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European Union

Regional Programme on Local Democracy on the Western Balkans 2 ReLOaD2



The ReLOaD2 Youth Activities

The **Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 2 (ReLOaD2)** is a continuation of the EU-UNDP partnership and previously supported initiative – ReLOaD1, implemented in the four-year period 2017 - 2020. The Project duration is 48 months (2021 – 2024). ReLOaD2 continues to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans by empowering civil society and youth to actively take part in the decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society. The Action is implemented in the six IPA beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, and Serbia) in 63 partner local governments. The important component of ReLOaD2 is promotion of youth engagement and support to implementation of youth initiatives along with work on improvement of youth economic perspectives in all partner localities, which is divided into three sets of activities:

- **Implementation of youth community and civic engagement activities**
 - ReLOaD2 will **identify at least one youth community leader** (organisation and individuals) in each partner local government who will promote engagement and implementation of youth initiatives at the level of their communities. Selected youth community leaders will be provided with initial training on their role and facilitation of the forums and discussions along with subsequent mentoring support.
 - Youth community leaders will **organize and facilitate thematic forums** to identify issues vital for youth in local communities aiming to encourage the youth to take part in community affairs and work closer with local authorities. Thematic forums will be organised around the issues relevant for a specific community/surrounding. The end result of the forums will be definition of actions, or solution to the identified priorities, is high level of community engagement and volunteer work.
 - **Implementation of concrete youth initiatives** will materialise the findings from the thematic forums and will range from refurbishment of youth centres or schools, cleaning local rivers and parks, restoration of playgrounds or similar social areas, support to youth (people) with disabilities, etc. Key principle is massive volunteering and larger voluntary engagement of youth. Additionally, areas that might not be suitable for resolving through this type of community actions will be nominated as specific priority areas under the public call for youth CSOs.
- **Vocational training, internship and first job experience support for youth** This activity will be implemented in close cooperation with local, and where necessary national actors (employment offices, labour and employment agencies, etc). Given the specifics in each IPA beneficiary, the tasks under this activity will be implemented with different intensity across the region.
 - Further **development of youth skills** through vocational training and soft skills (e.g. CV/resume writing training and job interview preparations training, etc.) training aims to enhance youth skills in line with the market needs and enable young people to be

* For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to position on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. For UNDP all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of the UN Resolution 1244/1999

more competitive on the market. This activity will be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia.

- **Implementation of tailored internship scheme** is an opportunity for the youth to gain experience in real working environment and gain skills to future jobs and career. It will be implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia.
- **First job experience** for young women and men, who graduated with minimum of bachelors' degree, will give them the opportunity to obtain the first job experience by volunteering in the programmes/activities of CSOs, local governments or others depending on the needs. Aside of knowledge and experience gained, their work will be financially compensated in accordance with the relevant regulations and practices. This activity will be executed only in Kosovo.
- **Implementation of specific targeted youth project support**
 - In addition to youth and community engagement activities that will be supported directly, the areas that might not be resolved through this type of actions will be nominated as specific priority areas within the Action's grant schemes and public calls for CSOs (as a specific LOT) or within a separate and specific public call for youth.

Expected results in the Western Balkans:

- 63 Community leaders selected and supported
- 63 Thematic forums implemented with at least 300 participants
- At least 100 youth initiatives implemented
- Competencies of at least 200 youth individuals, both male and female, increased through vocational and soft skill training
- At least 140 young people engaged in an internship scheme
- First job experience provided to 35 young people of both gender
- At least 100 youth projects selected for funding

Youth related activities are scheduled for the period for 2022 to 2024.