

14th RYCO Governing Board Meeting Reinforces Regional Cooperation

Tirana, Albania – The 14th Governing Board (GB) Meeting of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) took place via videoconference, reaffirming the organization's unwavering commitment to youth cooperation and regional development despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Co-chaired by **Andrea Mićanović**, Youth Representative of Montenegro, and **Ksenija Bozovic**, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Sports and Youth of Montenegro, the meeting focused on an essential governance milestone, the selection of the new Deputy Secretary General.

Key Outcomes and Decisions

- **Selection of the New Deputy Secretary General:** Following a structured and transparent voting process, **Denis Piplaš** from Bosnia and Herzegovina was elected as the new Deputy Secretary General. His appointment represents a crucial step in ensuring RYCO's continued institutional stability and effectiveness in fostering regional youth cooperation. Mr. Piplaš's extensive experience and commitment to youth development are expected to contribute significantly to RYCO's future endeavors.
- **Employment Offer and Documentation:** The Secretariat was tasked with preparing and sharing Mr. Piplaš's employment contract and all necessary documentation with the Governing Board to finalize the appointment process. This step ensures a seamless transition and formal onboarding for the new Deputy Secretary General.
- **Commitment to Regional Youth Engagement:** The meeting underscored RYCO's continuous efforts to empower young people across the Western Balkans. Board members reaffirmed the organization's mission to foster reconciliation, dialogue, and regional development. The discussion also highlighted the need for ongoing support from all contracting parties to further expand RYCO's outreach and impact.
- **Strategic Leadership and Governance:** The Governing Board emphasized the importance of a strong leadership team in guiding RYCO's strategic direction. With the recent transition in key positions, members expressed confidence that the newly appointed leadership will enhance the organization's capacity to implement impactful programs and policy initiatives for youth in the region.

The session concluded with expressions of gratitude from the co-chairs and board members, who commended the Secretariat for its efficient coordination of the selection process and reaffirmed their collective dedication to RYCO's mission. As Mr. Piplaš assumes his new role, he is expected to bring fresh energy, innovative perspectives, and a steadfast commitment to strengthening youth cooperation in the Western Balkans.

