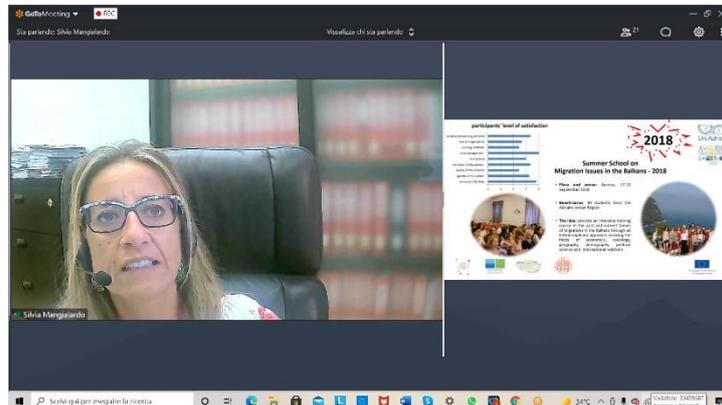




particular past and current education opportunities addressed to Adriatic Ionian young students and entrepreneurs such as the [Summer Schools on Migration in the Balkans](#) and [the Adriatic Start-up School](#). Ms. MANGIALARDO illustrated two forthcoming education initiatives and related calls that UniAdrion will be launching shortly under the [AI-NURECC PLUS](#): the Summer School on Sustainable Tourism in the Adriatic Ionian region to take place in September 2022 and the Internship Fund supporting Youth in different sectors. She also presented [Erasmus+ Consortium “UniAdrion Italy”](#), a project officially started in June 2020 with the aim to strengthen the mobility of students and staff in the Adriatic Ionian region, and the related challenges.



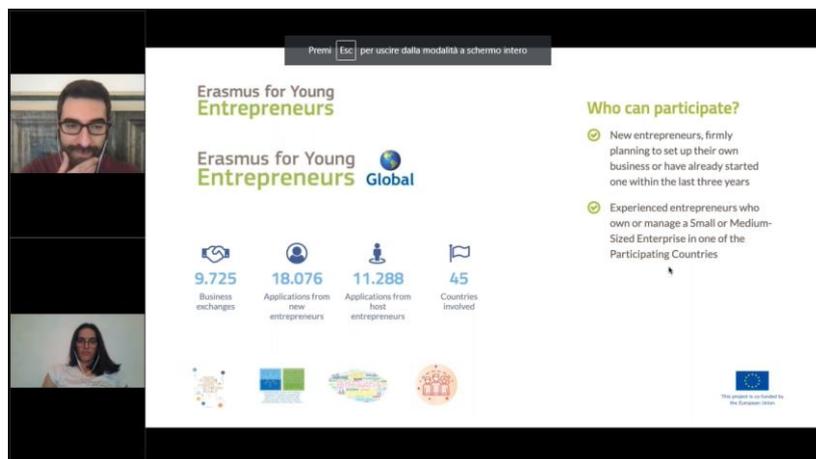
- *European Youth Capital as an opportunity to involve youth and enhance cohesion at local level, Mr Ivan NEIROTTI, Project Officer European Youth Capital (EYC) – European Youth Forum*

Mr. NEIROTTI described the activities of the [European Youth Forum](#), an EU youth-led organisation managing the [European Youth Capital \(EYC\) Award](#). Mr. NEIROTTI explained that the award is intended to empower young people, boost youth participation and strengthen European identity, while involving young people in all aspects of city life. The EYC ensures a better connection between European and local policies for young people and that young people are at the core of the decision-making processes, as to build a good base for stronger youth civil society sector in Europe. The award is open to any local authority from members states of the Council of Europe, so it extends beyond the EU borders.



- *Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs (EYE): how the EU supports young people in developing their business ideas through on-the-job training and mobility, Paolo MONTEMURRO, Director of Materahub - Creative and Cultural Industries*

Mr. MONTEMURRO presented, [Materahub - Creative and Cultural Industries](#) intermediary organisation managing mobility and on-the-job training opportunities provided by [Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs](#), funded under the [COSME](#) programme. The mobility programme aims at supporting entrepreneurship through international business exchanges between host enterprises in 45 participating countries, including the Western Balkans, and young people. The project is a great opportunity for young people that are planning to set up their own business or have already started a business within the last three years.

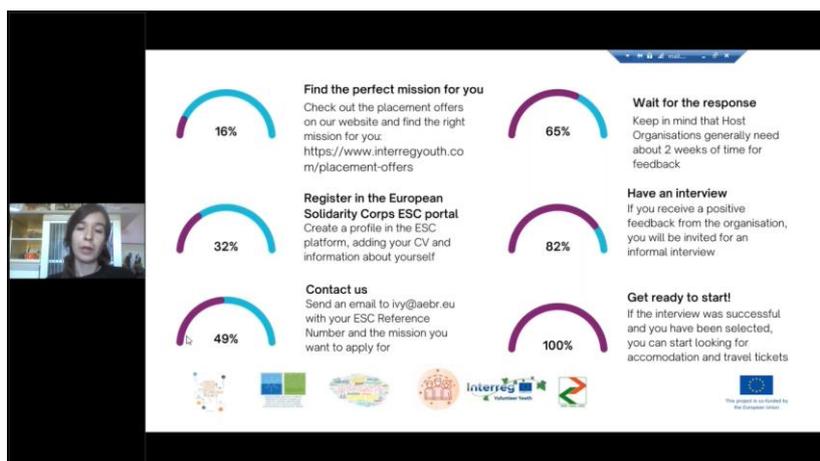


#### 11:15-11:45 Mobility opportunities within cross-border cooperation: “How Tos”

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.

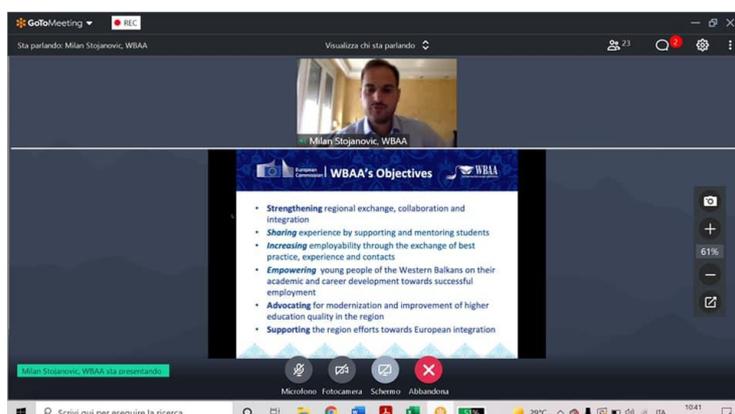
- **How to apply for the Youth Volunteer Initiative (IVY), Milena PALLOTTA, IVY Project Manager – Association of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)**

As part of the second session of the webinar, focused on the mobility opportunities within cross-border cooperation, Ms. PALLOTTA presented the Interreg Volunteer Youth ([IVY](#)) as managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR). IVY offers young people aged 18-30 support for serving as volunteers in cross-border, transnational or interregional programmes and related projects. The initiative is part of the European Solidarity Corps ([ESC](#)) and, thus, puts at the heart of its actions solidarity and volunteering. By involving young people in Interreg, IVY aims at fostering a greater sense of European belonging, citizenship and civic engagement among young people. The link with European Territorial Cooperation (also referred to as Interreg) builds on solidarity and shows how European integration works on the ground. The volunteers experience cooperation and learn about the very local and concrete achievements of Interreg programmes and projects, while also contributing to them and makes the becoming aware of the many benefits of collaboration across borders. Volunteers are called to promote and report on Interreg concrete achievements, while helping host organisations in implementing Interreg projects, thus acquiring a unique experience of personal growth and skills. In order to facilitate participants understanding of the Initiative and the application procedure, Ms. Pallotta very showed the IVY platform and explained each step of [how to apply](#) to become an Interreg Project partner.



- **How to join the Western Balkans Alumni Association's (WBAA) or apply for WBAA projects, Milan STOJANOVIC, WBAA Project Manager**

Another interesting EU-supported initiative this time addressed to young people is Western Balkans Alumni Association ([WBAA](#)), a non-profit and non-governmental organisation targeting students and alumni of the 6 Western Balkans countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. WBAA is fully supported by European Commission, Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Association (ESAA) as well as official authorities (Ministries of Education) in each of six countries of Western Balkans Region. The aim of the WBAA is to establish a strong union of alumni in order to advocate for modernization and improve the quality of higher education in the region while empowering young people in their academic and professional career development towards successful employment. Mr. STOJANOVIC explained the eligibility criteria and [how to join](#) the project as volunteer or how youth organisations can become a [WBAA partner](#).



- **Live Poll**

11:45-12:00 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) What do you think could be the role of young people in shaping a more social Adriatic Ionian area?
- 2) Have you ever benefited from EU opportunities linked to education, skills development, employability or

social inclusion in general? Please, briefly tell us your experience!

3) Please, tell us about your personal key takeaway(s) from the event.

Respondents to the poll agreed on the fact that young people should be leading actors through an active involvement in the defining the numerous opportunities provided. It is important to approach young people as agents of change and not just as beneficiaries of opportunities, and to ask what their priorities are and what they expect.

Young people can advance their perspectives of engaging in policy-making if they get involved in meetings of relevant EU-wide groups and networks, if they are involved in sharing their opinions in on-going public consultations at the EU level and so forth.

Respondents recognised the importance to foster cooperation among different regions of the Adriatic-Ionic Area as well and stressed the role young people can have in exchanges between WB and EU-countries and in helping build a more inclusive, cohesive and connected region. Also, initiatives such as the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs show that young people have a key role to play in helping entrepreneurs face new challenges, especially when social innovation is taken into account. Young people in start-ups are showing to be one of the best assets in shaping more social and inclusive societies.

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<sup>i</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.