



Youth
Entrepreneurship
Support Alliance

STATUTE
of
the Western Balkan Youth Entrepreneurship Support
Alliance

“YES ALLIANCE”

March 2021

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I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article 1

Definition of the organization

Western Balkan Youth Entrepreneurship Support Alliance (hereinafter called: the YES ALLIANCE) is a non-formal network of civil society organizations working to help build better policies for entrepreneurs in the Western Balkan region.

Article 2

Name

Name of the network is “Western Balkan Youth Entrepreneurship Alliance”.

The abbreviation is the YES ALLIANCE.

Article 3

Founders

Founders of the YES ALLIANCE are the following organisations:

1. Youth Entrepreneurial Service Foundation, “16ta Makedonska Brigada 13b, 1000 Skopje”, Skopje, Macedonia
2. Fondacija Biznis Start-up Centar Bar, “Bulevar Revolucije bb” Poslovni centar kula “A”, 85000 Bar, Montenegro
3. Inovacioni Centar Banja Luka, “Dr. Mladena Stojanovića 4”, 78000 Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Article 4

Territory

YES ALLIANCE works in countries of the Western Balkan region according to its mission, vision and goals.

Definition of the Western Balkans includes: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia.

II. VISION AND MISSION

Article 5

Vision

YES ALLIANCE is a Western Balkan CSOs network committed to identifying innovative and effective approaches for local and national governments to boost entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Article 6

Mission

YES ALLIANCE has a mission is to empower civil society and influence local and national policies towards more enabling environment for young entrepreneurs and sustainable enterprises in the Western Balkans.

Article 7

Values

YES ALLIANCE values are:

- respect of the universal human rights and of the rights of all citizens-men and women of all nationalities, religions and cultures
- development of a pluralistic and participative democracy
- socio-economic development and cultural prosperity
- social cohesion, integration and harmony
- care for the environment and sustainable development
- social justice and equality
- respect for diversity and non-violence

Article 8

Goals

YES ALLIANCE goals are:

- To increase the role of civil society by strengthening its voice in policy and decision-making on local, national and regional level in the field of entrepreneurship
- To promote civil dialogue between civil society actors and state institutions in order to influence entrepreneurship policy and programs in the Western Balkans
- Share information and resources among members for the benefit of young entrepreneurs

- Share good regional practices and assure that proposed measures are in line with national and EU entrepreneurship strategies
- To develop advocacy knowledge and skills of civil society actors as a base for greater impact
- To strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation between civil society actors in the field of entrepreneurship in the Balkan region
- To advocate for a more enabling environment for any youth-led organization in the Western Balkans that works in the field of youth entrepreneurship and to advocate for better public support in times of COVID-19

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 9 Definition

YES ALLIANCE involves in its work civil society organisations whose goals are in accordance with YES ALLIANCE mission, vision and goals.

The involvement can be in form of a member status.

The organizations with a member status have rights, duties and responsibilities in accordance with this Statute.

Article 10 Eligibility for member status

An organization may obtain a member status in YES ALLIANCE if it:

- works and contributes to strengthening and/or developing the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Balkan region through activities such as advocacy and capacity development;
- is a civil society organization, registered according to national laws of the country.

Article 11 Candidature

An organization acquires a member status through:

- expression of interest and signing a memorandum of cooperation with YES ALLIANCE

Article 12
Termination of status

Member status can be terminated if organization:

- does not participate to two subsequent Council meetings without justified cause;
- violates the Statute or other YES ALLIANCE Acts;
- works contrary to the goals, tasks and reputation of the YES ALLIANCE;
- is in any other situation envisaged with the Law or this Statute.

The decision on termination is taken by simple majority of all organizations with member status present on the Council meeting.

Article 13
Voluntary termination

Member status can be also terminated on a voluntary basis with a written statement by the organization.

IV. GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Article 14
Governing and management organs

YES ALLIANCE governing bodies are the Council and the Advisory Board.

1. The Council

Article 15
Definition of the Council

The Council is the highest governance body of the YES ALLIANCE.

The Council executes its rights and duties based upon and within the limitations of the Statute and general acts of the YES ALLIANCE.

The Council is composed of one authorized representative of each organization with member status.

Members of the Council are confirmed by the Council.

Article 16
Powers of the Council

The Council:

- adopts, amends and supplements the Statute;
- adopts the general policy and strategy;
- decides on the membership fee amount,
- elects members of the Board;
- adopts rules and procedures;
- performs other matters in conformity with the Statute and general acts of the YES ALLIANCE.

Article 17
Council sessions

The Council works in sessions with minimum one session in calendar year.

The sessions are assembled by the Chairperson of the Council upon his own initiative, upon the request of the Advisory Board or upon the request of 1/5 of Council members.

Article 18
Chairperson of the Council

The session is chaired by the Chairperson of the Council.

The Chairperson is elected on a yearly rotating basis on the proposal of any Council member.

Each Council member can be elected Chairperson of the Council with the exception of elected members of the Board.

Article 19
Voting

The Council has a quorum if the majority of the total number of its members are present.

The Council decides by consensus on vision, mission and goals.

In other cases, the Council decides by majority vote of members present, if this Statute does not foresee a special majority.

In case of undecided vote (equal number of votes), the vote of the Chairperson of the Council is deciding.

Article 20
Conference call

The Council members can participate and decide on sessions through a conference call with registered conversation.

Article 21
Proxy voting

The Council members can also decide without a physical session or in absence with a verified signature or signature sent by fax or e-mail.

Article 22
Meeting records

Each session is recorded by the minutes confirmed by the Chairperson of the Council and one Council member.

2. The Advisory Board

Article 23
Definition of the Board

The Board is the governing and supervisory organ of the YES ALLIANCE.

The Board executes its rights and obligations based upon and within the limitations of the Statute and general acts of the YES ALLIANCE.

Article 24
Composition of the Board

The Board is composed of six to eight members: Chair of the Board, Deputy-Chair of the Board and four to six members

Board members do not necessarily have to be Council members.

Members of the Board from the same organization with member status, have one vote.

Article 25
Elections of the Board

Mandate of the Board members is three years, with the right to re-election.

Election of members is based on candidates proposed by Council members.

Members are elected individually with the majority of Council members voting, but no less than 1/3 of the total number of Council members.

Article 26
Chair of the Board

The Chair of the Board and Deputy-Chair of the Board are elected by the Board with the majority of present members, but not less than 1/3 of the total number of Board members.

The Chair of the Board is responsible for the work and decisions of the Board.

In case of absence or other hindrance of the Chair of the Board, he/she is replaced by the Deputy-Chairperson of the Board.

Article 27
Powers of the Board

The Board:

- approves draft strategy, (multi-)annual programmes, work programmes and financial plans;
- approves general acts adopted by the Council;
- adopts measures for good governance of the YES ALLIANCE assets and resources;
- approves draft annual narrative and financial reports;

- decides on association and membership of YES ALLIANCE in national and international organizations and networks and partnerships in large scale international projects;
- prepares and implements decisions by the Council;
- performs also other matters in conformity with the Statute and general acts of the YES ALLIANCE.

Article 28 Board sessions

The Board works in sessions with minimum two meetings in a calendar year.

The sessions are assembled by the Chair of the Board, upon his own initiative, upon the request by two of Board members or upon the request of 5 Council members.

The Chair of the Board assembles the session within 5 days of the submission of the request.

The session is recorded by minutes, which are authorized by the Chair of the Board.

Article 29 Voting

The Board has a quorum if the majority of the total number of its members is present.

The Board decides by majority vote of members present, if this Statute does not foresee a special majority.

In case of undecided vote (equal number of votes), the vote of the Chair of the Board is deciding.

Article 30 Conference call

The Board members can participate and decide on session through a conference call with registered conversation.

Article 35
Proxy voting

The Board members can also decide without a physical session or in absence with a verified signature or signature sent by fax or e-mail.

V. FINANCING

Article 36
Sources of funding

YES ALLIANCE acquires and collects funds from: donations, contributions, grants, provision of services and membership fee.

Article 37
Use of funds

YES ALLIANCE funds are used for goals, tasks and activities, in accordance with this Statute and the general acts of the YES ALLIANCE and in conformity with regulations and limitations of the funders.

The surplus of revenues over expenditures that the WBYAE makes cannot be distributed as such to any person. It must be used exclusively for implementation of the goals, tasks and activities of the YES ALLIANCE.

Article 38
Transparency and accountability

The Board governs the funds of the YES ALLIANCE in accordance with the valid legal regulations in order to achieve a stable balance of revenues and expenditures.

Each Council member has the right to claim insight into the use of funds and incomes of YES ALLIANCE.

Article 39
Conflict of interest

Members of the Board and members of their families cannot have a business interest in any organisation which sells, rents or supplies goods and services to the YES ALLIANCE.

An exception to paragraph 1 of this Article may be approved by a decision of the Board with a two-thirds majority of the total number of members, and it should appropriately be published in the annual report of the YES ALLIANCE.

Board members, who have a relationship with an organisation that works with the YES ALLIANCE, should declare this interest in relation to their organisation and they should be excluded from the relevant decision-making by the Board.

VI. PUBLICITY IN OPERATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Article 40 Publicity of work

The work of the YES ALLIANCE is public and transparent.

YES ALLIANCE organs oblige themselves to provide information to the public.

All information shall be provided upon request.

Article 41 Methods of publicity

Publicity of its work is realized also through:

- press conferences;
- the website;
- annual or regular reports about its work;
- cooperation with the media;
- publications;
- information-dissemination;
- other appropriate communication tools and means.

VII. FOUNDATION ACTS

Article 50 General acts

YES ALLIANCE adopts the following general acts: Statute and Code of Conduct.

Deviations from the Statute and general acts may not be permitted, unless the Statute and general acts are amended and supplemented.

The general acts of YES ALLIANCE are signed by the Chairperson of the Council on behalf of the Council.

Article 51
Amending and supplementing Statute

The Council adopts amends and supplements the Statute.

The motion for amending or supplementing the Statute can be submitted by at least 5 members of the Council or by the Board.

The amendments and supplements to the Statute are enacted by a two-thirds majority of the total number of Council members.

VIII. TERMINATION OF ACTIVITY

Article 52
Termination

YES ALLIANCE terminates its activities if:

- decision of termination of activities is agreed by the Council with two-thirds majority;
- other cases envisaged by the Law.

IX. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 58
Coming into force of the Statute

This Statute comes into force on the day of its signing.