

## 12th RYCO Governing Board Meeting Marks Leadership Transition and Future Planning

**Tirana, Albania** – The 12th Governing Board (GB) Meeting of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) took place via videoconference, reflecting the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-chaired by **Andrea Mićanović**, Youth Representative of Montenegro, and **Vasilije Lalošević**, Chair of the RYCO Governing Board, the meeting marked a pivotal moment in RYCO's leadership transition and future strategic direction.

### Key Decisions and Discussions

- **Selection of the New Secretary General:** After a thorough voting process, **Albert Hani** from North Macedonia was elected as the new Secretary General. His selection was confirmed in the second round of voting with a two-thirds majority.
- **Employment Offer and Handover Period:** The Secretariat was tasked with preparing and sharing Hani's employment offer by 19 March 2021. The handover period from the outgoing Secretary General, **Djuro Blanuša**, to Hani was set for April 2021, ensuring a smooth transition.
- **Recruitment Process for Deputy Secretary General:** The Governing Board approved the roadmap and selection procedures for the new Deputy Secretary General, with the open call for applications to be launched immediately.
- **Amendment to Selection Procedures:** To enhance clarity and prevent procedural obstacles, the phrase *"The Governing Board members may decide to conduct interviews with shortlisted candidates"* was revised to *"The Governing Board members will decide to conduct interviews with the shortlisted candidates."*
- **Strategic and Financial Planning:** Discussions also included RYCO's ongoing financial management and the need for sustainable operational planning. The Secretariat was tasked with preparing the necessary documentation for the next Governing Board session.
- **Next Governing Board Meeting:** The 13th Governing Board meeting was tentatively scheduled to take place physically in Podgorica by mid-April 2021, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General, Blanuša, and Deputy Secretary General, **Fatos Mustafa**, for their dedication and contributions to RYCO's growth. With a new leadership team in place, RYCO is set to build on its achievements and further strengthen youth cooperation and reconciliation efforts across the Western Balkans.

