

INTERREG IPA EUSAIR YOUTH CONFERENCE

“On a meaningful involvement of youth in European Cooperation”

Tirana, 9 December 2022 – [Tirana International Hotel](#)

Hybrid Event

2022 was a year characterized with numerous activities dedicated to Youth. From the EU level, with the announcement of 2022 European Year of Youth, to the Tirana European Youth Capital - a vibrant dynamic for the WB6; youth became a keyword in the political sphere across the region. On a more tangible aspect, young people were given several opportunities to address long-present challenges such as unemployment, brain drain, lack of quality education through several EU and region-led initiatives. The year saw the start of the accession talks with Albania and North-Macedonia, the granting of the candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the relaunch of the Berlin Process with the signature of important agreements impacting youth mobility and education. A reinforced Youth Guarantee under a large EU investment plan for the region aims to provide young people with further employment and education opportunities.

Increase of investments in human capital development is key to address brain drain and youth migration and to building well-governed institutions in the region. In its 7th edition of EUSAIR Ministerial in May 2022, the Tirana Declaration was adopted, acknowledging the need to empower youth as key driver of regional cooperation, reconciliation and peacebuilding, and emphasizing that the inclusion of young people in the decision-making process requires an all-inclusive approach, encompassing all stakeholders of the Adriatic Ionian region, including social and non-governmental actors, media and business community.

What better opportunity like the imminent launch of the new IPA INTERREG programmes 2021-2027 for testing those commitments and co-creating the impact of the new era of European Cooperation programmes 2021-2027?

The “*Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy*” underlines that improving young people’s skills and boosting employment are in fact the key challenges for youth. And, as we come closer to the end of the European Year of Youth 2022 and Tirana European Youth Capital 2022, and welcome the announced 2023 Year of Skills, there is a positive momentum to use to capitalize on youth impact within main cohesion-led instruments and initiatives that come to the region. As iterated in the Tirana Connectivity Forum ’22 “*youth should be shapers of EU policies and programs and not only their beneficiaries*”.

As part of the promotion initiative of Youth Manifesto recommendations and the upcoming launch of INTERREG IPA programmes, through this joint conference organized in cooperation with Tirana European Youth Capital 2022, CDI aims to bring together youth and youth

stakeholders under the general objective of promoting EU territorial cooperation initiatives as drivers of empowerment and development opportunities for youth.

Target Groups of the Conference

Universities, high schools, local communities; CSO-s working in areas related to youth policies and development; Connecting Youth partners and representatives from the WB6; Albanian and regional institutions working on youth policies and regional development; IPA Programme stakeholders, DG REGIO and EUSAIR representatives; EU delegation officials; INTERREG IPA project beneficiaries working/implementing projects in areas connected to youth.

| AGENDA | |
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| 09.00 - 09.30 | Registration |
| 09.30 - 11.00 | <p><i>“Achieving cohesion in WB6: Novelties of EU territorial programmes 2021-2027”</i></p> <p><i>The objective of this panel is threefold: i) kick off “Raising awareness about the Youth Manifesto in the Western Balkans” project ii) communicate young people perspectives on Territorial Cooperation iii) introduce the novelties of new Interreg IPA programmes when it comes to what’s in there for youth, and how they contribute to the broader Enlargement Policy</i></p> <p><i>Opening remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Krisela Hackaj, Director Cooperation and Development Institute</i> <i>Keti Luarasi, Deputy Mayor of Tirana Municipality</i> <i>Gilles Kittel, Team Leader – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) - online</i> <p><i>Panel discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dafina Peci, Director Tirana European Youth Capital 2022</i> <i>Hubert Perr, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Albania</i> <i>Kjara Adhami, Director of the Directorate of the Administration of EU Financial Assistance, Albania State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination</i> <i>Klajdi Kaziu, Secretary General, UNA Albania</i> <p><i>Moderator: Irena Topalli, National Youth Congress of Albania</i></p> <p>Q&A</p> |
| 11.00 - 11.15 | Coffee Break |
| | <p><i>“INTERREG IPA: Entry points and available engagement mechanisms for youth”</i></p> <p><i>The objective of this panel is threefold: i) Increase awareness and promote INTERREG IPA Programmes and EUSAIR; ii) Increase awareness about and promote the YM to</i></p> |

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| <p>11.15 - 12.45</p> | <p><i>Programme Authorities for a wider inclusion of youth needs and perspectives in the upcoming calls; iii) Liaise with National Youth councils and other youth organizations in the region and strengthen their knowledge about Interreg IPA and EUSAIR</i></p> <p><i>Setting the Scene: “Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency of EUSAIR: What’s in there for Youth”</i></p> <p><i>Naida Dilic, Specialist, Directorate for European Integration, EUSAIR Chairmanship Bosnia & Herzegovina</i></p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Magdalena Rakovec, Centre of European Perspective, Slovenia</i> • <i>Mauro Novello, Coordinator, Joint Secretariat, Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro - Online</i> • <i>Barbara Di Piazza, Head of Joint Secretariat, ADRION Programme - Online</i> • <i>Bektha Djilidjel, Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) Project Assistant, Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) - Online</i> <p>Moderator: <i>Dea Elmasllari, Public Relations Manager Tirana European Youth Capital 2022</i></p> <p>Q&A</p> |
| <p>12.45 - 14.00</p> | <p><i>Wrap Up, Closure and Lunch</i></p> |