

Interreg

Italy – Croatia



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YPACT – YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ID ITHR0700830

Launch Conference AGENDA

Youth engagement in post-27 Territorial Cooperation. Challenges and opportunities from a multi-level governance perspective.

Venue | Eminence Studios, [Rue Archimède 93c](#), Bruxelles (BE)

Date | Tuesday 13 October, 2026

Link to registration: <https://forms.gle/cWSou295yYJSxi9>.

During the 2021–2027 programming period, youth engagement has emerged as an increasingly important dimension of territorial cooperation. Through initiatives coordinated by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), young people have been the focus of territorial cooperation policies, strategies, programmes, and EU-funded projects.

In a multilevel perspective, Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme is putting increasing emphasis on youth engagement as a cross-cutting dimension, also recognizing a role to local and regional authorities and stakeholders as a new component of Programme partnerships.

Inspired by the [AI-NURECC Plus initiative](#) (2021-2023), the Interreg Italy-Croatia [DEMY-Coop](#) project (2023-2024) framed youth engagement as part of a better cooperation governance. YPACT identified the cultural, legal, and administrative barriers that hinder a youth participation in decision-making process. Meanwhile it raised the awareness of both public authorities, stakeholders and young people on possible cooperation paths.

As a sequel of DEMY-Coop, [YPACT](#) *Youth Participation in Cross-border cooperation for sustainable development* (2026-2027), represents a further step and experiments with structured forms of youth participation, supporting the co-creation of youth-responsive sustainable development policies. Through stakeholder engagement, capacity-building and policy dialogues with decision-makers, the project positions young people in decision-making processes, bringing them at the forefront of policy development.

Against this background, the YPACT Launch Conference in Brussels brings together EU institutions, representatives of local and regional authorities, youth-focused stakeholders, and EU-wide cooperation networks to discuss the future of youth participation in territorial cooperation. Beyond presenting the YPACT project goals, it seeks to stimulate a broader reflection on how participation can evolve from engagement and consultation towards more structured forms of co-creation and influence in territorial policy-making.



AGENDA

14:30	15:00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
15:00	15:10	Opening and welcome address Aldrin DALIPI, Head of Tirana Region and President of the AIE online
15:10	15:20	Launch of YPACT. Vision, activities and impact Maria Luisa ESPOSITO, Project Manager, Eurelations EEIG (LP)
15:20	16:20	Networking Talks 1: A youth perspective to evolve from consultation and project-based engagement towards systematic participation. Moderated by Domagoj GORETA, RERA SD (YPACT PP3) Meriglina RUSTA, Project Coordinator, Center for Social, Economic, and Territorial Administration ASET Ajna MESIC, YEA, Project Coordinator, Youth Initiative for Human Rights Bosnia YIHR Kristian KINA, Project Manager, Institute for Development and Civic Initiative IZHIQ Daniele SABATO, Project & Policy Coordinator, Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions OBESSU
16:20	17:20	Networking Talks 2: The role of EU stakeholders in territorial youth cooperation. Achievements, challenges, and future plans. Moderated by Maria Luisa Esposito, Eurelations GEIE (LP) Beniamino BRUNATI, Programme Manager, DG REGIO, European Commission Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Executive Secretary of the Balkan & Black Sea Commission, Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions CPMR Milena PALLOTTA, IVY Project Administrator, Association of European Border Regions AEBR
17:20	17:30	Wrap up and conclusion, Suela TAHIRAJ, Sustainable Tourism auditor, Balkan Green, AIYN
17:30	18:30	Networking Appetizer

