

Frequently Asked Questions

Regional Youth Leadership Mobility Programme 2023/24

1. What are the main themes of the data-driven advocacy activities for me to choose?

The possible themes to work on are:

- 1. Regional cooperation and European Integration:** Regional initiatives and EU integration (perceptions of young people on regional cooperation; challenges and opportunities of EU integration; benefit of Erasmus+ or youth mobility; youth strategies & comparisons with EU countries);
- 2. Education and employability** (curricula and quality of education (VET)–the mismatch of the education and labor market; requalification policies; recognition of diplomas; recognition of non-formal education; employment policies analysis; the efficiency of Youth Guarantee Programme and similar Active Labour Market Policy; higher education and research opportunities for youth);
- 3. Migration and brain drain** (reasons to leave; career development; which professions are leaving; push and pull factors; from brain drain to brain gain or circulation – examples and success stories. Policy on the movement of students/education; Regional initiatives as a place for brain gain; systemic shortcomings that underpin brain drain and generate opportunities to leave);
- 4. Youth Participation** (social & political factors for non-participation; digital participation; laws on youth and implementation; participation in decision-making process; civic engagement; perceptions of youth on political participation; urban vs rural, monitoring youth participation at governing bodies at the universities, monitoring of the work of the local youth councils, etc.);
- 5. Youth action in the dual transition: digital and environment** (digitalization, Artificial Intelligence, ethics, challenges, impact, digital competencies, environmental protection, climate change, awareness raising).

2. Can I make my proposal exactly to these topics, or can I extend to some subtopics that can be related to them?

You should identify a specific issue/problem/aspect within the above-mentioned themes and provide your own perspective. So feel free to propose specific sub-topics or perspectives. However, bearing in mind that you would be teamed up with other participants who have chosen a similar topic, the final theme that the group will work on could change from your initial individual idea. This will be part of the mentoring pairing workshop during the Launch event and the mentoring program itself so that you can develop your idea further. In the application form, you will list the first and second priority themes. This will also help us team you up.

3. What do you mean by data-driven advocacy actions?

Data-driven advocacy means strategically using data, evidence, and research to influence policy and change at the local, national, or regional levels. This means that you will receive capacity building on conducting research (desk research, secondary data analysis, stakeholders' interviews, etc.) that can later inform your advocacy actions in your selected theme.

4. Who is eligible to apply?

The following candidates are eligible for participation:

- Age (21-30 years old);
- Citizenship (Albanian, Macedonian or Serbian), with a residence within the territory of the country of citizenship;
- Willingness to work on strengthening regional cooperation;
- Background (one of the listed):
 - Youth activists;
 - Young researchers;
 - Young professionals from the civil society sector;
 - University students of MA or Ph.D. level;
 - Recent graduates of BA studies, MA or Ph.D. studies.

5. What should I submit to be considered?

Applicants should submit the following documents:

-The [Application Form](#);

and upload in the Application Form link these three documents:

-The [RYLMP Data-Driven Advocacy Action Proposal Template](#)

-Curriculum Vitae

-Letter of Recommendation, including the contact of a referee.

6. Are academic titles the main criteria for selection?

Not an exclusion criteria, the Programme is open to youth representatives (21-30 years old) from academia, civil society organizations, and activists who are interested in developing capacities in the field of leadership, advocacy, research, and intercultural competencies, and in strengthening regional relations between Serbia, North Macedonia, and Albania.

7. What is the selection process?

A Selection Committee composed of project partners, representatives of the OSF, and one alumnus will evaluate the applications. The process will follow three steps: (1) Eligibility check as per the set application criteria; (2) Applicants that pass the eligibility check will undergo quality assessment and interviews will be conducted with shortlisted candidates; (3) notification of applicants and mobility agreement.

8. Should the reference letter be prepared for this specific application?

Recent reference letters are preferred. However, even previous references can be submitted, with the condition that the referrer is informed and his/her contact details are up-to-date.

9. How will our proposals be evaluated?

A Selection Committee will evaluate submitted applications based on the relevance, the quality of the proposed action, and the potential to inform policymaking as outlined in [Annex 1 - Regional Youth Leadership Mobility Proposal Template](#).

10. Are there further obligations of the participants apart from the mobility period?

The participants are obliged to take part in the following:

- a. capacity building program: online/offline as will be specified;
- b. mentoring program
- c. mobility in three countries
- d. events: Launching event and workshop in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 28.02.2024-29.02.2024, mobility schemes in Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia, final event in October in Tirana, regional advocacy event in Belgrade.

All selected participants must sign a commitment letter and a code of ethics.

11. When is the deadline for applying?

The deadline for applying is the 29th of December 2023, 23:59 CEST.

12. Will we be working individually or in a group?

Based on your topic of choice, you will be teamed up with other participants from countries with similar themes they would like to analyze and advocate for. Once a group is formed, with the assistance of mentors who have specialized in your common topic, you will perform joint research and advocacy activities.

13. Can we choose the people we will work with by ourselves?

No, the members of the formed groups will be selected solely based on their common topic of interest. When matching the participants, the project team will also consider that the groups should consist of participants from all three countries.

14. What will the capacity training consist of?

The capacity building program will consist of two parts. The candidates will participate in online/offline training modules related to data collection (e.g., different data collection methodologies and tools, desk research, conducting interviews, reviewing documents, secondary data analysis, policy document writing, etc.) to have a solid evidence-based foundation for their advocacy activities. The second part of the capacity-building program will

be focused on how to design and implement data-driven advocacy actions, such as using digital tools for advocacy, approaching stakeholders, connecting with media, and other techniques. Participation in the capacity-building workshops/training is mandatory.

15. What can we expect from the mentors and the mentoring process?

Each group will be assigned a mentor who specializes in the field related to their interest. The mentors will support the participants throughout the process of data collection and advocacy activities. They will assist the groups by teaching them the main components of evidence-based advocacy and during the implementation process of data collection and advocacy.

16. What advocacy activities are we supposed to develop and implement?

Each group can develop and implement various advocacy actions, such as round tables, panel discussions, social media campaigns, etc. However, three regional events (one per country) with different stakeholders (including decision-makers in the fields, civil society organizations, youth representatives, representatives of the international community, etc.) will take place to achieve higher visibility of the advocacy.

17. What is the itinerary of the mobility, and when is it planned?

Mobility in Skopje is planned 25.03.2024 - 07.04.2024

Mobility in Tirana is planned 01.05.2024 - 15.05.2024

Mobility in Belgrade is planned 10.06.2024 - 23.06.2024

18. How long is the project intended to last?

The overall length of the project is 12 months, taking into account the preparation phase for project partners, the opening of the call for applications, the selection process, the launching event, the capacity-building training, the mobility period, and the final event. Participants are expected to be engaged starting from February 2024 up to October 2024. The engagement is not daily, and the detailed timeline will be communicated once the selection process is finalized.

19. What is the objective of mobility?

During the mobility, each group will jointly collect comparative data on the selected topics and serve as a cultural exchange to build lasting cooperation among the participants. The program will include working meetings among the participants and the mentors and cultural activities in each country.

20. Does the data collection and advocacy process end when the mobility ends?

No, the participants will continue to work jointly on their actions, including using the collected data for advocacy actions, even after the mobility is finished.

21. Can we send other questions during our proposal writing to the email address provided by you?

You can send questions for clarification to rylmp.project@gmail.com by December 25th, 2023. There is also an info session on December 11th, 2023 at 16:00. Please register using the following [registration link](#) if you would like to participate.

22. Which costs will be covered during the mobility?

Participants will be given financial support in the form of a mobility grant covering travel, accommodation, and living costs during the mobility in each country, along with travel and accommodation and per diems for the launch event, regional advocacy event and final conference and other costs related to the advocacy actions.

23. When will we be informed if we have been selected?

Applicants will be notified regarding the selection committee's decision in January 2024. Check the call for applications for specific dates.