



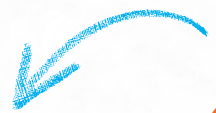
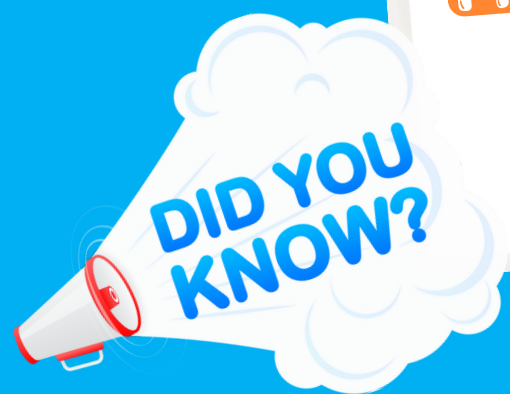
# UNICEF youth @ the European Youth Event



The EYE (European Youth Event) brings together at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and online thousands of young people from all over the European Union and the world, to share and shape their ideas on Europe's future. The Western Balkans Young Partners Group (WBYPG) had an excellent opportunity to attend the EYE2023. Wanna know more about their experience?

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## INTERNATIONAL DAY



World Friendship Day, also known as International Day of Friendship takes place on 30th July.

**TURN ME OVER!**

# WRAP UP OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT 2023

Text and Photo by: Teodora Ruzic  
WBYPG Member

Global youth are eager to raise their voices and drive positive change for themselves and the world. Events like EYE provide them with a platform to express their ideas and work towards a better future. The Western Balkans Young Partners Group (WBYPG) had a remarkable opportunity to participate in EYE at the European Parliament, an experience that holds immense significance. Regardless of their country's size or origin, every young person deserves the right to be heard and contribute their ideas. This unique chance enabled the youth of the Western Balkans to come together, share their visions, and strive to improve their communities.

By presenting our ideas to EU audiences, we can try and make the Western Balkans an even better place for young people to live in. Having an opportunity like that for young people of the Western Balkans is very important, and that's why we are cherishing it: it was such a profound, cohesive, and collaborative process to create a positive narrative about the Western Balkans that we, Western Balkans youth, established together.



## REFLECTIONS ON THE "BE THE CHANGE" WORKSHOP

In April 2023, less than two months before the European Youth Event, a group of six young people, each from a different Western Balkans country, came together to co-facilitate and co-design a workshop titled "Building social cohesion: Be the Change". This opportunity arose within the framework of the Western Balkans Youth Partners Group, an initiative of the UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office.

Excitement filled us as we worked out all the workshop details, eager to deliver our message: that young people can drive social cohesion in their communities. Our focus was on social inclusion/integration and social cohesion. During the event, the participants enthusiastically joined us, and their satisfaction with the planned activities and agenda brought us immense joy. Their positive feedback revealed that the topics we covered truly resonated and contributed to their knowledge and perspectives.

Personally, being part of this amazing team and having the chance to express my ideas fills me with gratitude. Facilitating this workshop was a new experience for most of us, and I believe we successfully achieved our goals!

Author: Olsa Domi  
WBYPG Member





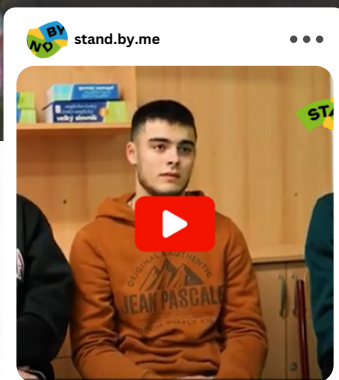
As we approach the **International Day of Friendship on July 30**, we are excited to celebrate the spirit of camaraderie and solidarity that unites young people across the world. On this occasion, we are proud to spotlight the remarkable **Stand By Me programme, a collaboration between UNICEF and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**, which exemplifies the essence of true friendship and support.

In September, the Stand By Me programme will mark one year of implementation, and we couldn't be prouder of its achievements. This initiative has reached an impressive 695 young people, benefiting 1,439 members of various communities. Through the dedication of these young participants, over 4,000 hours of volunteering and social action have been provided to support peers who fled the war in Ukraine, showcasing the power of youth in making a positive impact.

[VISIT THE STAND BY ME HUB](#)

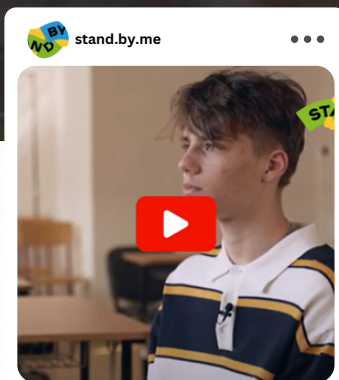
## CHECK OUT OUR LATEST VIDEOS

Join us in spreading the joy of friendship on this special day as we share heartwarming stories from the Stand By Me programme. Young people from different countries have come together, forming strong bonds and creating unforgettable memories through the power of friendship.



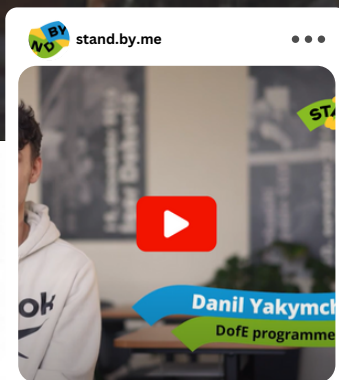
[stand.by.me](#)

Watch this inspiring short film featuring Ukrainian youth on the Award Stand By Me programme. Listen to their stories, learnings, and how local buddies have helped them integrate into the community.



[stand.by.me](#) Slovakia

Meet Andrii from Ukraine. He joined the Award's Stand By Me buddy programme in Slovakia, where he found an incredible Slovak buddy. They've become great friends, and his buddy has helped him settle into life and learn the local language.



[stand.by.me](#) Ukraine Stand By Me

Danil, a Ukrainian young person, shares his experience with the Stand By Me buddy programme. He's loving the local culture, spending time with classmates outside school, and exploring new activities like playing the piano and computer programming.



[stand.by.me](#) Czech Republic

Check out this heartwarming video! Award participants in Czech Republic are volunteering for the Stand By Me "buddy programme," supporting Ukrainian youth during their stay in neighboring countries. Together, they've formed strong bonds through activities like boxing, football, and mechanics.

