

Capacity development and networking for the Youth Councils of EU macro-regional strategies

Introducing the project

10 September 2026

civitta



European
Commission |

The support project at a glance



The project aims to support **members of youth structures** across the **four EU macro-regional strategies**.



The full length of the project will be 24 months starting from June 2026.



The project combines capacity building, networking and visibility support.

What should be different by the end of the project?

Stronger knowledge and skills

Better understanding of EU policies, Cohesion Policy and macro-regional cooperation, alongside practical advocacy and project management skills.

Closer cooperation

Stronger connections and exchange of practices between the four youth structures.

More meaningful participation

Youth structures members better prepared to contribute to governance meetings and policy discussions.

Greater visibility and wider reach

Youth structures better able to communicate their contributions and share knowledge within their regions.

The project combines learning, networking and continuous support through a transparent two-year programme

5 capacity building events

- 3 in-person events, 2 online events
- 2 capacity building events organised around networking events
- Min. 20 participants at each event, covering the macro-regions

200 networking and visibility opportunities

- Min. 200 opportunities provided throughout the project timeline

Regular quarterly newsletter

- External and project-organised events
- Deadlines and conditions for participation
- Links for registration and more information on financing schemes

We will use one central form during the project cycle.

Through this form you will be able to register to project-organised events, request support for external events and suggest networking and visibility opportunities that should be advertised broadly.

Feedback will guide the project.

A monitoring and evaluation system will track activities and participation, collect feedback, assess results and use the findings to improve future activities and report progress.

A two-staged stakeholder consultation shaped the project priorities

1 PROPOSAL STAGE

GOAL: to identify key challenges and initial needs
Autumn 2025

Fragmented governance and coordination

Limited learning opportunities

Varying levels of understanding

Uneven visibility and outreach

Initial ideas for support: trainings on Cohesion Policy and communication, networking opportunities between youth structures

2 INCEPTION STAGE

GOAL: to validate and deepen findings
Summer 2026

Tested and refined needs

Clearer and more detailed expectations

Confirmed priorities

Identified differences across youth structures

Input for designing the two-year programme

The inception stage assessment confirmed the core needs, refined priorities and revealed additional needs

CONFIRMED

- Better understanding of EU and MRS policy and governance
- Advocacy and stakeholder engagement skills
- More opportunities for cross-MRS exchange
- More opportunities to increase the visibility of youth structures and their work

CLARIFIED AND DEEPENED

- Support to participate more effectively in governance processes
- More exchange of experience and cooperation between youth structures
- More opportunities to present concrete youth contributions
- Support with practical barriers to participation, including timing, travel and financing
- Different levels and types of support across the four youth structures

REVISED OR NEWLY SURFACED

- Less need for standalone social media training
- More support for project development and project management
- Support for internal organisation, onboarding and continuity

The needs assessment directly shaped both what the programme will cover and how activities will be delivered

THEMATIC SCOPE

Prioritise EU/MRS foundations, EU programmes and stakeholder engagement

Avoid over-prioritising standalone social media training

Design networking as structured cooperation, not general exchange

Connect youth structures with governance and policy actors

Prioritise event-based and policy-facing visibility

Use visibility to showcase substance

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Use existing events strategically

Provide early information and clear access routes

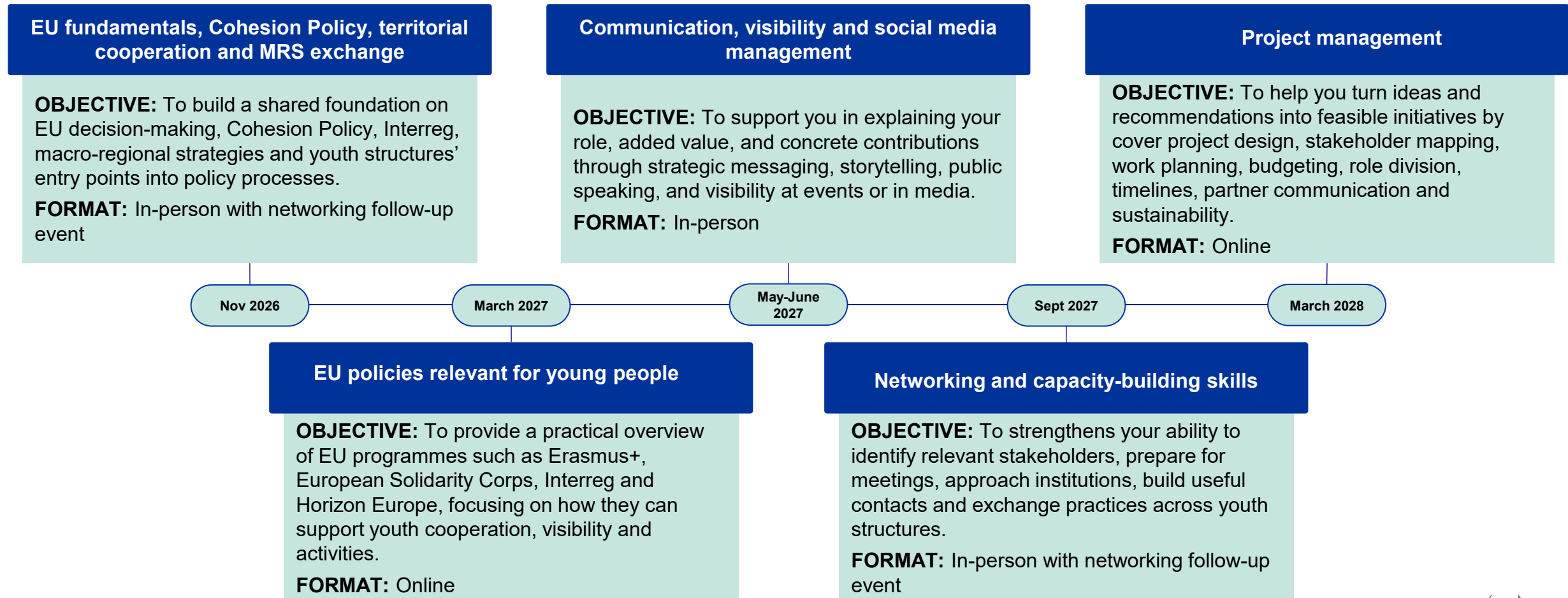
Use youth-friendly timing where possible

Clarify participant roles before each activity

Adapt support to different country contexts

Give youth structures a role in participant selection

The capacity-building programme will include five events between November 2026 and March 2028



The first event combines Cohesion Policy learning with MRS exchange in Budapest

20-21 November 2026 | Budapest, Hungary | 20 participants, maximum 5 per MRS youth structure | Registration deadline: 25 September

DAY 1 | COHESION POLICY IN PRACTICE

GOAL: build a common understanding of Cohesion Policy and territorial cooperation, then connect it to a real Budapest example

Welcome and introductions

Speaker session: Cohesion Policy fundamentals

Group work on Cohesion Policy and youth

Field visit to a Cohesion Policy project

Reflection and wrap-up

DAY 2 | MACRO-REGIONAL EXCHANGE

GOAL: compare how the four youth structures work and identify practical ideas for cooperation after the event

Introduction to Day 2

Speaker session: Youth participation across MRSs

Participants' presentation: How youth structures work

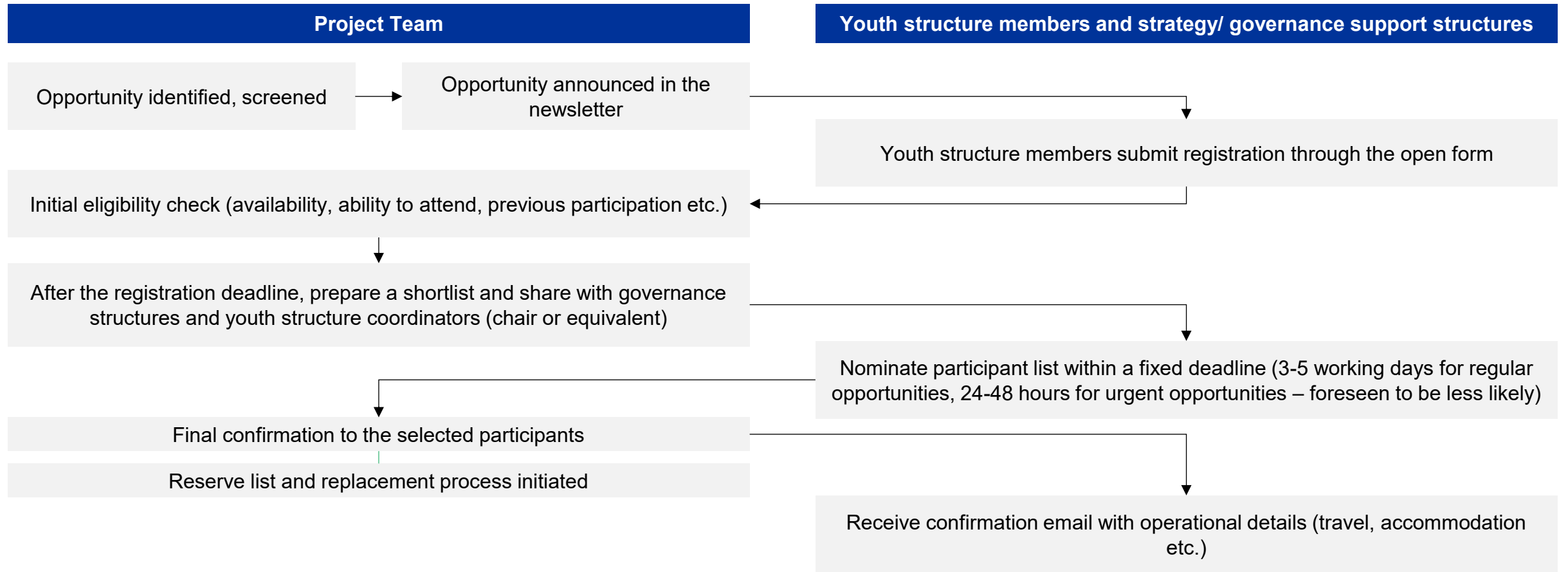
Group work: Developing a cooperation idea

Sharing proposals and closing

The first quarter combines macro-regional and wider youth opportunities

October 2026	November 2026	December 2026	January 2027
EUSALP Mobility Conference 8 October Munich	World Forum for Democracy 2-3 November Strasbourg		Youth Global Forum 20-23 January Paris
European Week of Regions and Cities 12-14 October Brussels	EUSDR Annual Forum 3-4 November Sofia		
EUSALP Annual Forum 21-22 October Lindau	InnoCulture Conference 18-19 November Hamburg		
EUSALP Energy Conference 22 October Lindau	INTERREG EURO-MED Mid-Term Event 25-26 November Marseille		

How will participation work in practice?



Planning quotas guide the allocation of support. Expressions of interest and external-event suggestions remain open; supported participation will depend on demand, coordination with the relevant structures, available budget and the project timeline.

Two types of financing schemes will be available for selected participants

Centralised booking

The project team books eligible travel and accommodation directly.

- No upfront payment required
- Arrangements shared for confirmation before booking

Individual booking

Members book travel and accommodation and receive lump-sum reimbursement after the event.

- Upfront payment required
- Supporting documents are requested following the event

Different number of nights can be covered depending on the type of activity:

One-day capacity building activity

Up to 2 nights

Two-day capacity building activity

Up to 3 nights*

Networking and visibility opportunities

Up to 2 nights

* If justified by travel schedules.

We will apply the same approximate financial ceilings for both booking options:

Accommodation



EUR 100
per night

Travel and transport



EUR 200 for air travel



EUR 100 for rail/car travel



EUR 50 for local transport

Registration, the first newsletter and the first activities are the immediate next steps

1

First newsletter

The first newsletter will introduce upcoming opportunities, key dates, registration links and practical participation rules.

2

Registration system opens

The form will be available for expressions of interest on existing events, support requests and suggestions for relevant events.

3

First capacity-building opportunity

The first event will focus on EU fundamentals, Cohesion Policy, territorial cooperation and MRS experience exchange.

Next steps for youth structure members

- **Participate actively.** Join capacity-building activities and use relevant networking and visibility opportunities.
- **Submit requests on time.** Use the support tools provided by the project, ask questions and do not hesitate to request help.
- **Read the newsletters.** Follow upcoming opportunities, deadlines, participation instructions and reimbursement information.
- **Give feedback regularly.** Take part in monitoring and evaluation so the programme can keep improving throughout implementation.

Thank you



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