

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS DOCUMENT

### Background:

These recommendations were put forward during the Working Group sessions of the first Annual Forum of Young Professionals held on December 17<sup>th</sup> by the Young Professionals' Network. This year's theme was Digital Transformation.

*Four working groups were established on the following themes:*

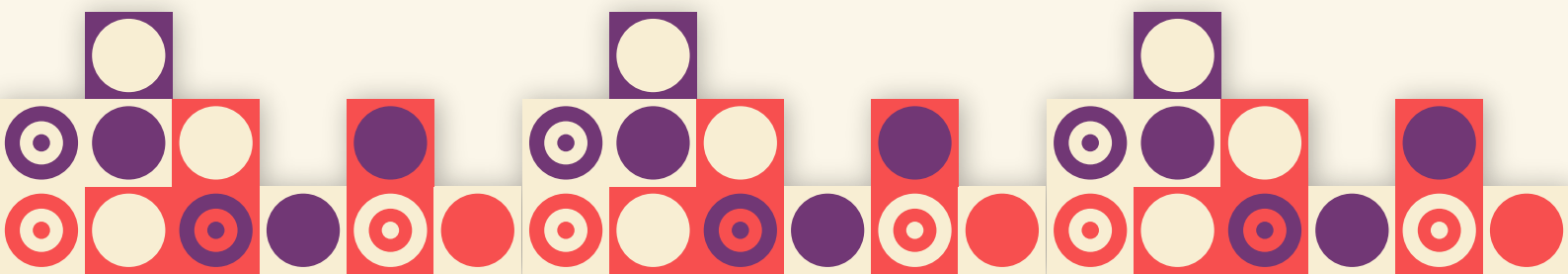
1. Data access,
2. Cybersecurity,
3. Youth Priorities in Innovation,
4. Digital Education.

These recommendations, divided under two pillars, aim at ensuring that priorities and interests of young professionals concerning the Digital Agenda and youth are reflected in future youth-relevant policies.

The recommendations will be addressed to the State Ministry for Youth and Children for further consideration as it develops the 2022 - 2029 National Youth Strategy.

### Recommendations on Digital Infrastructure and Skills

- Improving the online digital infrastructure for attending online courses and accessing e-textbooks from all over Albania through the establishment of tech-hubs at the municipal level and the digitalization of texts to enable the inclusion of young people from smaller cities and rural areas.
- Increase digitalization investments in schools through the specialization of teachers for the development of ICT and the improvement of textbooks and physical infrastructure in schools.
- Enhancing digital skills for young people in order to adapt to the needs of the labor market and developing media and information literacy skills to



identify the violation of privacy in the digital space, among others.

- Undertaking awareness campaigns on the safe access of young people to the cyber ecosystem as well as recognizing the institutional paths they should follow in case they come across/experience cyberattacks / crimes. (a start to the promotion of Law No. 2/2017 "On Cyber Security")
- Increase exchanges and cooperation of young professionals in the region through regional employment, development and education schemes.
- Development of concrete programs and defined budget lines, in addition to action plans by municipal units related to youth and active citizenship as needed.
- Creating an online platform where young people have access to opportunities for training, conferences, internships and information related to their development at the national level.
- Development of electronic registers for data of students and pupils in schools.
- Publication of online regulations on websites for all institutions that collect/utilize the personal data of young citizens and not only.

### **Recommendations on Relevant Actors' Action**

- The provisions of the National Youth Strategy should be well aligned with those of the National Strategy for Cyber Security 2020–2025, and especially those concerning Policy 3: "Establishment of necessary mechanisms to ensure the safety of children in cyberspace, while enabling the future generations to take advantage of information technology and meeting the challenges of development".
- Establishment of cooperation/coordination roundtables/working groups among central level actors to avoid overlapping agendas and programs.
- Increase coordination between central and local level actors to translate youth policies and policies into concrete measures and investments.
- Increase cooperation and coordination with NGOs operating at the national level and national agencies to ensure better youth policy coordination, investment orientation and fundraising.
- Promoting cooperation with the private sector in order to improve working conditions and provide more flexible employment contracts for young people by applying an hourly work/pay system.

