

Western Balkan Youth Cultural Fund – WB YCF

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Western Balkans Youth Cultural Fund (WB YCF)** is a regional initiative implemented by the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and co-financed by the Ministries of Culture of each RYCO Contracting Party. WB YCF *aims to connect the cultural scenes across the Western Balkans* by supporting grassroots cultural initiatives that *foster regional cooperation, intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.*

The project supports cultural practitioners, artists, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to create opportunities for increased understanding, dialogue, and mutual learning across the region

OBJECTIVES

“Operating through a targeted approach that encompasses cultural practitioners and CSOs active in the cultural realm, the WB YCF project aims to achieve two primary objectives:

- ***Enhancing opportunities for young individuals in the cultural and creative sector of the Western Balkans.***
- ***Strengthening regional cultural cooperation among youth-oriented CSOs and cultural practitioners.***

By fostering reconciliation, peacebuilding, and intercultural learning, the project contributes to long-term regional stability and collaboration.



38
GRANTS TO
INDIVIDUAL
CULTURAL
PRACTITIONERS

53
GRANTS TO
CSOs

18
PEACE
CHAMPION
GRANTS

GRANT SCHEME

The Grant Scheme funds civil society actors to implement cultural initiatives. Additionally, the project introduces the *Peace Champion Grants*, recognizing cultural practitioners who have significantly contributed to peacebuilding efforts. These awards celebrate achievements, inspire future engagement, and provide a platform for showcasing successful peacebuilding initiatives.

During the project's implementation period, spanning from *September 1, 2023*, to *September 30, 2026*, the WB YCF will provide comprehensive support aimed at fostering cultural engagement, civic participation, and peacebuilding initiatives. As part of its commitment to empowering individuals and organizations working within the cultural and social sectors, the program will allocate a total of **38 grants** to individual cultural practitioners, enabling them to develop and implement innovative cultural projects that promote social cohesion and artistic expression. Additionally, **53 grants** will be awarded to CSOs to support community-driven initiatives that address pressing social challenges and enhance grassroots advocacy efforts.

To further recognize the outstanding contributions to peacebuilding through cultural engagement, the program will also present **18 Peace Champion Grants** to exceptional cultural practitioners who have demonstrated a significant impact in fostering dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation within their communities. By facilitating access to financial resources and professional support, WB YCF aims to cultivate a vibrant cultural ecosystem that not only strengthens social ties but also contributes to long-term regional stability and development.

DURATION

WB YCF is a three-year initiative running from September 2023 to September 2026, supporting long-term cultural cooperation and engaging youth in peacebuilding through the arts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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