**EUSAIR POPRI youth 2023**

**General information**

POPRI is a Slovenian entrepreneurial competition for young people with clear vision, great ideas and entrepreneurial spirit. After 20 years of activities of the Primorski tehnološki park, this every-year event has developed into entrepreneurial brand/movement, supported by national and international authorities, including European Commission.

Our vision that young people of 10 EUSAIR (EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian region) countries would meet at the **EUSAIR competition** and present their BEST national ENTREPRENOURIAL IDEAS, became a reality during the 6th EUSAIR Forum, 11-12 May 2021. The event, titled “Along the coast of the shared sea”, was organized with the support of the European Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, SPIRIT Slovenia - Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology, and many SMEs and Startups.

During the 7th EUSAIR Forum, young people met for the second during 16-17 May 2022 in Tirana, Albania. The event was organized together with Local Economic Development Agency Auleda Vlore, Albania and with the support of the European Commission and Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Republic of Albania.

8th EUSAIR Forum that will be organized during 23-25 May 2023 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a great opportunity for young people to meet for the third time. The event will be prepared together with ICBL-Innovation Centre Banja Luka, with the support of the European Commission and governmental institution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia.

**Why an event focused on youth?**

The event is an effective response for global challenges of society of knowledge and a case of good practice of socially responsible activities in the area of development of entrepreneurial competences of youth.

If ever, then especially today, when we are facing global challenges (post COVID-19, climate changes, energy issues, war situation…) we really need events that connect us and that offer opportunities for the flow of knowledge and experience. We need opportunities that will offer answers to all of us, but especially to young people and society as such, and pave the way for the economy, including employability.

The event will bring together young representatives from 10 EUSAIR countries to deliver strong messages and even solutions to be taken into account while meeting the decision-makers of 10 EUSAIR countries who will meet during the 8th EUSAIR Forum, 23-25 May 2023 in Sarajevo.

**Why macroregional strategies - MRS? Simply because…**

* Slovenia is **uniquely positioned** as it is involved and active in three, out of four existing macroregional strategies (EUSDR, EUSAIR, EUSALP) and cooperates well also with the Baltic one.
* Macroregional cooperation is offering well working **governance system** being active simultaneously at three levels (political/coordination/implementation). Entrepreneurial event fits in all MRS and it is promoted and implemented through existing MRS governance structure.
* **The Presidency of Slovenia** to EUSAIR during the period June 2020 till May 2021 gave us all special opportunity to spread the entrepreneurial activities of young people within EUSAIR (Izola Declaration);
* **The Presidency of Albania** to EUSAIR during the period June 2021 till May 2022 gave additional support to the process and implementation of recommendations of the Young People’s Manifesto (October 2020) and Izola Declaration (11 May 2021). High-representatives of 9 countries adopted Tirana Declaration.
* **The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina** will provide additional impetus to engage and support young participants in EUSAIR by hosting the EUSAIR POPRI youth events during the EUSAIR Forum in Sarajevo, May 23-25

**Institutions involved**

EUSAIR governance structure (national coordinators of 10 EUSAIR countries) are involved and informed about the activities.

Special attention and focus are given to the territory. Therefore, Primorski tehnološki park has set a network of **technology parks/incubators/schools of 10 EUSAIR countries** as they are the voice of the territory – their role is crucial in the preparatory phase of the event (selection of national teams) and communication with Primorski tehnološki park (application procedure only through them).

**EUSAIR POPRI youth 2023** is organized by Primorski tehnološki park, Slovenia, together with ICBL – Innovation Centre Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and in close cooperation with technology parks, incubators and schools of EUSAIR countries, namely Local Economic Development Agency Auleda Vlore, Albania, Techpark Varaždin (Croatia), Science & Technology Park of Crete (STEP-C) (Greece), The Entrepreneurship Hub, Friuli Innovazione - Parco Scientifico e Tecnologico Luigi Danieli (Italy), Studentski Biznis Centar Univerziteta Donja Gorica (Montenegro), CKM – Center for Knowledge Management (North Macedonia), Republic of San Marino Innovation Institute (San Marino) and Business Incubator Novi Sad (Serbia).

**2 days event of “serious business and pleasure”**

* Day 1 –23 May 2023: macroregional competition of 2 categories of students presenting their entrepreneurial ideas in 5 minutes pitch in front of the jury (+ 5 minutes for Q&A).
* Day 2 –24 May 2023: meeting and open discussion with an eminent personal from business area; winners of both categories will be announced and best business ideas will be presented during the Award Ceremony of the EUSAIR forum.

**Shortly about the competition**

**Participants**

The event “young entrepreneurs EUSAIR” aims to host up to 20 young teams, divided into 2 categories:

1) high-school students (14-18) and

2) university students (18 - 29 years).

Each EUSAIR country is represented by one team of high-school students (led by mentor/teacher) and one team of university students. There will be 2 teams per country, 20 teams altogether. Each team is composed by max 5 team members, of which 2 of them will make a short presentation-pitch.

**From national to macroregional competition (step by step approach):**

The ideal situation would be that MRS competition follows a national selection process of best entrepreneurial team. **As a selection process, any national practice that is already taking place in 10 EUSAIR country is appropriate** (entrepreneurialevent/competition, summer school, post school activity)**.**

For 2023, it's the third edition of the process, which has become a tradition and is held each year as part of the EUSAIR Forum. The POPRI process is also a mechanism for creating synergies with other macro-regional strategies.

**The course of competition**

After the selection of national teams in your country, business ideas shall be sent to Primorski tehnološki park via e-platform (by technology parks/incubators/schools of EUSAIR countries).

The application is open from 25 April till 10 May 2023 (12:00 CET).

By 10 May 2023 ppt-s shell be sent as well.

The information about passing the eligibility criteria will be delivered a day after the submission of the application form and business plan (11 May, 2023).



An international jury will be set up to review written applications in advance, prior to the competition. Business models will be sent to the members of the jury (11 May 2023).

On the 1st day of the event (23 May 2023) national teams will present their business ideas in front of the jury (5 minutes pitch + 5 minutes for questions and answers).

Best business ideas of each of 2 categories will be selected by international jury

(taking into account written and verbal presentation in English).

On the 2nd day of the event (24 May 2032) there will be a gathering with well-known entrepreneur; the winners will be announced during the Award Ceremony at the EUSAIR Forum.

**Basic information about EUSAIR youth event plans:**

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| ***Participants at the event*** | At the EUSAIR entrepreneurial event high-school students (14-18) and university students (18-29) are invited due to language skills (English pitch presentation and Q&A).  Each country is represented by one team of high-school students (led by mentor/teacher) and one team of university students. There will be 2 teams per country, 20 teams altogether. Each team is represented by max 5 students of which 2 young representatives make a pitch.  Participating teams will send their applications and requested documents in advance by using special **on-line platform** (TPs will be informed in due time). |
| ***Process of participation in Slovenia – as a case***  ***Do it according to already established practice in your country! 😉*** | Slovenian national competition is taking place on regional and afterwards, on national level.  We suggest to use those activities that are already taking place in your country in the area of entrepreneurial learning of youth. ***Use your practice and activities in order to select 2 teams for the EUSAIR youth contest.*** |
| ***Timing*** | EUSAIR event of young entrepreneurs is to be organized as a side event to EUSAIR Forum that will take place **on 23 and 24 May 2023, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.** |
| ***EUSAIR youth events*** | 2 days events:  **Day 1 /23 May 2023**– presentation of the entrepreneurial ideas in 5 minutes pitch;  **Day 2 /24 May 2023**– Meeting with an eminent personal from business area /a unique and stimulating experience for young people/  Award ceremony at the EUSAIR Forum – winners will be announced and presented. |

**Join the entrepreneurial movement, join EUSAIR POPRI youth!**