INTERREG IPA EUSAIR YOUTH CONFERENCE

On a meaningful involvement of youth in European Cooperation

Gilles Kittel, IPA/EUSAIR/EU Accession Negotiations Team Leader, REGIO D1

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In this presentation…

1 Our reference and methodology

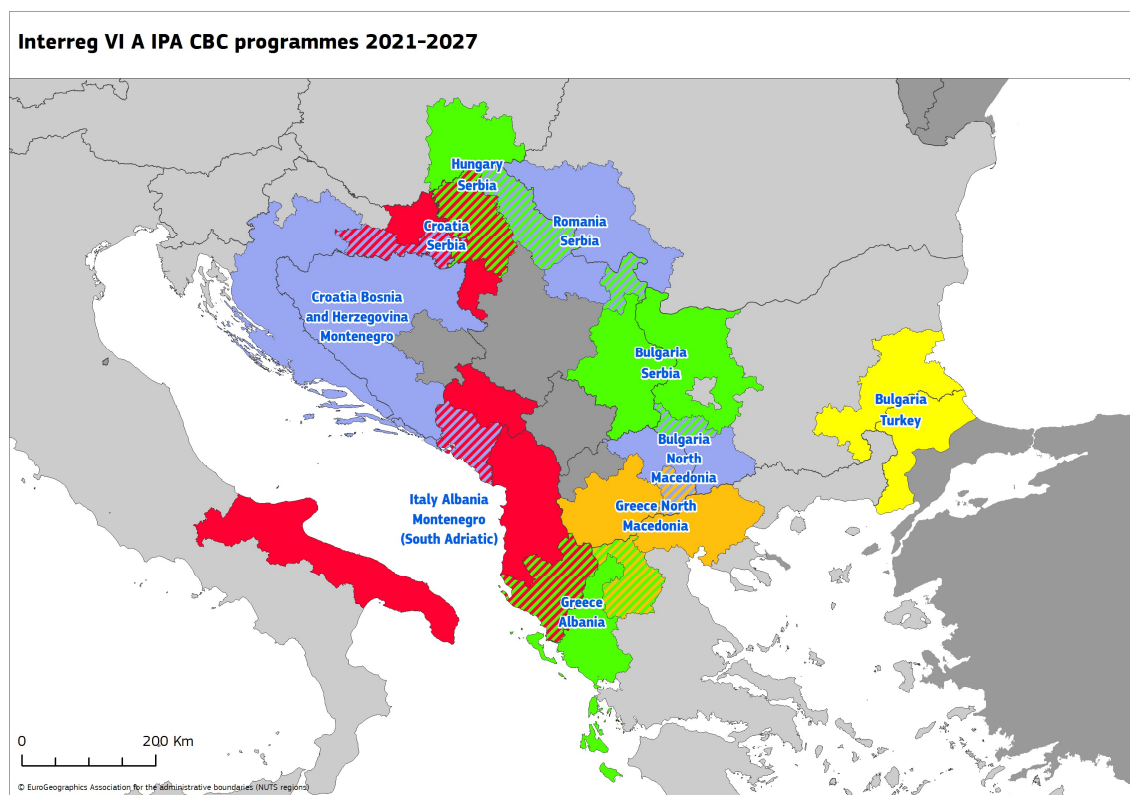**2** Overall results and novelties for better youth involvement

1 Our reference and methodology

Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy

Young Europeans' involvement in the future of European Territorial Cooperation
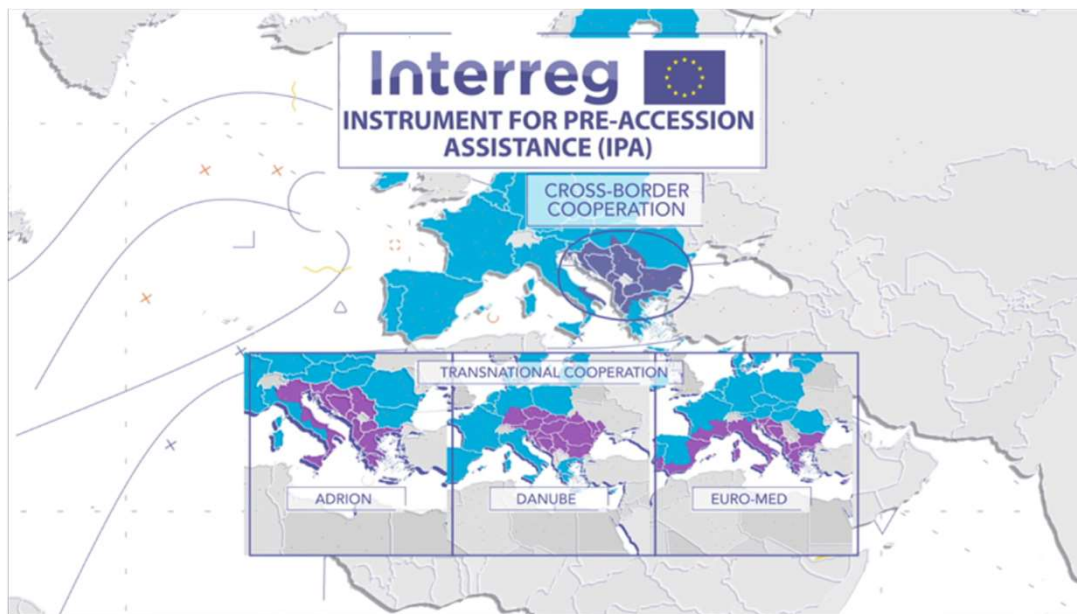
Interreg IPA programmes strand A

10 Interreg IPA CBC programmes

- Post 2020 Interreg IPA programmes -> **much more « IPA » oriented** programmes

- Post 2020 IPA allocation**: +6,2%** vs 2014-2020 allocation

- For all Interreg IPA CBC, IPA allocation > ERDF allocation

Interreg VI A IPA CBC programmes 2021–2027

Interreg
IPA

Co-funded by
the European Union

European
Commission

Interreg IPA programmes strands B & C

3 Interreg IPA TN & 1 Interreg IPA IR programmes

NEW

**+ URBACT IV
(enlarged to 5
IPA countries)**

NB: EURO NEXT MED &
NEXT Black Sea -> also
partially financed
through IPA.

- IPA Adrion –> supports EUSAIR -> its post 2020 IPA allocation has been multiplied by **351%** vs 2014-2020

  -> main purpose: higher degree of territorial integration

European Commission

Interviewing the managing authorities

Methodology

Red Code

- No action taken or foreseen

Purple Code

- No action taken because not applicable to Interreg programme

Orange Code

- Partial implementation or foreseen action

Green Code

- Concrete action implemented

European Commission

Boosting exchanges among EU Officials and Young People

European
Commission

Recommendation 1: Increasing the number of online events and meetings via digital platforms

Summary*:*

- Since the start of the pandemic, strong increase of online events. Even though most programmes consider physical meetings crucial, hybrid events will be kept by most (easy access for all).

- Digital tools and social media are widely used through all the programmes. Some use youth-friendly/easier language in social media. Most programmes communicate in English, only a few in national languages.

- Agenda and timeline are made available in advance if necessary (depending on the meeting).

- Recommendation largely taken into account by the Programmes

Colour Code: Green

9

European Commission

Recommendation 2: Planning regular thematic meetings on Interreg matters with young people and European Commission's staff specialised in territorial cooperation

Summary:

- Not done at the level of Managing Authorities – can be done by project partners on a voluntary basis

- The initiative should come from the European Commission (clear recommendation/guidelines)

- Consensus on the need to raise awareness on Interreg matters - should be given priority at EU Level

Colour Code: Red

European Commission

Recommendation 3: Involving young people in meetings of relevant EU-wide groups and networks

Summary:

- No direct contact with young people – only via the projects if young people are the final recipients or target groups

- Young people are not involved in meetings with relevant Commission staff and EU-wide groups and networks (e.g. Interreg Annual meetings) due to limited number and required expertise of participants

- Young people could be invited as observers

Colour Code: Red

European Commission

Recommendation 4: Enabling young people to encourage their region to apply for the REGIOSTARS Award competition and consider keeping a category dedicated to youth every year

Summary:

- Promotion to the general public through their usual means of communication

- No specific communication to young people ('no positive discrimination')

Colour Code: Orange

European Commission

Recommendation 5: Further promoting the regular exchanges within existing governance structures like the Macro Regional Strategies, at regional level and make sure that NGOs are also part of those exchanges

Summary:

- Only a few Managing Authorities actively pursue further exchanges with existing governance structures

- NGOs not always involved

- No regular dialogue with young people

Colour Code: Orange

European Commission

Boosting communication towards Young People via educational programmes

European Commission

Recommendation 6: Increasing the knowledge of Interreg in schools and universities

Summary:

- Schools and universities are often stakeholders or project partners

- Organisation of conferences, lectures, trainings and awareness raising activities in schools and university premises

- Specific focus on universities and schools given in the context of the European Year of Youth

- Recommendation largely taken into account by the Programmes

Colour Code: Green

European Commission

Recommendation 7: Encouraging European Commission's staff to boost their participation to the "Back to School/ University" initiative and students to pro-actively contact and invite EU staff to go visit their school and university

Summary:

- European Commission should be the facilitator of the initiatives

- Awareness of the initiative and willingness to participate, but often managed by different public authorities

Colour Code: Purple

European Commission

Recommendation 8: Creating and disseminating dedicated "edutainment" programme on territorial cooperation via Interreg projects or with massive open online courses (MOOC) that may interest students and teachers

Summary:

- Some Managing Authorities are implementing innovative initiatives (quizzes on Interreg)

- Willingness to do more in this regard with some guidance and support from the European Commission

Colour Code: Orange

Enabling Young People to take action within Interreg programmes and projects

European Commission

Recommendation 9: Encouraging each Interreg programme to plan more calls more easily accessible by young people with simpler rules and a dedicated budget

Summary:

- Managing Authorities largely help (all) applicants via tutorials, trainings, Info Days

- Simplification of language and reduction of administrative burden to the extend possible

- No 'positive discrimination' towards young people, but could indirectly benefit from inclusion in specific objectives

- New emphasis planned in the new programming period

- Should be given priority at EU Level – appear as one of criteria for programming

Colour Code: Orange

European Commission

Recommendation 10: Inviting young people in meetings and enable them to actively participate to the monitoring committees

Summary:

- No foreseen mandate for young people

- Participation is limited to the voting members

- Observation status could be envisaged

Colour Code: Purple

European Commission

Recommendation 11: Mobilising resources for the Interreg priority objective related to boosting skills and tackling youth unemployment

Summary:

- Facilitation of job matching is not a priority

- Some Managing Authorities publish vacancies on their website

- Employment is supported indirectly through trainings which prepare for the labour market

- Specific objective indirectly connected to employment via support to businesses/SMEs

- Should be given priority at EU Level

Colour Code: Orange

European Commission

Recommendation 12: Boosting more EU inter-institutional and multi-governance relations, dialogues and actions on young people's role and needs linked to Interreg

Summary:

- No action has been taken in this regard

- Recognition of young people added value

- Should be given priority at EU Level – clear regulation and accompanying guidelines

- More capacity would be needed to implement this recommendation

Colour Code: Red

European Commission

Summary

Recommendation of Youth Manifesto	Colour Code
Recommendation 1	**Green**
Recommendation 2	**Red**
Recommendation 3	**Red**
Recommendation 4	**Orange**
Recommendation 5	**Orange**
Recommendation 6	**Green**
Recommendation 7	**Purple**
Recommendation 8	**Orange**
Recommendation 9	**Orange**
Recommendation 10	**Purple**
Recommendation 11	**Orange**
Recommendation 12	**Red**

European Commission

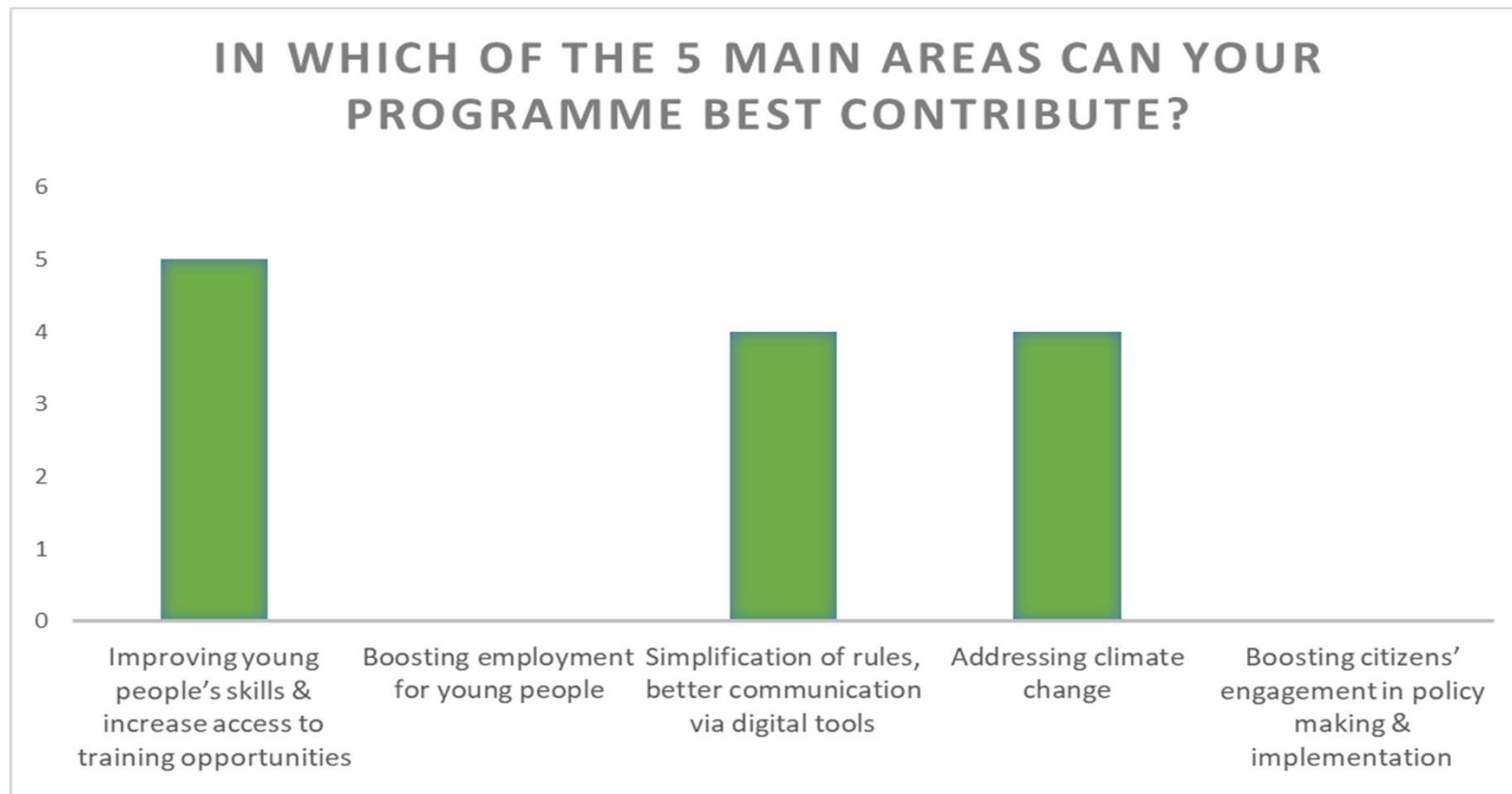**2** **Overall results and novelties for better youth involvement**

Main Challenges for Youth Participation

- **Economic barriers:** limited economic resources, including high costs of political engagement and a lack of funding mechanisms for youth engagement activities

- **Available opportunities:** lack of opportunities allowing meaningful participation, including provided by authorities and addressing youth interests and needs

- **Distrust**: distrust in public institutions and decision-making processes, sceptical about whether their actions will be considered/followed by the public authorities

- **Information**: lack of adequate information on opportunities of youth participation

European Commission

What are the main barriers for young people to meaningfully participate in our Programmes?

Lack of awareness   Limited

Complexity of the Programme   Predominant

Lack of interest   Insignificant

Lack of opportunities   Limited

European Commission

In which of the 5 main areas can our Programmes best contribute?

IN WHICH OF THE 5 MAIN AREAS CAN YOUR PROGRAMME BEST CONTRIBUTE?

Bar chart showing:
- Improving young people's skills & increase access to training opportunities: 5
- Boosting employment for young people: 0
- Simplification of rules, better communication via digital tools: 4
- Addressing climate change: 4
- Boosting citizens' engagement in policy making & implementation: 0

European Commission

To support young people participation in European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), what should be prioritised by the EU to have the greatest impact?

- **Capacity-Building:** Support capacity-building activities to improve competences and skills for young people and youth organisations involved in ETC

- **Youth Structures:** Foster the development of and provide support to new or existing independent youth organisations and structures involved in ETC

- **Equal access and inclusion:** Implement and promote actions to ensure equal access to opportunities for young people to engage in interregional cooperation

- **Youth Participation in decision-making:** Promote the participation of youth in engaging with decision-makers in planning and delivering on ETC's policies and programmes

- **Awareness raising campaigns:** Implement and support awareness raising campaigns on the importance of meaningful youth participation in ETC

- **Youth Participation** in the programme cycle: Foster meaningful and inclusive youth participation and empowerment in all phases of design, implementation and projects

- **Youth mainstreaming:** Promote youth mainstreaming (youth reflected in all thematic areas) in ETC

European Commission

Let's work together!

Any Questions?

#ThisistheEU

Thank you

European Commission