. The first day will feature the opening of the Queer and Feminist Film Revue presenting experimental and in-progress works developed during the residency program and discussions on human rights, alongside a visual art exhibition conducted on previous residency program, live artistic performance, a musical event.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002331	NGO Center for Entrepreneurship-NGO Enterprise	Green I Love You Green: Youth, Dialogue and Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future	Montenegro	1	The project "Green, I Love You Green" is implemented in Bijelo Polje and brings together 18 young people from Montenegro (Podgorica and Bijelo Polje) and Kosovo (Prizren), including members of vulnerable groups – Roma, persons with disabilities, and youth from rural areas. The project aims to strengthen intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, and civic engagement through the promotion of green entrepreneurship, sustainability, and social cohesion.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002334	4SELECT	Echoes of Balkan's Music Camp	North Macedonia	1	Echoes of the Balkans is a six-month regional project aimed at fostering intercultural dialogue and youth empowerment through music. The project will bring together 12 young pianists (two from each of the six Western Balkan countries) to reinterpret traditional Balkan music, creating new compositions that reflect shared cultural heritage and contemporary youth perspectives. The program will culminate in a collaborative camp featuring workshops, masterclasses, and a final concert which is planned to be organized annually across the region.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002336	Schtrich	Under 600: Youth Engagement in the Independent Theatre	North Macedonia	1	"Under 600: Youth Engagement in Western Balkans Independent Theatre" is an extension of our established platform festival (Under 600) that aims to foster regional cooperation and networking among independent theatre organizations across the western Balkans while specifically targeting youth involvement. The initiative responds directly to crucial sustainability challenges facing the independent theatre sector in the Western Balkans by creating meaningful opportunities for the next generation of theatre practitioners to connect, learn, and collaborate across borders.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society

002308	Association Kupola Stip	VIA 2025	North Macedonia	1	VIA 2025 fosters youth empowerment through regional artistic mobility, exchange, and collaboration, offering a vibrant space for sharing creative practices, knowledge, and tools. "VIA 2025" is the fourth annual edition of an interdisciplinary arts festival and residency for young regional artists, organized by CSO Kupola. The project unfolds through a series of ongoing activities from July to September 2025, culminating in the main event from August 15–31, 2025, at the Vrteshka mountain lodge in North Macedonia.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002317	Civil Association for Arts & Culture Atrium	Rooms of Solidarity: Cross-border Theatre Co-Production	North Macedonia	1	The project proposal is a cross-border, site-specific theatre co-production rooted in the anti-war drama "Dusan Vasiljev's Mystery", by young and aspiring Serbian playwright Dunja Matić, adapted in Macedonian language by the dramatist Kalija Kiselicki and directed by Serbian theatre director and youth educator, Ana Pinter. The play explores war as a recurring human condition, seen through the lens of youth, artistic autonomy, and collective care and sense of belonging. The production is set in an often youth engaging house in the center of Skopje and will be later staged in Belgrade—a location known for frequent youth gatherings, thus serving as a strategic space to engage younger audiences.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
002346	Okular	FRAME-Film, Reconciliation, Art, Movement, Equality	Serbia	1	This project is a youth exchange that brings together 12 young participants from two communities — Orahovac (Kosovo) and Čičevac (Serbia) — with the goal of fostering reconciliation, empathy, and intercultural understanding through the art of filmmaking. During the exchange, participants will engage in interactive workshops and hands-on activities where they will learn the basics of film production, including storytelling, camera work, directing, editing, and sound design.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
002316	MMBaza	ALL OF US: A Land for All	Serbia	1	The idea of our project is to bring together at least one poet from Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and North Macedonia. A total of at least 10 poets participate. Each poet records a segment of a collaborative film in which they recite a poem about a city from another country. Then, the screenings take place in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Podgorica, including the conversation with poets. This project fosters intercultural dialogue, promotes understanding, and supports reconciliation by creating artistic connections between countries through poetry.	Thematic Area 1: Peacebuilding and Reconciliation
002350	NEUT, Opera Lab	Crocodile – Movement, Identity, and the Power of Young Voices	Serbia	1	This project proposes a cross-border research and workshop-based process involving young people from Serbia and North Macedonia. Led by an interdisciplinary team of an andragogue, psychologist, theatre director, and actor-choreographer, the project aims to foster creative collaboration among teenagers from the region. Through dialogue and artistic exploration, participants will examine personal identity, similarities and differences, family and peer relationships, experiences of violence, and personal loss. By combining storytelling, movement, and multimedia, the project empowers youth to tell their own stories and raises awareness among both peers and adults about the emotional realities of growing up in the Western Balkans today.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society
002326	Music Opera Theater organization	The Gift of Diversity	Serbia	1	The main objective of "The gift of diversity" is to create, produce, and develop art — namely a collaborative musical performance that brings together neurodivergent and neurotypical young people, while fostering an exchange of inclusive music-making practices between MOTO and akustiUm.	Thematic Area 2: Youth empowerment and engagement in society

**Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund – 4<sup>th</sup> Open Call**

**LOT 3 (Peace Champions Grants)**

Full Name	Contracting Party	Project Summary
Elsamina Musiq	Albania	Building upon my previous work in Shkodër, I will develop a project titled “Peripheral Voices”. It will focus on collecting sound recordings and photographs from overlooked neighborhoods in Shkodër and nearby areas. These peripheral spaces often reflect the silent consequences of social division, migration and exclusion. Through collaborative walks, conversations and sound-mapping workshops with local youth and residents from different communities, we will create a public sound and photo installation in an accessible urban space. By amplifying voices and experiences that often go unheard, this project.
Adna Muslija	Bosnia and Herzegovina	As my current work is primarily centered on developing the curatorial program and cultural strategy of Gallery Manifesto, my approach to promoting peace and reconciliation is deeply grounded in the concept of mediation. I view mediation not only as a method of resolving conflict, but as a broader framework for building connections—between artists and audiences, among cultural practitioners, and across divided communities. Through 2 international exhibitions, and their public programs, I aim to create inclusive platforms that foster dialogue, critical reflection, and shared experiences in the following three months. These spaces allow for the exploration of difficult social and historical themes while encouraging empathy and mutual understanding.
Fitim Haziri	Kosovo	Through the themes and forms I explore in my work, I reflect on the familiarity and unfamiliarity found within collective memory. Drawing is the initial, instinctive act an entry point through which ideas take shape. These drawings often evolve into physical installations that inhabit landscapes charged with shared memory. Repetition becomes both method and message: a visual language that conveys how change is always occurring. The gesture of the body in drawing becomes part of this rhythm, embodying the human relationship to reality its fragility, its surreal shifts, its emotional weight. By placing movement and repetition within a spatial context, I construct environments where time seems to pause inviting reflection, remembrance, and potential reconciliation. My work does not provide answers but instead opens space for shared thought and feeling. In doing so, it contributes to peace and reconciliation not through statements, but through quiet moments that transcend difference and invite deeper attention.
Branimir Žugić	Montenegro	I will organize a public screening and discussion event in Podgorica titled “ <i>The Story Continues: All Inclusive</i> ”. It will feature short films from the Seize the Film network (Novi Sad, Rijeka, Banja Luka, Kotor) and other projects and a conversation with artists and youth with disabilities, aiming to foster empathy and dismantle prejudice through inclusive storytelling. I will visit cultural partners in Skopje and Pristina (Inclusion Festival / Art Without Limit) to co-develop a new artistic initiative promoting reconciliation. During these visits, I will present examples of best practice from Montenegro and discuss possibilities for a co-produced creative action (exhibition, screening, or digital project), to be launched later in the year. The visit will result in a joint concept note and a message to be shared online.
Burcu Musli	North Macedonia	Over the next three months, I will focus on a short film and contemporary dance performance that highlights the strength and resilience of women, particularly those from patriarchal societies. The primary theme of this work is to challenge the conventional view of women’s roles and their beauty, as something that must be controlled or hidden. I firmly believe that a woman’s sensuality and power are not shameful, but sacred. I want to create an artistic space that celebrates feminine energy in its full expression. By promoting the dignity, freedom, and self-expression of women, I believe I am not only supporting women in my community but also raising awareness globally about the struggles women face everywhere. Every woman’s fight for equality is a fight for peace and reconciliation. Through these performances, I intend to inspire others to recognize and respect the power of women and their role in shaping a peaceful world.
Ružica Marjanović	Serbia	I would like to organize a two-day visit to Sarajevo for 15 students and three professors from Užice. In cooperation with the Catholic School Center, the Faculty of Philosophy and historians, writers and journalists who deal with the culture of memory (e.g. as Alma Hašimbegović, Nenad Veličković, Almir Alić, Zoran Čatić), we will prepare maps of Sarajevo with the marked places of interest. Small groups of students from Uzice will use that map to find marked places and there they will meet Sarajevo students who will introduce them to the places of remembrance. Together, the students will prepare proposals for promotional video clips that will be used to announce the next Halfway Festival. As part of the festival, students from Užice will prepare the same activities for their guests. In the meantime, they will work together (online) on the preparation for conversations with the writers of the Halfway festival, which will be realized in the form of a podcast.