

**The project « Make Future Together: EU and the Western Balkans from the Youth Perspective » was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"**

**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"**

**Measure 2.3 "Civil Society Projects"**

**Strand 1 – "European Remembrance"**

**Preparatory activities** (if applicable): the activities involved 13 participants.

**Location / Dates:** Belgrade, Serbia / 17-18 September, 2020

**Short description:** Preparatory activities aimed at setting grounds for enabling youth to formulate and express their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs in the later stages of the project. The extensive two-days kick-off meeting gathered project partners for a discussion about the potential topics and format of the events. During the kick-off meeting, project partners agreed to build the consultation platform around three topics (rule of law, environment, digital privacy and Internet freedoms) and the events to have a narrower focus on issues related to digital privacy and Internet freedoms only. As for the format, partners decided to have two separate events. The first would collect input from youth representatives combining plenary and group sessions following the "world café" method. The second would be open for the public in the form of webinar, gathering youth, student representatives, experts, and other interested individuals. Partners also agreed on broadcasting the second event on social media channels to increase the turnout and engagement, and build a diverse audience. Preparatory activities also involved the preparation of the youth consultation platform launched in six Western Balkan countries.

#### **Events:**

18 events have been carried out within this project:

#### **Event 1 – National Consultation / Youth Online: Can you hear me from the screen?**

**Participation:** The online event involved 18 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 11/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to stimulate a discussion between the young participants and tackle their opinions on both positive and negative aspects of the Internet, as well as to provide recommendations for potential solutions.

#### **Event 2– Public Debate / Youth Online: Can you hear me from the screen?**

**Participation:** The online event involved 38 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 12/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a panel discussion which would include two youth representatives and three people actively engaged in the work on the projects regarding the topic discussed, exchanging their opinions and concerns and give recommendations.

#### **Event 3 – Are the social networks really connecting us? - Consultations with youth representatives**

**Participation:** The online event involved 33 participants from Serbia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 17/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to bring together a group of enthusiastic young people aged between 18 and 24 to discuss different behaviors online. Participants discussed their engagement with social media platforms, their importance and the possible social and political causes they might interact with. Event produced several questions and recommendations that were to be communicated with the experts in the field.

#### **Event 4 - Addressing freedom of expression online: common challenge for the EU and Serbia**

**Participation:** The online event involved 67 participants from Serbia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 18/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to bring together a panel of 4 experts alongside with the youth representative in order to discuss freedom of expression online, both in Serbia and in the EU. The youth representative, who volunteered to participate from the first day of consultations, presented concerns, questions and recommendations that the youth came up with, while experts presented insights into these important topics and discussed the way forward. EU perspective was presented and the importance of several new Action Plans in this area was highlighted.

#### **Event 5 – Youth Event / Addressing freedom of expression online: a common challenge for the EU and Albania**

**Participation:** The online event involved 24 participants from Albania.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Tirana, Albania, on 18/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to engage the youth in a discussion regarding social media as well as positive and negative aspects of the Internet.

#### **Event 6 – Panel Discussion / Addressing freedom of expression online: a common challenge for the EU and Albania**

**Participation:** The online event involved 34 participants from Albania.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Tirana, Albania, on 19/11/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather five panelists (one media literacy expert, one EU relations expert, three youth representatives from the first event) on a panel discussion where they could provide recommendations towards building a safe and democratic online space.

#### **Event 7 – Kosovo: The youth perspective on the online space**

**Participation:** The online event involved 16 participants from Kosovo\*.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Pristina, Kosovo, on 03/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to bring together a group of enthusiastic young people aged between 18 and 24 from all over Kosovo to discuss different behaviors online. Participants discussed their engagement with social media platforms, their importance and the possible social and political causes they might interact with. Event produced several questions and recommendations that were to be communicated with the experts in the field.

#### **Event 8 – Addressing freedom of expression online: common challenge for the EU and Kosovo\***

**Participation:** The online event involved 54 participants from Kosovo\*.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Pristina, Kosovo\*, on 14/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to bring together a panel of 4 experts alongside with the youth representative in order to discuss freedom of expression online, both in Kosovo and in the EU. The youth representative, who volunteered to participate from the first day of consultations, presented concerns, questions and recommendations that the youth came up with, while the experts presented their insights on these important topics and discussed the way forward. EU perspective was presented and the importance of several new Action Plans in this area was highlighted.

#### **Event 9 – Can you hear us from the screen? Youth online!**

**Participation:** The online event involved 32 participants from North Macedonia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 03/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to engage the youth in the discussion on the Internet regulation, freedoms on social networks and positive and negative aspects of the digital space.

#### **Event 10 – Addressing Freedom of Expression on the Internet - Common Challenge for the EU and North Macedonia**

**Participation:** The online event involved 35 participants from North Macedonia.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Skopje, North Macedonia on 10/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a panel discussion between two youth representatives and four panelists, who spoke in their area of expertise, namely about the scope of EU action in the field of social media and fake news, media self-regulation model in North Macedonia, fact checking and educational policies targeting youth.

#### **Event 11 – Young online**

**Participation:** The online event involved 35 participants from Montenegro.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 16/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a discussion with the youth where they could express their opinion regarding the use of social media, disinformation, regulation and freedoms on the Internet.

#### **Event 12 – Freedom of Expression on the Internet: A Common Challenge for Montenegro and the EU**

**Participation:** The online event involved 50 participants from Montenegro.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Podgorica, Montenegro, on 17/12/2020

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a form of a panel discussion, where two representatives of the young people could present their conclusions from the first event and discuss them with other panelists, hence give further recommendations.

#### **Event 13 – Internet and Freedom of Expression**

**Participation:** The online event involved 30 participants from Italy.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Rome, Italy, on 24/02/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to engage students from 16 to 24 years old in order to have a discussion about the positive and negative impact of the Internet and how it would be possible to regulate it and transform its negative externalities into positive ones.

#### **Event 14 – Internet, Freedom of Expression and Democracy in Europe**

**Participation:** The online event involved 82 participants from Italy.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Rome, Italy, on 26/02/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather 3 high level experts, who provided their opinions on the Internet regulation and democratic trends in Italy, EU and Western Balkans. Five students, who took part to the day one event, were also involved in the discussion, posing questions about the regulation on the Internet and the impact of the Internet on the future of democracy.

#### **Event 15 – Public debate / Poland, Balkans and the European Union - how disinformation is influencing European society.**

**Participation:** The online event involved 54 participants from Poland.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 19/03/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a discussion on differences and similarities on how Balkans, Poland, and other European countries deal with disinformation and other issues on the Internet.

#### **Event 16 – Closed door event / Poland, Balkans and the European Union - how disinformation is influencing European society.**

**Participation:** The online event involved 78 participants from Poland.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Warsaw, Poland, on 20/03/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to have a discussion and to broadcast the report from previous Balkan events, in order to show similarities and differences between Polish and Balkan youth.

#### **Event 17 – Workshop / Making Future Together: A Manifesto by Young People in the Balkans**

**Participation:** The online event involved 23 participants from and Western Balkan countries.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 04/05/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather input from the Western Balkans youth, their ideas and preferences on how the EU digital policy field should develop. Since a number of the Western Balkans think tanks carried out online consultations with young people about their views on digital issues, this Workshop aimed to give a pan-regional perspective. The participants were asked to consider some urgent macro-level questions related to the policy debate. The main question that the Workshop sought to address is the way in which a safer and more empowering online space could be achieved.

#### **Event 18 – Public Debate / Make Future Together: Young people in the Balkans speak up on digital issues**

**Participation:** The online event involved 72 participants from Belgium and Western Balkan countries.

**Location / Dates:** The event took place in Brussels, Belgium, on 05/05/2021

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to gather input from the Western Balkans youth, their ideas and preferences on how the EU digital policy field should develop. Since a number of the Western Balkans think tanks carried out online consultations with young people about their views on digital issues, this policy dialogue aimed to give a pan-regional perspective. The participants were asked to consider some urgent macro-level questions related to the policy debate. The main question that the policy dialogue sought to address is the way in which a safer and more empowering online space could be achieved.