

## Western Balkans Youth Forum 2026

### Supported by:

The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), with the support of the Government of the Montenegro, within the framework of the Berlin Process.

### About the Forum

The Western Balkans Youth Forum 2026 (WBYF 2026) will take place during the week of 04–07 June 2026 in Budva. Since 2021 Forum has served as a structured platform for dialogue, peer-to-peer learning, and youth-led policy advocacy within the Berlin Process. Previous editions have resulted in regional youth agendas, the 2022 Berlin Declaration, and long-term partnerships with regional and EU actors.

The 2026 edition will amplify youth voices in addressing three critical and interconnected priorities: **green and sustainable region, peace, security and inclusive societies skills, opportunities and innovation**. By doing so, it will strengthen the role of young people as co-creators of peaceful, stable, and prosperous societies in the Western Balkans.

### Objectives

The Forum aims to empower youth leadership and institutionalize youth participation in policy-making at both the regional and European levels. It will ensure broad inclusion, engaging diverse groups such as National Youth Councils, grassroots organizations, and underrepresented communities. At its core, the Forum seeks to translate youth dialogue into concrete policy outputs that can be directly presented to regional and international leaders through the Berlin Process.

### Programme



**Highlights** Over four days, the Forum will gather 100 participants, and 40 speakers, for a programme that blends high-level dialogue with youth-led initiatives.

Plenary sessions and keynotes will address green and sustainable region, peace, security and inclusive societies, skills, opportunities and innovation, while masterclasses, advocacy labs, and workshops will enable participants to build skills and co-create policy recommendations. Cultural and networking activities will foster collaboration across the region. The Forum will conclude with the adoption of joint youth conclusions, to be presented at the Berlin Process Leaders' Summit in Montenegro.

### **Expected Outcomes and Impact**

The Forum will culminate in the publication of a Youth Report 2026, consolidating the recommendations and key messages developed by participants. Six youth delegates, selected during the Forum, will present these outcomes directly at the Berlin Process Leaders' Summit in Montenegro, ensuring visibility and influence at the highest political level.

Beyond immediate outputs, the Forum will generate long-term impact by embedding its recommendations into RYCO's advocacy agenda and disseminating them widely across regional networks. The active involvement of the Montenegrin Government and international partners will enrich the process with global expertise in peacebuilding, civic education, and youth development, enhancing the Forum's policy relevance and sustainability.

Ultimately, the Western Balkans Youth Forum 2026 will reaffirm the central role of youth as drivers of reconciliation, cooperation, and transformation. By providing a credible, inclusive, and action-oriented platform, it will contribute to building a more democratic, peaceful, and economically resilient Western Balkans, a region shaped by and for its young people.