

SEMINAR

“EUSAIR & INTERREG IPA Programmes: Opportunities for education institutions and local communities”

7 March 2023 | St. Clement Ohridski University, Bitola - North Macedonia

The announcement of the European Year of Youth made 2022 a very dynamic period when it comes to youth. Many developments within the Western Balkans 6 (WB6) region made youth a buzzword in the political tables. Social inclusion in education and skills development is taking centre stage in 2023, with the European Year of Skills running the agenda for the entire 2023.

In December 2022, the Commission approved the [Interreg IPA Greece-North Macedonia for the period 2021-2027](#). The programme brings together the following policy areas: transition to a low carbon economy, support and upgrade of health and social services, and improving governance for cooperation. The [Interreg IPA ADRION Programme 2021-2027](#) has also been approved on 30th November 2022. Future granted actions will also contribute to the implementation of [EUSAIR](#), the Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy, the EU Green Deal, the EU Strategy for the Western Balkans, the Western Balkan agenda on innovation, research, education, culture, youth and sport, the EU Enlargement process.

However, as emphasized through the [“Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy”](#) there is a need to further inform youth and local communities on the available opportunities and calls deriving from such projects. Interreg IPA and EUSAIR offer young people to be part of the decision-making process on various matters and to develop projects that can make a change.

This seminar is organized by the Cooperation and Development Institute in Albania in partnership with the European Commission, in cooperation with the National Authority of the INTERREG IPA Programme Greece – the Republic of North Macedonia, the Ministry Local Self-Government, the St. Clement Ohridski University in Bitola and the National Youth Council of Macedonia. The seminar will address the main question: Can INTERREG IPA Programmes and EUSAIR make a difference for young people in North Macedonia and how?

The seminar will bring together schools, universities, local communities and INTERREG IPA programme and EUSAIR representatives, with the objectives to: i) informing potential beneficiaries on the EUSAIR strategy for the region and concrete involvement opportunities, ii) familiarizing youth and youth organizations, including schools and universities on the opportunities deriving from INTERREG IPA programmes, iii) increasing awareness about and promoting the Youth Manifesto to Programme authorities for a wider inclusion of youth needs and dedicated actions in their programming document and future call for proposals.

Agenda

10.30-11.00	Registration and Media Statements
11.00-11.15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director Cooperation and Development Institute ➤ Prof. Dr Jasmina BUNEVSKA - TALEVSKA, Vice-Rector University St Kliment Ohridski Bitola ➤ Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager – Instrument for Pre-Accession, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission - <i>online</i>
11.15-12.45	<p><i>Involving young people in territorial cooperation programmes & local perspectives on cross-border partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adnan EMINI, Antenna Officer in the Joint Secretariat in Bitola from IPA CBC Programme Greece - North Macedonia ➤ Barbara DI PIAZZA, Head of Joint Secretariat IPA ADRION Programme - <i>online</i> ➤ Prof. Ilija JOLEVSKI, University of St. Kliment Ohridski/Faculty of Information and Communication Technologies – Bitola EMPLOYOUTH project ➤ Besiana NINKA, INTERACT - “Interreg IPA programmes: an opportunity for youth engagement” – <i>online</i> ➤ Ivana ATANASOVSKA, President of the Local Youth Council of Bitola ➤ Mr. Nikola DIMKOVSKI, Representative from the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia - Regional Chamber Bitola GEMS project <p>Q&A</p> <p>Moderation by Filip KULAKOV, Programme Manager, National Youth Council of Macedonia</p>
12.45-13.00	Wrap up / Media Statements

This is a Hybrid Event. Working language is English. Refreshments will be available during the entire event.