



EuSEE

Advancing EU Cohesion
coverage across
South-East Europe

Newsletter

Dear reader,

Cohesion policy has an impact on the daily lives of Europeans. In these articles, we explore how certain projects are making a difference in various parts of Europe.

Along the Danube, a network of organizations is countering depopulation and rural decline through "**placemaking**" — transforming anonymous spaces into lived, socially meaningful places by drawing on local cultural heritage, community workshops, and artistic residencies.

Separated by a border but connected by the same Pindus mountain range, **the villages of Dardha in Albania and Demati in Greece** tell parallel stories of communities that once thrived, then emptied, and are now, cautiously, beginning to **imagine what comes next**.

Between Slovenia and Croatia, a cross-border project has brought together four partners to develop **palliative care** on both sides of the border — but investment alone is not enough: what is also needed, according to the professionals involved, is a shift in mentality towards death.

Finally, we turn our attention to the lively debate currently underway in Brussels regarding the **future of cohesion policy**.

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This is the third newsletter of **EuSEE—Advancing EU cohesion coverage across South-East Europe**, a project coordinated by Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa, in collaboration with four media outlets, **Mediapool** in Bulgaria, **Tportal** in Croatia, **EFSYN** in Greece and **Hotnews** in Romania.

Enjoy your reading!

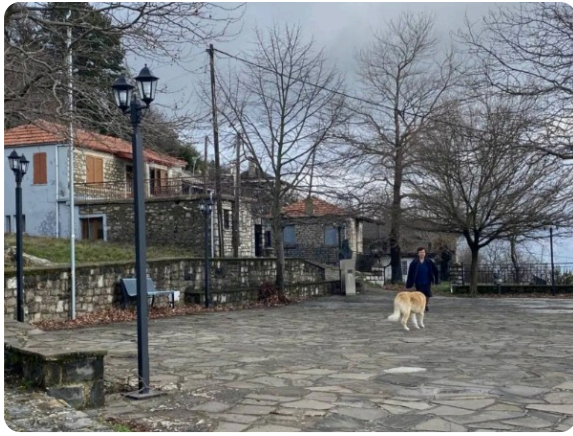


From spaces to places: regenerating Danube villages with placemaking

Between depopulation and cultural rediscovery, a network of organizations is attempting to restore meaning and vitality to the peripheral areas of Southeastern Europe. A reportage



[Here you can access the complete photo gallery](#)



Greece, life at the edge of the high mountains

In the remote village of Demati, initiatives supported by the EU's Interreg program are quietly giving new life to abandoned spaces and a fading community



Life in the Albanian mountains, a tale of two villages

Separated by a border but connected by the same Pindus mountain range, Demati and Dardha tell parallel stories of communities that once thrived, then emptied, and are now, cautiously, beginning to imagine what comes next

Between Croatia and Slovenia, “death must no longer be a taboo”



A European project between Croatia and Slovenia has brought together four partners to promote the development of palliative care on both sides of the border. This is a growing need in Europe, but investment is lacking. According to the experts involved, a change in mentality is also needed

The future of cohesion policy



Cohesion policy, risks for civil society

Flexibility and simplification in the proposed new EU budget for 2028-2034 could easily lead to “deregulation even within European funds.” Interview with Chiara Catelli, advocacy officer at PICUM



The uncertain future of European cohesion policy

Negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the 2028-2034 period are going through a phase of intense political tension, with cohesion policy at the centre of the deadlock between Member States and the Commission



EU budget: A first look at the numbers, but sides remain divided

On 18 and 19 June, the European Council summit took place in Brussels, bringing together the 27 European leaders to discuss a wide range of topics, including the complex dossier on the multiannual budget for 2028–2034.

News from our partners



Romania, the entrepreneur who swapped EU fund consulting for



Bulgaria, the longest railway tunnel on the Balkan peninsula nearly

After nearly ten years working as a consultant for European fund projects, entrepreneur Ovidiu Işan decided it was time for a radical change: he gave up drafting projects for others and set out to build his own.

The project was started 40 years ago, but an accident halted work; it is now being completed with funding from the Cohesion Funds

Webinar: save the date

The Future of EU Cohesion Policy: What's at Stake?

As negotiations over the EU's next long-term budget for the 2028–2034 period are intensifying, OBCT is organizing a **webinar** for journalists and media professionals focused on the reform of cohesion policy. The event will examine whether proposals to make cohesion policy more flexible—enabling it to respond more quickly to emerging crises and evolving priorities across the Union—could weaken the role of regional and local governments and diminish cohesion policy's contribution to reducing territorial disparities.

📌 15 September 2026, at 11:00h (CEST) | *online* | [Register here](#)



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