

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 Youth4Cohesion 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.

The Youth4Cohesion project was part of a pilot action promoted by the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) and aimed at citizens engagement in the implementation of Cohesion Policy. The project was implemented by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and focused on youth, as privileged target group of AIE's capacity building initiatives.

Undergraduate students, youth workers, young professionals and youth organisations' representatives from 10 countries across the Adriatic Ionian area were offered a sustained programme of webinars focusing on Cohesion Policy Objectives: – a Smarter Europe, – a Greener, carbon free Europe, – a more Connected Europe, – a more Social Europe, – a Europe Closer to citizens.

By attending the webinars, young people met representatives of EU institutions, experts and EU programmes/projects implementers, who stimulated them into reflecting about their role in contributing to a more sustainable, cohesive, inclusive and smart Adriatic Ionian Euroregion.

All Y4C participants were awarded the title of Cohesion Builders and were called to join a the Adriatic Ionian Youth Community 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.

Together, the AIE and the Adriatic Ionian Youth Community 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.

PROJECT RESULTS. THE VOICE OF YOUTH

Adriatic Ionian 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 suggest that smart specialisation strategies support them in creating the necessary business/educational models and in mainstreaming new ideas, while constantly addressing climate and sustainable development challenges.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Adriatic Ionian Youth recognise the importance of having a role in fostering cooperation for 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 believe that climate change mitigation should accelerate. Young people should be at the core of youth-led campaigns, environment-focused education and green start-ups.



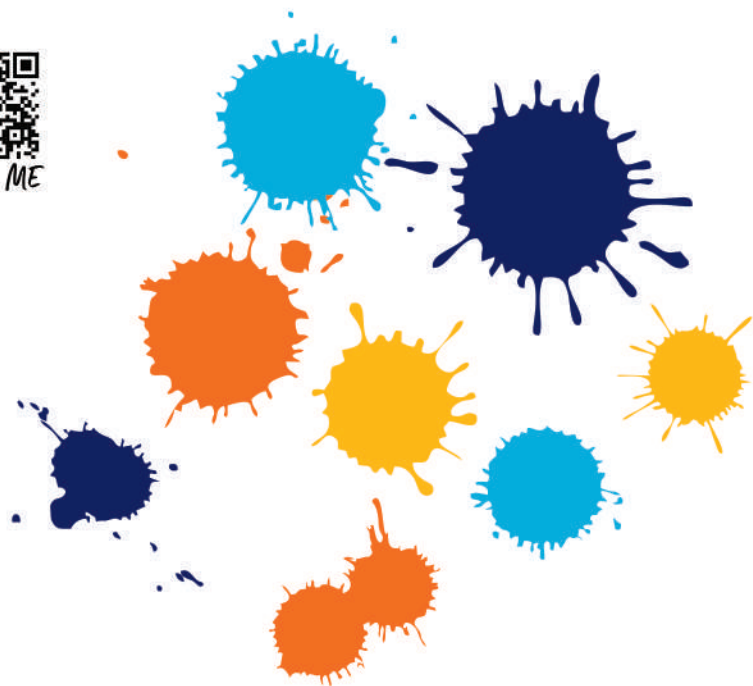
CONNECTIVITY

The link between infrastructure and communication is nowadays crucial to everyone's life and work. Adriatic Ionian Youth believe that their visions should be taken into account when connectivity is linked to sustainable development strategies.

EUROPEAN IDENTITY

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 to steer the change that is needed for the Western Balkan countries to finally join the Union.





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#CohesionPolicy

#EuinmyRegion

#Youth

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



The YOUTH4COHESION action
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Youth4Cohesion

