

AGREEMENT ON
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
‘REGIONAL YOUTH COOPERATION OFFICE’

BETWEEN (THE GOVERNMENTS OF):

ALBANIA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

KOSOVO*¹

MACEDONIA

MONTENEGRO AND,

SERBIA

Preamble

The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (hereafter: RYCO) is created on an understanding that we, in the region, share many similarities in our histories and have a clear interest in cooperating and creating stable societies that build trust amongst peoples and ensure better livelihoods in the region.

The Agreement on the Establishment of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (hereafter ‘Agreement’) follows onto the objectives set-out as part of the ‘Berlin Process’, and based on the ‘Joint Declaration on the establishment of the regional Youth Cooperation Office in the Western Balkans’ (hereafter ‘Declaration’) signed on 27th August 2015 at the Conference on Western Balkans in Vienna, Austria, by the Prime Ministers of the Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

This Agreement, with its Annex sets out the vision and mission of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office based on the ‘Declaration’ signed by the representatives of the Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The Agreement, forged in partnership with civil society, paves the way for the establishment of a regionally owned international organisation with mandate and capacity to create the conditions and support activities that promote reconciliation, mobility, diversity, democratic values,

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

participation, active citizenship and intercultural learning, with the spirit of the European integration process of the region in mind.

The vision that the Regional Youth Cooperation Office supports is a diverse region in which young people, as the group with the most interest in investing in the future, have an awareness of the past and play an active role in building their, and their societies more prosperous futures. RYCO, as an institutional mechanism for cooperation is established on values of peace, trust based on mutual understanding, respect for human rights, diversity, dignity, solidarity, cooperation, tolerance and respect, and is underlined by an understanding that only through joint action we can progress as a region.

RYCO will foster an inclusive and equitable approach to youth exchanges that will enable young people to use this supportive international mechanism in realising innovative regionally owned projects. This will make a unique contribution to the desire to improve understanding of the realities of each other's societies by enabling young people to meet, make acquaintances, make friends and engage in regional dialogue on topics that will support them in building better futures for all.

Article 1.

The Regional Youth Cooperation Office (hereafter 'RYCO') with its seat in Tirana Albania is hereby established.

Article 2.

The Statute of RYCO is hereby adopted and shall constitute an annex hereto.

Article 3.

This Agreement shall be opened for signature by the Contracting Parties.

This Agreement shall be adopted pursuant to the relevant legislation of each Contracting Party and shall enter into force as of the day on which the last instrument certifying adoption hereof is deposited with the Government of the Albania, acting as the Depositary.

Article 4.

The Agreement and its annex hereto may be amended in writing by the consent of all the Contracting parties.

Article 5.

In case that a non-RYCO member expresses interest in acceding to this Agreement in accordance with Article 6 of the Statute and subject to approval of membership in-line with the Article 6. of the Statute, that participant may accede to RYCO by depositing its instruments of accession as required by RYCO.

With respect to a non-RYCO member, this Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of their instruments/instrument of accession by the Depository. The Depository shall confirm the receipt of the respective instrument on accession and inform the depositing RYCO participant on the date of entry into force of the Agreement in relation to it.

Article 6.

The Government of Albania, acting as the Depository, shall notify all Contracting Parties of the deposit of all instruments certifying adoption, the entry into force hereof, as well as of any other facts connected with this Agreement.

Article 7.

Each Contracting Party may withdraw from this Agreement at any time by written notification to the Depository, which shall then transmit a certified copy of that notification to each Contracting Party.

Withdrawal shall take effect six months from the date on which the notification was received by the Depository.

A Contracting Party shall not be discharged, by reason of its withdrawal, from financial obligations, which accrued while it was a Member of this Agreement.

Article 8.

The Government of Albania shall act as Depository of this Agreement.

The original of this Agreement in a single copy in the English language shall be deposited with the Depository, which shall transmit a certified copy to each Contracting Party.

Article 9.

This Agreement with the Annex attached hereto forms a complete and binding contract between its signatories.

In witness hereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective **Governments**, have signed this Agreement.

Done at on the in the year two thousand sixteen in a single original in the English language.

Albania, Function and Name

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Function and Name

*Kosovo*¹, Function and Name*

Macedonia, Function and Name

Montenegro, Function and Name

Serbia, Function and Name

Annex: Statute of Regional Youth Cooperation Office

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