



Strategic Planning 2019 -2022



Introduction



The Kosovar Youth Council (KYC) is one of the oldest youth non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1999 in refugees camps in Albania and registered officially later during that year in Prishtina, Kosovo. KYC came to existence as a response to the needs of young Kosovars who had been facing many challenges brought on by the massive expulsion from their homes during the war in 1999. Hitherto, KYC has aspired to act and build a civil society through creating and supporting youth organizations, engaging young men and women in the change making processes, strengthening their capacities, representing their voices, promoting self-organized education and supporting development of youth policies. Young people are at the heart of the organization and are supported with outstanding standards in volunteers, leaders, staff and services.

KYC striking niche is establishment of the biggest high school's student representative structure – the Student Council of Kosovo- SCK. SCK is active since 2005 and consists of 100 representatives from 30 municipalities in Kosovo, 100 high schools. SCK is a national structure that represents all students of secondary schools of Kosovo and serves as an entity that protects students' interests and cooperates with officials, parents and professors for the benefit of entire education system.

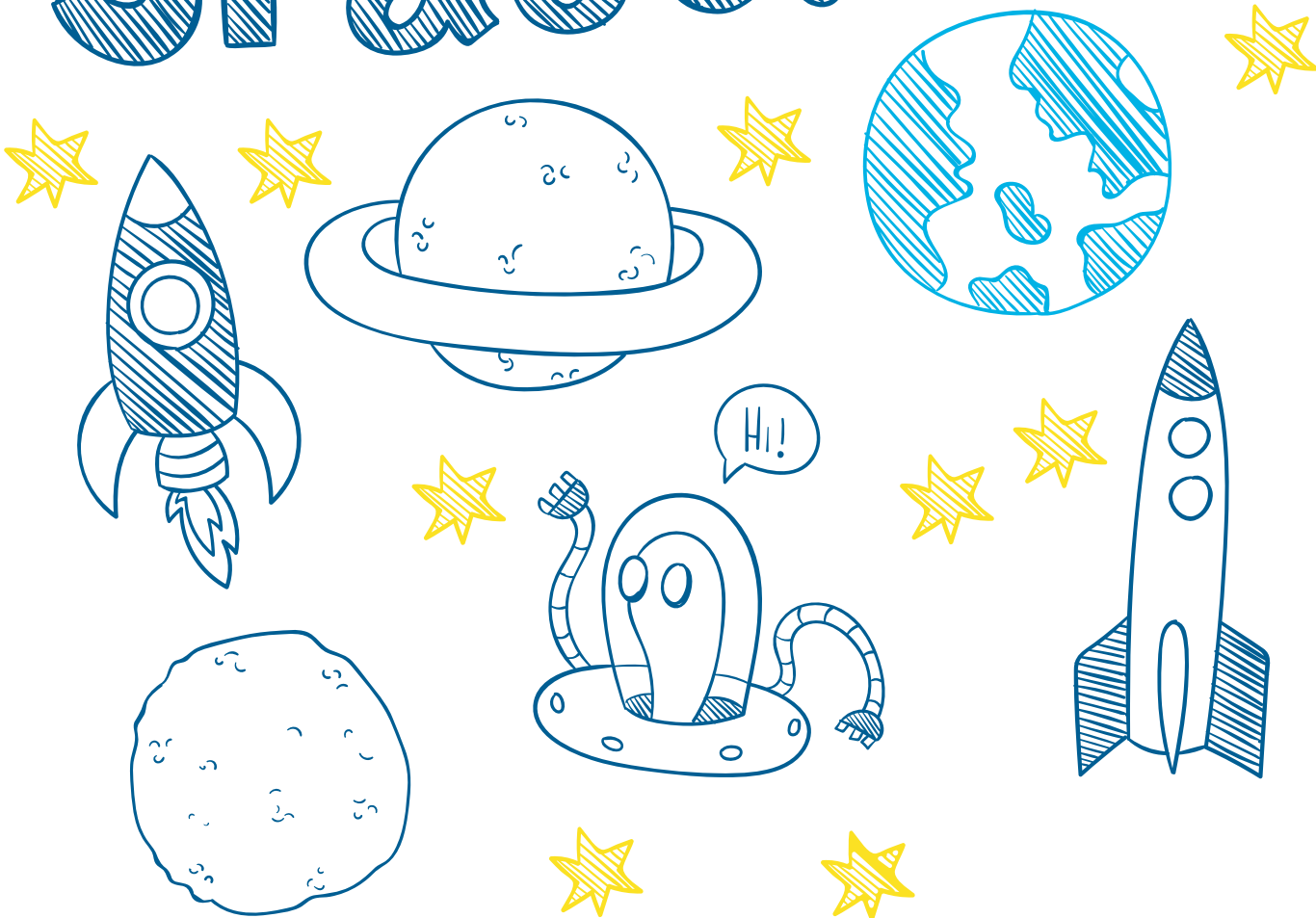
KYC's highest governing body is the assembly composed of all members of the organization. In addition, KYC has an auxiliary body, the board of directors, which is composed of three members. Apart from the staff involved directly in KYC's programs, KYC has more than 600 active volunteers per year and has a wide geographic coverage in 30 municipalities (out of 38 municipalities) in Kosovo.

KYC partners with schools, nonprofits, public institutions and others to keep youth healthy, educated, and active in their communities. Likewise, KYC works one-on-one with youth of all genders as well as their families, teachers, and other adults in their lives. Furthermore KYC supports institutions transform their cultures, programs, and operations to be more inclusive and responsive to the voices and needs of youth of all genders.

In the past 19 years KYC's approach has been to build relationships and engage directly and holistically with youths and their families to meet their needs, connect them to resources, and shed light on pathways to their goals. It has also been an approach to collaborate with and trains institutions who interact with youth on adopting proven practices for positive relationships with and equitable outcomes for all youth as well as amplify youth power and influence on all issues that impact their lives and hold public agencies accountable for securing positive outcomes for all youth.

Space!

HELLO!



- established the Club for Better Education in 2013, composed of students, parents, CSOs, MEST representative, which has contributed with recommendation for the finalization of the core curricula framework and has conducted a needs assessment for high school students

- Approximately 1 million students as indirect beneficiaries of KYC and SCK since establishment
- More than 17000 young men and women who have benefited directly from KYC trainings and workshops opportunities
- More than 600 volunteers involved in KYC activities in yearly basis
- Published more than 15 publications and research reports on education and youth.

This strategic plan sets the overall direction for KYC for the years 2019- 2022. The plan has been developed in support of the organization's vision and reflects our commitment to enabling youth of all genders thrive through programs of Education, Youth Development and Youth Activism.



VALUES

Youth empowerment

We believe that by empowering youth through capacity building activities, we enable meaningful participation in public life and strengthen their role in our society.

Inclusiveness

We believe that an equal and just world give space for participation of youth of all genders, ethnicities, race, religion, sexual orientation, and special needs.

Critical thinking and open mindedness

We believe that by encouraging youth to take risk and employ experimental approaches we promote critical thinking and open-mindedness.

Community

We believe that by providing programs that are accessible to all we build vibrant communities that participate in decision making processes and public life.

PROGRAMS

Education

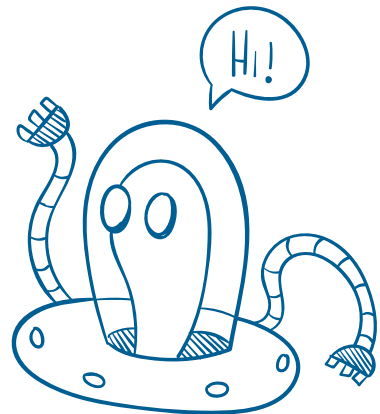
Student achievement and quality education is critical to the development and long-term employment success of youth. Through its work in advocacy and policymaking processes, KYC, aspires to make young men and women voices heard and play key role in shaping and influencing education policies. In this frame, KYC works to ensure that all children and youth have access to a high-quality education that prepares them to lead healthy and productive lives and contribute to their communities. In particular KYC aspires to respond to youth-related issues and the national policy concerns by collaborating with relevant institutions and organizations.

KYC also runs experiential learning programs for youth of all genders adapted to local conditions and existing needs. The education program works to enhance academic achievement of children and youth of all genders, while also strengthening safe learning environment programs that help reduce school violence and provide innovative education incentives to children and youth of all genders. The education program also focuses on increasing access to education by providing assistance to young men and women and engaging them in skills training programs geared for local labor market.



Youth Development

KYC believes that youth development is promoted through activities and experiences that help youth of all genders develop social, ethical, emotional, physical, and cognitive competencies. In this line of thought, KYC's Youth Development Program provides the opportunity to empower youth of all genders, foster self-resilience and growth as well as equipping them with necessary tools to shape them for a meaningful future. The Youth Development Program builds on the strengths of young men and women by developing their skills, providing them with leadership training, mentoring, and by helping them to transition through the challenges and problems they may experience in their daily lives. The program is implemented in a way that ensures social inclusion of all youth.



Youth Activism

KYC believes that if we provide youth with relevant services and programs, meaningful engagement and opportunities to practice leadership they will become change agents and contributors to healthy thriving communities. This formula for change maintains that involved youth can influence policy and ultimately create vigorous communities. Through training and leadership experience, KYC prepares youth of all genders to become the next generation of activists in their communities. Through involvement in SCK, youth initiatives and meaningful engagement experiences in decision making process, KYC supports youth of all genders in developing the ability to analyze their own strengths and weaknesses, set personal and vocational goals and develop the ability to guide or direct others on a course of action, influence the opinions and behaviors of others, and serve as a role model.



DEFINITION OF TERMS

Strategic Priorities

Strategic priorities are high-level topics or activities that KYC wants to particularly encourage and promote over the long term. These priorities will guide budget and resource allocations decisions.

Strategic Goals

Strategic goals are the milestones that KYC aims to achieve that evolve from the strategic priorities. They transform strategic priorities into specific performance targets that impact the entire organization. Goals can be qualitative or quantitative.

Strategic Objectives

Strategic objectives identify the approaches or activities that will be carried out to achieve the strategic goals.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES GOALS & OBJECTIVES

FOR YEAR 2019 -2022

Strategic priority 1. Improving the quality of education for primary and secondary schools

Goal 1. Develop partnerships with stakeholders to improve the quality of education for primary and secondary schools

Goal 2. Increase the offer of formal and non-formal education activities

In order to achieve these goals, KYC will monitor and conduct research in the field of education. Provide policy options on education to stakeholders. Initiate advocacy actions which include organizing debates, roundtables and, schools visits. Run campaigns on education. Run non-formal education programs. Use innovative tools to increase interest of youth in education. Provide capacity building opportunities for youth through trainings and workshops. Provide non-formal education programs for children with special needs. Establish an Education Academy. Create linkages between youth and decision makers in the field of education. Develop partnerships with organizations that allow us to leverage our collective resources to improve the quality of education.

Strategic priority 2. Supporting youth development to achieve their full potential

Goal 1. Enabling youth development through capacity building activities

Goal 2. Address youth needs and priorities

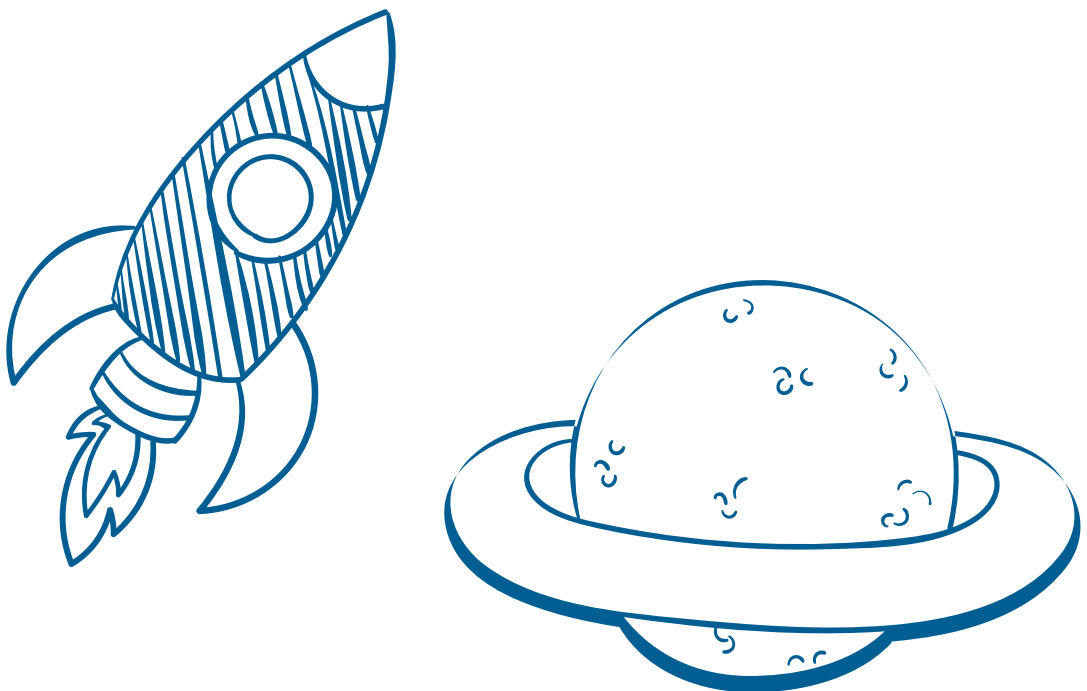
In order to achieve the goals of the Youth Development Program, KYC will monitor and conduct research in the field of youth development. Provide youth policy options to stakeholders working in the area of youth development. Organize debates and discussions roundtables on needs and priorities of youth of all genders and ethnicities. Run campaigns on youth development. Run non-formal youth development programs. Organize training and workshops that focus on youth development for youth and stakeholders working with youth. Bring into play innovative tools that boost youth development processes. Create linkages between youth of different backgrounds. Organize exchanges and camps for youth. Implement cultural and sports activities that enable positive youth development.

Strategic priority 3. Enhancing youth capacities for participation and decision- making

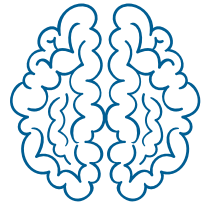
Goal 1. Strengthening the role of students councils

Goal 2. Increasing youth participation in public life and decision making processes

In order to achieve the goals of the Youth Activism Program, KYC will facilitate regular monthly meetings with SCK and general assembly. Organize debates and discussions on enabling youth participation in decision-making processes. Implement advocacy actions and campaigns on youth engagement. Support youth initiatives at local and national level. Facilitate and support youth to mobilize communities. Run non-formal activism programs, including exchanges and youth camps. Provide capacity building opportunities for youth through trainings and workshops on leadership, participation, and activism. Organize summer schools, exchanges and camps. Draw on ground-breaking advocacy techniques that increase youth participation in decision making processes. Establish linkages between youth of all genders, stakeholders and decision-makers. Make use of cultural and sports activities to engage youth in their communities and increase youth activism. Activate the Club for Better Education. Provide opportunities for volunteerism and meaningful youth engagement.



MEASURES OF SUCCESS BY 2022

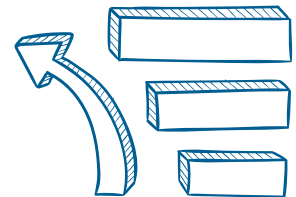


Education Program

1. KYC has contributed in the process to improve the quality of education for primary and secondary schools
2. KYC has diversified the offer of formal and non-formal education activities

Youth Development Program

1. KYC has strengthened youth capacities
2. KYC has initiated establishment of mechanisms that address youth needs and priorities



Youth Activism Program

1. Students council are functional and sustainable
2. Increased participation rate of youth in public life and decision making processes



TARGET GROUP & STAKEHOLDERS

**Youth of all genders & ethnicities
up to 24 years old**

Children 10-14 years old

**Vulnerable groups, Non-majority youth, LGBTI,
Youth with special needs**

Primary and High Schools

Parents

Teachers

Municipal Directorates of Education

Ministry of Education Science and Technology

Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports

Parliamentary Education Committee

Public Institutions

Local and International NGOs

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

Sustainability

Geographical coverage in 30 municipalities

Strong and long-term partnership with various stakeholders and national and international level

Largest Student Council Network

Network of volunteers

Professional network of young people

Access in and collaboration with 107 high schools in Kosovo

Apolitical and constructive approach with decision makers and policymakers

Youth-friendly and young people involved as staff

By youth for youth, learning by doing and grassroots approach approach

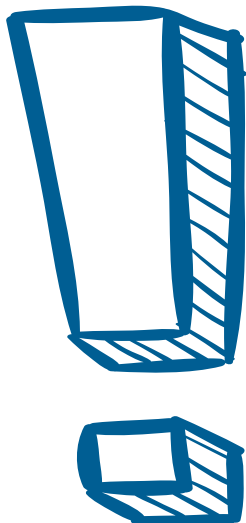
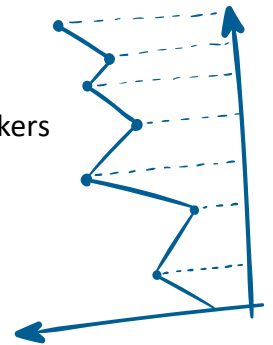
Membership in OBESSU

Commitment to adhere to professional standards of operation

KYC positive image in the general public

Advocacy capacities as well as knowledge and competence in education and youth sector

Flexible approach



Weaknesses

Documentation of KYC work throughout the years

Relatively old policy handbook and internal regulations

Limited infrastructure capacities to implement programs

Low visibility and lack of a communication strategy

Lack of a designated person to work on fundraising primarily

Student Council of Kosova is not self-sustainable

Lack of core funds

Opportunities

Upgrading fundraising models such as applying membership fee for Student Council Network, Club for Better Education fundraising scheme for SCK, and /or provide services for students and other youth organizations in the frame of career orientation platform

Young population

High demand for youth activities

High priority for education, particularly VET schools programs and initiatives

Expanding the scope of work beyond student council network

New partnerships at regional and international level

Partnership with stakeholders for the field of innovation



Threats

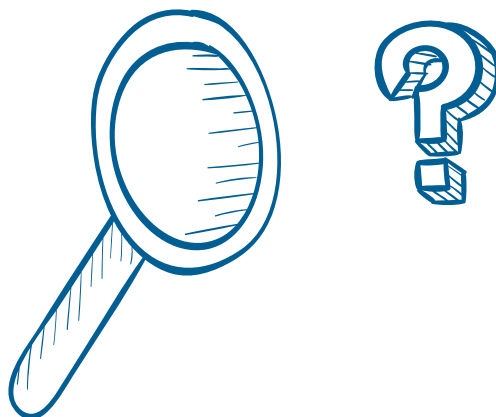
Unstable political situation

Political situation in northern part of Kosovo limits KYC access in Serbian populated Municipalities

High School Directors influence in the election of student representatives in Students Councils in some schools

Decrease in funding opportunities from international donors

Low political will to engage youth in decision-making processes





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