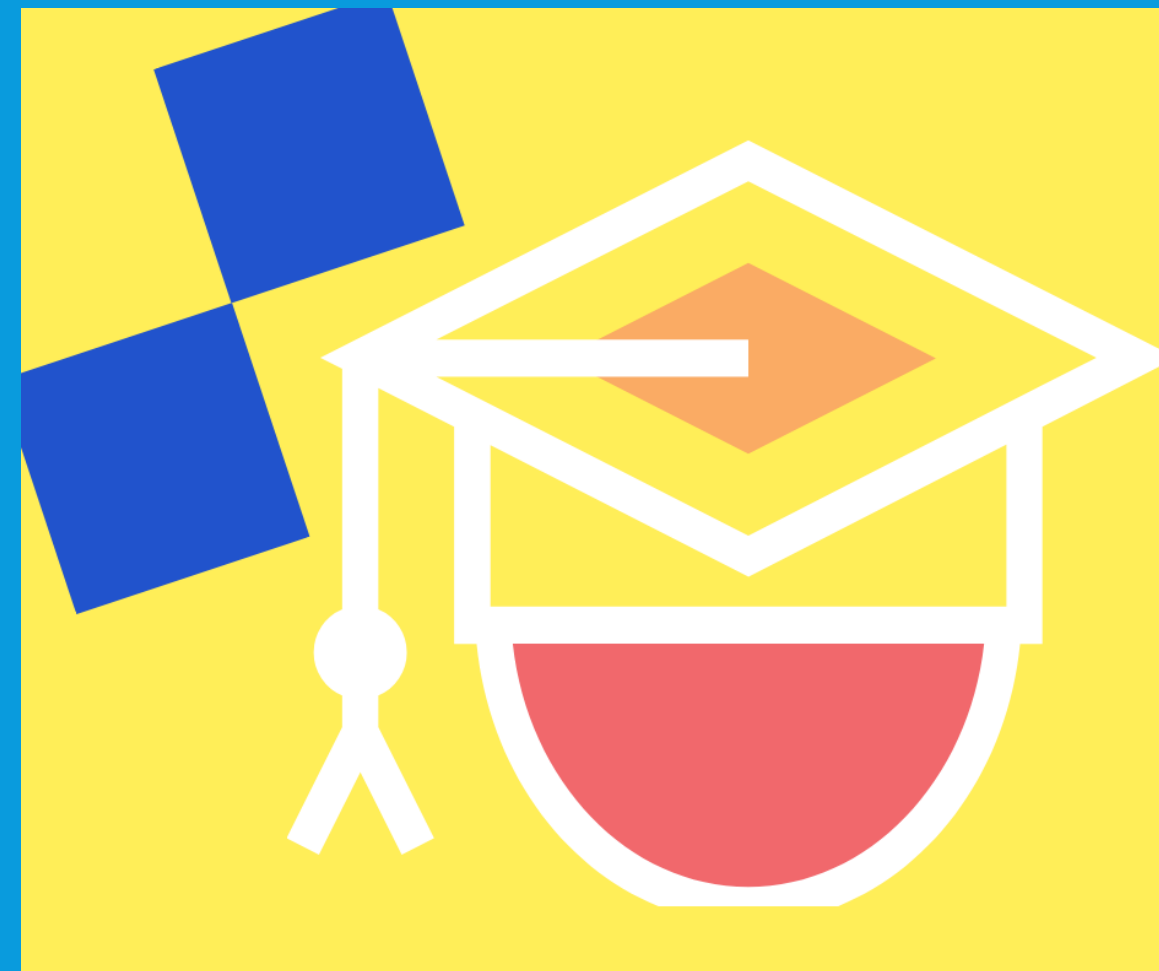


Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY): My experience as a mentor

Alexandra Gogancea

Managing Authority of Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria



Why have we decided to host an IVY?

Fresh Perspectives

Young volunteers bring innovative thinking and new approaches to longstanding challenges.

Consultation post 2027

The organization and carrying out the public consultation to prepare the Interreg post 2027 and social media activities with a focus on media campaigns related to the Programme and public consultations.

Wider Reach

Having a motivated and enthusiastic young person as part of our team allows us to tap into fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and creative solutions. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn foster a dynamic exchange of knowledge, benefiting both the volunteer and our Programme.

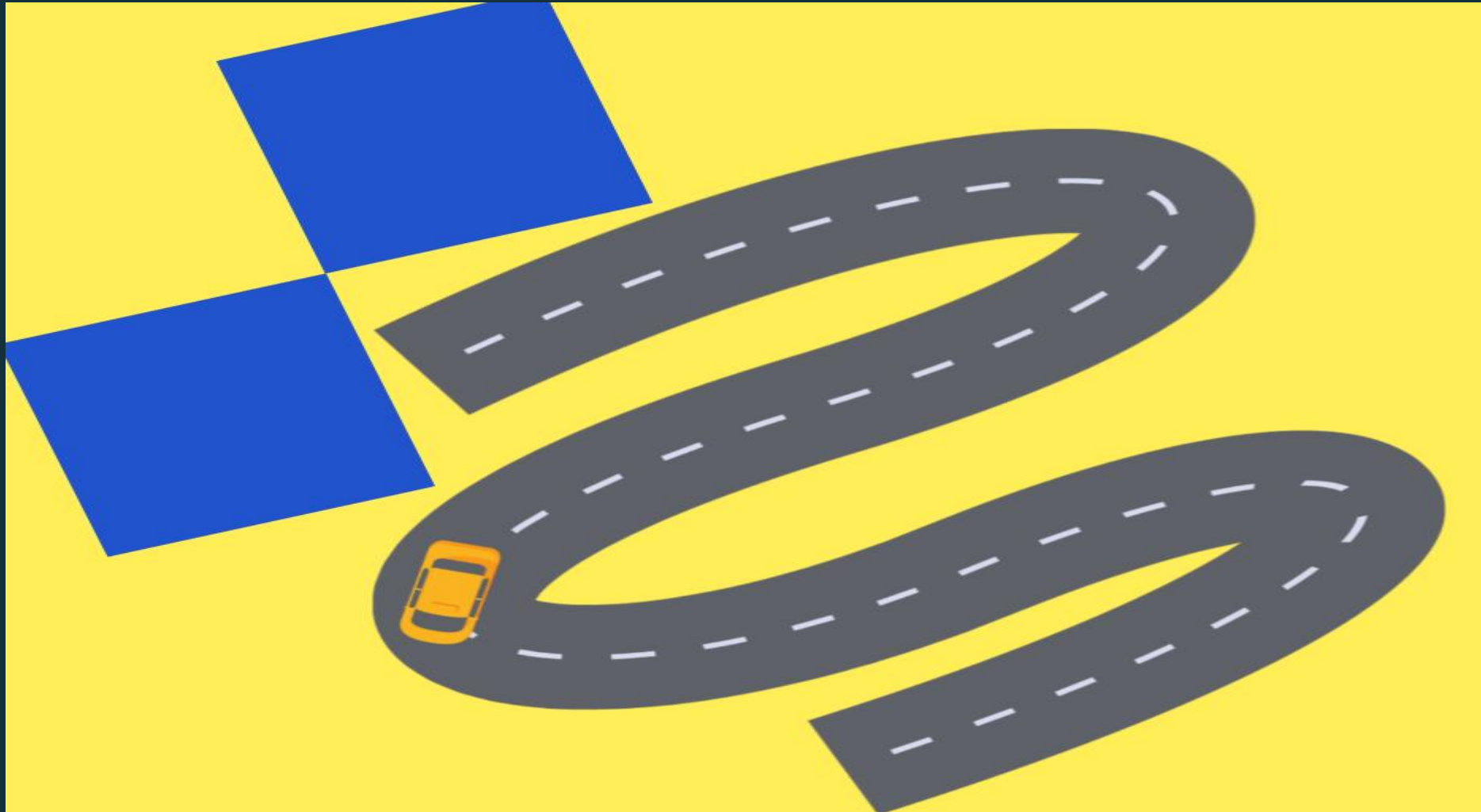
Implementation Support

Extra hands and extra minds mean additional support. Moreover, working with an IVY enhances our visibility and outreach efforts, as young volunteers are often more engaged in digital communication and community involvement. They help us connect with a broader audience, promote our activities in innovative ways, and engage stakeholders in meaningful discussions.

European Values

Hosting an IVY fosters the European spirit in our Programme, shaping future professionals in cooperation. It's a chance to mentor young talent while gaining fresh insights.

My journey as a mentor



Our young volunteers



Mattia Passoni – Italy



Sakina Belahcen – France



Kyriakos Kourtidis – Greece



Activities





Activities

Project visit for the project ROBG 528 UNIMIS project „A common opened window to the Universe mysteries”, at the Planetarium in Constanta 7 december 2022

Training concerning communication aspects in Balcic on 8–11 december 2022

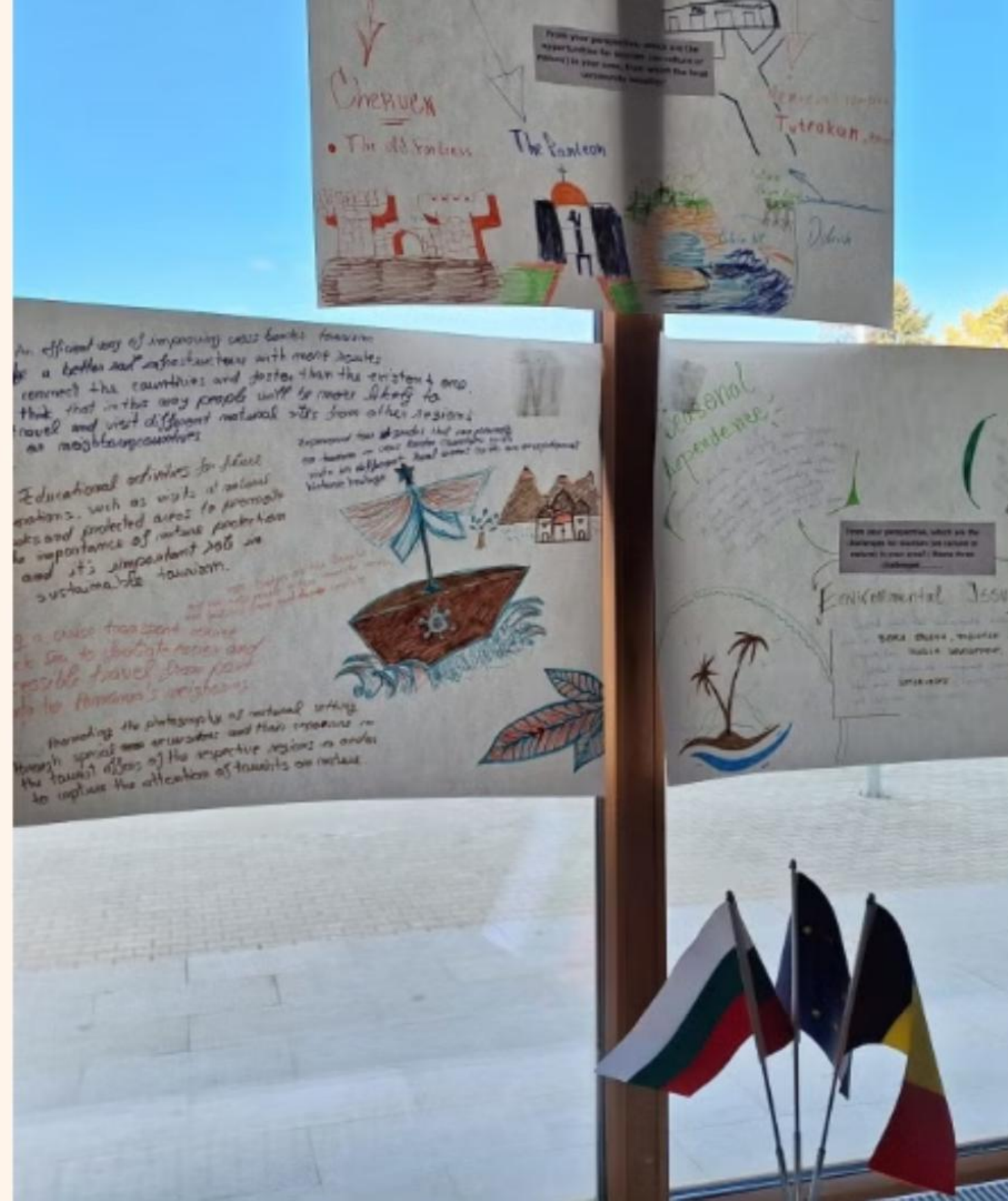
Social media campaigns designed to increase the Programme's visibility and increase the engagement:

- communication campaigns with weekly posts and examples of successful projects aiming to inspire potential applicants with ideas concerning projects under PO3 – An educated Region and PO2 – A greener region, SO 2.4 , "Promoting Climate Change Adaptation taking into account Ecosystem-Based Approaches".
- communication campaigns to highlight key EU and international days that align with the program activities

Participation at the kick-off meeting of our first OSI at Ruse, Bulgaria on 18th June 2024

YOUTH IN ACTION

IVY's contribution to the Public Consultations post 2027



Activities

As part of the preparations for the post-2027 programming period, the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria programme organized a public consultation process between April and October 2024. This initiative gathered citizens' and stakeholders' input through both online surveys and in-person events.

Recognizing the importance of youth participation, the Managing Authority held public consultations with university students from Craiova (21st May 2024), Constanța (25th October 2024) and Ruse (22 October 2024).

The IVY (Interreg Volunteer Youth) volunteers played an active role in engaging students and ensuring their voices were heard!



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Craiova University



 PUBLIC CONSULTATION 
Ruse University



Public Consultation

Ovidius University

Activities



PHOTO CONTEST
Interreg Romania-Bulgaria Programme

Theme:
Cultural and Touristic
Heritage Romania-Bulgaria

Deadline
18 October, 2024
23:59 CET

To participate in the contest
please visit the link below or
scan the QR code

Take a chance to win
an awesome prize!
1 Night for 2 at a
seaside hotel in
Constanta

<https://forms.gle/wMBxp3woa4XEptFf7>

Contact:
✉ sakina.belahcen@mdlpa.gov.ro
f <https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaBulgariaCbcProgramme>



In the frame of Interreg RO BG programme post 2027 public consultation from Ovidius University and Ruse University, the volunteers organized two events called “Youth Vision on Cohesion Policy and Sustainable Tourism in the Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Region”.

The events explored EU Cohesion Policy, Interreg Programmes and sustainable tourism, highlighting success stories from the Interreg Romania-Bulgaria Programme.

Key activities included interactive presentations, a Kahoot quiz with prizes and a poster-making session allowing students to shape the future of Cohesion Policy post-2027. The events concluded with the photo contest finale, celebrating young photographers from the RO-BG region, with a special prize awarded to the winner.



Some key events of the Programme where our IVY's have participated:

- The Annual Conference of Interreg V-A Romania Bulgaria Programme – Craiova, 14th of December 2022



Some key events of the Programme where our IVY's have participated:

- The launching Conference of the Interreg VI-A Romania Bulgaria Programme – 1st of March 2023 in Constanta
- The Annual Conference of the Interreg VI-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme - 31st of October 2024 in Piatra Olt



Challenges

The application process for IVY requires extensive documentation about the specific tasks the volunteer will support, along with evidence of the host organization's compliance with EU and IVY requirements. This can be time-consuming, especially in a bureaucratic setting.

Many volunteers are assigned to regions or cities where the cost of living is relatively high. Even basic necessities such as food, accommodation, transportation and personal expenses may surpass the provided amount.

The lack of working experience of IVY and insufficient knowledge about Interreg programmes can sometimes make more difficult their integration in the new working environment. A possible solution to overcome may be that AEBR provides a general induction training to the specific features of an Interreg Programme or project.

Suggestions for a Successful IVY Experiences

Clear Communication

Define roles, responsibilities and expectations before and during the volunteer placement.

Structured Onboarding

Provide comprehensive introduction to the organization, team and relevant project context.

Meaningful Involvement

Ensure volunteers participate in substantive activities with visible contributions to outcomes.

Regular Feedback

Schedule reflection sessions to discuss progress, challenges, and learning opportunities.

Thank you for your attention!



If you want to find out more about Interreg VI-A Romania–Bulgaria, you may follow us here:

- Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/RomaniaBulgariaCbcProgramme>
- Official website: <https://www.interregviarobg.eu/en>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interregviarobg/>
- Twitter: @ROBGProgramme
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/interreg-romania-bulgaria/>
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@robgsprogramme>