

19

HIGH  
SCHOOLS

460

STUDENTS

55

CSOs

7

CULTURAL  
PRACTITIONERS

10

HARMONY HERO  
AWARD

55

YOUNG  
JOURNALISTS

48

YOUNG  
DEVELOPERS

1000+

YOUNG PEOPLE

## 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 in Kosovo, based in Pristina, operates throughout Kosovo, fostering youth engagement and leadership development in a diverse and inclusive environment. Until December 2023, Kosovo faced significant isolation due to the EU visa regime, making RYCO's regional mobility programs and learning opportunities essential for youth participation and cross-cultural exchange.

## OUR ENGAGEMENT

RYCO LBO Kosovo supported the implementation of all regional programs and projects at the local level, enabling young people and other stakeholders from Kosovo to engage in intercultural dialogue, learning, peacebuilding, and reconciliation activities.

**Open Calls:** Through these open calls, *15 NGOs* have been supported to conduct youth exchanges in the region.

**Superschools:** Through these open calls, LBO Kosovo supported *19 schools* from different municipalities to implement school-to-school exchanges with all six RYCO Contracting Parties. Over *200 students* from various backgrounds could travel within the region through this project, many for the first time.

**The Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund:** Through the Western Balkan Youth Cultural Fund, *7 cultural practitioners*, including youth, NGOs, and artists, implemented RYCO-relevant projects. Additionally, *16 individuals* in Kosovo strengthened their skills in organizing cultural activities for peace and reconciliation through the project's Capacity Building Trainings.

**ROUTE WB6:** LBO Kosovo, in collaboration with the local partner "LENS" and the project unit, co-organized local activities in Pristina as part of the ROUTE WB6 Caravan. The program brought together over *40 participants* from across the region.

**Western Balkans Meet Japan (MIRAI):** Through our cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, we have provided youth from the Western Balkans, including *12 from Kosovo*, with the opportunity to travel to Japan for a unique intercultural experience.

**Peace Broadcasters Program:** Launched by LBO Kosovo in collaboration with the OSCE Mission, the Association of Journalists of Kosovo, and Deutsche Welle, the program expanded regionally in 2023, uniting *16 young journalists* for a four-day workshop on transitional justice, intercultural dialogue, and constructive journalism. To date, it has trained *39 youth* to produce impactful stories featured on Deutsche Welle and local media, with awards presented at closing events in Pristina and Skopje, gathering *89 participants* region-wide.

**RYCOgnized:** In 2023, the RYCOgnized project supported two local initiatives: *60 Albanian and Serb students* engaged in education-focused discussions via the Kosovar Youth Council, and *30 volunteers* joined solidarity day actions with NGO TOKA. *20 youth* also received basic YPS training, alongside initial stakeholder meetings. In 2024, the project supported the **"Student, Peace, and Security"** conference with *200 multiethnic students*, hosted a youth meet-up, and backed the UN Youth Assembly's **"Friendship Through Photography"** training for *15 participants from Kosovo and Serbia*.

\*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 Kosovo has undertaken several local initiatives to promote RYCO values. We have organized capacity-building training for high schools in project cycle management and intercultural learning, as well as training on the Youth Peace and Security agenda and youth participation.

**Capacity Building Trainings**, supported by the OSCE Mission to Kosovo, have equipped more than *40 CSOs representatives* with skills in intercultural dialogue, digital youth work, and project management.

**Youth Talks** engaged over *200 participants* in discussions on reconciliation, participation, and cooperation. Launched by LBO Kosovo, its success led to regional expansion across all LBOs.

**Harmony Hero Award**, launched on International Youth Day 2023 by LBO Kosovo and the German Embassy, celebrated young peacebuilders by recognizing *five young people* for their contributions to peacebuilding. The ceremony gathered around *100 young people* and stakeholders. In 2024, *five more youths* received the award on International Peace Day, in an event attended by *70 participants*.

**Mitrovica Volunteer Festival**, supported by LBO Kosovo and the OSCE Mission to Kosovo, brought together *100 young people* from diverse communities, promoting engagement and volunteerism.

**Solidarity Action Day** engaged *456 young participants* through a partnership between RYCO LBO Kosovo, NGO TOKA, and others, fostering collaboration between youth, businesses, and civil society to promote activism.

**The Tree of Dialogue**, a powerful symbol of unity, was planted by an Albanian and a Serbian youth to mark the 60th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty. Organized by RYCO LBO Kosovo, the French Embassy in Pristina, and Lille Métropole, this initiative stands as a lasting testament to friendship, peace, and solidarity.

**Western Balkans Digital Summit** featured GAME JAM, where *48 young developers* joined a four-day workshop to create prototypes. Organized by RYCO LBO Kosovo, the event where their prototypes were showcased to over *300 attendees* with the best three prototypes awarded by the RYCO DSG.

## OUR OFFICE

Established in 2017, RYCO LBO Kosovo has grown from a one-person office to a key part of the RYCO network, gaining official status as a Representative Office on 23 October 2023. Address: Qamile Jaka, Entry A, A7, 10000 Pristina, Kosovo

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