

The Regional Youth Leadership Mobility Programme (RYLMP) is an established regional initiative launched in 2021, designed to empower young researchers and professionals from Albania, North Macedonia, and Serbia through capacity-building, mentorship, mobility, and advocacy. The core objective of the RYLMP is to foster regional youth cooperation, enhance intercultural understanding, and equip participants with the skills necessary to effectively advocate for policy change through evidence-based research. Implemented by SCiDEV (Albania), Youth Educational Forum (YEF, North Macedonia), and Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR, Serbia), and supported by the Open Society Foundations for Western Balkans, RYLMP has consistently addressed crucial thematic areas including youth participation, education and employability, migration and brain drain, regional cooperation, and the dual transition (digital and green).

Over the three cycles completed thus far (2021–2024), the RYLMP has directly supported about 40 young professionals and activists. Fellows have significantly strengthened their leadership and advocacy competencies, built robust regional networks, and produced high-quality, data-driven research reports and policy recommendations relevant to decision-makers in the Western Balkans. The mobility component of the programme, including exposure to high-level institutions and stakeholders, has emerged as the most valued and distinctive feature, greatly enriching the fellows' research, personal, and professional growth.

An independent evaluation conducted in 2024 confirmed the programme's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability, underscoring RYLMP as one of the most impactful youth mobility initiatives in the region. The evaluator highlighted the programme's unique approach to promoting regional integration, providing comprehensive skill-building opportunities, and addressing topical challenges through youth-led advocacy.