

## THE ABRUZZO REGION AT THE EU INSTITUTIONS' « OPEN DOORS DAY » WITH THE PROJECT « YOUTH AND BRUSSELS BASED REGIONS »

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May, the Abruzzo Region will take part in the “Open Doors Day”, for the **sixth consecutive year**, traditionally held by the **Institutions** to celebrate the anniversary of the **Schuman Declaration** and the launching of the **Community integration process**.

As usual, the event will take place at the **Committee of the Regions**. As regards Italy, the autonomous region of **Valle d'Aosta** and the **Abruzzo Region** will be part of the event. The Abruzzo region will be sharing a booth with the **Dubrovnik-Neretva County** and the **Brod-Posavina County** (Croatia).

This day will enable the regions to profit from an extraordinary visibility. Besides, this year's edition will take place one week before the **European elections** and it will be the opportunity to celebrate the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the establishment of the Committee of the Regions.

Furthermore, the initiative also coincides with the **fifteenth anniversary** of the establishment of the **Abruzzo Region's office in Brussels** (1999/2014): it will be a particularly good opportunity to establish the budget and face new challenges for the future.

The good practices of the **Abruzzo Region** and the **Dubrovnik-Neretva County** are some of the highlights of that initiative. During the event, these regions will launch the project [“Youth and Brussels Based Regions”](#) in which the **Lubuskie Province (Poland)** and the **Presov Region (Slovakia)** also participate under the “Youth in Action” program.

The project, which will last for two years, is aimed to offer to young people from these four regions a common cooperation and training platform in the respective regional offices in Brussels. Thanks to that project, **80 young people** will be sent to Brussels through **European voluntary service** and **transnational exchanges** activities.

The people who will benefit from that exceptional offer will be selected among **unemployed young people** (aged 18-30) as far as the European voluntary service program is concerned, and among **young workers** and **unemployed young people** aged 18-25 as far as the transnational exchanges program is concerned.

The conditions and the duration vary depending on the programs: the European voluntary service program lasts for **13 weeks** and the transnational exchanges program last for **2 weeks**. Food and accommodation expenses are covered, as well as a portion of the travel costs. As far as the European voluntary service program is concerned, the candidates selected will also receive a monthly pocket money.

The initiative constitutes also the first act of a broad-based awareness-raising campaign that will be carried out through Internet and social networks from May. The first **placements** are expected in **September**.

The selection will follow the “**Youth in Action**” program's criteria. However, a good knowledge of another foreign language and the applicants' motivation will play an important role. The young people who will go to Brussels (**22** for the Abruzzo Region, **20** for the Presov Region and the Lubuskie Province, and **18** for the Dubrovnik-Neretva County) and who will therefore closely monitor the first steps of the new **Parliament**, the renewal of the **European Commission** and the other European bodies (including the Committee of the Regions), as well as the **Italian presidency of the European Union in the second half of the year** and the **following six-month presidencies**, will also have to act as “**ambassadors**” for the others who will follow them via the online platform.

**For further information regarding the “Open Doors Day” at the CoR:**

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/events/Pages/jpoi-2014.aspx>

**Website of the “yBBregions” project** (introductory page):

<http://yBBregions.eu.org/>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/yBBregions>

**Twitter:** <http://www.twitter.com/yBBregions>

For further information regarding the **Abruzzo Region** in Brussels :

<http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xEuropa/>

<http://www.facebook.com/abruZZelles>

<http://twitter.com/abruZZelles>

For further information regarding the **Dubrovnik-Neretva County**:

<http://edubrovnik.org/>

For further information regarding the **Lubuskie Province**:

<http://www.lubuskie.pl/>

For further information regarding the **Presov Region**:

<http://www.po-kraj.sk/en/self-governing/>

*(Regional Directorate for Presidency-Liaison activities with E.U. – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014)*