

WORKSHOP

“A meaningful youth participation in INTERREG IPA: How to enable young people to take action?”

Venue: Municipality of Kumanovo, North Macedonia | 15 March 2023

Join us [online](#)

Since the publication of the [Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy](#) in 2020, a lot has been achieved. Some programmes have taken on the challenge and young people are being consulted or are part of the decision making processes. Some need still to open up to youth and adapt their implementation. Key to this process is the understanding that youth participation is a process that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of policies. Young people get empowered, engage themselves and bring in new ideas.

As emphasized through the Youth Manifesto there is a need to further inform youth and local communities on the available opportunities and calls deriving from INTERREG IPA programmes. Interreg IPA offer opportunities for a variety of stakeholders, including young people, to develop and benefit from projects that can make a change. In particular, the upcoming funding period can provide several opportunities especially for young people.

End of 2022 the European Commission approved the INTERREG IPA Bulgaria - North Macedonia 2021-2027 Programme. Over 31 million euros will address amongst other the lack of equal employment opportunities for youth in the CBC area, which gives rise to concerns that the regional structural economic deficits may further deepen by making a whole generation of young people excluded from the CBC labour market for years to come.

On the other hand, while the approval of the IPA III CBC Programme Kosovo - North Macedonia is awaited, the new programme foresees concrete activities addressing Youth, Education and Skills needs, like developing and implementing joint education, life-long learning, vocational training, training schemes and infrastructure supporting joint youth activities, including festivals, sports tournaments and cultural events.

This workshop, organized by the Cooperation and Development Institute in Albania in partnership with the European Commission, and in cooperation with the Ministry Local Self-Government of North Macedonia and the National Youth Council of Macedonia, will involve *INTERREG IPA beneficiaries* in an open and constructive exchange with programme authorities and young people on youth involvement in those programmes.

The event will address specific objectives: i) increase awareness and promote Interreg IPA programmes with local stakeholders and young people, ii) increase 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, iii) promote the Youth Manifesto priorities and recommendations as a reference for the project development in the new funding period.

Agenda

09.45-10.15	Registration and welcoming / Media Statements
10.15-10.30	Opening remarks ➤ Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director Cooperation and Development Institute ➤ Ivana GJORGJIEVSKA, President of the Council of the Municipality of Kumanovo ➤ Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission - <i>online</i>
10.30-12.00	How can we make young people get more involved in INTERREG IPA and IPA IPA programmes? ➤ Berat LIMANI, Project Officer at Joint Technical Secretariat - Antenna Office Skopje from IPA II CBC Programme Kosovo - North Macedonia 2014-2020; <i>Contribution on: Programme 2021-2027 presentation on level of alignment with the Youth Manifesto recommendations: state of art and challenges.</i> ➤ Mustafa ADEMI, Municipality of Cair, Skopje, North Macedonia - CBC EkoKid Project ➤ Vladimir PAVLOVSKI, Coordinator for regional development at the Center for Development of the North-Eastern Planning Region of Kumanovo Cross-border Young Entrepreneur Center project ➤ Emil VASILEV & Andrea ZLATKOVSKA, Center for development of the East Planning Region Green buildings for a common green future GREEN project Our common past-road to the joint future project ➤ Marija BANDULOVA & Mima STANOEVSKA, Center for development of the Southeast Planning Region Business eco-system as an integrated system – Be In project Think Composting - dedication to the organic full circle project Cross-Border Cooperation in Forest Fire Fighting project ➤ Jasminka PASHALISKA, President of Association AMBROZIJA Lowcarbeconomy project Identification and Monitoring of Contaminated Soils using innovative methodology project <i>Contributions on: Youth Manifesto from an INTERREG IPA beneficiary perspective</i> ➤ Filip KULAKOV, Programme Manager, National Youth Council of Macedonia <i>Contribution on: Youth Manifesto from the NYC perspective; Added value of experience in regional and bilateral youth cooperation; Ideas on how project beneficiaries can address the Youth Manifesto priorities.</i> Moderation by Irena BABAMOVA STOJCHEVA, Project expert at JTS - Antenna Office in Strumica, INTERREG IPA Programme Bulgaria - North Macedonia
12.00-12.15	Event wrap up / Media Statements

The working language is English. Refreshments will be available during the event duration.