

# Dialogue on Youth & European Cooperation.



**Agenda June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

**Online Meeting\_9.30 -11.30 CET**

## Outline

### Interact

Interact supports Interreg cooperation and beyond. Through its networks facilitates knowledge exchange and gives a common response to Interreg Thematic Objectives. The Inclusive Growth network deals with themes such as employment and self-employment, labour mobility, social inclusion, improving professional skills and lifelong learning. And in particular, this year since we are celebrating 30 Years, we are focusing on Youth. Interact also supports the implementation of MRS strategies where cooperation and coordination of funds are key to have a higher impact in the policy level, within a territorial angle.

### Interreg 30 years.

All along 2020, the Interreg Community will celebrate 30 years of cooperation. As the second pillar of the Cohesion policy, European Territorial Cooperation is at the heart of the European spirit because it encourages regions and countries to tackle challenges they can solve only by working together.

The celebrations throughout 2020 will provide the opportunity to demonstrate the achievements so far, but also the chance to focus on the future by launching the debate on cooperation policy post 2020 as we are entering a crucial phase to shape the future of the programming period.

While it is the time to think about Interreg funding covering all strands cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation, it is also the moment to go beyond funding



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and to use existing mechanisms in order to anchor cooperation in a more sustainable policy environment

At a time when the European Union is facing a lot of changes, when political dialogue often questions its functioning, when new European leaders and new priorities are emerging, Interreg has been acting now for 30 years to *leave no one behind* and to build Europe *brick-by-brick*.

Interreg encourages young people to find their way to work or study abroad and supports initiatives to learn their neighbours' language or to volunteer in projects.

### **Youth in the EU.**

Young people between 15 and 29 years old made up 17% of the European Union (EU) population in 2018.

Irrespective of their gender, economic situation, social origin and age, they all face common challenges such as weak labour markets and lack of education and training opportunities.

The European Union offers a land of opportunities if we consider the increasing mobility of young people within the EU, crucial to strengthen its position as a knowledge-based economy. For 30 years, Interreg and cooperation policy has found solutions for young people.

How? Working together, building partnerships and sharing knowledge to improve educational level, qualifications, skills, international competences and job opportunities for all and to make "an economy that works for people".

Interreg enhances the ability of youth to work and learn on both sides of the border, increasing their employability. Youth mobility is a prime mechanism for fostering a sense of European identity and citizenship.

Interreg promotes transnational networks for helping young entrepreneurs to boost their skills. In the Danube region, the project New Generation skills unlocks youth's unexploited potential at local level by developing their skills and competences and by creating an enabling environment to make their innovative ideas becoming ventures with high social added value, potentially taken up by the private & public sectors transnationally. This is how we fight against youth unemployment.

Interreg educates young people, in and out of Europe, to make them aware about global warming. The project "Youth-together" between Hungary and Serbia helps to adapt their habits towards a more sustainable way of life. This is how we want to protect our children from natural disasters.

Young generations are the future of cooperation



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### **Meeting Objectives**

#### **I. OVERARCHING OBJECTIVE.**

Showcase EU cooperation activities as part of coherent policies for youth empowerment. Achievements and Future opportunities.

#### **II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

1. The added value of Cooperation programmes in the priority of Youth.
2. Provide inputs to the *Manifesto for Young People by Young People* to Shape the European Territorial Policy, which will be presented by Commissioner Elisa Ferreira during the Interreg Annual Event Youth 2020.

### **Target Group.**

Young Volunteers (IVY), Youth Associations developing Interreg, ENI and IPA projects, Youth associations working together with MRS, European, national, regional and local Youth Platforms. Interreg Programmes Managing Structures (MA and JS) interested in the field of Youth



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### **Agenda for the meeting.**

**Tuesday, 23 June 2020**

**9.00 – 9.30**

#### **Check-in to virtual meeting room and technical settings.**

Please join the virtual meeting room in good time to test technical settings and to ensure we will start on time. The room will be open half-an-hour before the meeting will start (i.e. at 9:00 CET). Be aware that online registration takes time.

**9.30 – 11.30**

#### **Event**

##### **Introduction to the meeting, objectives and approach.**

Facilitation: Mercedes Acitores. Interact.

##### **Institutional Opening speeches. “Europe a land for opportunities”**

- Elisa Ferreira. EU Commissioner. Cohesion and Reforms.

##### **Inspirational Talk: Youth Empowerment. Youth Engagement.**

Moderator: Astrid Aulnette. European Commission.

Key speakers:

- Beata Pyszniak. Diversity & Inclusion Trainer/Consultant.
- Nicolas Plain. Scientific Explorer, PhD | Engineer | TV Host ~ EUSALP ambassador for the French presidency.

##### **Debate with participants, based on three questions:**

Facilitation: Mercedes Acitores. Interact

1. What is the most important topic/challenge EU cooperation should address?
2. What should be the best way to let young people having their say in the regulatory framework?
3. How do you see yourself contributing to shape the future of European cooperation?

##### **Conclusions for the *Manifesto for Young People by Young People*. What happens after?**

- Jean Pierre Halkin. Head of Unit of D1 in DG Regio. European Commission.

##### **Closure**

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### **Practicalities**

#### **Online meeting and meeting times**

All times indicated in this agenda are CET (Brussels time).

We will meet online using the video conferencing tool Zoom. Together with your registration confirmation, you will receive the link and further information how to access the virtual meeting room.

To enable a swift start at 9:30, the virtual room will open half an hour before (9.00) the meeting start and we will be present for your (technical) assistance.

#### **Other information**

In case of questions, please do not hesitate to address Mercedes

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