



**Balkan Youth Activism**

## Partner Identification Form

**Organization ID:**

**E10021110**

PIC number:

**905466192**

**Full legal name:** Balkan Youth Activism

**Full legal name (English):** Balkan Youth Activism

**Acronym:** BYA

**Address:** Rr. Insan Korca, Lgj.17, Vila.40

**City:** Korce

**Country:** Albania

**Region:** Albania

**Email:** balkanyouthactivism@gmail.com

**Legal Representative & Contact**

**Title/ Family Name:** Haxhillari

**First Name:** Gurali

**Position:** Executive Director

**Email:** guralihaxhillari@hotmail.com

**Mob:** +355693022812

**Address:** Rr.Insan Korca,Lgj.17

### **Type of organization**



**Non- profit**



**Public body**



**Accreditation**

**ESC50-QLA**

**PROJECT ID:2026-1SI01**

**-ESC50-QLA-000388961**

### **Short description:**

"Balkan Youth Activism" organization is a representative (non-profit) structure, that cooperates with the young people of Albania. This organization aims at mobilizing, self-organizing and empowering the role of youth in society, as well as encouraging young people to become part of the integral life.

### **Holders of Projects**

Volunteers of BYA, Project team, Young people, Local community, Other groups of interest.

„Balkan Youth Activism (BYA) is a youth, dynamic, community-based non-profit organization founded in Korçë, Albania in 2018 by a group of young students inspired by the values of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Our mission is to empower, mobilize, and connect young people across Albania and the Western Balkans, fostering civic participation, human rights, education, innovation, and intercultural dialogue.“



The "Balkan Youth Activism" organization is a representative (non-profit) structure, that cooperates with the young people of Albania and beyond. This organization aims at mobilizing, self-organizing and empowering the role of youth in society, as well as encouraging young people to become part of the integral life of society through: 📌 Human Rights, 📌 Citizen Participation and Democracy, 📌 Education, 📌 Innovation and entrepreneurship, 📌 Employment, 📌 Young people towards art, sports and culture, 📌 Health, 📌 Tourism, 📌 Cultural heritage, 📌 Environment, 📌 Training and Multimedia.

It is a space where every young finds himself, including young people in rural areas, young people from the minorities, and those with different abilities, young people with social disadvantage, social exclusion, abused persons, and vulnerable groups. Lobbying and active advocacy to support youth issues at the local, national and international level. In addition to addressing youth issues, BYA aims to harmonize different target groups to create a human and peaceful vision for a better future of Albanian and Balkan youth. BYA will be coherent to the implementation of global objectives through two key points such as volunteering and social inclusion, to be able to integrate young people into being an active part of active citizenship in every aspect of it.

## •AREAS OF EXPERTISE

**Balkan Youth Activism (BYA)** is a multidisciplinary, community-based youth organization with proven expertise in developing, coordinating, and implementing local, national, and international initiatives for young people. Our experience spans diverse sectors, ensuring inclusive participation, innovation, and sustainable impact.

**Our key areas of expertise include:**

### Youth Empowerment and Inclusion

- Engagement of young people , including from marginalized communities, including minorities, rural areas, and those with fewer opportunities.
- Promotion of equality, diversity, and social inclusion in education, civic life, and employment.
- Development of youth leadership and participatory citizenship skills through non-formal education.

## Education, Training & Capacity Building

- Design and delivery of non-formal education programs, youth exchanges, and capacity-building activities under **Erasmus+** and other EU-funded frameworks.
- Facilitation of workshops, mentoring sessions, and thematic trainings focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and intercultural dialogue.
- Organization of **youth academies**, awareness sessions, and international training courses.

## Community Development & Volunteer Mobilization

- Strong ability to mobilize volunteers and engage young people in local community initiatives and civic actions.
- Implementation of grassroots campaigns promoting environmental protection, health awareness, and cultural participation.
- Creation of volunteering networks that strengthen social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue.

## Research, Monitoring & Evaluation

- Conduct of **youth-led participatory research** addressing social inclusion, youth policy, education, and employment.
- Development of impact measurement tools, project evaluation methodologies, and outcome reporting frameworks.
- Contribution to studies and publications on youth development and community engagement.

## Media, Communication & Dissemination

- Management of a **strong dissemination network** through local and national media, including **Korça TV**, **Sot7 TV**, **TV Lobi**, and the online platform **Newsin.al**.
- Expertise in creating and delivering digital campaigns, storytelling content, and awareness materials.
- Use of multimedia, gamification, and creative communication tools to promote visibility and active citizenship.

## Project Management & Strategic Development

- Experience in managing EU-funded and international cooperation projects with full project-cycle competence.
- Expertise in strategic planning, coordination, partnership management, and multi-stakeholder cooperation.
- Strong record of transparency, efficiency, and compliance in project administration.

## Creative Outreach & Cultural Promotion

- Use of arts, culture, and multimedia to promote youth expression, social messages, and cross-cultural dialogue.
- Organization of exhibitions, poetry nights, and cultural events fostering creativity and community identity.

## Advocacy, Awareness & Grassroots Mobilization

- Design and implementation of advocacy campaigns addressing issues such as youth rights, democracy, inclusion, and tolerance.
- Grassroots mobilization for local and regional awareness actions, connecting youth voices to policymaking.
- Development of initiatives combating hate speech, discrimination, and misinformation.

## Preparation and Engagement Capacity

BYA has a dedicated team for project preparation and coordination:

- The **Project and Volunteer Coordination Team** ensures smooth organization of activities, logistical support, and preparation of participants for international projects.
- The **Social Media and Communication Team** actively promotes project activities through BYA's online channels and engages a wider audience of young people in Albania.
- BYA's volunteers contribute creatively by designing campaigns, posters, and digital content that highlight project activities, using innovative approaches such as QR-coded materials linking the public to project information.

## Profiles of Young People BYA Supports

BYA works with a wide spectrum of youth, ensuring diversity and inclusion in all projects:

- **Students and Early-Career Professionals:** Young people eager to develop leadership, teamwork, and professional skills through non-formal education and international exposure.
- **Youth from Rural and Remote Areas:** Individuals with limited access to educational, cultural, and employment opportunities.
- **Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities:** Young people from marginalized communities who face barriers to participation in civic and educational activities.
- **Youth with Disabilities or Specific Needs:** Ensuring accessibility and tailored support for young people with physical, sensory, or learning challenges.
- **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth:** Individuals experiencing social exclusion, financial hardship, or vulnerability, who benefit from mentorship, guidance, and inclusive opportunities.

This diverse profile of young people allows BYA to contribute meaningfully to projects, bringing perspectives that enhance intercultural learning, innovation, and social impact.

## Visibility And Dissemination Plan

### Communication and Media Outreach

Balkan Youth Activism (BYA) ensures high visibility and strategic communication for all its projects through a coordinated dissemination plan that combines digital channels, traditional media, and community engagement. Key approaches include:

- **Official Social Media Accounts:** Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube are used to share updates, success stories, and calls for participation.

- **Press and Media Engagement:** Coverage in local and national media outlets, interviews, and press releases to broaden reach and increase public awareness.
- **Creative Outreach Campaigns:** Youth-designed posters, flyers, and QR-coded materials placed in schools, universities, youth centers, and public spaces to connect communities directly to project information.
- **Storytelling and Content Creation:** Short videos, podcasts, online testimonies, and infographics produced by participants to showcase learning outcomes, personal growth, and community impact.
- **Collaborative Partner Dissemination:** Local schools, universities, NGOs, and cultural centers support content sharing through their platforms to amplify reach and engagement.

### Planned Dissemination Outputs

BYA adopts a structured content dissemination process, ensuring timely and high-quality outputs:

- Social media posts highlighting events, workshops, and achievements.
- Written articles, summaries, and press releases for local media and partner channels.
- Visual content, including photos, infographics, and short videos, to document activities and results.
- Community presentations, peer-to-peer workshops, and creative actions to directly engage youth and local stakeholders.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

BYA continuously monitors the effectiveness of its dissemination activities through:

- Tracking social media reach, engagement, and feedback.
- Collecting participant reflections and feedback from stakeholders.
- Documenting media coverage and visibility outputs.
- Using evaluation findings to refine future dissemination strategies and strengthen organizational capacity.

Through this multi-channel dissemination approach, BYA ensures that project results are widely shared, youth engagement is amplified, and community awareness of civic participation, European values, and social innovation is strengthened.

### Institutional Cooperation & Stakeholder Engagement

BYA collaborates with key institutional and community partners to ensure sustainability and impact, including:

1. University “Fan S. Noli” – academic collaboration and youth research.
2. Korça Municipality – initiatives on youth participation and inclusion.
3. “Ymer Dishnica” High School – youth empowerment and educational outreach.
4. “Shoqëria e Doktrinës së Krishtere” Private High School – non-formal learning and cultural cooperation.
5. Other local youth centers, NGOs, and cultural associations supporting civic engagement and regional development.
6. Proven capacity to act as a **link between local actors and international partners** for project implementation and sustainability.

## • KEY STAFF



### • MSc. Gurali Haxhillari

**Executive Director, Co-founder, Teacher and Journalist.  
Graduated in Master of Science for “Culture, Media and Edition”**

Accomplished project leader and organizer with over a decade of extensive experience in youth and Roma NGOs. Demonstrated expertise in project management, advocacy, and lobbying, complemented by a robust educational background through various specialized training programs. Proven ability to develop and implement impactful youth initiatives, with six years dedicated to project coordination and 2 year teaching . Skilled in engaging youth and marginalized populations, passionate about promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. A committed and organized professional, poised to deliver valuable contributions to collaborative projects and partnerships.



### • MSc. Eriketa Kocollari

**Youth Worker/Coordinator  
Graduated in Professional Master for „History- Geography“  
Graduated in Master of Science for „Ethics and Leadership “**

Multidisciplinary professional with a strong academic background in History–Geography and a Master of Science in Ethics and Leadership, complemented by extensive experience in the hospitality, tourism, and education sectors. With over a decade of professional practice, she brings proven expertise in hotel management, tour guiding, training, mentoring, and service-sector innovation. A strong advocate of informal and non-formal education, she excels in knowledge transfer, youth empowerment, and curriculum development. As a multilingual communicator, she adapts effectively to diverse environments and international teams. Actively engaged in public discourse through articles, television debates, and interviews, she contributes to addressing unemployment, social inclusion, and workforce development issues. Recognized for her ethical leadership, professionalism, and commitment to community development, she integrates social responsibility into both her professional and civic engagement.



• **MSc. Dejvi Hoxha**

**Youth Worker & Youth Policy Professional**

**Graduated with a Master of Science in Finance and a Bachelor's degree in Management**

Experienced youth policy and public sector professional with a strong background in municipal governance, youth participation, and community development. Currently serving as Head of the Korça Youth Centre, leading youth programs and policies engaging more than 500 young people and supporting the implementation of local youth strategies.

Former Elected City Council Member (2019–2023), with demonstrated experience in youth policy development, civic engagement, and local decision-making. Additional experience in national public initiatives, media and communication, and institutional coordination, strengthening policy communication and stakeholder engagement.

A committed and results-oriented professional, skilled in youth empowerment, public service, and ethical leadership, with a strong focus on creating sustainable impact for young people at the local level.



• **PhD. Ilir Shyta**

**Lecturer, Writer, Journalist and Trainer**

Ilir Shyta holds a PhD in Literature, where he has made a great contribution of expertise in the field of Balkan Literature, Albanian Poetry and Prose, Aesthetics, Theater and Film, Media History and Media Genres, Elements of Modern Aesthetics and Bibliographic & Textual Studies. For years he has been working as a Lecturer at the "Fan S. Noli" University and at the same time as a Broadcast Manager and News Speaker at Sot7 Television. He is the author of more than 20 scientific papers and the author of more than 17 publications in national and international journals.

Participant as Trainer, Speaker and Moderator in many local youth media projects

The aim of her work is the integration of youth into the current demands of the labor market.



• **MSc. Milena Zhuti**

**High School Teacher and Community Advocate.**

**Graduated with a Master of Science in “Social Philosophy”**

Accomplished educator with over 18 years of teaching experience in both 8-year schools and high schools in the Korça Region. Demonstrated expertise in engaging students in Philosophy and Sociology, with a strong commitment to fostering critical thinking and civic awareness. Extensive volunteer experience spanning 20 years, collaborating with organizations such as “World Vision Albania” and “Junior Achievement of Albania.” Proven track record in leading community initiatives, including Community Gardens, and actively participating in national projects. For more than 7 years, successfully mentored high school students in various competitions, guiding them to achieve top placements among competitors. Skilled in leading impact groups and educational programs focused on career development and legal awareness. Dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the educational framework, with a focus on economics, business, and the arts. Proficient in multiple foreign languages and well-versed in technology, particularly in social media management. A passionate advocate for the arts, with 8 years of training in violin and piano, and a strong interest in sports. A committed and organized professional, ready to contribute to collaborative educational and community projects.



**Esmerald Xhafa**

**Lawyer and Senior Legal Professional.**

**Graduated in Law, with over 15 years of experience within the Institution of Execution of Criminal Decisions.**

An experienced Albanian legal professional with over 15 years of service in the Institution of Execution of Criminal Decisions, with strong expertise in criminal law, legal administration, and institutional management. His work reflects a strong commitment to justice, the rule of law, and the protection of human rights, particularly for arrestees and minors.

He has held senior leadership positions, including Head of the Legal Service within the Institution of Execution of Criminal Decisions and Chancellor of the Korçë Judicial District Court, appointed by the Minister of Justice. He also served as President of the Union of Judicial Chancellors of Albania, contributing to institutional reform and national-level coordination.

As a practicing lawyer, he has provided legal representation and consultancy in criminal, civil, and administrative cases, including contracted legal assistance for TAP-related projects. In parallel, he is the Founder and Administrator of *Xhafa Travel* SH.P.K., demonstrating strong managerial and entrepreneurial skills.

His professional excellence has been recognized with the “**TOGA E ARTË**” award from the Association of Criminal Lawyers of Albania, where he has served as a Chairman Member since 2013.

## •PROJECTS

### 1. **SETYN: Socially Empowered and Transparent Youth Network (BEN)**

Enhancing governance and internationalization of youth NGOs across the Western Balkans and EU, fostering transparent and effective management. The project strengthens leadership and cooperation among NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Albania, and Serbia.

Project ID: 608478

Budget: 64,081.00 €

### 2. **Be the Change: Youth Exchange for Young Entrepreneurs (BEN)**

Empowering 40 young Roma and non-Roma participants from rural areas to develop entrepreneurship skills through intercultural learning in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. Promotes inclusion and understanding of Roma communities.

Project ID: KA105-4D8372D1

Budget: 24,246.00 €

### 3. **Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program**

Reviewer and Interviewer Steering Committee;

Funded by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by IREX, this global leadership program supports emerging youth leaders in civic engagement, peacebuilding, and sustainable development through U.S.-based practicums and community projects.

Since: December 2022

### 4. **Pont Up! (BEN)**

An Erasmus+ youth exchange empowering disadvantaged young people to explore social entrepreneurship through experiential learning, youth-led initiatives, and video tutorials promoting social impact and job creation.

Project ID: 2022-3-ES02-KA152-YOU-000096187

Budget: 26,797.00 €

### 5. **HateBusters! Empowering Youth Workers to Combat Hate Speech (BEN)**

A pan-European initiative strengthening youth workers' capacities to identify and counter online hate speech. The project promotes human rights, tolerance, and mental well-being among young people across 19 countries.

Project ID: 2023-1-NL02-KA153-YOU-000124636

Budget: 85,501.00 €

### 6. **Community Solutions Program (CSP)**

Reviewer and Interviewer Steering Committee;

A U.S.-based professional development fellowship for civil society leaders (ages 26–39), focusing on building leadership and problem-solving skills for addressing local and global challenges.

Since: December 2024

#### 7. Cultural Dialogue of Youth between Kosovo and Albania

A cross-border initiative fostering cultural exchange through study visits, heritage exploration, and poetry events, promoting creativity and unity among youth from both countries.

Date: December 2023

#### 8. The Albanian Diaspora Youth Camp

An educational and cultural camp connecting diaspora youth with Albanian heritage through cultural diplomacy workshops, leadership activities, and study visits to historical cities.

Date: August 2024

#### 9. PlaNET Social Enterprise 4.0 (BEN)

Supporting sustainable socio-economic development and reducing youth unemployment in Europe through social entrepreneurship, digital tools, and mentorship. Involves partners from six EU nations plus Albania, Kosovo, and Montenegro.

Project ID: 101182695

Budget: 263,037.00 €

#### 10. Toy Story (BEN)

Training 21 youth workers from seven European countries in gamification methods to engage minors at risk of social exclusion. Includes co-design, practical learning, and local educational activities.

Project ID: 2025-1-IT03-KA153-YOU-000302023

Budget: 27,055.00 €

#### 11. Study Visit: Youth Work in Spain (ESP)

International study visit bringing together participants from various countries to exchange experiences, address challenges in supporting vulnerable youth, and explore effective youth work methodologies. Includes field visits to local initiatives in Tortosa and Amposta.

Project ID: 2022-1-ES02-KA150-YOU-000091666

#### 12. Survival – Youth Exchange (ESP)

Outdoor youth exchange involving 7 participants from Albania, focused on personal development, survival skills, and intercultural learning in a dynamic international environment.

Project ID: 2022-1-ES02-KA150-YOU-000091666

#### 13. Inclusive Arts Mobility for Youth with Disabilities (ALF)

Promoting social inclusion through music and dance activities for young people with disabilities. The project enhances artistic expression, intercultural dialogue, and social empowerment among participants and partner organizations.

Location: Ankara, Türkiye

#### 14. Where I Feel Safe – Youth Exchange (ITA)

Intercultural youth exchange bringing together participants from Italy, Spain, and Albania to explore the concept of safety from emotional, social, and community perspectives through non-formal education activities.

Dates: 21–26 July 2025

15. **Beyond Time – Culturalism and Albanian Heritage**

Cross-border initiative aimed at preserving and promoting Albanian cultural heritage through youth engagement, innovative cultural activities, and regional cooperation between Kosovo and Albania.

16. **Youth Exchange on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (ITA)**

Youth exchange focused on raising awareness about non-communicable diseases and empowering young people to advocate for healthier lifestyles and improved public health policies across Europe.

Project ID: 2020-1-SI02-KA150-YOU-000016017

17. **Together 4 Peace: Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding Training (EYF)**

Capacity-building project equipping youth workers with practical skills in conflict resolution, mediation, and non-violent communication. Includes participants from multiple countries, strengthening peacebuilding competencies at local and international levels.

Budget: €25,000

18. **Boundless: CERV Town Twinning Initiative (CERV)**

12-month town twinning project fostering cooperation between the Municipality of Korçë, Sanremo, and Nice. Promotes European identity, civic engagement, and sustainable cross-border collaboration through community-based activities.

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

Means of transport: Plane

City of departure: Tirana, Albania / Michigan, USA

Airport (name of the city): TIA/DTW

VISA costs in euros: -

