



11 October 2018

JOINT STATEMENT

Balkan Youth have a Future in their Home Country

For more than 8 months six national youth umbrella structures in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia – all partners of Western Balkans Youth Cooperation Platform – have discussed with their members and any interested young person their reasons to emigrate or not.

This regional grassroots consultation was followed by an essay competition entitled “Three reasons to stay in my country”.

Those essays coming from tens of youngsters showed how Balkans young generation feels and thinks about their future in their home country.

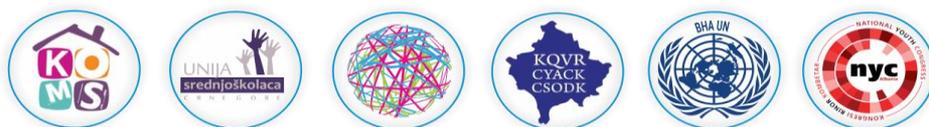
Rich with the findings from community consultation and from the essays, we gathered in Tirana together with 12 most representative essay authors, to discuss about youth and emigration in the Balkans.

The unifying feature of the responses we came of was the love and responsibility of young people for their homeland.

The other shared observation was youngster’s commitment to make homeland change for the better.

But for us to be able to contribute and also realize our dreams, some crucial conditions must be fulfilled.

- A more accessible and better quality educational system is the main demand – high cost of schooling or low quality of education pushes young generation to look for better alternatives abroad;
- Employment is not only our worry but also the main concern of our families. The transition from school to work, the availability of fairly-paid jobs, the merit-based career development and more active job-market policies for youth are required for Balkan youngsters to make a career here.





→ But currently youth policies are designed and implemented by people who are not directly concerned from our burning issues, as a matter of age, mindset or expertise. To build and implement youth policies that respond to our needs and really help youngsters, the Balkan young generation need to be represented properly in all the stages of policy making – from design, to implementation to monitoring.

This is the first step of a joint bottom-up action that the six umbrella youth organizations in the Balkans, coordinated by Cooperation and Development Institute and supported by Hanns Seidel Foundation, are undertaking to give voice to Balkan youth and youth organizations.

Our goal is to make our peers, our families, our communities, our countries and the European Union institutions understand our dreams, our views and our interests, and act upon it.

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

National Youth Congress of Albania

Dafina Peci, Executive Director

Signature

Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for United Nations

Mak Selimovic, President

Signature

Central Youth Action Council of Kosovo

Vlora Krasniqi, Vice President

Signature

National Youth Council of Macedonia

Gordana Kolova, Project Manager

Signature

High School Students Union of Montenegro

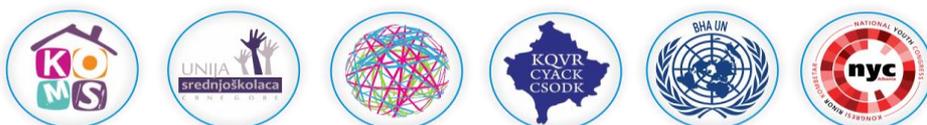
Andrea Micanovic, President

Signature

National Youth Council of Serbia

Miljana Pejic, Programme Manager

Signature





On behalf of Cooperation and Development Institute (WBYCP Initiator)
Krisela Hackaj, Executive Director

Signature



