

Working Plan Proposal for the Working Group tasked to elaborate proposals concerning the mission, structure, activities and financing of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans

Elaborated by the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO), in
cooperation with members of the Fact-Finding Group

October 2015

During the Western Balkans Summit in Vienna, the 27.8.2015, the Prime Ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have signed a "Joint Declaration on the establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans", in which they declare that they have agreed to "create the Regional Youth Cooperation Office of the Western Balkans, as a regionally-owned structure that leads and coordinates youth cooperation in our region", aiming "to promote the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the youth in our region". In order to establish this structure, the Prime Ministers declare that they have agreed to "task relevant institutions of the participants to develop, in close collaboration with the Working Group on regional youth cooperation concrete proposals for the mission, structure, activities and financing of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, to be finalized by 1 March 2016.", also stating that "the Franco-German Youth Office will provide the Working Group with technical assistance".

On the basis of this Declaration, the governments of Albania and Serbia have sent, beginning of October 2015, a letter to invite the governments of the WB6-Participants nominate two persons for the future Working Group, one representative from Youth Ministry/Directorate for Youth / National Agency for Youth, and one representative from Youth organizations.

The WG will consist of 12 members (one representative from Youth Ministry/Directorate for Youth / National Agency for Youth, and one representative from Youth organizations, for each of the WB6-Participants). The moderation/facilitation of the working process will be in the hands of the Franco-German Youth Office, as proposed in the Joint Declaration from the 27.8.2015. The moderation/facilitation team will consist of three persons (Frank Morawietz, Nicolas Moll, Bujar Luma) The Joint Declaration from 27.8.2015 has set as deadline for the Working Group the 1st March 2016, in order to develop concrete proposals for the mission, structure, activities and financing of the RYCO. Concretely the WG should aim to deliver until the end of this period the following documents / proposals:

- Statute of the future RYCO (legal basis)
- Organigram of the future RYCO (structure of the office, number of employees, etc.)
- Definition of the mission, the values, and the activity fields / programs of the RYCO
- A financing plan in order to finance the RYCO for the next five years

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In order to realize its tasks, four meetings of the Working Group are scheduled to take place before 1st of March 2015, with a first meeting taking place from 23 to 27.11.2015, and then three more meetings in the three following months. For the locations of the four meetings, they should mainly take place within the Western Balkans, in order to underline the ownership of the RYCO, but we propose that the first meeting end of November should take place in Berlin. This follows a proposal of Mr. Kuka, Ambassador of Albania in Berlin: The idea is to organize, during this first meeting, a meeting with the Ambassadors of the WB6-Participants, in order to underline the WB6-regional support for this process and to give a larger visibility to this support. The three following meetings should take place in capitals of the WB6-participants.

General structure of the working process:

The first meeting will be dedicated to team-building, getting all Working Group members on the same level of information and agreeing on internal working procedure of the group. During the second meeting the group will work on the four working areas (mission, structure, activities, financing), with help of external experts, and agree on the big outlines concerning these four working areas. Between the second and the third meeting, draft documents related to these four working areas will be produced, which will be discussed at the third meeting. Until the fourth meeting will take place the finalization of the documents, which then will be transmitted to the governments of the WB6-Participants.

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1. Agenda proposal for the first meeting of the Working Group

23-27. November 2015: First meeting of the Working Group for the establishment of RYCO / Kickoff-meeting, Berlin

See separate document

2. Proposal for the organization of the following meetings

After 1st meeting: Identification by OFAJ of consultant(s) who will elaborate the draft documents for the four working areas.

14.-18.12. 2015 / Tirana / Second meeting:

Main content: Discussion and decision on the big lines and of different specific aspects for the four working areas, together with external experts who have experience in these four areas regarding international youth exchange. At the end of this second meeting the group should have agreed on the big outlines and various aspects concerning these four working areas.

Between second and third meeting: Production of draft documents for the four working areas. The drafts should be delivered one week before the fourth meeting, so that the members of the WG have time to read them and to consult with their governments / other youth organizations.

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25-29.1.2016/ Sarajevo / Third meeting:

During this meeting the draft documents concerning the working areas will be presented ; the WG will discuss in detail about these drafts, in presence of a focus group which will give additional feedback. At the end of this fourth meeting, the consultant(s)/experts(s) working on the draft should know about all the points they should modify for the final drafts.

Between third and fourth meeting: Finalization of draft-documents for the four working areas

15-19.2.2016 / Belgrade / Fourth meeting:

Presentation of the previsional final drafts, discussion about them, integration of last modifications and finalization of the documents. At the end of this meeting, the documents should be so far finalized that they can be transmitted to the governments of the WB6-Participants.

Between November 2015 and February 2016: national consultations and dialogue should take place within each WB6-Participant, in order to insure visibility of RYCO and the working process. This can be organized in form of a public event, a conference, etc ; the format and date should be decided within each country

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