

Call for municipalities to take part in European platform Europe goes local

The SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre is looking for municipalities in the Western Balkan countries* to join the existing network of municipalities from the region taking part in Europe Goes Local platform.

Background

The [SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre](#) (SALTO SEE) was established by the European Commission to support cooperation with the Western Balkan countries in the frame of the Erasmus+ Programme (youth field) and the European Solidarity Corps. Through the support for these programmes SALTO SEE aims at supporting the European cooperation in the field of youth and at contributing to the wider development and recognition of youth work and volunteering in the Western Balkan region.

[Europe Goes Local](#) is a platform and a strategic cooperation between different countries within the two Programmes. Its mission is to strengthen the youth work community of practice at the local level, in line with the [European Youth Work Agenda](#), which was established during the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2020 and which aims at strengthening and further developing youth work practice and policies in Europe.

The Europe Goes Local platform brings together different partners (both governmental and non-governmental) involved in the development of youth work at the local level in several European countries for dialogue and cooperation. In its core are various learning and networking opportunities, which are organised nationally and internationally every year. Municipalities in Europe are the core target group of the cooperation.

Key objectives of “Europe Goes Local” are to:

- build bridges between the local and European levels, including municipalities in rural areas;
- strengthen the dialogue between their stakeholders;
- provide local youth work with the European programmes and cooperation;
- make the European dimension an integral part of local youth work provision;
- offer tools and opportunities for local stakeholders to collaborate and develop common projects;
- recognize and promote European best practices with the purpose of peer-learning.

Europe Goes Local in the Western Balkan countries

SALTO SEE joined the Europe Goes Local platform in 2021, when the key document [Charter for local youth work](#) developed by the platform was translated into the local languages of the involved Western Balkan countries.

In 2022 twelve municipalities were selected to take part in a pilot phase of implementing Europe Goes Local in the Western Balkans. The focus of the pilot phase was to support the development of municipal youth strategies in the areas relevant for Europe Goes Local. Based on the positive outcomes and progress made in 2022 – 2023, this call is opened to extend the network of municipalities in the Western Balkan countries and to broaden the support provided for stimulating the overall development of local (and municipal) youth work at various levels by:

- offering expert consultation and advice for the municipalities in the development of local youth work based on their specific areas of interest in the framework of the objectives of Europe Goes Local platform and specifically the Charter for local youth work;
- offering information and guidance on the Erasmus+ Programme (youth field) and the European Solidarity Corps, namely, how they can be used and promoted to develop local youth work;
- offering possibilities for networking and exchange of practices with other municipalities in the Western Balkan countries;
- offering possibilities for training, networking and exchange of good practices in the wider European context on specific topics relevant for local youth work development.

The following concrete support measures are planned in 2024:

- **An online kick-off meeting** for the support measures organised by SALTO SEE **on 21 March at 12:00 – 14:00**. (The applicants are asked to reserve these dates, since if selected, their presence is mandatory);
- **Needs-based support measures designed and coordinated by SALTO SEE consisting of individual consultancy and online training / workshops** in spring (21 March – 21 June) and autumn (2 September – 15 November);
- Possibility to take part in **international study visits and project labs** throughout the year organised in different European countries on various topics related to the development of local youth work;
- Possibility to get in **one to one contact and network with municipalities** in other countries in the Western Balkans and beyond, which take part in Europe Goes Local and either share equivalent needs and aspirations for local youth work development or have existing good practices;
- **A 1,5 days residential working meeting** organised by SALTO SEE in **second half of November** (the exact dates will be specified with the selection results) to present the outcomes of the support measures and activities undertaken, exchange information and experiences, network and make future plans for cooperation.

Expectations and selection criteria

The interested municipalities are expected to familiarise themselves in advance with the objectives and priorities of Europe Goes Local and European Charter of Local Youth Work to be able to articulate their needs in the area of local youth work development in this context, and if selected, actively participate in the support measures offered by SALTO SEE and in the communication to facilitate the process.

The municipalities should also have a department responsible for youth and equivalent means (legal framework, funding and human resources) to set objectives and implement measures for local youth work development and (a) staff member(s) capable of communicating in English and willing to take part in the communication, networking and training activities within Europe Goes Local.

Additionally, the municipalities should:

- have prior experience in developing and implementing strategic measures at the local level in the field of youth;
- be interested in the further development of local youth work and integrating a European dimension into it;
- be interested in promoting and taking part in the Erasmus+ Programme and European Solidarity Corps and the possibilities they offer for international cooperation in the field of youth;
- established relationships with other actors in the field of local youth work, such as youth and civil society organisations, youth networks and representative bodies and other relevant governmental actors.

Application procedure, enquiries and contact details

Interested municipalities are invited to express interest by filling in the online [application form](#) by **11 March 2024**. The selection results will be communicated to all applicants by **18 March 2024**.

Interested municipalities are encouraged to contact the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre during the application process for any further questions.

Contact: Maija Lehto maija.lehto@movit.si .

More information about “Europe Goes Local”, the Erasmus+ Programme, European Solidarity Corps and the SALTO SEE Resource Centre:

<https://www.europegoeslocal.eu/about/>

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en

<https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/see/>

In the [application form](#) the following areas should be covered:

- Basic information (name, contact details) of the municipality and persons responsible in the field of youth, and the person proposed to be in charge of the cooperation within the Europe Goes Local;
- Motivation;
- Available resources to develop and / or implement youth strategies and relevant support measures at the local level;
- Existing measures to support youth work at the local level;
- Main partners, stakeholders and current cooperation with them;
- Existing strategic frameworks and documents to support youth work at the local level;
- Needs and challenges in the field of youth and local youth work and support measures needed to address them;
- Main priorities in the field of youth and local youth work
- Need specifically connected to further involvement in the Erasmus+ Programme or European Solidarity Corps.