



REGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION OFFICE - RYCO

LOCAL BRANCH OFFICE - MONTENEGRO

WHO WE ARE

Established by the governments of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, in July 2016 within the Berlin Process, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) is the intergovernmental organization fostering peace, reconciliation, and cooperation among youth in the Western Balkan 6 (WB6), through youth exchanges.

WHERE DO WE OPERATE

The RYCO Local Branch Office (LBO) in Montenegro, based in Podgorica, operates throughout Montenegro. Our mission is to support youth, CSOs, high schools, and youth workers through regional mobility programs and activities that promote youth cooperation and reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

OUR ENGAGEMENT

Open Calls: Through RYCOnecting Youth Open Calls, we have supported 8 Montenegrin CSOs in leading regional projects in collaboration with 34 CSOs and high schools from the Western Balkans. LBO Montenegro has also partnered on projects led by other RYCO Contracting Parties, resulting in a high number of exchanges of young people from Montenegro.

Superschools: In its three program cycles, 26 secondary schools from across Montenegro have participated in school-to-school exchanges, involving over 410 students.

The Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund: Through these open calls, we have supported CSOs, individuals, and "Peace Champions" from Montenegro, to implement cultural initiatives. Throughout the past four cycles, 7 NGOs, 5 individuals and 3 Peace Champions were supported.

Regional Incubator for Social Entrepreneurship (RISE): In its cycles, RISE has supported young people to develop and implement social business ideas through its incubation phase and has financially supported RISErs to implement their business ideas

Western Balkans Meet Japan (MIRAI): Through our cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, we have given the opportunity to the youth of the Western Balkans, including young people from Montenegro, to travel to Japan for a unique intercultural experience.

OUR INITIATIVES

Youth Peace and Security is at the core of our work, as the LBO in Montenegro advances RYCO values through local initiatives. A total of seven consultations were held in six municipalities and at the University of Montenegro, gathering 150 participants. The LBO also designed two sessions for the Council of Europe's School of Political Studies and hosted a year-end event with 12 MPs to discuss the YPS Agenda and present the peace capital methodology. YPS efforts resulted in signing of the Declaration of Commitment to Youth Regional Cooperation, Intercultural Dialogue and Reconciliation by members of the Montenegrin Parliament. Through RYCOgnizing YPS granting scheme, 2 CSOs are supported to advance youth-led initiatives aligned with the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda.

**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.*

26

SECONDARY
SCHOOLS

410

HIGH-SCHOOLS
STUDENTS

20+

CAPACITY-BUILDING
TRAININGS

2000+

YOUNG PEOPLE



LBO Montenegro organized **more than 20 capacity building trainings** including:

Nine capacity-building training sessions were held for potential grant applicants in Montenegro, with over **185 participants** from secondary schools and CSOs. Supported by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, these trainings addressed the need to enhance the skills of young organizations and schools with promising project ideas but limited implementation experience.

Capacity Building Training for Young Journalists, organized in cooperation with the OSCE Mission, trained **17 media representatives** in intercultural dialogue and ethical reporting

Capacity Building Training for Young Athletes, strengthens cooperation, intercultural skills, and youth activism through sports. LBO Montenegro has held eight trainings with partners, engaging **160 young athletes** in promoting RYCO values in their communities.

Intercultural Youth Hubs, organized in collaboration with the French Embassy, brought together over **180 young people** across eight hubs to promote intercultural dialogue. The initiative also featured a youth camp, Intercultural Competencies in Sports, showcasing sports as a tool for peace and tolerance.

The Balkan Academy of Music, launched in partnership with the French Institute and Goethe Institute, fosters intercultural cooperation among young jazz musicians from the region.

Youth Talks, a RYCO LBOs initiative, provides a platform for young people to engage in open discussions on key topics. With 20 sessions, the initiative has engaged around **500 youth** from diverse backgrounds.

OUR TEAM

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