

Regional Youth Peace Lab 2021

Official Rules & Guidelines

1. Definition

In these rules, “Regional Youth Peace Lab”, “RYPL”, “we”, “our”, and “us” refer to the competition and its organizers and “you” and “yourself” refers to an eligible entrant. By entering, you agree to be bound by these Official Rules and Regulations.

2. Overview

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), United Nation Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) in cooperation with Mozaik Foundation (Mozaik), Beyond42, and Mašta are organizing Regional Youth Peace Lab (RYPL) 2021 - a mentored process where teams of young policymakers compete in defining and developing concrete, actionable policy solutions. RYPL aims to position and engage youth as forward-thinking and innovative policymakers that can make significant contributions to peacebuilding initiatives in the Western Balkan region.

The competition will bring together 120 youth advocates from Western Balkan 6 (WB6), to propose policy solutions relating to the most pressing regional issues:

1. **Education** - quality and reform of education in the region to better answer the challenges of the 21st century;
2. **Youth Mobility** - mobility of youth in the region for study, travel, work, and learning;
3. **Peace and Legacy of the Past** - burdening legacy of trauma inherited by the post-conflict generations.

Participants will be grouped into teams of 3-6 members that will focus on one of the three challenges. Teams will have 12 days to prepare a policy whitepaper and record a 3-minute pitch that will be presented to the broader public. During that time, they will receive mentoring from regional experts in the subject matter, policymaking, and public advocacy.

The competition will be concluded with a 48-hour voting session, where the general public will be able to attend a virtual event, watch the policy pitches, and vote for their favorite ones. Finally, teams that authored the top 3 policies for each of the challenges will be rewarded. Awards range from Amazon Kindles to Gift Cards in value of 150\$, 100\$, and 50\$.

Aside from that, **the best policies will be published in the WB6 Youth Policy Book and the Guide for Innovative Policy Making**. The guide will open-source the whole competition format, allowing anyone to implement it as a means of achieving higher youth participation in policymaking.



3. Eligibility

You are a passionate student, youth activist or young professional that wants to contribute to peacebuilding policy in the region. Ideally, you already have some policymaking or advocacy experience. This could include advocacy for and with marginalised or vulnerable young people. You have an understanding and interest in one of the 3 challenges: education, youth mobility, and peace and legacy of the past. You are eager to work with like-minded individuals from different backgrounds to tackle challenges that affect the WB6 region. Apply if you are looking for ways to further improve your skills by working with experts in the field.

Participant eligibility criteria:

- Must be a young person (18 - 30 years);
- The primary address of residence must be in one of the Western Balkan 6, or a citizen residing outside the region;
- Background in any of social sciences, policymaking, advocacy, civil society activism, or peacebuilding is preferred;
- Must be able to commit to 12 days of collaboration with their team on their policy proposal (each team defines their own pace in the 12 days from the start to the end of the competition);
- Basic conversational knowledge of the English language;
- Must have access to a reliable internet connection and a personal computer as the competition will be online-based;
- Young people belonging to groups of vulnerable or marginalised youth are given a preference.



4. Key Dates

Application Phase	
April 1	Call for Applications Opened
April 7, 12:00 (GMT+2)	Call for Applications Closed
April 9	Application Results Announced
April 11	Teams Formed by Organizers
Regional Youth Peace Lab - First Round	
April 12	Competition Opening Event, Team Building Activities
April 16, 23:59 (GMT+2)	First Policy Draft Submission Deadline
April 18	First Selection Results Announced
Regional Youth Peace Lab - Final	
April 23, 23:59 (GMT+2)	Final Policy Paper and Pitch Video Submission Deadline
April 24, 10:00 (GMT+2)	Public Voting Opens
April 26, 10:00 (GMT+2)	Public Voting Ends
April 26, afternoon	Final Event, Announcing Winners

5. Application Process

To participate in the program, you must fill out the [application form](#).

An entry must be timely and will be accepted only if received before the deadline. Requests for deadline extension will not be entertained under any circumstances.

6. Key Selection Criteria

Each entry will be analyzed and judged based upon the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Related experience (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education background, potential theoretical knowledge of the topic. - What experience do you have in policymaking, civil society activism, peacebuilding or working with vulnerable or marginalized young people?
Problem-solving mindset (60%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify one important problem in the Western Balkan region and briefly explain how you would solve it?



7. Competition Rules

- We will not accept any entries that may contain any inappropriate, offensive, or illegal content.
- Team forming:
 - All participants will receive a short personality test they must fill out in 48 hours.
 - Teams of 3-6 members will be formed by the organizers to include members from diverse backgrounds. Each team will be assigned to one of the 3 challenges by the organizers. Priority for challenges will be given to applicants that apply earlier.
 - Each team is solely responsible for its own cooperation and teamwork. In no event will the RYPL organizers officiate in any dispute regarding the conduct or cooperation of any Team or its members.
- Only team members can take part in creating the policy paper and pitch video.
- All participants must attend the Competition Opening Event.
- All work must be documented in the Google Drive folder provided by the organizers. This includes the policy paper proposal with its editing history and a list of references.
- The policy paper proposal must follow the format provided by the organizers.
- Recording the policy paper pitch:
 - The video must not be longer than 3 minutes.
 - Only team members can be recorded in the video. Teams decide how many members are a part of the video.
 - Teams are allowed to use a slideshow presentation in their pitch, however, the presenter must be visible at all times in the recording (a small camera preview is acceptable). Teams can choose not to use the presentation at all.
 - Video must be recorded and uploaded to Youtube as an Unlisted video.
 - Video must be in the English language with subtitles in regional languages team members can provide translation for. The organizers will provide a detailed guide on how videos are uploaded to Youtube and how translations can be quickly created.
- The competition has 2 rounds:
 - First-round**
 - Teams are required to deliver the first policy draft following the provided template.
 - Teams have access to mentors in the subject matter and policymaking.
 - After this round, selection will be conducted based on the provided draft.
 - The selection will be done by an independent commission made up of partnering organizations.
 - Final round**
 - Teams focus on completing their policy proposal and recording the 3-minute pitch.
 - Teams have access to mentors in the subject matter, policymaking, and public advocacy.
- Teams must submit their work on time in line with the Key Dates tables. If there are any changes to the deadlines, all teams will be notified beforehand.



- Mentorship:
 - Each team is limited to a maximum of 6 hours of mentorship in the first, and 8 hours in the final round.
 - You must be respectful to the mentors.
 - Mentors are not allowed to make any contribution to the policy paper or the pitch.
 - Mentors will be booked through a Calendly URL that will be set up and made available by the organizers.
- Teams will be ranked in their challenge. Winners will be selected through a public vote. Video pitches will be presented in a form of a virtual policy proposal fair that will be open to the public for 48 hours. Anyone from the WB6 will be able to visit the fair, watch the pitches, and vote for the one they like the most.
- During the competition, the following will not be tolerated in any form:
 - Interruptions and disruptions to the organizers;
 - Discrimination on the basis of nationality, ethnicity, religion, sex, etc.;
 - Cheating or unethical behavior;
 - Bullying, intimidation, or verbal assaults.
- All participants must adhere to the values of organizing partners: UNFPA, RYCO, and Mozaik Foundation.
- Breaking any of the rules above will lead to disqualification by the organizer.

8. What you get out of participation

- Practice policymaking by working on developing concrete, actionable policy solutions.
- Join the network of young policymakers and domain experts & meet like-minded individuals from the WB6 region
- Get mentored by experts
- All participants who complete the full curriculum will receive a formally signed certificate of appreciation. This can be highly valuable in your career, looks great on your CV, and can be used for further education applications.
- All team members of the top 3 teams in each of the 3 challenges will be rewarded:
 - 1st place - all team members get an Amazon Kindle and a 150\$ gift card
 - 2nd place - all team members get a 100\$ gift card
 - 3rd place - all team members get 50\$ gift card
- The best policies will be published in the WB6 Youth Policy Book and the Guide for Innovative Policy Making.
- Opportunity to make a difference and create an actionable policy that could positively affect the whole region.
- Access to local and global experts and growth of the professional network.



9. Other Information

You are responsible to check the website, social media pages and email for any amendments to this original document as we will make announcements through those platforms. Changes, if made, will be clearly visible across versions of this document.

10. Disclosure

By participating in this program, you retain the individual right to your intellectual property (IP) and derivatives, but you grant us your royalty-free, irrevocable permission to,

- Share application content only with the permitted third parties including the Judges and Mentors, solely for the purpose to review, analyze, test and judge your content along the Judging Criteria mentioned and, to provide guidance and mentorship corresponding to the content of your entry; and
- Feature policy proposals of selected elite teams and any content related to it, in providing exposure to the participants' work and in the promotion of the competition in any forms, including, but not limited to, photographs and presentations via media. We will be sending any content we plan to publish related to your entry prior to publishing. You may request changes or reject publishing of the content as you may desire.

Please note that we are not claiming any ownership of your policy proposal, other than what was stated above and we will not be obligated to provide you with any compensation for the use of your application or policy proposal in the manner that has been already described.

