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PROGRAMME INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA 2021 – 2027

**DEMY-Coop
DEcision-Making Youth for
cross-border Cooperation**

**Deliverable D 2.3.1 Report of the
Cross-Border Final Conference in
Campobasso (IT)**

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Cross-Border Final Conference report

18/December/2025

The DEMY-Coop Cross-Border Final Conference was organised on Wednesday 18 December from 10.00 to 13.30 in Campobasso and online. In addition to celebrating the results of the project which has now reached its end after 17 months of implementation. The event aimed at raising new generations' awareness of European issues such as active citizenship, associationism, participation and cooperation, to offer a scenario of opportunities in which young people could aspire to invest their future.

The DEMY-Coop Cross-Border Final Conference was organised into three sessions. The first session "Opening" saw different high-level stakeholders (EUSAR Presidency, EUSAIR Facility, IT-CRO Programme) contribute with presentations about initiatives of youth engagement such as the creation of the EUSAIR Youth Council. The second session "Results" was devoted to presenting the results of the DEMY-Coop project by project partners. The third session "Youth engagement" was more focused on actively involving youth, including three local youth organisations that were invited to present their priorities and activities and to participate to a final live poll. The conference was addressed to young people in the Campobasso area. More than 100 students and teachers from local high-schools attended. Many international young people participated online.



In the Opening session Ms **Mathilde KONSTANTOPOULOU**, Ministry of Economy and Finance Greece, EUSAIR Coordinator, presented the political priorities and key themes of the Hellenic EUSAIR Presidency with particular reference to youth and youth engagement through the EUSAIR 5th Pillar on Improved Social Inclusion and the role of the Youth Council in the EUSAIR governing structure. Ms KONSTANTOPOULOU explained the Presidency's planned activities for youth and invited youth and youth organisations to join the EUSAIR Annual Forum that will take place between 5 and 7 May in Greece.





Ms **Eva KOS**, Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development Slovenia, EUSAIR Facility Point, provided an overview of the path to the creation of the EUSAIR Youth Council (EYC).

Ms KOS explained the participatory approach that was undertaken, firstly with the constitution of a Task Force on youth, secondly through an [open consultation](#) of both youth and stakeholders that led to the elaboration of a [EYC concept paper](#), and a final Call for applications, which received 185 applications from all 10 EUSAIR countries. The EYC acts as a body of the EUSAIR Governing Board with

an independent consultative role for providing opinions and recommendations.

Ms **Tea IVANISEVIC**, Interreg IT-HR Programme Communication Manager, introduced the main concepts and priorities of the Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme and provided an overview of the results of the Interreg post-27 consultations, highlighting in particular opportunities to strengthen the role that young people in the next Programme. The Interreg IT-CRO Programme played a relevant part in carrying out the consultations through online surveys, online meetings and several events. A harvesting report is available [here](#). Ms IVANISEVIC highlighted youth engagement as one of the collected recommendations, underlying how by building on the enthusiasm and interest of youth, both Cohesion policy and Interreg programmes/projects can gain fresh ideas and resilience for the future. New topics for youth involvement include: 1) creating opportunities for cross-border entrepreneurship and innovation, with a focus on the green and digital economies, and 2) establishing an "Adriatic Youth Lab" programme, allowing youth participation in research, innovation, and capacity-building projects to tackle climate change, digital transformation, and cultural preservation.

In the [second session](#) the DEMY-Coop project partners presented the **results** of the project as a small-scale, place-based, people-to-people project which worked to create a viable and equitable solution to the lack of youth engagement in decision-making processes with reference to strategic choices on policies addressed to young people. The DEMY-Coop response was the facilitation and activation of collaborations between local authorities and youth associations in the areas of project implementation (Veneto and Šibenik-Knin County), the identification of cultural, administrative and legal barriers to youth involvement in decision-making contexts, the development of



a participatory and transnational governance model aimed at supporting co-creation processes. The success of the initiative and especially of the local meetings and the youth fora that were organised by project partners was endorsed by the testimonial of some youth who participated in the project.



The third session of the event was moderated by Ms **Milena PALLOTTA**, president of giovanichimere, a local youth organisation with which Eurelations GEIE has formally established cooperation through the signature of a letter of intents as a deliverable of the DEMY-Coop project. Ms PALLOTTA introduced the session's speakers, among them Ms Clara MENASSEYRE, Programme Assistant at DG REGIO, European Commission, in charge of the Youth4Cooperation Initiative. Ms MENASSEYRE focused on the perspective

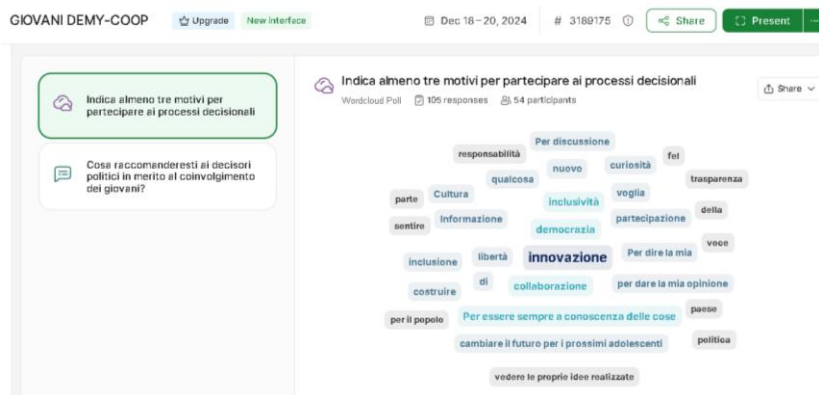
initiatives for young people in the framework 2028-2034 Cohesion Policy and provided information about the Youth4Cooperation Initiative, the brand gathering all youth initiatives related to Interreg and Macro-Regional Strategies. MENASSEYRE presented the future Interreg GO! 2025 meeting that will be held in Nova Goriza-Gorizia on 27 and 28 March 2025, to mark the conclusion of the Interreg post-2027 consultation process, initiated in 2023.

Ms **Eva OMAHEN**, EUSAIR Youth Council coordinator, EUSAIR Facility Point, provided an inspirational speech focusing on the challenges and opportunities for youth regional cooperation in the frame of EUSAIR. Ms OMAHEN highlighted the conclusions of the inaugural meeting of the EUSAIR Youth Council was held on 22 November 2024 in Dubrovnik (HR): Adriatic-Ionian young people face similar daily challenges, such brain drain, youth unemployment, environmental issues and many social challenges. The EUSAIR can work as a platform for cooperation and experience-sharing and an opportunity to develop effective and meaningful solutions for regional development based on youth to promote youth employment in sustainable industries, digital literacy and green energy initiatives, advocacy for sustainable transportation systems and for a fairer access to future job markets.



Mr **Klaidj KAZIU** United Nations Association Albania (UNAA) and Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN) highlighted the importance of establishing a dialogue with decision-makers to better learn the priorities and work to creating viable solutions. Mr KAZIU also pointed out the role that the AIYN can have in supporting the work of the EYC.

Last part of the session was devoted to meeting three local youth organisations: **Federica MESORACA**, giovanichimere; **Brian ANTONILLI** and **Simone PETRARCA**, Forum Giovani Città di Isernia; **Rosita GIARDINO** and **Valentina DE LUCA**, Fuoriteca: three very different organisations that got the chance to connect and networked, with a view to exploring possible cooperation paths. The three organisations presented their priorities and objectives and explained how the collective dimension of an organisation, through youth engagement in society, can enable young individuals to strengthen their voice and turn their opinions on key challenges, hopes and ambitions into action.



Last part of the session engaged all youth present at the Conference in an interactive anonymous poll. The poll registered 92 participants with 66% engagement. The main takeaway of the poll was a widespread recognition of the importance of youth participation in the promotion of active citizenship, social inclusion and democracy development, all elements that contribute to every society.

Young respondents affirmed to feel ready for participating in society and decision-making with a view to “innovate”, to be more “aware and informed”, to stimulate “social inclusion” and “democracy”, to “have a voice”, to “change the future for next generations”.

When asked about what they would recommend to decision-makers to incentivise youth engagement, they pointed out three key points:

- decision-makers should learn how to gain young people’s trust;
- decision-makers should acknowledge young peoples’ voices to boost youth participation;
- engagement needs collaboration digital tools, among them include permanent consultation.

