

MACRO-REGIONAL CIVIL MEETING FOR THE EUSALP - Lyon, 2-3 May 2024

The **Macro-regional Civil Meeting** for the EUSALP, held on **May 2 and 3, 2024**, in **Lyon**, was organised by the **European House Budapest** and **Maison des Européens Lyon**, focusing on **civil society within the Alpine Macro-region**. This event built upon the accomplishments of the previous year's efforts and the agreement reached at the [First Macro-Regional Citizen Agora held in Budapest](#).

Thursday, May 2, focused on the 20th anniversary of the major EU enlargement in 2004. The Lyon City Hall, together with the Maison des Européens de Lyon and the European House Budapest, created a rich program for the first day, catering to various interest groups. In the morning, the program focused on three themes for three audiences: "entrepreneurship" (discovering actors and tools supporting new cross-border partnerships and possible sources for activities and projects), "education" (a meeting for stakeholders in education to explore good practices facilitating exchanges for educational purposes), and "engagement" (learning how local players can strengthen connections across Europe and cooperate). The **afternoon** was devoted to a **street action** in the Lyon City Hall's Atrium, where citizens could explore, exchange, and discover. Visitors could find information about ESN CosmoLyon, discover maps and games by the Maison des Européens de Lyon, take part in the "My ideal EP candidate" workshop of the European House Budapest, and try to "Voyage en euro" created by the Europe Platform. The day concluded with an **Evening Reception, "20 Years of Enlargement, 20 Years Together,"** which brought together a panel of four guests: **Nicolas RESSEGUIER**, Expert Team Europe Direct and Head of Economic and Financial Education at the Banque de France; **Robert SOLTNYK**, Chief of Communication within the Representation in France of the European Commission; **Emese BARABAS**, Director of Programs at the European House Budapest; and **Christine RAMEL**, Team Europe Direct Expert and Co-President of the Maison des Européens Lyon.

On Friday, May 3, the morning program included a presentation, "**A Glimpse into EU Macro-regions**," by **Emese BARABAS** (European House Budapest, Hungary), explaining what macro-regions are and how they function. This was followed by "**This is Where We Are – State of Play of Youth Participation in Macro-regional Structures**." **Jana BURZYKOVA** (Danube Youth Council, EUSALP Secretariat IVY Reporter, Czech Republic) and **Pejo BOSNIC** (Danube Youth Council, Bosnia and Herzegovina) presented the functioning of the Danube Youth Council and the opportunities for youth within the Alpine macro-region, such as the Youth Council, Pitch Your Project, and the upcoming Youth Summer Camp. In the afternoon, participants were divided into **three working groups** to discuss and brainstorm on the following themes: a) Youth as a Driving Force for Macro-regional Cooperation, b) The Secret Ingredients of a Workable Network, and c) The Future We Want: EU Macro-regions in 2030. Their ideas were afterwards presented and have been collected for the further actions.

Overall, the meeting underscored **civil society's efforts to strengthen macro-regional cooperation** with a **bottom-up approach**, ultimately aiming to **establish a network of civil society organisations within all four macro-regions this year**.