

Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference

23 May 2023 | 11.00-13.30 hrs | "Congress room" - Hotel Holiday, Zmaja od Bosne 4, Sarajevo
Hybrid Format¹

During 2022, the Western Balkans 6 (WB6) accession to EU was marked by major developments such as the start of the accession talks with Albania and North Macedonia and the granting of candidate status to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The role of youth in such process took center stage in the region's political discourse with regard to the shaping of the region's future. The relaunch of the Berlin Process focused on regional cooperation again put youth in center through the signature of 3 Mobility Agreements and the spur to youth mobility and education. Finally, both the 2022 European Year of Youth and the Tirana European Youth Capital provided a platform for youth to contribute to the region's progress, which is now continued by the 2023 European Year of Skills.

During the year-long EUSAIR Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, youth remains a priority for its role in the development processes of 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.

Through targeted new calls the new programming of INTERREG IPA 2021-2027 will provide new 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. Impact on youth target groups remains only a paper exercise during the design phase of policy-making or project support.

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 for a more enabling environment to be created in the Macro Regional Strategies and INTERREG programmes. CDI together with its regional Connecting Youth platform contributes to the process with concrete discussions on youth involvement in the Western Balkans identifying and designing targeted development initiatives.

The multistakeholder Youth-led Interreg IPA EUSAIR Youth Conference is part of a series of events organized by CDI Albania in partnership with the European Commission to promote the Youth Manifesto in the WB6 region and advance youth embedment in the programming and decision-making processes of INTERREG IPA and EUSAIR.

The Conference is organized in cooperation with the EUSAIR Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency and the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

¹ Online connection link will be available soon.

Draft Agenda

10:30-11:00	Registration / Media Statements
11:00-11:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director, Cooperation & Development Institute Albania • Slawomir TOKARSKI, Director for European Territorial Cooperation, DG Regio - European Commission <p>Keynote Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Where do we stand with youth involvement in EUSAIR?” Edin DILBEROVIC, Director, Directorate for European Integration (DEI) of Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Amb. Fabio PIGLIAPOCO, Head of the Permanent Secretariat of Adriatic & Ionian Initiative
11:20-12:10	<p>Session I: “From Manifesto to Action: have we addressed the recommendations?”</p> <p><i>This session will delve into how far the Youth Manifesto recommendations have been implemented in the Western Balkans. We will use the feedback of “Raising awareness on the Youth Manifesto in the WBs” project on the ground to steer the discussion on YM embedment.</i></p> <p><i>Video content with short interviews from WBs young people will be showcased.</i></p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanda ŠIMIĆ, Assistant Minister, Ministry for European Integration, Republic of Serbia - Online • Silvia MANGIALARDO, Head of International Relations Office, Marche Polytechnic University, UNIADRION • Iman MASLIĆ, Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina • Dea ELMASLLARI, Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 & National Youth Congress of Albania • Bektha DJILIDJEL, Interreg Volunteer Youth - Online <p>Q&A</p> <p><i>Moderation by: Gresa SMOLICA, Cooperation and Development Institute</i></p>
12:10-12:30	Coffee and Networking break

12:30-13:20	<p>Session II: “The Road ahead in supporting youth engagement in European Territorial Cooperation”</p> <p><i>This session will explore concrete ways to achieve more tangible results by involving young people in European Territorial Cooperation programmes and projects in the WBs.</i></p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simona MAMELI, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • Zuica ZMEJKOVSKA, EUSAIR National Contact Point, North Macedonia • Rebecca MARCONI, PhD Student, University of Macerata - <i>Online</i> • Veronica CAPENTI & Alexandre CHARI, ALCOTRA Youth Council, Interreg France-Italia ALCOTRA - <i>Online</i> • Robert LICHTNER, Coordinator of the Danube Strategy Point • Lidija Pansegrau HADROVIĆ, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia, upcoming EUSAIR Presidency <p><i>Q&A</i></p> <p><i>Moderation by: Gresa SMOLICA, Cooperation and Development Institute</i></p>
13:20-13:30	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Gilles KITTEL, Team Leader – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission</p>
13:30	<p>Lunch</p>