

YOUZ – The Youth Forum of Emilia-Romagna

YOUZ – Forum Giovani Emilia-Romagna is the regional youth forum implemented through a large-scale participatory process promoted by the Emilia-Romagna Region in Italy, designed to actively involve young people in shaping public policies.

Launched in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, YOUZ responds to a growing need to rebuild trust, inclusion, and civic engagement among younger generations.

Rather than being a single event, YOUZ is **structured as a distributed and ongoing forum**. It unfolds through a series of local meetings, workshops, and thematic labs across the region, culminating in larger regional gatherings. These spaces allow young people—typically aged 18 to 35—to express concerns, share experiences, and co-design proposals on key issues affecting their lives.

The process focuses on **several strategic themes**, including work, housing, education and employment, mental health and well-being, mobility, cultural participation, sustainability, and access and management of inclusive public and third spaces.

What distinguishes YOUZ is its emphasis on co-creation: participants are not just consulted, but actively engaged in generating ideas and solutions alongside institutions, experts, and community actors.

Importantly, YOUZ is not an isolated initiative. **It is embedded within the regional governance system and functions as a policy-making tool**. The insights and proposals collected during the forum are systematically analyzed and translated into concrete actions, **influencing regional programs, funding schemes, and strategic guidelines—particularly in the field of youth policies.**

A particularly distinctive feature of this fifth edition, YOUZ 5, is its bottom-up and co-designed approach, developed in close collaboration with a network of young AmbassadorZ. Rather than being imposed from above, the process has been shaped together with **young participants (under 25), who act as local “antennas” across all provinces of the region.**

The participatory journey runs from November 2025 to May 2026 through 25 territorial stages, already engaging around 760 participants. Dedicated to under-25s, YOUZ 5 builds on a guiding question—*“Imagine your future community: what made it more inclusive, more open, more full of opportunities?”*—to stimulate reflection, dialogue, and co-design.

The outcomes of this process will be consolidated with the AmbassadorZ community through dedicated moments of synthesis and capacity-building, including a residential YOUZ Camp in July 2026. **The final proposals will be publicly presented in October 2026 at the Festival of Young Generations in Rimini, before being formally submitted to the Regional Government during winter 2026/27 by Giovanni Paglia, Regional Councillor with responsibility for housing, employment and youth policy.**

In this way, the ideas emerging directly from young people across the 25 stages will contribute to shaping the next cycle of regional youth policies (2028–2030).

By bridging grassroots participation and institutional decision-making, **YOUZ represents an innovative model of democratic engagement**. Altogether, **this process contributes to making real the vision of Emilia-Romagna as a region where young people are true protagonists - actively involved in shaping their future - through a coordinated ecosystem of opportunities, actions, and collaborations between institutions, territories, and the communities that inhabit them.**

YOUZ 5 generazione di idee

2025 - 2026

YOUZ is the youth forum of the Emilia-Romagna Region: a participatory process, a vibrant, open, non-discriminatory, and intersectional space, and a flexible platform for dialogue with the younger generation, where we can work together to shape future regional policies.

"Imagine yourself in the future. In your community, there is more listening, more space, and more opportunities. What made all of this possible?"

Location	Date
Piacenza	9/03
Rivergaro	6/02
Sorbolo	17/05
Parma	20/03
Correggio	7/03
Reggio Emilia	22/01
Borgo Val di Taro	13/12
Vetto	11/04
Modena	28/11
Maranello	17/04
Bologna	7/11
Imola	11/03
Faenza	22/02
Forlì	22/04
Santa Sofia	16/11
Mercato Saraceno	29/11
Copparo	30/02
Ferrara	12/12
Ravenna	27/02
Cesena	28/03
Santarcangelo	14/03
Sogliano	29/11
Rimini	22/11

Past events

- 1 Bologna 7/11/2025
- 2 Santa Sofia 16/11/2025
- 3 Rimini 22/11/2025
- 4 Modena 28/11/2025
- 5 Sogliano 29/11/2025
- 6 Mercato Saraceno 29/11/2025
- 7 Ferrara 12/12/2025
- 8 Borgo Val di Taro 13/12/2025
- 9 Reggio Emilia 22/01/2026
- 10 Copparo 30/01/2026
- 11 Rivergaro 6/02/2026
- 12 Faenza 22/02/2026
- 13 Ravenna 27/02/2026
- 14 Correggio 07/03/2026
- 15 Piacenza 9/03/2026
- 16 Imola 11/03/2026
- 17 Santarcangelo 14/03/2026
- 18 Parma 20/03/2026
- 19 Cesena 28/03/2026
- 20 Vetto 11/04/2026
- 21 Maranello 17/04/2026
- 22 Forlì 22/04/2026

Next events

- 23 Guastalla 09/05/2026
- 24 Sorbolo 17/05/2026

800+

participants

YOUTH YOUZ AMBASSADORZ
32 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Events & co-design

Report

Final Events @Rimini
October 2026

Presentation of ideas to the ER Executive Committee

Co-design at the Summer Camp for the final event