



# YESVolunteer Project

## 1st Newsletter

Our journey towards fostering **youth volunteering** for **personal** and **professional growth**.

## Kick-off Meeting in Bobigny, France



The YESVolunteer project, funded by **INTERREG Europe**, officially launched on **June 18-20, 2024**, in Bobigny, France. Representatives from 7 European regions explored the existing policy instruments and programs supporting volunteering, with a particular focus on the common challenges faced by young people in each partner country.

A **study visit** showcased Montreuil Municipality's **youth-focused initiatives**, mobility schemes, and engagement strategies.

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## 2nd Interregional Study Visit in Genoa, Italy

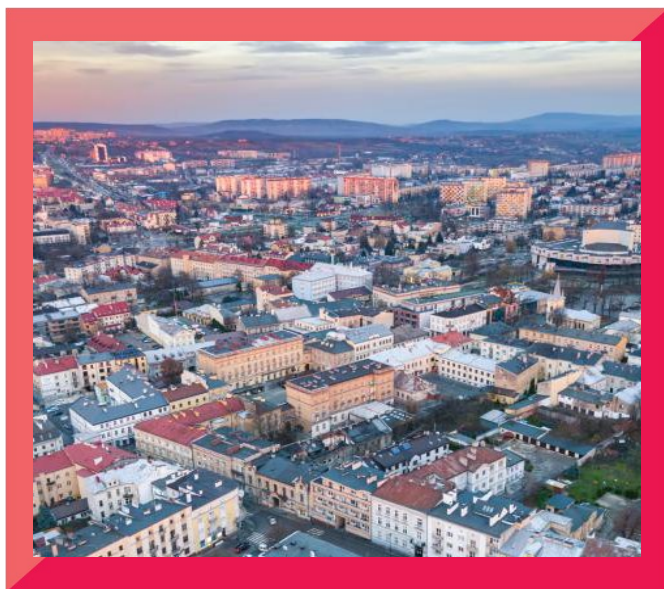


From **December 2-5, 2024**, Genoa hosted the **second study visit**, bringing together local authorities, youth organisations, and volunteers to **exchange experiences** and strengthen **volunteer engagement**. Key discussions have made it possible to deepen the **financial opportunities to support European mobility** (such as Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and ALMA project), and to discuss necessary actions, like reducing **bureaucratic barriers**, and fostering **long-term partnerships** with youth organisations.

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## 3rd Interregional Meeting & Study Visit in Kielce, Poland



On **March 11-12, 2025**, the project held its **third interregional meeting in Kielce, Poland**, focusing on strategies to improve **youth volunteering by including young people who are not in education, employment or in training (NEET)**. Delegates explored key initiatives supporting young people, including site visits to the **Regional Volunteer Centre, Caritas Kielce, and the Polish Red Cross**. Discussions highlighted the role of **volunteering in bridging employment gaps for NEETs** and enhancing their **personal and professional growth**.

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## Key Insights on Youth Volunteering



The first **YESVolunteer factsheet** provides a snapshot of the project's **initial achievements**, including:

- ✓ **Partner contributions** and regional insights
- ✓ **Best practices** for youth engagement
- ✓ **Challenges** and **strategies** for improving volunteering accessibility

Find it on the [Interreg website](#) under the '**Library**' section.

## Regional Stakeholder Group Meetings – Key Results

During the **third semester**, partners held **regional stakeholder group meetings** to discuss youth volunteering challenges and solutions. Partners identified **barriers to youth volunteering**, such as **lack of awareness, economic challenges, and limited access to support services**. Proposed solutions include **mentorship programs, improved outreach, and partnerships with civic services**. These findings were presented during the **Kielce meeting** and will be detailed and published in an upcoming report —**stay tuned!**

## Project Videos Watch our action

- ✓ **Project Overview** – Available on the [Interreg website](#) and [YouTube](#).
- ✓ **Study Visit in Genoa** – Highlights from the second project meeting, available on Interreg and [YouTube](#).
- ✓ **Why is volunteering important for European regions?** – Q&A video featuring stakeholders' testimonies on volunteering's impact, available on Interreg and [YouTube](#).



## Looking Ahead

### YESVolunteer continues

to **strengthen cross-regional collaboration** and **enhance opportunities for youth engagement**. The fourth interregional study visit will take place in Riga to further explore the topic of volunteering and professional integration.

Keep an eye out for our **upcoming factsheet and events!**



## Stay Updated



[www.interregeurope.eu/yesvolunteer](http://www.interregeurope.eu/yesvolunteer)

