



**SUMMER
ACADEMY**
Assembly of European Regions

-Detailed programme-
AER Summer Academy 2022
“A Europe for the Next Generation”
29 August -1 September 2022
County Donegal, Ireland

Monday, 29 August

09.30 – 18.00

Arrivals:

Hotels (Letterkenny):

- Station House Hotel & Radisson Blu Hotel (adult tickets)
- Ballyraine Self Catering Apartments (youth tickets)

18.00 – 20.00	Summer Academy Organising Committee (SAOC) Meeting (Only for SAOC members)
20.00 – 22.00	Welcome Reception Venue: Radisson Hotel Letterkenny



Tuesday, 30 August

Venue: Atlantic Technological University,
Port Road, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

09.00 – 09.30 Registration	
09.30 – 11.00	<p>Opening Ceremony of the 2022 AER Summer Academy</p> <p>Speakers (invited):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cllr. Liam Blaney, Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Council ● Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe ● Magnus Berntsson, AER President ● Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, AER Vice President for Youth; CEO, Údarás Na Gaeltachta <p style="text-align: center;">Short roundtable discussion incorporating Sli.do / Mentimeter features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anna Ní Ghallachair, Chairperson of Údarás na Gaeltachta Board ● John McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Donegal County Council ● Rune Fredriksen, President of AER Summer Academy. ● Natasha O’ Hea, Community Manager, Catalyst (TBC) <p>Moderator: Orla Flynn, President of ATU</p>
11.00 – 11:30 Group Picture & Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>1st Plenary Session: <i>Youth and regional Government: young people shaping their regions</i></p> <p>The panel will focus on follow-ups to the Conference on the Future of Europe, and how to promote better youth engagement at regional and local level. Models will be shared from Donegal, Viken and other SAOC regions on how to get young people truly involved in the decision-making process within their communities.</p> <p>Speakers:</p>



	<p>Moderator: Joe McHugh, Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Antonio Gade Wilhelmsen Serri, Youth delegate, Viken region● Ingvild Brox Kielland, SpareBank1, Nord-Norg● Margareta Capilnean, Superior Councillor, International Relations Office, Maramures County Council; Coordinator for International Activities, Europe Direct Centre Maramures; Member of the Maramures Crisis Unit supporting Ukraine and collaborating with NGOs● Leonard Wilks, Youth Delegate, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe● Noel Mac Suibhne, Youth Officer, Muintearas● Representative, Donegal Youth Council (Name TBC)
<p>13.00 –14.00 Lunch</p>	
<p>14.00 – 15.00 Parallel workshops (Participants must sign-up for only one of the 2 options below)</p>	
<p>1)</p>	<p><i>How to involve young people in the decision-making process at regional level - the Norwegian blueprint</i> – Viken (NO)</p> <p>Viken (NO) will share the Norwegian model for regional youth participation - what is good and meaningful in the decision-making process.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Antonio Gade Wilhelmsen Serri, Head of the Youth County Council, Viken Municipality● Ingvild Søreide, Member of Youth County Council, Hole municipality <p>Contact person/lead organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Johanne Meyer (Viken)
<p>2)</p>	<p><i>Future of Skills: Youth and the Tourism of Tomorrow</i> – Donegal County Council (IE) and Fáilte Ireland</p> <p>Covid-19 has led to a major shortage of skilled young people taking up roles in the tourism industry. This workshop will focus on challenges and</p>



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	<p>opportunities to encourage young people to lead the tourism industry of the future.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Upcoming <p>Contact person/lead organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Joy Harron (Donegal County Council)
15.00 – 18.00	<p>Derry City and Inis Eoghain (Inishowen) Tour</p> <p>15:45 - Meeting point: Tourist Office Derry City, division in 2,3 groups with the guides</p> <p>16:30 - Speeches at Guildhall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Paddy Harte, Chairman of the International Fund for Ireland● Mayor of Derry City/Strabane (name tbc) <p>Derry City is home to Ireland's only completely Walled City, the hit comedy Derry Girls, award-winning museums, and some of the greatest outdoor festivals in the world. Delegates will enjoy a guided tour of the 400-year-old City Walls, a walk along the Peace Bridge and a visit to the Guildhall built in 1887. The Guildhall's most arresting feature is its collection of stunning stained-glass windows, representing everything from fishmongers to musicians.</p> <p>Since its launch in 2011 the EU Interreg funded Peace Bridge has become an integral part of the City's infrastructure and is held in high regard for its stunning physical beauty and in equal measures for the symbolic story it represents. The Peace Bridge tells a story of triumph over adversity and is a symbol of peace, connecting the two sides of the River Foyle. This will be followed by a visit to Inis Eoghain (Inishowen) along the Wild Atlantic Way in Donegal, with a stop off to enjoy locally produced food and drink.</p>
18:00 - 19.00	Buffet dinner+free time
20.30	<p>Return buses to Letterkenny</p> <p>Meeting point: Tourist Office, Derry City</p>



Wednesday, 31 August

Venue: Atlantic Technological University,
Port Road, Gortlee, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

9.00 - 9.30 Sign-up & Energizers	
9.30 – 10.30 Parallel workshops (Participants must sign up for only 1 of the 2 workshops below)	
1)	<p><i>Maramures stands with #Ukraine – Youth involvement in supporting refugees</i> – Maramures (RO)</p> <p>Maramures in Romania has been on the frontline of the refugee crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This will be a chance for participants to learn how young people in the community have led in the reception of incoming refugees, and identify common challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margareta Capilnean, Superior Councillor, International Relations Office, Maramures County Council; Coordinator for International Activities, Europe Direct Centre Maramures; Member of the Maramures Crisis Unit supporting Ukraine and collaborating with NGOs. <p>Contact person/lead organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mihaela Lițe (Maramures)
2)	<p><i>Digital Hubs, Creativity and Innovation</i> – Ùdarás na Gaeltachta (IE)</p> <p>Brain-drain of talented young people and would-be entrepreneurs from rural areas is a challenge for all rural regions. Led by Udarás na Gaeltachta, this workshop will focus on how through setting up remote working “Gteic” hubs across the Gaeltacht regions of Ireland, remote regions can keep and attract talent and develop innovation ecosystems.</p>



Speakers:

- **Prof. Finbarr Bradley** Former professor UCD/Visiting professor Aalto University, Finland
- **Mairead Ní Maonaigh** (Artist in residence UnG)
- **Anne-Marie Conlon** (Head of Economic Development, Donegal County Council)

Moderator: **Sineád Ní Fhátharta** (Head of Enterprise, Údarás na Gaeltachta)

Contact person/lead organiser:

- **Aisling/Bridie (UnG)**

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee break

11.00 - 12.15

2nd Plenary Session: AER Bureau Debate on Youth

The European Year of Youth provides a unique opportunity for European regions to identify ways of better supporting youth participation and autonomy and of realising the benefits that more opportunities for young people offer to regional recovery and sustainable, inclusive, green and digital transition.

This plenary will discuss the work of the AER Task Force on Youth, as well as what the focus of youth policy should be in Europe. Specific topics discussed will be: the future of EU youth policy, youth involvement in policy-making across Europe, programmes and best practices at the regional level and the importance of local and regional governments in youth policy.

Speakers:

Key-note: Colin Scicluna (video message) - Head of Cabinet, Commissioner Šuica, Vice President Democracy and Demography

- **Anne Karjalainen**, Chair of the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) and Chair of Kerava City Council – European Committee of the Regions



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Paul McLennan MSP, Member of the Scottish Parliament for East Lothian● Nina Koistinen, Youth Delegate, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe● Frederic Piccavet, Vice-president – European Youth Forum (TBC)● COE Youth Expert (Name TBC) <p>Contact person: Gisela Guari Cañada Institutional Relations & Advocacy Manager, AER</p>
<p>12.30 – 13.30 2nd Round of Parallel workshops (Participants must sign up for only 1 of the 2 workshops below)</p>	
1)	<p>Workshop led by Vojvodina (SRB) – Vojvodina (SRB)</p> <p>Upcoming description.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Nemanja Zavisic, Vice-President, Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Serbia● Marko Blazic, Student at Novi Sad Medical University, Pharmacology Department <p>Contact person/lead organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sanja Šifliš (Vojvodina)
2)	<p>Joint Info Session Eurodyssey - AER & Catalunya</p> <p>Information session and Q&A about Eurodyssey, the flagship international mobility programme of AER, providing young people with fully-funded traineeship opportunities in the participating regions.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Esther Estany Campos, President of Eurodyssey● Adriana Andrés Comas, International Programmes Unit, Generalitat de Catalunya



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lorène Weber, Programmes Coordinator, AER Contact person/lead organiser: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lorène Weber, Programmes Coordinator, AER
13.30 – 14.30 Packed lunch on the bus to Glenveagh National Park	
14.30 - 17.30	<p>Visit to Glenveagh National Park & Dunlewey Excursion</p> <p>This excursion will take delegates to Glenveagh National Park, highlighting the role of local authorities in enhancing biodiversity and developing sustainable tourism.</p> <p>Glenveagh National Park is a remote and hauntingly beautiful wilderness of rugged mountains, pristine lakes, tumbling waterfalls and enchanted native oak woodland in the heart of the Derryveagh Mountains. At the centre of the Park on the edge of Lough Veagh is historic Glenveagh Castle, a late 19th century castellated mansion, built as a hunting lodge. Explore the stunning gardens or stroll along the many paths and trails. Spanning approximately 16,000 hectares, Glenveagh has a broad mosaic of habitat types including uplands, woodlands, peatland and freshwater rivers and lakes. Delegates will learn about the outdoor and nature conservation work at Glenveagh and enjoy an audio-visual tour and talk at the visitor centre, followed by a walk along Lough Veagh to the Castle.</p> <p>Meeting Point: ATU Campus</p>
18.30 (Approx.)	Return to Letterkenny (Free evening for delegates)



Thursday, 1 September

Pick-up from hotels and hostels in Letterkenny at 7:45

Venue: Gteic Gaoth Dobhair

<p>9.00 - 10.00 Working breakfast - Task Force on Youth</p>	
<p>9.00 - 10.00 For other participants: Welcome Coffee/Breakfast + Sign-up & Energizers</p>	
<p>10.00 – 11.00 Parallel workshops (Participants must sign-up for only one of the two options below)</p>	
<p>1)</p>	<p><i>Strengthening entrepreneurship among young people</i> - Nordland (NO)</p> <p>Workshop discussing the youth entrepreneurship programme <i>Samfunnsloftet</i> driven by Sparebanken NordNorge (bank of Northern Norway)</p> <p><i>Samfunnsloftet</i> connects youth voices on projects related to one of the strategic areas identified for society in Northern Norway: Ocean, Health infrastructure, Space technology, Energy. Young people are invited to take part in a five-step-process, are challenged to contribute to one of the region's strategic areas for the future, and to meet some of the foremost stakeholders in these fields, whether in terms of innovation, technology or development.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delegate, Nordland County Council ● Delegate, Nordland Youth County Council ● Delegate, Norland County Council for Apprentices delegate <p>Contact person/lead organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Åshild Opøyen (Nordland)
<p>2)</p>	<p><i>AER Workshop—Bioeconomy and skills / Skills for the bioeconomy [food systems/waste management]</i></p> <p>The bioeconomy covers all sectors and systems that rely on biological resources. It spans over sectors as diverse as food, construction, energy and waste management. In the context of societal challenges such as climate change, food security, energy independence and environmental sustainability,</p>



the bioeconomy is deemed to generate solutions for a better use of resources, life-cycle management and the development of new materials. Because the industries in the bioeconomy, the value chains, the collaborations between stakeholders are new, there are major challenges in terms of skills: both to develop the right skills and to attract & retain skills in the industry.

The AER working group on the bioeconomy was therefore set up in Spring 2022, to facilitate knowledge and experience exchange between regions on the bioeconomy, how regions support its development and how they support the development of the skills of the future.

This workshop will look at food and food production for the future, with sustainability and security as the tagline. A key focus will be on young voices in relation to food production and education, innovation and recruitment.

Speakers:

- **Aud Hove**, Deputy Mayor of Innlandet (NO), Chair of AER working group on the bioeconomy

Contact person/lead organiser:

- **Johanna Pacevicius**, Coordinator for Policy & Knowledge Transfer, AER

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30-12.30

Guided tour of Gteic Gaoth Dobhair

Host region Údarás na Gaeltachta will showcase its 'Gteic' rural innovation hubs for delegates, a model of how to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in rural regions.

Facilitator:

- **Micheál Ó hÉanaigh**, AER Vice President for Youth

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

Venue: Amharclann Gaoth Dobhair

13.30 – 17.30

13:45 -15:00: Consolidation session on conclusions from each of the workshops

Facilitator:

- **Christian Spahr**, AER Secretary General



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15:00 - 17.30: Closing Ceremony

Confirmed guest speaker:

- **Jack Chambers**, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility as Government Chief Whip and at the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media with special responsibility for the Gaeltacht and sport.

They will also be treated to a session of Irish music by artist in residence, Mairead Ni Maonaigh.

18.30	Farewell Dinner Venue: An Cuir Hotel (Gaoth Dobhair) Closing speeches, awards and a showcase of Irish dancing.
22.00	Return buses to Letterkenny

Friday, 2 September

Departures

Shuttle buses back to Airports (Donegal or Dublin)*

**Airport transfer will be organised by Donegal County Council according to the data provided in your registration form*