

**48**  
CSOs  
SUPPORTED

**27**  
HIGH  
SCHOOLS

**15**  
CITIES  
IN ALBANIA

**1000+**  
YOUTH  
ENGAGED

## WHO WE ARE

Established by the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, in July 2016 within the Berlin Process, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is an intergovernmental organization fostering peace, reconciliation, and cooperation among youth in the Western Balkan 6 (WB6), through youth exchanges.

## WHERE DO WE OPERATE

The RYCO Local Branch Office (LBO) in Albania is based in Tirana and operates throughout Albania. Our mission is to support youth, civil society organizations (CSOs), high schools, and youth workers through regional mobility programs and local activities that promote regional youth cooperation and the reconciliation process in the Western Balkans.

## OUR ENGAGEMENT

The LBO in Albania acts as a vital link between Albanian youth and the broader Western Balkans. Our efforts contribute to RYCO's long-term strategic goals, ensuring RYCO's core values are effectively implemented at the local level.

**Open Calls:** Through five open calls, we have supported *19 Albanian CSOs* in leading regional projects in collaboration with CSOs and high schools from the Western Balkans. Additionally, over *25 Albanian CSOs* have collaborated on projects led by other RYCO Contracting Parties, resulting in the exchange of over *500 young people* from Albania.

**Superschools:** In its two program cycles, *27 secondary schools* from across Albania participated in bilateral school exchanges, engaging over *280 students*. For the upcoming cycles, we aim to double the number of exchanges and participating high schools.

**The Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund:** Through two open calls, we have supported *4 CSOs, 3 individuals, and 2 "Peace Champions"* from Albania, to implement cultural initiatives.

**Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurship (RISE):** In its four cycles, RISE has supported more than *30 young people from Albania* to develop their social business ideas through its incubation phase and has financially supported *eight teams* from Albania to implement their business.

**Jeunes des 2 Rives – J2R:** This program has built a strong network of *80 organizations and associations* from France, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Albania, and Lebanon. *Four Albanian CSOs* were actively involved, enhancing youth's understanding of solidarity and cross-border citizenship.

**Western Balkans Meet Japan (MIRAI):** Through our cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, enabled youth from the Western Balkans, including *11 from Albania*, the opportunity to travel to Japan for a unique intercultural experience

\*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.



## OUR INITIATIVES

The LBO in Albania has organized capacity-building training for *20 high schools teachers* in project cycle management and inter-cultural learning and peace-building.

**Reconciliation Seminars**, held in cooperation with Epoka University, brought together more than *100 political science students* across four seminars to explore various aspects of reconciliation.

**Youth Trails**, organized with the OSCE Presence in Tirana, have had nine editions, bringing over *100 young people* from the region to Tirana to discuss topics such as security, gender, reconciliation, cultural heritage, and environmental issues.

**Youth Festival**, three editions of this festival were organized in partnership with World Vision attracting more than *300 young people* from across Albania to participate in interactive sessions focused on youth participation, sports, and entrepreneurship.

**Youth Voices for Stronger Communities**, supported by the Austrian Development Agency, trained *102 young people* in mechanisms for local and regional youth engagement across *six Albanian cities*.

**Youth Talks**, an initiative by RYCO LBOs, aims to create a safe space for discussions among young people on various topics, such as the Berlin Process and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

LBO Albania has engaged over *1,000 young people* in its activities. It has also organized local initiatives and informational sessions across *15 Albanian cities*.

## OUR OFFICE

All LBOs were established in 2016 due to the signing of the RYCO agreement, but the work for the Head Office and all LBOs started in 2017.

## OUR TEAM

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