

20 years of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion

“Vision for the Future of the AIE Regions”



TIRANA, 12 June 2026

Gear UP! Events

12 June 2026

Rogner Hotel Tirana

Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit 9, 1010 Tiranë, Albania

AGENDA

09:15 - 09:30

- Registration of participants

09:30 - 11:00

- Gear-Up! TIRANA Event (including coffee break)

11:00 – 13:30

- Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion

13:30 - 14:30

- Lunch

14:45 - 17:00

- Workshop between GEAR UP! Third Parties of IPA Countries. Exchange of experience and new perspectives on Global Citizenship Education in IPA Countries.

Global citizenship education as common denominator for a better implementation of SDGs in IPA Countries

AGENDA

09:15 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome and opening**

- **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)
- **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

Gear-UP! project: goals and expected results, **Natalino BARBIZZI**, Marche Region, Lead partner

Presenting the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina and North Macedonia, **Maria Luisa ESPOSITO** and **Carmela VACCARO**, AIE Secretariat

Presenting the LAs and CSOs from Serbia and Montenegro, **Branka JURAN**, CROSL - Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity

10:00 - 10:40 **Focus on youth engagement and global citizenship education to achieve the SDGs and ensure better integration of the IPA countries. Presentations by Gear-UP! Third Parties, Project results and collection of feedbacks from local NGOs**

- **Aulona HOXHA**, Executive Director of ASET Center for Social, Economic and Territorial Administration (*E.C.O. CLUB project - Tirana, Albania*)
- **Françeska MUÇO**, Executive Director of YPN - Young Professionals Network (*CYCLE project - Tirana, Albania*)
- **Sofija NIKIĆ**, Community Coordinator Foundation Catalyst (*SDG-CROWD project - Belgrade, Serbia*)
- **Teodora RAONIĆ**, Project Coordinator at Youth Initiative of Human Rights Montenegro (*Project: "Bridging the Past: Global Education for Transitional Justice" - Podgorica, Montenegro*)
- **Dejan GALOVSKI**, Project Manager of ATLANTIS ESC Association (*ACT GREEN Project - Tetovo, North Macedonia*)
- **Danjela BURNAZI**, Executive Director of IZHIQ - The Institute for Development and Civic Initiative (*E-YAGA project - Tirana, Albania*)

10:40 - 10:50 **Wrap up and farewell by AIE**

20th Anniversary of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion: Vision for the Future of the cooperation area

AGENDA

10:50 - 11:00 **Welcome Coffee & Family Photo**

11:00 - 11:15 **Institutional Greetings and Opening Remarks**

Welcome by **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)

- **Ervin DEMO**, Minister of State for the Local Government, Albania
- **Taulant BALLA**, Chair of the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, Head of the Albanian Parliamentary Delegation to the European Parliament, Member of Albanian Parliament (*tbc*)
- **Blaž PEZO**, President of Dubrovnik-Neretva Region and Vice President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

11:15 - 12:00 **The Euroregion Yesterday and Today: A Historical Overview**

Round table with Former AIE Presidents and the Former President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Welcome and moderation by **Greta BARDELI**, Member of Albanian Parliament, Former Head of Shkodër Region

- **Ivan JAKOVČIĆ**, Former President of Istria Region and AIE President from 2006 to 2011
- **Angelo Michele IORIO**, Former President of Molise Region and AIE President from 2011 to 2013
- **Nikola DOBROSLAVIĆ**, Former President Dubrovnik-Neretva County and AIE President from 2015 to 2025
- **Giovanni DI STASI**, Former President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



12:00 - 13:15

The EU Cohesion Policy post-2027 and the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes: challenges and successes

Moderation by **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

- **Eridana ÇANO**, General Director State Agency of Strategic Programming and Assistance Coordination, Albania
- **Raffaele PARLANGELI**, Director General of the Office for Territorial Policies and Territorial Cooperation of the Department for Cohesion Policies - Italian Government
- **Armand SKAPI**, Secretary General, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Albania
- **Paolo GALLETTA**, Head of the Coordination and Monitoring Unit for ETC Programmes, Department for Cohesion Policies, Italian Government
- **Lodovico GHERARDI**, Coordinator of the Managing Authority Unit of the Interreg IPA ADRION Programme, Emilia Romagna Region
- **Claudio POLIGNANO**, Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme, Apulia Region
- **Pierluigi SIMONETTI**, Vice-Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Republic of Albania
- Other Members of the Euroregion

13:15 - 13:30

Closing remarks and acknowledgments

- **Aldrin DALIPI**, Head of the Tirana Region and President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE)
- **Francesco COCCO**, Secretary General of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch

Workshop between GEAR UP! Third Parties of IPA Countries

AGENDA

The workshop is for Third-Party organizations only

14:45- 15:30 **Project results from Gear-UP Third Parties: collection of feedbacks from NGOs**

- **Nevila JAHAJ** - Executive Director of New Epoch Centre - Qendra Epoka e Re (YRISE-SDG project - Fier, Albania) - *TBC*
- **Alketa KADIU**, President of ANEP - Association on new environmental policies (GEAR-UP.AL project - Tirana, Albania) - *TBC*
- **Klodian MUCO**, President of ROOF Association (EARTHYOUTH project - Gjirokaster, Albania) - *TBC*

15:30- 17:00 **Exchange of experience among Gear-Up Beneficiary Third Parties (AL, BA, ME, MK and RS) and new perspectives on global citizenship education in IPA COUNTRIES.**

Moderated by **Ksenija FONOVIC**, External evaluator GEAR UP! project



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