



EUROREGIONE ADRIATICO IONICA
JADRANSKO JONSKA EUROREGIJA
ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION
EURO RAJONI ADRIATIKO JONIAN
ΕΥΡΩΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΔΡΙΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΙΟΝΙΟΥ

#CohesionPolicy
#EuInmyRegion
#Youth

ENGAGING ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH IN COHESION POLICY. A CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION EXPERIMENT.

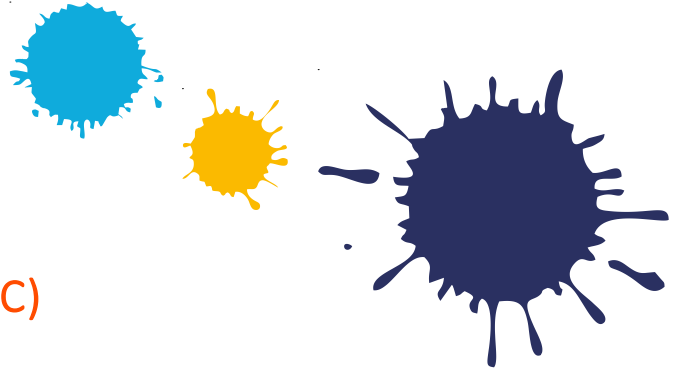


The YOUTH4COHESION action
received funding from the European Union



Youth4Cohesion





TITLE: **YOUTH4COHESION (Y4C)**

Project implemented by: Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Source of financing: Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) – European Commission

Call: Support for citizen engagement in the implementation of cohesion policy (2020CE16BAT012)

Project Number: Proposal No.44

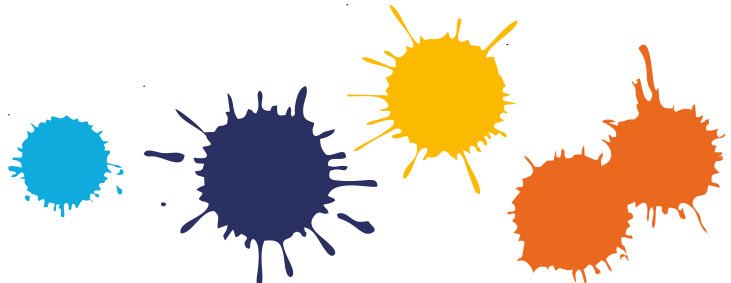
Grant agreement: 2020CE16BAT136

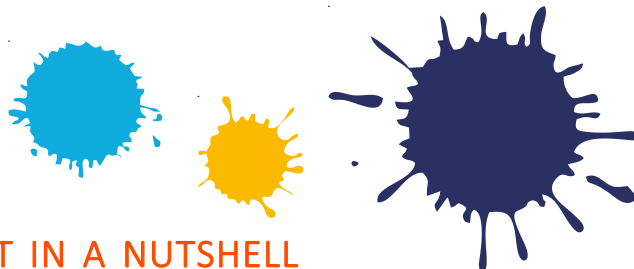
Duration: 12 Months (January – December 2021)

Total budget (in €)/Reimbursement rate: 24.983,97 € / 85%

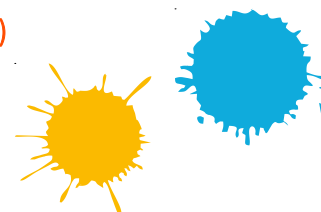
The Youth4Cohesion project has received funding from the European Union. The content of this e-book reflects the views of the author only and his/her sole responsibility. The European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

This e-book was edited in December 2021





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FORWARD

Cohesion policy represents an important opportunity for young people of Adriatic Ionian countries to engage in a better design and implementation of EU investments.

The Y4C project was especially aimed at stimulating Adriatic Ionian young people in [taking on the role of stakeholders](#) and make their voices heard when decisions about how to reduce disparities in wealth and development are made.

All Y4C participants were [awarded](#) with the title of *Cohesion Builders* and were called to join a the [Adriatic Ionian Youth Network \(AIYN\)](#), a permanent, cross-border network open to all youth, aimed at supporting youth engagement and cooperation across the Adriatic Ionian region with knowledge, expertise and opportunities.

Youth engagement happens only if youth and adults work in partnership and both contribute, teach and learn from each other.

Together, we will co-design how the Adriatic Ionian youth is going to be involved in responsible and challenging actions to create positive social change, especially in the fields that affect them most and within the context of Cohesion Policy.

Francesco COCCO,
AIE Secretary General

THE YOUTH4 COHESION PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

Background

The Youth4Cohesion project was part of a pilot action aimed at engaging citizens in the implementation of Cohesion Policy, promoted by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy ([DG REGIO](#)) and implemented by the [Adriatic Ionian Euroregion](#).

The project took step from AIE's commitment to promoting youth engagement in the Adriatic Ionian area.

General objective

Developing a new tool for supporting young people engagement in Cohesion policy with a view to a better implementation and to stimulate a stronger sense of ownership of its results among them.

in countries that are members of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro),

Specific objectives:

- To support the scaling up of existing tools or activities aimed at strengthening and widening young people's engagement in Cohesion Policy;
- To encourage the dialogue, discussion, exchange of views, good practices and knowledge of Cohesion Policies' impact at European, national and regional level;
- To train minimum 60 young "Cohesion Builders" about EU opportunities linked to regional, national and European programmes financed under the ESI funds and about how to have their voice heard during the planning and launching of call for proposals.
- To establish a permanent network of "Young Cohesion Builders", easily accessible also to new members, hosted on a web platform dedicated to young people and their role in cohesion policies.

Youth-centred activities:


The Youth4Cohesion project foresaw:

- *Ad hoc* communication and outreach activities, including a final publication
- Mapping of Adriatic Ionian youth
- A Launch Web Conference aimed at presenting the project and its objectives
- A sustained programme of webinars aimed at training young people about Cohesion Policy Objectives: – a *Smarter* Europe, – a *Greener*, carbon free Europe, – a more *Connected* Europe, – a more *Social* Europe, – a Europe *Closer* to citizens.

A Final Web Conference explaining results of the project and planning future initiatives.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The communication strategy for the Youth4Cohesion project was smart and youngish and was based on Cohesion Policy's visual identity (*Engaging the citizens for good governance of in Cohesion policy* logo and policy icons). All Y4C communication and outreach documents (forms, articles, posts on social media) included the project logo, designed as to replicate the official colour palette, the logo of the Adriatic Ionian Youth Community and the EU emblem with reference to the source of funding.

Visual Identity	
Engaging the citizens for good governance of in Cohesion policy action (DG REGIO)	
Cohesion policy icons	
Youth4Cohesion action (AIE)	
Adriatic Ionian Youth Community (AIE)	
EU emblem and financing reference	 The Youth4Cohesion action received funding from the European Union

All documents and contents about the project was conveyed through AIE's official web channels. All the social media post included a tag to DG Regio social media profiles (@EUinmyRegion) and the project-specific hashtags.

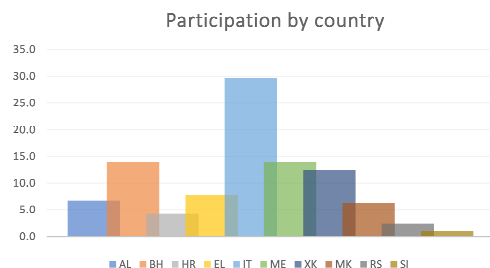
Web communication channels	
Project page on AIE's website	www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/youth4cohesion-project
AIE's social media profiles	Facebook: @adri.ionianeuroregion Twitter: @adriaticionian1 Instagram: @adriatic.ionian.euroregion Linkedin: @adriatic-ionian-euroregion Youtube channel
Adriatic Ionian Youth Community	Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/268948374362645
Hashtags	#CohesionPolicy #EuinmyRegion #EngagingCitizens #CohesionBuilders #youthengagement #participate #AdriaticIonianYouth #YouthCommunity #youthcooperation #capacitybuilding

MAPPING YOUTH TO-BE “COHESION BUILDERS”

A [Call for Expression of Interest](#) was launched though on 18 March 2021 and closed on 30 March 2021. The Call explained the context, objective and methodology of the Youth4Cohesion action as well as the eligibility requirements. An [online form](#) was designed as to gather a general overview of the young people reached by the project, while assessing their interest in participating in the project and get involved in its activities.

Results of the Call

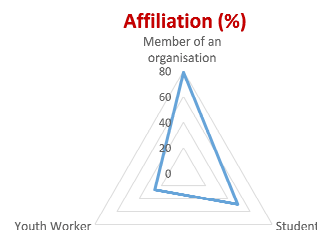
209 respondents, more than 66% female.



The Call was aimed at selecting interested and motivated young people aged 18 - 35 years from target countries, including all AIE member countries (AL, BA, EL, HR, IT, ME) and all other Adriatic Ionian countries (XK, ME, MK, RS, SI).

However, considering a EU-/non-EU country dichotomy, half applications came from the Western Balkan countries and the other half from EU member countries.

Almost **80%** of respondents are **members of an organisation**, be it a youth organisation, a student association or a civil society organisation. This ensures a **spill-over effect** of the Y4C messages and awareness raising potential.



Adriatic Ionian young people are highly interested in knowing more about Cohesion Policy and in understanding how their lives and future can improve thanks to a greater engagement in Cohesion Policy.

- **77%** of respondents are interested in receiving training about Cohesion policy objectives,
- **32%** of them understand what Cohesion policy is and have some knowledge of how it works,
- **27%** have experience with EU project design and management.

SUPPORTING THE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OF ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH IN COHESION POLICY. THE LAUNCH WEB CONFERENCE

Objective: The Y4C [Launch Web Conference](#) was held on 29 April with a view to present the Youth4Cohesion action as part of DG REGIO's initiatives to support young people's engagement in the implementation of cohesion policy and help Adriatic Ionian young people develop a stronger sense of ownership of its results. The Conference was an occasion to illustrate territorial cooperation initiatives that go in the same direction.

Speakers

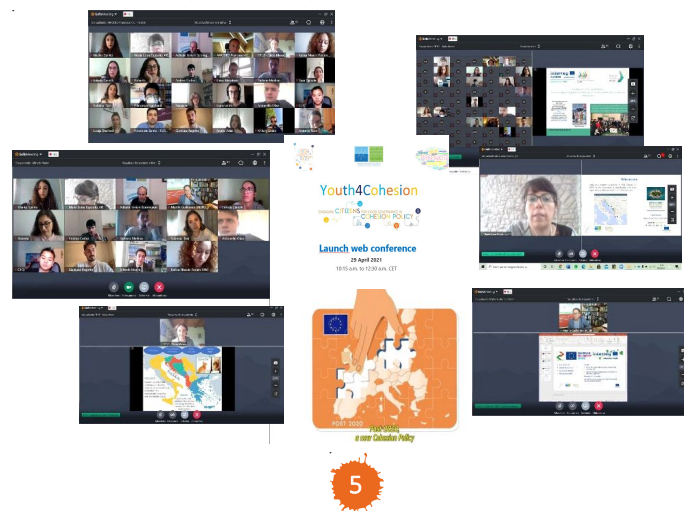
Mr. Francesco AMODEO, Policy Officer at DG REGIO, explained how the EU Commission is creating a "Cohesion Policy for the citizens and with the citizens", by supporting them in taking on the role of stakeholders and in participating in the creation of a shared vision for EU territories.

Ms. Staša MESEC, [EUSAIR Facility Point](#) Lead Project Manager, illustrated the strategic importance of transnational cooperation to help establish a dialogue with young people from both EU and non-EU countries and help them be more aware and informed.

Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, EU Project Officer at AIE, presented AIE's youth-centred initiatives and the various actions carried out to stimulate youth participation in the Adriatic Ionian area. AIE's activities apply to a regional dimension and are by nature aimed at promoting cooperation and capacity building across the Adriatic Ionian area, also with a view to contribute to the enlargement process to the Western Balkan countries. As such, they often overlap with the EUSAIR framework priorities.

Mr. Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Executive Secretary BBSC at [CRPM](#), introduced [the AI-NURECC PLUS](#) initiative as a platform for cooperation the related youth action entailing networking, education and professional opportunities for young people from both EU and non-EU countries participating in the EUSAIR.

Mr. Martín Guillermo RAMÍREZ, Secretary General at [AEBR](#), concluded the session illustrating the Youth Volunteer Initiative ([IVY](#)), offering the possibility to young people across the EU and beyond to serve as volunteers in cross-border, transnational or interregional programmes and related projects.



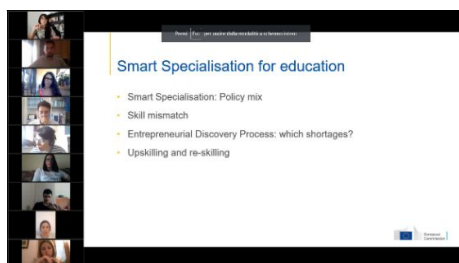
5 POLICY OBJECTIVES, 5 TOPICS TO PUT YOUTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF DECISION-MAKING

WEBINAR ON «A SMARTER EU» – 29 JUNE



Objective: The first [Youth4Cohesion webinar](#) provided an overview of European innovation policies and focused especially on Smart Specialisation as a place-based approach to innovation, jobs and growth. The event helped participants better grasp the role of young people in innovation and the related concrete opportunities offered to them by EU-funded projects under Interreg programmes (e.g. Interreg ADRION and Interreg CBC IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro).

Speakers:



Ms. Elisa GERUSSI, from the Joint Research Centre ([JRC](#)), pointed out how Smart Specialisation can benefit from cross-border collaboration among research, industry and public authorities, especially when it comes to upskilling and re-skilling processes.

The Interreg ADRION [OIS-AIR project](#) presented by **Mr. Christian SPRINGER**, Croatian Chamber of Economy, provided free of charge services to young researchers and young entrepreneurs, such as audit and help in accessing international R&D collaborations aimed at technology transfer. The project also assigned 10 vouchers worth 18.5000 euro each.



Ms. Valentina Ndou, from the University of Salento (IT), illustrated how the Interreg IT-AL-ME [NEST project](#) supported tourism entrepreneurs and young people interested in developing a business idea in collecting expert-provided knowledge about the innovation and digital tools (e.g. artificial intelligence, big data solutions and other technologies) for smart tourism.



WEBINAR ON “A MORE SOCIAL EU” – 2 AUGUST

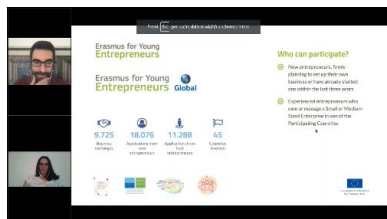
Objective: the [second Y4C webinar](#) explored opportunities for young people, academics and professionals under cooperation networks, initiatives and mobility programmes. Participants got tips and practical information on how to apply to most interesting youth mobility initiatives.

Speakers:



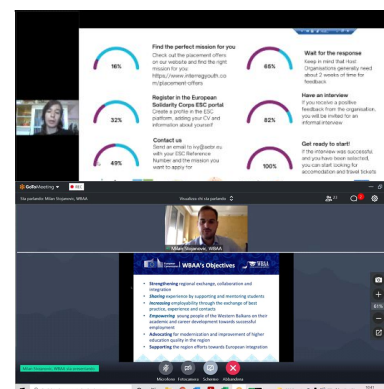
Ms. Silvia MANGIALARDO, Head of International Relations at [UniAdrión](#), presented education opportunities addressed to Adriatic Ionian young students and entrepreneurs under the [Erasmus+ Consortium «UniAdrión Italy»](#) and the [AI-NURECC PLUS initiatives](#), which will be soon launching a Summer School on Sustainable Tourism in the Adriatic Ionian region and an Internship Fund supporting Youth.

Mr. Ivan NEIROTTI, Project Officer at [European Youth Forum \(EYF\)](#), explained how the [European Youth Capital \(EYC\)](#) Award which is given yearly to European local authorities across the EU and beyond the EU borders to showcase their innovative ideas, projects and activities to involve young people in all aspects of city life. By participating in EYC, young people have an outstanding chance of engaging and of develop a sense of ownership of European identity.



Mr. Paolo MONTEMURRO, Director of [Materahub \(IT\)](#) presented the [Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs \(EYE\)](#). Under this initiative, financed by the COSME programme, young people in 45 countries, including the Western Balkans, are entitled to apply for mobility and on-the-job training opportunities in hosting enterprises.

Young professionals were the protagonists of a practical session aimed at explaining the application process for mobility under two different programmes open to Adriatic Ionian young people. **Ms. Milena PALLOTTA** illustrated the steps to become an Interreg *Project Partner* or, alternatively, an Interreg *Reporter* by [applying](#) to the Interreg Volunteer Initiative ([IVY](#)) programme. **Mr. Milan STOJANOVIC** presented the Western Balkan Alumni Association ([WBAA](#)) and its activities. He also illustrated how young people can [become a WBAA member](#) or/and how youth organisations can become a [WBAA partner](#).



WEBINAR ON “A GREENER, CARBON FREE EU” – 29 NOVEMBER



Objective: the [third Y4C webinar](#) offered an overview of EU’s policy priorities and development strategy as linked to the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular in the blue economy sector, in a territorial perspective. Young environmental activists discussed the role of youth in climate action and helped collect participants opinions about a greater youth engagement in this sector.

Speakers:

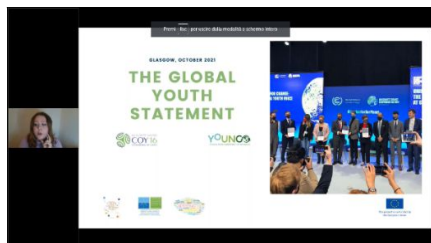
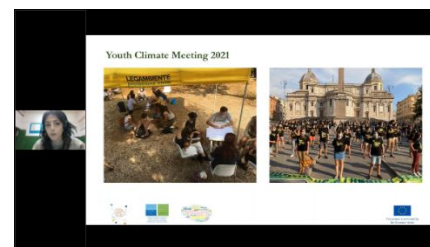
Ms. Eleni HATZIYANNI, Policy Officer at [DG MARE](#) (EL), pointed out how sustainability in the blue economy must be achieved taking into account both environmental and social aspects. Innovation is also crucial and these three elements are particularly suitable to stimulate a greater involvement of young people, especially in the framework of macroregional strategies and multilevel approaches.



Mr. Paolo CALVANO, Reginal Minister for Budget at Emilia Romagna Region (IT), illustrated the [Pact for Jobs and Climate](#), aimed at aligning the regional strategies to the UN 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and EU guidelines in the fields of GHG emissions reduction. The Pact will provide young people, as privileged target group, with innovative and fairly-paid job opportunities.

A second session of the webinar focused on the involvement of young people in climate negotiations thanks to the actions of sector organisations and youth-centred initiatives.

Ms. Carmen MALAGISI presented the activities of the National Youth Coordination at [Legambiente](#) (IT). She focused in particular on the [Youth for Planet project](#), which is involving thousands of young people in understanding how to concretely support climate action based on scientific evidence.



Ms. Giulia PERSICO young activist at the [Italian Climate Network](#), reported on her participation to the elaboration of the *Global Youth Statement*, during the Conference of Youth ([COY16](#)) in Glasgow. The 77-pages document was the result of 6000 hours drafting and negotiating and collected young activists’ demands to UN [COP26](#) in relation to energy, food and agriculture, climate justice, health and wildlife.

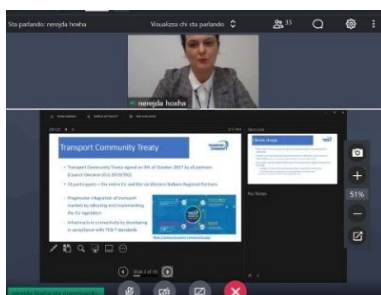


WEBINAR ON “A MORE CONNECTED EU” – 6 DECEMBER

Objective: the [fourth Y4C webinar](#) explored transport and energy connectivity as a strategic resource for the sustainable economic growth of the Adriatic Ionian area and in the Western Balkans. Implementation of EU policies at territorial level was covered by tackling the topic of sustainable coastal infrastructures in the Adriatic Ionian Region through the Italian experience. The webinar also analysed connectivity as a challenge and socio-economic driver for maritime and inland tourism, through the lenses of private and public regional stakeholders.

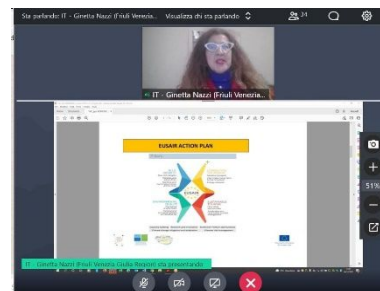
Speakers:

Prof. Sergio GARRIBBA, Coordinator of [EUSAIR Pillar 2](#) «Connecting the Region», illustrated how the EUSAIR is helping territories in developing cross-border co-operation in the transport and energy sectors, in the framework of the Trans-European Networks for transport (TEN-T) and energy (TEN-E).

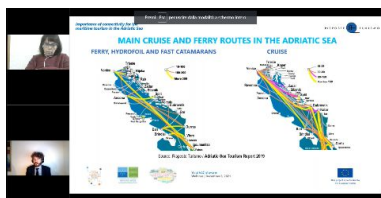


Ms. Nerejda HOXHA, from the [Transport Community](#), illustrated how Western Balkan governments are adapting to TEN-T standards of a cleaner, safer, smarter, greener, resilient, competitive, and sustainable transport system.

Ms. Ginetta NAZZI, representative of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT) – international relations and European programmes (IT), presented the the [Adriatic-Ionian Cycle Route](#) as part of the [EUSAIR Adriatic-Ionian multi-modal corridors Flagship](#) and explained how the FVG Region, in cooperation with Regione Marche (IT) and other macroregional stakeholders, is addressing the challenge of embedding the project into the 2021-2027 IPA/ESIF programming documents.



The second part of the webinar focused on Sustainable connectivity as a socio-economic driver for maritime tourism and for the development of tourism destinations, in both maritime and inland areas.



Mr. Anthony LA SALANDRA, from [Risposte Turismo](#) (IT), explained current challenges and opportunities for maritime and coastal tourism in the Adriatic area and made reference to the INTERREG Italy-Croatia [FRAMESPORT](#) project.

Ms. Linda MAÇI from the Regional Council of Lezha (AL), illustrated the technological, safety, security, environmental challenges of the management of coastal areas and their impact on tourism in Lezha.



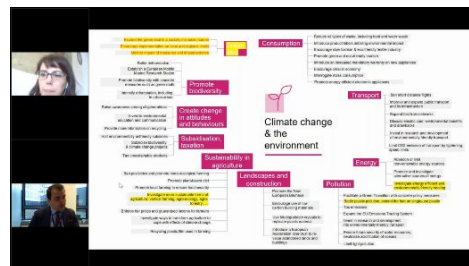
WEBINAR ON A “EUROPE CLOSER TO CITIZENS” - 20 DECEMBER



Objective: the [fifth and last Y4C webinar](#) provided an overview of the contextual overview of the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) (CoFoE), its objectives and expected results, as addressed by high-level representatives of EU institutions. Young people were stimulated to reflect upon European Union’s basic values as a great opportunity to strengthen the EU identity of Western Balkan youth and stimulate a common sense across the two sides of the Adriatic.

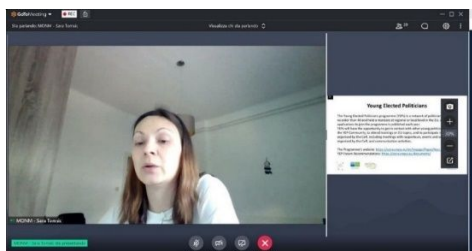
Speakers:

Mr. Anguel K. BEREMLIYSKY, European Commission – CoFoE Common Secretariat, presented the Conference as a unique, innovative and inclusive bottom-up process of consultation and deliberation. By using the Conference Platform, citizens can take an active part in the definition of EU priorities for the future on a range of different [topics](#).



Mr. Giovanni Di STASI, former president of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities at CoE, explained how initiatives such as the CoFoE, by stimulating civic consultation and deliberation, take an important step towards shifting from an institution-driven approach to a citizen-centred approach and in helping citizens feel confident that their views and concerns are heard by the EU institutions.

Mr. Brando BENIFEI, MEP and member of the [plenary](#) of the CoFoE, underlined the importance of extending bottom-up processes to young people and of providing them with the opportunity to see their bold and innovative ideas at the top of political agendas and in a necessary process of reform of the EU decision-making process.



Ms. Sara TOMSIC, Deputy Mayor of Novo Mesto (SI), presented the [Young elected politicians](#) (YEP) and the 14 [recommendations](#) that the YEP Annual Forum has brought to the Committee of Region’s (CoR) plenary. Ms. Tomsic highlighted the crucial role of local and regional politicians in feeding the CoFoE with messages and priorities coming from Europe’s citizens.

The second session of the webinar was an occasion for Adriatic Ionian young people to voice their priorities, expectations and concerns about their future in the EU, as also linked to a full EU integration of the Western Balkan countries.

The session saw the participation and the attendance of university students, youth professionals, young elected politicians (Italy and North Macedonia), youth organisations' representatives from the Adriatic Ionian countries (Albania, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia), and of a student delegation from the Gymnasium of Kotor (Montenegro).



FINAL WEB CONFERENCE AND AWARD

Objective: The [Final Web Conference](#) was held on 20 December and provided evidence of project results. It was an occasion to explore new possible developments for cooperation aimed at a continued youth engagement in the Adriatic Ionian area.

Speakers:

Mr. Francesco AMODEO, Policy Officer at DG REGIO, explained how a sustainable implementation of Cohesion Policy investments heavily depends on the participation of territories and the people in designing and implementing projects on the ground as well as on the capacity to tackle needs and build on potentialities with a long-term vision. Mr. Amodeo also underlined how the 2021-2027 programming period is a crucial opportunity to capitalise on the results of the current citizens engagement actions.

Ms. Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, EU Project Officer at AIE, provided an overview of the Y4C project and the results achieved by involving Adriatic Ionian young people. The presentation highlighted some recommendations collected during the Y4C webinars. Such results will be valorised within the Conference on the Future of the EU, the European Year of Youth 2022 and the 2021-2027 programming period.

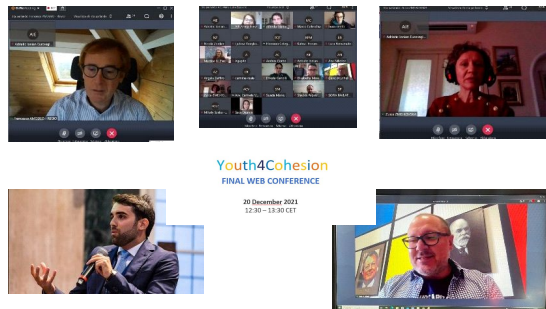
Ms. Zuica ZEMEJKOVSKA, Deputy Head of Sector for Coordination of European Funds, Government of North Macedonia, underlined how participation in the EUSAIR strategy is great opportunity of youth cooperation and youth involvement and to provide youth with concrete opportunities to see their creative solutions and perspectives for the future understood.

Mr. Michele BELLINI, Director of the [Budapest European Agora](#), presented the [EUth for Democracy](#) project, which run between November 2020 and April 2021 and involved 100 young people between 18-35 years old from 17 countries in identifying democracy priorities as a contribution to the participatory processes set in motion by the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Mr. Genci KOJDHELI, General Director of Strategic Projects and Economic Development, Municipality of Tirana, concluded the debate presenting [Tirana European Youth Capital 2022](#), explained how the **Activ** project was the result of a very wide consultation process entailing schools, universities, youth organization in Tirana.

Activ will consist of 1000 events taking place along 2022 in Tirana with a view to promoting youth activism and engagement in a range of [topics](#) where youth participation is crucial.

The conference was concluded with the official award of the title of “Cohesion Builders”.



THE VOICE OF ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH

Through the Youth4cohesion we selected and trained 60 Adriatic Ionian young people and equipped them with the skills for engaging in a dialogue with decision-making structures as adequately informed stakeholders. We stimulated them to discuss the local impact of Cohesion Policy interventions and to identify existing initiatives most close to them, so that also those who felt distant from the benefits and opportunities linked to Cohesion Policy could develop a better awareness of it.

In particular, we asked Y4C participants to tell us what could be the role of youth in contributing to a more sustainable, cohesive, inclusive and smart Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and what decision-makers should take into account when planning investments.

They all agreed that young people should be seen as agents of change and not just as beneficiaries of opportunities and their ideas and priorities should find clear expression in policy agendas.

Here's a summary of their ideas.

Innovation

Adriatic Ionian Youth is determined to remove the obstacles to a balanced and effective innovation of the Adriatic Ionian area and suggest that smart specialisation strategies should support them in creating the necessary business/educational models and in mainstreaming new ideas, while constantly addressing the climate change and sustainable development challenges.

Social inclusion

Adriatic Ionian Youth recognise the importance of having a role in fostering cooperation among different regions of the Adriatic-Ionic area and thus help build a more inclusive, cohesive and connected region. Young people can help entrepreneurs face new challenges, especially when social innovation is taken into account.

Environment

Adriatic Ionian Youth hold the future of the planet at heart and see themselves as part to the solution to climate changes, as they are very active in supporting a real change in habits. However, time is ticking and climate change mitigation should accelerate. Young people should be at the core of youth-led campaigns, environment-focused education and through environmental-friendly and green start-ups.

Connectivity

Adriatic Ionian Youth highlighted the link between infrastructure and communication and how these two are nowadays crucial to everyone's life and work. Young people see themselves worth especially when a contribution to making connectivity more sustainable is called upon. Their visions should be taken into account when connectivity is linked to sustainable development strategies.

European identity

Adriatic Ionian Youth agree that European values can unite countries across the Adriatic Ionian Region and the role of cooperation in creating a context for collaboration on common challenges is key.

Adriatic Ionian young people see themselves as strategic actors and stakeholders of a full EU integration of the Western Balkan countries and ask to get a concrete opportunity steer the change that is needed for the Western Balkan countries to finally join the Union.

Recommendations from Adriatic Ionian Youth to decision-makers

Many interesting points were raised as to what these young people expect the EU to do, that can be summarised as follows:

- Raise awareness about EU among young generations by means of consultations aimed at both investigating young people's sense of Europe and collecting feedbacks about their needs and, based on these results, create tailored-made events (e.g. webinars, round tables, engagement actions);
- Provide economic support to youth-led projects, with a gender balance cross-cutting approach;
- Involve young people together with political institutions at European and territorial level in an open dialogue on key topics such as climate change, gender balance, political and policy priorities;
- Introduce European topics in schools by providing interactive lessons with European experts, politicians and activists.

As a final outcome of the Y4C project, all participants were invited to join the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network and to sign a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) aimed at fostering youth cooperation and engage Cohesion Builders in co-designing responsible and challenging actions to create positive social change within the context of Cohesion Policy.



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) and the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN)

Background

The AIE is committed to involve young people in responsible and challenging actions to create positive social change, especially in the fields that affect them most and within the context of Cohesion Policy.

To this end, the AIE is promoting the creation of a permanent, cross-border network, open to all youth and youth organisations, called Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN), and aimed at supporting youth engagement and cooperation across the Adriatic Ionian region with knowledge, expertise and opportunities.

All Adriatic Ionian young people involved in AIE's youth-centred activities are invited to join the AIYN and become key AIE partners and future stakeholders of decision-making.

The MoU

The aim of the MoU is to establish a framework of cooperation among the AIE and the AIYN (*the parties*), through mutual promotion, events, exchange of expertise. By signing this MoU, the parties make their collaboration durable and meaningful and agree to develop joint work to intensify the exchange and capacity building of young people across the Adriatic Ionian Region.

The collaboration of the parties will focus on a number of areas, which include the following:

- **Promotion, communication, dissemination:** using all means of communication such as respective websites, social media and other forms of communication e.g. newsletters to promote the Network as well as partner descriptions, links and logos;
- **Implementation and participation in events:** supporting the engagement of youth as active contributors in parties' projects and activities, including events (workshops, conferences, campaigns, engagement activities), e.g. in the context of Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Fora (AIYOF) and all youth-centred activities envisaged under the EUSAIR. AIYN representatives could also be invited to attend the AIE General Assembly.
- **Exchange of expertise:** sharing publications and background material relevant to the work of one or the other party, and look for opportunities of creating joint contents or strategy statements and papers. Also inviting the other party or suggesting competent speakers, moderators and stakeholders in the shared field of interest will also be encouraged.



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