

“Youth building a common vision for the future of the EUSAIR”

EUSAIR Speakers Corner held back-to-back with the third Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum organised by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, as side events of the 7th EUSAIR ANNUAL FORUM

Monday 16 May 2022

“Marin Barleti” Venue, Maritim Plaza Hotel, Tirana, Albania
(Hybrid event)

REPORT

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organised the third Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF) in the framework of the 7th EUSAIR Annual Forum held in Tirana (AL) between 16 and 17 May 2022. The event was called “Youth building a common vision for the future of the EUSAIR”. A Speakers Corner was held back-to-back with the Forum as part of the EUSAIR Networking Fair. The Speakers Corner had the aim of engaging participants in discussing the future EUSAIR and the role of youth in it. The Speakers' Corner was visited by local young people and was an occasion for youth organisations participating in AIYOF3 to agree on beginning a proactive process of engagement in the EUSAIR.





As far as the revision of the EUSAIR and its Action Plan, the main topics that were raised revolved around environmental protection, sustainable tourism and cultural and creative skills, as favoured fields to promote youth engagement. Education and transnational exchanges were highlighted as being two possible ways to promote these topics across the region. However, also the importance of a strategic approach to help translating young people’s ideas into activities and policies beyond awareness raising and tangible activities in which they already engage, was also highlighted.

The main topics that were highlighted are:

- to better address climate change e.g. by focusing on creating a regional climate adaptation initiative including identification and monitoring of mitigation measures, water management and biodiversity preservation,
- to include circular economy as part of environmental issues, also through a common action plan
- to find measure to speed up the just transition mechanism in the region
- to include rural tourism and linking coastal tourism to inland areas as part of sustainable approach to tourism
- to address gender perspective and youth as a listed cross-cutting issue

The Speakers Corner was an occasion to publicly launch the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN), promoted by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion as part of the AI-NURECC PLUS initiative. The AIYN was welcomed as an entity which can facilitate transnational exchanges as well as youth empowerment in the region.

The AIYN would have its own organizational structure, including a macroregional board and committees to define a clear vision and goals. It should operate at local level, aiming at a strong and diffused territorial coverage as well as at acting autonomously, and would also engage in bolder action at higher, transnational levels.

The AIYN would devise a working modality based on participation, inclusion and transparency, thus sending a clear message of strong ownership, competence and inclusion.

Based on the skills of its members and through its working teams (or committees), the AIYN would have the goal of producing analysis and research about youth perspective about the EUSAIR pillars, of leading capacity building actions targeting disadvantaged youth across the region and favour the appropriation of its objectives at local level, while awareness raising about the role of youth in it.

The AIYN should aim to become an authoritative source of insights and proposals for the decision-makers about young people’s perspectives and engagement in the EUSAIR. For this reason, it should be involved in the creation of the a EUSAIR Youth Council, as promoted by the EUSAIR Albanian and following Bosnian Presidency and the EUSAIR Facility Point, and should have access to the EUSAIR governing bodies and deliberative sessions. Moreover, the EUSAIR should recognize the AIYN power to monitor the work carried out by EUSAIR structures and to advise about how decisions can be youth-related and can promote the role of youth.

These actions would help broaden the scope of the EUSAIR and co-design a real change in the region.

