Co-funded by the European Union

WBF Western Balkans Fund
Supporting Common Projects

OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

PRESpa YOUTH FORUM 2026

Youth, Environment and Reconciliation in the Western Balkans

Are you a young person aged 18–29 from the Western Balkans interested in environmental protection, reconciliation, dialogue and regional cooperation?

We want to hear from you!

About the project

Eurothink – Center for European Strategies from North Macedonia, together with its partner organisations REC – Reconciliation Empowering Communities from Kosovo and DMO Korça from Albania, is implementing the project “Prespa Connects Cultures”, supported by the European Union and the Western Balkans Fund.

The project aims to strengthen regional cooperation, dialogue and mutual understanding across the Western Balkans, creating opportunities for young people and other stakeholders to connect, exchange experiences and develop ideas for future cooperation.

The main activity of the project will be the Prespa Youth Forum, which will take place in October 2026 in Prespa – Resen, North Macedonia.

About the Prespa Youth Forum

A total of **38 participants** will be selected to take part in the Prespa Youth Forum. The Prespa Youth Forum will bring together young people from all six Western Balkan countries:

AL Albania

BA Bosnia and Herzegovina

XK Kosovo

ME Montenegro

MK North Macedonia

RS Serbia

Over two days, participants will take part in interactive lectures, discussions and workshops, working in mixed groups and exchanging perspectives and experiences with young people from across the region.

The Forum will focus on two main themes:

ЕВРОТИНК ЦЕНТАР ЗА ЕВРОПСКИ СТРАТЕГИИ CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STRATEGIES EUROTHINK

REC RECONCILIATION EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

dmo DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

,

1. Environmental Protection and Sustainability

We will explore common environmental challenges in the Western Balkans and discuss how young people can contribute to protecting the environment, promoting sustainable development and creating greener and more sustainable communities.

2. Dealing with the Past and Reconciliation

We will create a space for young people to discuss the legacy of conflicts and divisions in the Western Balkans, different perspectives and experiences, and the role of young people in building dialogue, trust, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

Who can apply?

We are looking for young people who:

- are 18–29 years old;
- live in one of the six Western Balkan countries;
- are interested in environmental issues, reconciliation, youth participation, regional cooperation or community development;
- are open to meeting and exchanging ideas with young people from different countries and backgrounds;
- are willing to actively participate in discussions and workshops; and
- are motivated to contribute their ideas and experiences to the Forum.

You do not need to be an expert! We are looking for motivated young people who are willing to learn, share, discuss and work together.

What do participants get?

Participation in the Prespa Youth Forum is free of charge.

The project will cover the costs related to:

- accommodation;
- meals; and
- travel to and from the Forum, in accordance with the project's travel arrangements.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- meet young people from across the Western Balkans;
- exchange experiences and perspectives;
- participate in interactive discussions and workshops;
- explore environmental and reconciliation issues from a regional perspective;
- develop ideas for future cooperation; and
- contribute to the development of a Joint Cooperation Roadmap.

Co-funded by the European Union

WBF Western Balkans Fund
Supporting Common Projects

Practical information

Location: Prespa – Resen, North Macedonia
Date: 20- 22 October 2026
Duration: 2 days
Participants: Young people aged 18–29 from the six Western Balkan countries
Language: English
Participation: Free of charge

How to apply?

If you are interested in being part of the Prespa Youth Forum, complete the application form here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffJWoX1ROAx7v4nvObxJyYgrnSBTElfHC7YE-z9FWT3x3WJw/viewform?usp=header

Applications open: 10 September 2026
Application deadline: 30 September 2026

The selection will aim to ensure diverse and balanced participation from all six Western Balkan countries, taking into account applicants' motivation, interests and willingness to actively participate in the Forum.

Prespa Connects Cultures
Implemented by Eurothink – Center for European Strategies, in partnership with REC – Reconciliation Empowering Communities and DMO Korça.

The Prespa Youth Forum is part of the Grassroots Initiatives Grant Scheme (GGI), co-funded by the Western Balkans Fund and the European Union under the WBF-EU Joint Action, the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III).

ЕВРОТИНК ЦЕНТАР ЗА ЕВРОПСКИ СТРАТЕГИИ CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STRATEGIES EUROTHINK

REC RECONCILIATION EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

dmo DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

,