

SECOND INFORMAL DONOR COORDINATION MEETING
ON YOUTH AGENDA
TOWARDS BROAD COALITION ON YOUTH

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON

WESTERN BALKANS CO-CREATING FUTURE WITH YOUTH AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

We, the informal Broad Coalition on Youth, representing national youth councils and youth umbrella organisations, donors, international organisations, development partners, youth organisations and other civil society organisation across the Western Balkans, in the framework of the Western Balkans Youth Lab Project Informal Donor Coordination Mechanism,

Emphasising the urgent need to speed up post-pandemic recovery in the Western Balkans in line with the green digital trajectories, UN 2030 Agenda, and EU integration process,

Reminding that youth have proven to be particularly affected by the negative effects of the pandemic, reflected in rising unemployment and economic inactivity,

Recognising the potential of Western Balkan youth to contribute to socio-economic development, peace and prosperity of the region by being heard,

Recalling the commitments made within the Berlin Process and the EU-Western Balkans Summits to strengthen and advance the position of youth in the region, including the Regional Youth Agenda,

Reaffirming the conviction that active engagement of young people is a key prerequisite for innovative, efficient, sustainable and democratic policy-making,

Taking note of the horizontal nature of youth interests in policy-making and an increasing practice of youth mainstreaming practices at global, European and regional level,

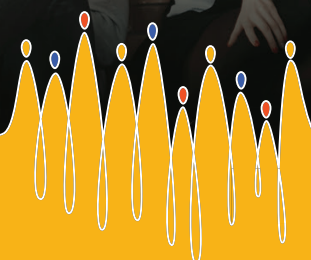
Bearing in mind that Western Balkan economies strive to provide to all young people in the region more and better opportunities for their present and future,

Reaffirming commitment to contribute to the regional cooperation among the Western Balkans partners, in line with Common Regional Market, Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the Economic and Investment Plan,

Acknowledging the benefits and value of mutual cross-sectorial co-operation,

agree on the following:

We confirm our commitment to engage youth voices and boost youth participation by establishing partnerships, implementing co-creation processes, and supporting youth-led initiatives, policies and projects.



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We will strive to support youth perspectives and provide new opportunities for young people by working to create an enabling, dynamic, and access-friendly environment.

We will seek to encourage and support all young people across the region in an inclusive and participatory manner. We will strive to support especially those with fewer opportunities, from disadvantaged backgrounds, from rural or remote areas, or belonging to vulnerable groups, and taking into account gender-sensitive considerations, to become active citizens and actors of positive change in their communities.

We will act to enhance youth resilience in the context of current and forthcoming challenges in the Western Balkans and beyond, and to rely on youth agencies as active partners, as well as their lived experience, in the framework of each of our specific mandates.

We will aim to maintain and strengthen the existing synergies and coordination at and between the regional and European levels. We further commit to seeking synergy and coordination in the development of new programmes, projects, and initiatives in youth programming.

In the period leading up to the next donor coordination meeting we will rely on strategic priorities as identified by the main youth actors and national youth policy priorities, in the framework of each of our respective mandates.

We confirm that we will support partnerships of stakeholders, regular policy dialogue and communication.

We emphasise our common interest in and opportunity for an effective coordination mechanism in the spirit of shared ownership and cooperation by, among other things, using the Online Platform. We express readiness to build on this mechanism to long-term mutual benefit, in relation to which we will rely on the established cooperation among stakeholders and on consultations with and recommendations by youth representatives from National Youth Councils and Youth Umbrella Organisations.

The next meeting of the Broad Coalition on Youth will be held in fourth quarter of 2022 and will be organised by RCC in cooperation with other interested stakeholders so as to ensure partnership building and synergy.

This Communique expresses the joint agreement on the shared values, principles and way forward of the Broad Coalition on Youth. Its purpose is to outline the framework for the Coalition's principal aims, as well as the preferred means of achieving them. It is meant to testify to the commitment of each stakeholder and participant to the process, during and beyond the implementation of the Western Balkans Youth Lab project. Although not legally binding, it provides the guidelines which should serve to strengthen the coordination mechanism in the long-term to the benefit of sustainability of this process.