

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE



United Nations
Peacebuilding

PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT

Country (ies): Fund recipient: Albania / Action to take place in Western Balkans 6 (Albania, Bosnia – Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo ¹ and Serbia)	
Project Title: <i>Supporting the Western Balkan's collective leadership on reconciliation: building capacity and momentum for the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)</i>	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway (if existing project): N/A	
PBF project modality:	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IRF	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund
<input type="checkbox"/> PRF	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund
Name of Recipient Fund:	
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP • UNFPA • UNICEF 	
The Albania country offices of the above agencies will be the direct recipient organizations. In turn, they will work with their Agency offices across the region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.	
List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RYCO (Regional Youth Cooperation Office) 	
Expected project commencement date²: 15 October 2018	
Project duration in months³: 18 months, extended until December 31 st 2020.	
Geographic zones for project implementation: Western Balkans 6	
Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	

¹ For the UN, all references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). For RYCO, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with Security Council Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

² Note: actual commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.

³ Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):

Budget before the project amendment

UNDP: \$ 1,350,340

UNFPA: \$ 414,090

UNICEF: \$ 422,650

Total: \$ 2,187,080

Budget after the project amendment

UNDP: \$ 2,024,975

UNFPA: \$ 552,120

UNICEF: \$ 422,650

Total: \$ 2,999,745

**The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account*

Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source):

- RYCO is negotiating with EU for some financial support to M&E Advisors in WB6, covering (50%) of their total cost.

Two-three sentences with a brief project description and succinct explanation of how the project is time sensitive, catalytic and risk-tolerant/ innovative:

The project will enable RYCO to enhance mutual trust and reconciliation across the Western Balkans (WB6) region, by building RYCOs capacity and aiding its ability to engage hard-to-reach youth and high school students/teachers. The project will also catalyze new and untapped cadres of young citizens to engage in advocacy, peacebuilding and sustaining peace across national, ethnic, socio-economic and cultural divides and create platforms for youth to communicate with their peers and policy-makers on their priorities for the region. This advocacy and confidence-building will take place through capacity-building and peacebuilding trainings of young civic actors, youth-led conflict analysis and regionally comparable evidence on youth perceptions and priorities for sustaining peace, security and social cohesion. Contributing to young people's engagement with decision-makers and those setting political agendas in the region, the project will enhance mutual collaboration and trust, all the while creating evidence that will serve as a baseline for future programmatic and advocacy engagement for RYCO, its beneficiaries, other peacebuilding efforts (e.g. DFF) and the broader development community operating in the Western Balkans. The project will help identify priorities and target groups for future engagement and build the capacity and involvement of youth actors to lead in this, and will mobilize youth from diverse backgrounds, including those who are rarely brought into policy and civic processes. RYCOs establishment in 2017 – by all six contracting parties⁴ in the region –comes at a critical moment when the WB6 are aiming to accelerate their EU Integration processes. One of the main EU Enlargement requirements is Regional Dialogue and Reconciliation. RYCO has emerged from the Berlin Process, a political dialogue supported by several EU Member States and the WB6. RYCO is endorsed by governments, CSOs and youth representatives (who also sit on its Governing Board) in WB6 and promotes diversity and democratic values, fostering reconciliation and remembrance and intercultural mobility. Focused on capacity building, this IRF aims to support the UN to step in quickly to respond to the political momentum of RYCO's creation and maximize the chances for success of this regionally owned initiative.

Summarize the in-country project consultation and endorsement process prior to submission to PBSO, including through any PBF Steering Committee where it exists:

⁴Contracting Party is a term used in RYCOs terminology, referring to WB6

In view of drafting this proposal, consultations have been conducted with RYCO Secretariat, RYCOs Governing Board (government and youth representatives) and RYCOs Advisory Board. Consultations have also been conducted with international actors supporting RYCO, such as PeaceNexus foundation. Perspectives of young women and men from the Western Balkan 6 on peace and security have been sourced during the Youth, Peace and Security regional consultation in May 2017, organized by UNDP IRH and UNFPA EECARO.

Project Gender Marker score: 2 ⁵
30.35 % and 850,900 USD of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment:

Project Risk Marker score: 0 ⁶

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (*select ONLY one*):⁷(2.3)

Conflict prevention/management;

If applicable, **UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: **Outcome 1 Governance and Rule of Law and Outcome 2 Social Cohesion**

If applicable, **Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes: **SDG 4, 5, 16 and 17**

Type of submission:

New project

Project amendment

If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:

Extension of duration: Additional duration in months:

Change of project outcome/ scope:

Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%:

Additional PBF budget: Additional amount by recipient organization:

UNDP 674,635.00

UNFPA 138,030.00

UNICEF 0.00

Total: 812,665.00

Brief justification for amendment:

Output 4 will provide structured opportunities for new cadres of young women and young men in the region to work together with their peers across ethnic, communal, conflict and societal divides, and build confidence and common understanding among them by: undertaking joint activities aimed at producing regionally comparable and diverse evidence on youth perceptions on peacebuilding and sustaining peace; entering into constructive dialogue with decision-makers and politicians based on this evidence; enabling young people

⁵Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget)

⁶Risk marker 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

Risk marker 2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

⁷PBF Focus Areas are:

(1.1) SSR, (1.2) Rule of Law; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;

(3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services

(4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration; (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources (including PBF Secretariats)

to build their capacities and networks, identify common peace and security priorities and engage in policy discussions and advocacy exercises. These results will be reached through a number of activities, such as regional and local trainings, evidence gathering, consultations and dialogues with political parties and policy-makers, advocacy campaigns, and joint follow-up activities across borders or fault lines.

As part of the consensus and confidence-building goals of output 4, a youth-led action research on youth perceptions will take place, co-designed with key stakeholders and peacebuilding actors, including local research institutes and diverse and representative groups of young people, and rolled out by youth organizations. The research process will serve as a communication exercise and tool that will help young actors to jointly identify their common peace and security priorities and engage with each other meaningfully. It will also provide an opportunity to bring diverse strands of peacebuilding work together and conceptualize coherent and innovative approaches to reconciliation and sustaining peace.

Further, output 4 will strengthen the capacity and engagement of young people from diverse backgrounds as a strategic entry point in sustaining peace, complementing the focus on institutions and traditional actors, through peacebuilding, leadership, advocacy, conflict and gender-sensitivity trainings, to be conducted during the processes of designing and rolling out the study and ensuing consultations for advocacy and policy dialogues.

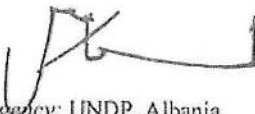



Apart from being essential for ensuring the quality of the action research process, these trainings will form part of the overall confidence building in the region and capacity-building of youth to be actors of change, by bringing together youth across existing inter- and intra-national divides to work together. To ensure continuation beyond the project, the output also includes support to local youth actors for cross-border follow-up activities.

Based on the evidence gathered, the young actors will work together on joint advocacy messages that highlight the common issues youth want to tackle and their solutions in relation to peace and security. The dissemination events of the youth-led action research will be a further opportunity to bring young women and men from the region together with decision-makers and representatives of political parties to discuss their recommendations for political agendas and future policies. In a context where government instability is on the rise, and several parliamentary elections upcoming in 2020, this is a unique opportunity to engage young citizens in meaningful conversations about what they would like to see change.


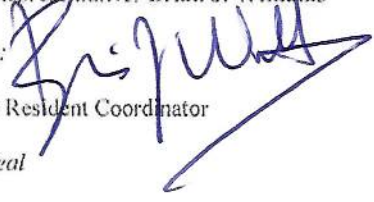
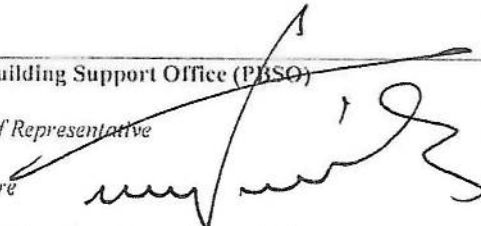
Moreover, in establishing regionally comparable data representing the views of diverse groups of young people, the output will inform RYCO, the overall UN RYCO project, other and future PBF projects and peacebuilding initiatives in their engagement with youth, including those hard-to-reach and under-represented young women, for sustaining peace and social cohesion (such as Dialogue for the Future programme (DFF) and the Kosovo PBF-funded project "Empowering Youth for Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Future in

	<p>“Empowering Youth for Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Future in Kosovo”).</p> <p>Output 4 aims to establish a replicable methodology to understand and analyze perceptions of diverse groups of young people on peace and conflict across time, and to create the networks and capacity for young civic actors, together with RYCO, to advocate for peace and engage in policy dialogues, including as part of the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (UNSCR 2250) and the UN Western Balkan Action Plan.</p> <p>Finally, as part of the overall objective of the project to strengthen RYCO's capacity, output 4 will inform RYCO's activities with their grantees and help shape their calls for proposals as well as the direction of future programming and evaluation framework. It will give RYCO more tools to initiate and participate in policy-making and advocate for reform, support their goal in accessing hard-to-reach youth, and more widely support the advocacy, regional youth exchange, networking and capacity building goals of RYCO and the project, including the empowerment of young people to sustain peace.</p> <p><i>Note: If this is an amendment, show any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.</i></p>
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PROJECT SIGNATURES:

<p>Recipient Organization(s)⁸</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>  <p><i>Name of Agency:</i> UNDP, Albania <i>Date & Seal</i></p>	<p><i>Representative of RYCO Secretariat</i></p> <p><i>Name:</i> Duro Blanuša</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>  <p><i>Title:</i> RYCO Secretary General <i>Date & Seal</i></p> 
<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Rita Columbia, Country Director for Albania, UNFPA Albania</p> <p><i>Signature</i></p>  <p><i>Name of Agency:</i> UNFPA, Albania <i>Date & Seal</i></p>	

⁸Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

<p>Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Roberto De Bernardi, UNICEF Representative Albania</p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p><i>Name of Agency:</i> UNICEF, Albania</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p>	
<p>Head of UN Country Team</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Brian J. Williams</p> <p><i>Signature:</i> </p> <p><i>Title:</i> UN Resident Coordinator</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)</p> <p><i>Name of Representative</i></p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support Office</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i></p>

I. Peace building Context and Rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)

- a) A brief summary of conflict analysis findings as they relate to this project, focusing on the driving factors of tensions/conflict that the project aims to address and an analysis of the main actors/ stakeholders that have an impact on or are impacted by the driving factors, which the project will aim to engage. This analysis must be gender- and age-sensitive.

Background: Ethnic nationalism was a key factor in many of the tragedies the Balkan region experienced in the 1990s, and a tool frequently used by Balkan politicians to strengthen their power. While it seems that the Western Balkans has showed considerable commitment towards democratic and EU-oriented reforms, tensions between ethnic groups and nationalist rhetoric among political elites nevertheless remains a feature in the region.⁹

Bilateral disputes are rooted in the geopolitics and history of the Balkans region, the latest wars and the breakup of Yugoslavia, and encompass a vast range of issues. Border and territorial disputes concern delineation and demarcation of borders and recognition of sovereign states within those territories, which should also be internationally recognized. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, ethnic divisions have been institutionalized through a system of power-sharing between ethnic groups. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo, with its majority population of ethnic Albanians, as an independent state. Ethno-political violence periodically resurfaces, notably in the northern parts of Kosovo and in North Macedonia. In recent years, nationalist rhetoric has become increasingly prominent in the political debate. In some cases,

⁹<https://ifish.de/file-CORE/documents/yearbook/english/15/Nordman-en.pdf>

it has focused on internal divisions between ethnic groups, while in others ethno-politics has shaped foreign policy priorities and regional relations.¹⁰

Reconciliation in Western Balkans has stalled and is being superseded by mounting ethnic divisions and polarization in the region¹¹, pointing specifically to denial of the past inflammatory discourse and ethnic segregation in education. Generations of children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia have been educated in ethnically segregated schools, justified by the protection of language and cultural rights of a certain ethnic group. In these communities, children belonging to different ethnic groups are exposed to competing historical narratives and only get to interact in high schools or universities when ethnic prejudices are already deeply entrenched and difficult to counter. The cultivation of a culture of tolerance bringing young people from diverse social groups together and promoting intercultural learning is lacking. Peace education has in many instances remained an isolated theoretical based activity or project-based interventions not mainstreamed in the national curricula and behaviors and practices of schools. Meaningful intercultural exchanges exposing young people to the history, cultural traditions or simply knowing young people from the other countries have been scarce. Lack of updated inclusive education methodologies across the WB6 or innovative ways to engage young millennials in intercultural activities has resulted in poor understanding of diversity and desire to know and act towards embracing intercultural learning.

Assuming, that the (re)establishment of economic and social ties would suffice for the (re)building of relationships between formerly conflicted parties in the post-Yugoslav space is mistaken. With the recent history of massive and widespread human rights violations, it will only be the proper outcomes of the transitional justice mechanisms coupled with peace and dialogue that can substantially contribute to progress in reconciliation.

In the same post-conflict period, a whole new generation has risen to adulthood. Either born during the conflict or since, young women and men under 30 continue to experience the legacies of conflict. Compared to their predecessors, this generation has no memory of a time before the wars, and either experienced it as infants or grew up listening to its accounts – while living in post-conflict segregation along ethnic lines. As such, some observers have speculated that through the inter-generational transfer of traumas, constructed nationalistic narratives, and with no memory of a time of peaceful coexistence, this generation is more hardened in its identity lines and views of the 'other', making any prospect for social cohesion and sustainable peace even harder to attain.¹² On the other hand, others have suggested that this generation is more inclined to move beyond identity politics and interact across ethno-religious identity groups freely, both in the online and offline space.

Ongoing Challenges: According to the EU's 2018 Western Balkans Strategy for European Integration, *rule of law, fundamental rights* and *good governance* remain the most pressing issues for the Western Balkans 6. Moreover, it underlines the need for *inclusive dialogues* on reform priorities among an empowered civil society with a focus on younger generations.¹³ However, as noted at the 'Youth, Peace & Security Consultation in Europe and Central Asia'

¹⁰ *Ibid*

¹¹ Western Balkans, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks

¹² Fischer, M. ; Petrovic-Ziemer, L. (2013) Dealing with the Past in Western Balkans Berghof Foundation.

¹³ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-561_en.htm

held in Istanbul in 2017, young people's voices in debate debates on peace and reconciliation remain largely unheard, as 'although young people in the region are directly and disproportionately influenced by national security politics, they have been frightened by their elders or authorities not to talk about security'.¹⁴

More recently, with several parliamentary elections upcoming in 2020 across the Western Balkans, political instability appears to be on the rise.. In Albania, Montenegro and Serbia, people frustrated with corruption and the current state of affairs have taken to the streets to demand a break from the politics of 'business as usual'. After the 2018 national elections, Bosnia remains without new governments at most levels of the complex state apparatus. Meanwhile, the Kosovo government has lacked a clear majority since the spring of 2018, while experiencing heightened tensions with Serbia and disputes within Kosovo over how to proceed in resolving the long-running dispute between the two.¹⁵

In a region marked by incomplete democratic consolidation, young people's political disengagement is especially impactful. In the Western Balkans, citizen participation in government decision-making is at an extremely low level. According to the Balkan Barometer 2018, while the younger population (18-29 years old) may occasionally comment on political issues on social networks, half of the young respondents reported not being likely to discuss politics with others. The most common reasons for not becoming actively involved in government decision-making are a belief that an individual cannot influence decisions made by government, and lack of interest.¹⁶ Another recent study by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (2019) shows that the majority of young people in the region feel poorly represented in national politics, have extremely low trust in political leaders and believe that they should have a stronger say. At the same time, a majority admits weak political knowledge and disinterest in politics, with the share of youth expressing no interest at all exceeding 50% in most of the region. Beyond voting, the study found, young people in the region have very little experience with various forms of political or civic engagement.¹⁷

Disillusionment with mainstream politics, however, does not necessarily equate with political apathy: the study concludes that when interest in and actual experience of engagement are combined, there appears to be potential for greater activism.¹⁸ It is therefore crucial to *strengthen young people's political literacy and agency*, sustain their alternative repertoires of civic engagement and *create opportunities for dialogue* between young people, political parties and decision-makers.

Second, critical parts of the *region's economies* are uncompetitive, with too much undue political interference and an underdeveloped private sector. None of the Western Balkans 6 can currently be considered a fully functioning market economy. In spite of all progress on reforms, many structural issues remain, which in turn affect labour markets and notably employment opportunities for younger people.

¹⁴ Meeting Report: Youth, Peace & Security in Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region: A Consultation and Dialogue 23-25 May 2017, Istanbul, Turkey <https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2017-11/2017.09.06%20-%20Report%20-%20Eastern%20Europe%20and%20Central%20Asia%20Consultation%20and%20Dialogue%20on%20Youth%20Peace%20%26%20Security.pdf>

¹⁵ Western Balkans Stability Monitor, March 2019, BIRN.

¹⁶ <https://www.rcc.int/pubs/66/balkan-barometer-2018-public-opinion-survey>.

¹⁷ <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id-moe/15274-20190408.pdf>

¹⁸ Ibid.

Third, not only have the young generations who were born during and after the post-Yugoslav wars inherited the legacies of those violent events, but there are still important *bilateral disputes* between governments in the region which remain to be solved. Most notably, an effective and comprehensive normalization of Belgrade-Pristina relations through the EU-facilitated Dialogue is urgent and crucial. It is therefore necessary that young people are given a forum for social exchange beyond divisive rhetoric and polarization: in the context of face-to-face meetings, conversations, and joint projects. *Youth must be offered adequate real and virtual spaces, so that they can discuss their past, their present problems and identify their common future priorities in the Balkans – across ethnic, communal and social lines and across generations, with those who are creating current policies.*

Fourthly, while it is generally accepted that the legacies of conflict continue to affect the everyday life of youth in the Western Balkans, our understanding of how and in what ways is very limited. The *views of young women and men* from different walks of life on how they experience and perceive the legacy of conflict, what they would like to do about it, and where they would like to see the situation go in the future *missing from the debate*. Regionally comparable data on youth priorities for sustaining peace does not exist. Without such evidence, designing targeted and effective peacebuilding responses and interventions, is challenging. This *lack of evidence* not only result in ineffective peacebuilding initiatives, but also deprive young people from diverse backgrounds of opportunities to be agents of change and shape a more peaceful future. Instead, large numbers of young people choose to exit from public debate or resign to follow well-established divisive lines of politics. The Western Balkan 6 are missing out on young people's potential to shape an alternative and sustainable vision for the future beyond ingrained ethno-religious identity lines.

Regional cooperation and good neighborly relations are essential for progress on the WB6 respective European paths. In addition to existing regional initiatives such as the Regional Cooperation Council¹⁹, efforts such as the Berlin Process – a political dialogue led by several EU Member States engaging all six Western Balkan entities – have helped build momentum. But these positive political processes need support and follow-up with concrete action at community level if they are to help tip balance in favor sustainable peace and cooperation, and away from nationalist instrumentalization. At the same time, as shown in the most recent Balkan Barometer conducted by the Regional Cooperation Council, young people (aged 18–29) in the region are the least interested among age cohorts in regional developments and knowing about their neighbors.²⁰ Regional cooperation processes therefore need to account for youth priorities and interests, and support young people's agency for sustaining peace to achieve sustainable reconciliation, overall stabilization, and preparation for EU accession. Policy-makers should also do more in terms of translating youth aspirations for security and European integration into real political action and should directly involve young people to that end.²¹

A key aspect of this process is reconciliation between groups, increased trust, and decreased acceptance of negative stereotypes. Twenty-five years after the Balkan wars of the 1990's, it is time to address lingering issues of prejudice and mistrust both for the peaceful and sustainable development of the WB6 as well as for EU integration. The role of young people in this process

¹⁹ www.rcc.int

²⁰ <https://www.rcc.int/pubs/66/balkan-barometer-2018-public-opinion-survey>

²¹ <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/id-moe/15274-20190408.pdf>

is critical. Exposure across group lines, improved education related to social cohesion, cooperation on historical and cultural exchange and increased volunteerism within the region can all help. Moreover, supporting the capacities and skills of existing youth actors to engage in reconciliation efforts is of essence. In addition to traditional NGOs, there is a host of emerging new civic actors that work in alternative and flexible manners that can be mobilized, with training on peacebuilding and advocacy, to interact with peers, political parties and decision-makers across the region.²²

Currently, there is clear momentum and support from the international community to recognize young people's active and integral role in peacebuilding, as asserted in UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (2015): 'affirming the important role youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.'²³ This has been further reaffirmed in the UNSCR 2419 (2018),²⁴ which calls for increasing the ways to engage young people in national efforts to build and sustain peace, particularly urging appropriate regional and sub-regional bodies to facilitate their constructive engagement. It is therefore very timely to work on **mainstreaming the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (YPS)** across peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in the Western Balkans, and across various initiatives led by UN agencies, partners such as RYCO and civil society.

Follow-up work on the YPS agenda has seen the publication of a major global youth consultation and review of youth's role in the *Missing Peace* study;²⁵ and other developments led by the UN, such as the appointment of a Special Envoy to the Secretary General on Youth.²⁶ As noted in the *Missing Peace* report, without a clear evidence-base of youth perspectives and attitudes towards peace, understanding of youth's role is often shaped by stereotypes, such as 'young men as violent predators or potential spoilers of peace', 'youth bulges ... [as] an increased risk of criminal and/or political violence', 'forcefully displaced young people as potential security threats', and 'the recruitment and participation of young men and women in violent extremist groups'. The young people involved in the making of the report highlighted that this skewed representation limits their ability to elevate their role in sustaining peace and work on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies; as envisaged in SDG 16 and the wider 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

At the EU-Western Balkans' Summit in Sofia in May 2018, the EU focused on the central issues of reconciliation, connectivity and education. These are not 3 separate abstract notions; they can only work in cooperation with one another. In order for each to move forward, the other two need to be realized. The development of alternative educational material for the teaching of history in Southeast Europe is an ambitious and challenging venture given that the interpretation of the collective past and the content of history, as it is taught in schools, cause heated disputes, not only between neighbors in WB6 but also within the same borders. Very often school curricula and teaching practices in the region do not provide the young people with positive images of their peers in the other WB6 and their history being unable as such to

²² A draft policy paper commissioned by UNDP Istanbul Hub, 2018 indicates that the biggest challenges for CSOs in the ECIS region are shrinking civic space, lack of skills and human resources and funding.

²³ UNSCR 2250 (2015).

²⁴ UNSCR 2419 (2018).

²⁵ The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, 2018.

²⁶ <https://www.youth4peace.info/ProgressStudy>

break a cycle of prejudices and failing to provide the young generation with the needed skills to foster intercultural understanding and cooperation in the region.

One attempt to address this is made by the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in South Eastern Europe²⁷ with the development of the Joint History Project. JHP was launched in 1999 in an effort to change the way history is taught in schools across the Balkans. The founders - historians, diplomats, philanthropists -- felt very strongly that to reach real reconciliation in the region, you have to reach the grass roots, the youth. The program is therefore centered on education, on providing history-teaching materials for teachers that convey multiple perspectives of the same events, and on ensuring that these materials are used across the region. Such initiatives need to be multiplied.

Youth in Western Balkans 6: Young people in the Western Balkans live with the pressures and influences of a social and political narrative that is distorted by prejudice, denial, revisionism and nationalism. Inherited, negative narratives form the basis for young people's future life choices about career, residence, friendships and even the possibility of dialogue with other people; thus compounding negative narratives about 'the other'²⁸

Mobility (lack of) is a major concern for young people in WB6. Challenges related to youth mobility and exchange refer to limited accessibility of existing programs (marginalized groups are not reached). Youth, especially those with fewer opportunities, do not access education in mobility activities and CSOs are not motivated to include marginalized youth due to bureaucratic procedures necessary for accessing educational institutions.²⁹

The majority of young people³⁰ state that one of the biggest obstacles for the mobility in WB6 are prejudices and the consequences of the wars. Mobility across ethnic lines dominates. According to the RCC Balkan Barometer 2017³¹, people from Albania mostly travelled to Kosovo (15%), people from BiH travelled to Croatia (32%), people from Kosovo (as many as 62%) travelled last year to Albania, people from Serbia to Montenegro (20%) and people from North Macedonia to Albania (16% and Serbia 17%).

Some challenges WB6 face with regard to ethnic distance relate to growth of radical youth political groups, increase of hate speech among young people, increased youth exposure to discrimination at schools, education, work place, employment field etc. As a consequence, young people are being faced with a shrinking space for dialogue and exchange of views. Studies show that children from a generation that experienced war have reveal alarming political attitudes. In many ways they represent views that are common in frontier societies. On one hand, they easily set themselves apart from their immediate neighbors and former wartime enemies. The boundaries within the WB6 always mark enemy lines, too: ethnic group against ethnic group, the Croats against Serbs; Serbs against Kosovo Albanians.³²

²⁷<http://cdrsee.org/publications/education>

²⁸ RYCO Strategic Plan 2018-2021

²⁹ Connecting youth work and youth policy, Topali, Hadzibegovic, Manevski, & Apitz, 2016

³⁰ Regional research "Youth mobility in the Western Balkans – the present challenges and future perspectives", https://wbc-rti.info/object/document/16277/attach/Conclusions_recommendations_eng.pdf

³¹ https://www.rcc.int/seeds/files/RCC_BalkanBarometer_PublicOpinion_2017.pdf

³² Generation in between: The Children of the Balkan Wars: Getting to Know a Crucial Generation for Europe, Rainer Gries Eva Tamara Asboth Christina Krakovsky, 2016

Participation of the youth at the local level in public and civic activities is rather weak across in the region.

- **In BiH**, networking between youth organizations is lacking and youth information channels are virtually nonexistent. The poor and insufficient communication channels pertain the youth participation even in the levels of design and implementation of leisure and cultural activities. In BiH, the Dialogue for the Future Program (DFF) has established a Platform, as a mechanism that aims to facilitate interaction and communication between decision-makers and citizens, especially youth to jointly identify ways to foster social cohesion and to build and sustain peace. It is a means to promote greater understanding, diversity, tolerance and solidarity among the people of BiH through culture, education and youth-led initiatives that serve as instruments for building a common vision on the one hand, and peace and trust, on the other.³³ In Kosovo, the situation of youth participation is rather dim. There is very limited influence of youth on the institutions that affect their lives, whether in family, at school or in the community. Kosovar young people display a lack of faith in Kosovo institutions in general, questioning their efficiency and integrities. Youth CSOs are active but they are concentrated in major urban areas and young people in rural areas are excluded and underserved.
- **In North Macedonia**, despite the efforts to increase the youth participation and promotion of volunteering, the number of young people participating in the society and volunteering is very low. The channels for direct participation of young people in decision making processes are not sufficient and efficient.
- **In Montenegro**, a youth strategy has been adopted, however establishment of efficient youth services in all municipalities is needed as well as promotion and recognition of the profession of youth worker.
- **In Serbia** one of areas that needs to be developed and continuously further improved is reflected in provision of the increasing coverage of youth activities through the development of mechanisms for monitoring and increase coverage, with special emphasis on the coverage of vulnerable young people.
- **In Albania** young people, as a target group, have been in the center of public policies since 2007, with more engagement of young people from the bigger towns and from politically, socially and economically "elite" backgrounds. In most part, such policies consider youth as a homogenous group, hence foresee same education and employment measures, despite geographic distance, social and economic capabilities, or opportunities offered in peri-urban versus urban versus remote areas.

Public Policies across the WB6, supporting youth-friendly educational and social services should be designed to better engage hard-to-reach groups such as those in remote areas, from marginalized groups (such as Roma), in poor neighborhoods or out-of-school, empowering them to engage positively in the construction of a peaceful region. Young individuals and youth organizations with enhanced skills and exposure will be better able to voice their needs and promote solutions. They will be then in a better position to contribute to – and benefit from – an enabling environment with reduced prejudice and discrimination. Building initiatives with similar youth groups in the sub-region can help build communities resilient to the destructiveness of instrumentalized nationalism.

³³http://ba.une.un.org/content/unct/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/presscenter/dff-3rd-dialogue-platform-conference--speech-sezin-sinanoglu--un.html

According to the Report on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Consultation and Dialogue on Youth, Peace & Security, May 2017³⁴, the young people's peace and security priorities in the EECA region are:

Cultivating Culture of Tolerance that brings young people from diverse social groups together and which promotes a culture of tolerance in the region is necessary. Peace education in this regard is a useful tool to cultivate a culture of tolerance and to break the intergenerational transmission of violence and conflict, as educational institutions are central socializing institutions for youth and adolescents that have a critical role in shaping perceptions, beliefs and ideological commitments. With the high rates of education participation in the Western Balkans region, schools are a key institution where youth also encounter each other and learn to navigate through a range of relationships and confront difference. Because of this privileged role, educational institutions are well placed to be the locomotives for bringing youth together across the region.

In this context, youth, peace and security in the region should be presented as a window of opportunity for young people to raise their voice, and a participatory policy platform that can bring young people across cultures, ethnicities and religions together to spread the culture of tolerance in global peace and security platforms.

Including the socially marginalized youth in educational and awareness activities across the region: Many young people who have weakened or severed family ties, are subject to social stigmatization and prone to risks. Poverty and lack of education and job skills make them more vulnerable to all kinds of exploitation, including engagement in activities promoting ethnic divisions and anti-social behavior (gang membership, crime, and radicalization). Acknowledging the "fluidity of identity in young people" and their ability to inhabit victimhood, active agency is key to engaging youth in reconciliation processes.

Approaching peace and security in a youth-led and holistic manner: The young participants in the consultation highlighted that sustaining peace for them is not merely the absence of violence – young people saw these questions as closely linked to root causes of violence and governance and development challenges, such as state capture, corruption, institutional ineffectiveness, inequality, discrimination, and gender-based violence.

Gender, Conflict and Reconciliation in Western Balkans

The traditional patriarchal value system in the Western Balkans has been an ongoing factor in the region, influencing the position of young women and men in these societies.³⁵

In the lead up to the conflicts in the region, there was a re-patriarchalisation of the society and a reductionist conceptualization and portrayal of gender roles. The concept of 'militant

³⁴<https://www.youth4peace.info/node/265>

³⁵Duhaček, D. (2015). Gender equality in Serbia: "A drop of oil" in the waters of inequality?. In S. P. Ramet and C. Hassenstab (eds). *Gender (In)equality and Gender Politics in Southeastern Europe: A Question of Justice (Gender and Politics)* (108-125), Palgrave Macmillan UK.

masculinity' placed males in the role of violent warrior, capable of fighting ethno-national wars, and women in the role of biological reproducers or nurturers of the nation.³⁶

Women in the region were obliged to remain in their communities and endure the war atrocities, without opportunities to exercise non-traditional roles. They were portrayed in the media and by politicians as powerless victims.³⁷ The wars reinforced gender stereotypes, traditional views of the role of women, and the influence of religious traditionalism.

Gender stereotypes have persisted since the end of the conflicts, which has undermined movement toward gender equality.³⁸ Research shows the prevalence of deeply embedded conservative values in societies, which are powerfully promoted and further reinforced through media representation, education and school curricula.³⁹ Although gender stereotypes limit both women's and men's capacities, they usually have a disproportionate negative impact on women, while also perpetuating often violent male gender roles.

Sexual and gender-based violence is often enabled by gendered narratives that portray women's bodies as territory, to be 'protected' by men of their 'own side' and attacked and conquered by the 'enemy'.⁴⁰ Ethnic wars in the Western Balkans had a parallel in 'gender wars' – and both were instrumental in fostering competitive, conflictual and antagonistic perspectives of social relations.⁴¹

Across the Western Balkans, women and girls suffer levels of domestic and sexual violence, including human trafficking, that are unacceptably high. All of the WB6, except Kosovo, have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as the Istanbul Convention),⁴² nevertheless the relevant changes in legislative and policy frameworks aimed to improve institutional response and support are yet to be harmonized with its requirements. As a result, civil society programmes and mechanisms are frequently the only available support to the victims. The earlier Balkans wars often witnessed sexual violence used as a tactic. Women survivors of violence face significant discrimination and suffer from insufficient protection and support. Building bridges across ethnic/group lines between young women who are concerned about sexual violence offers another powerful mechanism to undermine simplistic nationalist narratives and construct a vision of a safe, multi-ethnic Balkans. Increasing the access of young women's groups to

³⁶Berna, I.B. (2014). Post-conflict gender politics in the Western Balkans – Between the same circle of palms with human security and a small stream outside the box. *Revista Hiperborea*, 1(2), 282-300. <http://revistahiperborea.ro/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Ioana-Bianca-BERNAPOST-CONFLICT-GENDER-POLITICS-IN-THE-WESTERN.pdf>

³⁷Haug, H. K. (2015). Gender equality and inequality in Kosovo. In S. P. Ramet and C. Hassenstab (eds). *Gender (In)equality and Gender Politics in Southeastern Europe: A Question of Justice (Gender and Politics)* (147-168), Palgrave Macmillan UK.

³⁸Bobić, M. (2012). The application of the concept of social capital in understanding marriage and family in contemporary Serbia. In Predrag Cvetičanin and Ana Birešev (eds.), *Social and Cultural Capital in Western Balkan Societies* (41-58). Belgrade: CECSSEE-IPSTUB

³⁹https://www.balkanfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Gender_Issues.pdf

⁴⁰O'Reilly, M. (2016). Peace and justice through a feminist lens: Gender justice and the Women's Court for the Former Yugoslavia. *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, 10(3), 419-445. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17502977.2016.1199482>

⁴¹Hughson (Blagojevic), M. (2012). Got undoing gender, undoing the Balkans: Towards ethnic and gender reconciliation. In R. Kersten-Pejanić, S. Rajilić, & C. Voss (eds). *Doing gender – doing the Balkans* (17-42).

⁴²<https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210/signatures>

RYCO support provides a means for young women to enter into the critical social discussions around conflict prevention and tolerant and diverse sustainable development.

- ✓ Young women in the region also face other forms of discrimination. Particularly widespread across the WB6 is gender **discrimination in the labour market**, manifested either in low female participation in the labour market or in discrimination at the workplace. The difficulties in balancing private and professional life have been particularly recognized as a reason contributing to the high level of female inactivity in the labour market, but also as an impediment for women in climbing the career ladder. Young women still face numerous obstacles to **participation in politics and decision-making**. Despite the fact that all the WB6 have introduced female quota for their parliaments, partisan politics has remained a male-dominated field, due to the scarce presence of women in decision-making positions in political parties. Similarly, managerial positions in public administrations are dominated by men, even though in some contexts, women comprise a majority in the total civil service.⁴³
- ✓ Despite efforts in all WB6 by governments, civil society and international partners, there is still need for action to support gender equality in the region. Gender equality is a precondition for promoting sustainable development, building good governance, and ultimately setting the environment for sustaining peace and reconciliation in the region. A reformed education system, which includes informal and life skills education, is one area that could be used as a long-term strategy to address this challenge. Another is mobilizing and empowering young people themselves to challenge gender stereotypes and advocate for solutions.
- ✓ Importantly, a gender-sensitive analysis of how the conflict has affected young women and men's experiences in the region and their perceptions about transitional justice processes, sexual violence, gender identities and violence, women's rights and empowerment is needed as an evidence-base for mainstreaming gender considerations across peacebuilding and reconciliation activities across the WB6, as well as to bolster efforts for youth-led advocacy for gender equality on all fronts.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports **existing** Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**, how it ensures **national ownership** and how the project complements/ builds on any other relevant interventions in this sector/area, including any lessons from previous PBF support.

The Berlin Process is a political process, launched in 2014 by Germany, and hosted by subsequent European nations interested in promoting Western Balkan integration into the European Union. As a platform for the improvement of regional cooperation, the Berlin Process has shown there is a need and an opportunity to intensify cooperation. Sharing common challenges, the WB6 decided to work together, starting with empowerment of young people. In the **Berlin Process Paris Summit of July 2015**, it was agreed to create the **Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)**, inspired in part by post-World War II youth exchange between France and Germany.

RYCO's vision is to support a diverse region in which young people, as a group with the most interest in investing in the future, have an awareness of the past and play an active role in

⁴³ https://www.balkanfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Gender_Issues.pdf

building a more prosperous future for their societies. In pursuit of its mandate, RYCO will support projects and initiatives contributing *inter alia* to promoting diversity and democratic values, fostering reconciliation and remembrance, intercultural mobility etc. It was agreed that Albania would host the Secretariat and other participants (5) establish local branches.

Since its launching, a Governing Board composed of the WB6 Ministers of youth and 6 youth representatives from the region has overseen the recruitment of core staff, the approval of a budget, the contribution of 1.000.000 € (2017) from WB6 participants, and establishment of offices in Tirana.

In addition to its Governing Board, RYCO has also established a formal Advisory Group. UNFPA (representative from Albania) sits in RYCO's Advisory Board.

The RYCO team subsequently issued its **first call for proposals in November 2017**⁴⁴, encouraging civil society organizations and public schools to submit proposals for intercultural exchange and/or youth civic participation that involved at least two of the WB6 participants. More than 420 applications, which networked up to 1,300 organizations/schools from the Western Balkans were submitted, highlighting the demand from youth for cross-cultural bridge-building and reconciliation.

Analysis of the first Call shows the following:

- Partnerships were formed along the “expected” routes of cooperation (along ethnic and language belonging), whereby Albania partnered mainly with Kosovo (22) and Serbia (21) but in only a few occasions with BiH and Montenegro. Bosnia – Herzegovina partnered mainly with Serbia and Montenegro, but only in one occasion with Pristina and so on and so forth.
- Themes, challenges and issues addressed by the proposals are: mobility, intolerance, intercultural learning, hate speech, social distance, xenophobia, post war societies, education, breaking stereotypes, youth activism etc.
- With regard to eligibility and compliance with procedures, the following emerged:
 - Schools in some of the contracting parties do not have own bank accounts, thus were not eligible to apply to RYCO's grant scheme;
 - Schools in some of the contracting parties do not have legal capacity to apply;
 - Civil society organizations are more experienced in writing projects compared to schools. However, grassroots organizations that work with hard to reach and most vulnerable youth groups do not have the capacities to develop quality proposals and/or successfully apply to the RYCO grant facility. On the other hand, such youth groups and organizations are hard to reach for RYCO and to ensure that they are represented and benefit from the grant facility. New approaches need to be explored to reach out to these marginalized young people.
 - Traditional methodological approaches used, thus limiting the opportunities to escape from the status quo and think outside the box.

RYCO's importance is reiterated on several regional and international forums and summits, the most recent ones being: 1) the London 2018 Western Balkans Summit, on 10 July 2018⁴⁵, which brought together the leaders of the Western Balkans 6 and like-minded European partners to strengthen security co-operation, increase economic stability and encourage

⁴⁴http://www.rycowb.org/?page_id=3842.

⁴⁵<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/western-balkans-summit-london-2018>

political co-operation. RYCO's SG and SDG were present in this summit and presented RYCO's main achievements. 2) The previous EU Western Balkans Summit, held in Sofia on May 17th, 2018 came up with a declaration, which states that a special focus on youth shall be put and the scope and reach of RYCO shall be expanded.⁴⁶

The creation of RYCO demonstrates the political will of the governments of the WB6 to invest in reconciliation. To date, existing regional structures lack a cross – cultural network and solid governmental commitment needed to build sustainable WB projects that empower young citizens. A more comprehensive, inclusive and innovative approach was needed. RYCO's creation acknowledges the tensions between ethnic and political groups within and across WB6 participants, and recognizes that investment in peacebuilding and social cohesion, particularly amongst youth, can have a big payoff in terms of conflict prevention and the acceleration of sustainable development. The foundation of RYCO, the first of its kind and substantial participation of civil society is vital to youth development and leadership in the Balkans. Being one of the few initiatives in WB6 that boasts cooperation to this extent, the success of RYCO serves as a motivation to those aiming to unite governmental and non-governmental actors to bridge the gaps (cultural, linguistic, religious etc.) that continue to divide the Balkan society.

During the preparation phase for establishing RYCO several international organizations and governments provided immense support to the process. The most engaged in that phase have been German Federal Foreign Office, Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW/OFAJ), OSCE, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic. Their supporting role has continued once RYCO was established.

Since RYCO's establishment, the Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW/OFAJ), with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office, NGO Cross-border Factory and NGO Youth Initiative for Human Rights, has been supporting several smaller scale projects aiming to provide thematic expertise in intercultural dialogue, dealing with the past and reconciliation for RYCO's Secretariat and its target groups (grantees of the first Call for proposals (2017), to strengthen the role of youth representatives in RYCO Governing Board, raise the visibility of RYCO and advocate for the support of parliamentarians of the WB6.

In 2017, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic proposed the development of *Balkan Lab* project idea, singled out during the Trieste Summit (12 July, 2017) and included in Trieste Summit conclusions. The project is developed in cooperation with the representatives of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, French Institute, German Federal Foreign Office, Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW/OFAJ). The co-financing for the project for 2019, 2020 and 2021 will be requested from the French Agency for Development.

The PeaceNexus Foundation supports RYCO institutional development for the second year. The PeaceNexus Foundation has provided external expertise in drafting RYCO internal procedures, the project application for the EU grant, the first meeting of the Advisory Board, as well as general capacity building and organizational development of RYCO as intergovernmental institution.

⁴⁶<https://sofiaglobe.com/2018/05/17/eu-western-balkans-summit-the-sofia-declaration-full-text/>

Partnership with Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe – OSCE is implemented through realization and planning of a large number of concrete activities, especially at the level of cooperation between the RYCO Local Branch Offices and the OSCE Field Missions. Moreover, communication and cooperation also implies joint activities with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

RYCO started building partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). GIZ has been supporting development of a joint multiannual research project with the Chair for European Studies (FVC), University of Vienna. In order to support RYCO's objectives in the long-term, the necessity of 3 strands of research were identified, which range from scientific support and monitoring of RYCO projects, through researching potential participants and developing future formats and projects and perception of RYCO. In 2016, FVC has completed a research project which resulted in a publication *The Children of the Balkan Wars: Getting to Know a Crucial Generation for Europe*, which served as an inspiration for RYCO related research project.

The European Commission has made a formal commitment to financially support RYCO. First EU grant is expected to be disbursed by DG NEAR to RYCO by September 2018. As soon as 2017 grant is contracted, negotiations on EU grant 2018 will be opened. This action will cover components of the RYCO activity budget in 2018 and 2019. The EU grant for 2017 estimated up to 500.000 euro.

Based on this rapid establishment during its first year of operation, the UN aims to support RYCO as a direct implementing partner, managing financial resources from the UN to expand its small grants program.

The United Nations has an operational presence in all six Western Balkan participants, with expertise and networks that can facilitate reaching marginalized populations (i.e. 'putting the last first'), youth groups, local governments, schools and civil society, as well as build capacities in the areas of peacebuilding program design, small grant management, activity management, monitoring and evaluation and themes ranging from education to voluntarism. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF have critical expertise to bear in these areas, including through innovative ways to engage the hardest-to-reach youth, peer education, inclusive education, peace building and citizenship education civil society and voluntarism support, institutional development, capacity building for monitoring and evaluation, social cohesion, peacebuilding and media/communications, among many other areas. This includes support through UNFPA's regional hub for youth policy and Youth PETRI - Sofia, UNICEF Geneva regional office support in Inclusive Policies Adolescents and Youth and UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub.

The United Nations has no strategic framework that applies to the Western Balkan 6 as a sub-region. This PBF investment in some ways is thus ground-breaking in that it will be one of the first UN instruments in recent years to look at the region as a whole, building on the strengths of the development presence in all six entities. All of the UNDAF's in the sub-region, for example, have aspects that are related to governance and the rule of law and the building of social cohesion.

In February 2018, concluding a twelve-day visit to Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide called for concerted and sustained efforts to prioritize reconciliation and prevention. He highlighted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 16, as a

key instrument for prevention as it addresses drivers and root causes of instability and conflict.⁴⁷

On a global level, and in the region, the United Nations provides substantive support, capacity-building, advocacy and outreach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the related thematic issues of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda recognizes the key role that today's youth play in its achievement. Youth empowerment and action is key in the global efforts being taken in the implementation of the Global Goals, including SDGs 4, 5, 16 and 17.

The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, in conjunction with the UN system and youth themselves, lead the development of a UN Youth Strategy Youth 2030, launched in September 2018. Its aim is to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change. The strategy will guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the UN's work fully benefits from their insights and ideas. Its thematic priority areas reflect all three pillars of the UN system: sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights.

Through the unanimous adoption of UN resolutions 2250 (2015) and 2419 (2018), the Security Council urged Member States to consider ways to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels, and setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution, as their marginalization would be detrimental to building sustainable peace in such aspects as repatriation, resettlement and reconstruction.

II. Project content, strategic justification and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

- a) A brief description of the project content – in a nutshell, what results is the project trying to achieve, and how does it aim to address the conflict analysis factors outlined in Section I (must be gender- and age- sensitive).

The Western Balkan region has a clear interest in cooperating and creating stable societies that builds trust among peoples and ensures better livelihoods in the region. *The overall UN support will contribute to the improved social cohesion and reconciliation across the Western Balkans.* The project aims to achieve this goal through providing support to RYCO, as a mechanism, which is endorsed by governments and citizens alike. The project will support RYCO to work in partnership with civil society, education systems and schools, grass roots, youth institutions and youth in general for the consolidation of RYCO as a regionally owned mechanism with the capacity to promote reconciliation, mobility, diversity, democratic values, participation, active citizenship and intercultural learning. The expected outcome of this project is: **Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, attitudes of tolerance and reduced prejudice and discrimination by youth – is enhanced across the Western Balkans.**

To achieve its outcome, the project will target youth, youth organizations and schools in WB6 as well as RYCO.

⁴⁷<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1002571>

For the purpose of this proposal, **youth** refers to adolescents (14-18 y/a) and youth 18 – 30 y/a).⁴⁸ Over many years considerable efforts have been invested in the region to support youth exchange. However, until recently, the principal opportunity for mobility and youth exchange focused on young people visiting countries beyond the Western Balkans. While any opportunity for cross-border youth exchange was welcome, young people who could benefit from such exchange programmes were unable to experience the opportunities and challenges of meeting their peers within their own region. While their world view may have been expanded, it is assumed that they may have returned with their attitudes and behaviors relative to their peers in the region unchallenged and unchanged. Connecting with a stranger outside the Balkans may in some cases be easier than to face the potentially uncomfortable, but existentially essential need to build a prosperous and peaceful future with one's immediate neighbors. To address this, there is a need to foster youth dialogue and communication within the region, and enhance communication and confidence between young people from different socio-economic, ethnic and community groups. Concrete collaboration at the people-to-people level is an important factor in strengthening a sense of regional identity, which is key to preparing the ground for broader collaboration. At the same time, there exists relatively little understanding on how young people, especially from marginalized and hard-to-reach groups, would like to see their relationships with their peers change and on their own agency in challenging existing narratives. Bringing young people across the region to consult them on their problems and priorities and work together towards their goals can fill this gap.

Many youth organizations in the region work successfully together. However, many of these organizations lack the sufficient resources, skills, capacities and opportunities to consistently work across borders and create long-lasting networks. Furthermore, the access of youth organizations and emerging young civic actors to national and sub-national decision-makers is limited, making it hard to translate their everyday experiences on the ground into responsive policy-making. The lack of intergenerational dialogue between youth civil society and the older decision-making generation perpetuates young people's disengagement in political processes. With the view of current government instability and upcoming elections in the region, opportunities for the two parties to meet and seriously discuss the recommendations and visions of young women and men, from all walks of life, are very much needed.

The region has yet to benefit from sufficient alignment of like-minded institutional partners in change. Throughout the Western Balkans a myriad of organizations, initiatives and projects offer rich opportunities for agencies with similar values that seek to collaborate, add value, build linkages and prosper together, including interventions that are explicitly targeted at youth reconciliation, for example the Dialogue for the Future⁴⁹ project, led by the BiH UNCT, and the Kosovo PBF-funded project "Empowering Youth for Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Future in Kosovo". However, with some notable exceptions, the record of inter-organization collaboration is inadequate. Opportunities for complementary programming are being missed. Limited funding is not being optimized because many organizations remain entrenched in a closed programming loop. Meanwhile their funders rarely require them to cooperate across borders, further compounding their stand-alone approach. An increased alignment of capacities

⁴⁸ Defined for the purposes of this intervention within the scope of adolescents (14-18 y/a) and youth (18-30 y/a), in accordance with UNICEF standards and official youth strategies of the participating WB6.

⁴⁹ http://ba.une.un.org/content/unct/bosnia_and_herzegovina/en/home/what-we-do/joint-projects/dialogue-for-the-future-2.html

and complementary approaches across sectors will be essential if the region is to leverage all the potential benefits of funding, technical assistance and political support.

Despite the push for regional and cross-border approaches on youth peacebuilding, more needs to be done to mobilize and empower diverse groups of young people to make the linkages between data and evidence on youth perceptions and formulating common policy messages for peace, and to engage young women and men in public discussions and political processes. No data exists to compare youth perceptions across the region. At a very basic level, policy makers, the UN and other peacebuilding actors lack evidence of how the region's young women and men, in their diversity, actually view issues surrounding conflict, peace, and reconciliation – either in terms of future potential fault lines (dividers), or opportunities for strengthening social cohesion (connectors). While there are several global instruments measuring attitudes to peace, such as the *Global Peace Index* and the *Positive Peace Index*, they lack in providing a comprehensive picture or nuances of the Western Balkan sub-region.⁵⁰ A series of surveys have been conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Saferworld, Nansen Dialogue Center, and local institutes at different points and in different parts of the Western Balkans. None of these sources are able to paint a picture that presents a current and comprehensive understanding of the perceptions, needs and aspirations of young people from different backgrounds in the Western Balkan 6 on issues of peace and conflict. Subsequently, capacitating youth organizations to create such an evidence base through a youth-led process can contribute to the dual purpose of networking and confidence-building among young actors in the region, and creating common messages for a dialogue with the public and policymakers on sustaining peace.

This project will focus on youth, youth organizations and young civic actors, to be selected based on several criteria, including:

- Youth organizations that applied but failed under the 1st call for RYCO, particularly any that were identified during review as having good potential
- Youth organizations and actors working in particularly isolated, mostly rural, areas, including areas that have been identified as being in higher risk of radicalization (for example through various PVE programmes); an effort will be made for geographic representativeness
- Youth organizations that are working in regions/municipalities where conflict has occurred or been highlighted as possible. Since many such youth organizations have probably already been supported in some ways on a national basis, the point here is to put them into a sub-regional context that expands their perspectives.
- Youth organizations and civic actors that have an explicit focus on gender equality and which may include women-only organizations and women led organizations
- Youth organizations and youth actors from those WB6 contracting parties that were under-represented in the first RYCO call
- Youth organizations focusing on rights of discriminated groups/minorities. The point of focusing on such organizations is that they help confront stereotypes constructed in

⁵⁰ The *Balkan Barometer* survey commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) focuses on attitudes, experiences and perceptions of the general public and the business community in South Eastern Europe (SEE) and is also linked to the annual reporting of the SEE 2020 Strategy – however its sample size is minimal and its focus on youth, peace and security issues extremely limited. Another index, the *Balkan Public Sentiment Index*, monitors the changes in the public sentiment and optimism in the region, some of which is relevant but again, without substantive youth focus. The *My World Survey* by the United Nations, on the other hand, offers details on youth's broader priorities in the region; however, it lacks the necessary depth and the numbers of respondents are limited.

the region that are simplistic and highlight nationalist/ethnic group identities as exclusive and dominating. In particular, this will include: Roma organizations, LGBTI groups and women's survivor's organizations. While these groups have received some support from partners over the years within the WB6; the point here is to support their growth – through engagement with RYCO – into sub-regional movements which can build solidarity across ethnic/nationalist lines and highlight common sustainable development challenges

- Youth organizations and young civic actors that have an explicit objective related to peacebuilding, building of tolerance and support for diversity and human rights
- Youth organizations that have an explicit objective related to working with young people that are neither in education, employed or in training (NEET)
- Age of leadership, supporting organizations with youth leadership
- Organizations that have a cross ethnical / multicultural membership / representation

The youth organizations and young civic actors to be chosen will be identified through a desk-review / stakeholder consultation process in the WB6 in collaboration with RYCO liaison offices and, where relevant, the Dialogue for the Futures Project.

School identification will employ similar criteria:

- Schools that applied (or expressed interest to apply) but failed under the 1st call for RYCO, particularly any that were identified during review as having good potential
- Schools in particularly isolated (mostly rural) areas, including areas that have been identified as being in higher risk of radicalization (for example through various PVE programmes); an effort will be made for geographic representativeness
- Schools that have expressed a specific interest in promoting gender-equality and inclusiveness
- Schools located in regions/municipalities where conflict has occurred or been highlighted as possible. Since many such schools may have already been supported in some ways on a national basis, the point here is to put them into a sub-regional context that expands their perspectives.
- Schools from those WB6 contracting parties that were under-represented in the first RYCO call
- Schools whose student profiles include higher proportions of minorities, including Roma

The process of school identification will be done, as for youth organizations, through a desk-review / stakeholder consultation in the WB6 in collaboration with RYCO liaison offices and, where relevant, the Dialogue for the Futures Project.

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) - In August 2018, RYCO adopted its Strategic Plan 2018-2021. The strategic intervention logic states that RYCO will contribute to improving the availability, accessibility, quality and impact of exchange, mobility and reconciliation efforts conducted principally with and for young people and those that work directly with them. RYCO will operate with the youth, social, civic, education, culture and sport sectors, and their intersections. As a result of its interventions, RYCO aims to increase the quality of regional youth cooperation, to increase youth mobility and diversify opportunities for active youth participation. RYCO will work with young people and engage them in intercultural learning and dialogue with peers from the wide-ranging diversity of communities living in their places of residence and around the region. Moreover, RYCO will work towards creating and promoting an enabling environment, whereby the public opinion increasingly favors

intercultural exchange, decreasing the level of hate speech and prejudice among young people and increase media's role in presenting positive narratives about the value of intercultural exchange.

RYCO's governance system encourages youth leadership not only in the environment it operates, but also within the work of the organization. RYCO has been involving young people in consultation processes of paramount importance for its development such as strategic planning. Thus, in 2018, RYCO organized local strategic dialogues and strategic conference which gathered representatives of youth led organizations, organizations working with youth and schools. Through grant making, RYCO serves as a mechanism for connecting young people and enables enacting of their own vision and active contribution to intercultural dialogue and reconciliation among WB6. RYCO will favor involvement of young people in the design and implementation of the proposed projects.

RYCO's programming will boost the competencies of young people and encourage their active citizenship. In its Strategic Plan 2018-2021, RYCO determines that also young people who are not organized and have no access to civil society support or intermediary structures can benefit from the opportunities that RYCO provides. This will be ensured through innovative approaches that balance the need to reduce the level of bureaucracy to a minimum, while maintaining the highest standards of accountability.

RYCO is aware of the challenges other institutions experience in supporting youth exchange and mobility with a focus on youth with fewest opportunities. Learning from the experiences of others RYCO will develop a good practice design and monitoring model to address this challenge. In addition, RYCO will take a proactive outreach approach to engage and partner organizations and initiatives that specialize in supporting the participation of such youth communities, especially those that are less well established, or which operate at the grass roots, adapting and developing from their good practice and innovations in methodology as appropriate.

In all aspects of its work, RYCO will endeavor to involve young people as co-owners of all its efforts on their behalf and in a youth friendly manner. It will be accessible for their voices to be heard at both the policy and advocacy level and in other aspects of its programming.

The expected outcome will be achieved through the implementation of diverse activities along three main outputs, and more concretely:

Through output 1, capacities of schools to access and use RYCOs resources to undertake intercultural dialogue in the WB6 will be strengthened. The project will contribute towards enhancing the regional cooperation among youth institutions (mainly schools) and increase the introduction and use of topics on intercultural learning such as peace building and conflict resolution. The project will enable sharing of best practices on inclusive education and peace building transformative pedagogies, facilitates school exchanges and increase the capacities of schools to embrace the above principles.

Through output 2, capacities of youth groups and grassroots organizations to access and use RYCOs resources to engage in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities in the WB6 will be strengthened. Also, RYCO will be supported to increase its reach out to grassroots organizations and youth in the region, and to ensure that young people with fewest opportunities have access and participate in reconciliation processes and benefit from

opportunities provided by RYCO. Empowerment of young girls will have a special focus in the activities under this component. The long effects of sexual and gender-based violence, during and after the conflict can have lasting and harmful effects. It can dissuade young girls from attending schools and not participate fully in the life of the communities. The project will enhance the important role that young women should adopt in the peacebuilding process including empowering young girls to equally participate in peace building and become decision makers and actors in all areas. The project activities will also sensitize young male actors in accepting girls as equal partners in peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes. Mainstreaming gender in trainings conducted by the project will include among other topics, codes of conduct and response to Gender Biased Violence.

Promoting tolerance and understanding within and out of marginalized groups through communication channels will help address the conflict-related issues that these groups face as a result of the tensions in society, which add up to their unfavorable discriminatory situation. It will also contribute to increasing tolerance towards groups/ethnicities seen as different further away, and thereby, contribute to peace and reconciliation.

The selection of target groups *under output 1 and 2* will follow principles of gender equality and both young men and women will be encouraged to actively participate. Successful experiences will be showcased in regional gatherings that will engage relevant actors from all sectors and institutions working with young people, including press and media, to gain support for scaled approaches or replication in order to mainstream and integrate peacebuilding approach in national policies and project interventions at national and regional level. Targeted schools, grass roots and young people will be capacitated to initiate and engage in regional activities supported by RYCO's grant facility and not only.

Through output 3, RYCOs capacities to enhance sustainable regional cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation amongst youth, through its small grants facility will be strengthened. Being a new institution and operating in a volatile environment, RYCO will be supported to strengthen its internal capacities and systems and will be enabled to achieve its mission. Considering that one of RYCO's main tools to achieve its mission is through financial support to regional projects and initiatives, its grant facility system will be upgraded and strengthened through a tailor-made approach. RYCO will be equipped with effective tools to Monitoring and Evaluation, making it possible for it to measure the impact of its interventions. Finally, RYCO will be supported with an increase of human resources, especially in view of its Monitoring and Evaluation.

✓ Through output 4, opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers across divides will be created, confidence in and dialogue with decision-makers will be enhanced, and youth capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened. Under this heading, the project will conduct youth-led action research and make available regionally comparable, youth-focused conflict analysis and evidence base on youth perceptions on sustaining peace, as well as trainings on peacebuilding, leadership and advocacy and national and regional policy consultations. Moreover, RYCO, PBF projects and other peacebuilding actors' evidence-base to engage young women and young men from diverse backgrounds to advocate for peace and social cohesion and participate in policy dialogues will be enhanced.

There is a need to empower youth to engage in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts and strengthen youth-focused conflict analysis and evidence-base on young people's perceptions

about peace and conflict issues in the Western Balkans. To address this, output 4 is centered around a regional youth perceptions action research, co-designed with and engaging young women and men from diverse backgrounds across the Western Balkans; capacity-building and networking of youth to increase confidence and collaboration, and to enable them to become actors of change in the region, as well as youth-led advocacy to influence political agendas, policy, programmatic efforts and political discourse on youth's role in sustaining peace. Output 4 places a strong emphasis on producing evidence integrated with capacity building and strengthening of youth organizations and networks as well as youth-led advocacy and the promotion of a different mindset for the next generation of policy and decision-makers.

At the same time, output 4 will address the deficit of regionally comparable and comprehensive data on youth's perceptions about security and sustaining peace. It will serve to strengthen the evidence-base for RYCO and DFF on youth perceptions on peace and security and complement the baselines chosen for the UN RYCO project. As the research and the accompanying capacity-building will put young activists from the region at the center, engaging youth in design, roll-out, and trainings on peacebuilding, leadership, conflict-sensitive research and advocacy, the process will serve to increase young actors' agency and capacity to assess and carry forward a movement for sustained peace in the region. It will catalyze new ways to engage on peacebuilding for PBF funded activities and by other actors. The process will support the advocacy, regional youth networking and youth organization capacity building goals of RYCO and the overall project. The youth perception study will also contribute to RYCO's baseline by establishing a replicable methodology to measure key aspects of the impact of RYCO and other peacebuilding initiatives over time.

Output 4 will be carried out in collaboration with universities and other research institutions and youth organizations based in the Western Balkans, thereby ensuring local ownership and sustainability. Collaboration across the three UN agencies, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF will ensure that convergences with other regional peacebuilding efforts will be established. The evidence base, trainings and consultations tied to output 4 will be used to initiate policy discussions and advocate for reform, and to find new and innovative entry points for engagement with different youth actors across the WB6, in an inclusive, sustainable and effective manner. The project will keep UN DPPA-DPO colleagues in HQ informed and via engagement with Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Western Balkans ensure linkages to the implementation of the UN's Western Balkan action plan for reconciliation and trust-building.

Gender considerations

Women were generally absent from peace processes in the Western Balkans. For example, not a single woman participated in the peace process that preceded the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995 in BiH. This marked absence of women has arguably concrete consequences for society as a whole and for women as a group and their ability to be recognized as agents of change in later processes. There were also no women in Kosovo's negotiation team in the status talks between Serbia and Kosovo, despite the reliance by women on UNSCR 1325, which had then been adopted (Haug, 2013). Men considered the status talks to be their exclusive domain and they took precedence over 'women's concerns'.

In view of the above, the achievement of gender equality remains a major challenge in WB6, despite the general existence of strong legal protections and some positive indicators. UN in WB6 builds on successes and existing policy base and focuses its interventions on transforming

gender relations more deeply, at the levels of the individual and community. The gender dimension is deemed as critical for the intercultural learning and peacebuilding activities. Therefore, gender issues will be mainstreamed in the design, implementation and evaluation of the project activities, and reflected in the budgeting of activities. Project activities will contribute to gender responsive peacemaking based on the principles of respect for human rights and dignity and in tackling the root causes of conflict to create sustainable peace. The vision of peace building and intercultural education exchanges is consistent with UN concept of rights based, child-friendly learning environments. This concept includes (among others) elements such as the realization of the rights of every child, gender sensitivity, responsiveness to diversity, the promotion of quality learning outcomes such as successful problem solving, elements captured by the inclusive education programming that UN is undertaking in the Western Balkans 6.

Innovative projects, focused on gender equality and women's empowerment with the potential for catalytic effect and peacebuilding outcomes will be supported, through activities under *output 1 and 2*.

- ✓ Under *output 4*, gender will be mainstreamed throughout the design and implementation of activities. Targeted youth researchers and activists for implementing the activities and benefiting from trainings will be selected reflecting diversity and gender balance, and partner organizations will include those that focus on promotion of gender equality, SGBV, and transitional justice. Further measures include collecting gender disaggregated data, gender-sensitive analysis of data, and consultation of stakeholders; providing gender equality and gender-sensitive peacebuilding trainings to young researchers, activists and youth organizations; supporting youth-led advocacy for gender awareness raising; and gender mainstreaming in the monitoring and evaluation stage.

Moreover, the project will include educational tools on how to address gender-based violence with and by in-school and out of school young people. Together with partners, based on evidence and best practices, UN will promote inclusive free-of discrimination practices that address reconciliation and gender-based violence.

The design of RYCOs Monitoring and Evaluation system will ensure gender disaggregation of data throughout RYCOs activities.

- b) **Project result framework**, outlining all project results, outputs, activities with indicators of progress, baselines and targets (must be gender- and age- sensitive). Use **Annex B**; no need to provide additional narrative here.

(See Annex B)

- c) Provide a **project-level 'theory of change'** – i.e. how do you expect these interventions to lead to results and why have these interventions been selected. Specify if any of these interventions are particularly risky.

(Note: Change may happen through various and diverse approaches, i.e. social cohesion may be fostered through dialogue or employment opportunities or joint management of infrastructure. The selection of which approach should depend on context-specific factors. What basic assumptions about how change will occur have driven your choice of programming approach?)

If RYCO supports sustained dialogue and joint problem solving between different groups and establishes mechanisms for reconciliation, then collaboration and trust between groups in Western Balkans is enhanced and social cohesion promoted, because different groups in the WB6 will identify common goals and realize positive change can only be achieved through collaboration and harnessing the strength of diversity.

The creation of RYCO, the issuance of the EU Western Balkan strategy and the European Commission's recommendation for the opening of accession negotiations for Albania and North Macedonia⁵¹ offers a new window of opportunity to accelerate reconciliation and social cohesion action in the Western Balkans. Enhanced dialogue and improved relations across the Western Balkans reduce the space for nationalism and extremism increases the ability of the WB6 participants to focus on intra-regional trade and cooperation and advance their prospects for joining the European Union. Joining the EU is an accelerator for achieving the SDGs, even while pursuit of SDGs – just as other European nations are doing – is a demonstration of European values and will help with EU integration.

- d) **Project implementation strategy** – explain how the project will undertake the activities to ensure most effective and efficient achievement of results, including justification for geographic zones, criteria for beneficiary selection, timing among various activities, coherence between results and any other information on implementation approach (must be gender- and age-sensitive). No need to repeat all outputs and activities from the Result Framework.

Project Outcome – Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, attitudes of tolerance and reduced prejudice and discrimination by youth – is enhanced across the Western Balkans.

Output 1: Capacities of schools (as a target group defined by RYCO) to access and use RYCO's resources to organize / undertake intercultural dialogue in the WB6, are strengthened.

The project activities will entail a series of strategies such as youth empowerment and participation, capacity building of schools and teachers, smart transfer of knowledge, among schools and education system in order to enable the schools to make best use of RYCO's resources for promoting intercultural dialogue and learning. More in detail the foreseen activities include:

Activity 1.1 - Best practices of working in peace building transformative pedagogies are documented and shared across WB6.

Using UNICEF and RYCO, networks in the WB6, a consultant/company will be hired to identify the best practices used across the region. A webinar will be organized with the WB6 to share these experiences. The mapping will be undertaken adopting gender sensitivity lenses documenting the role of gender and gender empowerment of girls in peacebuilding processes in the region. The analysis will also bring best experiences on how peacebuilding is mainstreamed and enrooted across the curricula and teaching processes against the acknowledged phenomena of using peacebuilding as a superficial and separate methodology.

⁵¹Serbia and Montenegro have opened negotiations in 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina (application to join the EU submitted in February 2016) and Kosovo (SAA entered into force in April 2016) are potential candidates.

Activity 1.2 - Methodology on peace building, conflict resolution, and intercultural dialogue developed, tested and shared.

The manual will be produced using young people opinions through digital platforms (U-Report Western Balkan platform) addressing a gap identified in many of the methodologies produced in the past, namely youth/adolescent participation. The voices of girls and boys and young adults will be heard through the use of the online platform U-report Western Balkans on what are the topics of concern to them. Experts hired to develop the methodology will rely heavily on the opinion of youth on the topics of their concern, the documentation, best practices as well as smart transfer of such experiences from other countries and regions. 80 teachers will be trained through use of online training platforms developed.

Activity 1.3 – School networking

30 schools will be supported towards networking with other schools in the region through provision of small grants and mentoring. The promotion of young people as positive actors of change in peace building processes through debates with the focus on intercultural dialogue and peacebuilding will be also supported through the small grants. The process will be documented and shared across the WB6. An equitable participation of young girls and boys alike in all the processes will be promoted.

Activity 1.4 – Study visits on intercultural learning

Two study visits will be organized among teachers and education officials to visit and reflect jointly on an advanced education system/country/project offering intercultural learning (country to be decided based on the initial mapping of good practices) A detailed report of the visits will be developed after the study visits and shared with all the WB6.

Activity 1.5 – Innovative tools in promoting regional dialogue

Innovative ideas on school exchange around intercultural learning and dialogue through use of technology are developed and piloted (eg. digital classroom etc.) Alternative models to the traditional regional workshops will be sought through use of online exchanges and forums as well as the design and implementation of a model digital classroom to be used among other issues on intercultural exchanges and dialogue among young girls and boys. A “how to use technology for intercultural exchange document “will be developed as an outcome of this component and shared with all the WB6.

Output 2: Capacities of youth groups and grassroots organizations to access and use RYCOs resources to engage in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities in the WB6, are strengthened.

RYCO will be supported across the Western Balkans to increase its reach out to grassroots organizations and youth in the region, and to ensure that young people with fewest opportunities have access to and participate in reconciliation processes and benefit from opportunities provided by RYCO, through the following activities:

Activity 2.1 - Strengthen capacities of grassroots vulnerable young people from WB6 on inclusiveness, peacebuilding, tolerance, and anti-discrimination.

The project will develop the capacities of young people from the target marginalized groups using the Training of Trainers (ToT) approach. An equal representation of girls and boys will be equipped with the tools needed to engage, understand and then address the issues that affect

personal, community and political security among young people. Moreover, a methodology for peer-to-peer learning on the youth, peace and security concept and its relevance and amplification/expansion to other youth groups and organizations unable to attend the ToT trainings, will be applied. The training methodology will focus on collaborative, interactive workshops and face-to-face sessions. The methodology will build on each context and have a specific focus on how is experienced differently by different genders and by young people from various socio-economic, ethnicity, and cultural backgrounds.

The project will organize, through youth-led networks, cross border exchanges and workshops as a tool for youth engagement in peacebuilding and reconciliation issues and generate online information that could help further raise information and knowledge sharing among young people.

Through 15 workshops, around 300 young people from the target youth groups will be empowered and their capacities strengthened using an inclusive life skills peer to peer education approach and exchanges with their peers in the sub-region to better understand realities of each other's societies and engage in regional dialogue on topics that will support them in building better and peaceful future for themselves and the communities they live in.

In BiH, Serbia and Kosovo, where the remembrance of war are stronger, dedicated workshops for girls and young women will be organized. These workshops will focus on women empowerment through peacebuilding and reconciliation approaches.

Activity 2.2 – Support (through small grants and mentoring) best innovative ideas from grassroots young people / organizations involving peers from WB6

On the other hand, these grassroots will be encouraged to come up with innovative ideas on peacebuilding and reconciliation in their communities by engaging other peers from the WB6, and implementation of 12 best ideas will be supported and shared as best practice in WB6. This process will also benefit them to strengthen their capacities in project writing, planning, implementation and M&E and better prepare them for future engagement in reconciliation initiatives with RYCO or any other peacebuilding institution, or even independently on their own within the community they live in. The project will establish an enabling environment for young people to access skills, mentors and funds needed to translate their innovative ideas and initiative proposals, developed through the interactive workshops and among their focus groups, into positive change in their communities and across borders.

Activity 2.3 - Develop a social media and TV advocacy and communications campaign featuring best practices, the knowledge, experiences, insights, human stories and emerging discourses on the role of vulnerable young people in peacebuilding and reconciliation, linked to relevant SDG targets.

The project will support development of a communication campaign that promotes tolerance, understanding and social inclusion of marginalized groups in their vicinity through peer to peer personal reach, access to and use of online tools, and other communication channels. This campaign will aim to reach around 3000 young people from the sub-region, as well as other key actors like decision-makers, national and international partners, and media. This will both address the issues these groups face as a result of the tensions in society which add up to their unfavorable discriminatory situation, and will contribute to increasing tolerance towards groups/ethnicities seen as different further away, and thereby, contribute to peace and

reconciliation. Successful experience will be showcased in two regional gatherings that will engage relevant actors from all sectors and institutions working with young people, including press and media. The latter will help in gaining support for scaled approaches or replication, and to promote mainstreaming of peacebuilding approaches in future policy making for youth and ensure sustainable youth driven interventions on peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Output 3: RYCOs institutional capacities to enhance sustainable regional cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation amongst youth, through the small grants facility are strengthened.

Being faced with the need to become operational in parallel with undertaking institutional building, RYCOs First Call for Proposals, procedure wise, was supported by international partners (mainly Peace Nexus). Yet, RYCO does not have consolidated systems and procedures regarding sub-granting and monitoring & evaluation. In addition, RYCO is faced with shortages in human resources. There is only one person per Contract Party working in the capacity of Local Branch Officer being responsible for stakeholder management and M&E of grants, on top of other organizational daily tasks. For example, the Local Branch Officer in Serbia is currently responsible for overseeing 12 grants.

In view of the above, the project will undertake the following activities to strengthen RYCOs institutional capacities to design, monitor and evaluate sub-grants.

Activity 3.1 - RYCOs Small Projects and Grants Facility will be re-designed, consolidated and operationalized in the upcoming Calls for Proposals.

Challenges and lessons learned during the first round of CIP will be analyzed and addressed. The *Design thinking/ Design for impact* approach will be placed at the center of the grant facility, enabling a better reflection of RYCOs target group needs when designing the Calls for Proposals. Procedures and templates on every step, from launch of CIP to signing of contracts with grantees will be designed and integrated within RYCOs overall administrative framework.

In order to encourage accountability, an Evaluation Plan will be established and capacities to conduct it will be built. One idea might be to have youth from other projects and/or countries or community groups peer reviews others' projects. This is in line with the very youth-led approach the project is seeking to take. Nonetheless, experts, taking on a consultative process, will decide the final approach.

Building upon the Evaluation Plan, a Knowledge Management Scheme at institutional level will be established. It will aim at collection and dissemination of information related to the experience gained from the entire project portfolio on RYCOs initiatives. The objective of the knowledge management plan will be to facilitate the flow of knowledge and experiences, leverage lessons learned from both successful and unsuccessful projects, and replicate and scale-up the good practices. RYCOs grantees will be encouraged to ensure continuous and open exchange of knowledge and lessons learned with other grantees.

Related with the above, a Communications Strategy and concrete plans will be designed, enabling the project to communicate effectively to the targeted audience. Innovative tools will be designed, efficient to reach different target groups.

Grant tracking tools (online and offline) will be introduced and incorporated within the Grant Facility.

The project will introduce *Quality Standards at RYCOs program and project level*. The adoption and implementation of Quality Standards within RYCOs programs and projects will enable the achievement of results and at the same time will enhance effectiveness and efficiency. The quality standards will be in line with UNDPs QA framework. As a result, RYCOs projects will be Strategic, Relevant, Efficient, Effective.

To assure adherence to the quality standards, RYCO programming will apply programme and project quality assurance (QA) assessments, along three stages: 1) Design and Appraisal; 2) Implementation 3) Closure.

Capacities of RYCOs staff to implement the updated Small Projects and Grants Facility and conduct Quality Assurance will be enhanced. RYCO's staff will be "accompanied" and assisted on the job through all the steps of the grant facility.

Increase RYCO's grantees' capacities to use the grant scheme: RYCOs potential beneficiaries, schools and CSOs in Western Balkans will be informed and capacitated on how to benefit from RYCOs grants. A total of 12 workshops will be organized across 6 WB contracting parties. In each WB contracting party, 2 workshops will target schools and CSOs separately. As a result of this activity, RYCO is expected to experience an increase in application numbers and diversification of applicants.

Activity 3.2 – Consolidate RYCOs Small Grants Facility with additional financial resources

A total fund of 600.000 USD will be allocated to RYCOs Small Grants facility. The main objective is to enable RYCO to increase the number of projects it will support, increase the number of beneficiaries. The fund will be disbursed through the upgraded Small Projects and Grant Facility (to be supported by this project) and the target group will be schools and youth from the WB6.

Schools, youth and youth organizations targeted in Output 1 and 2 will be eligible and encouraged to participate in the Call for Proposals. Whilst the Open Call will be open to all target groups and no positive discrimination will take place, it is believed that capacitating schools, youth and youth organizations (output 1&2) will increase their chances to be successful.

Synergy with DFF Regional Grant Scheme will be ensured, as both schemes target schools, youth and youth organizations. Both projects will be in continuous communication in this regard. The main principle behind the coordination process will be:

In cases when one organization or school presents two different interventions, synergy and complementarity will be considered, whilst in cases when the same organization or school presents the same intervention to both Grant Schemes, overlap will be ensured.

Activity 3.3 RYCOs Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system will be designed and operationalized as an essential management tool in RYCO's activities.

The objectives of the M&E system will be to track progress, improve activities, objectively verify the outcomes and impact of a RYCO's work and learn lessons that can be fed into future interventions. What will differentiate this M&E from other monitoring systems will be its

reconciliation – oriented nature, which will focus on the achievement of results that promote peace and reconciliation. Overall, the Monitoring and Evaluation will be a strategic tool in the hands of RYCO's Governing Board and Management team to enable them to assess the overall role and impact of RYCOs work, make strategic decisions, generate knowledge to support decision making.

Monitoring and Evaluation System for programs and projects: RYCO will conduct reconciliation-focused data collection in all the areas where its grants are, and even further, it will conduct data collection in non-funded areas in order to compare and start to understand its contribution and impact. Having a "reconciliation lense", the M&E system will consider three main areas: Implementation monitoring; Outcomes Monitoring and Context Monitoring.

- *Implementation monitoring* will be focused on the delivery of inputs and activities and how they will result to outputs. This aspect of monitoring will be within the direct control of RYCO as it will track the delivery of inputs through activities and projects, and its outputs. Several online and offline tools will be adapted to RYCOs context and operationalized. Since the grants are so small, it's not realistic that this gets monitored at project level. At project level, a "post-test" or "post treatment" canvassing of the participants just after the activity will be employed. This will be paired with higher-order data collection by RYCO at outcome and context level to see if the immediate shifts translate into more sustained results.
- *Outcome monitoring* will measure development benefits and behavioral changes. It will measure development benefits from projects, and the attainment of reconciliation outcomes. The positive changes resulting from various project interventions will show RYCOs degree of influence and success in changing the dynamics of sustained reconciliation.
- *Context monitoring* and the operating environment will also be equally important. External factors can affect either positively or negatively the delivery and results of RYCOs interventions. Close tracking of changes in the Western Balkans context can inform RYCOs Governing Board of appropriate reconciliation strategies. Some of the tools to be adapted and used are: Risk and Conflict analysis as well as Impact tracing tools.

A system to Monitor and Measure RYCOs Institutional Performance will be established. The Results Based Management for Institutional Effectiveness approach will be applied, based on three key interrelated management results: 1) higher quality programs; 2) greater organizational openness, agility and adaptability and 3) improved management of financial and HR. Institutional effectiveness and efficiency (management results/strategies) will be determined by measuring direct, accountable and attributable performance over which RYCO has control. Indicators for Institutional Performance Measurements will be developed and interlinked with RYCOs Strategic Plan 2019-2021.

Per each of the above, a list of indicators will be designed and used to M&E. A balanced scorecard will be designed and operationalized, as a tool to capture key indicators and measure progress in the implementation of difference RYCO components as well as overall effectiveness.

A baseline measurement and analysis will take place, upon commencement of this project. The baseline measurement will aim to analyze the dimension of reconciliation in Western Balkans.

The analysis will focus on the relationships within and between ethnic, religious and other social groups in WB, with a special focus on youth, considering the peaceful coexistence between these groups has been or is still at stake. The process of baseline measurement will consider existing methodologies referring to reconciliation and peace-building (SCORE or Youth Index), however, a tailor-made tool applying to WB context, will be designed and applied. In addition, an approach might be to create a standard short and easily implemented survey in each of the schools or communities where grants are awarded, making it comparable across cases and create a set of benchmarks against which all projects in all contracting parties. This will support with setting the project selection criteria in the approval stage. Basically, the intention to address issues captured by the indicators the project is collecting data on in the standard survey will become the selection criteria against which projects are judged. This could tie together the project selection to the results of the grants facility overall, thus enabling a smooth reporting to donors and other stakeholders and evaluate RYCO's effectiveness.

Capacities of RYCOs staff to conduct Monitoring and Evaluation will be enhanced through on the job assistance.

RYCOs institutional capacities will be enhanced through the provision of Human Resources, as follows:

1. *Administration and Finance Officer (100%)* will be funded by the project. He /She will reside in RYCOs offices and under the overall guidance of the project manager will be in charge of the following core functions:
 - Oversee the overall financial and administrative management of the project
 - Maintain complete set of books of account according to the principle of accounting and update it on daily basis
 - Prepare and submit periodic financial reports for submission through the project manager
 - Provide support to prepare annual and quarterly work plans and budgets in consultation with the project manager
 - Manage annual audit exercise, prepare audit follow-up action plans, and ensure that the action plan is implemented
 - Ensure the compliance of all the provisions of guidelines regarding personnel management, procurement, sub contract and financial management
 - Manage all correspondence related to administration and finance
 - Conduct frequent field visits for monitoring and supervision

2. *Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator (100%)* will be funded by the project. He /She will reside in RYCOs offices and be in charge of the following core functions:
 - Support the establishment of RYCOs M&E unit and system
 - Support the baseline assessment and development of indicators
 - Coordinate and implement RYCOs M&E system
 - Coordinate and supervise the work of M&E Advisors in Local Branches
 - Ensure effective mainstreaming of gender in the M&E

3. *Programme Assistant (100%)* will be funded by the UN project. He /She will reside in RYCOs offices and under the direct supervision of RYCOs Senior Programme Officer will be in charge of the following core functions
 - Support in the design of RYCOs Call for Proposals
 - Support the integration of RYCOs strategic direction into the CfPs objectives
 - Supports creation of RYCOs strategic partnerships
 - Engage in analysis and research of information on donors, preparation of substantive briefs on possible areas of cooperation;

4. *Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor for Serbia – 100%* will be funded by the UN project. He /She will reside in RYCOs offices and be in charge of the following core functions
 - Support the establishment of RYCOs M&E unit and system
 - Support the baseline assessment and development of indicators
 - Conduct M&E for RYCOs supported projects
 - Prepare analysis and monitoring reports

5. *Monitoring and Evaluation Advisors (5) – 50%* will be funded by the UN project and the other 50% will be covered by EU. One (1) M&E Advisor will be sitting in RYCOs Local Branches (Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bosnia – Herzegovina, Albania)
 - Support the establishment of RYCOs M&E unit and system
 - Support the baseline assessment and development of indicators
 - Conduct M&E for RYCOs supported projects
 - Prepare analysis and monitoring reports

6. *Communications and Visibility Officer - 100%* will be funded by the UN project. He /She will reside in RYCOs offices and be in charge of the following core functions
 - Identify, design and disseminate messages that provide relevant and timely information to the programme stakeholders and target audiences such as beneficiary communities, the public, national and local authorities, the media and development partners
 - Support the design and implementation communication plan and guidelines, manage the media strategy, including media liaison through issue of press releases and briefings.
 - Organize press conferences, media workshops to ensure that key messages are conveyed to the relevant audiences

After one year of functioning, RYCO Secretariat became aware of the need to focus on stabilizing, consolidating and institutionalizing its organizational and operational structures and systems in order to ensure the quality of its operations into the medium and long-term. Thus, RYCO developed a proposal of the new organizational structure which will be presented to RYCO Governing Board by the end of 2018. The objective is that the above human resources become permanent staff within RYCOs organizational chart. With RYCO increasing its activity and outreach in fulfilling its mandate, capacitated human resources must be ensured.

Output 4: Opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers across divides will be created, confidence in and dialogue with decision-makers will be enhanced, and youth capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened.

Under this heading, the project will conduct youth-led action research and make available regionally comparable, youth-focused conflict analysis and evidence base on youth perceptions on sustaining peace, as well as trainings on peacebuilding, leadership and advocacy and national and regional policy consultations.

Moreover, RYCO, PBF projects and other peacebuilding actors' evidence-base to engage young people from diverse backgrounds to advocate and participate in political processes to promote peace and social cohesion will be strengthened. This is all the more important with upcoming elections in the region – the activities will aim to facilitate and reinforce young people's messaging toward politicians, political parties, policy-makers and decision-makers about their priorities for future political agendas, and the changes they would like to see take place.

The project will enable youth-led peace advocacy and help shape more effective evidence-based peacebuilding that takes young people's experiences and perceptions seriously and realizes the peace potential of young people. With close collaboration between the three UN agencies, RYCO, other peacebuilding initiatives and youth in the region, this output is centered around a regional youth perception study, co-designed and engaging young women and men from diverse backgrounds across the Western Balkans; as well as advocacy to influence public and political discourse on youth's role in sustaining peace.

Recognizing that peacebuilding is a 'marathon not a sprint', it is crucial to invest now in generating a rich evidence base as well as a cadre of youth activists capacitated to continue advancing these issues. The study and surrounding advocacy will also be excellent opportunities to consolidate and examine the variety of peacebuilding initiatives in the region and strive for closer integration between them.

The perceptions study in its first iteration will also serve to inform and complement planned RYCO M&E baselines and help set the M&E framework for subsequent years. The study will give RYCO tools to initiate and participate in policy making and advocate for reform – as well as conversely, give youth organizations tools to advocate for reform that could be supported by RYCO. These steps, the decisions on how the different measures will relate to each other and how findings will be triangulated will be closely coordinated with the UN RYCO Project Manager and M&E Coordinator. In the long run, RYCO will be able to replicate the model established within the project for conducting youth-focused research to observe the development of youth perceptions across time, to help measure the impact of projects RYCO chooses to fund and to find entry points for RYCO engagement with different youth actors across the WB6 and across their activities, in an inclusive, sustainable and effective manner.

This output will support RYCO's goals through: a) establishing a baseline for future programming for RYCO including to establish more effective calls, and for the whole of UN and other peacebuilding partners; b) developing and rolling-out tailored advocacy/messaging campaigns in each of the WB6 and at regional level, again with young women and men at the center of the process, to influence public and political discourse and contribute to discussions

that will take place around upcoming elections; c) strengthening youth activists' and organizations' capacity for advocacy and d) achieving global impact and influencing global policy debate on priorities for the region, including the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, the UN Western Balkan Action Plan and the EU accession agenda, which has identified reconciliation as a core component.

Activity 4.1 Design methodology for and implement regional youth perceptions action research and analyze results.

With young people from the region at the center of the process, and with the aim of convening youth to together reflect on and identify their priorities on peace and security and the ways to address these in action, a replicable methodology for surveying youth perceptions will be designed in close collaboration with key stakeholders. In broad terms, it will identify how young people view the legacy of conflict, how it affects their experiences and their life circumstances and the way they act upon them. The survey will explore young people's perceptions on obstacles and opportunities for sustaining peace and enable initiatives that embrace young people as peace agents. It will assess how they define and view issues of security, safety, violence, gender roles and equality, conflict, reconciliation and peace, and what their views, aspirations and priorities for the future are.

The survey will be designed collaboratively with and targeting youth (ages 15-29) from diverse backgrounds (gender, ethnicity, language, religion, geography, socio-economic status, disability, education etc.) in the Western Balkan 6. During the design process, RYCO and other peacebuilding initiatives such as DFF will also be consulted to ensure a coherent approach, and the use of U-Report and the methodology developed for it in Output 1 will be explored as a complementary tool for the survey (e.g. as a thermometer and feedback mechanism, or as an advocacy tool for sourcing views on the results). Consulting the Public Pulse work in Kosovo, UNICEF MICs and other relevant surveys will also ensure complementarity and exchange of lessons learned in terms of methodology and issues to tackle in the study.

The survey will establish a way of supplying data that will inform wider RYCO activities and the design of their M&E framework. The survey will also complement the M&E baselines that are planned for this project. Moreover, it will provide evidence and conflict analysis to support and supply needed data for other peacebuilding/reconciliation initiatives owned or supported by UN agencies and other actors – by identifying which issues are prioritized and segments of youth most affected by the legacy of conflict or ongoing conflict divides, pinpointing common issues and the different layers of vulnerability and resilience young people face. The study itself will also underpin youth-led and youth-serving peace advocacy and youth peace agency as a strategy to sustaining peace that supplements existing initiatives, and feed into formulating key advocacy messages for policy-makers and implementers on youth priorities in the region.

Besides this, the aim is to establish new entry points by which youth actors and youth organizations are engaged in RYCO activities and larger peacebuilding efforts, through capacity-building on leadership and advocacy, and through the increased collaboration and networking of young women and men coming from different contexts, in the process of the perception study design and implementation. The involvement of universities and research institutes in the region will facilitate rooting the process locally and the potential of long-term sustainability.

The study will involve a mix-method survey which will be designed to take into account and reach different age groups, genders and demographics, will be rolled out in collaboration with universities, researchers, youth activists and youth organizations, who will be trained in the specifics of conflict and gender sensitivity, collecting data and research ethics. Apart from being essential for ensuring the quality of the data collection, these trainings will also form part of the overall confidence building in the region and capacity-building of youth to be actors of change. A pilot survey will be tested with a smaller target group to allow adjusting questions and ensuring the quality before rolling out on a big scale. The results will be published in agreed formats and as concise summaries that highlight the issues in an easily approachable and appealing manner and disseminated in local and regional platforms, including online, and translated into all the languages of the region.

An inception workshop will bring key stakeholders (UN agencies, RYCO, representatives of other peacebuilding initiatives such as DFF, youth representatives) together to inform major outline, the methodology and design of the youth perception action research. The study will be co-designed with expert support and in consultation with universities and research institutes, youth organizations and youth in the WB6, based on a scanning of relevant partners.

Activity 4.2 Local and regional trainings on leadership, peacebuilding, advocacy and conflict-sensitive research for young activists, to empower youth to be actors of change in the region, and to provide structured opportunities for networking across conflict divides.

In order to bring young people together and enable exchange of experiences and knowledge and offer opportunities for networking beyond the usual fault lines, as well as instigate entry points for RYCO collaboration with a variety of youth researchers, youth organizations and youth civic actors, a gender-balanced sub-regional research team that is representative of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and other identities present in the region will be established. The research team will participate in trainings on leadership, peacebuilding, conflict analysis, research and advocacy across borders, gender equality and gender-sensitive peacebuilding, as well as on the processes of action research and collecting data and will take part in various consultations for designing and validating the youth perceptions study. The trainings will be designed for the specific purposes of this activity, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, but will align with the peacebuilding methodology design and workshops outlined in outputs 1 and 2 to avoid replication of efforts.

This will involve a diversity of youth actors and activists, youth organizations, universities and research institutes who will co-create the methodology and help run the survey (while trained on data collection methods, conflict and gender sensitivity, research ethics and sensitive interview tools and techniques), as well as the diverse sub-regional research team that is able to interact with different socio-economic layers of society and reach those most vulnerable and marginalized. This activity seeks to further enhance RYCO efforts in strengthening youth organizations and aims to involve civil society actors 'beyond the usual suspects'. Moreover, the trainings for youth involved will provide an opportunity establish a Western Balkan network and to discuss with local partners (youth, youth organizations, universities and research institutes) context-specific aspects that may impact the data collection, responses and reactions that may arise and impact the interpretation of the results, and to think of ways to mitigate these.

Finally, and importantly, the design and implementation processes of the action research will be an excellent opportunity to bring key stakeholders together and examine the variety of peacebuilding initiatives in the region, to strive for closer integration between them.

Activity 4.3 National and regional youth consultations to formulate common messages for sustaining peace, enter into dialogue with political parties and decision-makers and create tools, events and products for advocacy and policy and programming impact.

The youth perceptions study will be utilized as a policy and programming tool, reinforcing the mission and results frameworks of RYCO and building demand for an enabling social and political environment oriented to reform and a positive environment for young people to engage with each other across the WB6. It will also be used to mobilize and build the capacity of young people from diverse backgrounds, including those hard-to-reach, for advocacy and as engaged citizens. The results of the youth perception study will help both identify unengaged young people, and ways to engage them starting from their own priorities and concerns. It will also create structured opportunities for youth groups to engage with one another, based on shared priorities and concerns, which in turn contributes to the broader development of the youth civic actor community, creating space and opportunities for collaboration and confidence-building.

The youth perceptions study results will be validated in consultation with young people and other key partners and stakeholders. Regional and local policy consultations will be organized to identify common messages on sustaining peace and reconciliation from young people to policy and decision-makers, strengthen regional collaboration and confidence, bring together young people, representatives of political parties and decision-makers (on national and sub-national level), disseminate and give visibility to the study, expand youth organizations' and research institutes' networks and resources, and advocate for the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The consultations will also serve as an opportunity to collectively create ideas for communication and advocacy materials, especially targeting opportunities that may arise around significant processes such as elections. These events are important for both networking and knowledge exchange within the region, and intergenerational contact and reinforcement of youth voices vis-a-vis decision-makers and those setting the political agendas in the region. In terms of timeline, close coordination with DFF will ensure a coherent and streamlined process in relation to both youth and decision-makers, in the DFF project countries.

The consultations and study launch event will also be an opportunity to review and validate the recommendations of the Missing Peace global study on youth, peace and security and reflect on key advocacy messages on sustaining peace and youth priorities for the Western Balkans to be reinforced during the project.

Importantly, young people involved in the activities, together with the local partners, will take a leading role in formulating, disseminating and advocating for the core messages for sustaining peace in the region, and thereby fomenting youth leadership.

To ensure the sustainability of the activities, youth in the WB6 will be supported via grants in designing and implementing further steps and advocacy beyond and independently from the project activities. Through this, collaboration with other youth across borders or fault lines will be encouraged.

A. Project management and coordination (4 pages max)

- a) **Recipient organizations and implementing partners** – list direct recipient organizations and their implementing partners (international and local), specifying the Convening Organization, which will coordinate the project, and providing a brief justification for the choices, based on mandate, experience, local know-how and existing capacity.

This proposed intervention will be implemented with the joint participation of three UN Organizations of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA and in close partnership with RYCO. The project log-frame provides indicative deliverables that will be further fine-tuned in relevant annual work plans over a time frame of 18 months. UNDP will be the leading UN Organization for the overall implementation and coordination of the joint project. Each participating UN Organization will implement activities and outputs as defined in the respective joint work plans agreed for the respective roles and responsibilities in line with their mandate and expertise.

UNDP will focus its work on strengthening RYCOs institutional capacities to design, monitor and evaluate sub grants, and on leading in providing technical expertise and support to the project activities on youth-led peacebuilding and on the global agendas for Youth, Peace and Security and Sustaining Peace, particularly with regards youth-led action research, strengthening the evidence-base on youth perceptions and the capacity of youth organizations in leadership, peacebuilding and advocacy. Special attention will be paid to the incorporation of the Monitoring and Evaluation and Quality Assurance standards across RYCOs activities and the projects it supports. Active in 166 countries around the world, UNDP has an extensive expertise in addressing the above topics. The UNDP 'Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating for Development Results' supports in becoming more results-oriented and improve focus on development changes and real improvements in people's lives. Also, UNDP has a Micro-Finance Policy for the management of micro capital grants, supporting activities such as:

- i) strengthening the institutional capacity of local NGOs and CBOs
- ii) supporting community-based self-help initiatives, which may include income-generating activities designed to alleviate poverty
- iii) promoting advocacy activities and networking between civil society organizations (CSOs)
- iv) government and donors; and supporting NGOs and CBOs involved with local environmental protection and poverty eradication activities.

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries through country programs and UNICEF national committees. UNICEF works with and for disadvantaged children and adolescents in 21 countries and territories across Europe.

UNICEF has a presence and active programs in education in all the Western Balkan 6 part of this proposal being engaged at national, sub-national and community level –engaging adolescents and youth through schools, youth centers, child rights councils, integrated services

UNICEF works with children and adolescents, which are the most excluded from participation mechanisms and has programs and technical assistance to address these barriers. The

interventions developed through this project will be designed taking into consideration the wealth of knowledge coming from UNICEF experience working in Peace Building initiatives and new methodologies used successfully from UNICEF in the region such as UPSHIFT (used to promote youth in identification of problems in their communities, schools etc) teach them in creating solutions and be capable of modelling and delivering products and services to address these issues and U-report promoting youth participation. The interventions will also take stock of RYCO's particular needs as defined by RYCO previous assessments. One of the main objectives of the initiatives undertaken will be to expand RYCO school networks and develop a series of tools in intercultural exchanges through education for RYCO to use in the future. More concretely, the support provided to RYCO through these inputs will entail:

UNFPA, building on its comparative advantages in working with young key populations, youth participation, peer-to-peer, advocacy, strengthening of youth civil society, life-skills and comprehensive sexuality education, will contribute in increasing the number of grassroots out-of-school youth organizations that use RYCO's small grants to apply an inclusive life skills program to peacebuilding and conflict resolution, as well as mobilizing youth-led and youth-serving organizations and networks and building their capacity to engage in the Youth Perception Study, and evidence based advocacy and to participate as political actors and engaged citizens to sustain peace. UNFPA will draw on its technical expertise, network among youth-led and youth-serving organizations and long-standing engagement with National Statistics Offices and research entities to support the implementation of the youth perception study. UNFPA will place emphasis on ensuring the engagement of marginalized young people. UNFPA is deeply committed to working to support Governments at the national and local levels in collaboration with the UN, civil society partners, and more importantly, with young people themselves. UNFPA's priorities for the implementation of peace building and reconciliation is:

- 1) Invest in young people's capacities, agency and leadership, through:
 - continuing its engagement with and direct support to youth networks and organizations for their work on development issues, humanitarian affairs and peace and security issues;
 - prioritizing youth organizations' capacity and structural strengthening, so that organizations are equipped to receive funds, implement well-designed programmes, monitor and evaluate their work, and conduct evidence-based advocacy for sustaining peace based on the Youth Perception Study;
- 2) Support the WB6 address the structural barriers limiting youth participation in peace, through:
 - ensuring access to value-based education, including life-skills education for the most marginalized youth in particular young women and adolescent girls, as part of a comprehensive package of interventions;
 - facilitating young people's participation in human rights mechanisms;
 - advocating for young people to be engaged as key stakeholders in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding processes;
- 3) Establish partnerships and collaborative action, where youth are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace at the national, regional and global, through:

- acting as a convener for broad youth peace-building coalitions at national and regional levels;
 - building on existing initiatives, expand the scope of engagement with young people by bringing relevant actors and new partners, etc.;
 - continuing UNFPA full engagement in strategic partnerships with peacebuilding actors, UN and non-UN on peace-building agenda;
 - ensuring continued emphasis on young people in humanitarian and crisis settings.
- b) **Project management and coordination** – present the project implementation team, including positions and roles and explanation of which positions are to be funded by the project (to which percentage). Explain project coordination and oversight arrangements. Fill out project implementation readiness checklist in **Annex C**.

UN Project Manager (100%) will be funded by the project. He/She will reside in RYCO headquarters offices and be in charge of the following core functions:

Project management

- Be responsible for day-to-day project implementation and coordination of activities
- Ensure activities/initiatives are not only undertaken as part of the implementation plan, but also embed due social and gender considerations
- Identify and cultivate partnering relationships and promote an environment for synergies with other initiatives
- Ensure stakeholder coordination within the project as well as within the project areas is established and functioning and feeds back to project decision-making levels
- Ensure the project provides timely and appropriate delivery, meeting partners and beneficiaries satisfaction and being consistent with plans, objectives, rules, and regulations
- Assure that all contractual obligations are adhered to and ensure that implementation meets project targets
- Ensure coordination amongst three implementing agencies, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and RYCO

Technical inputs

- Identify and analyze policy issues of high impact through appropriate capacities
- Based on project results as well as experiences and lessons gained from other national / international initiatives, develop information briefs for consideration by UN, RYCO, Governments and civil society representatives

Reporting

- Prepare and submit, regular progress reports (Quarterly, Annual, Interim, etc.) to UN and PBF, according to reporting requirements
- Submit required analytical progress or technical reports as required

Communication:

- Develop close working relationships with all project participants and stakeholders at national and regional levels to establish a shared vision of the project and achieve objectives

To support the project through substantive and technical inputs on youth-led peacebuilding and the Youth, Peace and Security and Sustaining Peace agendas, and to lead in the conceptualization and design of activities in **output 4**, a *Regional Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Specialist (100%)* will be funded by the project. The Regional YPS Specialist will report to the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster lead at UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub and will provide **overall project advisory, technical and advocacy support**. The YPS Specialist will work in close collaboration with the UN Project Manager to coordinate the activities of output 4 and partnership building and to ensure quality assurance. The YPS Specialist will also communicate with the M&E Coordinator to ensure dissemination of information and convergences between their work.

Management and Coordination

The management and coordination arrangements will follow the guidelines of the UNCT Guidance Note on Joint Programmes.

The Joint Programme Steering Committee (JP SC) will provide strategic direction and oversight and will have decision-making authority. The JP SC will be co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and RYCO Secretary General and composed of the representatives of Heads of UN Agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA) and RYCO Secretariat. The JP SC will meet for the first time after one month of JP inception to adopt terms of reference and agree on how often the SC will be meeting.

The Joint Project Manager, hosted by the Convening Agency, will serve as the secretary during the SC meetings. The Steering Committee provides guidance to the project manager and the team and will be responsible for the resolution of the implementation issues, is required. The SC reviews and endorses annual workplans, implementation progress and annual reports. The JP SC approves any substantial changes in the budgets or activities.

The Convening Agency is responsible for coordinating the programmatic aspects and accountable to JP SC for the delivery and achievement of results. Each Participating UN Organization has programmatic and financial responsibility for the funds disbursed to it.

The three Participating UN Organizations (UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA) have agreed the funds assigned to RYCO will be channeled for the programme through UNDP.

The Joint Project Manager, will be responsible for day-to-day project implementation and coordination of activities, ensuring implementation of activities/initiatives are not only undertaken as part of the implementation plan, but also embed due social and gender considerations. In cooperation with UN Agencies will ensure stakeholder coordination within the project as well as within the project areas which are established and functioning and feeds back to project decision-making levels.

The Project Manager will report to the Steering Committee on programme delivery, meetings with partners and beneficiaries' satisfaction and ensures that implementation is consistent with

plans, objectives, rules, and regulations. The project manager will inform and seek JP SC approval on any substantial budget revisions and activities that go beyond the minimal threshold from the initial approved budget.

As the implementation of the project and specifically output 4 will require technical and substantive support on a regional level, this will be provided through a full-time staff position for a regional Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Specialist reporting to UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub. The YPS Specialist will provide substantive and technical support for the overall project, lead the design and substantive content of output 4 and support the implementation and coordination of output 4. S/he will provide advisory support to the UN Project Manager, the RYCO M&E Coordinator and recruited staff and consultants working on output 4 and will ensure that the activities are implemented in line with global youth policies, UN Youth Strategy, conflict and gender sensitivity principles. S/he will also identify programmatic overlaps, gaps and opportunities, especially in relation to mainstreaming the YPS agenda in peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in the region and coordinate the strategic inputs and recommendations of the Advisory Board for output 4.

An Advisory Board for output 4 consisting of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF regional representatives and other identified key stakeholders and advisors will ensure expertise of each organization enriches the process in terms of methodology and networks, provision of support to the UN Project Manager through inputting on overall strategic direction in line with organizational messages and priorities, while also ensuring ultimate ownership and visibility for each partner.

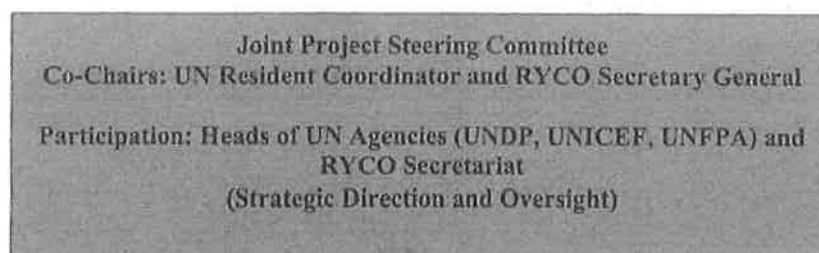
A cooperation with the Dialogue for the Future (DFF) Regional project has been already established during the design phase. However, considering both projects have a similar objective and target group, coordination will be sought throughout the implementation life.

Therefore, it is proposed to both projects assign 1 representative to have a seat in the Steering Committee of the other project, as an observer. In principle, this idea is accepted by both projects, whilst the technicalities for its materialization will be detailed at a second stage.

Moreover, criteria for the selection of youth and youth organizations will be shared between two teams and identified partners will be cross-checked to have a complementary list of youth and youth organizations that both projects will aim to reach and work with, to ensure a higher outreach. Finally, there will be coordination to ensure that convergences between DFF baseline survey, MICs and Public Pulse surveys (and other) and the youth perception action research in output 4 will be pinpointed, and overlaps avoided. DFF will be invited to participate in the inception of the research and following consultations to ensure expertise and knowledge between the two projects are shared.

Cooperation and synergies with DFF BiH project will also take place in the measuring Outcome Indicators as 2 OI will be similar in both projects.

Governance Architecture



UNDP Convening Agency
Joint Project Manager
RYCO team

- c) **Risk management** – assess the level of risk for project success (low, medium and high) and provide a list of major project specific risks and how they will be managed, including the approach to updating risks and making project adjustments. Include any
- d)

Activities

- e) Do No Harm issues and project mitigation.

Risk	Likelihood of Occurrence	Impact of Risk (low,	Mitigation
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	(low, medium, high)	medium, high)	
Complex intergovernmental structure of RYCO's governing board might pose challenges in implementation of certain activities	Low	High	RYCO has informed the potential cooperation with UN to the Governing Board and the latter has indicated support. UNFPA, through its representative in Albania, sits in RYCOs Advisory Board.
Low interest of beneficiaries to participate in activities	Low	High	Consolidate networks of UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP will be used to ensure proper participation of target groups (schools, marginalized groups etc). For research and advocacy activities, youth-led and participatory approaches and diverse and representative partners will ensure both access to varied youth groups and their interest in participation.
Unfavorable and misused media reporting and messaging for youth perception study results and events in Western Balkans and RYCOs work	Low	High	In close cooperation with RYCO, engage in continuous communication with media actors to ensure they understand the objectives of the project; maintaining various channels of communication/outreach to the public including social media outlets Encourage highlighting youth voices and intergenerational dialogue in advocacy materials and events, create opportunities for politicians and decision-makers and youth to have a dialogue about the results and recommendations.
Inter-cultural dialogue activities, peacebuilding trainings, research and advocacy supported through the project touch on potentially sensitive topics and disestablish the	Medium	High	Throughout the project, emphasize the support of inter-cultural dialogue as a process whilst maintaining a clear neutral stance with regards to the content

participation of targeted groups			For peacebuilding trainings and research and advocacy activities, separate modules on conflict and gender sensitivity will be given to key implementing partners to enable dealing with potential challenges. Consultations will be held with stakeholders to establish unified messages and one youth vision for the region.
Overlap with other donor funded reconciliation initiatives or partners supporting RYCO	Low	High	Continuous coordination with other donors active in the peace building/ reconciliation in Western Balkans will take place. Continuous coordination with other actors supporting RYCO and its target groups, provide greater visibility; and together with other donors and actors increase impact collectively.
Time limits for conducting and analyzing the results of the youth perceptions survey and implementing subsequent advocacy activities.	Medium	High	<p>The research will be built on previous UN experiences in conducting surveys in multiple locations simultaneously, and dedicated staff will be assigned for the project to take charge of implementing the activities.</p> <p>Close collaboration with RYCO and other projects will be made to ensure tight coordination and planning. Activities will be rolled out in a decentralized manner through local research institutes and youth organizations, allowing for parallel implementation.</p> <p>The research will be conducted in a phased manner as to allow for revising target groups and focus and maximize the use of time to get a satisfactory result. A pilot will ensure that the data collected is focused and will expedite analysis.</p> <p>Advocacy and messaging will</p>

			be thought of from the start so as to be prepared for the launch of the survey results.
Force Majeure (e.g. act of nature) impacts Project activities	Low	High	The Project will have a flexible approach, including reprogramming of activities to respond to the emerging needs.

- f) **Monitoring and evaluation** – What will be the M&E approach for the project, including M&E expertise in the project team and main means and timing of collecting data? Include a break-down of M&E budget that the project is putting aside, including for collection of baseline and endline data for indicators and independent evaluation, and an approximate M&E timeline. Ensure at least 5-7% of the project budget is set aside for M&E activities.

The M&E will be conducted in line with the UN Evaluation Group Norms and Standards and UN PBF specific M&E and reporting guidelines. The M&E will be a continuous feature in the project implementation process. M&E requirements are observed during the planning phase including identification actions needed in order to establish project and programme baselines and for the impact assessment and final evaluation.

Day to day monitoring will be performed by the UN implementation team and implementation monitoring will be performed by the Project Steering Committee (please see Project Management Arrangements and Coordination Section). External evaluators will conduct a final evaluation in line with practices and generic ToR elaborated by the UN PBF. Consolidated reporting will be submitted to PBF twice a year, in line with PBSO templates and timelines. Moreover, a single End of Project report will be submitted within three months of operational project completion.

Considering the nature of the UN project interventions, some baseline values have identified through knowledge in UN WB6 and through RYCO itself. Baseline and target values have been indicated in the Results Framework, which will be the basis for the project monitoring. For missing baselines and targets, the project will design an M&E Plan during the first 2 months inclusive of methodology, responsible agency, time line and budget.

UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA will be responsible for the design and implementation of the M&E activity. With regard to measuring Outcome Indicators, 2 surveys (one at the beginning of the project and one upon project completion) will take place. The surveys will have a regional approach; however, data will be disaggregated also by each WB6, thus allowing for individual analysis to take place. The youth perceptions study in output 4 will complement and feed into the baselines for the project.

A lump sum of 7.3 % (\$150,000) of total budget is allocated to M&E, to be detailed in the first 2 months.

- g) **Project exit strategy/ sustainability** – Briefly explain the project's exit strategy to ensure that the project can be wrapped up at the end of the project duration, either through sustainability measures, agreements with other donors for follow-up funding or end of activities which do not need further support. If support from other donors is expected, explain what the project will do to try to ensure this support from the start.

This first phase of immediate response support aims to accompany RYCO in its rapid scaling-up to deliver quality programmes that can begin to affect social cohesion and trust across the sub-region. The theory of change for sustainability rests on the foundation that RYCO has already political and *initial* financial support from the Governments of the sub-region as well as the EU. However, this initial financial good risk being lost quickly if RYCO cannot oversee quality projects by reaching critical populations and demonstrate progress through a solid M&E system. Moreover, 50% of the M&E system is already planned to be supported by the EU, a good indicator for future support. The UN also foresees seeking alternative support during the first 18 months for longer-term accompaniment and institution-building with RYCO.

B. Project budget

Please provide a brief justification for the proposed budget, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project. Proposed budget for all projects must include funds for independent evaluation. Proposed budget for projects involving non-UN direct recipients must include funds for independent audit.

Fill out two tables in the Excel budget **Annex D**.

Annex A.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

The UNDP MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

AA Functions

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved "Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds" (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations' headquarters.);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any costs extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
30 April	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
	<i>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</i>

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent's website (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Annex A.2: Project Administrative arrangements for Non-UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient Non-United Nations Organization:

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent. Such funds will be administered by each recipient in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures.

The Recipient Non-United Nations Organization will have full responsibility for ensuring that the Activity is implemented in accordance with the signed Project Document;

In the event of a financial review, audit or evaluation recommended by PBSO, the cost of such activity should be included in the project budget;

Ensure professional management of the Activity, including performance monitoring and reporting activities in accordance with PBSO guidelines.

Ensure compliance with the Financing Agreement and relevant applicable clauses in the Fund MOU.

Reporting:

Each Receipt will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Bi-annual project progress report	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

PBF allocation if the context requires it		
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Financial reports and timeline

Timeline	Event
28 February	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
30 April	Report Q1 expenses (January to March)
31 July	Report Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Report Q3 expenses (January to September)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided at the quarter following the project financial closure</i>	

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250 at the closure of the project would have to been refunded and a notification sent to the Administrative Agent, no later than three months (31 March) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the Recipient Non-UN Recipient Organization will be determined in accordance with applicable policies and procedures defined by the PBSO.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent website (<http://www.mptf.undp.org>)

Final Project Audit for non-UN recipient organization projects

An independent project audit will be requested by the end of the project. The audit report needs to be attached to the final narrative project report. The cost of such activity must be included in the project budget.

Special Provisions regarding Financing of Terrorism

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, the Participants are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. Similarly, all Recipient Organizations recognize their obligation to comply with any applicable sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council. Each of the Recipient Organizations will use all reasonable efforts to ensure that the funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement are not used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime. If, during the term of this agreement, a Recipient Organization determines that there are credible allegations that funds transferred to it in accordance with this agreement have been used to provide support or assistance to individuals or entities associated with terrorism as designated by any UN Security Council sanctions regime it will as soon as it becomes aware

of it inform the head of PBSO, the Administrative Agent and the donor(s) and, in consultation with the donors as appropriate, determine an appropriate response.

Non-UN recipient organization (NUNO) eligibility:

In order to be declared eligible to receive PBF funds directly, NUNOs must be assessed as technically, financially and legally sound by the PBF and its agent, the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO). Prior to submitting a finalized project document, it is the responsibility of each NUNO to liaise with PBSO and MPTFO and provide all the necessary documents (see below) to demonstrate that all the criteria have been fulfilled and to be declared as eligible for direct PBF funds.

The NUNO must provide (in a timely fashion, ensuring PBSO and MPTFO have sufficient time to review the package) the documentation demonstrating that the NUNO:

- Has previously received funding from the UN, the PBF, or any of the contributors to the PBF, in the country of project implementation
- Has a current valid registration as a non-profit, tax exempt organization with a social based mission in both the country where headquarter is located and in country of project implementation for the duration of the proposed grant. (NOTE: If registration is done on an annual basis in the country, the organization must have the current registration and obtain renewals for the duration of the project, in order to receive subsequent funding tranches)
- Produces an annual report that includes the proposed country for the grant
- Commissions audited financial statements, available for the last two years, including the auditor opinion letter. The financial statements should include the legal organization that will sign the agreement (and oversee the country of implementation, if applicable) as well as the activities of the country of implementation. (NOTE: If these are not available for the country of proposed project implementation, the CSO will also need to provide the latest two audit reports for a program or project-based audit in country.) The letter from the auditor should also state whether the auditor firm is part of the nationally qualified audit firms.
- Demonstrates an annual budget in the country of proposed project implementation for the previous two calendar years, which is at least twice the annualized budget sought from PBF for the project⁵²
- Demonstrates at least 3 years of experience in the country where grant is sought
- Provides a clear explanation of the CSO's legal structure, including the specific entity which will enter into the legal agreement with the MPTF-O for the PBF grant.

⁵²Annualized PBF project budget is obtained by dividing the PBF project budget by the number of project duration months and multiplying by 12.

Annex B: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated data)

<p>Project Outcome</p> <p>Social Cohesion and Reconciliation – as measured by increasing embracing of diversity, attitudes of tolerance and reduced prejudice and discrimination by youth is enhanced across the Western Balkans.</p>		<p>Outcome Indicator 1: Percentage of youth (male and female) that indicate positive attitudes towards other ethnic groups in the region.³³</p> <p>Baseline (2018-9): xxx % (to be measured at baseline survey)</p> <p>Target (2020): 20 percentage points increase by end of project</p> <p>Outcome Indicator 2: Percentage of youth (male and female) that have been the object of discriminatory behavior in the past 4 months.</p> <p>Baseline (2018-9): xxx % (to be measured at baseline survey)</p> <p>Target (2020): 20 percentage points decrease by end of project</p>	<p>Findings of the pre-post survey commissioned by the programme.</p> <p>Final Programme Evaluation Report.</p>	<p>Baseline survey with representative sample from all participating WB6 conducted by the 6th month of the programme implementation.</p> <p>End-line survey conducted in the last 2 months of the programme implementation.</p> <p>Final Evaluation of the programme will be conducted in the last 2 months of the programme implementation.</p>
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³³ All data reported by the project will be sex disaggregated

	<p>Output 1 Capacities of targeted schools to organize/undertake intercultural dialogue in the WB6, are strengthened</p> <p>List of activities under this output:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document and share best practices in working with inclusive education and peace building transformative pedagogies in the region; 2. Develop, in a participatory way, and apply a methodology on peacebuilding, conflict resolution and intercultural dialogue in schools via U-report platform; 3. Schools receive mentoring and small grants for networking at regional level. 4. Organize study visits to reflect together an advanced model of an education system offering intercultural learning; 5. Innovative ideas (using technology and virtual space) around intercultural learning and dialogue are tested and shared. 	<p>Output Indicator 1.1 % of targeted schools which initiated at least 1 new initiative to foster intercultural dialogue by end of the project</p> <p>Baseline: N/A Target: 50%</p>	<p>School Reports, project reports</p>	<p>Methodology for peacebuilding developed, Documentation developed Mentoring activities implemented</p>
	<p>Output 2 Capacities of youth groups and grassroots organizations to access and use RYCOs resources to engage in peacebuilding and social cohesion activities in the WB6, are strengthened.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 2.1 % of targeted grassroots youth groups that are awarded through RYCO and other peacebuilding regional initiatives</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (start of project) Target: 50% (end of project)</p>	<p>Reports from the project</p>	

	<p>List of activities under this Output:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize 15 workshops with total 300 youth from WB6 on inclusiveness, peacebuilding, tolerance, anti-discrimination and no hate speech 2. Support (through small grants and mentoring) engagement of 12 grassroots organizations (inclusive of Roma/Egyptians and LGBTI) in exchange initiatives in WB6; 3. Document and disseminate best practices in peacebuilding and social cohesion across the WB6; 4. Organize 2 sub-regional activities to share experiences on the impact of inclusive life skills program to peacebuilding and conflict resolution; 5. Develop a social media and TV advocacy and communications campaign featuring the knowledge, experiences, insights, human stories and emerging discourses on the role of the youth in peacebuilding and reconciliation, integrating SDG-related elements 	<p>Output Indicator 2.2 % of new self- initiatives initiated by the targeted grassroots youth groups in WB6 by end of project</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (start of project) Target: 25% (end of project)</p> <p>Output Indicator 2.3 Number of youth in WB6 reached through Peer to Peer approach (ToT) for peacebuilding</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (start of project) Target: 600 (end of project)</p>		

	<p>Output 3</p> <p>RYCOs institutional capacities to enhance sustainable regional cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation amongst youth, through the small grants facility, are strengthened.</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen and operationalize RYCOs Small Grants Facility; 2. Consolidate RYCOs Small Grants Facility with additional financial resources (600,000 USD); 3. Design RYCOs monitoring and evaluation system and strengthen institutional capacities to conduct M&E. 	<p>Output Indicator 3.1 % of youth, youth organizations and schools in WB stating that RYCO is successful in achieving its mission.</p> <p>Baseline: to be defined upon project commencement Target: increase of 20%</p> <p>Output Indicator 3.2 Time to review and approve the proposals (from launch – contract award) within the CIP is decreased</p> <p>Baseline: 7 months (during 1st CIP) Target: Reduced by 20%</p> <p>Output Indicator 3.3 Number of grants' monitoring visits taking place during the implementation time -frame increased</p> <p>Baseline: 1 monitoring visit per grant Target: at least 2 monitoring visits per each grant</p>	<p>Finding from the pre- post survey commissioned by the programme</p> <p>Feedback from potential grantees</p> <p>Project Evaluation Report</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Output 4</p> <p>Opportunities for youth from diverse backgrounds to identify common peace and security priorities through action research and enter in constructive dialogue with their peers across divides will be created, confidence in and dialogue with decision-makers will be enhanced, and youth capacities to become actors for change will be strengthened.</p> <p>List of activities under this Output:</p>	<p>Output Indicator 4.1 Number of regional youth perceptions surveys on sustaining peace</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.2 Number of trainings and consultations with young civic actors in the region</p> <p>Baseline: 0 trainings, 0 consultations</p>	<p>Survey data</p> <p>Meeting and event reports</p> <p>Entry- and exit capacity development surveys filled by trained youth</p> <p>Feedback from partnering youth</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Design methodology for and implement regional youth perceptions action research and analyze results; 2. Local and regional trainings on leadership, peacebuilding, advocacy and conflict-sensitive research for young activists to empower youth to be actors of change in the region, and to provide structured opportunities for networking across conflict divides; 3. National and regional youth consultations to formulate common messages for sustaining peace, enter into dialogue with political parties and decision-makers and create tools, events and products for advocacy and policy and programming impact. 	<p>Target: 6 local trainings (1 per WB6), 1 regional training, 2 regional consultations</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.2 Number of young civic actors (disaggregated by age, gender, geography, ethnicity) from WB6 with increased knowledge and skills for peacebuilding, advocacy, constructive dialogue and conflict and gender-sensitive analysis</p> <p>Baseline: n/a Target: 70</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.3 Number of advocacy tools and products</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 2</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.3 Number of regional consultations bringing together youth to identify common messages and to create advocacy tools for policy and programming impact.</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 1</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.3 Number of regional, national or sub-national meetings and consultations with young people and political parties/policy-makers/decision-makers to discuss policy recommendations</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 7</p>	<p>activists, youth organizations, universities and research institutes</p> <p>Project Evaluation Report</p>	
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		<p>Output Indicator 4.3 Total number of young people (disaggregated by age, gender, geography, ethnicity) from the WB6 meaningfully engage in and contribute to identification of peace and security priorities and policy messages for the region through project activities.</p> <p>Baseline: n/a Target: 600</p> <p>Output Indicator 4.3 Number of follow-up activities across borders or fault lines for advocacy on sustaining peace</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 6</p>		
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Annex C: Checklist of project implementation readiness

1. Have all implementing partners been identified?	x	
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise?		Main profiles and role for each staff has been defined.
3. Have project sites been identified?	X	
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project?	X	RYCO has informed its governing board, which is composed of Ministers of Education and Youth and Youth Representatives from WB6
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done?	x	Analysis conducted on the results of RYCOs 1 st Call for Proposals is taken as a reference point when designing some of the interventions.
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified?		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?		N/A
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?		Clear arrangements have been made on project implementation between UN Agencies (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF) and RYCO
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?	N/A	

Annex D: Detailed and UNDG budgets (attached Excel sheet)