



# YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN MONTENEGRO

RESULTS OF THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION SURVEY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. december 2019. / Hotel Aurel

**The aim of the round table was to present the results of the Youth Participation Survey – Youth Participation Index, as well as to present the projects of the new Network members from Montenegro, namely: NGO Youth Cultural Centre from Herceg Novi, NGO Phiren amenca - Walk With Us from Podgorica and NGO Civic Creative Centre from Cetinje.**

The participants were welcomed by the director of NGO PRIMA, Mrs. Aida Perovic, one of the panellists, emphasizing the importance of networking, the contribution of new members in creating new opportunities for young people, the visibility of their projects, as well as the importance of youth initiatives for the entire Montenegrin society. She stressed the importance of ongoing support of the institutions and the business sector, as long-term strategic partners, and the importance of greater involvement of these sectors in programs for young people through various support systems.

Panellist Aleksandra Gligorovic, a researcher on the project, said that the Survey was regional and the Youth Participation Index (YPI) has been developed within it, which was divided into three main pillars:

- Political participation,
- Social participation and
- Economic participation of young people.

According to the results of the research, the following recommendations resulted from the round table:

- Establishment of the National Youth Council, in accordance with the Law on Youth and the Representative Association of Non-Governmental Organizations that implement youth policies, with the goal of becoming a part of the European Youth Forum in the near future.

- Strengthen existing youth structures at the local level (Local Youth Councils) and establish them in municipalities where they do not yet exist.

- Increase national and local funding for projects implemented by young people / youth organizations and projects implemented by civil society organizations for young people.

- Publication of national data on:

- young people using the internet in interaction with public institutions; young people who performed volunteer work during the last month/year/etc. ;
- young people who have participated in various activities and public policy-making, in accordance with the Youth Strategy;
- the number of secondary schools implementing programs for the development of social and emotional skills;
- the percentage of young people participating in mobility programs and other indicators, in accordance with the Framework for Monitoring and Implementation of the Youth Strategy 2017-2021.

Mr Elvis Berisa, Executive Director of the Roma NGO Walk with Us - Phiren Amenca, who was one of the panellists at the round table, pointed out that during the implementation of the Youth for Youth project, his NGO directly empowered 20 young people from the Roma and non-Roma communities to actively participate in their communities at the local level. Throughout the project, a training for community advocacy and activism was organized, during which young people learned how to identify community problems and how to approach the idea of contributing to finding a solution. Thus, six ideas for the implementation of six initiatives in six municipalities were developed during the training, namely in Podgorica, Niksic, Berane, Herceg Novi, Bar and Ulcinj..

During the implementation of the project, more than 1000 young people were informed about the project through various activities, 20 young people were directly involved, and cooperation was established with 20 different actors, i.e. NGOs, institutions, municipalities, etc. One of the panellists, Mr David Vukovic, an activist at the Civic Creative Centre, spoke about the project Youth as a Foundation for Change, launched in August 2018 and supported by NGO PRIMA through EU-funded technical grant programs, i.e. through the YBH4WBT network. “Then, as we were a less developed organization in technical and financial terms and experienced in advocating for youth policies at the local and national level, we were given an opportunity to strengthen our capacities, both human and technical. NGO Prima provided us with a great program of trainings that were important to us as an organization: project and financial management, representation of organizations in the public and the media, as well as organization of youth exchanges and management of youth clubs and centres. Some of the results are of great importance to us, and we would point out the fact that 45 young people were affirmed to become active members of the community and through the aforementioned trainings, empowered to start initiatives and be involved in local decision-making processes of relevance to youth issues“, he pointed out.

This event / Round Table / was part of the regional project Youth Bank Hub for Western Balkan and Turkey (YBH4WBT), supported by the European Union through the IPA CSF program and the Ministry of Public Administration of Montenegro. The project is led by the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation from Serbia, and NGO Prima is a partner and implementer in Montenegro.

The goal of the YBH4WBT project is to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes in the Western Balkans and Turkey. This goal will be achieved over a four-year program that includes capacity building of youth organizations, advocacy initiatives and awareness-raising activities. The YBH4WBT project also aims to establish and develop a regional network of civil society organizations working on the social, economic and political inclusion of young women and men. In addition to the Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation from Serbia and NGO Prima from Montenegro, the project implementing partners are: Partners from Albania; Education Association MLADIINFO INTERNATIONAL from Macedonia and the TOG Community Volunteers Foundation from Turkey.