

International Conference YouthBank Regional Network for Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea

27-30/11/2018

The shrinking space for democracy, freedoms and tolerance reinforces the importance for civil society cooperation and efforts to sustain and forward the regional change brought by the motivation and engagement of the young people.

YouthBank is a youth-led grant-making programme hosted by a local organization, which channels money into projects that will improve the quality of life of local communities. It is also a process and way of working with young grant-makers that encourages and trains them as they develop essential life skills as well as increase their employability capabilities. Local YouthBanks are run by young people for young people wherever they are. YouthBank is unique in that it puts money directly into the hands of young people who decide on how it will be spent. Adults support young people but they make their own decisions as to what projects they choose to carry out and how the money they have is spent. YouthBank members develop many skills including communications and strategic thinking as well as self-esteem and team spirit.

A Memorandum has being developed with the objective to strengthen and regulate the cooperation of Civil Society Organizations and young people in the Central and Eastern European and the Black Sea (CEEBS) countries which initiate, implement, host and coordinate the YouthBank program.

The YouthBank Regional Network for the CEEBS supports a growing community of YouthBanks from different parts of the CEEBS region. The Network seeks to strengthen and improve the quality and range of collaboration, external opportunities, exchange of practices and joint action by its members. The Program contributes to the emergence and consolidation of an enabling environment for Civil Society through youth- led action in the Black Sea Region, Central and Eastern Europe and other continents.

Now, network tries to sign a memorandum that aims to build a regional network of organizations implementing the YouthBank Program in the CEEBS region as well as to build wider connections to partners in other countries in the world where YouthBanks operate.

This MoU serves as a framework agreement for cooperation between member organizations of the YB Regional Network for CEEBS to build on common opportunities and address shared development challenges.

The MoU sets out the functions of the Network, the relationship between members to ensure the effective implementation of YBI's vision for success. Network membership is targeted at YouthBank host organizations at national and local levels – the YB national coordinating organizations. Each member is operationally, programmatically and fiscally autonomous from YB Network.

The members need to come together to finalize and sign the memorandum and to discuss for a better cooperation. The international conference aims to provide a ground for dialogue among CSOs, financial supporters, young people and youth workers for 3 days.

Conference Objectives: The conference pursues these main objectives:

- To create awareness and visibility among a broader audience for the importance and social contribution of YouthBank methodology in youth field.
- To discuss the necessity of youth empowerment, youth participation and the ways for assessment of contribution of young people for social change
- To provide a platform for dialogue and mutual exchange among YouthBank network members.
- To give relevant input and empowerment for actors in the field as youngsters, youth workers and financial supporters.
- To provide stage for financial supporters to express their expectations for youth field and creation of a meeting point for field representatives.
- To discuss and evaluate the importance of youth work, participation of young people, empowerment of young people and contribution of youth to social change with YouthBanks from different countries.
- To develop dialogue for building local philanthropy networks and to exchange ideas with YouthBanks who implement different models for fundraising.
- To provide opportunities for networking, project idea development and partnership building and completion of a new network by signature of “Memorandum of Understanding: YouthBank Regional Network for Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea”

The conference addresses a target group from YouthBank international network: Youth workers, project coordinators, project volunteers, representatives of financial supporters as well as other interested stakeholders and newcomers in the international youth field. The program and workshops will be designed in such a way that they bring these groups into meaningful and productive interaction. Opportunities for networking and exchange of expertise will be provided.

Draft Program				
	27.11.18	28.11.18	29.11.18	30.11.18
09:00- 13:30	Arrivals	Opening Session - Why youth participation is so crucial in nowadays? How do young people change the world? Why do we need to trust them?	Stage For Donors: How do they decide for funding? Which change do they want to see? What do they expect from youth field and youth NGOs?	Signature of Memorandum of Understanding & Closing Session
13:30-14:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:30-18:30		Why people / donors should support youth work? How do youth NGOs convince them? Why donors should support YBs? What is the added value of the project at region?	Looking Ahead: Memorandum of Understanding	Departures
18:30:00 - 21:00	Opening Ceremony	Cultural Night	Bosphorus Tour	
			Free Time	

Draft Participant List				
	Draft-Countries	Adult	Young person	Total
1	YBI	2		2
2	Croatia	1		1
3	Macedonia	1	1	2
4	Russia	2	1	3
5	Poland	2	1	3
6	Bosniza and Hezegovina	2	2	4
7	Armania	1	1	2
8	Bulgaria	2	1	3
9	Georgia	2	1	3
10	Republic of Moldova	2	1	3
11	Romania	1	1	2
12	Ukrania	2	1	3
13	Serbia	2	1	3
14	Kosovo	1		1
15	Albania	1		1
16	Palestine	1	1	2
17	Egypt	1	1	2
18	Latvia	2	1	3
19	Gayane	1		1
20	Vernon	1		1
21	Turkey	6	4	10
22	Turkey Moderator	1		1
23	Coordinator Team	4	0	4
	Total			60



As a member of YB international network for 7 years, within this project implementation term TOG would like to organize an international conference. 60 participants who are YouthBank members, youth workers and YouthBanks coordinators will come together to talk about the YouthBank project that will be organized in Istanbul at the dates of 27/30.11.2018.

Participants will know more about the Community Volunteers Foundation (TOG), the CSO actively involved in the field of youth and civil society in Turkey. Participants will learn about YouthBank projects in Turkey and The Community Volunteers Foundation will share the experiences about seven years of the YouthBank project.

At the same time the Conference hosted by Community Volunteers Foundation will increase both international and national visibility, create environment to discover networks on the international and create opportunities to build relationships. This will also affect positively local philanthropy networks. YouthBank project will make it more sustainable. Participating in the conference and sharing different local philanthropy network experiences will help the development of new strategies in turkey. They will provide information about the YouthBank Project by sharing their materials and what they do.

On the other hand, learning areas for each other will be created for the YouthBank volunteers who will participate in the conference also in particular, members of the Turkey YouthBank will learn how to carry out YouthBank projects in different countries. Each of different YouthBanks members will be able to share their experiences with the volunteers from different cultures, different countries and different mean of youth. They will share experiences with each other about realizing projects in different subjects and grand making and will contribute to personal development at the same time. During the conference, young people will have the right to comment on YouthBank Program and will make a contribution to the development of the YouthBank program.

Turkey YouthBanks members who joined in conference will share their experiences to the other members of YouthBanks and present their solutions about projects and communication when they return to their locals. They will affect the YouthBank program and the whole process in their own locals to talk about global youth, youth's empowerment and youth issues. They will have the opportunity to practice on their locals immediately, considering many issues discussed during the conference