

Boosting Youth employability



28 June 2021

**European territorial cooperation boosting youth employability –
experiences and the way forward**

Online meeting, 09:30-12:30 CET



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Outline

Territorial cooperation in Europe – through Interreg and the macro-regions – is the key to breaking down barriers between borders and to increasing trust and common understanding among countries. It also plays a crucial role in addressing various societal challenges such as youth employability. Currently, there are 3.4 million young people who are unemployed in the EU, aged between 14 and 24. Participation of young people in cross-border and macro-regional initiatives helps diminish this number and also allows youngsters to have a say in the future of their regions.

Precisely, 'youth cooperation' was one of the central topics highlighted in the celebrations of Interreg 30 engaging directly in a dialogue with youth. Young people's ideas on Interreg and especially on how to make it more in line with their expectations are now collected in the [Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy](#). A total of 12 recommendations are put forward and ready to be implemented by Interreg programmes and considered in the work of macro-regions.

Objective

Building on the Youth Manifesto, this event aims to explore how Interreg programmes are working and engaging with youth and boosting employability of young people in Europe. It will also strive to define some ideas on how to build a long habit of cooperation between young people and Interreg and beyond. Lastly, this event will show some Interreg and macro-regional examples and good practices to depict the contribution that territorial cooperation has made in the youth dimension. The term *employability* here refers to the skills and abilities that allow to be employed.



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- 09.00 – 09.30** **Setting up and checking in**
- 09.30 – 09.35** **Welcome to the meeting and introduction**
By Interact
- 09.35 – 09.55** **Trends and future opportunities for youth employability in the post COVID-19 era.**
Speech by Loes Van der Graaf. Senior Researcher. Co- author of “Education and youth in post-Covid-19 Europe - Crisis effects and policy recommendations” .
Published by the European Parliament, 2020.
Q&A
- 09.55 – 10.10** **Setting the scene: Manifesto for Young People by Young People to Shape the European Cooperation Policy and opportunities for youth support set in the new regulations.**
By Slawomir Tokarski. Director for Interreg, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Q&A
- 10.10 – 11.20** **Employability of young people in Europe – Interreg contribution**
This session will showcase few examples of Interreg contribution to youth employability, and how the results can be used to inspire wider policy discussions and new initiatives in 2021-2027 period.
Presentations by:
- Matthieu Guary. RESMYLE project. Financed by ENI CBC MED
 - Carmela Sfregola and Sonia Amendolare. Crafl-Lab project. Financed by Interreg Greece-Italy.
 - Marc De Roeck. Trampoline project. Financed by Interreg POCTEFA.
 - Kalle Pakalén. RYE CONNECT! project. Financed by Northern Periphery programme.
 - Jörg Mirtl, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 9 (People and Skills)
- 11.20 – 11.30** Q&A
- 11.30 – 12.20** **Virtual coffee break**
- Involving young people into territorial cooperation**
Building on the experience of the Interreg Volunteer Youth" (IVY) initiative, this session will discuss benefits of engaging young people in the work of programmes, as well as lessons to be taken to 2021-2027 funding period.
- Io Chatzivaryti. EU Programmes advisor of Dracma Chamber of Commerce. Mentor of over 10 IVY's in several Interreg projects.
 - Katerina Demertzi. IVY mentor in SOCIAL PLATE project
 - Melanie Plangger. EUSALP Youth Council.
- Discussion - How to build a long habit of cooperation between young people and Interreg and beyond.
- 12.20 – 12.30** **Closing of the meeting**
By Interact.