

Involving young people: EU citizenship around the Adriatic

Young people are enjoying new opportunities to get to know one another across the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Adriatic region. The project is also helping them to see a role for themselves in European society.

CATCHING THE BUS

In 2013, the Youth Adrinet bus brought a cross-border youth project right into the world of young people in half-a-dozen Adriatic countries. A bus-load of young people set out from Gorizia, stopping in Izola, Pula, Novi Sad, Sarajevo, Shkodra, Dubrovnik, Bari, Campobasso, Pesaro and Rimini.

And at each stop, joint events with local youth centres and organisations underlined the central message of the Youth Adrinet project – that young people can have a voice in their own affairs.

MORE THAN MULTI-CULTURAL

The project is not just promoting social integration. It is giving young people more of a voice in youth policy, and closer involvement in the community, at local, regional, national and European level.

And as part of the process, it is encouraging better quality education, and widening employment possibilities through professional coaching and training.

As part of the project, the city of Dubrovnik has opened a youth information centre designed to increase youth participation in public life. It provides information on education, employment, leisure, entertainment, or health care, and opens to all young people, without limitation or fees.

And in Pula, where Adrinet has built a network among youth resources, Erik Lukšić, another of the project's leaders, describes it as "a big leap forward in youth policies, helping engagement in society, and starting to create youth policy based on young people's interests and needs."

Youth Adrinet is funded by a special pre-accession fund for cross-border work in the region. It is promoting cooperation among political decision-makers in charge of youth policy, geared towards stimulating participation and active citizenship among young people.

Each region and city contributes its own expertise, with young people take a leading role, and exchanging ideas and information through events such as the "Youth Adriatic Hub" in Campobasso in March.

Giovanni Digiulio from Apulia says: "Working together with other guys to create a cross-border network gives all of us a huge chance for growth. Youth Adrinet gives us the chance to influence youth policy. Who better than us, young adults, knows what young people need?"

EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

Overall, the project is allowing young people to take initiatives relating to their own lives and conditions. It is developing a real sense of citizenship and an awareness of the European context in which they live.



Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Western Balkans

IPA – AN INVESTMENT IN EUROPE. AN INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE.

And it promotes a new degree level of responsibility as they implement their own elements of the project.

– the society that they will have full responsibility for in future years.

This is offering the young generation a new way of becoming engaged in European public life and in society



PROJECT DETAILS – Youth Adrinet

Partners:

Province of Gorizia (lead partner), Apulia Region, Province of Campobasso, Province of Pesaro and Urbino, Municipality of Rimini, and Municipality of Gorizia, Italy
ForSer – Training and Services for the Public Administration, Italy
Informest – Service and Documentation Centre for International Cooperation, Italy
Municipality of Izola, Slovenia; Regional Council of Shkoder, Albania
Municipality of Novigrad – Canton of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
City of Pula and City of Dubrovnik, Croatia
Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia

Total cost in €: 3.6 million

EU Contribution in €: 3.6 million (100%)

Start date: April 2012

End date: March 2014

Results:

Increased engagement of young people in the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic Adriatic area, greater sense of European identity, more active participation in youth policymaking

Techniques:

Creation of youth centres, youth networks, and youth-led projects; promotion of regional cooperation among policy makers

Project website:

www.youthadrinet.eu