

29 October 2019

JOINT STATEMENT

Last year we committed to work together and conduct youth led research focused on the most pressing issues faced by youngsters in the fields of **Education**, **Employment**, and **Participation**.

These three pillars have been identified as the back-bone priorities for our youngsters to achieve a balanced personal development in a progressive social and economic context in the region.

It was the youngsters that conducted those studies, under the methodological guidance of WBYCP. We used desk research based on the analysis of normative framework and statistical data, anonymous online surveys, online questionnaires, direct interviews, as well as secondary sources, thus guaranteeing an exhaustive and coverage and truthful findings that constituted the base for our recommendations.

Today, after sharing the results and debating the findings and recommendations, we came with the following recommendations aiming to improve the policy-making design and cooperation together with the relevant policy actors, them being national, regional or at the EU level:

- Advocate meaningful participation of young people in policy-making stages from the beginning. This can be achieved through involvement of national youth councils / congresses / structures and engagement of bottom up initiatives in every stage of policy dialogue;
- Establish, encourage and support the dialogue and cooperation among civil society youth sector and political party youth wings, with the aim of integrating youth agenda issues into the political parties programmes;
- Encourage and support the creation of platforms and mechanisms that aim to better inform and educate young people, by complementing official education dispensed in schools and universities; encourage and facilitate the pedagogical staff to intensify the digitalization and innovation of learning and teaching methodologies all by improving its access, communication and increasing and democratizing the participation;
- Deliver tangible results on enabling, recognizing and standardizing non-formal education and youth work;
- Create a visionary, well-funded and long-term start-up ecosystem for young entrepreneurs.





On behalf of the partners of Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform:

National Youth Congress of Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations

Kosovar Youth Council

National Youth Council of Macedonia

High School Students Union of Montenegro

National Youth Council of Serbia

Cooperation and Development Institute

