

20 years of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion
“Vision for the Future of the AIE Regions”



TIRANA, 12 June 2026

Gear UP! Events

12 June 2026

Rogner Hotel Tirana

Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit 9, 1010 Tiranë, Albania

AGENDA

09:15 - 09:30

- Registration of participants

09:30 - 11:00

- Gear-Up! TIRANA Event (including coffee break)

11:00 – 13:30

- Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion

13:30 - 14:30

- Lunch

14:45 - 17:00

- Workshop between GEAR UP! Third Parties of IPA Countries. Exchange of experience and new perspectives on Global Citizenship Education in IPA Countries.

Global citizenship education as common denominator for a better implementation of SDGs in IPA Countries

AGENDA

09:15 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome and opening**

- **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)
- **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Gear-UP! project: goals and expected results, **Natalino BARBIZZI**, Marche Region, Lead partner

Presenting the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and North Macedonia, **Maria Luisa ESPOSITO** and **Carmela VACCARO**, AIE Secretariat

Presenting the LAs and CSOs from Serbia and Montenegro, **Branka JURAN**, CROSL - Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity - *online*

10:00 - 10:40 **Focus on youth engagement and global citizenship education to achieve the SDGs and ensure better integration of the IPA countries. Presentations by Gear-UP! Third Parties, Project results and collection of feedbacks from local NGOs**

- **Meriglina RUSTA**, Project Manager - ASET Center for Social, Economic and Territorial Administration (*E.C.O. CLUB project - Tirana, Albania*)
- **Françeska MUÇO**, Executive Director of YPN - Young Professionals Network (*CYCLE project - Tirana, Albania*)
- **Sofija NIKIĆ**, Community Coordinator Foundation Catalyst (*SDG-CROWD project - Belgrade, Serbia*)
- **Teodora RAONIĆ**, Project Coordinator at Youth Initiative of Human Rights Montenegro (*Project: "Bridging the Past: Global Education for Transitional Justice" - Podgorica, Montenegro*)
- **Dejan GALOVSKI**, Project Manager of ATLANTIS ESC Association (*ACT GREEN Project - Tetovo, North Macedonia*)
- **Danjela BURNAZI**, Executive Director of IZHIQ - The Institute for Development and Civic Initiative (*E-YAGA project - Tirana, Albania*)

10:40 - 10:50 **Wrap up and farewell by AIE**

20th Anniversary of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion: Vision for the Future of the cooperation area

AGENDA

10:50 - 11:00 **Welcome Coffee & Family Photo**

11:00 - 11:15 **Institutional Greetings and Opening Remarks**

Welcome by **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)

- **Bajram BEGAJ**, President of Albania
- **Ervin DEMO**, Minister of State for the Local Government, Albania
- **Taulant BALLA**, Chair of the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, Head of the Albanian Parliamentary Delegation to the European Parliament, Member of Albanian Parliament (*tbc*)
- **Blaž PEZO**, President of Dubrovnik-Neretva Region and Vice President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

11:15 - 12:00 **The Euroregion Yesterday and Today: A Historical Overview**

Round table with Former AIE Presidents and the Former President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Welcome and moderation by **Greta BARDELI**, Member of Albanian Parliament, Former Head of Shkodër Region

- **Ivan JAKOVČIĆ**, Former President of Istria Region and AIE President from 2006 to 2011
- **Angelo Michele IORIO**, Former President of Molise Region and AIE President from 2011 to 2013
- **Nikola DOBROSLAVIĆ**, Former President Dubrovnik-Neretva County and AIE President from 2015 to 2025
- **Giovanni DI STASI**, Former President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

12:00 - 13:15

The EU Cohesion Policy post-2027 and the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes: challenges and successes

Moderation by **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

- **Eridana ÇANO**, General Director State Agency of Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination, Albania
- **Raffaele PARLANGELI**, Director General of the Office for Territorial Policies and Territorial Cooperation of the Department for Cohesion Policies - Italian Government
- **Paolo GALLETTA**, Head of the Coordination and Monitoring Unit for ETC Programmes, Department for Cohesion Policies, Italian Government
- **Lodovico GHERARDI**, Coordinator of the Managing Authority Unit of the Interreg IPA ADRION Programme, Emilia Romagna Region
- **Claudio POLIGNANO**, Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme, Apulia Region
- **Mario DE ROSA**, First Secretary, Commercial Office, Embassy of Italy in Tirana
- Other Members of the Euroregion

13:15 - 13:30

Closing remarks and acknowledgments

- **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)
- **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch

Workshop between GEAR UP! Third Parties of IPA Countries

AGENDA

The workshop is for Third-Party organizations only

14:45- 15:30 **Project results from Gear-UP Third Parties: collection of feedbacks from NGOs**

- **Dragana KAROVSKA CHERMERSKA**, Program Manager of the Youth Program and Responsible for the implementation of the project activities at HERA - Health Education and Research Association (Y4GJustice project - *Skopje, North Macedonia*)
- **Nevila JAHAJ** - Executive Director of New Epoch Centre - Qendra Epoka e Re (YRISE-SDG project - *Fier, Albania*)
- **Ledia BRAHJA**, Student Coordinator of ANEP - Association on new environmental policies (GEAR-UP.AL project - *Tirana, Albania*)
- **Katia HANXHARI**, Communication Manager of ROOF Association (EARTHYOUTH project - *Gjirokaster, Albania*)
- **Snezana KOSTOVSKA FRCKOVSKA**, founding members of SIGA, Sustainable Inclusive Growth Association - (“Future Voices Valandovo: Youth for Global Justice and Sustainability” project - *Skopje, North Macedonia*)
- **Mila KARADAFOVA ANGELOVSKA**, Executive Director of CYA KRIK - Center for Youth Activism KRIK (Youth Rock, Let’s Roll - YRLR project - *Skopje, North Macedonia*) - *online*
- **Emira SOČIĆ**, Project Coordinator of REVOLT Association (“Ignite the Civic Spark - ICS” project - *Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina*) - *online*
- **Željka MILEUSNIĆ** - FOUNDATION "Institute of Safe Living" (EMKO project - *Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina*) - *online*
- **Ajna MEŠIĆ**, Project Coordinator of YiHR BiH (“GEN.C: Generation for change” project - *Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*) - *online*



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15:30- 17:00

Exchange of experience among Gear-Up Beneficiary Third Parties (AL, BA, ME, MK and RS) and new perspectives on global citizenship education in IPA COUNTRIES.

Moderated by **Ksenija FONOVIC**, External evaluator GEAR UP! project



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