



Canadian Society for International Health A Canadian Voice for Global Health

La Société Canadienne de Santé Internationale

Balkans Youth and Health Project

The Balkans Youth and Health Project (BYHP) is implemented by the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) in partnership with World University Service of Canada (WUSC). The goal of the project is to improve the health of youth, young women and other vulnerable groups in Serbia and Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH).

The two Canadian organizations work with local stakeholders, such as Ministries of Health, public health institutions, and youth NGO's, to strengthen health policy and programs at the national, regional and local levels. The Balkans Youth and Health project aims to improve the capacity of organizations working in the primary health care sector of Serbia and BiH to develop and implement effective and efficient gender-sensitive, youth-oriented policies, programs and services.

Moreover, the project aims to harmonize delivery of services among public health institutions, health providers and youth groups to increase access to primary health care for young people. Seeking input by young people themselves to determine their specific needs is a high priority.

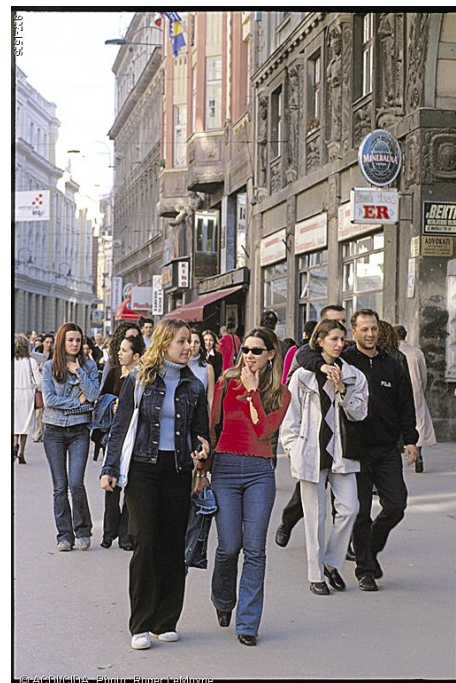


Youth between the ages of 10 and 26 including young women, vulnerable youth groups, and extremely vulnerable youth are the focus of the project. Vulnerable youth groups include drug users, returnees, the very poor, and marginalized ethnic minorities like the Roma. Especially vulnerable youth groups include young offenders, commercial sex workers, men having sex with men and substance abusers.

CSIH and WUSC will support local stakeholders by contributing to:

- The preparation of a National Youth Health Action Plan (NYHAP) in BiH;
- Contributing to the implementation of the National Strategy for Youth Development and Health in Serbia;
- Supporting the design and implementation of youth friendly health services at local action sites in both countries; and
- Advising in the reform of youth-friendly primary health care policies and programs.

The BYHP will help to develop youth-oriented models and initiatives of primary health care. These models and initiatives should increase access to health counseling, diagnosis, treatment, and education, aimed at promoting healthy lifestyle choices for young people and contribute to the reduction in the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse, sexually transmitted infections, and mental illness among young people throughout BiH and Serbia.



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