

YOUTH IN POLITICS

Factsheet



 **Norway**

May 2023

The Executive Programme "Youth in Politics Governance and Political Systems; Policy and Skills Development Course" is designed to equip young individuals active in political parties in Kosovo with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in areas such as the rule of law, political parties and ideologies, good governance, economic development, health and social policy, educational policy, gender and social inclusion, European integration, regional cooperation, Kosovo-Serbia dialogue, Security: conflict resolution, peace-building, and elements of violent extremism, Environment: environmental policies, climate change, global and local consequences, Energy efficiency: resource management, renewable energy, and local policies in Kosovo: international Relations, foreign policy, and geopolitics.



The absence of essential life skills among young individuals presents challenges that have implications for their personal and professional development. One significant consequence is their limited employment opportunities due to insufficient problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities. BPRG offers this programme to address these challenges through targeted education and skill development initiatives which is crucial for empowering youth and fostering their personal and societal growth.

In collaboration with the American University in Kosovo, BPRG conducted an extensive baseline study before constructing the Youth in Politics training program. This study assessed knowledge about political developments and identified the needs and skill requirements of youth members within political parties in Kosovo. The findings enabled BPRG to design tailored curricula for the capacity-building program dedicated to these young political party members.

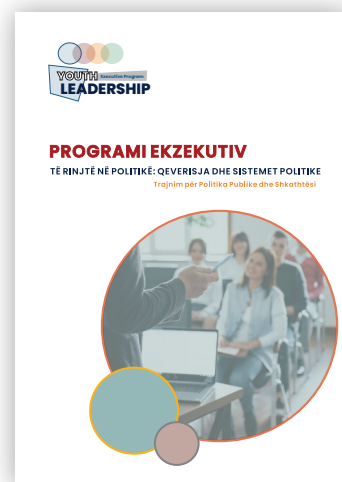
The curricula for this executive program is developed in collaboration with the American University and best teaching academics and is amended regularly to respond to the rising developments.

Following the curricula, the training encompasses various subjects related to political party development, institutions, and significant issues concerning Kosovo's public policy agenda.

Public Policy, Politics, Governance and Regional Cooperation		
Training Curriculum for Young Political Activists		
	Issue	Skill
Module 1	Political Parties and Ideologies	Critical and Conceptual Thinking; Analysis vs. Advocacy
Module 2	Good Governance	Policy-Making Cycle
Module 3	Rule of Law (RoL)	Simulation
Module 4	Economic Development	Drafting Policy Memos
Module 5	Health Policy and Social Policy	Public Speaking and Briefing
Module 6	Educational Policies	Communications with different Constituencies
Module 7	Gender and Social Inclusion	Debate
Module 8	European Integration	Negotiation Skills and Dialogue
Module 9	Regional Cooperation and Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue	Negotiation Simulation
Module 10	Security: conflict resolution, peace-building, and elements of violent extremism	Conflict resolution exercise
Module 11	Environment: environmental policy in Kosovo, climate change, its global and domestic repercussions	Environmental awareness exercise
Module 12	Energy efficiency: resource management, renewable energy and domestic policies in Kosovo	Policy Memorandum on Climate Change
Module 13	Foreign Affairs: elements of IR, foreign policy in Kosovo, geopolitics	Lobbying

These subjects comprise good governance, the rule of law, economic policy, social policy, health policy, education policy, European integration, regional cooperation, and the dialogue between the governments of Kosovo and Serbia.

Additionally, this very advanced curriculum consists of 13 integrated modules, which explore these issues, institutions, and skills through a range of activities such as lectures, readings, presentations, class discussions, team-based activities (including role-playing and negotiations), and debates.



Policy Article: Youth in Politics

BPRG has published a high-quality policy article titled "Youth in Politics", a commentary with evidence-based research drawn from the organisation's manifold discussions with youth representatives and political forums. The article highlights some of the most pronounced difficulties youth face in pursuit of professional growth within their respective parties. Through examining the implications of youth short-comings in their political careers, the article identified a range of recommendations aimed at shaping the contemporary discourse on youth in politics.



Executive Programme – Training sessions



Over the years, nearly 270 political parties' youth members have actively participated in the program, benefitting from its offerings during the 10 cohorts. To further enhance the learning experience, 9 study visits have been organized, giving participants a chance to witness practical implementations of their theoretical knowledge. The program has also conducted 5 webinars, providing a platform for experts to share their knowledge and insights with the participants. The program has played a vital role in the growth of its participants by offering them internship opportunities via the Youth Alumni Network.



It's worth noting that six young participants have completed the six-month program and acquired invaluable experience, while four others are currently undergoing their internships.

The Memorandums of Understanding that BPRG has signed with Political Parties and the Norwegian Embassy in Prishtina, have been instrumental in creating these opportunities, and they have undoubtedly opened doors and piqued the interest of youth political parties' members for the program. To foster a sense of community and keep the participants connected, the program has held 3 Alumni Conferences.

Moreover, the Alumni Facebook Group counts 179 youth participants who have been a part of the program, providing them with a platform to stay connected and share their experiences.

Overall, the program had significant success in providing a valuable learning experience to its participants, establishing partnerships, and building a strong alumni community.

Promoting and Empowering Youth in Politics: The Balkans Group organised the conference “Promoting and Empowering Youth in Politics” gathering over 90 young members of LDK, LVV, PDK, AAK, NISMA, and AKR to discuss their role and challenges in their respective political parties. The conference provided a number of findings which have served a pivotal role in guiding BPRG’s current formulation of inclusive youth activities. In order to challenge prejudices and stereotypes attached to youth, limited participation in decision making, and lack of professional development- BPRG offers youth a platform to develop a number of competences which can be used to counter the negative trends identified in the conference.



In December 2021, the Balkans Group launched The Alumni Network Program. 86 youngsters were part of the event and worked in 7 thematic groups for which they were trained. The youngsters were facilitated by mentors to develop project proposals within their thematic areas. President Jahjaga was part of the guest speakers.



In October 2022, the Balkans Group organised the Annual Conference Youth in Politics: Opportunities and Challenges, with participants from the Alumni Network. The panelists at this conference were the Norwegian Ambassador Mr. Jens Erik Grøndahl, representatives of political parties Mrs. Fitore Pacolli (LVV), Mrs. Shqipe Mjekiçi (LDK), Mrs. Vlora Çitaku (PDK) and Mrs. Albana Bytyçi (AAK).

Programi i trajnimeve për
"Të Rinjtë në Politikë"



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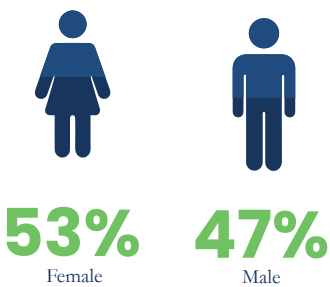
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Lansimi i Rrjetit Alumni të Programit Ekzekutiv
"Të rinjtë në politikë"

Launching of the Alumni Network of the Executive Programme
"Youth in Politics"

Hotel Sirius, Prishtinë
01/12/2021

Gender



Youth in Politics at a glance



278 youth participants in the Executive Programme "Youth in Politics" across **10 cohorts**



9 study visits to expose youth to practical political experiences



5 webinars to promote knowledge sharing and learning



222 members in the Facebook Alumni Group



6 participants of the programme engaged in an internship in the Assembly of Kosovo



2 annual conferences to connect youth with political leaders



3 youth-led projects to address community issues



3 additional training sessions on soft skills for youth development

Municipalities

- Prishtine: 12.08%
- Gjiilan: 5.60%
- Lipjan: 5.43%
- Prizren: 4.55%
- Ferizaj: 4.03%
- Istog: 3.23%
- Suhareke: 2.87%
- Peje: 2.87%
- Mitrovica: 2.51%

- Podujeva: 2.34%
- Vushtrri: 1.98%
- Fushe Kosove: 1.98%
- Drenas: 1.44%
- Kamenice: 1.08%
- Gjakove: 0.90%
- Rahovec: 0.54%
- Skenderaj: 0.54%
- Obiliq: 0.54%

- Malisheve: 0.54%
- Shtime: 0.36%
- Decan: 0.36%
- Dragash: 0.36%
- Viti: 0.36%
- Gracanice: 0.36%
- Kacanik: 0.36%

The Balkans Policy Research Group is an independent, regional think-tank based in Prishtina, Kosovo. We provide timely policy analysis and recommendations on a wide array of state-building issues; institutional and democratic consolidation; minority integration and good neighbourly relations; European integration and policy change. We have decades of experience in policy reporting and development, strategic thinking, and advocacy with governmental, international, and non-governmental organisations.

Our rigorous, detailed, impartial reporting, always based on in-depth fieldwork, is the core of our work. We go beyond mainstream positions and seek to make change through creative, feasible, well-measured, and forward-looking policy recommendations to help develop strong, vibrant democracies, prosperous states, and societies based on the rule of law in the Western Balkans.

We engage in high-level advocacy, domestically, regionally, and internationally, impacting policy discussions and options with regard to the home affairs and European policies toward the Western Balkans.

Balkans Group has developed other tools and platforms to achieve this change:

The Expert Support Component provides policy support and experts to the governments and other key institutions on vital policy areas, including dialogue and negotiations, security, foreign policy, regional cooperation, EU agendas and reforms, good governance, development, and law-making.

Youth in Politics Programme aims to train and build the capacity of young people active in political parties in Kosovo in areas such as the rule of law, public policy, good governance, economic development and social policy, education policy, and regional cooperation.

The Women in Politics & Decision Making platform aims to create a gender-equal environment by increasing the representation of women in politics and decision-making roles across institutions.

The Western Balkans Policy Forum - a Think-Tankers High-level Advocacy Forum, is committed to enhancing the dialogue between civil society and institutions.

The Policy Dialogue promotes domestic dialogue in Kosovo, political consensus, and reform agendas.

The Dialogue Platform promotes the dialogue process between Kosovo and Serbia, by informing the wider public and generating debate about the agreements, benefits, and challenges of the Dialogue.

The Kosovo Serbia Policy Advocacy Group - a Cross-Border Civil Society Cooperation forum- aims to communicate, promote, and enhance dialogue toward full normalization between Kosovo and Serbia and their societies.

Constitutional Framework, Parliamentarism, and Membership to the CoE, aims to advocate for comprehensive reforms in Kosovo's constitutional framework, improvement of parliamentary procedures, and integration into the Council of Europe.

Energy, Green & Digital Policy Hub aims to bring together government officials, experts, and think tanks to jointly devise, develop, and advocate for the right solutions.

The Policy Idea Lab platform aims to create new policy tools and spaces where policymakers, members of institutions, advisors, experts, the CSO community, academics, etc., can share their knowledge, debate policy processes and topics, and devise solutions.