

Active Young Citizens for Sustainable Development in Central European Initiative and Adriatic Ionian Initiative Region

Call for Ideas and Award Competition

Publication of the Call for Ideas: Monday, 1 February 2021, 8:00 am CET

Deadline for submission of proposals: Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 11:59 pm CEST

Tentative awarding of grants and awarding ceremony: Mid May 2021

OVERVIEW

The Central European Initiative (CEI) and the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative (All) are intergovernmental forums for regional cooperation. The Member States of the CEI are Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Ukraine. The Member States of the All are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia.

This project “Active Young Citizens for Sustainable Development in CEI and All areas” is designed to stimulate the engagement of youth in the CEI and All region in the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OVERALL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to raise awareness of CEI and All countries’ high school students on the UN Agenda 2030 (UNA2030) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a learning process and the participation in a Call for Ideas & Award Competition.

Along these lines, the project aims at the following specific objectives:

1. Encouraging understanding of the principles and structure of UNA2030 and its 17 SDGs
2. Advocating for young & active citizens as key actors for the achievement of the SDGs in CEI and All areas
3. Stimulating the elaboration of community-based and “SDG-proof” project ideas through participation in a Call for Ideas & Award Competition.

While the successful implementation of UNA2030, as a global policy framework, highly depends on the capacities of the governance systems at national level, as well as on effective international cooperation, citizens’ behaviours in their daily life are equally important to achieve the SDGs.

As stated in the UN and SDGs – A Handbook for Youth, “youth are not just beneficiaries of this process – they are essential actors in achieving these Goals. Both young women and men have enormous ability to make change not only for themselves, but also for their societies and the rest of the world. [...] As young leaders of tomorrow, it is pivotal that youth are informed and engaged with the global vision for the future. [...] youth will not only directly experience the outcome of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and plans but will also be the key driver for their successful implementation”.

One should also remark that the concept of sustainability, and in particular its environmental dimension, might play a significant role in forging young people’s identity and sense of self, as proved by the fast and global evolution of the movement “Fridays For Future”.

PURPOSE

The Call for Ideas aims at promoting social cohesion and sustainable development in CEI and All countries by raising awareness of high school students on the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 and on the mobilisation on which the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society on three levels:

- *global action* to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- *local action* embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and
- *people action*, including youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations.

In this context, this Call for Ideas is designed for stimulating high schools in getting acquainted with the UN Agenda 2030 and reflect on the contribution that they could provide to its implementation at local level. The Call is aimed at receiving **ideas falling indicatively into the three following categories** linked to the three dimensions of sustainability of UN Agenda 2030:

- 1) Social sustainability
- 2) Economic sustainability
- 3) Environmental sustainability.

The submission of ideas involving youth, cities, local authorities, and the civil society is strongly encouraged, with a view to implementing the targets of the SDGs at local, community and regional level.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Public, private, international **high schools (secondary education institutions)** based and registered in CEI and All Member States: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of San Marino Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

The applicant high school can also propose ideas in cooperation with or in the framework of activities in cooperation with local institutions and stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, CSOs and NGOs etc.).

AWARDS

Awards of 20.000 EUR (twenty thousand Euro) each will be assigned to the best ideas. The award will be transferred to the winning high schools and is intended as a recognition of the merit of the idea, it can be utilised for the idea implementation or for other institutional purposes of the school.

HOW TO APPLY

The CEI Application Package composed of:

- ✚ Online Application Form
- ✚ Estimated cost for idea implementation (if applicable)
- ✚ Applicant's signature

must be submitted electronically using the CEI Electronic Submission System.

Who? Ideas must be submitted by a representative/contact person of the proposing high school (applicant).

How? Accessing the CEI Electronic Submission System.

To allow an early preparation of the proposal, please note that the submission process consists of the following parts (additional information will be available in the Application Form Guidelines):

- ✚ Summary of the idea (describe the idea including title, origin and background, summary and objectives, participation, activities, workplan and timeframe, results and impact).
- ✚ Category (indicate in which of the three categories listed in section C1 the proposed idea is mainly falling)
- ✚ Compatibility with the objectives of the Call / UNA2030 (describe how your idea could contribute to the attainment of the Strategic Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030)
- ✚ Applicant (indicate the name of the high school / secondary education institution, legal status, brief description of the applicant, name and title of the contact person / focal point, contact details)
- ✚ Communication Activities (describe idea promotion and dissemination)
- ✚ Other information (provide in this section any information that you deem important for better understanding the proposed idea)
- ✚ Estimated cost for idea implementation (if applicable) (this annex is to be filled-in in those cases in which the proposed idea would need any financial backing for being implemented. In such case, be prepared to download and fill-in Annex 1 template in advance) *Please note that this template can be downloaded in Excel format and shall be converted into PDF by the applicant before uploading.*
- ✚ Applicant's signature (be prepared to download, fill-in, print and sign Annex 2 template in advance). *Please note that this template can be downloaded in Word format and shall be scanned into PDF format by the applicant before uploading.*

TIMETABLE

- ✚ Preparatory activities including promotion and learning process
- ✚ Publication of the Call for Ideas: Monday, 1 February 2021, 8:00 am CET
- ✚ Deadline for submission of proposals: Wednesday, 31 March 2021, 11:59 pm CEST
- ✚ Tentative awarding of grants and awarding ceremony: Mid May 2021

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

For any questions regarding the Call for Ideas please write to applications@cei.int. Questions shall be sent in English.