



Youth4Cohesion

Webinar “A Europe closer to Citizens”

Monday, 20 December 2021

10:15 – 12:30 (CET)

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.

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). As a result of their engagement, up to 60 young people will receive the award of “[Cohesion Builders](#)” and will be part of a cross-border network able to both spread awareness of Cohesion Policy in the Adriatic Ionian region and create new cooperation projects.



This project is co-funded by
the European Union

The Webinar

The fifth and last Y4C webinar on “a Europe closer to Citizens” will be held in the framework of the *Conference on the Future of Europe* as to stimulate a reflection on how young people can have a key role in determining the priorities of the European Union towards a more integrated and sustainable territorial development.

High-level decision-makers representing the main European and national fora of political debate (European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions and others), will address young people and share with them the challenges ahead. A macroregional perspective will be covered as to illustrate how multilevel governance and cooperation between EU Member States and Western Balkan countries is supporting an inclusive and shared growth of the whole Adriatic Ionian area.

This is expected to actively engage young participants in a debate session where they will be able to share their views for the future of the European Union and how to relaunch its founding values for a full integration of Western Balkan countries.

Programme

10:15-10:30 Registration of participants

10:30-11:30 Young People are the Future of the EU

Introduction by Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, Eu Project Officer – Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

- **Mr. Brando BENIFEI**, European Parliament
- **Mr. Anguel K. BEREMLIYSKY**, DG REGIO, European Commission – Common Secretariat of The Conference on the Future of Europe
- **Mr. Giovanni DI STASI**, former President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities – CoE
- **Ms. Sara TOMŠIČ**, Deputy Mayor of Novo Mesto (SI) – Member of Young Elected Politicians Programme (YEP) – CoR

11:30-12:30 Debate. The Future of the EU through the lenses of Adriatic Ionian young people

Moderated by Alfredo MARINI, Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Schools and youth organisations are invited to discuss their views for a future, more sustainable and inclusive EU.

Live Poll. Collection of recommendations for decision-makers

12:20-12:30 Conclusions