

RYCOGNIZED

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **RYCOGNIZED** project aims to enhance policy effectiveness and foster lasting peace in the Western Balkans (WB6) by strengthening institutional trust and empowering youth to take an active role in decision-making. Building on the *“RYCOGNIZED YPS Advocacy Efforts in WB6”* initiative from 2023, which focused on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) actions in the region, the project continues to advance RYCO’s advocacy efforts and institutional capacities within the YPS Agenda. By supporting RYCO’s mission, it helps create an environment that promotes peacebuilding, regional youth cooperation, and improved youth representation. In 2023, *13 activities* were carried out as part of these efforts, and in 2024, this number has grown to *29 activities*, highlighting the project’s growing impact.

OBJECTIVES

Overall objective: Enabled environment in the Western Balkans for peacebuilding, regional youth cooperation, and improving the position of youth.

Specific objective: To support the creation of the local and regional architecture for the implementation of the initiatives aimed at promoting youth involvement in peace and security through capacity building and investment in advocacy efforts.

OUTCOMES

- Strengthened capacities of CSOs, expert communities, and RYCO staff on the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Agenda.
- Increased number of advocacy initiatives on youth peace and security at local and regional levels.
- Development of the Peace Capital Methodology as a strategic framework for local peacebuilding efforts.
- Enhanced participation of young journalists in constructive peace reporting through the Peace Broadcasters initiative.
- Greater youth involvement in decision-making and policy development across the WB6 region.

42

ACTIVITIES

1150

PARTICIPANTS

704

YOUNG PEOPLE

140

STAKEHOLDERS

TARGET GROUP

RYCOGNIZED brings together a diverse range of stakeholders across the Western Balkans (WB6) region, including youth organizations, activists, and civil society organizations (CSOs) dedicated to peacebuilding and reconciliation. It also involves government and policy stakeholders working on youth and security agendas, as well as young journalists and media professionals committed to constructive peace reporting. Researchers and academic institutions also contribute to the broader Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) conversation. Throughout the project's implementation, over *750 participants* have been engaged, with approximately *550* of them being young people. In another phase of the activities, more than *400 participants* took part, including over *154 young individuals*, and over *140 representatives* from other stakeholder groups, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusive and impactful engagement.

BUDGET AND DURATION

The total budget for the RYCOGNIZED project from *August 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024*, is *299,760.00 EUR*, supporting its efforts to enhance youth engagement, peacebuilding, and institutional trust across the Western Balkans.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Evis Myftari

RYCOGNIZED Project Manager

Email: evis.myftari@rycowb.org

Phone Number: +355 69 265 2426

Mariza Rama

RYCOGNIZED Project Officer

Email: mariza.rama@rycowb.org

Phone Number: +355 67 504 3000

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