

WORKSHOP

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

5 May 2023 | Venue: EU info center, Kralja Milana 7, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

This is hybrid event - [ZOOM Link](#)

The announcement of the European Year of Youth made 2022 a very dynamic period when it comes to youth. During the previous year and as a contribution to this date, Republic of Serbia took an active role in marking the importance of youth activism in the EU integration process. Serbia also participated in the EU Commission's platform “Conference of Europe” resulted by the official handing over the printed document with conclusions and suggestion of Serbian citizens for better European dialogue and citizens involvement and participation in the EU decision making process to EU officials, especially focusing on raising of the voice of young population in creating a better European future. The EU integration process in the Western Balkans region progressed with the start of the accession talks with Albania and North-Macedonia, whereas through the Berlin Process significant success was achieved when it comes to youth mobility and youth engagement in education programs around the region. The accession dynamics open the way for more involvement of local actors, increased direct impact of EU-supported policies, and many more opportunities for the citizens of the WB6.

Social inclusion in education and skills development is taking center stage in 2023, with the European Year of Skills running the agenda for the entire 2023. Through new calls the new programming of INTERREG IPA and IPA CBC 2021-2027 will provide opportunities for young people to engage and benefit from their support.

While innovation, skills development, employment, and other policy instruments are keywords in almost every programme priority or thematic area, youth in the region remain distant from those opportunities. Echoed in the [“Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy”](#), European youth have expressed the need for more interaction with policymakers. They've explicitly underlined the necessity of a more enabling environment to be created in the Interreg IPA programmes. Tangible youth support helps youth groups and overall Balkan countries in their cohesion and convergence efforts with the EU.

This workshop, organized by the Cooperation and Development Institute in Albania in partnership with the European Commission and the Serbian Ministry of European Integration and in cooperation with the National Youth Council of Serbia, 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.

Draft Agenda

09.30-10.00	Registration and welcoming / Media Statements
10.00-10.15	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director Cooperation and Development Institute • Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission - <i>online</i> • Sanda ŠIMIĆ, Assistant Minister, Ministry for European Integration, Republic of Serbia
10.15-11.45	<p>How can we make young people get more involved in INTERREG IPA and IPA IPA programmes?</p> <p><i>Contribution on: Programme 2021-2027 presentation on level of alignment with the Youth Manifesto recommendations: state of art and challenges.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darko ČUKURANOVIĆ, CBC Programme Expert • Tijana DIDANOVIĆ, NCP Danube Programme at Ministry of European Integration/Department of Cross-Border and Transnational Cooperation Programmes <p><i>Contributions on: Youth Manifesto from an INTERREG IPA beneficiary perspective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dušan DAKIĆ and Maša ŠALINAČKI, “e-Support services for career and vocational counseling of youth entering to the labor market”, Interreg IPA CBC Program Romania – Serbia • Slađana DUGONJIĆ DEL CASTILLO, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, TESI - Training and Education in Social Innovation –ADRION Programme -TBC • Rafael PUPOVAC, Regional Agency for Development and European Integration Belgrade, Strengthening social innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of secondary schools’ students by using highly innovative Learning System – INTERREG Danube Programme -TBC <p>Moderation by Milica BORJANIĆ, National Youth Council of Serbia</p>
11.45-12.00	Event wrap up / Media Statements

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