



## CALL FOR ARTICLES

**Launching Date:** 27 May 2024

**Submission Deadline:** 16 June 2024 (postponed to 23 June 2024)

Connecting Youth (CY) is seeking articles from our young readers—stories that will amplify youth voices from the Western Balkans. Our goal is to foster youth participation in important discussions impacting our region, with a focus on creating inclusive solutions that enhance socio-economic development.

CY Blog section is an additional resource for all those who are interested in a more casual approach to the topics that are the platform's main focus. The Blog will contain user-generated content with topics that are relevant to the partners, youth stakeholders, and the general public.

### About Connecting Youth

Connecting Youth (CY), is a regional youth platform operating under the vision of supporting youth-led approaches toward transformative processes in the region, that consider youth as partners of change and resilience.

CY work is built upon an impact-oriented approach and systemic presence in the policy-making areas relevant to youth.

Main objectives of CY are:

- strengthening young people's democratic participation in sectoral policies
- Enhancing youth connectivity in the region and the EU
- Advancing the capacities of youth organizations to uphold and represent their position and needs.

CY is implemented by the Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), together with the umbrella youth organizations of the six Western Balkans Countries - National Youth Congress of Albania, National Youth Council of North Macedonia, National Youth Council of Serbia, Youth Network of Montenegro, The Kosovar Youth Council (KYC), Youth Council of Federation of Bosnia and Hercegovina with the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation.

## Article Themes

Articles may address one or multiple questions:

- Can one day WB countries reduce the voting age to 16?
- Is there any progress in the dialogue between youth organizations and institutions?
- Can Youth Guarantee get me to be part of the labour market?
- Youth Standard in the WB6: How much does youth independence cost?
- Youth and Migration: How can we shift brain drain to brain gain?
- How does SEE6 youth benefit from the Mobility Agreement on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the region?
- How does SEE6 youth benefit from the Mobility Agreement on Freedom of Movement with Identity Cards in the region?
- Youth Cooperation: Do young people have a key role in overcoming bilateral disputes?
- How much do you know about mental health?
- Internships in the WB6: Are young people fairly paid?
- How can young people be protected as creators and consumers of social media?
- Green and Sustainable WB6: what does it mean living in Europe's most polluted region?
- What are the underlying causes that push youth to emigrate and what can be done to reverse/ put a stop to this phenomenon?

## Who can submit articles?

The call is open to young people from Western Balkan countries, students, activists and researchers who are passionate about sharing their thoughts and being engaged citizens.

## Submission Guidelines

- **Language:** Blog posts must be written in English and it will be proofread by the communication team.
- **Length:** Texts should not be longer than 1,000 words. We recommend keeping it even shorter..
- **Photography:** Each post has to have at least one photograph or artwork (with copyrights cited, or websites that can be used for free pictures).
- **Author:** Please include 1-2 sentence biography of the author(s) and a photo.
- **Modality:** The article submissions should be sent to [info@connecting-youth.org](mailto:info@connecting-youth.org)
- **Deadline:** The deadline for Connecting Youth Blog submission is open until 16 June 2024

## Editorial Policy

The blog intends to be a free space for honest conversations about the topics that are related to this platform and are relevant to partners' audiences. There will be no strict editorial policy as long as the articles are fact-based, fair, and respectful towards all community members. This section will be aligned with CY's work, beliefs, and commitment. If any of these criteria are not met, CY holds the right to suggest editorial changes to the blog posts.