

Regional Youth Peace Lab 2021

Influence the Future of Peacebuilding Policy in the Region

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), United Nation Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) in cooperation with Mozaik Foundation (Mozaik), Beyond42, and Mašta are organizing Regional Youth Peace Lab (RYPL) 2021 - **a mentored process where teams of youth advocates compete in defining and developing concrete, actionable policy solutions.** RYPL aims to position and engage youth as forward-thinking and innovative policymakers that can make significant contributions to peacebuilding initiatives in the Western Balkan region.

Competition Format

The competition will bring together **120 youth advocates from Western Balkan 6 (WB6)**, to propose policy solutions relating to the most pressing regional issues:




- **Education** - quality and reform of education in the region to better answer the challenges of the 21st century;
- **Youth Mobility** - mobility of youth in the region for study, travel, work, and learning;
- **Peace and Legacy of the Past** - burdening legacy of trauma inherited by the post-conflict generations.

Participants will be grouped into teams of 3-6 members that will focus on one of the three challenges. Teams will have **12 days to prepare a policy whitepaper and record a 3-minute pitch** that will be presented to the broader public. During that time, they will receive **mentoring from regional experts** in the subject matter, policymaking, and public advocacy.

The competition will be concluded with a 48-hour voting session, where the general public will be able to attend a virtual event, watch the policy pitches, and vote for their favorite ones.

Awards & Recognition

Teams that authored the top 3 policies for each of the 3 challenges will get valuable awards:

-  **1st Place per challenge** - all team member get **Amazon Kindle + \$150 gift card**
-  **2nd Place per challenge** - all team member get **\$100 gift card**
-  **3rd Place per challenge** - all team member get **\$50 gift card**

Aside from that, the **best policies will be published in the WB6 Youth Policy Book and the Guide for Innovative Policy Making.** The guide will open-source the whole competition format, allowing anyone to implement it as a means of achieving higher youth participation in policymaking.

KEY DATES



Eligibility

You are a passionate student, youth activist or young professional that wants to contribute to peacebuilding policy in the region. Ideally, you already have some policymaking or advocacy experience. This could include advocacy for and with marginalised or vulnerable young people. You have an understanding and interest in one of the 3 challenges: education, youth mobility, and peace and legacy of the past. You are eager to work with like-minded individuals from different backgrounds to tackle challenges that affect the WB6 region. Apply if you are looking for ways to further improve your skills by working with experts in the field.

Eligibility criteria:

- Must be a young person (18 - 30 years);
- The primary address of residence must be in one of the Western Balkan 6, or a citizen residing outside the region;
- Background in any of social sciences, policymaking, advocacy, civil society activism, or peacebuilding is preferred;
- Must be able to commit to 12 days of collaboration with their team on their policy proposal (each team defines their own pace in the 12 days from the start to the end of the competition);
- Basic conversational knowledge of the English language;
- Must have access to a reliable internet connection and a personal computer as the competition will be online-based;
- Young people belonging to groups of vulnerable or marginalised youth are given a preference.

Applications are open until April 7th at 23:59 (GMT+2) 2021.

To find out more about the competition or to apply, visit www.youthpeacelab.net For all inquiries, please contact info@youthpeacelab.net.

