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Building social cohesion: Be the change!

WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH AT THE 2023 EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT

“The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today’s younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.”

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Fact: Youth play a vital role as agents of change. Their active civic participation is crucial for strengthening the democracy and building a culture of peace. But how can young people gather in order to exchange ideas, aspirations and work towards bringing positive changes in their communities? We have the answer for you!

The European Youth Event (EYE) will be happening during 9th and 10th of June at the premises of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Its aim is to bring together young people from all over Europe to share and shape their ideas on Europe’s future.

And here comes the exciting news! **Western Balkans Youth Partners Group of UNICEF Europe and Central Asia will be there to host the workshop “Building social cohesion: Be the change!”**. This interactive workshop co-designed and co-created by youth for youth, will explore two interrelated themes: social cohesion and inclusion.

This is an amazing opportunity for all young people to learn more, get equipped with new skills and take on leadership for social cohesion in their communities.

The future is youth so join us and create your own plan of action to bring as positive impact and enforce social cohesion in your community. Be a changemaker because a cohesive society starts with you(th)! Our hope is that the EYE's spirit of embracing diversity and mass youth participation will spread across Europe in the aftermath of the event.

By: Ema Mečaj
WBYPG Member



Western Balkans Young Partners Group



LINKING YOUNG LEADERS ACROSS THE REGION

In 2021, the youth from the Western Balkans attended the Friends of Europe's EU-Western Balkans Summit, where we had the chance to represent our peers from the region and exchange opinions and perspectives with decision-makers at the national, regional, and EU levels.

After a productive collaboration, UNICEF's Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and the youth from the region decided to continue the partnership within the newly established framework of the Western Balkans Young Partners Group (WBYPG).

Ever since, the WBYPG members have shared their ideas, expertise, and competencies to represent young people from the Western Balkans and contribute to the occasions such as the European Year of Youth (2022) and the European Youth Event (EYE) (2023).

The platform provides an invaluable opportunity to share ideas, connect young people from the region and encourages us to be a voice for positive change. Beyond linking young people from the Western Balkans, the WBYPG also offers us a chance to connect with the youth from the rest of Europe, demonstrating that we can act as a bridge across the continent and unitedly be a generator of progress.

By: Andrijana Paljušević
WBYPG Member

