

Call for municipalities to take part in the European platform Europe Goes Local

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

Background

The [SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre](#) (SALTO SEE) was established by the European Commission to support cooperation with Western Balkan countries within the framework 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 countries.

[Europe Goes Local](#) is a strategic cooperation platform involving multiple countries participating in both programmes. Its mission is to strengthen the youth work community of practice and the development of youth work policy at the local level, in line with the [European Youth Work Agenda](#). The agenda was adopted in 2020 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, with the aim of further developing youth work practice and policy across Europe.

The Europe Goes Local platform brings together different partners (both governmental and non-governmental) involved in the development of youth work and youth work policy 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;
- recognise 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, coinciding with the translation of the platform's key document [European Charter on Local Youth Work](#) into the local languages of the Western Balkan countries involved.

In 2022, twelve municipalities were selected to participate in a pilot phase of implementing Europe Goes Local in the Western Balkan countries. The pilot focused on supporting the development of municipal youth strategies aligned with the key areas and principles of the Europe Goes Local framework. Following strong interest and positive results, the call was reopened in 2024 and 2025.

Building on the progress and outcomes achieved between 2022 and 2025, the current call aims to expand the network of participating municipalities in the Western Balkan countries and to strengthen support for the overall development of local (municipal) youth work and youth work policy at different levels. This will be achieved through the following measures:

- **Expert consultation and tailored advice** to municipalities for the development of local youth work and youth work policies, based on their specific needs and priorities and in line with the objectives of the Europe Goes Local platform and the European Charter on Local Youth Work. Particular emphasis will be placed on measures that promote youth participation in democratic life.
- **Information and guidance** on the Erasmus+ Programme (youth field) and the European Solidarity Corps, including how these programmes can be used strategically to support and enhance local youth work and youth work policies and to advance the internationalisation of municipal youth work.
- **Networking and exchange of practices** among municipalities within the Western Balkan countries.
- **Training, networking, and exchange of good practices** at the wider European level, focusing on key topics relevant to the development of local youth work and youth work policy.

The following concrete support measures are planned for implementation in 2026 and 2027:

1. Needs-based support coordinated by SALTO SEE

Needs-based support measures will be designed and coordinated by SALTO SEE and will include individual consultancy as well as tailored online trainings and workshops for participating municipalities. In particular:

- The Europe Goes Local coordinator for the Western Balkan countries will carry out regular **needs assessments** of participating municipalities and **match identified needs with relevant support measures**.
- All municipalities in the Western Balkan countries involved in Europe Goes Local will participate in **three to four annual online training sessions and/or workshops** addressing topics of common relevance.
- A **monthly information message** will be distributed to all participating municipalities, providing updates on relevant developments, opportunities, and calls related to youth work and youth work policy development within the Europe Goes Local framework.

2. International support activities

Participating municipalities will have opportunities to take part in international study visits and project labs organised by Europe Goes Local partners in various European countries. These activities will focus on key topics related to the development of local youth work and/or youth work policies.

- In both 2026 and 2027, **several open calls for study visits, project labs and other residential support activities** aligned with the objectives and priorities of Europe Goes Local are foreseen.
- While most of these calls will be publicly open, SALTO SEE will proactively inform participating municipalities in the Western Balkan countries and give them **priority in the selection process** where applicable.

3. Exchange and networking

Municipalities will be supported in developing one-to-one exchanges and other networking opportunities with municipalities from other Western Balkan countries and beyond that are involved in Europe Goes Local. These exchanges aim to explore shared needs and aspirations, foster mutual learning, and facilitate the exchange of good practices in local youth work and youth work policy development.

- In 2026, SALTO SEE will implement a dedicated support measure **“Buddy Support System”** connecting municipalities from the Western Balkan countries with selected municipalities from other participating countries. This facilitated exchange will take place in duos or trios of municipalities, with the aim of strengthening the international dimension of local youth work and supporting the development of partnerships for future cooperation within the Erasmus+ Programme and European Solidarity Corps. Based on the outcomes and impact of the 2026 edition, this support measure is foreseen to be repeated in 2027.
- Within the Europe Goes Local framework, an **annual international conference** gathering municipalities and other relevant stakeholders in local youth work and youth work policy will be organised in one of the participating countries. SALTO SEE will take part with a delegation of municipalities from the Western Balkan countries. The conferences are planned to take place in **Norway in 2026** and **Armenia in 2027**.
- All municipalities from the Western Balkan countries will have access to the Europe Goes Local online platform, which enables the sharing of news, open calls, and examples of good practice at the European level.

4. Recognition of commitment

Each participating municipality will receive a **Certificate of Commitment** to advancing the objectives and principles of Europe Goes Local, provided that the European Charter on Local Youth Work is accepted and formally endorsed by the relevant municipal authorities as a guiding framework for the development of local youth work and youth work policy.

Expectations and Selection Criteria

Interested municipalities are expected to familiarise themselves in advance with the objectives and priorities of Europe Goes Local, as well as with the European Charter on Local Youth Work, in order to clearly articulate their needs related to the development of local youth work and youth work policies within this framework. If selected, municipalities are expected to actively participate in the support **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo** (This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence)

measures coordinated by SALTO SEE and to engage in regular communication to facilitate the implementation process.

Municipalities should have a designated department or structure responsible for youth, as well as adequate institutional capacity, such as an appropriate legal framework, funding mechanisms, and human resources, to set objectives and implement measures related to local youth work and youth work policy development. They should also designate one or more staff members who are able to communicate in English and are willing to take part in communication, networking, and training activities within the Europe Goes Local framework.

In addition, municipalities are expected to:

- have prior experience in developing and implementing strategic measures at the local level in the youth field;
- demonstrate a clear interest in further developing local youth work and youth work policy and in integrating a European dimension into these areas;
- show interest in promoting and participating in the Erasmus+ Programme (youth field) and the European Solidarity Corps, and in using these programmes as tools for international cooperation in the youth field;
- have established cooperation with other relevant local stakeholders, such as youth and civil society organisations, youth networks, representative bodies, and other relevant public authorities involved in youth work.

Application procedure, enquiries, and contact details

Interested municipalities are invited to express their interest by completing the [**application form**](#) by **8 March 2026**. The selection will be communicated to all applicants by **12 March 2026**.

In the application form, municipalities are requested to address the following areas:

- **Basic information**, including the name of the municipality, contact details, and information on the department(s) and persons responsible for youth-related matters, as well as the person proposed to coordinate the cooperation within Europe Goes Local;
- **Motivation** for applying;
- **Available resources** for the development and/or implementation of youth strategies and related support measures at the local level;
- **Existing measures** in place to support youth work at the local level;
- **Main partners and stakeholders**, including current forms of cooperation with them;
- **Existing strategic frameworks and policy documents** supporting youth work at the local level;
- **Identified needs and challenges** in the field of youth and local youth work
- **Main priorities** in the field of youth and local youth work;
- **Specific needs related to further engagement** with the Erasmus+ Programme (youth field) and/or the European Solidarity Corps.

Municipalities are encouraged to contact the SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre during the application period should they require additional information or clarification.

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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/>