

**75**  
HIGH  
SCHOOLS

**150**  
CSOs

**50+**  
LOCAL  
ACTIVITIES

**1000+**  
STUDENTS

## 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 Serbia is based in Belgrade and operates throughout Serbia to support youth, CSOs, high schools, universities, and cultural practitioners 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 Serbia acts as a vital link between Serbian 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 these open calls, we supported *47 CSOs from Serbia* in implementing activities that foster regional youth cooperation and promote reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

**Superschools:** In its three program cycles, *74 high schools* across Serbia participated in exchanges, allowing over *900 students* to visit regional communities, explore diverse cultures, and build lasting connections. Future cycles aim to expand participation and impact.

**The Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund:** Through these open calls, we support *CSOs, individuals, and "Peace Champions"* from Serbia, to implement cultural initiatives.

**Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurship (RISE):** In its cycles, LBO Serbia, together with SMART kolektiv, within RISE, has supported young people to develop their social business ideas through its incubation phase and has supported RISErs to financially implement their business ideas.

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

## OUR INITIATIVES

Besides the implementation of regional programs and projects, LBO Serbia is engaged in various specific local activities with our partners and local stakeholders.

**"Beginner's Manual: Project Proposal Writing 101"** was developed through a partnership between LBO Serbia and the OSCE Mission to Serbia: regular Capacity Building Trainings have been organized for eight years continuously, training *105 CSOs* as well as high schools representatives in project writing and implementation. This guide empowers youth actors to transform ideas into actionable project proposals.

\*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.



**The Participation Game**, developed with OSCE support, is an interactive tool to promote youth engagement in project design. It also involved **42 students** from the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, who enhanced their understanding of the UN YPS Agenda and project-writing.

LBO Serbia actively supports civil society organizations working in thematic areas aligned with RYCO's mission at the local level. In 2023, LBO Serbia supported the Reconciliation Festival organized by **Kulturanova** in Novi Sad, which featured the RYCO Youth Talk **"Do we dare to reconcile."** Additionally, LBO Serbia supported the **3rd Belgrade Symposium on History Teaching** in 2024, organized by **Education 21** under the framework of the **"Disarming History"** initiative. Collaborating with film festivals like Beldocs, LBO Serbia used cinematography to challenge narratives and foster dialogue on peace and peacebuilding.

**EuroPride 2022** served as a platform for LBO Serbia, in collaboration with Belgrade Pride, to promote human rights activism and youth engagement in the Western Balkans. The initiative brought together **21 young activists** to address barriers to participation.

**The UN Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda** has been central to our partnership with KOMS, Serbia's umbrella youth organization. Since 2023, KOMS has localized the YPS Agenda by working with member organizations to address local challenges, notably through initiatives like the Serbo-Albanian Coalition in southern Serbia, while also expanding youth participation and policy implementation in other communities.

## OUR OFFICE

RYCO LBO Serbia was established in 2017, when RYCO's Secretariat became operational. Starting as a small office with one staff member, it quickly expanded to become the biggest local branch of RYCO in the region, with 6 colleagues currently employed.

## OUR TEAM

### Marija Bulat

*Head of the RYCO LBO in Serbia*  
Email: marija.bulat@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 63 7384 434

### Ivana Markulić Stanković

*Local Program Officer in Serbia*  
Email: ivana.markulic@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 62 1633 524

### Dorđo Cvijović

*Local Program Officer in Serbia*  
Email: djordjo.cvijovic@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 65 2658 261

### Davor Džakula

*Local Program Officer in Serbia*  
Email: davor.dzakula@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 69 639 272

### Jelena Rodić Pešić

*Finance and Administration Officer in Serbia*  
Email: jelena.rodic-pesic@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 63 8887 592

### Vesna Savić

*Finance and Administration Officer in Serbia*  
Email: vesna.savic@rycowb.org  
Phone Number: +381 64 2892 438