

## WORKSHOP

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

15 June 2023, 11.00-13.00 | Auditorium Mediateka -University 'Eqrem Cabej',  
Gjirokaster, Albania

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. 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. The first Call of ADRION Programm will remain open until June 30.

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 in cooperation with the National Youth Congress of Albania, 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

11.00 - 11.30	<b>Registration and welcoming / Media Statements</b>
11.30 - 11.45	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krisela HACKAJ, Executive Director, Cooperation and Development Institute</li> <li>• Prof. dr. Bektash MEMA, Rector, University "Eqrem Cabej", Gjirokaster</li> <li>• Gilles KITTEL, Team Manager – IPA, Enlargement Negotiations and EUSAIR, DG REGIO, European Commission - <i>Online</i></li> </ul>
11.45-12.45	<p><b>How can we make young people get more involved in INTERREG IPA programmes?</b></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"> <li>• Lira DHERI, INTERREG IPA Greece-Albania Programme</li> </ul> <p><i>Contributions on: Youth Manifesto from an INTERREG IPA beneficiary perspective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merita ISARAJ, Vice Rector, University "Eqrem Cabej", <a href="#">VirtuaLand- An Immersive Virtual Experience for Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites</a>, Interreg IPA Greece-Albania</li> <li>• Jorida MUHO, Deputy Mayor, Gjirokaster Municipality, <a href="#">AdriNetBook</a>, Interreg ADRION Programme Projects</li> <li>• Loreta MAMANI, Executive Director, MKEZH “Multifunctional Association for Culture, Education and Development”</li> <li>• Klerida KALEMI, Student Beneficiary, Economy Faculty, University "Eqrem Cabej"</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p> <p>Moderation by Irena TOPALLI, National Youth Congress of Albania</p>
12.45-13.00	<b>Event wrap up / Media Statements</b>

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