

**UNIVERSITIES, EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGES:
IN BRUSSELS, THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE ABRUZZO
REGION ARE INCREASING**

The **Abruzzo Region** is actively involved in creating “**non-formal**” training opportunities for its young citizens in its office in **Brussels**.

Indeed, the headquarters of the Abruzzo Region in Brussels provides not only an area of professional competences, but also a very specific international and intercultural context, recently enriched by the arrival of important European networks, such as the **Assembly of European Regions** and the **European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and Environment (FEDARENE)**.

Over the past three and a half years, **16** young people coming from the **universities of Teramo, Rome and Bologna**, but also from some of the best Belgian universities (**Mons, Brussels, and Louvain**) were, therefore, welcomed.

In the first place, they were **university programs**, among which the famous “**Erasmus-Placement**” program stands out.

A specific project has been recently added: “Youth and Brussels based Regions”, co-financed by the “Youth in Action” program, a new initiative promoted as the coordinator of a regional partnership that also includes the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (Croatia), the Lubuskie Province (Poland), and the Presov Region (Slovakia).

It is the **first example** of a project created and produced exclusively **in the** Brussels office.

The aim of that project is to send at least 80 young people aged 18-30 in the respective regional offices in Brussels within **two years**, for **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 **launch** took place on the **15th May** at the same time as a broad-based awareness-raising campaign on the project's themes, including the **European elections**, that was launched via the project's website and social networks accounts. Less than a month later, on the **11th June**, the first notice for the expressions of interest to be part of the **first placement** was already **online** on the project's website. Therefore, the first placements are expected in **September**.

The programs' launch will coincide 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.

For further information regarding the “Youth and Brussels based Regions” project:
<http://goo.gl/JvC5L1>

For further information regarding the open selections procedures (deadline: 23rd June):
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE REGISTRATIONS: <http://goo.gl/HrW2Ah>
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EVS/GROUP1: <http://goo.gl/LpHMzu>

Official website of the project: <http://www.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>

(Regional Directorate for Presidency-Liaison activities with E.U. – 18th June 2014)