



Erasmus+

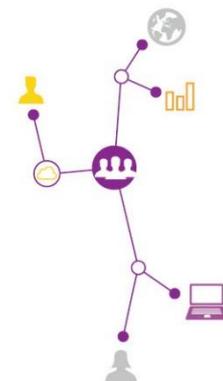
SECOND
EUROPE-WESTERN
BALKANS **YOUTH
MEETING**

THE BERLIN PROCESS – A NEW IMPETUS FOR YOUTH WORK?

PODGORICA,
23 – 25 MAY 2018

MESSAGES FROM PARTICIPANTS

TO
POLICY MAKERS,
EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, AND
THE YOUTH WORK FIELD



Including Programme Overview and List of Participants

Video of live-streamed panel session with participants' messages and expectations:

<https://www.facebook.com/SALTO-YOUTH-South-East-Europe-Resource-Centre-359995264196045/>

More information about Second Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting:

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/activities/connectingpolicy/secondwbyouthmeeting2018/>

Introduction

Four years have passed since the beginning of the Berlin process in 2014.

Where do we see a need for further action?

How can we contribute to moving further ahead?

Around 50 youth work practitioners, representatives of European and regional institutions and experts in the field from the countries of the Western Balkans and various EU countries met in Podgorica from 23 – 25 May to discuss these questions.

They explored the impact and challenges of recent projects and policies in the youth field and put together their messages to decision makers aiming to stimulate further developments in the field of youth work and youth policy in the Western Balkans and the European integration of the region.

The messages focus on three interlinked fields where youth work can play an important role: youth participation and engagement, social inclusion and civic, or citizenship education. Civic education builds young people's competences for critical thinking and their understanding of democracy and of their opportunities for active social and political participation and engagement. Processes aiming to increase access to equal participation for all young people, including those with fewer opportunities and health issues, such as access to relevant information, are key elements in this context.

The participants also explored the added value of European cooperation for stimulating and supporting developments at local or national level. In their discussions, participants emphasized that a European dimension in youth work was needed because the Western Balkans constitute an integral part of Europe and because European values are important for the further development of the region; Europe also represents a window of opportunities for the region. At the same time, Europe has post-war experience to share that the Western Balkans can learn from (the EU is a peace project). European volunteer and student mobility activities are key to promoting intercultural learning, opening up minds, sharing good practices and expertise, promoting a sense of common identity and citizenship.

Participants also underlined that cooperation must be a two-way street (what can others learn from us?) and that reflections about European identity and values are accompanied by questions linked to (Western) Balkan identity and values ("them" and "us").

The meeting was coordinated by the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre and organised in partnership with the German, Macedonian and Slovenian National Agencies for Erasmus+: Youth in Action and Association for Democratic Prosperity – Zid, Contact Point for Erasmus+: Youth in Action in Montenegro.

More information: <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/activities/connectingpolicy/secondwbyouthmeeting2018/>

Messages from the Participants

1. Messages to national/local level – what we need from policy makers

Enabling all young people to live in decent conditions and to take an active part in society and involving young people in decision-making processes in a structured way and at different levels is crucial.

Youth participation

- Local authorities should use and improve the existing, and where needed develop new, participatory mechanisms on local level, in order to provide enough quality services and support to young people enabling them to take an active part in the socio-economic and political life of their local communities.
- Increase human resources and funding opportunities for youth structures (formal and informal).
- Better plan and ensure a broader participation of different stakeholders from civil society and youth work in policy-making and implementation of activities. Involve youth directly and from the very beginning! Work on cross-sectorial cooperation.
- Engage further efforts of institutions and governments in recognising national youth structures and their membership as representative bodies of youth, as well as ensuring their active role in decision-making. Moreover, provide support for capacity-building and further involvement of those structures.
- Rethink the criteria for local organisations, which often lack expertise for policy-making and other fields of youth work, in order not to exclude them from very relevant processes.
- Ensure the independence of youth work from political influence (not putting bilateral issues in front of youth connectivity on regional/international level).

Social inclusion

- Create decent conditions in terms of the overall quality of life of young people, enabling them to live independently.
- Improve the legal framework regarding social inclusion; ensure proactive communication between all levels of government, and between government and youth.
- Provide more and different methods of education aiming to reduce prejudices (which are an important element in mechanisms of social exclusion) in the whole society.
- Invest in empowering all young people and motivating them to contribute to their local communities.
- Work with different groups of youth, including those that are socially excluded or at risk of social exclusion.

- Recognise the importance of the work done by NGOs in the field of social inclusion, especially at local level. Identify NGOs that are active in this field and support them to make their work more sustainable. Invest in cross-sectorial cooperation, which will support sustainability.
- Better control hate speech in the media, and offer more space for youth achievements in the media.
- Ensure that all young people have access to mobility by simplifying administration regarding visas.

Civic education

Civic education is important, because it supports the building of young people's competences for critical thinking and raises their awareness about democratic processes, voting, "creating" active citizens, social inclusion etc., countering discrimination and radicalisation.

Civic education represents both an area and a method for promoting meaningful youth participation.

- Put civic education on the agenda!
- Schools reach most young people and they have a crucial role to play in civic education. The quality of civic education in schools in the Western Balkans is questionable (optional subject, no curricula, lack of qualified teachers (e.g. art teachers teaching CE just because they do not have enough classes for the norm and not because they have competences to teach that subject, Macedonian textbook: a citizen who criticises his government is not a good citizen, etc.). The quality of civic education programmes and their implementation must be improved, standards should be established (but don't over-standardise).
- Governments in the Western Balkans should increase their political will and support for civic education.
- There is a lack of policy and strategies. We need strategic documents and policies on civic education.
- The role of media is crucial. We need to invest in ensuring free media, freedom of opinion, critical reporting etc.
- Governments in the Western Balkan countries should support civic activism. (Currently, there is more support from foreign embassies.)

2. Expectations from European institutions

Youth participation

- Ensure equal opportunities for all young people from the WB6 region to take part in youth and other activities occurring in the EU.
- Enable young people from the WB6 region to engage in internships and job market in the EU.

- Ensure that various groups of young people are involved in all consultation and decision-making processes. No one should be left behind. Decision-making on all levels must happen for and with young people.
- Continue to support youth NGO networks in the WB6 region with regard to funding, collaboration, participation in decision-making, involvement in different processes.
- Involve the WB countries in the structured dialogue (building on examples of the involvement of the Serbian and Macedonian National Youth Councils).
- The youth sector should have a say in the way money is invested by the European Union in the youth field. (How? E.g. by involving them in programming, disseminating or capacity building.)
- Better plan and coordinate activities between different institutions and programmes when planning activities addressing youth issues and youth policy. Involve different sectors, not only at the institutional level, but also at the level of civil society, academia, research and development, etc. A coordinated platform, with synergies and a common agenda, would support more effective programmes/actions and better enable stakeholders to influence decision-making processes.

Social inclusion and civic education

Young people as a group (15-30) are socially excluded and are facing fewer opportunities in many ways. There is a great need to improve the quality of both formal and non-formal education. Mobility activities and European cooperation are an important means to open people's minds, overcome stereotypes and prejudices. They represent a great added value in projects regarding social inclusion, in particular through awareness-raising, building of knowledge, competences and capacities. Therefore, European institutions and regional organisations should

- Continue and increase opportunities for support, exchange and mobility through programmes for civil society organisations, youth, and youth workers. To increase the effects of mobility, there is a need for long-term interventions – for programmes, not only projects;
- Provide different opportunities through scholarships, exchanges and sharing between students and youth in need – in the region and within the EU;
- Support and offer assistance regarding capacity building (specific assistance regarding specific needs (structure and crisis management));
- Improve opportunities for sharing of good practices (EU is a good project thanks to those practices);
- Support the creation of National Agencies for Erasmus+ in the Western Balkans region (two-way communication).

3. Expectations from the youth field

Reach out to youth!

Be loud, be persistent, be pro-active, have courage, get out there, do everything in your power, support different ideas and perspectives and be open-minded towards innovative processes.

Be patient because systematic changes take a lot of time, effort and dedication.

Youth participation

- Map existing successful mechanisms of youth participation on local level, share ideas and practices among youth NGOs, networks, local, regional and international, so as to ensure equal participation of young people on all levels, as well as youth wings of political parties and workers' syndicates.
- Enhance internal youth participation within CSOs. Work on apathy and sustainable motivation.
- Invest in cooperation of CSOs with educational institutions – promote the European dimension among different groups of young people in formal settings, to enhance European citizenship and European identity.
- "Let's touch the untouchables" – by using their own language, not only through digital media but also via alternative methods (e.g. graffiti, street art).
- Enhance the visibility of local-level initiatives and organisations in order to share good practices and have them recognised on a broader level.
- Provide coaching and mentorship to young people in local communities.

Examples of practice which can inspire us further:

Dijalog.rs online platform of the Serbian National Youth Council which provides online space for young people from different locations to contribute to policy-making through co-creation of documents that the government adopts

European structured dialogue cycles in which National Youth Councils of Serbia and Macedonia take part. Enabling direct participation of a broader audience

Social inclusion

- Organisations should provide more access to opportunities for ALL young people ("Don't give them the fish, but teach them how to fish"). It's important to name people with fewer opportunities we want to reach out to, such as young people from minorities, immigrant background, remote areas, with disabilities or health issues, NEET, LGBTQ, etc. etc.
- There's a need to strengthen organisations working in the area of social inclusion. NGOs themselves can contribute to this by
 - Establishing stronger partnerships between organisations;

Second Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting: programme overview

Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Focus of the day: situating youth work and youth policy in the overall regional policy context

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 Opening of the seminar

- Ambassador Aivo Orav, Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro
- Mr Gavin Vessey, British Embassy in Montenegro
- Ms Danijela Vujosević, Ministry of Sports, Youth Directorate, of Montenegro
- Ms Sanda Rakočević, ADP-Zid, Contact Point for Erasmus+: Youth in Action in Montenegro

15.00 A look at the overall context: policy processes with relevance for the youth sector

Panel discussion with

- Anita-Toien Johansen, European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Youth programme, youth outreach tools and traineeships
- Lana Pašić, researcher
- Bojana Bulatović, Regional Youth Coordination Office

16.00 *Coffee & tea break*

16.30 Getting to know each other: exploring the diversity of participants and their youth (policy) work

19.00 *Dinner and welcome drinks*



Thursday, 24 May 2018

Focus of the day: exploring youth work and youth policy projects and initiatives, discuss how to further promote and enhance their impact, and explore the added value of European partnerships and projects

09.00 Up-dates on youth work and youth policy developments

- Sladjana Petković: Developments in youth policies in the Western Balkans: What works well? What are the challenges?

9:30 Taking stock: what do we, as a sector, do well regionally in youth work and youth policy?

11.00 *Coffee & tea break*

11.30 Taking time: what are, across projects and initiatives, the major challenges for policy impact?

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 Taking advice: how can key challenges be addressed in the current regional and political context?

16.00 *Coffee & tea break*

16.30 Taking control: what value does a European dimension add, and how can that best be amplified?

19.30 *Dinner in town*

Friday, 25 May 2018**Focus of the day: key messages addressed to youth programme, policy and sector stakeholders**

09.00 Expectations and messages: what would we like to communicate to

- Regional governments as stakeholders of the Berlin process and national youth policies
- European institutions as stakeholders of Erasmus+ and European youth policies

11.00 *Coffee & tea break*

11.30 Expectations and messages, continued

13.00 *Lunch*

Departures



List of Participants

Second Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting: The Berlin process - a new impetus for youth work? Podgorica, 23 - 25 Many 2018

First name	Last name	Country of Residence	Organisation
Sidita	Trimi	Albania	Bringing Europeans Association Together (BETA e.V.)
Dafina	Peci	Albania	Cooperation and Development Institute
Danjel	Hyseni	Albania	Roma Active Albania
Joan	Deli	Albania	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth
Melvisa	Miskic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	NARKO-NE
Mirela	Rajkovic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	South East European Youth Network
Samir	Beharic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Center - Jajce
Milos	Blagojevic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Youth Council of Republic of Srpska
Ljubisa	Micic	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Centre for Career Development
Leon	Gojani	Kosovo* UN Resolution	TOKA - Organizata Kosovare per Talent dhe Arsim
Andi	Batusha	Kosovo* UN Resolution	Local Youth Action Council - Gjakovë (LYAC-GjK)
Xhevat	Bajrami	Kosovo* UN Resolution	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
Lenka	Lalović	Montenegro	NGO "New Horizon"
Marija	Ružić	Montenegro	NGO Juventas
Elvira	Hadyibegovic	Montenegro	Forum MNE
Danijela	Vujosevic	Montenegro	Ministry of Sports - Directorate of Youth
Nikola	Bozanovic	Serbia	Club for youth empowerment 018
Mila	Lukic	Serbia	National Youth Council of Serbia
Ana	Pecarski	Serbia	Association Peoples Parliament
Vojislav	Vujic	Serbia	CET platform Europe
Bernard	Moreau	Belgium - FR	Terra Moveo
Martin	Tenev	Bulgaria	New Bulgarian University Students' Council
Natascha	Skjaldgaard	Denmark	World Organisation of the Scout Movement - WOSM
Martin	Miloshevski	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	National Youth Council of Macedonia
Albert	Hani	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	RYCO, Local branch office, Macedonia
Dragana	Jovanovska	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID)
Marjan	Icoski	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Mladiinfo International
Tuomas	Tuure	Finland	The Threshold Association

Natalia	Seriakova	Germany	JUBUK
Amela	Šadić	Germany	Mostar Friedensprojekt
Mary	Drosopoulos	Greece	Municipality of Thessaloniki (Community Enterprise)/Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Mihaela Georgiana Adelina	Dragomir	Romania	GEYC
Simona	Obreja	Spain	SOS Racismo Madrid/GRASP
Meliha	Muherina	Slovenia	Centre for European Perspective
Gašper	Pečar	Slovenia	National Youth Council of Slovenia
Anita	Johansen	Belgium	European Commission, DG EAC
Davide	Capecchi	Belgium	Council of Europe - European Commission Youth Partnership
Bojana	Bulatović	Albania	Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
Aleksandar	Simurdić	Serbia	European Movement in Serbia - local branch Novi Sad
Sladjana	Petkovic	Montenegro	Researcher
Lana	Pašić	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Researcher
Mirela	Kalamperović	Montenegro	ADP-Zid, Contact Point for Erasmus+: Youth in Action in Montenegro
Inge	Linne	Germany	Jugend für Europa, German National Agency Erasmus+: Youth in Action
Lidija	Dimova	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Agency for European Mobility and Educational Programmes, Macedonian NA for Erasmus+
Snezana	Simonovska	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Agency for European Mobility and Educational Programmes, Macedonian NA for Erasmus+
Aleksandar	Gochev	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Agency for European Mobility and Educational Programmes, Macedonian NA for Erasmus+
Sonja	Mitter Škulj	Slovenia	MOVIT, SALTO SEE Resource Centre
Ajša	Hadzibegovic	Montenegro	facilitator
Bastian	Küntzel	Germany	facilitator