

YOUTH POLICY LAB METHODOLOGY

November 30 - December 2, 2020, 09:30 – 13:10

Introduction

Youth Policy Lab brings participatory and youth centered approach in policy making processes. It 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, where young people and policymakers share power in managing and implementing the space where policies are developed. Youth Policy Lab is an approach which provides opportunity for decision makers to better understand young people's realities, challenges and needs in order to work together with young people and to co-design new innovative solutions to the pressing issues youth faces.

Key milestone activities for the beginning of the Youth Policy Labs are Training on Youth Policy Lab Methodology and Kick-Off event of the Regional Thematic Youth Policy Lab. Trainings in each economy will be organized online in local language from November 30 to December 2 prior to the Kick-Off event. The Kick-Off of the Thematic Regional Youth

Policy Lab on Youth Unemployment which will result in policy recommendation to address youth unemployment will be held on 14th and 15th December 2020 online due to COVID-19.

Trainings in local language will take place in each economy prior to the Kick-Off event. The training will explain the whole process of the Youth Policy Lab and the role of participants. The training will be interactive, with active participation, and will serve as opportunity to express opinions and discuss issues relevant to Youth Policy Lab and youth unemployment. Participants will be introduced to the topic of the cycle and will engage in a practical Youth Policy Lab exercise/simulation as well as discuss importance of co-creation from the aspect of regional cooperation and active participation is encouraged.

All attendees will abide by the regular guidelines for online meetings, by joining the training at least five minutes before the official start time, have the video on, agree for the trainings to be audio and video recorded, put the microphone on mute when not speaking, and avoid noisy activities while microphone is on.

09:30 09:40

Introductory Remarks

09:40 10:30

Role of the Regional Pool of Experts and Getting to Know Each Other

10:30 10:40

Break



10:40 11:25

Youth Policy Lab: what is it all about?

11:25 11:40

Feedback on Youth Policy Lab
Methodology

11:40 12:10

Expert Presentation: Youth Unemployment
in the Western Balkans

12:10 12:20

Break

12:20 13:00

Youth Policy Lab Practical
Exercise / Simulation
Topic: Youth Unemployment

13:00 13:10

Training Evaluation



Project

The three-year EU funded and RCC implemented Western Balkans Youth Lab Project that kicked-off in January 2020 provides opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making. The project is covering Western Balkans Six economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and North Macedonia) in which youth constitutes 21.27% of the overall population. The WB Youth Lab creates a longer-term structured regional dialogue between youth organisations and national administrations focused on jointly devising policies which will increase youth participation in decision-making, to improve the overall socio-economic environment for and mobility of youth in the Western Balkans economies through different types of activities.

WB Youth Lab Project consists of four components, which are interlinked with each other:

1. Mapping of Youth Policies and Identification of Existing Support and Gaps in Financing of Youth Actions in Western Balkan
2. Western Balkans Youth Policy Labs
3. Strengthening the National Youth Councils in the Western Balkans
4. Participation of Western Balkan youth in regional and international events

EU Mechanisms for Dialogue with Youth and Tackling Youth Unemployment

EU Youth Dialogue: The European Commission implements the EU Youth Dialogue as a consultative and co-creative process which aims to increase cooperation with civil society and have young people's input. EU Youth Dialogue represents a tool of mutual communication between youth and decision-makers. EU Youth Dialogue provides a platform for young people to shape European policies and implement priorities stemming from European youth policy cooperation. The consultations in each member state are conducted at all levels and the process is implemented in a lifespan of 18 months. The EU Youth Conference is the main event that is related to the process and is organized by the EU country holding the EU presidency.

Youth Guarantee: Launched by the European Commission in 2013, the Youth Guarantee (YG) is a political commitment undertaken by all EU Member States to give all young people under age 25 a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of either leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. Through this instrument, EU tackles youth unemployment. Each Member State operates a national Youth Guarantee scheme unique to that country. These activities include apprenticeships at local businesses, traineeships that mix on-the-job experience with theory-based classes, job offers, financing for start-up companies or the self-employed and training courses.

EU's Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans: In October 2020, the European Commission adopted an Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, which most importantly for youth contains Flagship 10 – Youth Guarantee. Through this plan, EU requires Western Balkan governments to implement the Youth Guarantee flagship in line with the EU Youth Guarantee, and they could potentially benefit in different stages from the EU support. The implementation should go through four phases, which includes 1) Implementation plan; 2) Preparatory work; 3) Pilot phase; and 4) Progressive/General deployment. In the Western Balkans, only North Macedonia has implemented Youth Guarantee.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

