



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

Call for Ideas and Award Competition

Concept

OVERVIEW

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

This initiative, “**Active Young Citizens for Sustainable Development in CEI and AII areas**”, is designed to stimulate the engagement of youth in the CEI and AII regions in the framework of the [United Nations Agenda 2030](#) for Sustainable Development.

OVERALL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The **overall objective** of the initiative is to raise awareness of CEI and AII countries’ high school students on the [UN Agenda 2030 \(UNA2030\) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) through a learning process and the participation in a Call for Ideas and Award Competition (hereinafter “Call”).

Along these lines, the Call aims at meeting the following **specific objectives**:

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

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 lives 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 aims at promoting sustainable development in CEI and All countries by raising awareness of high school students on the *UNA2030* and its SDGs, adopted in 2015, and on the UN Secretary-General's call on all sectors of society to mobilise for action 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;
- *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, the Call is designed for stimulating high schools in getting acquainted with the UNA2030 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 one or more of the following categories** linked to the three sustainability dimensions of the UNA2030:

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

Applicant high schools are encouraged to submit ideas involving youth, cities, local authorities, and the civil society, with a view to implementing the targets of the SDGs at local, community and regional level, also in cooperation with local institutions and stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, CSOs and NGOs).

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.

AWARDS

Awards of 20.000 EUR (twenty thousand Euro) each will be assigned to the best ideas. The awards will be transferred to the winning high schools and are intended as a recognition of the merit of the idea. They can be utilised either for implementing the idea or for other institutional purposes of the school, contributing to the UNA2030 and its SDGs.

HOW TO APPLY

Project ideas are to be submitted electronically via the CEI Electronic Submission System by using the CEI Application Package composed of:

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

Detailed information will be available in the Call.

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

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 dimensions 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 Sustainable Development Goals of the UNA2030) at local, community and regional level.
- ✚ 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 any information deemed important for better understanding the proposed idea).
- ✚ Estimated cost for idea implementation (if applicable).
- ✚ Applicant's signature (the legal representative).

TIMETABLE

- ✚ Launch of the Call: Monday, 1 February 2021
- ✚ 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 this preliminary information please write to applications@cei.int. Questions are to be sent in English.