

Agenda

16:15-16:30 Registration of participants

16:30-17:00 Relaunching the economy after the Covid19: the role of the Blue Economy and related opportunities in the 2021-2027 programming period.

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

- **Achieving the EU Green Deal's objectives through a sustainable Blue Economy, Ms. Eleni HATZIYANNI**, Policy Officer, Unit A3 | Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation & Maritime Security, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), European Commission

The first session of the event presented the topic of sustainable economy and how the European Union is supporting a new approach thanks to the EUSAIR strategy, the new 2021-2027 programming cycle and the Green new Deal. Ms. Hatziyanni, focused her presentation on sustainable blue economy in the context of the EUSAIR strategy. She pointed out how sustainability must be achieved taking into account both environmental and social aspects in order to avoid an unfair competition between different economic sectors. According to Ms. Hatziyanni it is crucial to promote a structured policy in order to improve innovation and investments in blue economy, and macroregional strategies and multilevel approaches are a very good framework for cooperation in this field.



17:00-17:30 Harnessing the blue potential of Adriatic Ionian regions for a sustainable recovery

- **Mr. Paolo CALVANO**, Regional Minister for Budget, Emilia Romagna Region

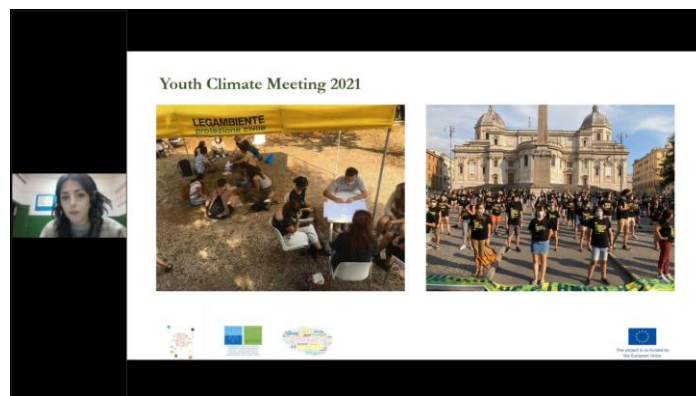
Mr. Calvano, explained how the regional administration is supporting the cooperation process in the Adriatic Ionian basin thanks to its participation in EUSAIR strategy, with a view to increasing attractiveness and connectivity between Italy and Western Balkans. The Emilia Romagna Region is devising an ambitious [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. Mr. Calvano underlined the strategic importance of the new EU Cohesion Policy legislative package 2021-2027 and related financial framework as well as of territorial cooperation programmes, which are an important opportunity to reach carbon neutrality in the macroregional area.



17:30-18:50 The voice of young people on climate action

- **Ms. Carmen MALAGISI**, National Coordination Youth – Legambiente

The second session focused on the involvement of young people in climate negotiations thanks to the actions of sector organisations and youth-centred initiatives. Ms. Malagisi presented [Legambiente](#), an Italian environmental organization counting 18 regional branches and 1000 local groups. Ms. Malagisi presented the activities carried out by Legambiente National Youth Coordination with regard to youth engagement initiatives, awareness raising campaigns and education projects. Such activities focus on many climate-related topics such as air and water pollution, coastal exploitation, green mobility, beach and park litter, biodiversity monitoring and Volunteering camps and so forth. Ms. Malagisi also described the [Youth for Planet project](#), which is involving thousands of young people in understanding how to concretely support climate action based on volunteering and scientific evidence.



- **Ms. Giulia PERSICO**, Italian Climate Network, COY16 Glasgow Country Coordinator

Ms. Persico presented the [Italian Climate Network](#) and its fields of action, namely climate advocacy, human rights, youth and health. Ms. Persico underlined the importance of youth action in climate negotiations and the need to involve new young professionals in order to give fresh and new perspectives to EU and international environmental policies. Ms. Persico reported on her recent experience at the Conference of Youth ([COY16](#)) in Glasgow, ahead of the UN [COP26](#) summit, and her participation to the elaboration of the *Global Youth Statement*, a 77-pages political document collecting the young activists' demands to world leaders. The Statement was the result of 6000 hours drafting and negotiating about energy, food and



agriculture, climate justice, health and wildlife. Although the Statement was handed to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, COP26 President Alok Sharma and the other leaders, no reference to it was included in the COP26 key document, the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#).



17:50-18:00 Conclusions from the live poll

At the end of the webinar, a live poll was launched to collect participants opinions through the following questions:

- 1) Have you ever heard of or engaged in/run a (EU-funded) project to meet environmental challenges? Please, briefly tell us your experience!
- 2) What would you suggest for a better youth involvement in environmental policy-making?
- 3) Please, tell us your personal key takeaway(s) from the event.

Only 1 out of four respondents reported on his/her experience within EU-funded project, which range from being part of an Erasmus project on the environment and climate change or in an innovation project under the European Institute of Technology (EIT), to having some knowledge of some EU-funded projects on marine biodiversity in protected areas.

As far as suggestions for a better involvement of young people in environmental policy-making answers included:

- to provide opportunities to meet decision-makers at both local and national level, as well as at to support youth cooperation in this field at transnational level;
- to include youth national level decision-making by means of youth-led committees;
- to involve young people in cooperation projects on environmental issues;
- to promote youth-led campaigning;
- to promote and organise debates, workshops and other events with the youth;
- to support young people in creating environmental-friendly and green start-ups;
- to invest in education.

Young people's takeaways from the webinar:

- "I was inspired to learn more about Blue Economy and Regional Collaboration on Blue Growth"
- "I have learned that there are many aspects (that I did not know) about the links between economy and the environment"
- "Young people are part of the solution to climate change"
- "Young people are very interested: there's a new awareness, that's not only *Fridays for future*, but much more...A lot of young people fight for the environment and for changing bad habits".