

RYCOgnizing YPS: Meaningful Youth Participation in the Western Balkans

Preliminary List by the Reference Number

Ref. No.	Full Name of Applicant	Title of the Project	Contracting Party	No. of Partners	Project Summary	Thematic Area
Preliminary List (7 projects)						
00202592	Rrjeti i Organizatave "Zëri i të rinjve" (Youth Voice)	Youth360 - Empowering Youth for Peace and Security	Albania	3	<p>This project aims to strengthen the capacities of more than 100 young people and local governments in Albania to effectively implement the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Centered on the municipalities of Pogradec and Cërrik, it empowers youth through targeted capacity-building in peacebuilding, conflict analysis, local advocacy, and civic participation.</p> <p>The project fosters stronger institutional cooperation by facilitating structured dialogue between young citizens and local decision-makers, promoting inclusive governance and the creation of youth-informed public policies. Furthermore, it supports regional collaboration by engaging municipalities, NGOs, and institutions from North Macedonia, providing opportunities for cross-border learning and exchange.</p> <p>Implemented in three progressive phases—foundation building, policy development, and regional cooperation—the project ensures a sustainable and scalable approach to enhancing youth engagement in peace and security</p>	<p>Participation – Empowering young people to have a voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives, ensuring they are active contributors to democratic processes.,</p> <p>Prevention – Addressing key drivers of instability in the region, such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities, by supporting youth-led initiatives that promote resilience and positive change.</p>
00202591	Vijeće mladih Federacije BiH	"Vrijeme je za mlade, mir i sigurnost u BiH" (It's time for Youth, Peace, and Security in B&H)	Bosnia and Hercegovina	2	<p>The project “Vrijeme je za mlade, mir i sigurnost u BiH” (<i>It's Time for Youth, Peace, and Security in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>) seeks to elevate youth participation in peace and security policymaking across BiH. It aims to empower 176 young people through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured youth-government dialogues • Capacity-building workshops • Formation of key youth policy bodies • Partnership development with institutional stakeholders • Creation of safe, youth-friendly spaces <p>The initiative also advocates for the establishment of a national Commission on Youth Issues and the development of a policy paper to institutionalize the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda within government frameworks. The project promotes constructive cooperation between young people and institutions, contributing to more responsive and inclusive governance.</p>	<p>Participation; Empowering young people to actively shape policies and decisions that affect their lives, ensuring their full involvement in democratic processes.</p> <p>Protection; Strengthening mechanisms that safeguard youth from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations to foster inclusive, safe communities</p>

00202559	Institute for Peace and Security IPS	Youth-Led Digital Peacebuilding to Counter Online Radicalization		1	<p>This 8-month project empowers 40 young people in Kosovo to counter online radicalization through digital peacebuilding. Youth will receive hands-on training in media literacy, cybersecurity, and peace advocacy, and develop social media campaigns to challenge extremist narratives. They will also organize local “Peace Cafés” to engage peers and community leaders in dialogue, while participating in a cross-border exchange with youth from a neighboring Western Balkan Region. The project fosters youth leadership, safer digital spaces, and stronger community-institution partnerships.</p>	<p>Protection – Strengthening mechanisms to safeguard youth from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations, fostering safer and more inclusive communities.,</p> <p>Prevention – Addressing key drivers of instability in the region, such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities, by supporting youth-led initiatives that promote resilience and positive change.</p> <p>Partnerships – Building stronger connections between young people, local and/or state institutions, and international organizations to create sustainable, long-term solutions for regional challenges.</p>
00202543	Youth Cultural Center- Bitola	Civic Circles - From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue	Kosovo* North Macedonia	10	<p>This project represents the only youth participation initiative covering all nine municipalities of the Pelagonia region, making it a unique model of regional youth ecosystem development within North Macedonia. The project embeds youth participation into institutional processes through reactivated Youth Councils, capacity-building, and the co-creation of local policies in all nine municipalities. Through Local Democracy Circles and a Cross-Border Forum, youth engage in dialogue, planning, and decision-making. A youth-informed Policy Paper—adopted at regional level—ensures wider uptake. All activities are co-led with municipalities, backed by signed declarations of support.</p>	<p>Participation – Empowering youth to actively influence policies and decisions affecting their lives, ensuring meaningful involvement in democratic processes.</p> <p>Protection – Enhancing mechanisms to protect young people from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations, promoting safer, inclusive communities.</p> <p>Prevention – Tackling regional instability drivers such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities by supporting youth-led initiatives that foster resilience and positive change.</p> <p>Partnerships – Strengthening collaboration between young people, local/state institutions, and international organizations to develop sustainable, long-term solutions for regional challenges.</p> <p>Disengagement & Reintegration – Providing targeted support to at-risk youth, former combatants, and vulnerable groups to facilitate their</p>

						reintegration and positive community participation.
00202558					<p>This initiative seeks to empower youth as active peacebuilders by developing their skills, confidence, and opportunities for intercultural dialogue, civic engagement, and resilience against radicalization, discrimination, and social exclusion. It aims to strengthen cooperation between youth and institutions through the establishment of sustainable platforms for meaningful participation in peacebuilding and decision-making at local and national levels.</p> <p>Key activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultative meetings with municipalities • Formation of a national Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) Coalition and a cross-sectoral Board • Establishment of a regional School of Political Studies • Cultural exchange programs • Development of a “Youth Promise for Peace” policy paper • Organization of a Youth Peace Forum • Youth-led advocacy campaigns 	<p>Participation – Empowering young people to have a voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives, ensuring they are active contributors to democratic processes.,Protection – Strengthening mechanisms to safeguard youth from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations, fostering safer and more inclusive communities.,Prevention – Addressing key drivers of instability in the region, such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities, by supporting youth-led initiatives that promote resilience and positive change.,Partnerships – Building stronger connections between young people, local and/or state institutions, and international organizations to create sustainable, long-term solutions for regional challenges.,Disengagement & Reintegration – Providing support for at-risk youth, former combatants, and other vulnerable groups, helping them reintegrate into society and contribute positively to their communities</p>
00202565	NGO Civic Alliance	Youth Promise for Peace	Montenegro		<p>The YOUTHSEC project seeks to empower more than 30 young people from three Serbian municipalities to actively contribute to peace and security efforts. Through capacity-building, youth-led actions, and institutional dialogue, the project localizes the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Key components include training, research, inclusive community initiatives, and advocacy. A creative campaign led by National Youth Council of Serbia will amplify youth voices, culminating in the YouthSEC Forum, which will bring together participants, institutional stakeholders, and National Youth Councils from across the Western Balkans to foster regional cooperation and visibility of the YPS agenda.</p>	<p>Participation – Empowering young people to have a voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives, ensuring they are active contributors to democratic processes.,Protection – Strengthening mechanisms to safeguard youth from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations, fostering safer and more inclusive communities.,Prevention – Addressing key drivers of instability in the region, such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities, by supporting youth-led initiatives that promote resilience and</p>
	National Youth Council of Serbia	YouthSEC – Youth for Security, Engagement and Cooperation	Serbia	3		

						positive change.,Partnerships – Building stronger connections between young people, local and/or state institutions, and international organizations to create sustainable, long-term solutions for regional challenges.
00202530	Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society	Youth Leading the Way to Security	Serbia	3	<p>This initiative addresses the persistent exclusion of youth from local peace and security decision-making processes in Leskovac, Raška, and Priboj—communities where violence, discrimination, and political marginalization have undermined trust in institutions and civic engagement.</p> <p>The project seeks to empower 35 young people from these municipalities to become active proponents of the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. Key goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing youth engagement in local policy discussions related to peace and security • Securing commitment from municipal authorities to co-develop solutions with youth • Strengthening youth capacities for democratic participation and advocacy • Co-creating actionable community safety plans with young people and local governments • Promoting youth-led successes through a targeted campaign • Generating concrete policy recommendations to improve youth security at the local level • Creating a platform for sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices 	<p>Participation – Empowering young people to have a voice in shaping policies and decisions that affect their lives, ensuring they are active contributors to democratic processes.,Protection – Strengthening mechanisms to safeguard youth from violence, discrimination, and human rights violations, fostering safer and more inclusive communities.,Prevention – Addressing key drivers of instability in the region, such as extremism, corruption, and socio-economic inequalities, by supporting youth-led initiatives that promote resilience and positive change.,Partnerships – Building stronger connections between young people, local and/or state institutions, and international organizations to create sustainable, long-term solutions for regional challenges.</p>

*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.

NOTE: This is the preliminary list. The final list of supported projects will be published upon the completion of the final documentation check and the budget clearance and programmatic procedures.