

## RYCOgnizing YPS: Meaningful Youth Participation in the WB6

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

RYCO empowers Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans to advance youth-led initiatives aligned with the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Through a targeted sub-granting scheme, selected CSOs receive financial and technical support to strengthen their capacities and promote peace, cooperation, and security across the region. Activities focus on the five YPS pillars: Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships, and Disengagement & Reintegration. These include enhancing youth involvement in peacebuilding and decision-making, supporting protection in conflict-affected areas, fostering collaboration with institutions, preventing violence and radicalization, and aiding reintegration efforts. The initiative ultimately promotes youth-driven, sustainable peace and democratic resilience in the Western Balkans.

### OBJECTIVE

**Overall objective:** The project's core objective is to equip young leaders and organizations with essential tools for human rights advocacy and political participation, demonstrating how democratic engagement and human rights are integral to effective peacebuilding.

- The project seeks to engage youth in peacebuilding initiatives by offering platforms for dialogue, training, and reconciliation efforts. Young people's inclusion and participation in peace and security are key to building more inclusive, sustainable and effective peace.
- The project will implement a targeted sub-granting scheme to support local CSOs in the Western Balkans, particularly in areas with historical tensions. This initiative aims to foster meaningful youth participation and regional collaboration by empowering CSOs to lead youth-driven projects that contribute to the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Focus areas include conflict resolution, social cohesion, and youth engagement in peacebuilding across the region.



## OUTCOMES

- **Increased Youth Participation in Peace and Security Decision-Making:** The scheme will enable CSOs to create platforms for youth to actively participate in peace and security-related discussions and initiatives within their communities.
- **Strengthened Capacity of CSOs in YPS Implementation:** Through tailored financial and technical support, CSOs will be better equipped to design and execute projects that address the YPS pillars effectively.
- **Enhanced Protection Mechanisms for Youth in Conflict-Affected Areas:** Projects funded through the scheme will strengthen local protection structures, ensuring youth in vulnerable or conflict-affected regions have access to safe and supportive resources.
- **Greater Collaboration between Youth, Government, and International Peacebuilding Actors:** The scheme will promote partnerships between youth, CSOs, government, and international stakeholders, fostering a collaborative approach to peacebuilding and YPS implementation.
- **Successful Rehabilitation and Reintegration Initiatives for Conflict-Affected Youth:** CSOs will receive support to develop programs that aid the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth impacted by conflict, helping them reintegrate into society and contribute positively to their communities.
- **Develop and enhance the capacity of youth organizations in the Western Balkans** to lead sustainable peace initiatives and co-shape RYCO's work on youth, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.

## TARGET GROUP

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with demonstrated expertise in implementing Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) initiatives in the Western Balkans.

## BUDGET AND DURATION

The total budget for the RYCOgnizing YPS project from January 1 to June 30, 2026, is **500,000.00 EUR**, supporting its efforts to enhance YPS Agenda .

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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