



Date:

Time:

Location:

# UN YOUTH, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA 101



# COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN CONCEPTS...



# COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPTS

Time:

Location:  
n:

YOUTH

PEACE

SECURITY

# COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF...



# YOUTH

- "...is understood as a transition from childhood to adulthood, marked by biological, social, economic, political, and cultural factors that are context-specific and socially constructed." (1),
- Ages: 18 – 29 years old,
- A heterogeneous group (principles of intersectionality in the research).

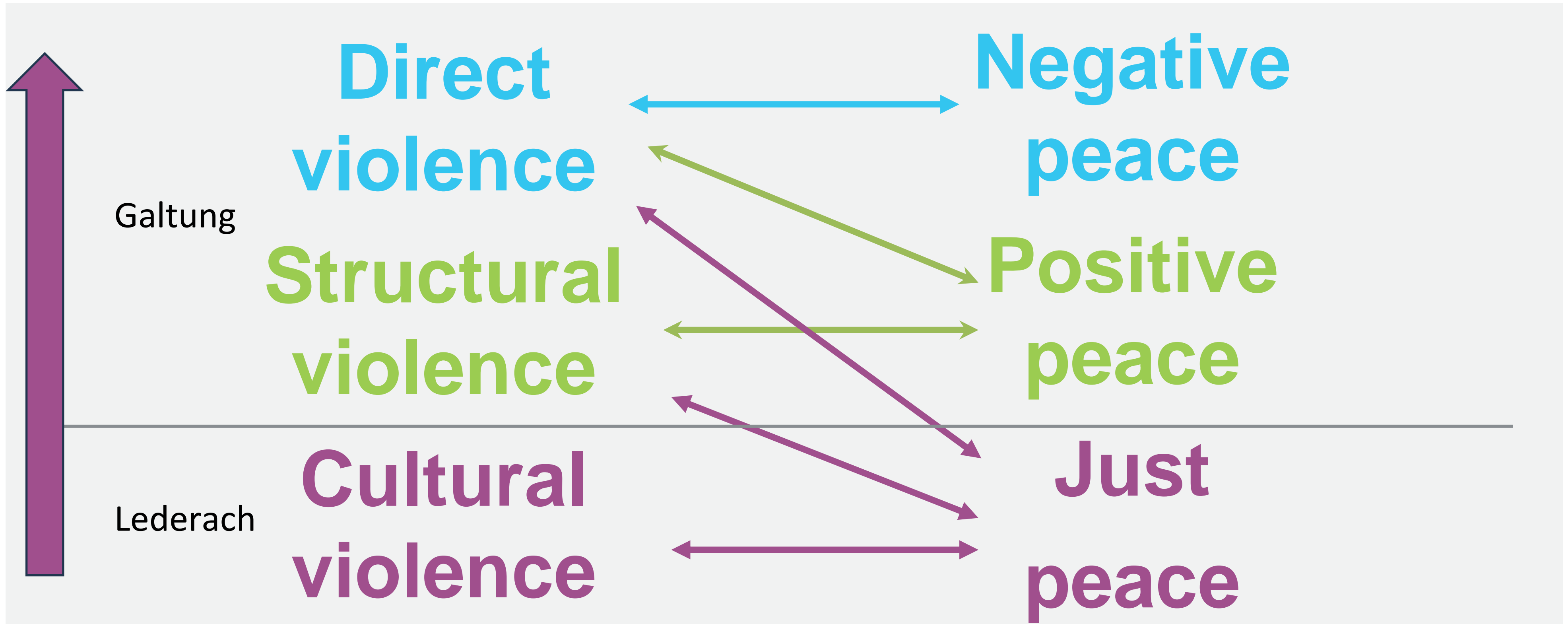
(1) Alan France, Julia Coffey, Steven Roberts, and Catherine Waite, Youth Sociology (London, Red Globe Press, 2010).1



# PEACE

Time:

Location:  
n:



# COMMON UNDERSTANDING



# SECURITY

- Traditional state security (police, military),
- Critical security studies (a broader concept of security),
- The concept of human security (policy-related, cause-and-effect relationship) – places the individual at the center and examines economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security.



# COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF

Time:

Location:  
n:

# YOUTH

# PEACE

# SECURITY

# WHY HERE

# ???



# HOW DID IT ALL START?

Once upon a time...







# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of shining star...

Time:

Location:  
n:

### JANUARY 2012 – WG YPB

With UN support, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) established a cross-agency working group on youth and peacebuilding (WG YPB, later named Global Coalition for YPS). **The purpose** was to change paradigms regarding the role of youth in the peacebuilding process.

### APRIL 2014 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PB

WG YPB developed guiding principles for youth participation in PB, including participation, diversity, gender, leadership, safety, involvement, competencies, partnership, and policy.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



## Participation

- Prioritize young people's **participation** for peacebuilding.
- Promote that the majority of youth **strive for peace**; only a minority engages in violence.
- Link youth participation to all sectors (**social, economic, cultural and political**) and to all levels.



## Leadership

- Enable young people's **ownership, leadership, and accountability**.
- Find them, Learn from them, and Support them.
- Facilitate **mechanisms** for communication to enable young leaders to be accountable to their peers and communities.



## Competence

- Enhance the **knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies** of youth.
- Identify young people who can serve as **positive role models**.
- Develop **violence-prevention strategies** beyond security responses that nurture skills in **mediation and conflict resolution**.



## Diversity

- Value young people's **diversity** and **marginalized** voices.
- Develop targeted strategies to involve young people from **different backgrounds**.
- Respect the **experiences of all**, including those associated with conflict.



## Safety

- Always aim to **"Do No Harm"** and provide a **safe** environment for young people to participate.
- Ensure that facilitators are **trained** to handle difficult situations.
- Be cautious **not to incentivize violence**.
- Be sensitive to **inequalities**.



## Partnership

- Invest in **intergenerational partnerships** in young people's communities.
- Increase **dialogue and opportunities for cooperation** among children, young people, parents and elders, in order to resolve violence.



## Gender

- Be sensitive to **gender dynamics**.
- Avoid **stereotypical assumptions** about the roles and aspirations of girls, boys, young women, men and transgender people.
- Identify strategies to seek **young women's engagement**.



## Involvement

- Involve young people **in all stages** of programming.
- Have decision makers, institutions and organizations **commit to accountability** to youth.
- Offer alternative sources of power to youth who have attained power **using violent means**.



## Policy

- Support policies that address the **full needs of young people**.
- Contribute to the establishment of **local, regional and national forums** that can enhance young people's participation in the development of public policies.



# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of shining star...

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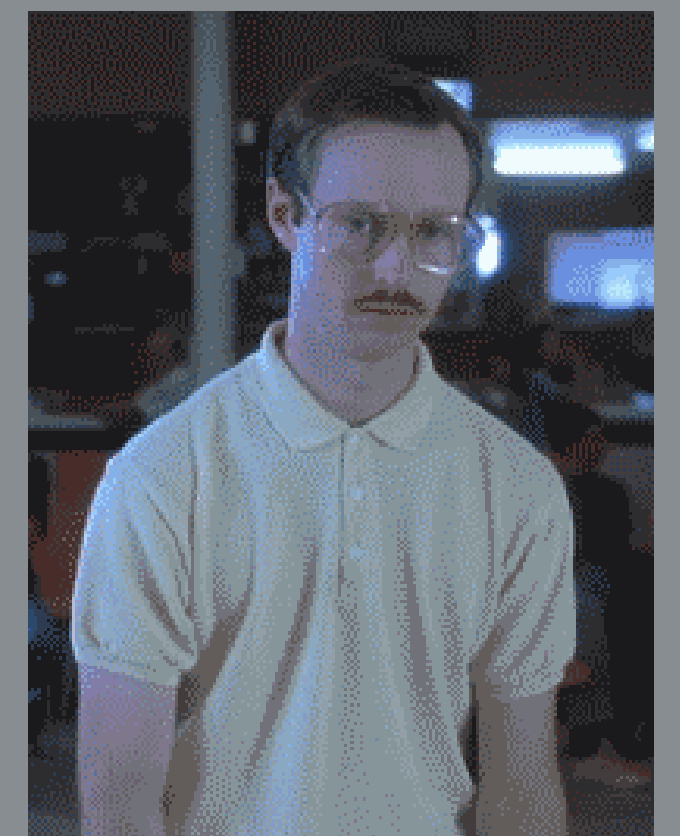
### AUGUST 2015 – GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM IN AMMAN

Around 600 participants agreed on the Amman Youth Declaration, which laid the vision of the future YPS agenda based on consultation with approximately 10,000 youth.

### DECEMBER 2015 – SC ADOPTED UNSCR 2250

For the first time, the UNSC adopted a resolution acknowledging youth's positive role and agency in peacebuilding. The UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security contributes to inclusive peacebuilding.

# ADOPTION OF UNSCR 2250 - REACTIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...





# THE MAIN FEATURES OF YPS AGENDA USCR2250

## Official acknowledgment

For the first time in history, youth were acknowledged at high political level for their positive contribution to peacebuilding.

## Change of paradigm

The paradigm shifts from perceiving youth as a victim or security risk to youth as an agent of change.

## Youth-led

The process of adoption became a global youth-led movement.

## Holistic approach

The agenda takes a comprehensive approach to youth engagement in peace and security. The Agenda is based on 5 pillars.

## Gender and intersectionality

Youth are perceived as a heterogeneous group with multiple identities.

# 5 PILLARS OF YPS (UNSCR 2250)

A holistic approach to inclusive peacebuilding policies and practice.



**PARTICIPATION**



**PROTECTION**



**PREVENTION**



**PARTNERSHIP**



**DISENGAGEMENT  
& REINTEGRATION**



# THE CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES IN DESIGN AND

**Participatory and youth responsive approach youth-responsive**

**Inclusive approach – intersectional, gender, gender-responsive, intercultural and human rights approach**

**Intergenerational approach**

**Do not harm and conflict-sensitive approach**



# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of a shining star...

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### MAY 2016 – Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI)

YPI is a financial mechanism of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) that supports innovative Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) projects. In 2023, CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina were eligible to apply for this call.

### MARCH 2018 – Missing Peace Study

The Missing Peace is independent research on youth, peace, and security that deconstructed some myths about youth engagement in violence and highlighted the misplaced policies that contribute to the 'violence of exclusion.'

### APRIL 2018 – EU on the board

European Council adopted conclusions on youth's role in peacebuilding processes. Later on EU External Action also integrated YPS in the Youth Action Plan.

### JUNE 2018 – UNSCR 2419

This resolution again emphasized inclusiveness, youth representation, and engagement in peacebuilding processes. It also tasked the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 2419.





# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of a shining star...

July 2019 – WE ARE HERE!

The Global Policy Paper on youth participation in peace processes.

**WE ARE  
HERE**



### APPROACH

The agenda of youth inclusion must be implemented from a conflict-sensitive and do-no-harm approach.

### INFLUENCE

Young people's proximity to the table matters because young people are distinctively impacted by the results of decisions made at the formal peace negotiation table.

### SUSTAINABILITY

The inclusion of young people during all phases of peace processes likely increases the sustainability of the agreements.

### DIVERSITY

Ensuring the representation of diverse youth constituencies matters in peace negotiations.

### SYNERGY

Youth inclusion and participation in peace processes should not be considered a new agenda in competition with other inclusion agendas.

### GOVERNANCE

Enabling youth political participation during peace negotiations will contribute to more inclusive and representative governance structures that build the basis for more peaceful societies.

# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

the rise of a shining star...



## 2020 – The first report of the UN Secretary-General on YPS

### CONCLUSIONS:

Despite existing efforts, the inclusion of youth in peacebuilding processes remains challenging.

Structural barriers limit youth participation in peace processes, and violations of youth's human rights persist.

Increased investment is needed to involve and empower youth to participate in peacebuilding processes.

# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of a shining star...

Time:

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### JULY 2020 – ADOPTION OF UNSCR 2535

This resolution reaffirms the role of youth in preventing and ending conflicts. It is the most progressive and operational resolution on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS).

The resolution:

- Strengthens the human rights approach.
- Recognizes structural obstacles for youth agencies in peacebuilding.
- Calls for the establishment of contact points on YPS.
- Calls for financial mechanisms to support the agenda.
- Calls for the development of guidelines on youth protection.



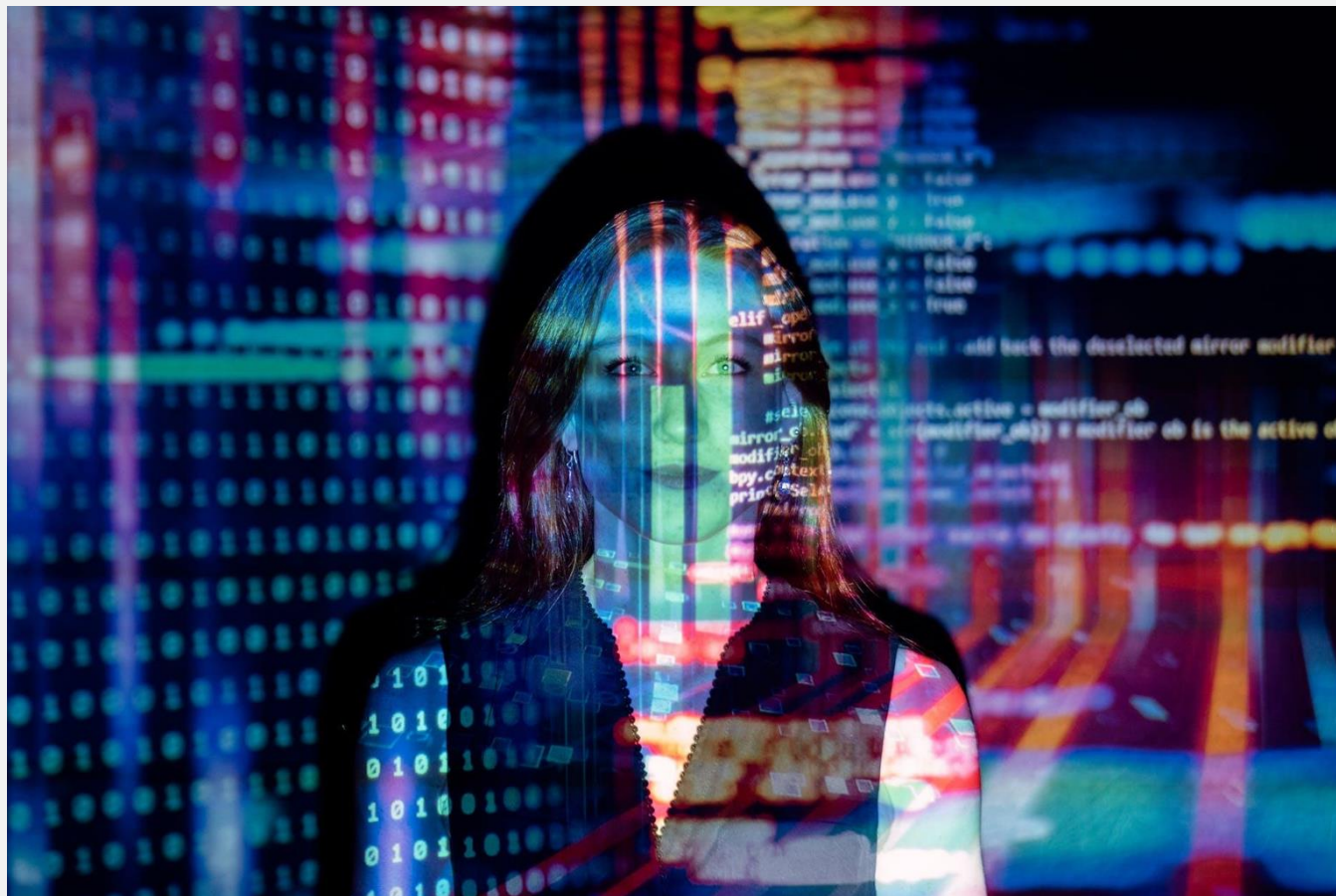
# YPS POLICY JOURNEY

## the rise of shining star...

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### JANUARY 2022 – VIRTUAL GLOBAL CONFERENCE (KATAR)



The conference focused on youth involvement in peace processes. Qatar jointly organized the event with the governments of Finland and Colombia, civil society organizations, and UN partners. The Virtual

The global conference aimed to:

- (1) Secure national commitments for improving the operationalization of the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda at the country level, focusing on gender equality.
- (2) Strengthen young people's political will and involvement in peace processes, emphasizing young women.
- (3) One of the key outcomes was the launch of the Guide for Civil Servants on implementing the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda at the country level.

# YPS POLICY JOURNAL

## AWAY 2022 – The second report of the UN Secretary-General

the rise of shining star...



### CONCLUSIONS:

Challenges of youth caused by COVID-19, climate changes, violence and armed conflicts.

Emphasizes that young people, especially young women, risk lagging in education, economic opportunities, health, and social protection during a crucial phase of their lives. At the same time, the report points out that despite these challenges, young people continued tirelessly in their efforts for peace, social justice, climate action, and equality.

# YPS POLICY JOURNEY IN NUTSHELL



**FROM**



**TO**



# SOME OF THE FIRST STEPS AROUND THE GLOBE...





# Some of the first steps around the globe...

Time:

Location:

## **JUNE 2020 – AU FRAMEWORK**

The Continental Framework on Youth, Peace, and Security was adopted by the African Union (AU) Security Council. It reinforces the call to action on youth, peace, and security in Africa, emphasizing the role of youth in socio-economic, management, and security transformation in the African context, among other aspects

## **AUGUST 2021 – FINISH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON YPS**

Finland is one of the pioneers of the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. In 2019, it announced the development of its National Action Plan (NAP) for YPS and co-organized the first international symposium on the positive role of young people in peace processes in Helsinki. The Finnish NAP on YPS draws heavily from the standards for NAP development inspired by the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

## **NOVEMBER 2021 – NATIONAL ACTION PLAN IN NIGERIA**

By adopting this National Action Plan (NAP), Nigeria became the first country in Africa and the second in the world to adopt a National Action Plan for implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.





# WESTERN BALKANS EFFORTS: Where we stand now...





# Western Balkans efforts...

Time:

Location:





# WHICH WAY TO GO?!



# IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS



## YPS POLICIES

Design of the various policy instruments (strategies, plans, etc.) that either exclusively focus on YPS or mainstream its goals in already existing policies.



## YPS PROGRAMS

Design of the YPS program or integration of the YPS goals in existing programs.



## PROJECTS

Integration of YPS goals in the projects.



## SERVICES

Design and strengthening of the services, such as legal, educational, health, etc. that support YPS.



# What to expect from RYCO?

Time:

Location:

**Insisting on principles that give power to young women and men & and call out tokenism while relying on an evidence-based approach**

**Enabling coordination, dialogue, and exchange on multisectoral efforts**

**Providing capacity building for diverse stakeholders**

*We are integrating YPS aspects across our overall programming and strengthening existing ones contributing to this agenda.*



**Thank you  
for your  
attention.**

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