



- an overview -

The Political Youth Network: Project Overview

1. Definition and Objectives

The Political Youth Network (PYN) is an international network of youth organisations operating as a part of, or as a subsidiary organisation of nineteen political parties from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro or Serbia that was established at the Founding Conference in Zagreb, on 29th and 30th March, 2014.

By signing the *Declaration of Commitment to the Political Youth Network*, the member organisations expressed their dedication toward PYN's Statute, Secretariat, and other members, in achieving common goals, recognised and shared by its members.

The main objective of PYN were defined and presented through individual meetings with political youth organisations, while by signing the *Declaration of Commitment*, members have expressed their dedication and commitment towards following activities:

- a) education of young politicians in the field of human rights and the importance of its advocacy;
- b) encouraging cross-border exchange of knowledge and experiences;
- c) training of practical political skills;
- d) enhancing regional cooperation between young politically engaged people in the area of dealing with the past and transitional justice issues;
- e) achieving greater participation of young people in policymaking process;
- f) increasing the overall standards of political communication among the youth.



Croatian President Ivo Josipović met the founders of the Political Youth Network, on 29th March 2014.

2. Member organisations

The initial set of political youth organisations that joined the Network includes 19 organisations from 5 countries in the region.

From Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Our Party Youth Forum (Forum mladih Naše stranke);
- Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Stranka za Bosnu i Hercegovinu);
- Social Democratic Youth (Mladih socijaldemokratske partije);
- Youth of the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (Mladi Saveza nezavisnih socijaldemokrata);
- Youth of the Croatian Democratic Union 1990 (Mladež Hrvatske demokratske zajednice 1990).

From Croatia:

- Independent Democratic Serb Party (Samostalna demokratska srpska stranka);
- Youth Forum of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia (Forum Mladih Socijaldemokratske partije Hrvatske);
- Youth of the Croatian Labour Party (Mladi Hrvatskih laburista - Stranka rada);
- Youth of the Croatian People's Party – Liberal Democrats (Mladi Hrvatske narodne stranke - liberalni demokrati).

From Kosovo:

- Alliance for Future of Kosovo (Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës).

From Montenegro:

- Positive Montenegro Youth Forum (Forum mladih Pozitivne Crne Gore);
- Social Democratic Youth of Montenegro (Forum mladih Socijaldemokratske partije);
- Youth Association of Social People's Party (Asocijacija mladih Socijalističke narodne partije);
- Youth Council of Democratic Party of Socialists (Savjet mladih Demokratske partije socijalista);
- Youth Network Movement for Changes (Mreža mladih Pokreta za promjene).

From Serbia:

- Democratic Youth (Demokratska omladina);
- Liberal Democratic Party Youth (Mladi Liberalno-demokratske partije);
- Social Democratic Youth in Social Democratic Union (Socijaldemokratska omladina u Socijaldemokratskoj uniji);
- Socialist Youth of Serbia Socialist Party of Serbia (Socijalistička omladina Srbije Socijalistička partija Srbije).

3. Establishing the Secretariat of the Political Youth Network

The Secretariat is an operational body of PYN in charge of all of its organisational activities such as trainings, meetings, reporting, newsletters and websites. The Secretariat also coordinates the activities of the network and ensures constant communication among the members of the network, until PYN is formalised.

The Secretariat is established at YIHR but every political youth organisation within the network will be asked to designate a contact person for their party in order to ensure that the communication is not only constant, but also well routed.

4. Start and Implementation of PYN's Activities

All the activities of PYN are determined during the strategic planning and include regional meetings and nationally organised trainings on topics of human rights protection, cross-border cooperation and developing practical competences. The Secretariat will organise these trainings in a way that they provide necessary knowledge and skills to members of political youth organisations, but also offer clear insight in challenges and issues of these three topics. For example, PYN will organise a workshop for young politicians on drafting a proposal of a law. This is a skill that they, as (future) decision-makers will most certainly need.

To commence activities, the network will use as an example a law that is related to human rights (law on free access to information, law on gender equality, law on reparation to victims of war crimes etc.). This way, young politicians will have the motivation to attend these trainings and workshops, as they will acquire the skills they need and will use in their future work in the process of solving issues and topics. PYN members will be sensitized on issues of human rights violations. The network will use methodology like this in its activities, to ensure a greater degree of awareness of human rights issues

5. Consolidation of the Network

In this part of the project emphasis is on securing stable functioning of PYN. This means financial and operational stability. In addition, YIHR's existing website will be expanded to report on the activities of the network, offer information about regional events important for PYN's members. A forum will be established on the website to facilitate direct exchange among the network's members.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The project team is in charge of internal evaluation after every stage of the project. An evaluation is also performed by organisations working on the project activities. External evaluation will also be conducted through the questionnaires to be filled out anonymously by PYN's members in order to ensure that its future activities represent truly the needs and interests of its members.



Closing of the Founding conference of the Political Youth Network in Zagreb, on 30th March 2014.