

INTERREG VOLUNTEER YOUTH (IVY)



What is IVY?



Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY)

IVY is a **volunteering programme** to promote **Interreg cooperation**.

With IVY, Interreg programmes and projects can host volunteers to receive support in areas of **communication** and **project implementation**. Volunteers contribute with **new ideas** and bring **young people's perspectives**.

- Started in March 2017
- Co-funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
- Managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)



Why Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY)?

The Interreg Volunteer Youth initiative aims to promote cooperation by achieving the following three goals:

- **Support implementation and communication** of Interreg projects and programmes, thanks to the involvement of motivated young people
- Make the benefits of cooperation **more visible among local communities** and beyond
- **Empower young people** to engage in cooperation



How does an IVY experience look like?



The volunteering experience is
2 to 6 months long

IVY volunteers serve as

- *Interreg Reporters* to help **highlight the results of Interreg programmes**; or
- *Interreg Project Partners* to contribute to the **implementation of projects** and its **dissemination**.

Within their region, country or abroad!

2 ways of volunteering and supporting hosts



Interreg Reporter

- Hosted by the [Interreg Programmes' bodies](#) (MA, NA, JS, NCP)
- Helps with [disseminating](#) information on the benefit of European territorial integration on the ground, through reporting successful Interreg projects

How does an Interreg Reporter help the host?

- Publishing news and info on the website
- Recording interviews and editing videos
- Proposing youth tailored communication strategies and campaigns
- Support the organisation of events
- Contribution to the communication through graphic design
- Support the update of social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube)



2 ways of volunteering and supporting hosts



Interreg Project Partner

- Deployed within one the **Interreg Project Beneficiaries**
- **Helps implement** Interreg specific projects in the field of own interest (environment, public administration, transport, social inclusion, etc)

How does an Interreg Project Partner help the host?

- Collect and prepare data
- Communicate the project's results to a wider audience, including decision-makers, young people, and other stakeholders
- support the exchanges with project partners
- help with knowledge transfer and exchange with target groups and local stakeholders
- Contributing to the organisation of relevant events;
- Research activities related to the project
- Support the update of website and social media channels





2 ways of volunteering

Interreg Reporter

- Hosted by the Interreg Programmes' bodies (MA, NA, JS, NCP)
- Helps with disseminating information on the benefit of European territorial integration on the ground, through reporting successful Interreg projects



Interreg Project Partner

- Deployed within one the Interreg Project Beneficiaries
- Helps implement Interreg specific projects in the field of own interest (environment, public administration, transport, social inclusion, etc)



Who is involved in the IVY experience?



European Commission

Is the **promoter** of the Interreg Youth Initiative.



AE BR - IVY Team

In charge of the **implementation** of the IVY programme.

Administrative and financial support.
Mediator between Host & Volunteer.



IVY Community

With its **6 years** in the running, IVY has grown into a community sharing the values of cooperation and solidarity.

59 programmes, 284 projects & 830 volunteers are all ready to share their experience and support each other.



Host Organisation

Responsible to welcome the volunteer within the Interreg project's or programme's team and partnership.



Mentor

Person of reference within the Host Organisation.

Contact point for the volunteer on a regular basis all along the experience.



Volunteer

Joins an Interreg project or programme to support their activities.

Brings their skills & creativity to contribute to European Territorial Cooperaton.





"It is important to involve young people in Territorial Cooperation, in order to improve with fresh ideas the future way of living."

- Maria G. -

IVY Project Partner for the Interreg "EuroP@sT and Future" project at the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia

Why is IVY about volunteering?



What is a volunteering experience?

An IVY experience is undertaken for a **non-profit cause** with the aim to promote European Territorial Cooperation.

> make visible the spirit of solidarity that underpins Territorial Cooperation and your Interreg project! Host an IVY to:

- show the **solidarity dimension** of Interreg
- help raise the awareness of **Interreg's impact** for local citizens



What does volunteering mean in practice?

Involve the volunteers in **tasks** which are helpful to show the benefits of cooperation:

- communication about Interreg (articles, newsletters, posts for social media, support for event organisation)
- communication with project partners
- promotion of projects with local media and stakeholders
- implementation of activities that express the solidarity aspects of projects
- etc...



How does volunteering work in practice?

As for hosting a volunteer, this is how it works:

- volunteers are deployed for a maximum of **35 hours** per week
- volunteers are entitled to **holidays** and can discuss this with their mentors
- volunteers are expected to **relocate** to the place of work of the host organisation



Who are IVY volunteers?



IVY Volunteers - Who are they?



Young people **aged 18 to 30 years** old resident or citizens of participating countries

Skilled and **motivated** in their field of interest for the benefit of territorial cooperation and solidarity

Contribute actively as peers with their knowledge & creativity



Not Interns or trainees as they are not deployed to learn or be a subordinate

Not employees as they share their time and competences for free under the values of solidarity

Not expected to carry out financial nor administrative tasks, nor to bear responsibilities

IVY Volunteers - Why do they volunteer?

Experience of civic engagement and solidarity

+ Benefits:

- Financial support provided by AEBR
- Insurance provided by AEBR
- Contribution to travel costs provided by AEBR
- Training and mentoring
- Recognition and career benefits
- Become part of a dynamic network
- Recipients of grant to organise your own local event



IVY Volunteers - What do they bring?

IVY volunteers bring their **skills** & **creativity** to contribute to European Territorial Cooperaton:



> depending on the needs of the host organisation, we look for candidates with interest and competences in the specific field of the project/programme

> we pre-select about 6 candidates for you to choose

Who is eligible to host?



IVY's host organisations:

Programme bodies:

- Managing Authorities
- Joint Secretariats
- National Authorities
- National Contact Points
- Macro-regional strategies

Of all Interreg programmes:

All project beneficiaries of on-going Interreg projects:

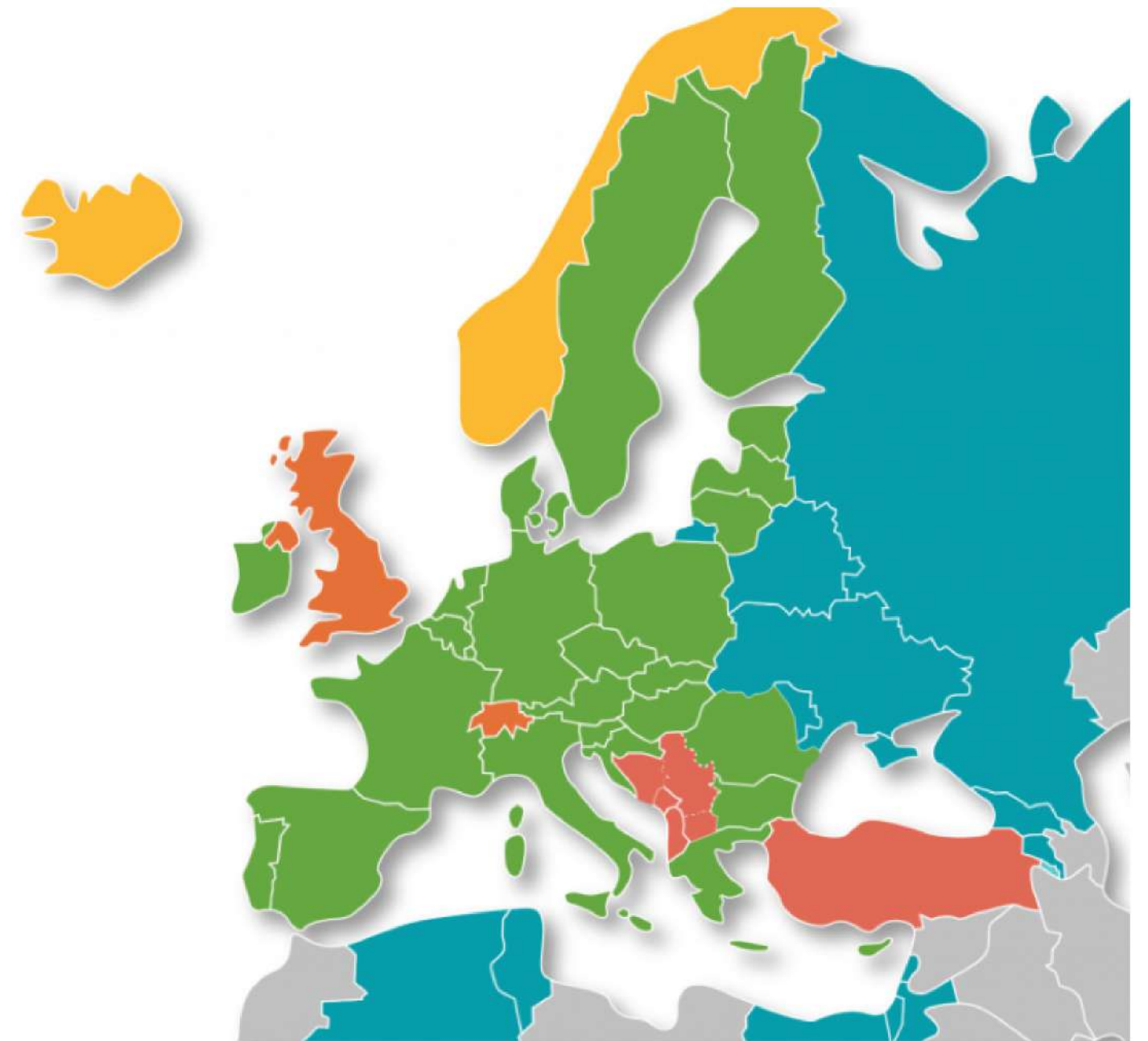
Lead Partners, Partners, Partners of Small Projects, Associated Partners

- cross-border
- transnational
- interregional
- outermost regional cooperation
- IPA-CBC
- Interreg NEXT



Eligible territories:

-  **European Union countries**
(including outermost regions Martinique, Mayotte, Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Réunion; Saint Martin; Madeira and the Azores; the Canary Islands)
-  **Switzerland and the United Kingdom**
-  **European Economic Area (EEA)**
Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
-  **IPA-CBC countries:**
Serbia, the Republic of Northern Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo and Turkey
-  **ENI-CBC countries**
Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Tunisia and Ukraine



"Territorial cooperation brings people from different countries together in order to complete a common mission."

- Ioannis M. -

IVY Project Partner for the Interreg "Community4Innovation" project at Dynamic Vision P. C.



What is in it for host organisations?



Why take part in IVY?

Host organisations benefit from the **support of a skilled and motivated young person** to implement their project with new ideas, fresh perspectives and creativity.

Free to host : a financial support, contribution to travel costs and insurance coverage is provided to volunteers by the IVY programme.

An **enriching experience** for both the host and the volunteer to **foster cooperation**.



Hosting with IVY: Empowering youth in European Territorial Cooperation

To show the impact of IVY host organisations, we have prepared a **digital badge** that organisations can post on their websites and social media profiles.

A sign of **recognition** of their role supporting the empowerment of youth in and for Territorial Cooperation.



What do we expect from host organisations?

Host organisations should:

- **identify a mentor** who is responsible for the volunteer
- offer **supervision and guidance** to the volunteer
- provide **personal support** during the learning process to the volunteer
- **help the volunteer integrate** into the local community
- ensure participation of the volunteer in **training and evaluation** activities

If required, the host organisation will provide support to the volunteer to comply with **administrative issues** in the host country and/or obtain the visa (preparation of invitation letters, provision of relevant information, etc).

What is the mentor's role?

The mentor is the main contact person of the volunteer

The mentor is expected to:

- help the volunteer **familiarise** with the environment of the organisation + of the project/programme
- assign the tasks to the volunteer and **discuss** the volunteer's contribution
- provide **feedback** and guidance to the volunteer
- listen actively and offer **support** to the volunteer in case of doubts or difficulties

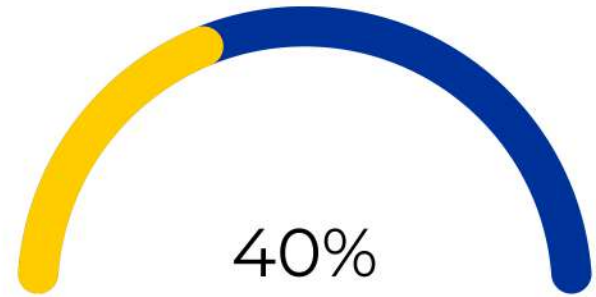


How to apply?



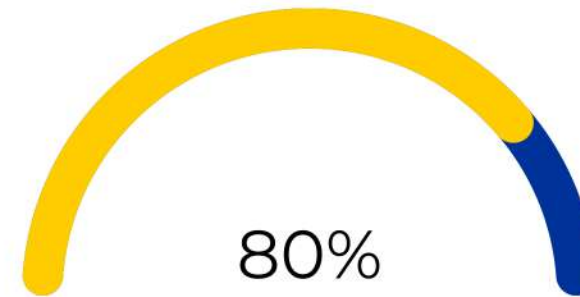
How to apply to host with IVY?

Submit your application



1) identify the activities you need support with;

2) fill in the project / programme note and letter of approval and submit it by email at ivy@aebr.eu

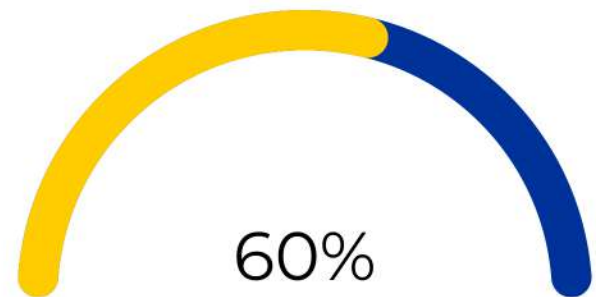


Find the perfect match

5) you chose the candidates you want to have an introductory call with to discuss each others' expectations and the details of the mission;

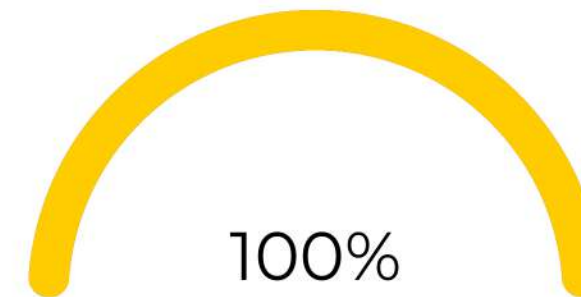
6) you select the candidate best suited to the needs of your programme / project

The selection process



3) the IVY team reviews the application within few days;

4) the IVY team looks for candidates: you receive a pre-selection of candidates according to your needs



Get ready to start!

7) the IVY team takes care of all administrative steps for the enrollment of the volunteer and the IVY mission is set to start.

Where to find the application & guidelines?

www.interregyouth.com/host-organizations/how-to-apply/



Home About Volunteers Host Organizations Media Resources Contact Q

How do I apply to host an IVY volunteer?

The application procedure is very simple, and hosting a volunteer is undoubtedly an enriching experience for both parties, which allows your organisation to work with motivated young people who are eager to have an impact on regional development.

For a detailed overview of the experience, download the [Guidelines for IVY Host Organisations](#).

In short, this is the application procedure to host IVY volunteers:

1. Download the application documents here: the Programme Note for Programmes, the Project Notes and the MA/JS Approval file for Project beneficiaries:

Programmes

Projects

MA/JS Approval

Project beneficiaries are asked to submit a formal confirmation by the related Joint Secretariat/Managing Authority (i.e. Interreg, IPA-CBC or ENI-CBC Programme) that the project beneficiary willing to host an IVY volunteer is currently involved in an ongoing Interreg project.

2. Fill in the application documents and send the draft to ivy@aebr.eu

3. The AEBR team will review your application file and provide feedback if necessary.

We review your application documents within few days after submission. Once approved, you are set to host!

Between the submission and the actual start of the mission it can take **4 to 8 weeks** to find the perfect match and prepare necessary documents.



How to apply: Application form for Programme's Representatives

- Complete the Programme Note: https://www.interregyouth.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/10/IVY_Programme_Note_REPORTER-v.-16.02.2022.pdf

Programmes



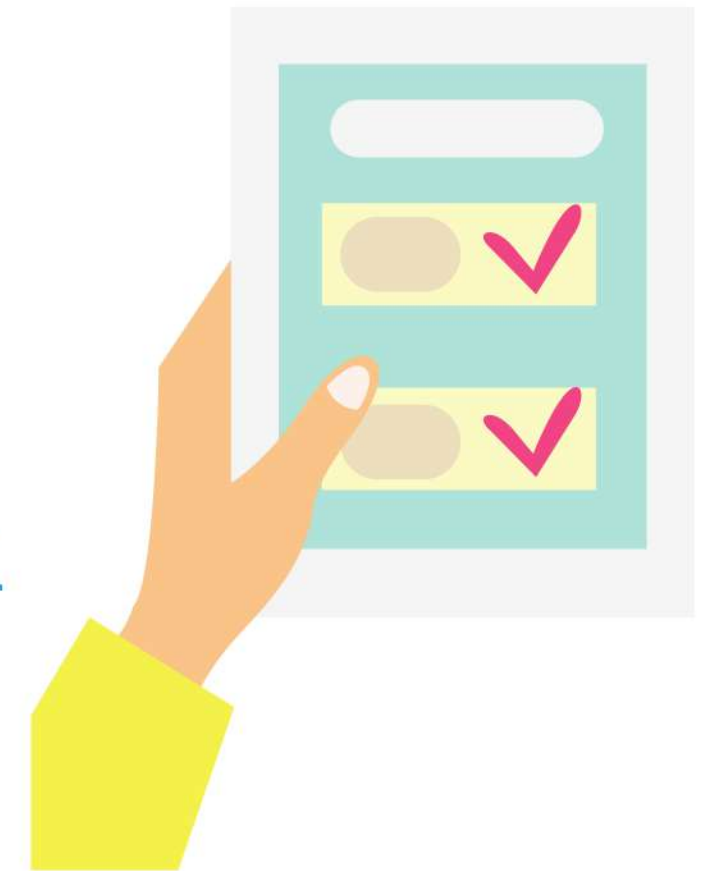
How to apply: Application form for Projects' Beneficiaries

- Complete the **Project Note**: https://www.interregyouth.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/10/IVY_Project_Note_PROJECT-PARTNER-v.-16.02.2022-1.pdf

Projects

- Send the **Letter of Approval** to your contact person at the programme: https://www.interregyouth.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2022/09/template_MA_JS_IVY_projects_approval.pdf

MA/JS Approval





"A great opportunity to share time, space and approaches with curious and motivated youngsters"

Catalina Bejarano, Fundación Tres Culturas Del Mediterráneo



"IVY is a very **valuable investment in current and future territorial cooperation**: it helps making it more visible and understandable, it **promotes innovation**, and it involves and trains potential 'activists' **among the younger generations**"

Martin Guillermo-Ramírez, AEER's Secretary General





Do you want to
become a host?
Contact us!



ivy@aebr.eu



@InterregYouth



Interreg Volunteer Youth

www.interregyouth.com

