

# ACTIVE MEASURES ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

This document is a product of Youth Trail No.8 "What Can Youth Do On Environmental Governance"[1] activity in light of the "Youth in Focus II: Promoting the role of Youth in Peace and Security in Albania" project implemented by OSCE Presence in Albania. Young activists from the Western Balkan (WB) gathered in Tirana in October 2022. They built their capacities, discussed with various stakeholders and worked on designing some key actions and measures on how to expand youth engagement in environmental governance in the region.

TIME PERIOD: 5 YEARS  
2022-2027

## VISION

Local, national and international stakeholders[2], together with young people, work towards mutually strengthening each other's capacities, skills and knowledge on inclusive youth practices, towards a common goal of good and responsible environmental governance.

## MISSION

Improve youth inclusion in environmental governance and increase the capacities of young people to understand these interconnections, and the components of environmental governance together with its implication and interrelation of the public, private and civil society sectors.

### OBJECTIVE 1.

Improve youth inclusion in environmental governance

#### SPECIFIC-OBJECTIVE 1.1

In depth understanding of the effectiveness of youth inclusion in environmental governance in the WB.

##### Activities in short term

- 1.1.1 Conduct a baseline study on youth inclusion and its effectiveness in environmental governance processes.
- 1.1.2 Introduce Youth Impact Assessment mechanisms in policymaking as a tool to ensure that youth's best interests are effectively addressed.

#### SPECIFIC-OBJECTIVE 1.2

Establish and strengthen research and action among youth towards a greater and meaningful collaboration with decision-makers.

##### Activities in short term

- 1.2.1 Establish and/or develop youth engagement national strategies with regard to environmental governance with a strong focus on effective youth participation in decision making processes.
- 1.2.2 Incentivize and support youth initiatives and projects on reducing environmental pollution and promoting sustainable development.
- 1.2.3 Establish and organize annual Youth Summits for Environment and Sustainable Development Solutions at the national and regional level.
- 1.2.4 Establish and promote Environmental Protection Clubs at the local level as mechanisms to enable youth participation and engagement in environment-related projects and challenges.

#### SPECIFIC-OBJECTIVE 2.1

Raise awareness among youth on environmental challenges and governance.

##### Activities in short term

- 2.1.1 Develop an awareness raising campaign on environmental protection and nature conservation, and advocate for more reliable information on media related to environment and youth actions.
- 2.1.2 Incentivize active youth engagement in environmental-related community work or conservation actions.
- 2.1.3 Promote regional platforms as a common space to share experiences, knowledge and best practices related to the active involvement of young people in decision-making.
- 2.1.4 Enable and support the participation of Western Balkans youth in regional and international events as an opportunity for networking and developing synergies between National Youth Councils, Youth Umbrella Organizations and public administrations.

#### SPECIFIC-OBJECTIVE 2.2

Building youth capacities with regard to environmental issues and governance.

##### Activities in short term

- 2.2.1 Develop and implement formal and informal education programs about media literacy on environmental governance and access to justice.
- 2.2.2 Develop and regularly update trainings and capacity-building programs on environmental governance.
- 2.2.3 Develop and adapt guidelines on how to improve youth inclusion in policy/decision-making.
- 2.2.4 Direct support for youth participation in national or cross-border exchange capacity building programs on environmental issues and governance.

### OBJECTIVE 2.

Increase the capacities of young people on environmental governance

