

## **RYCO Activities**

(a proposal to form a part of the Guidelines for Applicants of RYCO)

### **1. Scope of activities**

1.1 RYCO will support youth projects that aim at, and contribute to:

- The promotion of diversity and democratic values
- Enhancing sustainable regional cooperation, and establishing new relations amongst young people in the Western Balkans region
- Fostering reconciliation and constructive approaches to remembrance
- Intercultural learning
- Increasing regional mobility
- Social inclusion and promotion of employability of young people
- Promoting the European spirit of cooperation, understanding, and tolerance
- Active citizenship and participation in decision-making processes by young people

1.2. RYCO will NOT support or encourage projects, which aim and/or contribute to:

- The promotion of particular ideological stances, including confession, political orientation, or any other group which is deemed to be in conflict with the values and vision of RYCO
- The promotion of income generating interests outside of philanthropy, except for the provision of goods, works and services as part of project activities, and/or include corporate advertising except for RYCO supported project visibility purposes

### **2. Programmes of RYCO**

2.1. The scopes of programmes RYCO will support fall under four domains:

- i) Participation and Activism – this programme will enhance and contribute to the development of active citizenship, participation in the decision-making processes and volunteering by young people.
- ii) Education, Research and Science – this programme will support exchanges between primary and secondary pupils, university students, young scientists and researchers. This includes exchanges in non-formal education and youth workers as well as young professionals, entrepreneurs, vocational school students, trainers and VETs.
- iii) Culture – this programme will support joint activities and coproduction in fields of arts and culture
- iv) Sports - this programme will support joint activities in the field of amateur sports.

2.2. Exchanges can take place either as *individual exchanges* through internships, fellowships, trainings, apprenticeships etc., or *group exchanges* such as study-visits, seminars, workshops etc. Exceptionally, RYCO can also offer stipends to individuals whose actions are in-line with the RYCO mission and vision.

### **3. Eligibility criteria for RYCO applicants:**

3.1. Eligible applicants for RYCO funding for individual and group exchanges are:

- Civil society organisations with a mission of dealing with, engaging with and/or empowering youth, or youth questions as expressed in their statute
- Civil society organisations (such as student organisations, human rights organisations, scout associations, etc.)
- Non-formal groups of young people with support of a registered legal entity

- Educational institutions such as schools, colleges and universities
- Research institutions
- Media outlets – printed, online, radio or TV (youth-led, or focusing on youth issues as described in ‘scope of activities’)
- Museums and galleries
- Individuals (e.g. writers, journalists, historians, artists, researchers etc.)with support of a registered legal entity
- Institutions and organisations dealing with youth social care and marginalised groups of youth

3.2. Organisations who cannot apply, but can participate:

- Youth branches of political parties
- Religious communities
- Public administration bodies (Including governments, ministries, agencies, local and regional authorities etc.)
- Youth branches of trade unions

**4. Eligibility criteria for projects**

4.1. The essential aim of RYCO is to promote and facilitate exchanges amongst eligible applicants and partners within RYCO signatories without prejudice.

4.2. At time of applying all applicants are expected to have legal personality in the RYCO signatory where they are applying, and will submit their legal documents only once for the first application. The applicant shall be registered for at least one year upon submitting the project proposal.

4.3. Partner agreement(s) will be required for each project, and would be submitted along with the application. In case of a non-formal group applying for a project, it must have administrative support by a legal entity, as described in the ‘who can apply’ section.

4.4. For group exchanges, a meeting of the staff coordinating the project from all partner organisations will be required prior to the commencement of project activities.

*RYCO definition of ‘youth’*

4.5 The European Commission usually defines youth as persons aged between 15 and 29, inclusive. Although the target group of RYCO are persons aged between 15 and 29 years old, projects including other age groups will be considered at the discretion of the Proposal Evaluation Committee.

*Number of RYCO signatories per project*

4.6. All exchange projects will have participants from a minimum of two RYCO signatories per project. Exchange activities with participants from three or more RYCO signatories will be encouraged.

4.7. Physical meetings will take place in at least one signatory. Physical meetings in more than one signatory will be encouraged.

4.8. Exchange programmes can also include partners and participants outside the RYCO signatories, provided that the number of participants is at least equal, or greater from Western Balkans 6 participants, and that at least half the activities are in the Western Balkans 6 participants of any particular project.

4.9. Every RYCO signatory shall be encouraged to propose and implement projects with all other RYCO signatories.

*Application deadlines and duration of projects*

4.10. Duration of project activities depends on the type of project and the kind of financing available. For individual exchange projects, a minimum duration of the exchange visit is a week, while a maximum 1year.

With respect to group exchanges the project activities will last between 3 months and 30 months.

In case of multiannual projects, reporting deadline is one month after the end of the budget year of the project. Final reporting for all projects is submitted within 2 months after the end of the project activities.

4.11. There is a possibility for multiannual projects to be accepted, which would be provisionally approved for a multi-annual period, and subject to re-approval after submission and approval of end of year reports.

4.12. For individual and group exchanges RYCO will open two cross-thematic calls for proposals per year. Calls for proposals should be open for at least 30 days. For projects commencing in January the call for proposals should end in October the year before. For projects commencing in June the call for proposal should end in March.

4.13. A continuously open call for proposals will be available for stipends to individuals, and will be coordinated by local branches of RYCO.

***5 Languages of RYCO***

5.1. The official language of RYCO is English

5.2. All applications, publications, reports and official documents shall be in English.

5.3. Visibility materials, toolkits, and promotional materials can be made available in local languages of the RYCO signatories if the Secretariat deems them to be necessary.

***6. Capacity building and quality assurance***

6.1. RYCO Secretariat will have an annual budget for, and organise staff trainings and team building activities.

6.2. As part of capacity building and quality assurance measures, RYCO Secretariat will organise a Training for trainers programme for organisers of individual and group exchange programmes. The trainings will seek to engage participants from RYCO signatories proportionally.

6.3. The training of trainers programme will facilitate the creation of a pool of trainers and build capacity for potential applicants.

6.4. For implementation of their projects, applicants and partner organisations will be encouraged to use trainers who have been certified by RYCO through the training of trainers programme. This will ensure project quality and reduce the risk of using trainers that are not in line with the mission and vision of RYCO.