

WBYL

WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH LAB



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CO-CREATED BY THE REGIONAL POOL OF EXPERTS AT THE KICK-OFF EVENT OF THE YOUTH POLICY LAB ON GREEN AGENDA¹

GROUP 1: Green Agenda Advocacy

1. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) should establish or use existing youth participatory mechanism (for example Advisory Youth Councils, Local Youth Councils or other mechanism) to co-create and co-implement Just Transition plans with young people.
2. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) should create youth-targeted communication resources and content to promote key policy instruments in the field of climate, energy and environment.
3. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) in cooperation with young people and youth organisations and with the support of experts in field should co-create practical guidelines for green behaviour applicable to the work of public institutions to support transformation and make their operation more sustainable.
4. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth, environment, foreign affairs, etc.) should provide financial and institutional support as well as mentorship to young individuals and specialised youth organisations to facilitate their active participation in international climate and environment conferences (e.g. COP).

¹ All actions and policy changes taken by the relevant stakeholders and decision-makers should be taken in cooperation, and through co-creation and co-implementation with young people and youth organisations.



GROUP 2: Preventing Plastic Pollution in the Region

1. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) in cooperation with young people and youth organisations should develop programmes and policies focused on prevention of plastic pollution through changing narrative from recycling to reduce and reuse.
2. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) should cooperate to establish a regional platform for exchange of effective practices between youth organisations and public institutions that results in reducing plastic pollution.
3. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) should cooperate with young people to develop programmes to strengthen capacities of diverse communities (e.g. children, young people, rural communities, Roma and Travellers,² etc.) regarding plastic reduction.
4. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) together with youth should initiate an inclusive dialogue with relevant stakeholders (e.g. academia, business sector, innovators, etc.) regarding infrastructural change to support reduction of plastic pollution.
5. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, academia, business sector, etc.) should support youth engagement in research, innovation and optimisation of existing infrastructure for plastic reduction.

² The term "Roma and Travellers" as used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.



GROUP 3: Circular Economy

1. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth or environment, etc.) should create mechanisms and indicators to evaluate if companies' practices are eco-friendly (e.g. an Environmental Index) and keep the evidence of their operations (e.g. Eco registry).
2. Governments and relevant institutions should support integration of innovation programmes into the youth civic spaces to foster environmental sustainability.
3. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for youth, environment, finances, etc.) should organise public discussions on the allocation of Eco Tax funds, while also involving youth stakeholders to ensure their perspectives and needs are considered with regard to public spending.
4. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for environment, finances, etc.) should offer incentives and rewards to individuals and businesses that actively engage in sustainable practices, including providing tax exemptions to businesses that promote and operate under the principles of reduce, recycle, and reuse.
5. Relevant institutions (e.g. line ministries for environment, labour and social affairs, etc.) should cooperate to establish a formal Waste Collectors Organisation to institutionalise the practice (employment contract), integrate and empower the community of collectors to enhance environmental sustainability.

