

28
CSOs

46
HIGH
SCHOOLS

92
REGIONAL
EXCHANGES

555+
PARTICIPANTS

WHO WE ARE

Established by the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia (called Contracting Parties or WB6 Governments), in July 2016 within the Berlin Process, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is the 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina is based in Sarajevo and operates throughout its territory. Our mission is to support youth, civil society organizations (CSOs), high schools, and youth groups through regional mobility programs and local activities that promote regional youth cooperation and the reconciliation process in the Western Balkans. Signed memoranda with all three youth umbrella bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina enable us to act with all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OUR ENGAGEMENT

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

Open Calls: In the previous open calls, in total **22 CSOs** and schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina were awarded projects which support regional civil society and youth cooperation as lead grantees. At the same time, **41 CSOs** and schools had the opportunity to be part of projects in the role of partners.

Superschools: In the first cycle of the Superschools Exchange program, **30 high schools** participated in **60 regional exchanges**, involving over **250 participants**. In the current second cycle we have supported **16 high schools** from Bosnia and Herzegovina who are participating in **32 regional exchanges** with over **240 participants**, and we aim to include new schools in the continuation of the second cycle.

The Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund: Through open calls, we supported **six CSOs, four individuals, and two 'Peace Champions'** from Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement cultural initiatives.

Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurship (RISE): In its cycles, LBO Bosnia and Herzegovina, within RISE, has supported **15 teams of young people** to develop their social business ideas through its incubation phase and has supported RISEers in implementing their business ideas with financial assistance

Western Balkans Meet Japan (MIRAI): Through our cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, provided youth from the Western Balkans, including **15 from Bosnia and Herzegovina**, with 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina has undertaken several local initiatives to promote RYCO values. We have collaborated with youth councils through partnership agreements to develop youth policies and strengthen youth organizations, with support from the UNFPA Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, we have actively promoted the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda.

Youth Eyes, has been a program in partnership with the Sarajevo Film Festival, which engages young people from the region in meaningful discussions about societal issues expressed through film and enhancing critical thinking.

The Institute for Youth Development KULT, along with three other organizations, is implementing a three-year EU-funded program to strengthen youth policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina and RYCO's role is to strengthen the role of media in reporting youth policy successes and stories.

RYCO Youth Talks, launched in 2023, have provided a dialogue platform for young people, youth CSOs, and government representatives addressing key topics including poverty, youth policy, mental health, social cohesion, responsible journalism, LGBT rights, and the Berlin Process. In the past two years, 10 such events have been implemented throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka, Prijedor, Brčko).

Youth Summer Camp in Bijeljina, organized in collaboration with the GIZ Sport for Development Program and Forum ZFD Foundation, brought together *50 young participants* from across the region to collaborate on themes such as gender equality, peacebuilding, and sports for development. Through interactive workshops, debates, and creative projects, participants developed ideas to foster positive change in their communities while gaining valuable experience in collaboration and problem-solving.

OUR OFFICE

RYCO's LBO in Bosnia and Herzegovina, established in 2017, became an officially registered international governmental organization in 2023. Our office at Zagrebačka 5, Sarajevo, is open Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00.

OUR TEAM

Nikola Kandić

Head of the Local Branch Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: nikola.kandic@rycowb.org

Telephone: +387 65 171 323

Lejla Kovacevic

Finance and Administration Officer in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: lejla.kovacevic@rycowb.org

Telephone: +387 33 956 055

Nadira Ćurulija

Local Program Officer in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: nadira.curulija@rycowb.org

Telephone: +387 62 510 727

Alen Gudalo

Local Program Officer in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Email: alen.gudalo@rycowb.org

Telephone: +387 62 689 199