



YOUTHopia



#HotlineCohesion



**Opportunities For Young People
Under EU Cohesion Policy**

Why Cohesion Policy Is So Important

High youth unemployment rate in Europe has been one of the most adverse challenges throughout the last decades. Post-pandemic figures show that, as of October 2021, 2.905 million youth (under 25) were **NEET** (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in the EU and the youth unemployment rate was 15.9%. Unless appropriate measures are taken, more and more young people may disengage from active job search, and they may grow distant from the political and social life of their communities.

The EU Cohesion Policy is the **main investment instrument** in the EU - a powerful tool for financing jobs and growth, improving the quality of citizens' lives and creating solidarity and enhanced social, economic and territorial convergence and development in the regions of the EU. Cohesion policy is also key to **combat climate change** as it provides the **place-based** framework and the financial support needed to ensure that a **'just'** and **'sustainable'** transition becomes an opportunity for European regions.



Tackling Education & Employment

For the period 2021-2027, at least 27% of the Cohesion Policy budget - around **€99.3 billion EUR** - will be allocated to investments under the **European Social Fund +**, which will be directed to education and training, more quality jobs, the fight against poverty and social exclusion and towards measures that promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for men and women, take good care of the disabled and give adequate protection to minorities. In other words, **projects** supported by these investments will make a **real difference to the lives of our citizens**.

Did you know? Cohesion policy now also includes a crisis-response mechanism for future crises to allow temporary measures for the use of the funds in response to exceptional and unusual circumstances, like a global pandemic or a natural disaster.



What Solutions Are Being Found?

Support from the policy can include for instance measures to develop relevant employment services to promote the labour market integration of young people.

For example, a slovenian project ("**Youth Transition**") is supporting more than 2,000 young people with special needs – and **reducing discrimination and social exclusion** – by helping them to make an easier transition from school to employment. In Slovenia, employers must employ a certain number of disabled people to fulfil mandatory quotas.

According to Youth Transition, this means that as many as 1,000 young people with special needs could be employed each year. So, with help from **ESF funding**, the project is making this easier for both employers and potential employees.

Check out the **Kohesio Platform** (kohesio.ec.europa.eu) to find out about tens of thousands of projects across the Union that make a real difference to the lives of millions of individual!

Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY)

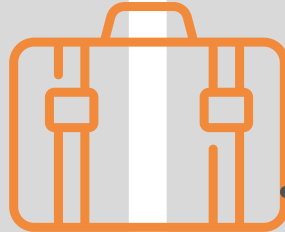
- Do you want to support projects promoting cooperation among regions? Are you looking forward to contributing to society and you care for sustainable development?
- Volunteering offered in **Communication and Project Management**.
- You receive financial support, full insurance and help for the travel expenses.
- Volunteer for 2 to 6 months - placements are all over Europe and its neighbouring countries
- Find out more: interregyouth.com

Discover
Direct
Opportunities
for YOUTH!!!!



Erasmus for Young **Entrepreneurs**

- Cross-border exchange programme which gives new or aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to learn from experienced entrepreneurs running small businesses in other Participating Countries.
- The exchange takes place during a stay with the experienced entrepreneur, which helps young talents acquire the skills needed to run a small firm.
- www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu



- Y4R provides a chance to receive training on journalism and EU regional policy, a mentorship from established journalists from your country and working with renowned journalists during the EU Regions' Week.
- Participants will visit EU institutions and take part as journalists in European Commission press trips to Member States (expenses covered by the EU Commission).
- youth4regions.euregionsweek.eu

#HotlineCohesion

EUTeens4Green

- Call to action for teens to take ownership in their communities and contribute to a fair green transition in the areas most in need to phase out coal and transitioning to forms of less polluting energies.
- Teens set up projects together to make sure all people can take part in the green transition, whose aim is to reach climate neutrality by 2050.
- Duration of projects up to 12 Months, budget up to EUR 10.000 per project.
- Find out more: participante.euteens4green.org





YOUTHopia

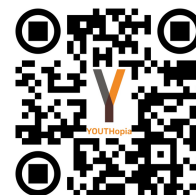
Where Cohesion Gets Real For The Next Generation

Imprint

@ March 2023 The Assembly of European Regions

The #HotlineCohesion series presents opportunities and stories linked to the use of Cohesion policy funds, showing the benefits of this policy in Europe's Regions.

The YOUTHopia project is co-funded by the European Commission.



Co-funded by the
European Union

