



# Youth4Cohesion

## Webinar on a “Smarter EU”

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

Working language: English

### Background

The [Youth4cohesion](#) (Y4C) project, directly funded by DG Regio within the “[Engaging citizens in Cohesion policy](#)” initiative and implemented by the [Adriatic Ionian Euroregion](#) (AIE), aims at equipping young people and youth organisations of the Adriatic Ionian area with the knowledge and skills for engaging in Cohesion Policy actively and meaningfully. The action is based on AIE’s long-lasting commitment to involving young people in decision-making.

Through a Call for Expression of Interest addressed to young people and youth organisations in 10 countries of the Adriatic Ionian area, young people were called to engage in the project and attend a sustained programme of webinars focusing on the 5 policy priorities of the new Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 (: – a smarter Europe, – a greener, carbon free Europe, – a more connected Europe, – a more social Europe, – a Europe closer to citizens) and thus become “[Cohesion Builders](#)”.

Participating in the Y4C Webinar on a “Smarter Europe”, young citizens will get an overview of European innovation policies, how they are supported in the frame of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and as implemented by European Territorial Cooperation programmes and projects. A focus will be put on the role of young people in innovation and the related concrete opportunities offered to them by EU-funded projects. Discussions and a live poll will be aimed at collecting participants opinions and stimulate them into taking on the role of stakeholders in building a more innovative Adriatic Ionian area.



This project is co-funded by  
the European Union

# AGENDA

10:15-10:30 Registration of participants

*Participants will be registered via the chat box of the online platform*

10:30-11:00 EU innovation policies with a focus on the Adriatic Ionian region

*Introduction by Ms Maria Luisa Esposito, EU Project Officer, Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion*

- *Smart Specialisation Strategies, education and skills for a more innovative Adriatic Ionian area, Ms Elisa GERUSSI, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission*

10:30-11:45 Innovation as implemented through territorial cooperation projects

*Introduction by Ms Maria Luisa Esposito, EU Project Officer, Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion*

- *Smart Specialisation in the Adriatic Ionian region and support to innovation projects, Mr Christian SPRINGER, Project Manager, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Partner of the Interreg ADRION "OIS-AIR" project*
- *Involving young aspiring innovation entrepreneurs in building a Smart Tourism Destination in the cross-border area, Ms Valentina NDOU, University of Salento, Partner of the Interreg IPA CBC IT-AL-ME project "NEST – Networking for Smart Tourism Development"*
- Discussion
- Live Poll

11:45-12:00 Next Steps and conclusion

*by Ms Maria Luisa Esposito, EU Project Officer, Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion*