#EURegionsWeek

# *Close to Youth*

## Co-designing the next generation of Interreg programmes

## TRIESTE | 17. 11. 2026

**Urban Center** **13.00 - 18.30**

## About the event

This event aims to collect ideas, insights and recommendations on how to strengthen youth involvement in the next programming period. The first part of the event will provide an overview of current approaches and experiences, exploring how to bring young people closer to European Territorial Cooperation, how to communicate with them effectively, and how programmes and projects have successfully engaged them so far. Building on these contributions, the second part will take the form of an interactive workshop, where participants will work together to formulate concrete proposals for integrating youth involvement into the next programming period, taking into account different stages of both programme and project implementation.

## Agenda

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| **13:00 - 13:15** | Registration |
| **13:15 - 13:25** | **Opening remarks**<br>***Barbara Zilli**, Councillor Autonomous Region FVG*<br>***Laura Comelli**, MA of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme* |
| **13:25 - 13:40** | **Presentation of the Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme and a brief overview of the post-2027 perspective**<br>***Erika Kosic**, Interreg Italy-Slovenia Programme* |
| **13:40 - 14:00** | **Youth and their involvement in European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) and Interreg**<br>***Prof. Moreno Zago**, University of Trieste* |
| **14:00 - 14:45** | **Talking with Youth, Not at Youth: How to Engage and Communicate with Young People**<br>***Enrico Armenia**, Beyond Borders con Enrico, Youth4Cooperation Cross-Border Ambassador 2025-2026*<br>***Matteo Brizzi**, President of Young European Society and youth content creator **(ONLINE)***<br>***Tea Kelavić**, Mentor of the Youth Dialogue Ambassadors Team of the National Youth Council of Slovenia*<br>***Vincent De Keer**, Director EGTS Linieland, Youth4Cooperation Cross-Border Ambassador 2024-2025* |
| **14:45 - 15:30** | **Best practices for youth inclusion in ETC programmes and projects**<br>***Aleš Mrkela**, Head of the Cross-Border Programmes Management Division, Ministry of Local Self-Government, Cohesion and Regional Development of the Republic of Slovenia*<br>***Caterina Liddi**, ENERGIE project, funded by the Interreg Greece–Italy Programme*<br>***Elisa Cacco and Sara Battini**, Interreg Italy–Croatia Programme*<br>***Khalid Belkhairi and Sara Rollandin**, Interreg ALCOTRA Programme, Youth Council (ONLINE)*<br>***Syria Paoloni**, Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Coordination Unit, Interreg Italy–Austria Programme*<br>***Vincent Ernoux**, Interreg NEXT MED Programme (ONLINE)*<br>***Vito Perrini**, Interreg IPA South Adriatic Programme* |
| **15:30 - 16:00** | **Coffee break** |
| **16:00 - 17:45** | **Workshop with working groups** |
| **17:45 - 18:30** | **Presentation of results and closing remarks** |
| **18:30 - 19:30** | Networking cocktail |

**The first part of the event will be conducted in Italian, Slovenian, and English, with interpretation provided in all three languages. The workshop session will be held in English.**

From ideas to action across borders.

