

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	4 - UDRUZENJE MLADI ZA MIR - UDRUGA MLADI ZA MIR
PIC number:	924896650
Project name and acronym:	Actions Supporting the Participation of Youth through Relevant Education in Europe — ASPYRE Europe

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	8
Event name:	Active Youth Forum in BiH
Type:	Workshop/Training
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
Date(s):	9-11 May 2025
Website(s) (if any):	YfP website: https://www.youth-for-peace.ba/en/news/203-active-youth-forum-held-in-sarajevo-young-people-from-across-bosnia-and-herzegovina-learn-about-public-advocacy; Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/DJkBygRt7W1/?img_index=1 Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bz4AnGBrZ/ URI website: https://www.uri.org/uri-story/20250513-young-changemakers-sarajevo
Participants	
Female:	59
Male:	29
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Bosnia and Herzegovina]:	86
From country 2 [Romania]:	2
From country 3 [name]:	

Total number of participants:	88	From the total number of countries:	2
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Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From May 9 to 11, 2025, the **Active Youth Forum** was held in Sarajevo, bringing together **88** young individuals, youth workers, decision-makers, and policy influencers across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The participants included:

- Youth (TG1): 69
- Teachers, educators, and youth workers (TG2): 12
- Decision-makers (TG3): 4

The Forum was organised by **Youth for Peace**, in collaboration with **NIT** and international partners, and focused on empowering youth through public advocacy.

Description of Activities

The **first day** of the Active Youth Forum provided an opportunity for participants to get to know each other, learn more about the **ASPYRE Europe** project, understand the Forum's objectives, meet the project team, and become familiar with the activities planned following the Forum. The opening session featured speakers from Youth for Peace, NIT, and representatives from the Coordinator, **Polylogos (Romania)**, who shared insights from previous editions of the Active Youth Forum held in Romania.

The **second day** was structured as follows:

1. **Joint plenary session** for all participants: *What is advocacy, and why is it important?*
2. **Parallel sessions**, repeated three times for three groups of participants:
 - *Basic skills for successful advocacy*
 - *Identifying target audiences and allies*
 - *Communication in advocacy*

Experienced professionals led all sessions in advocacy, policy, and communication. Each expert has long-standing experience in youth work, with a specific focus on supporting young people in developing advocacy initiatives.

3. **Conversation with Belmin Zukan** – Member of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH, President of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) Visoko

Belmin is a young politician with previous experience as a member of the City Council in Visoko, bringing insights from both local and national levels. This interactive conversation lasted nearly two hours and was moderated by an experienced youth worker. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the speaker.

4. **Evening session** – Participants gathered to discuss their initiatives and began forming advocacy groups.

On the **third day** of the Forum, three key sessions were held:

1. **Session: How to attract allies in the advocacy process?**
Led by representatives from NIT, **Bryan Carey** and **Mirela Popaja-Hadžić**.
2. **Conversation with Amila Čengić** – Youth worker and former Project Coordinator of the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

This 90-minute conversation, moderated by a Youth for Peace project coordinator, was engaging and interactive. Participants had the chance to ask questions and share their ideas with the speaker.

3. Evaluation and Feedback Session

Participants provided feedback both verbally and in writing, sharing what was done well and offering suggestions for improvement. At the end of the session, **certificates of attendance** were awarded.

Communication and Dissemination

Online communication

2 April 2025 - Social media:

- Instagram: [Link](#)
 - Views (*the number of times the post was played or displayed*): 1498
 - Likes: 30
- Facebook: [Link](#)
 - Reach (*the number of people who saw the content at least once*): 6112
 - Impressions (*the number of times the content was viewed on a screen*): 9290
 - Reactions, comments, and shares: 93
 - Total clicks: 101

10 April 2025 - Social Media:

- Instagram: [Link](#)
 - Views: 1535
 - Likes: 26
- Facebook: [Link](#)
 - Reach: 2796
 - Impressions: 6070
 - Reactions, comments, and shares: 85
 - Total clicks: 89

28 April 2025 - Social Media:

- Instagram: [Link](#)
 - Views: 891
 - Likes: 14
- Facebook: [Link](#)
 - Reach: 7082
 - Impressions: 12862
 - Reactions, comments, and shares: 149
 - Total clicks: 151

12 May 2025 - Social Media:

- Instagram: [Link](#)
 - Views: 5014
 - Likes: 121
- Facebook: [Link](#)
 - Reach: 479
 - Impressions: 762
 - Reactions, comments, and shares: 16
 - Total clicks: 20

Media coverage

Portals that deal with youth activism published the news about AYF:

- Mreža za izgradnju mira: <https://www.mreza-mira.net/vijesti/seminari-treninzi/active-youth-forum/>
- Mladi 075: <https://mladi075.ba/2025/04/15/otvorene-su-prijave-za-active-youth-forum/>
- United Religions Initiative: <https://www.uri.org/uri-story/20250513-young-changemakers-sarajevo>

Outcomes and Impact

Engagement of Youth Workers and Educators

As part of the Active Youth Forum held in Sarajevo, the project engaged 12 youth workers and educators from diverse organisations and backgrounds. While the Forum was primarily designed for young participants, it also provided an opportunity to introduce the project to these professionals and involve them in the upcoming work on mentoring youth in creating and implementing their initiatives within their local communities.

Youth Engagement and Mobilisation

A total of 69 young participants from across Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the Active Youth Forum, with the largest number coming from Sarajevo. Throughout the Forum, participants actively engaged in conversations about their roles in creating change within their communities. Many youth found common ground and formed advocacy groups based on shared interests, while others remained more reserved or unconnected — a reflection of broader trends among youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Notably, several participants expressed great enthusiasm, sharing how the Forum inspired them to initiate projects in their local communities aimed at improving the status and well-being of young people. Their energy and motivation represent a valuable driving force for the project's future steps. During the Forum, 5 advocacy groups were formed with topics ranging from acquiring sanitary products in their schools to advocating for a more just access to scholarships in Canton Sarajevo for students of all universities, including private ones.

Dialogue with Decision-Makers

At the Active Youth Forum, four decision-makers joined the event and actively engaged in open dialogue with the young participants. For many of the youth, this was a rare and valuable opportunity to speak directly with individuals in positions of authority — something they often lack access to in their everyday lives.

The conversation took place in an open and supportive environment, allowing participants to ask honest questions, express their concerns, and better understand how the political and decision-making systems function in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This exchange not only helped demystify the roles of decision-makers but also empowered the youth to see themselves as active contributors in civic life.

Importantly, it helped young people reframe their understanding of politics and decision-making, moving beyond associations with party politics and toward a broader understanding of how change can be made through institutions and advocacy. The session marked an important step in building trust and encouraging long-term youth engagement in democratic processes.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).