

Contribution of youth and civil society organisations to Youth Guarantee in Albania

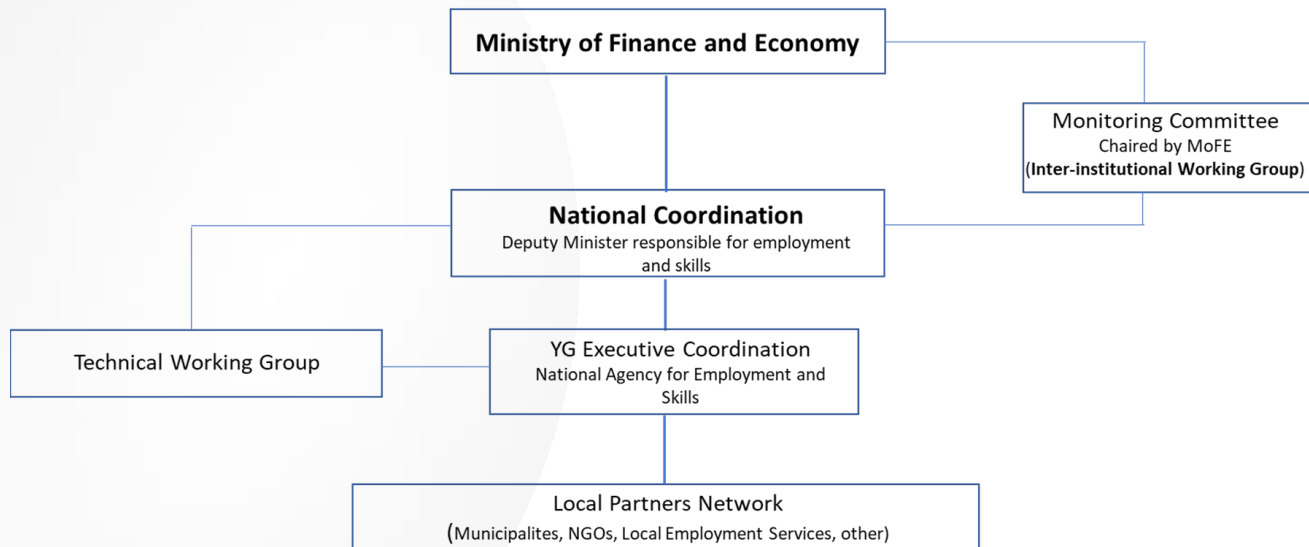
14TH DECEMBER 2022



National Youth
Congress
of Albania (NYC)

CSO and YG in Albania

YOUTH GUARANTEE GOVERNANCE MODEL



- Institutional set up for the implementation of YG scheme in Albania: National Youth Guarantee Coordinator, Inter-institutional Working Group and Technical Working Group. (Order of PM)
- In addition, with an invitation of the chairman of the technical group, other actors could join the TG: such as social partners, Municipal Union, youth umbrella organizations appointed by State Minister of Youth and Children and other experts relevant to the topic.
- Technical Working Group, conducted 3 meetings where the Draft National Youth Guarantee Action Plan has been discussed.
 - ❖ In process to be finalized and Approved of Youth Guarantee Scheme in Albania (*This step was expected to be finalized by the end of 2022*).
 - ❖ Pilot phase (*expected to start in the beginning of 2023*)
 - ❖ Implementation of Youth Guarantee (*from 2023 up to 2026*)

Experience and lessons learned with the YG initiative



Experience

- ❑ The role of youth organizations part of the TG, up to this phase, has been to discuss and revise the draft action plan.
- ❑ In the draft plan for the Pilot phase are included several activities including YG:
 - Developing the skills and resources of local partners so they can implement **the outreach strategies**. Knowledge about YG, its programmes, the Portal, the registration system and delivering some short courses to build young people's soft skills are some of the issues to be considered.
 - To contract with local actors - municipalities and youth organizations – **to identify and register young NEETs and give them information**
 - Provide counselling on training needs and career guidance to young NEETs. With other institutions **as cooperating partners of Public Institutions with are lead actors** (Ministry of Youth and Children, Ministry of Finance and Economy, National Agency for Employment and Skills, Municipalities).



- ❑ **There is e need for information on YG:** in November, National Youth Congress of Albania, in framework of Connecting Youth Platform, organized: **National Event “Investment in Skills and Opportunities for Young People: Youth Guarantee in Albania”** with the aim to inform local youth organizations about the process and consult the current developments of YG in Albania. However there have been **no participation of Public Institutions in the event to share more of the institutional approach.**

Main lesson learned:

- *CSO should be more persistent in this process regarding collaboration with public institutions which should provide more information and ensure*

Examples of cooperation with public institutions

- ❑ **YG implementation scheme is in early stages- so no concrete cooperation (except participation of several YG in the technical group/discuss on draft National Plan on YG)**
- ❑ **Example of Success cooperation with public institutions for NYC: implementation of the macro program 'Tirana European Youth Capital 2022' by NYC-supported by Tirana Municipality.**
- ❑ **In this Macro program tt list 2 programs are dedicated to measures which aimed at developing skills:**
 - ❖ **1-Youth Makes Creative Economy and Innovation**
 - At list 43 project ideas financed.
 - The programme provides space for a variety of training and mentoring activities, the creation of platforms for capacity building and creative economy, grants and improved access to finance, network expansion events, job fairs, etc.
 - ❖ **2-Youth Develops Capacity**
 - At list 64 project ideas financed for this program.
 - The project ideas envisaged to be developed within this programme aim to improve the quality of youth work as well as to increase synergy with education systems and job providers. Young people will be able to receive guidance on the proper use of available resources, express their entrepreneurial ideas and be informed on how to adapt to the challenges and dynamics of work and daily life.

Expectations from the future implementation of the YG initiative



- Approving the draft Action Plan and starting the pilot phase/starting the concrete cooperation with public institutions.
- An inclusive approach and meaningful engagement of CSO and social partners (*not only the ones engaged in the TG*) in all four phases of YG implementation including **monitoring**, (not only in the outreach/communication).
- Proactive engagement of CSO-s in this initiative.
- Regional Collaboration/Exchanging experience



Challenges

- ❖ **Coordination between central and local government with social partners/CSO.**
- ❖ **Institutional willingness to undertake reforms to ensure inclusion of CSO on providing services such are reforms/ legal interventions tackling:**
 - ❖ Centralization of Services of employment offices and vocational training centers which need and be open for social partners to provide services.
 - ❖ The problem of Institutional Bureaucracies for the accreditation of service centers for young NEET offered by CSO/YO.
 - ❖ Recognition of non formal education.



Opportunities

- **YG implementation of Youth Guarantee Scheme presents concrete opportunities** to further improve the situation of young people and of NEET category.
- Bringing in the **same table different institutions** (despite those dealing specially with youth) and other actors such as CSO, youth umbrella organizations, trade unions, experts etc., which is a step forward toward dialogue and cooperation and creates space for better coordination among their initiatives.
- **YG is in strategic focus:**
 - draft National Employment and Skills Strategy and the Action Plan 2023-2030. A dedicated priority measure addresses NEET and YG,
 - National Youth Strategy 2022-2023
- European Year of Skills 2023 launched by EU: might be opportunity to align the work and efforts between different actors working on skills and employment and create strategic partnerships for future initiatives.
- EU for Youth IPA program is already approved for Albania which will support the implementation of the schemes of YG.



Take away!

- ❑ *CSO should be more persistent in this process regarding collaboration with public institutions which should provide more information and ensure meaningful engagement in this initiative in all the 4 phases of implementation*
- ❑ *Meaningful/proactive engagement of CSO-s in this initiative in the 4 phases including monitoring of the scheme:*
 - *In Albania are a lot of CSOs have expertise in labor market programs, monitoring tools and mechanism, and strategies that can be implemented to improve the situation of youth NEET in Albania. Therefore, their expertise is very important and can be shared with institutions dealing specifically with YG scheme in the upcoming years.*
 - *Youth organizations several important advantages compared to institutions when it comes implementing YG scheme in Albania, which some of them:*
 - *Through their work in the field, they have direct connection and communication with young people including remote areas and vulnerable groups;*
 - *Have more trust from them when it comes to guidance, counseling or other engaging activities.*
 - *Their youth friendly approach, tools and communication is more attractive to young people and therefore has increased changes to maximize the implementation and impact of reforms and active measures*
 - *Can offer specific services which are not at disposal of institutional mechanisms.*



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Thank You !

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