

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI CHAPTER I: ALBANIA YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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1.1. TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

The Republic of Albania is one of the youngest countries of all European states. Throughout its 25 years of democracy, Albania has not yet adopted a law on youth. Therefore there is no legal age definition of youth. The National Institute of Statistics, based on research and statistical demands, refers to youth as 15 to 29 years old.

Based on the [General Census of Population and Housing](#) undertaken by the Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Albania (INSTAT), the age group from 15 to 29 constitutes 24% of the overall population, numbering 704 297 people. Based on the study "[Youth in Albania: Challenges in changing times](#)", undertaken by INSTAT and supported by UNFPA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, young people are defined as the age group from 15 to 29 years.

The most important document on youth policy is the [National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020](#). This plan has been adopted by defining youth as 15 to 29 years old. Exceptions are made in the day-to-day work of public institutions working with youth, sometimes defining it as the age group from 15 to 30 years.

[The Albanian Constitution](#) does not mention youth in any of its articles. The legal age for electoral voting and candidacy based on the [Electoral Code of Albania](#) is 18.

The [Albanian Criminal Law](#) defines, under Article 12, the age for criminal liability as 14 years old and the age for criminal offence as 16 years old.

The National Employment Service, in its Programme for Promotion of Employment, adopted by Decision No. 199 of 11.01.2012 of the Council of Ministers, defined youth as the age group from 16 to 25 years old.

1.2. NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

The Republic of Albania does not have a national law on youth. In 2015 Albania adopted, by Decision of the Council of Ministers, the National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020 making it the only legal act regulating the implementation of youth activities at the local and national level.

After the general elections of 2013, several debates were started in relation to the initiation of a consultation with the civil society and relative stakeholders to start working on the law.

1.3. NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

The main document promoting youth policy in Albania is the National Youth Action Plan (NYAP) 2015-2020 (Plani Kombëtar i Veprimit Për Rininë 2015-2020), proposed by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth and adopted by Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 383 of 6.5.2015. The NYAP is in accordance with the [National Strategy for Development and Integration 2014-2020](#).

This document is the third National Youth Strategy adopted by the Albanian Government. The first, adopted in 2003, was named the National Youth Strategy (Strategjia Kombëtare e Rinisë) and the second was the National Youth Strategy 2007-2013 (Strategjia Kombëtare e Rinisë 2007-2013). The NYAP was developed in close co-operation with the Olof Palme Centre and supported by UNFPA Albania

Country Office. Compared to its predecessor, the NYAP consists of concrete activities, each of them containing indicators, budget costs, responsible entities and time frames. The first two strategies were mainly drafted as recommendations. The idea behind this action plan is to build a concrete and measurable document to improve youth quality of life and enhance their status through the creation of more opportunities and to develop and coordinate cross-sectoral youth policies in education, employment, health, culture, as well as increasing full youth participation in society and decision making.¹

The NYAP is a cross-sectoral plan, engaging many stakeholders and institutions. The development of this document went through several phases with the participation of many actors and stakeholders. Initially, a Prime Ministerial Order was issued to establish an inter-ministerial working group responsible for the co-ordination, development and implementation, and follow-up of the NYAP. The group was composed of representatives from line ministries at the level of deputy ministers. Then, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY), in co-operation with important stakeholders, organised a series of national consultation meetings with young people from universities and representatives from various youth organisations and civil society. Discussions in these meetings focused on strategic objectives and collecting thoughts and opinions of direct beneficiaries of this plan.² Throughout consultations all over the country, the plan managed to reach over 12 000 young people, students, and representatives of civil society.³

The NYAP is composed of six general objectives including all the main areas of youth issues:

1. Youth promotion and participation in democratic processes / decision making
2. Youth employment promotion through effective labour market policy
3. Health, sport and environment
4. Youth education
5. Social protection
6. Culture and voluntarism

Each general objective is composed of Specific Objectives (SO), a total of 29, and each SO is composed by activities. Objectives are also completed with the relevant indicators (qualitative and quantitative) and a detailed costing for each activity.⁴ This action plan, unlike the one before (National Youth Strategy 2007-2013), has a complete costing for each activity. The budget of its activity is divided into two parts: 1) state budget; and 2) uncovered costs. This facilitates the process of implementation for each activity. The state budget has been calculated by taking into consideration the mid-term budgetary programmes (MTBPs) of the line ministries involved in this plan for the 2015-2017 period. For some of the activities, donor budgets have been taken into consideration for the implementation of the NYAP. In addition, an approximate calculation has been undertaken for all other activities, which complement the objectives of this plan; although they have not been allocated as financial resources in the MTBPs of the line ministries, they have been categorised under uncovered funding that could seek donors in the future.⁵

1. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 9.

2. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 7.

3. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 4.

4. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 10.

5. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 10.

The MSWY is the main actor in managing and monitoring the implementation of the NYAP. In order to be fully implemented, the NYAP has foreseen: 1) monitoring; 2) evaluation; and 3) reporting. The MSWY has created an internal group that co-ordinates quarterly and reports with the inter-ministerial group established with the other institutions involved in the process.

For activities in which the MSWY is the main partner, monitoring is carried out directly by the relevant MSWY structures. For activities where this ministry is a supporting partner, monitoring is carried out indirectly through field visits, data collection from partners and relevant reporting. Line ministries and other agencies (state and foreign) that are component parts of this plan are responsible for the achievement of the relevant objectives (under their mandate) foreseen in the Action Plan.⁶

According to the plan, monitoring at the national level is carried out by the Regional Youth Centres in co-operation with regional agencies and other institutions engaged in the plan.

Compared to the monitoring process, the evaluation of NYAP is carried out yearly, aiming to identify how effective the implementation of activities was, and whether the plan's main and specific objectives were successfully achieved, and above all to verify whether there were any impacts at local and national levels.⁷

The MSWY is responsible for developing the periodic report to be issued on a quarterly and annual basis. The data collected is co-ordinated by Regional Youth Centres, which periodically report to the MSWY.

The annual report is shared with the inter-ministerial group, the civil society and the public.

1.4. YOUTH POLICY DECISION MAKING

The MSWY is the designated institution for creating and monitoring the implementation of youth policies in the Republic of Albania. The MSWY is also responsible for social policy and youth unemployment. Before 2013, the responsible ministry was the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports. After the general elections, youth was integrated into the former Ministry of Labour.

Youth issues are not only restricted to the MSWY. [The Ministry of Education and Sports](#) is responsible for the area of formal education and the [Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Entrepreneurship](#) is responsible for youth entrepreneurship. Other ministries involved with youth are the [Ministry of Justice](#) (juvenile delinquency), the [Ministry of Health](#) (youth health), the [State Minister for Innovation and Public Administration](#), the [Ministry of Culture](#) and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

The main parliamentary committee dealing with youth issues is the [Committee for Labour, Social Issues and Health](#).

The directory responsible for youth policy is the Directory for Co-ordination of Youth Policies (DCYP) inside the MSWY. This directory is composed of a Director and four specialists and it is dependent on the General Directory for Social Policies. The DCYP is responsible for the implementation of the NYAP, the youth budget allocated to the ministry and is the contact point for Erasmus + projects.

6. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 58.

7. National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, p. 59.

On June 2014 ([Fletroja Zyrtare e Republikës së Shqipërisë nr. 92, datë 19 Qershor 2014](#)), the Council of Ministers decided to create the National Youth Service (NYS) (Shërbimi Kombëtar për Rininë), a dependent institution of the MSWY and responsible for implementing youth policies. Its creation is also part of the activities mentioned under General Objective I of the NYAP.

The mission of the NYS is to ensure the support and inclusiveness of youth in social and public life by:

1. implementing youth policies and programmes drafted by the responsible ministries for youth policies;
2. monitoring and co-working with the Regional Youth Centres.

The NYS is composed of a General Directory (GD) and Regional Youth Centres (RYCs). The GD itself is composed of two sectors: 1) Programming; and 2) Financing and Supporting Services. Up to 2016 the MSWY had established three RYCs, in Tirana, Vlora and Korça. Based on the NYAP, the MSWY will establish 12 RYCs by 2020. The RYCs are composed of four staff each (a director and three specialists).

The NYS has an independent budget which covers only operational costs of the institution. For the implementation of activities and projects the NYS has to work closely with donors.

Since the Administrative Reform, legally finalised in 2014, the Republic of Albania is composed of 61 municipalities. The Municipality of Tirana is one of the few having a directory dedicated to youth. The Municipality of Tirana has started work on compiling the Youth Strategy for the city.

1.5. CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

According to the statistics mentioned in 1.1, young people comprise 24% of the overall population of Albania. This figure shows the importance and necessity of cross-sectoral co-operation between the main actors of national governance. The current youth strategy is compiled by keeping in mind the principle of decentralisation and assigning to respective ministries the duties and activities that each has to undertake in order to achieve a successful implementation of the NYAP.

The legal structure of the NYAP is based on the order of the Prime Minister No. 204, dated 25.08.2014, “On the establishment of the inter-ministerial working group responsible for the coordination, development and implementation and follow-up of the national youth action plan 2014-2020, in the framework of the National Strategy for Development and Integration 2014-2020”. This order not only established the basis for the drafting of the NYAP, but also secured the implementation (evaluation and monitoring) of the document. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth serves as the main coordinator of the plan. The other line ministries which closely helped in the development of the NYAS and are responsible for its implementation are: the [Ministry of State for Local Affairs](#); the [Ministry of State for Innovation and Public Administration](#); the [Ministry of Interior](#); the [Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Enterprise](#); the [Ministry of Education and Sports](#); the [Ministry of Culture](#); the [Ministry of Health](#); the [Ministry of Finance](#); the [Ministry of European Integration](#); the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and the [Ministry](#)

[of Urban Development.](#)

The NYAP has developed detailed tables for each activity, specifying the responsible institutions and the share of their engagement. This mechanism also serves for the monitoring and reporting of implemented activities. The Directory for Coordination of Youth Policy inside the MSWY is the contact point and the designated directory to require from each ministry mentioned in the NYAP the detailed fulfilment of their talks. All the data gathered are then reflected in the annual reporting of the NYAP. The line ministries mentioned in the NYAP each have selected representatives to the inter-ministerial group established by order of the Prime Minister. The inter-ministerial group, headed by the MSWY, is responsible for the implementation of the NYAP.

Youth is also mentioned, but not specifically categorised, as a target group in other important strategies such as the National Action Plan for LGBTI 2016-2020 or the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptian people in the Republic of Albania 2016-2020, adopted by the MSWY. Both strategies require close co-operation between the MSWY and the Ministry of Education and Sports on improving school curriculum for young people. The collaboration of these two ministries in the implementation of these strategies is seen as a crucial point.

In 2015, Albania adopted the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS), an advisory body close to the Prime Minister's Office and responsible for securing co-operation between state institutions and civil society organisations, in order to increase transparency in public decision making, through better engagement of civil society in the process. The NCCS is composed of 25 members of which 12 are ministries represented by deputy ministers and 12 are elected representatives by civil society, while the last member is the National Economic Council. The Minister of Social Welfare and Youth is the head of the NCCS. Youth organisations are represented in the council under three main categories divided by their mission.

Cross-sectoral co-operation in the field of youth is also identified in the implementation of several memorandums of understanding and international agreements. MSWY is in close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the implementation of concrete activities. Detailed information on these matters is given in section 1.8.

1.6. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

The National Youth Action Plan (NYAP) 2015-2020 is the common product of a unifying process of collecting data and expertise by national and international actors active in youth policy.

The NYAP is based on up-to-date and comprehensive studies identifying the most urgent and pressing issues that young people encounter in their day-to-day life.

These studies underline the main challenges faced by youngsters in recent years in Albania. Based on these researches, the MSWY was able to draft a detailed action plan, including specific activities aiming to resolve and improve the quality of life of young people.

Studies used during the drafting of the NYAP are:

- [Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Q.1.2012-Q.2.2014;](#)

- [Albanian Youth 2011](#);⁸
- [Civil Society Index for Albania 2010](#);⁹
- [Population and housing census 2011](#).

The above-mentioned studies and researches not only helped in identifying the current situation, challenges and needs of young people, but also helped categorise them in the prime pillars of the NYAP.

Bearing in mind that Albania does not have an institutionalised mechanism for evidence-based youth policy, an important study undertaken in the field of youth is “Youth in Albania: Challenging in changing times” by INSTAT, UNFPA Albania and SDC, in 2015. The 2011 Population and Housing Census provided the backbone of the analysis.¹⁰ This report aims to provide an assessment of the living situation of Albanian youth, covering the population in the age range of 15 to 29 years. This life stage marks a period of critical experiences and events, including sexuality, completion of education, the transition from school to the labour market and that into marriage and family formation. Behaviours and decisions involved in these experiences and events often pose challenges to young people, socially, economically and emotionally.¹¹

Even though there is a shortage of systemised youth research, the DCYP serves both as a contact point for gathering information on current on-going studies and as a source of providing information. Albania still suffers from the lack of a systematic database and mapping of youth-related studies and projects. Researches on youth are still mainly undertaken by national youth organisations or international entities operating in Albania. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in Tirana is one of the organisations that have contributed the most. The study is undertaken every two years and provides the public with a full picture of present youth issues.

1.7. FUNDING YOUTH POLICY

The parliamentary elections of 2013 signalled a turning point for youth in Albania. The main changes were to the structure of responsibilities and budget provisions. In 2013 there was no budget allocated to youth. After the elections, a shift of responsibilities between ministries took place, appointing youth to the ministry dealing with social policy. The budget allocated to youth is not summarised in one single budget line, but is the summary of the several objectives envisaged by the DCYP. Every year the DCYP drafts the objectives for youth along with costing for each of them. The MSWY publishes [Monitoring Reports](#) every three months, making public all the expenses foreseen by each directory in the beginning of the financial year.

In 2015, the government allocated to the General Directory for Social Policy at the MSWY a budget of approximately €766 801 (104 000 000 Albanian lek (ALL)). This budget includes all expenses related to youth in the MSWY, such as salaries, taxes, maintenance, investments in the field of youth, activities etc. Included in the budget is also the operational cost of the National Youth Service.

8. Albanian Youth 2011, “Between Present Hopes and Future Insecurities”, Alba Çela, Tidita Fshazi, Arbjan Mazniku, Geron Kmaberi, Jonida Smaja, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Tirana 2011.

9. Civil Society Index for Albania – In search of citizens and impact, IDM, CIVICUS and UNDP Albania, Tirana, 2010.

10. “Youth in Albania: Challenging in changing times”, p. 9.

In 2016, the budget allocated to youth was approximately €313 403 (ALL 42 500 000). Except operational costs included in the above-mentioned amount, the MSWY agreed to use this budget to fund the Youth Calendar organised to celebrate Albanian National Youth Day. For two years in a row the MSWY has undertaken a Youth Calendar based on the anniversary of the National Youth Day on 8 December. In 2015 the calendar and its activities were funded by external donors. This year, the MSWY, together with the National Youth Service, implemented the Youth Calendar “26 Days of Activities for the 26th Anniversary of the National Youth Day”. The calendar is composed of conferences, awareness campaigns, painting exhibitions, volunteering actions, info sessions etc.

Based on the NYAP, one of the obligations of the MSWY is to build 12 regional youth centres by 2020. Therefore, in 2015 and 2016, a budget was allocated (included in the total amount mentioned above) for the construction of three regional youth centres per year. This budget was included under investment lines. In 2015, the MSWY managed to build and reconstruct three Regional Youth Centres, in Tirana, Vlora and Korça.

Albania is also a partner country in the European Union [Erasmus+ Youth Programme](#). According to this status, Albania can only partake in certain actions under Erasmus+, subject to specific criteria or conditions. The Albanian Government pays an annual fee for its participation in the programme. In order to facilitate the application to the programme, a National Erasmus+ Office in Albania has been established.

[The SALTO SEE Resource Centre](#) works within the Erasmus+ Youth Programme, promoting co-operation between Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme countries and the programme’s neighbouring partner countries in the Western Balkan region. The centre promotes and aims to increase co-operation in the region by offering volunteering services, capacity building etc. The contact point for Albania of Salto Youth is the [Beyond Barriers Association](#) and the [Youth in Free Initiative](#).

1.8. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

The Republic of Albania has signed several bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding (MUs) with EU and non-EU countries. Most of the agreements were signed on cultural and education collaboration, indirectly tackling youth. Bilateral co-operation has been undertaken to strengthen the relationship between the countries and to increase the level of practical co-operation. Albania has signed bilateral agreements on youth with Saudi Arabia; the Czech Republic; Kosovo;¹² Serbia; Austria; Montenegro etc.

The two most important MUs in the field of youth are with Kosovo (2015) and the Republic of Serbia (2014). Albania and Kosovo have worked closely together in order to create a joint youth calendar. In June 2016, Albania and Kosovo jointly opened the “National Internship Programme 2016”, encouraging young graduates to have a three-month internship in public administration institutions. The call was also open to young Albanians living or studying abroad. In July 2016 the MSWY and the Ministry of Diaspora in Kosovo organised the mutual summer camp “Summer School

12. This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC Resolution 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

for Young Public Administrators” with around 250 young interns, in order to further promote the programme.

This activity was only a first step towards the implementation of the MU between the two countries. The MU aims to compile a joint youth calendar and a joint network of Albanian youngsters living inside and outside of the two countries’ territories. Albania and Kosovo have often organised joint activities and events promoting and strengthening the co-operation between the two.

Albania and Serbia signed an MU in the field of youth in November 2014, encouraged by the spirit of understanding and co-operation of both countries in the context of regional initiatives.¹³ This MU aims to promote the spirit of recognition and co-operation between the youth of the two countries by drafting joint programmes for the recognition of the values and cultural traditions of the two countries.¹⁴

The MU was the starting point for several successful activities organised under its framework. Inspired by the Franco-German Youth Office, the MSWY of Albania and the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Serbia undertook the first youth exchange organised by public institutions named “Intercultural Youth Dialogue in the Digital Era”. The exchange was organised in Tirana and Belgrade and beneficiaries were more than 40 young people who had the opportunity to exchange ideas, good practices and experiences with their fellows in Serbia. The OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission in Serbia (OMS) financially supported the exchange. Based on the positive impact received during its first year of implementation, OMS in collaboration with OSCE in Albania and the two Ministries of Youth reorganised the exchange in 2016 by enlarging its scope and products. In 2016, the 24 youngsters had the opportunity to be part of the project “Enhancing regional connectivity among Serbia and Albanian youth actors”. The first part of the training [on the use of digital skills to promote OSCE values](#) was successfully conducted in Durres, Albania in September 2016. The second phase of the training, in Serbia, is mainly focused on project cycle management. This project will not only give the opportunity to young Serbians and Albanians to travel and exchange cultures but also to financially support some of the projects proposed by the participants through small grants. The MU between Albania and Serbia also aims to finalise the process of recognitions of university diplomas between the countries.

Prior to the signing of the MU, Albania and Serbia stressed the importance of youth regional co-operation during the operation of the first Western Balkan Summit in Berlin, 2014 (later called the “Berlin Process”). The summit did not place youth as a main priority in its first conception. During the summit the Albanian and Serbian prime ministers initiated the idea of having a regional youth office with the aim of enhancing connectivity of young people between Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”. The Berlin Process helped in making youth issues as one of the main priorities of the Western Balkan 6 for the forthcoming years. The Western Balkan Summit held in Vienna (2015) and the Western Balkan Summit in Paris (2016) marked an important milestone for youth policy. On 4 July 2016, during the Paris Summit, the prime ministers of the Western Balkan 6 signed the Agreement on the establishment of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office (RYCO). Until Paris, a working group composed of representatives from responsible bodies on youth policies and civil society from the

13. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Council of Ministers of The Public of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Youth Cooperation, p. 1.

14. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Council of Ministers of The Public of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on Youth Cooperation, pp. 1-2.

Western Balkan 6 worked on compiling the main documents needed to establish RYCO. RYCO itself was inspired by the successful experience of the Franco-German Youth Office, which also served as a moderator and facilitator during the entire establishment process. The office aims to strengthen co-operation in the region by acknowledging the common history and culture of the contracting parties and promoting mobility and European values, fighting xenophobia etc. RYCO will accomplish its mission by organising bilateral and multilateral youth exchanges between the contracting parties. RYCO's Secretariat was unanimously voted to be located in Tirana. The office is expected to be functional by March 2017.

In 2016, the Franco-German Youth Office expanded its partner countries in their South-eastern European Initiative by including Albania. During 2016, the National Youth Service served as partner organisation in two youth exchanges financed by the Franco-German Youth Office.

In November 2015, the Western Balkan 6 signed the agreement for the establishment of the Western Balkan Fund (WBF). Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" signed the agreement. The establishment of this common fund aims at financing small and medium-sized projects in fields such as education, culture, environment, youth co-operation, cross-border co-operation, etc. The Fund's headquarters will be located in Tirana.¹⁵

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth has had successful collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

UNFPA has funded and co-funded important documents relating to youth such as the NYAP and the study Youth in Albania: Challenging in changing times. UNDP partnered with the MSWY in one of their most successful programmes on youth self-employment, aiming to assist financially and through trainings young entrepreneurs in Albania.

UNFPA and UNDP were both partners of the MSWY in the organisation of:

- The summer camp "Summer School for Young Public Administrators";
- Youth Campaign "6 Objectives in 6 Months".

The summer camp was a joint organisation together with the OSCE Presence in Albania, GIZ and private donors. The OSCE has also constantly supported the exchange programme between Albania and Serbia.

The Youth Campaign "6 Objectives in 6 Months" was a 6-month long campaign launched by the NYS in order to promote and implement the activities of the NYAP.

Albania has been partnering with the Council of Europe for several projects. The Council of Europe mentions youth in its [Albania: Programmatic Co-operation Document 2015-2017](#) which aims to support the development and implementation of open, evidence-based and inclusive youth policy and the participation of young people in its definition and implementation.¹⁶ The Directory for Coordination of Youth Policy serves as a contact point for the [No Hate Speech Campaign](#), launched by the Council of Europe in 2012, which aims to combat online racism and

15. www.punetejashtme.gov.al/en/press-office/news/agreement-on-the-establishment-in-tirana-of-western-balkans-fund.

16. Albania: Programmatic Co-operation Document 2015-2017, p. 21.

discrimination by mobilising young people and youth organisations to recognise and act against these human rights violations.¹⁷

Albania is part of several international boards, conferences and campaigns which aim to increase collaboration with important youth actors.

1.9. CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

Taking into consideration that Albania adopted the NYAP in 2015, no debates for amendments or adoption of new strategies are foreseen in the near future. Anyhow, Albania does not have a specific law on youth. Several debates have been pushed by the civil society to oblige the MSWY to start working on the law. Regardless, no concrete steps are undertaking towards this matter.

RYCO is acting as main actor on youth in the Western Balkans. One issue to be considered pressing is the selection of the youth representatives for the Governing Board. Bearing in mind that the youth representative will hold the position for four years, it is of high importance to have a transparent and fair selection.

17. www.coe.int/en/web/no-hate-campaign/about-the-campaigns