



EUROPEAN YOUTH POLICY INITIATIVES

What is the EU doing for youth? Have a look!

Topic: Policy dialogues and participation

Western Balkans Youth Lab

The Western Balkan Youth Lab (WBYL) is a three-year project funded by the EU and implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). It kicked off in January 2020 aiming to **engage young people in the Western Balkans to participate in decision-making**.

The Western Balkans Youth Lab Project strives to create a longer-term structured regional dialogue between youth organisations and national administrations. It aims that they jointly devise policies which will increase youth participation in decision-making, improve the overall socio-economic environment, and increase mobility of youth in the Western Balkans economies through different types of activities.

WB Youth Lab Project consists of four components, which are interlinked with each other:

- Western Balkans Youth Policy Labs
- Strengthening the National Youth Councils in the Western Balkans
- Participation of Western Balkan youth in regional and international events
- Mapping of Youth Policies and Identification of Existing Support and Gaps in Financing of Youth Actions in Western Balkans

What's in it for young people?

Through the project, young people in the Western Balkans receive **new opportunities** to engage with policymakers, bring up topics that are of interest to them and participate in co-creation of policies and decisions that affect youth.

Young people can participate in the Youth Labs organised within the project, and select the topics of engagement – for instance, the new Youth Lab launched in December 2021, will focus on Mental Health, which has been identified as one of the key challenges for the young generation.

Youth Councils also receive support through the project and can strengthen their operations and engagement actions.

Relevant links

Western Balkans Youth Lab (WBYL)
RCC: Western Balkans Youth Lab on Mental Help kicks off in Tirana