

Question 1:

Can you explain me the registration procedure for youth councils?

Answer:

According to Article 15 of the Youth Law of FBiH, "*The competent municipal office shall independently keep a list of youth associations...*"

As is explained in the Guidelines for the Youth Law of FBiH, the municipal office will keep a list of youth associations which have their headquarters or a formally registered office in the respective municipality and which have met the criteria laid down in Article 4, paragraph 2, of the Law (they are registered as associations, 2/3 of young people are incorporated into their membership and governance bodies, their statutory activities are developed for addressing young people's issues, etc. - see p. 69 of the Guidelines). Upon meeting these criteria, a youth association will submit a request for incorporation into the list of youth associations to the competent municipal office which will correspondingly issue a valid document to confirm this status.

Only youth associations incorporated into the list maintained by the competent municipal office may establish a youth council, that is at least three organisations in the list (and more than 50% of the organisations in the list), in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations. Once incorporated into the list, and in case they wish to establish a "Youth Council of the Municipality XX", youth associations must address the competent municipal authority for prior approval to include the name of the municipality in its own name.

As stated above, the procedure is as follows:

1. Identifying the competent municipal office for coordination of youth issues (these are usually in charge of providing social activity services) – it is recommended to include the words "and Youth" in its name.
2. The act of creating the list of youth associations in the municipality. Only those associations which have met the criteria, in accordance with Article 4 of the Youth Law, and which have submitted to the municipality a request for incorporation into the list, accompanied by the required evidence.
3. More than 50% of the associations from the list, and a minimum of three youth associations, initiate the establishment of a "Youth Council of the Municipality XX." In order to do so, they should request the consent from the competent authority to bear the name of the municipality in the name of a youth council. They address the competent municipal office that will provide the required consent, after confirming their incorporation into the list and that the criteria for the establishment have been met.
4. After fulfilling all the requirements, the youth council of the municipality will be incorporated with the Ministry of Justice at the cantonal level.

Question 2:

Is it possible for the Red Cross of a municipality to become part of a youth council?

Answer:

A youth association must be registered as an association, must have more than 2/3 of young people included in the membership and the management (15-30 years of age), its statute should specify that its objectives primarily relate to young people and it must be incorporated into the list of youth associations. Thus, the Red Cross youth members of the Municipality XX will have to be registered as a separate association.