



Youth4Cohesion

Final Web Conference of the Youth4Cohesion project

Monday, 20 December 2021

12:30 – 13:30 (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 Conference

The importance of more youth engagement is recognised in European Treaties and in a number of documents and political declarations that call young people to play a leading and active part in building the future of the European Union. The Youth4Cohesion project aims at ensuring Adriatic Ionian young people the necessary resources to respond to this call and be active agents of a sustainable, inclusive and innovative development of their own territories.

The Final Web Conference of the Youth4Cohesion project will provide evidence of project results and will be an occasion to explore new possible developments for continued youth engagement in the Adriatic Ionian area. While young people are ready to engage, either individually or collectively, in a structured or informal way, there is still need to build diverse and flexible spaces for their participation.

Representatives of EU institutions and EUSAIR stakeholders will be invited to share their priorities in the fields of youth and delineate possible multilevel cooperation to support youth engagement at grass-root level. After the debate, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, organiser of the initiative, will award the title of “Cohesion Builders” to up to 60 Adriatic Ionian young people that engaged in the project.

12:30-13:30 Youth Engagement in Cohesion Policy

Introduction by s. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, EU Project Officer – Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

- **Mr. Francesco AMODEO**, Policy Officer at Directorate General Urban and Regional Policy – European Commission
- *Presentation of the Y4C project objectives, activities and results, Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO*, EU Project Officer – Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Debate. Future developments for a stronger youth engagement in the Adriatic Ionian Region.

- **Ms. Zuica ZMEJKOVSKA**, Deputy Head of Sector for Coordination of European Funds – Government of the Republic of North Macedonia
- **Mr. Michele BELLINI**, Executive Officer of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po Paris and Director of the *Budapest European Agora*
- **Mr. Genci KOJDHELI**, General Director of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, Municipality of Tirana

Official award of the title of “Cohesion Builders” and conclusions