

# ANNUAL REPORT

Annual report for the activities of Youth Alliance for the period January - December 2014



**2014**

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## I. ABOUT YOUTH ALLIANCE

ID of Youth Alliance

<b>Name of the organization:</b>	Youth Alliance
<b>Acronym:</b>	YA
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### Youth Alliance Scope

Youth Alliance is an independent, non-governmental, non-political and non-profitable organization established in 1999. Our members are young people between 15 and 35, who work, study or express an interest in processes of Euro Atlantic integration of our country and SEE region in general. YAK is run by young people for young people, enabling a strong experience to all its stakeholders.

### Axes of priorities:

- Active involvement of young people in decision-making processes at local, national and regional level;
- Contribution of young people in the Euro-Atlantic integration process of the SEE region;
- Encouraging and supporting young people to fully participate in society by providing them with new contacts, experiences and knowledge;
- Increasing the contribution of youth in the economic development of their local communities.

### Goals:

- To promote new ways of expressing the views of young people from SEE vs. well-known political and uncooperative methods;
- Acceptance of the modern European values of young people from SEE and fostering mutual understanding between young people in different countries ;
- To promote youth activism in all issues of social life and to create a dynamic environment designed by active and enthusiastic participation of young people;
- Creation of conditions for faster and sustainable economic development;

### How we work?

The organizational structure of Youth Alliance: Annual General Assembly (which is composed of all our members), Management Board, President of the Organization, Supervisory Board and Secretary of the organization. The Annual General Assembly is the highest authority responsible for the annual programme of the organization. The Management Board and the President of the organization are responsible for implementation of the organization. Annually we hold a General Assembly with all

members of Youth Alliance Krusevo. The Management Board and the President of the organization are responsible for the decisions in the organization until next Annual General Assembly.

### **Our Values**

Participation, democracy, equal opportunities, transparency, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, mutual support, cooperation.

### **Youth Alliance – UNESCO club**

UNESCO club Krusevo from 2010 function as a part of Youth Alliance. The UNESCO club Krusevo shares the UNESCO ideal, seeks to disseminate it by undertaking activities directly inspired by those of UNESCO.

## **II. PROJECTS**

### **II/1 Contacts for the Common Future – Youth Empowerment and Employment**

- **General information**

The development of good neighbourly relations is in the best interests of all the western Balkan countries. Moreover, it is a key factor for the political stability, the security and economic development of the countries in the region which offers the possibility to the aspirant countries for their integration into the Euro-Atlantic cooperation structures. In this context, the development of good neighborly relations between Macedonia and Greece is an important criterion for the Euro-Atlantic course of Macedonia and it is with essential for the stability, security, economic growth and security of the region. During the past three years of the development of the initiative Contacts for the Common Future, all involved stakeholders concluded that the relations between the young people and civil societies from these two neighboring countries is influenced by bilateral political tension characterized with a mutual lack of trust and filled with confrontational spirit, prejudices and stereotypes. Judging by the results achieved of the C4CF initiative, we can say that these small cooperative steps succeeded to raise awareness among the young people from both countries that they have responsibilities towards each other and they have many challenges in common, some of a cross-border nature. However, these further efforts are needed to increase trust and positive willingness for cooperation between peoples and countries. In the pursuit of these objectives, the next step of the C4CF initiative strives towards empowerment of young people on both sides of the border to address issues of common relevance in a cooperative manner which we strongly believe that further will be reflected by concrete progress on the field. By taking in consideration the real needs of young people and the facts that the youth unemployment issue is major social problem in both countries (59,6%, FYR Macedonia (2013, National Employment Service Agency) & 57.3 %, Greece (2013, Eurostat)), the idea of enhanced bilateral cooperation for youth empowerment and employment is just plain common sense.

- **Activities**

#### **1. Conducting Initial Potential Diagnostics for Youth Empowerment and Employment through the development of the bilateral cooperation:**

1.1 Gathering of existing studies and analysis, collecting of statistics about the status quo of young people development in the respective border regions between Macedonia and Greece.

1.2. Analysis on the target group, educational and training needs/requirements of young people; analysis of the employment trends and the benefits of close bilateral cooperation in relevance with youth empowerment and employment.

1.3 Organization of three days capacity building workshop in Krusevo, Macedonia with the key stakeholders (educational institutions, local/national authorities, youth NGOs, chambers, development agencies, business start up centers, students, enterprises and other organizations) related to the final results of the diagnostics. As outcomes of the first project phase was published final finding reports.

## **2.Capacity building for supporting bilateral actions and initiatives oriented on youth empowerment and employability by using the opportunities of cross-border cooperation:**

2.1.Selection of 20 youth workers, youth leaders, trainers and active young people from both neighbouring countries which will further act as CBC facilitators.

2.2.Organization of four days training course in Struga, Macedonia with main aim training of 20 CBC facilitators to foster the development of support systems for enhanced cross-border cooperation between youth organizations and other stakeholders from both neighbouring countries.

2.3.Development and publication of materials fit for CBC facilitators: a) Training Kit (tools, reflections and concepts for better planning, running and evaluating future activities for facilitating youth empowerment and employment through bilateral cooperation) b) Start-up guide (starting point guide for aspiring and helping civic activists with know-how and in-sight information on developing their ideas for bilateral initiatives related to youth empowerment and employment).

## **3. Awareness and empowerment:**

3.1 Organization of Youth Empowerment & Employment Fair (YEE Fair), Thessaloniki, Greece –the invitation for the fair will be targeted to all interested to get acquainted with information about positive examples of cross-border cooperation that have directly or indirectly led to an increase of conditions for empowerment and employment of young people in both countries. There will be 4 directions:

3.2 Virtual networking platform (VNP)-as a part of the project web site [www.c4cf.org](http://www.c4cf.org); it will serve as supportive platform which will permanently help to overcome barriers associated with lack of partners, skills, finance and access to associated start-up support. It will support civic cooperation and youth start ups in the cross-border region between Macedonia and Greece, providing them with tools for communicating, partnering and sharing relevant resources, practices and experiences in this region.

## **II/2 International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeastern European countries” - 2013**

- **General information**

In 2003, when the young people, participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Youth Conference “European Values for the Future of Southeastern European Countries” signed the Final Declaration, they fully agreed to the following principle: "Helping prosperity and growth through regional action of young people in South East Europe, while supporting Euro-Atlantic integration of the region". Today, by following the spirit of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference we should add: "Together for prosperity, growth and better future of young people in South East Europe, while supporting Euro-Atlantic integration of the region".

Youth unemployment - is it our job we to find solution? – Nemanja, Serbia; How to promote social entrepreneurship among the young people in SEE? – Biljana, Macedonia; Open source education – how can tomorrow's skills be thought today? – Ognen, Macedonia; Is volunteering recognized on Balkans, do we have good laws about volunteering? – Vanja, Croatia; "The limit of democracy and democratic values – do the young people understand the meaning of the democratic values? –Luise,

France; Non-formal education in the way how young people can become active through examples of good practice in their local community and country – Elma, Bosnia; The EU influence on the Western Balkan countries? – Thomas, Germany; Strengthening the interpersonal relations among the young people in the region- how? – Alexandar, Bulgaria – asked the young people during the preparation of the Conference programme for the 2014.

This years' Conference answered to all of these questions by putting the young people in the focus of the conference and by encouraging them to be leaders of the changes that they would like to see in South Eastern Europe. As every year and this year, fifty-five (55) active young people from 15 countries (Macedonia (*host country*), Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Germany, Kosovo, Monte Negro, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey) came to Krusevo, in September, 2014, to discuss current issues and explore new approaches in youth policy and youth work across the Southeastern European Countries".

The promoters of the International Youth Conference "European Values for the Future of SEE Countries" proved that the International Youth Conference in 2014 was about young people being disruptive leaders. It was about young people taking action and making sure that they are not sleepwalked into the agendas of others. It was about young people who are interested in making a difference in their life and in the lives of other young people in South East Europe

Day	Topic of the day
Day 1	Arrival and Opening
Day 2	Political challenges for young people
Day 3	Education, volunteering and networking for youth development
Day 4	Possibilities for Youth Employment and Activism
Day 5	Summarizing and Action planning

- **Program**

## DAY 1

09 : 00 – 19 : 00	<b>Arrival of the Participants and Registration</b>
19 : 00 – 20 : 00	Dinner
20 : 00 - 22 : 30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Ceremony</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote address and opening of the conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Introduction to the conference, 2014</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Overview of the conference program by the International Preparatory Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Plenary hall)</p>
22 : 30 – 00 : 00	<b>Welcome evening</b>

**DAY 2**

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
09:00 – 09:30	Needs and Expectations Thomas Leszke (Germany) & Maria Athanatsiki (Greece)
09:30 – 11:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The EU influence in the SEE region</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Nenad Borovčanin</b> - State Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, Serbia  <b>Mr. Kostas Filippidis</b> – Founder of Association of Youths of Florina, Greece</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderator: Mr. Thomas Leszke</b> (Germany)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening cooperation between institutions and organizations based on EU aspirations of the countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youths in SEE countries -The aftermath of the crisis</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote address Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel debate</b></p>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Coffee break and press briefing</b>
12:00 – 14:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non-formal education in the way how young people can become active</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key speaker:</b></p> <p><b>Mrs. Liliya Elenkova</b> - President of the National Youth Forum of Bulgaria</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderator: Mr. Alexandar Ivanov</b> (Bulgaria)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivation and participation of young people</li> <li>• Non - formal education and the competences young people develop</li> <li>• Non - formal education - recognition and validation</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote address Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plenary session</b></p>
14:30 – 16:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
16:00 – 18:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Daniel Statescu</b> - Executive Director of Youth and Sport Iasi County, Romania  <b>Mr. Jakub Gradziuk</b> - International Institute of Democracy, Warsaw, Poland,</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderator: Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic</b> (Serbia)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transmission of post-communism nostalgia from generation to generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation about the common past in the SEE region</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plenary Session</b></p>

17:30 – 18:00	<b>Coffee break</b>		
18:00 – 20:00	Interactive workshops on the previous topics 3 parallel workshops		
	<b>The EU influence in the SEE region</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Mr. Alexandar Ivanov</b> (Bulgaria)	<b>European crisis and challenges</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Mr. Thomas Leszke</b> (Germany)	<b>Post-socialist nostalgia - do the past still exist?</b> <b>Facilitators:</b> <b>Ms. Elma Beslic (BiH) &amp; Mr. Avdyl Gashi (Kosovo)</b>
20:30 – 22:00	<b>Dinner</b>		
22:00	Traditional Krusevo night		

### DAY 3

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Breakfast</b>		
09:00 – 09:30	Team building Maria Athanatsiki (Greece) & Nemanja Zivkovic (Serbia)		
09:30 – 11:00	<p align="center"><b>Activation of young people through volunteering</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Key speaker:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mr. Martin Kleinfelder</b> – Executive director of Roter Baum Berlin, Germany  <b>Mr. Damir Neziri</b> – Youth Activist, Macedonia  <b>Moderator: Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic</b> (Serbia)</p> <p align="center"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is volunteering recognized in SEE, do we have good laws about volunteering?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteering as a way for youth employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p align="center">Keynote address          Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by participants</p> <p align="center"><b>Plenary session</b></p>		
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:30 – 13:00	<p align="center"><b>European crisis and challenges</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Prof. Stevo Pendarovski</b> – Professor at International Security, Foreign Policy and Globalization at the University American College Skopje  <b>Moderator: Ms. Maria Athanatsiki</b> (Greece)</p> <p align="center"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The limit of democracy and democratic values – do the young people understand the meaning of it?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth discontent across the Europe</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fascist, Racist, Neo-Nazism, Nationalism nourished by Crisis in Europe</li> </ul> <p align="center">Keynote address          Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p align="center"><b>Plenary session</b></p>		
13:00 – 15:00	Interactive workshops		



	6 parallel workshops		
	<b>Recognizing the non-formal education</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Mr. Alexandar Ivanov</b> (Bulgaria)	<b>Open source education</b> <b>Facilitators:</b> <b>Mr. Avdyl Gashi</b> (Kosovo) & <b>Ms. Mihaela Bolohan</b> (Romania)	<b>Good examples of volunteering</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Ms. Maria Athanatsiki</b> (Greece)
	<b>Participation and transparency</b> <b>Facilitator: Mr. Thomas Leszke</b> (Germany)	<b>Youth Leadership and good examples</b> <b>Facilitator:</b> <b>Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic</b> (Serbia)	<b>Good practices from the youth work from the region</b> <b>Facilitator: Ms. Elma Beslic</b> (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
	Presentation of results		
15:00 – 16:00	Lunch break		
16:00 – 20:00	Treasure hunting in Krusevo		
20:00 – 21:30	Dinner at a traditional restaurant in Krusevo		
21:30 – 00:00	Breakout sessions		

## DAY 4

08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast
09:00 – 09:30	Team building Ms. Elma Beslic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) & Mr. Thomas Leszke (Germany) & Ms. Maria Athanatsiki (Greece)
09:30 – 11:30	<p align="center"><b>Youth unemployment – is it our job to find solution?</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Heinz Bongartz</b> – Representative of Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany</p> <p><b>Mr. Babis Papaioannou</b> - Coordinator of Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014, Greece</p> <p><b>Mr. Kalin Babusku</b> – Brand Developer, Trgoprodukt DOO, Macedonia</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Elma Beslic</b> (Bosnia and Herzegovina)</p> <p align="center"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What young people are doing to create their own employment opportunities?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking of youth unemployment issue with youth initiatives                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative employability</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p align="center">Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p align="center"><b>Panel Debate</b></p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30	<p align="center"><b>Youth Social Entrepreneurship – the bigger picture</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Panelists:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mr. Shkelzen Marku</b> - Yunus Social Business Albania, Country Director  <b>Ms. Bozhanka Vitanova</b> – Yunus &amp; Youth, Co-founder and Program Manager</p> <p align="center"><b>Moderator: Mr. Nemanja Zivkovic</b> (Serbia)</p> <p align="center"><i>Motions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes a social enterprise a social enterprise? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social enterprise and social value</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good examples of social entrepreneurship for youth employment</li> </ul> <p align="center">Keynote address  Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p align="center"><b>Plenary session</b></p>
13:30 – 15:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
15:00 – 17:00	<p align="center"><b>Erasmus +</b></p> <p align="center">General presentation of the Erasmus + programme</p> <p align="center"><b>Representatives of the National Agency for European Educational Programs and Mobility, Macedonia</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mr. Goce Velichkovski</b> - Coordinator of the Erasmus + program,  <b>Mr. Aleksandar Bogojevski</b> - Head of Unit in the Key Action 1, Erasmus +</p> <p align="center"><b>Moderator: Mr. Thomas Leszke</b> (Germany)</p> <p align="center">Keynote address  Q&amp;A, Discussion and Interventions by Participants</p> <p align="center"><b>Plenary session</b></p>
17:00 – 19:30	<p align="center"><b>Youth Leaders Actions</b></p> <p align="center">Conference team &amp; IPG team  Creation of the YLA strategy</p> <p align="center">Group work</p>
20:00 – 21:30	<b>Dinner</b>
21:30 – 00:00	<b>Closing ceremony</b>

## DAY 5

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Breakfast</b>
09:00 – 11:30	<p align="center">Summary of the Conference:  Reviewing the Conference  The General Reporters' Reflections on International Youth Conference</p>
11:30 – 12:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
12:00 – 13:30	<p align="center">Presentation of the Final Documents:  Conclusions and Recommendations for Future Youth Actions for Promotion of European Values among Young People in Europe and particularly in SEE  (Summary of the Conference Part II)</p>

13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 ... .. . . . . . . . . . .	Departure of Participants

## II/3 e-ENGAGEMENT

- **General information**

The current young generation is the best educated generation ever, familiar with digital technologies, very mobile and open to new horizons. In spite of all of this, many national youth studies concluded that there is an urgent need of improving the key competences and skills of young people to enable them to better use the potential and benefits of the new technologies as well as raising awareness among them for using the advantages of the new technologies for youth involvement and addressing the societal issues that affect them.

Youth Alliance with the support of its partners/supporters has been working for a long time in the broad societal engagement of young people. Every year within our activities we are involving and raising awareness about the engagement of young people among more than 200 young people. Since 2010, Youth Alliance has been started a process of research, innovation on working methods and educational approach with a specific focus on e-engagement of young people. The driving force behind the project "e-ENGAGEMENT" was working to make a difference in our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation among the young people to make that difference by using the potential and benefits of new technologies.

Therefore, the project "e-ENGAGEMENT" included a cycle of activities which were dedicated for:

- a) Promotion of the benefits of the ICT tools among the young people with special attention of youth e-engagement;
- b) Assessment of a range of "e-engagement" tools on ease of use, appeal, and suitability for purpose; i.e. to help find information, form an opinion, and express their own point of view, whether acting on their own or through a school or youth group meeting;
- c) Creation of space for developing digital skills among the young people – technical, information literacy and social skills.

The project was striving towards to empower and to encourage the young people in Macedonia with digital skills, new ideas and tools which will allow them to be more involved and address the societal issues that affect them.

Therefore a cycle of educative workshops in four cities in Macedonia (Kavadarci, Kumanovo, Shtip and Struga) as well as one big final conference (Prilep) with conclusions and recommendations directly from the young people occurred.

As a result, the following outputs were be created: e-learning platform for sharing good practices and for fostering the educational process on e-engaging among the youth; guide for youth organizations regarding future e-engagement projects, photo-albums from each event with creative writing captions to disseminate creatively the learning successes, few short video montages to give innovative visibility to young people and a CD containing the previous to be spread as best practices.

- **Activities**

<b>Where the project activities took place?</b>	
<b>Town</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Kumanovo	Educative workshop
Struga	Educative workshop
Shtip	Educative workshop
Kavadarci	Educative workshop
Prilep	Final conference

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description of Activity</b>	<b>Implementation period</b>
Preparation Phase	Preparation activities	September 2014
Implementation	Educative workshops in four cities in Macedonia	October 2014
Implementation	Final Conference	November 2014
Evaluation phase (including a reflection on a project follow-up)	Final Evaluation and reporting	December 2014

- **Partners**

“Evro – FORUM” – Struga; University “Goce Delcev” - Faculty of Educational Science; Center for intercultural dialogue (CID) – Kumanovo and “SPPMD” – Kavadarci.

## **II/4 Citizen in the first place**

- **General information**

As a result of the activities successfully implemented within the project "Citizen on the first place" in 2013 was created a group of youth activists who actively worked all 12 months in 2014 as a group named "Cultural Youth Action". The group is composed by young and enthusiastic civic activists who are trying to prove that social welfare and community development is a common responsibility of all of us and if we know better opportunities for action and dedicate a small part of the day for the good of the community the contribution will be huge. The most important element in this action is the enthusiasm of the involved young people who believe that by taking new actions will encourage other people to new local and national actions for social welfare.

- **Activities**

The activities of the “Cultural Youth Action” group are inspired by the many youth actions which are successfully implemented in the country and more similar initiatives worldwide. During the implementation of most activities we increased the awareness among young people that the changes in their community and its development depend on them and that with a little effort, positive will and selfless dedication with tiny steps are possible major changes. The activities implemented in the previous period of 12 months included on-line and off-line activism (promotion of the music from Krusevo with musical event; promotion of the stories from Krusevo with complete event “Introducing the youngest with stories from Krusevo”; introducing the young people and the wider public with the main sights of streets in Krusevo through the topic “Hero of my street”;

introducing the young people and the general public with poetry from Krusevo which concluded with the "Poetic Challenge", event organized in collaboration with Theatre Krusevo; Photo - Competition "Love Krusevo from every corner") which successfully secured the support of the citizens in town; introducing the beauties of Krusevo through video; publishing of 31 very famous recipes from the traditional kitchen from Krusevo, producing 300 calendars with pictures from Krusevo etc. All of these activities lead us to the conclusion that the young people in Krusevo do not believe and understand that change in their community is possible without direct support from decision makers and without direct financial support. Therefore, CYA as a network of active citizens offered activities by demonstrating good examples which motivated new activists and enthusiasts for their active involvement in community development.

All activities in 2014 were concluded in November when three workshops were conducted with 3 newly formed teams for local youth action. The workshops mainly had an informal methodology through which was increased the awareness of young people about their active participation for the positive changes in their society. Major emphasis was placed on the setting the social and community issues before the individual priorities in order to achieve the desired changes. Through different exercises and simulation the training team tried to motivate the new teams for youth action and to provide their support in identifying the major problems in their community in order involving them as a solution of these issues through the civic activism. In order to show the capacity of young people for community development through their own efforts were invited as guests during the workshop people who are socially active and who can support the further proposed solutions from young people about the social problems.