



RYCO RESEARCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The *Research Mentorship Program* is an initiative supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. It builds on RYCO's history of promoting cooperation by addressing two critical and interconnected challenges: *brain drain* and *youth unemployment*. While previous initiatives have laid a strong foundation for dialogue and skills development, this project introduces a targeted approach to building the capacity of young researchers and entrepreneurs. The program combines study visits, mentorship, and collaborative research to enhance RYCO's in-house capacity and resources for research and policy briefs. Moreover, this initiative aims to enhance RYCO's in-house capacities and resources related to research and policy briefs.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to enhance the research skills of young people from the Western Balkans through advanced methodology training. The program encourages collaboration and cross-border dialogue among young researchers, entrepreneurs, and academic institutions to tackle shared challenges. It also aims to develop practical, research-driven recommendations to combat brain drain and reduce youth unemployment.

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*Call for
WB6 young
researchers*





OUTCOMES

The outcomes of this initiative include strengthened networks among young researchers and academic institutions in the Western Balkans, an advanced research skill set, the development of tailored recommendations and policy briefs for RYCO's internal use, and an expanded pool of researchers participating in RYCO's regional activities. Young entrepreneurs benefit from the guidance and expertise of successful Austrian businesses and institutions, which can help expand their collaborative networks and provide inspiration through successful examples.

TARGET GROUP

The target group includes *young researchers aged 18–29* from the Western Balkans who are currently studying Social Sciences (BA, MA, or PhD level), as well as *young entrepreneurs aged 18–29* who have shown potential during their participation in RYCO's RISE program.

BUDGET AND DURATION

The program has received funding of *30,000 EUR* for the period from January to November 2025.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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*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.