

KICK-OFF

OF THE FIRST REGIONAL THEMATIC YOUTH POLICY LAB TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Concept and Agenda for Open Sessions

14 and 15 December, 2020

Background

On the occasion of Sofia EU-Western Balkan Summit in 2018 and reinforced in 2020 Summit, the EU and WB Leaders confirmed that special emphasis should be placed on creating further opportunities for the youth, calling for the establishment of Western Balkans Youth Lab (WBYL) and ensuring that this contributes to the socio-economic development of the Western Balkans.

With the aim to provide space for innovative policy-making processes that will address the needs and opinions of young people, RCC's Western Balkans Youth Lab project, funded by the European Union, will create a longer-term structured regional dialogue between youth, youth organisations and public administrations, focused on jointly designing policies which will increase youth participation in decision-making.

WBYL project developed a Methodology to conduct Youth Policy Labs, which brings a participatory and youth centred approach in policy making processes. Youth Policy Lab provides a safe space for youth to participate on equal basis with policymakers and engage meaningfully in policy development, policy evaluation or policy revisions based on the principles of co-management and co-production.

The **First Thematic Regional Youth Policy Lab to tackle Youth Unemployment** will take place on **December 14 and 15**. This event will gather approximately 40 young people and policymakers from the Western Balkan six economies, known as Regional Pool of Experts, who will engage in developing policy recommendations through a participatory approach to tackle youth unemployment.

Sessions Open for Broad Group of Participants

Before the Regional Pool of Experts starts engaging in working groups to examine in more depth the issue of youth unemployment and explore policy recommenda-

tions, **the event will host two open sessions on December 14: Official Opening and Panel Debate**. These two sessions will gather representatives of youth, public administrations, relevant regional and international organisations and donor community, as well as media representatives and a wider audience. Also, they will be open for engagement for all participants, while the other sessions during the next two days will be closed for the public, as they will require joint work of the Regional Pool of Experts, including policymakers covering youth and labour market issues, as well as young women and men from the region.

In addition, **Closing Session on December 15 will be open for participation as well**, in order to provide opportunity for the wide audience that will attend the Official Opening and Panel Debate to learn about the results of the joint work of policymakers and youth during the two working days.

Please kindly find below the Agenda of the Open Sessions that you are cordially invited to attend by using the following ZOOM instructions:

ZOOM Link:

<https://proevent-ba.zoom.us/j/95085537714?pwd=dDFCZm9yc1RlRFVvYlVhUitvbkGtEUT09>

ID: 950 8553 7714

Passcode: wByL@15th

Please note that all three open sessions can be followed by using these ZOOM credentials and they will be broadcasted live on RCC's Facebook page too.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the sessions and remaining at your disposal for any further information.



AGENDA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 – 10:20

OFFICIAL OPENING

MS MAJLINDA BREGU, RCC SECRETARY GENERAL
MS GENOVEVA RUIZ CALAVERA, DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN BALKANS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG NEAR

MODERATED BY:
MR GEVIO TABAKU, YOUNG EUROPEAN AMBASSADOR

10:20 – 11:50

PANEL DEBATE: LET'S TALK ABOUT SOLUTIONS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

MS PIRKKO PYÖRÄLÄ, POLICY OFFICER, EUROPEAN COMMISSION DG EMPL
MR GJORGJI TASEV, YOUTH AND SPORT ADVISER TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
MR STEFAN ĐORĐEVIĆ, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF SERBIA
MS AMILA KARACIĆ, DEPUTY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL REPUBLICAN INSTITUTE
MS JOVANA MAJSTOROVIC, EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM BOARD MEMBER

MODERATED BY:
MR ADEM GASHI, RCC WB YOUTH LAB PROJECT TEAM LEADER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

13:15 – 14:00

CLOSING SESSION AND NEXT STEPS OF THE PROCESS

MS TAMARA GOJKOVIC, KEY FACILITATOR
MR GIANPAOLO SURIANO, ACTING HEAD OF UNIT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORT AND CULTURE
MS ALEKSANDRA PAVICEVIC, EMPLOYMENT SERVICE COORDINATOR, ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES OF MONTENEGRO
MR ADEM GASHI, RCC WB YOUTH LAB PROJECT TEAM LEADER