

Kutaisi Municipality Implements the EU Co-funded YOUTH-SEChange Project

Strengthening meaningful youth participation in local and regional decision-making across the Black Sea Basin

PROGRAMME	PROJECT	PROJECT PARTNER	DURATION
Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin	BSB01411 – YOUTH-SEChange	Kutaisi Municipality, Georgia	18 months

Kutaisi Municipality is implementing the transnational project BSB01411 – YOUTH-SEChange (Youth Oriented Unification for Transformative and Holistic Approach to Regional Participatory Engagement in Black Sea), funded by the Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme and co-funded by the European Union.

Project Overview

The project brings together municipalities and civil society organisations from Georgia, Türkiye, Greece and Bulgaria, with a shared goal of strengthening the meaningful participation of young people in local and regional decision-making.

YOUTH-SEChange is implemented by four partner organisations: Cimitекke Municipality (Türkiye) as the Lead Partner, Kutaisi Municipality (Georgia), the Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute – Fifty-Fifty (Greece), and Devnya Municipality (Bulgaria).

The total eligible budget of the project is EUR 499,730.00, of which EUR 449,757.00 is provided through Interreg funding, corresponding to 90% of the total eligible project budget. The remaining EUR 49,973.00 is provided as partner co-financing. The project will be implemented over 18 months. Kutaisi Municipality's total eligible project budget is EUR 72,800.00, including EUR 65,520.00 in Interreg funding and EUR 7,280.00 in municipal co-financing.

The project aims to establish structured cooperation between public authorities, civil society organisations and young people, creating practical mechanisms through which young people can play a more active role in shaping local policies and contributing to community development.

Key Project Activities

Activities to be implemented across the participating countries include:

- Governance workshops bringing together local and regional authorities, youth representatives and youth-focused civil society organisations;
- A Youth-Led Regional Governance Ideation Festival, enabling young people from the four partner countries to exchange ideas directly with policymakers;
- A youth-driven participatory budgeting platform, allowing young people to propose and vote on community projects;
- The establishment of Local Youth Councils in the participating municipalities, providing young people with training and a structured role in local governance and decision-making;
- The “Try Different” Toolbox, offering practical approaches to overcoming barriers to youth participation and supporting municipalities in developing more inclusive practices;

- The #YouthVoicesMatter advocacy campaign, raising awareness of the importance of youth participation in building stronger and more resilient communities.

Expected Impact

The project will contribute to the development of a Regional Youth Engagement and Empowerment Strategy, providing municipalities and other stakeholders with practical recommendations and approaches that can continue to be applied beyond the project's lifetime.

Throughout the 18-month implementation period, the project partners will exchange experiences, develop innovative approaches to youth participation, and adapt solutions to the needs of their local communities.

Through its participation in YOUTH-SEChange, Kutaisi Municipality will strengthen cooperation with partner municipalities and organisations across the Black Sea Region and create new opportunities for young people to actively participate in local decision-making.

The project aims to demonstrate that young people are not only beneficiaries of local policies, but also active contributors to shaping the future of their communities.

EU FUNDING DISCLAIMER

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