

Addressed to: The Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Edi Rama, and the Parliament of the Republic of Albania

Date: September 16, 2025

Subject: Declaration on Making Youth a Strategic Priority in the New Government

Honorable Prime Minister, Honorable Chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania,

In 2013, we welcomed the inclusion of youth as a priority area in the government's activities, starting with the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, later transitioning to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (2017-2021), and the creation of the Minister of State for Youth and Children in September 2021. These steps brought improvements to policies to youth and children's rights and promoted their direct participation in society, viewing youth as an intersectoral group in the development of all policies.

The announcement of the new government has concerned many youth actors and organizations as we note that no dedicated portfolio for youth has been provided in any of the ministries. This fact risks fragmenting youth priorities and losing the continuity of policies built in recent years.

Young people aged 15-29 constitute 21.3% of Albania's population. They represent an important group of the workforce and potential for a sustainable future of the country, making their participation decisive for Albania's economic, social and political development. The challenges of unemployment (17.9%) and emigration (80% of young people express a desire to emigrate) show that youth policies must continue to be well-coordinated both at the central and local levels, marking measurable impacts on young people's lives.

From a policymaking perspective, it is essential to maintain continuity and not interrupt the work that has been done so far. Ensuring the implementation and monitoring of existing youth plans, such as the National Youth Strategy and Plan 2022-2029 or the EU-funded Youth Guarantee, should be as important as drafting new plans that improve mobility, housing and youth retention in the country.

For these reasons, we request that:

1. Youth has a clear and dedicated portfolio in government;
2. All the work done so far is preserved and built upon;
3. Youth remains a clear strategic priority of the new government.

We believe that maintaining a clear focus on youth will contribute to addressing important challenges and that youth policies are coordinated and contribute to the country's sustainable development.

Respectfully,

Young Professionals Network