

2024 PROJECT CATALOGUE



ABOUT EURODESK

Eurodesk aims to create bridges in Europe and open up international opportunities to all young people, no matter your background or your life situation. We see that not enough of you are aware of the various programmes out there - from a paid internship abroad to taking part in volunteering projects, all costs covered. An experience abroad can have a massive positive impact on your life, and we believe Europe needs the involvement of young people. This is why we operate with a network of youth workers all over Europe to reach out and provide you with neutral, free of charge and verified information on all financial support programmes to go abroad and have a voice in Europe.

Eurodesk in numbers

- 3000+ multipliers and ambassadors
- 38 Eurodesk centres in 36 countries
- 210.000 youth enquiries handled each year
- 5.000 public events
- 550.000 followers on social media
- 1,6 Million young people reached through face-to-face activities.

ABOUT THE EURODESK AWARDS

The Eurodesk Awards were established in 2011 to celebrate the day-to-day work of Eurodesk's local Multipliers, who are helping young people discover and seize the numerous opportunities Europe has to offer. By collecting youth (information) work best practices, the aim of the initiative is to bring Multipliers' projects to the fore and introduce them to stakeholders at European level. The organiser of the Eurodesk Awards 2024 initiative, on behalf of the Eurodesk network, is Eurodesk Brussels Link (EBL). In 2024 the organiser received 53 applications from 20 countries.

The projects competed for four awards:



Recognising the value of initiatives that demonstrate creativity and innovation in raising awareness about European opportunities.



Highlighting initiatives that promote inclusion and celebrate diversity, ensuring that information about European opportunities reaches a broad spectrum of young people, including those from marginalised or underrepresented groups.



Honouring initiatives that effectively engage young people in the decision-making processes, encouraging active participation in European opportunities, and fostering a sense of ownership among the youth.



The Eurodesk Network Prize was selected by Eurodesk National Coordinators. The prize was awarded to Eurodesk initiatives that showcase a strong community impact despite a lack of EU financial support.

The winners of the first three thematic category were decided by a jury panel:

**ROBERT
HELM-PLEUGER**

Eurodesk Executive
Committee Member

**LAURA
POPA**

Representative of the
European Parliament

**MATHIEU
ORPHANIDES**

Representative of the
European Commission

**LINA
MOHORIĆ**

Representative of
the Erasmus Student
Network

**ISMAEL
PAEZ CIVICO**

Representative of the
European Youth Forum

The Eurodesk Network Prize was selected by Eurodesk National Coordinators.

WINNING PROJECTS

EURO-BANA

The EURO-BANA project is the best example of out-of-the-box thinking and an innovative approach. To give more visibility and positive perception to the Eurodesk network; to promote youth information and its importance in non-formal education; and to raise young people's awareness of the opportunities offered to them by EU mobility programmes, the organisers ran the event in a rented tram!



Eurodesk Pop-Up

The Eurodesk Pop-Up event was organised as a storytelling game with challenges (Escape Room-like) for students in Central Dalmatia's rural areas on the topics of the Erasmus+ programme, other opportunities for young people, and the Eurodesk network. During the event, participants faced a variety of challenging tasks to help the young person achieve their dream mobility.



Watch out, Reach out!

Watch out, Reach out! project aimed to create accessible contexts and provide educational, artistic, and cultural events tailored to the needs of disadvantaged groups in the local community and young people. While the city residents enjoyed events in the central area, inmates also could appreciate artistic and cultural activities in the courtyard. Additionally, organisers celebrated International Youth Day through a series of workshops dedicated to raising awareness of the challenges faced by individuals at risk and with disabilities.



StraVol.To – La Gara Di Tutti

The Stravolto was an initiative that promotes Youth Participation and Engagement: in fact, the focus of the event were volunteers (18-28 years old) of Civil Service projects managed by VolTo and young people involved through the Eurodesk local point. The idea was to highlight the commitment and passion with which young people do voluntary work in their daily lives. The participants were encouraged to enhance teamwork, communication and leadership skills, through entertaining activities fostering cooperation and engagement.



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EURO-BANA

Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury
Nr 2 in Piekary Śląskie,
Poland

Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury Nr 2 in Piekary Śląskie is an out-of-school education facility and runs extra-curricular activities every day from Monday to Friday. More than 400 children and young people take part in our activities every week. We provide various youth activities, mainly concerned with art, music, language, digital, one of which includes a Eurodesk Poland info point.

The project aimed to elevate the visibility and positive perception of the Eurodesk Poland network by spotlighting its activities and the outcomes resulting from these endeavours. It sought to advocate for youth information among decision-makers and stakeholders, emphasising its significance in non-formal education and governmental initiatives for youth. Additionally, the project aimed to promote the benefits of Eurodesk Poland network membership for affiliated organisations. Activities centred around innovative informational initiatives, notably **renting a tram for a unique outreach campaign**.

Young individuals and educators from various schools across Silesia were invited to engage in entertaining yet educational activities aboard the tram. Volunteers disseminated information about European youth programmes, facilitated interactive game stations, and recruited Eurodesk youth ambassadors. Subsequent training courses in Chorzów and Katowice enhanced the ambassadors' capabilities. The project yielded both qualitative and quantitative outcomes. Qualitatively, there was an enhanced understanding of the Eurodesk network and European youth programmes, improved skills in accessing European information resources, and strengthened connections between Eurodesk points and youth beneficiaries.



Additionally, there was a notable boost in leadership competencies among young volunteers. Quantitatively, approximately 150 youth directly participated in the campaign.

This initiative is closely linked to the theme category, as it exemplifies creativity and innovation in raising awareness of European opportunities. The decision to rent a tram for the information campaign reflects a novel approach to engaging young people and stakeholders, breaking away from traditional methods of dissemination. By transforming an everyday means of transport into an interactive learning space, the project organisers demonstrated a keen understanding of the need for innovative approaches to capture the attention and interest of their target audience. The activities carried out on board the tram, such as interactive game stations and recruitment drives for Eurodesk Youth Ambassadors, underline the creativity of the project.

These engaging elements not only disseminated information effectively, but also made the learning process enjoyable and memorable for the participants. By injecting fun and entertainment into educational activities, the initiative successfully tapped into the interests and preferences of the youth, maximising engagement and impact.

This initiative embodies the essence of 'Creative Youth Information' by embracing creativity and innovation as essential components in raising awareness of European opportunities.

Through its unconventional approach, engaging activities and proactive outreach efforts, the project not only effectively disseminated information, but also inspired and empowered young people to explore and seize the opportunities.

This initiative has had a significant impact on young people and the local community.



There was an increased awareness of the existence and activities of the Eurodesk network and the European programmes available for young people. Young people gained skills in finding European information and using a variety of sources. We also established numerous contacts between the Eurodesk points and the beneficiaries, thus promoting the points in the local community. Thanks to our initiative, the leadership competences of the young volunteers working with our Eurodesk points have also increased.

We have also started to build **a network of young Eurodesk ambassadors**, which has allowed us to reach out to various local communities in Silesia, thereby building stronger social ties and promoting the idea of active participation of young people in social life and European programmes and initiatives, and in the long term to then carry out information campaigns during the Time to Move campaign in various schools in Silesia initiated and led by our ambassadors-volunteers.





Escape Room - International Opportunities For Youth (Soba Pobega - Mednarodne Priložnosti Za Mlade) Zavod Nefiks, Slovenia

Zavod Nefiks is an NGO dedicated to supporting young people and youth organisations in recognising, showcasing, and promoting their non-formal skills and competencies. Our ultimate goal is to provide career guidance for young people through a range of activities. To achieve this, we conduct various promotional activities to raise awareness about non-formal learning and organise educational events like courses, seminars, and workshops to enhance the skills of young people and promote entrepreneurship. We are an Eurodesk multiplier office and we regularly inform young people and youth workers about international opportunities and support them in applying for projects and participating in mobilities.

Our main objective was to inform young people (aged 13 to 30) about the opportunities that Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) offer them. To make it fun and interactive, so young people would actually want to participate in the workshop, **we created an educational escape room.**

Escape rooms in general are something that young people enjoy and willingly participate in. In March 2023 we started developing the escape room together with our ESC volunteers and created a game that fit in **a single suitcase that could be carried around from youth centre to youth centre** so we brought the activity to the youth. The story of the game goes like this: Participants embark on a DiscoverEU journey and on the train they find a forgotten suitcase, their task is to figure out who is the owner and to contact them. The contents of the suitcase include a learning diary, Youthpass certificates and several other objects that belong to a former ESC volunteer and participant in youth exchanges that was returning home from one of her mobilities. After the game we have a short discussion about what kind of projects they can participate in and how. From April to October 2023 we implemented the escape room in 13 different locations (10 in Ljubljana, 2 in Koper and 1 in Postojna).

More than 150 young people participated (including young people who have fewer opportunities, young people with autism and NEET). The escape room is still available and we will continue using it for informing young people about mobility opportunities.

Our project corresponds to the Creative Youth Information category because we found a way to present the information to the young people that would never attend a presentation on the same topic. Through the game and with the discussion in the end, the participants learned about Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC), and in the future when they see these programmes they will recognise them and know what they are about (at least they will know that it's something good for them).

One of the props in the game is a "DiscoverEU train ticket" that has a QR code that leads the participants to an online activity (<https://ljubljana.cityoflearning.eu/sl/activities/15902>)

where they can find more information about youth exchanges, volunteering and DiscoverEU. We encourage the participant to take the "tickets" home as a souvenir. Also we gave out useful promotional materials that the NA provided so each participant took home something with the Erasmus+ and/or ESC logo. So everytime they look at or use these objects they are reminded of the activity and the international opportunities.



Young people that participated in the activity are now aware of the opportunities offered to them by Erasmus+ and ESC, they also know that they can get more information about these programmes at our Eurodesk point or from the youth workers in the youth centres where we implemented the activity. The youth workers that work in the youth centres also learned more about these programmes and know that they can come to us as the Eurodesk multiplier office for more information. Other Eurodesk points have contacted us to help them create something similar.





Balance Youth Opportunities With Eurodesk!

Hatay Mustafa Kemal University, Türkiye

Hatay Mustafa Kemal University (MKU) is a state university established in Hatay in 1992. Hatay is one of the 81 provinces in Türkiye and Antakya is the central city of Hatay province. MKU has become an prestigious education and science centre through continuous development. Hatay Mustafa Kemal University has 12 faculties, 6 four-year colleges, 11 two-year vocational schools, 3 post-graduate institutes, 19 research centres and one university hospital. Hatay Mustafa Kemal University has been the Eurodesk contact point since 2022. Studies are carried out not only in academic studies but also in the field of European Union youth projects. In the field of Erasmus+ Youth, both project information activities and project execution activities are carried out.

The devastating earthquakes that occurred on 06.02.2023 seriously affected our city. Many of our citizens have lost their lives and our young people have turned into profiles with limited opportunities.

As Hatay Mustafa Kemal University, we aimed to design **a sustainable and environmentally friendly game** in addition to information seminars to introduce EU youth opportunities to these young people, and to both entertain and inform young people with the game we designed.

The game we have developed can be played by 2-6 people and provides information as well as engaging young people in a fun competition with its balance and time strategy. The game is played thanks to question patterns containing Eurodesk opportunities sandwiched between wooden boards.



Initially, the boards are in a balanced position, forming a tower. Question plaques stuck between the boards contain questions/suggestions about Eurodesk opportunities. The player chooses a board so as not to upset the balance and tries to answer the question on it against the clock. If correct, it gets points.

If it is wrong, the other party has the right to reply. The Eurodesk representative introduces the relevant Eurodesk opportunity in detail and directs you to the opportunity web page via the QR code on the question plate. The game continues until the balance is broken and the tower collapses. As a result of this material, young people are enabled to both learn about opportunities and have fun with a time-based balance game.

Although our initiative actually covers 3 different categories, it is designed to provide information in a creative way at its core.

Eurodesk is an information network established to introduce and disseminate the numerous European Union education, youth and volunteering opportunities to young people. Information is generally provided through question-answer and physical/online information approaches. In this process, we turned Eurodesk opportunities informative into a game. With the game, young people not only learn, but also take part in a balance game against time and compete

against the other young person to correct answer more questions.

After each question, the Eurodesk contact person/representative provides information regarding the relevant question and directs you to the relevant web page via QR code for opportunities. With this approach, young people go through an experiential learning process to learn about Eurodesk opportunities and also calculate the balance for their next move within the scope of the game. In this way, youth information can be displayed creatively through gamification and based on peer interaction. Both a sustainable and environmentally friendly material, a gamification approach, and digitally directing the questions answers to opportunities with a QR code appear as a creative youth information tool that covers all the priorities. That's why we thought the creative information/creative tools category was suitable for project application.

We decided to design a creative information material for young people to both have fun and learn. We decided that this material would be useful, especially in mass information. Thanks to our game, young people can develop their balance-based strategies and be informed about Eurodesk opportunities. Our initiative has an impact on young people in two different ways. The first impact actually involves introducing Eurodesk opportunities to young

people who have not come to learn about Eurodesk. While sitting with our student groups, we asked: "Dear young people, would you like to learn about the opportunities that will change the balance of your life?" and generally use this material in teams of 4 people. In this way, we can introduce youth opportunities through games and broaden their horizons. The second effect includes young people who come to get information about Eurodesk opportunities. We generally use this method for informing two people. For the young person who comes to get information, we actually start by saying "let's play a game first".

This offers young people an interactive and innovative learning experience instead of monotonous information. We have also added some common misconceptions to the questions. We convey the correct information to the young person through question cards, based on a proposition such as "Erasmus is only available at universities". In this way, young people have a more exciting experience of gaining knowledge.





A Night In The Forest: Cook In The Nature

Pieriga Partnership /Pierigas partnerība, Latvia

We are a Local Action Group who works in near-by Riga, Capital of Latvia, area (Olaine/Marupe region). One of our priorities within the development of the territory is youth, their involvement in civic processes, so we also promote opportunities which give the EU, working as Eurodesk Info point. We work together with local Youth centres, and also support/promote LEADER projects, which are aimed at youth as well.

It was an activity included in European Youth Week to inform youngsters about mobility opportunities, about the possibility to change the world and become active - in everyday life - to spend time in the nature/ forests, and also as the active citizens - travel, do volunteering work, realise their own projects.

Activities included:

- Organising the event and attracting the youngster to it (e.g. transportation);
- Organising a hike in the forest and cooking together with

youngsters (under the supervision of chef Renars Purnalis);

- Leading informal discussions with the Eurodesk infopoint ambassador;
- Collecting feedback from youngsters.

Result: the youngsters got inspiration on how to spend time in the forest, they had some strong vision on how to be a part of a team and work together, and they got a vision on how to become a part of the European Solidarity Corps Programme.

The initiative corresponds to the thematic category Creative Youth Information:

- The event was based on the issue: FOOD;
- It was made in nature, in the evening (the daytime when youth like to go out);
- It was led by well-known Latvian chef Renars Purnalis;

- The information about the European Solidarity Corps programme was provided in an informal, discussion way.

The young people were included in the activities all together, they had a need to cooperate - so they established friendship also within regions/youth centres. Some of them started to visit the youth centres after the activity, getting to know each other. Local community has been impacted to attract young people to the area, and has the opportunity to meet with the representative of local community NGO's. Also the chef Renars Purmalis is a resident of the community - so it makes more welcome young people to be involved in the local community activities in the future.



European Week

Youth House Sliven, Bulgaria

Youth House is a municipal youth centre in Sliven, Bulgaria. We are organising various events and working with the young people of the municipality. Our focus includes European citizenship, personal development, career consultancy, soft skills, and more. Youth House is a member of the Eurodesk network, and we are the sole information point for Eurodesk in the region. We offer diverse workshops, a debate club, an eco club, a music club, and training sessions on leadership, teamwork, fake news, social media, volunteering, and communication. Since 1998, we have had a youth council, and the young people organise events based on their needs with our support. We collaborate with all schools, NGOs working with young people, marginalised groups, and institutions.

European Week is a campaign that comprises various events and takes place during May. We organise **“We Rule Together,” an event held on May 9th**, which coincides with Europe Day.

During this event, **young people from different schools step into the roles of key city figures for a day**. These roles include the Mayor, the Governor of the region, the Director of the Regional Department of Education, and the Director of the Regional Department of the National Social Security Institute, among others. In the second half of the month, we also host an event called the “European Fair.” It is a day during which all our partners present workshops showcasing their work, activities, and organisations in the heart of the city. The focus of the event is on European opportunities. As partners, we invite NGOs that work on European projects with young people, the Regional Information Center for European projects, the office of one of the members of the European Parliament, the local commission for fighting human trafficking, and the university department responsible for Erasmus+ student mobilities. Our main objective is to consolidate all information about these opportunities in one place, making it easily accessible to people in a fun and entertaining way.

Additionally, during the 'We Rule Together' campaign, we provide young people with the chance to meet the official representatives of these institutions, allowing them to better understand their work and fostering youth participation. Lastly, we also organised a painting competition.

During European Week in May, a multitude of events unfold. One such initiative, "We Rule Together," empowers young individuals who might otherwise hesitate to step forward. By participating, they gain the confidence to develop their skills and knowledge. Often, they return for additional workshops or training sessions throughout the year. Some even become members of the youth council, taking charge of organising events themselves.



On the other side of the spectrum, we engage with representatives from various institutions. They familiarise themselves with the youth, explaining their roles and responsibilities. This interaction paves the way for collaborative events. The existing rapport between the youth council and these representatives encourages open dialogue on diverse topics. The "European Fair" event serves as a unique platform in Sliven, bringing together all institutions and organisations working in the European domain.

Many individuals lack clarity about European funding projects or the specific functions of these institutions. The fair provides an informal yet effective space for communication and information exchange. Additionally, our "Europe in Colors" painting competition garnered over 300 submissions from young artists across the region. Through their artwork, we highlighted European landmarks and opportunities, fostering a deeper understanding of our shared heritage.



Trip Around Europe With Street Art Tour

Viljandi valla noortekeskus, Estonia

Viljandi parish Youth centre was created in June 2022 and it includes 5 smaller youth centres under organisation. Our youth centre is located in a big rural area and our main target group is 12-16-years old youngsters, mostly boys. Viljandi parish youth centre is very active in networking with other youth centres and was Eurodesk multiplier in Estonia and involved the whole Viljandimaa county (4 municipalities).

We celebrated the Time to Move campaign to give young people artistic inspiration and the courage to express themselves through art. The **street art tour** ended with a class at the art school, where we talked about Erasmus+ possibilities and designed logos for the Time to Move T-shirt campaign. An art tour with an art teacher gave young people the courage to think outside the box and travel around Europe in their minds. We celebrated the Time to Move campaign all over Viljandimaa county with a street art tour.

Participating youngsters impressed us with their creativity to travel in Europe through drawing. They got new information about Erasmus+ opportunities and met new people all around Viljandi county.



Youth Cluster – A World Of Opportunities

Associação Youth Cluster - Um Mundo de Oportunidades, Portugal

The Youth Cluster is a youth-led association focusing on informing young people about national and European programmes to address youth unemployment. Each team member has participated in various opportunities, including European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Volunteering projects, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges and Training Courses, Erasmus internships, and studies. Recognising the importance of disseminating these opportunities across Portugal, the team established **the Youth Cluster platform** - this platform compiles information on programmes available to young people and maintains an updated agenda of opportunities, covering internships, contests, grants and more. The Youth Cluster collaborates with newspapers, educational institutions, associations and municipalities to spread these opportunities, ensuring that young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, have the chance to step outside their comfort zone, experience the EU and acquire a diverse skill set.

The Youth Cluster, established in 2020 as a platform promoting financed opportunities, was inspired by best practices, such as the Eurodesk Opportunity Finder. Our primary objective was to compile accessible and reliable information about National and European financed opportunities for young people in Portugal - volunteering, internships, grants, etc. In 2021, our association started actively promoting the platform and the above mentioned opportunities across Portugal, thus, the project we are submitting to the Eurodesk Awards includes the creative



methods we used for promoting these opportunities in Portugal, but also among European youth so far. Our team experienced first hand how it is difficult to get information about the opportunities and get involved in the first place, therefore we collaborated with municipalities, educational institutions and media outlets across the country to reach our main target group. We also used creative dissemination methods, like postcards, flyers, articles, activism campaigns, pic-nics, booklets, monthly agendas, among others to create awareness among young people about the various European and national opportunities that can be used to tackle challenges of NEETs, while enhancing youth involvement and empowerment. With a follower base of over 5000 and having supported many young people in finding suitable opportunities, our objective is to continue reaching more youth and making them aware that these opportunities exist for everyone!

We have had significant impact on both young people and local communities so far and our objective is to continue to increase this impact. In regards to young people we have impacted them on a national and EU level by providing accessible and reliable information about national and European financed opportunities through creative methods as mentioned above.

These methods have been able to reach young people from North to South of Portugal, including islands and many of the young people who got in touch with these opportunities for the first time took part in them, allowing them to develop multiple competences. We specially highlight our focus on young people with fewer opportunities, since often, youngsters who lack accessible opportunities may feel disconnected from society, however, those who discover and engage in these opportunities tend to become active and engaged citizens.



Therefore, our project's core impact lies in making these funded programmes known to guide them to travel, volunteer, work, connect, learn, and believe in themselves as agents of positive change, which has an impact not only in their personal and professional lives, but also in their communities.

In regards to community impact, we have cooperated with multiple local entities, including municipalities and educational institutions across the country and remote areas, equipping them with information to support their young residents to learn about these opportunities, take part in them and be empowered.

TESTEMONIES FROM YOUTH



Find Your EUROPath!

Impuls Association, Poland

The Impuls Association was established on June 5, 2015. The Association's activities include: promotion and support of ecological activities, development of children and youth in accordance with their interests, cooperation with international organisations to organise projects. We carry out our activities by organising events for the local community, consulting and advisory points, and organising training. We have experience in sending volunteers abroad. Since August 11, 2020, we are part of the Eurodesk network.

The motivation to implement the project was the publication of a report titled: **"Young Heads"**, which **presented alarming data on the mental health of young people**. In this context, we decided to use the nature of the Eurodesk network to support young people, show them the possibilities of development and finding their own path. By organising an event addressed to young people and people working with youth, we achieved the following goals: increasing

the recognition of the Eurodesk network in the local environment, using products, activities and information and promotional materials and know-how of Eurodesk Poland, celebrating and promoting the 20th anniversary of the Eurodesk network in Poland and presentation of the benefits of membership in the network, promotion of European programmes, opportunities to benefit from projects co-financed by the EU. An important aspect of the project implementation was the integration of the young community and presenting them with the opportunities they have in terms of spending their free time, developing their interests and taking advantage of the offer of European projects.



The project participants were local youth from secondary schools, universities and institutions working for youth and the local community. The **“Find your EUROPATH”** project involved organising an event during which Eurodesk Częstochowa consultants promoted their activities/ services.

The project “Find your EUROPATH!” had a significant impact on young people and the local community by: increasing the level of knowledge about young people’s mental health, opportunities to develop young people’s interests, as well as about European projects and the offer of the Eurodesk network.



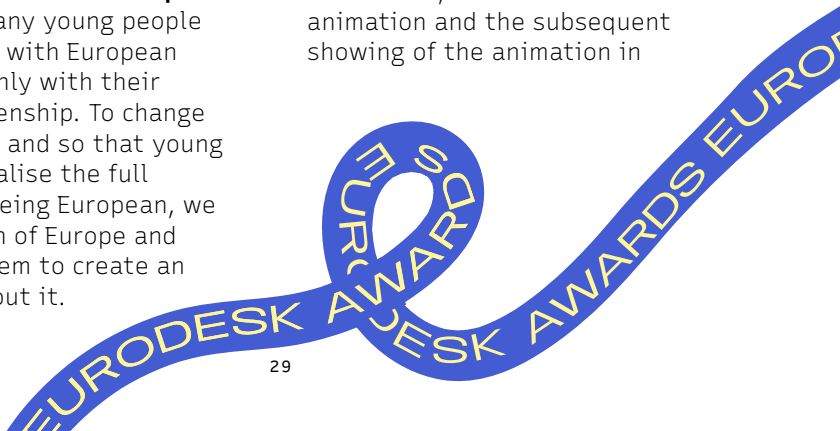
The Myth Of Europe

Municipality of Paredes, Portugal

Situated in the North of Portugal, close to Oporto city, the Municipality of Paredes has extraordinary conditions. It benefits from an excellent train and good highway accessibility. Our Municipality has presented an increased demographic growth and a relevant social economical potential. Paredes with 87 thousand inhabitants is the 27^o county more populated of Portugal. Although it is one of the youngest counties with an average age of population with 33 and 1/3 of the population under 25 years old. There are unique examples of Romanesque legacy and industrial architecture awarded with a contemporary Architecture Prize.

The **Myth of Europe** project's main objectives are **promoting awareness of our citizenship as Europeans**. Many young people don't identify with European citizenship, only with their national citizenship. To change this situation and so that young people can realise the full potential of being European, we used the myth of Europe and challenged them to create an animation about it.

A young woman with a background in multimedia, together with other young people, took up the challenge and translated the legend into an animation. Based on the legend and European citizenship, we wanted young people to have access to the opportunities that Europe offers them. This work began with a thematic discussion with the young people about Europe and it was the young people who chose this way of working on the theme, which served as information through peers because the young people themselves used the legend to take the European message to their colleagues and friends. This work had a lot of impact because it involved the young people, around 500 participants, from the creation of the idea, the realisation of the animation and the subsequent showing of the animation in



different contexts as a pretext for talking about what Europe can represent in the lives of young people.

Most of the young people that have the opportunities to watch the animation of the myth of Europe didn't have the opportunity to contact with European information. They were apart and after this experience they were invited to join the European opportunities.



Get Inspired, Get Involved, Get Skilled

Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service, Ireland

Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service has over 50 years' experience working with communities in the area, and operates many types of Project, varying from Community Youth Projects to Garda Youth Diversion Projects to Community Based Drugs Initiatives. The organisation operates 40 Youth Projects, has over 120 staff, 300 volunteers, and works with over 10,000 young people each year. We've been working in European Youth Work since the 1980's and are involved in many aspects of Erasmus+, including Youth Worker Mobilities, Youth Exchanges, Cooperation Partnerships, European Solidarity Corps (ESC), Discover EU, and ERYICA Youth Information Centres.

2023 was the European Year of Skills. We wanted to use the **opportunity to highlight the skills that can be obtained through involvement in different European Opportunities**. The Event was MC'd by a young person with all the speakers and performers being young. There then was a panel with the professionals that could

help young people to also have these experiences. There were a number of speakers who focused on the skills they obtained as well as musical performances and short videos. Our local European MEP also spoke at the event about the importance of voting in the Elections and her role as a MEP in Europe. There was young people who spoke about their involvement in Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges, Semesters abroad, and their ESC adventure. There were also three performances from a solo act, a band and a rapper. Young people spoke about the skills they acquired through their apprenticeship. Videos were shown about Eures and pictures. Two young people from Ukraine also spoke about their journey to Waterford and how they linked with local youth services and got involved in life in Waterford - at 19 years of age this showcased the skill of Resilience. An expert panel then took questions from the audience on how they could get involved in Erasmus+, ESC and Apprentices.

About 300 young people attended the event in our local Theatre and were provided with some Merch and information on European Opportunities available to them. The event reached about 300 young people.

Young people from schools, youth centres, and early school leaving programmes attended the event. The Mayor of the city opened the event with our local MEP speaking at the event. We did it in conjunction with our local Europe Direct Centre. The event promoted our services throughout the city to young people and adults.



Refl'Action

Youthmakers Hub, Greece

Youthmakers Hub (YMH) is a European non-profit organisation based in Greece, specialising in Capacity Building, Communication and Dissemination for impact-driven projects in Europe and Africa. The organisation's vision is to cultivate a new generation of empowered young individuals who create positive change in their communities. Youthmakers Hub's mission is to serve as a catalyst for social change by providing the necessary tools and knowledge and fostering collaborations between Europe and Africa. By providing inclusive education, empowering organisations and individuals, and fostering collaborations, Youthmakers Hub actively contributes to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs).

Refl'Action focused on embedding reflective practices into the daily lives of young Europeans, aiming to **foster well-being and conscious growth**. The project was designed to acclimate educators and youth workers to apply reflective practices, enriching young people's learning experience.

It underpinned a variety of programme priorities, including the enhancement of well-being, the encouragement of active engagement in community life, and the reinforcement of digital skill sets. The project aimed to instil a sense of European identity, inspiring youth to embrace active citizenship through empowerment by reflective living. To realise its goals, Refl'Action has orchestrated eight distinctive activities over 18 months, including:

- A transnational meeting for exchanging reflective good practices;
- Critical research to underpin these practices with academic credibility;
- Local physical events across France, Italy, and Greece to engage youth directly;
- A 48-hour online Hackathon to innovate and apply reflective methods;
- A transnational training for trainers;
- A Communication Kit;
- A Practice Brief;

- A Compilation of insights and methodologies in a Final Report.

The project advanced organisational development, fostering professional ties and expertise in non-formal education. Team members gained valuable skills, and the sustainability plan ensured the continued utilisation of results. Participants have reported improvements in personal development and a heightened well-being awareness.

Refl'Action's impact on 300 young participants has been significantly amplified through its innovative approach to raising awareness about European opportunities. The transnational meeting in Corse was a nexus for exchanging good practices among trainers

and researchers, setting the stage for collaborative progress. The application of experiential learning methodologies in 9 local events across three countries engaged participants in reflective practices and actively highlighted European opportunities. The research activity bridged theoretical constructs with practical implementation. It enriched the project and contributed valuable insights for integrating reflection into individual training cycles. The online Hackathon represented an inventive turning point, offering a platform for interactive learning about Erasmus+ programmes and engaging with experts. This event was particularly effective in reaching young individuals in



disadvantaged areas, illuminating pathways to European mobility. By producing the Practice Brief and comprehensive Final Report, "Refl'Action" crystallised its contributions to youth information dissemination.

The strategic distribution of these materials ensured that the project's innovative aspects resonated widely, fostering an informed youth equipped to seize European opportunities.

Moreover, the project's reach extended to the digital realm, with over 33K impressions on social media platforms.



Time to Travel

Europa Direkt Fyrbodol, Sweden

Europe Direct is an information network run by the European Commission together with the European Parliament Information Office and the municipality of Åmål. The office is also co-financed by Region Västra Götaland and a Eurodesk multiplier. During this programme period, 2021-2025, there are nearly 500 information offices across the EU, and in Sweden there are 15 offices. Their information and activities are aimed at a broad public. Europa Direkt Fyrbodol will help you answer questions about the EU, guide you through EU programmes and regulations, find EU documents and organise EU related activities and events.

The context: The project began at the annual meeting of Swedish Eurodesk (17-19 October 2023). One of the themes of these meetings was to present how to reach young people and they wanted the workshop to be presented by young people. So, the national coordinator of Eurodesk in Sweden asked for 2 workshops on how to reach

young people in general (aged 17–30) and how to improve the material about the European Solidarity Corps (Quiz). They asked an Eurodesk ambassador, Amalia, and a French European Solidarity Corps volunteer who works at Europe Direct Fyrbodol, Estelle. They worked together but Amalia focused more on general information on how to reach young people and Estelle on how to improve the material to present ESC. The objectives: The main aim of the workshop was to improve the material used to present the ESC, which consisted of a quiz. With this in mind, we had to find a creative way of presenting this information and include more participation from young people so that they would be more interested in the mobility programme so that they will contact us to have more information about European mobility opportunities. Estelle decided **to create a board game “Time to Travel” to present the ESC programme.**

Presentation of the game: Players will be travellers who want to build the best suitcase to get the most points. To do this, they'll have to travel to different European capitals to obtain the items by answering "mobility questions", follow their travel plan or take up challenges.

The game Time to Travel had two different impacts on young people and the local community. Firstly, the game was created to have a big impact on young people that they can discover and remember the different European opportunities. The game is designed to make them want to find out more about different forms of mobility. Through the game, the young people will also

discover European citizen's rights and how they impact their lives, like not needing to change a phone package when you travel.

To think about how the European Union is important and to be part of it and become an active citizen. Secondly, the game was created in English so that it can be used by all Eurodesk multipliers in Europe. Like this it can reach a lot of young people in different local communities. Also, the game is translated into Swedish and French to reach more young people if they have difficulties with the English language.



Kozani Youth Fest 2023

European Initiative for Youth Empowerment,
Mindfulness and Wellbeing - GO Alive, Greece

“GO Alive” youth organisation is a youth NGO established in January 2020, which is located in the city centre of Kozani in Western Macedonia, Greece. The values, vision and aims of the Organisation are:

- The educational, professional, cultural and mental empowerment and development of young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and the improvement of their skills and competences;
- The support of the mobility of young volunteers, trainees and employees by promoting youth work and youth initiatives;
- The promotion of mindfulness, self-awareness, wellbeing, a healthy and a balanced lifestyle, with an emphasis on prevention and active/healthy ageing;
- The spreading of volunteerism, freedom, democracy, human rights, gender equality, social inclusion and solidarity, human dignity, the role of the active citizen.

The **2nd Kozani Youth Fest 2023**, coordinated by GO Alive in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Western Macedonia Region, Kozani Chamber of Commerce, and the Municipality of Kozani, was a resounding success from October 20-22, 2023. The festival, celebrating the European Year of Skills, was held during the “Time to Move” Eurodesk campaign and aimed to enhance youth skills, promote lifelong learning, and foster digital and green growth.

It offered interactive workshops, engaging talks, and networking opportunities, thanks to contributions from



local institutions, businesses, and invaluable volunteers. The Kozani Youth Fest 2023 featured an array of activities and workshops focused on upskilling, digital literacy, innovation, empowerment, and environmental sustainability. Highlights included forums on reskilling, discussions on digital skills, innovation in modern times, and youth empowerment through volunteering. Workshops ranged from nutrition, mental health, 3D printing, and recycling to sessions on finding one's Ikigai, meditation, and effective feedback. The festival also hosted info kiosks, interactive labs on digital wellbeing, community empowerment, and sustainable living, alongside cultural and artistic engagements, all aimed at fostering skills, knowledge, and active participation among the

youth. This initiative empowered more than 500 young individuals and strengthened community ties among 15 organisations.

The Kozani Youth Fest 2023 significantly impacted young people and the local community by enhancing awareness of European opportunities, skill development, and environmental sustainability. It empowered participants through hands-on workshops and dialogues, fostering a sense of European identity and active citizenship. The festival also strengthened community bonds and supported local economic growth by involving local businesses and cultural organisations, promoting social cohesion, and encouraging youth entrepreneurship and innovation, thereby contributing to the region's digital and green



transition. More than 100 young people took part in the opening youth forum on Friday 20th of October 2023, approximately 200 young people participated in the 17 interactive workshops and more than 500 were approached and informed during the youth party on Saturday 21st of October 2023. The Kozani Youth Fest 2023 brought together a diverse coalition of organisations, each contributing unique expertise and resources. These ranged from Hyperion Robotics, innovating with 3D printing technology, to CluBE, focusing on bioeconomy

and environmental sustainability. EAST WEST offered insights into textile recycling, while MYFEO and IONOS NGO addressed mental health and social inclusion. ESN Western Macedonia and ARSIS Kozani engaged with youth mobility and social arts, respectively. The involvement of these organisations contributed to youth empowerment and community building.



Green Day

Eurodesk Karlovy Vary region, Czechia

Eurodesk Karlovy Vary Region is part of the European Youth Information Network. As a support organisation for the Erasmus+ Youth Programme, Eurodesk provides young people and those who work with them with comprehensive and accessible information on international opportunities.

As part of Earth Day, we organised an environmental event for students on the topic of environmentally friendly. There were lectures on eco-travel, volunteering, solidarity projects, reuse, recycling, upcycling, fast fashion, green deal. There was an exhibition of fairtrade products, environmental films were shown and an eco workshop. There was also a charity bazaar, the proceeds of which were intended for the organisation of the visually impaired TyfloCentrum Karlovy Vary. There were lectures on eco-travel, volunteering, solidarity projects, reuse, recycling, upcycling, fast fashion and green deal. An exhibition of fairtrade products was held and eco-friendly films were screened.

The event also included a charity bazaar, the proceeds of which were intended for the organisation of the visually impaired TyfloCentrum Karlovy Vary.

The event raised awareness of the EU Green Deal and stimulated debate among students and teachers on how they can be



environmentally friendly in their daily lives and which existing information resources they can use. Students learned how they can travel green, which local food they can buy, how they can reuse materials, swap or upcycle when shopping, how they can save natural resources, etc. This information will help them to change their behaviour towards sustainable development.



Day Full Of Local Volunteering Activities

Farní charita Litomyšl – Volunteer Centre, Czechia

Farní charita Litomyšl is a non-profit, religious organisation, part of the worldwide Caritas organisation and a Eurodesk multiplier. We have been operating since 1993 and provide health and social services to people in need. Besides these activities, we started to operate the Volunteer Centre in 2012, with around 50 volunteers per year, who help in children's leisure clubs, tutor, visit and talk to lonely elderly people, help in the library or help at charity runs, food collections, etc. We believe that you can gain lots of experience and skills while spending time with others. It is necessary to build a community where people look after each other and people of various backgrounds and ages connect to each other. Part of our job is also organising lectures and workshops at schools to introduce volunteering in our area, as well as opportunities abroad.

We organised our **1st Day full of local volunteering activities**.

Ten local organisations, where volunteers are coming and helping, informally presented volunteering activities.

We also introduced the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes (youth exchanges, group + individual volunteering, DiscoverEU) and raised awareness of these opportunities - a German volunteer who lives in our town participated as well, so it was great that she made the offers of activities abroad more authentic. Every organisation prepared a stand with easy and funny tasks that groups of 5 participants had to fulfil together, then they moved to another stand and received a small themed prize at the end. We believe that thanks to this event, young people will think



more about local volunteering, even try it and possibly decide to travel abroad. We invited classes of young people between 14 to 21 years, as well as the public. Those who came learned about the activities of the different organisations and volunteering opportunities in a playful way. The event was aimed at reducing the barriers that young people may have when they are interested in volunteering - they have to call somewhere, write somewhere, come to an unfamiliar environment. During our event they could see the people with whom they would cooperate in the organisations if they decide to become volunteers. Hopefully they would be less scared" to start volunteering or going abroad.

We believe that our event had a great impact on young people. Most of the young people did not know much about local volunteering possibilities or possibilities abroad. We were able to reach them directly, talk to them, they had opportunities to ask questions or tried to become "old" and feel what it means and how it feels for example (that was one of the activities prepared from an organisation looking after elderly people). We were able to reach the teachers as well and inform them about local volunteering possibilities and possibilities abroad. We were able to informally reach around 350 young people in a few hours.



Beyond Borders (Bez Hranic)

RADKA z. s., Czechia

RADKA z. s. is a non-profit organisation founded in 2003 to support all generations in many types of their needs. Our mission is to provide missing services in the region and improve life-quality of local children, youth and adults. The organisation is divided into 6 centres according to its focus and target groups: Intergenerational centre, Swimming Center, Volunteer Center, Education Center, Youth Center, International Cooperation. Since 2007 we have been cooperating with foreign partners in various international projects. We are a verified lead organisation for the European Solidarity Corps, accredited Erasmus+ organisation and since 2021 we are part of the Eurodesk network.

As part of the Time to Move campaign, we organised a comprehensive workshop called **"Beyond Borders"**, aimed at presenting opportunities for young people, particularly of the European Solidarity Corps and the Erasmus+ programmes, and motivating them to engage in such

activities, for example, by visiting our youth centre. The workshop consisted of an interactive presentation, an activity titled "First Day on Youth Exchange" - demonstrating communication games and activities to set group dynamics, and the game "Travel Across Europe from West to East" - an educational board game. The presentation covered topics such as Youth Exchanges, Youth Participation Activities, DiscoverEU, volunteering, and Solidarity Projects. Programme priorities were also mentioned and explained. Students further met long-term European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteers from Lithuania and Spain, who now participate in our organisation, and had the opportunity to view videos and photos from previously implemented projects. At the end of each workshop, students evaluated the workshop using reflective techniques. We conducted a total of 7 of these workshops, including 5 school-based workshops as part of regular classes, 1 school-based workshop as part of a so-called project day,

and 1 workshop for the general public at our organisation, in total approximately 150 people attended. From the feedback, overall satisfaction with the workshop and high motivation to engage in the presented activities of the participants was noted.

The workshop helped to increase awareness about presented programmes, empowered young people to explore these opportunities for their personal and professional development and motivated them to contribute positively to the local community. By participating in the workshops students developed a range of skills, including communication, teamwork, problem-solving and intercultural competence. Students also increased their knowledge about the European

Union. The present educators had the opportunity to engage in the activity, and they can now further spread awareness about these activities among other students or colleagues. The organisation has established ongoing collaboration with the participating schools and will continue with the activities in the future. As the organisation is active in all presented activities, it has expanded its potential client base, and active involvement of participating students in project activities is expected in the future.



HYP Friday Opportunities

Hellenic Youth Participation, Greece

Hellenic Youth Participation is a pioneering education and empowerment organisation that connects citizens locally, nationally and internationally. We envision a society in which each individual cares and acts.

“HYP Friday opportunity”

wished to mobilise young people towards European opportunities. Our main objective was to promote Eurodesk as a source of information and its website as a place to empower young people to look for opportunities. Every Friday, we started publishing different opportunities through stories and posts from our accounts on Facebook and Instagram (with more than 50.000 followers). We also made TikTok videos promoting volunteering, internships and European opportunities. In every post, we provided more information on Eurodesk and its website. The initiative has been very successful. Our consistent followers repost HYP Friday opportunities and contact us for more information.

Young people ask more about Eurodesk and participate on our info-days to find out more.

The initiative was fully digital; young people residing in Greece had equal opportunities to access information, regardless of whether they had a Eurodesk multiplier in their city or not. We also empower young people to search on their own and be able to have direct access to information.



Young International Mobility Office

La Rinconada Youth Information and Advice Center, Spain

The Youth area of the La Rinconada City Council works to promote the construction of the identity of young people, their personal autonomy as well as active and participatory social insertion, through the promotion and development of actions, projects, services and necessary equipment, from 5 to 35 years old, in addition to transversal work with other municipal departments. The Youth Service works to be the reference in the municipality for young people, where they can obtain information, where they can learn about alternatives, to participate in Youth policies, and to orient themselves in the decisions necessary for their autonomy and the improvement of their quality of life. We are a team that works oriented towards the young group and the improvement of their conditions, which on the one hand works directly on issues of leisure, participation, quality of life, emancipation, information, but whose work is also carried out transversally internally.

GOALS: The International Mobility Youth Office is a service that

consists of informing, assisting and advising young people on existing international mobility resources, promoting actions, preparing and launching European mobility projects at a local level and providing support and tutoring of the young people of the municipality who participate.

ACTIVITIES: The main lines of work are the Erasmus+ programme and the European Solidarity Corps, the Eurodesk Network, and programmes aim to offer young people opportunities to discover other realities in Europe and participate in community projects of different kinds.

The actions developed to achieve these objectives are:

- Publication on youth social network profiles;
- Creation of database of young people registered in the Office Information sessions at local IES about mobility projects training and support sessions for young people participating in projects;

- Offer mobility opportunities to young people at risk of exclusion and with fewer resources;
- Dynamization actions that encourage participation.

RESULTS:

- More than 200 mobilities of young people in Erasmus+ projects;
- 2,500 young people have received information about the mobility office;
- 300 young people have applied for places in projects;
- Development of advertising campaigns for different TTM projects, Discover EU;
- Creation of a travelling exhibition on EU experiences.

Periodic publications of the activities on networks of the La Rinconada city council (7,320 Instagram followers) and publications of activities and events of the Office in the local newspaper "Toma Nota" (15,000 copies).

Weekly publications on social networks specific to the youth area (1764 Instagram followers and 5500 on Facebook and 770 Twitter).

Specific posters of the possibility of being part of the Office in key points for young people, educational centres (4 IES and a Concerted Center), sports spaces, cultural centres, civic centres. All publications, both digital and physical, feature the official Eurodesk logo. Increase in the participation of local youth in European projects, carrying out up to almost 300 mobility actions. Publications of own events related to the web. Support, advice and monitoring of a newly created Youth Association whose objectives include the participation and mobility of young people. Support, advice and monitoring of sports clubs in obtaining the OID, as well as in the preparation of Erasmus+ projects. Collaboration agreements in projects such as NOTE, E-VOICE, ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION - The Office is part of ReFAL.



Discover Europe! (Virtual Escape Game)

Eurocentrum Pardubice, Czechia

Eurocentrum Pardubice is governmental organisation and information point where it is possible to gain a lot of data about the European Union, its history, function, politics, member states, symbols, EU funds and EU institutions career. Organisation is also a multiplier of the Eurodesk network, so its working is focused on organising many information activities about the opportunities for young people. Eurocentrum organises free seminars, debates, conferences, competitions and quizzes about the EU topics for pupils, students, public and other special or professional groups. Eurocentrum is accessible for all citizens, it offers many types of brochures, educational documents and books.

The aim of **Discover Europe! escape game** is looking for the code number that helps 13-30 years of age young people to open suitcase, go to Europe and discover European Member States, adventures and experiences. Participants can get to know lots of interesting facts about Member States and opportunities as well

as the European projects within the EU. The game is launched in a virtual student's room where it is needed to gather clues through different tasks. Every task is connected with a concrete European project (Erasmus+ Youth Exchange, DiscoverEU, European Solidarity Corps and international volunteering, Solidarity Projects, EU Institutions Traineeships and Career) or Erasmus+ priorities (How to travel ecologically? It means travelling by ecological means of transport, green accommodation in young hostels, saving water, no plastic products, travelling with a small backpack etc. Information about the EURODESK site is also part of this activity. Each of the tasks is hidden under the subject in the room (map of Europe, notebook, backpack, sunglasses, mobile phone, books, camera, shoes). Activities are targeted on European history, flags, languages, traditional dishes, personalities, monuments or the presidency of Sweden in the EU through quiz, crossword, timeline or finding pairs. Finally, it is possible to gain the unique code number and send answers.

Many special tools or applications were used for the realisation of this project-Google Sites, Google Forms, LearningApps, Kahoot, Canva.

Due to the long-term functioning of the Eurocentrum Pardubice and the cooperation with local schools and universities, the escape game was promoted relatively easily. Eurocentrum Pardubice organised a large number of seminars, debates and workshops on the topic of European opportunities during this period because it is the period before the school holidays and teachers and students are therefore very interested in this topic. In the course of these activities, the escape game was also promoted and thanks to this a large number of young people implemented the escape game. After the end of the competition, interest in further discussions and workshops increased significantly in the new school year, the organisation thus successfully continues in organising its information activities. More young people are also interested in the possibilities of trips abroad and European mobility opportunities as well as they are interested in European mobility consultations. Eurocentrum Pardubice has established active cooperation with the EURES network and non-profit organisations where the escape game was also promoted. Non-profit organisations are

interested in volunteering opportunities in terms of the European Solidarity Corps. Due to this fact, Eurocentrum Pardubice contributes to the support of young people to become active citizens and its activities have a positive impact on the local community.



21st Century Competencies

Gürsu Municipality, Türkiye

Gürsu Municipality has been one of the 17 districts of Bursa since 1930. It provides services to approximately 120.000 people. It is involved in many local and international projects. At the same time, our organisation has the most active Eurodesk Contact Point in our city. Apart from this, it carries out its activities by attaching great importance to youth projects and professional development projects. It always increases its institutional capacity by making international cooperation.

We have realised approximately 18 European Union projects. Since 2019, approximately 29,000 young people have been served. Gürsu Municipality continues to work to make Gürsu a more livable city.

The main objectives of our project are to **develop 21st century competencies** and to provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in today's complex and ever-changing world.

These competencies include:



- Critical thinking and problem solving;
- Communication and cooperation;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Information literacy and digital skills;
- Citizenship and social responsibility;
- Learning to learn;
- Personal development through informal methods.

Activities of our project:

- Workshops and courses: Sessions with theoretical and practical information on 21st century competencies were organised;
- Workshops and practical workshops: Different sessions and informal methods were used to enable participants to develop competencies by experiencing them. Such as creativity, design thinking, gamification, effective communication methods, critical thinking methods;
- Group work and projects: Sessions were organised to develop local and international cooperation and communication skills with the participants of our project. Support was provided for the personal development of our participants during and after the project. Infrastructure was created to enable participants from

different countries to exchange knowledge and experience.

Results of your project:

Increased their knowledge and awareness about 21st century competencies. They were enabled to apply these competencies in their daily and working lives.

Impact on Young People:

- Developing Creativity and Skills: The initiative offered young people the opportunity to learn new skills and help them discover their creative potential;
- Personal Development: The initiative contributed to improving young people's self-confidence and problem-solving skills;
- Socialisation and Equal Opportunity: The initiative brought together young people from different backgrounds, allowing them to socialise and connect;
- Active Citizenship: The initiative encouraged young people to take an active role in civil society and create change in their communities.

Impact on the Local Community:

- Social Inclusion: The initiative contributed to social inclusion by promoting dialogue and cooperation between different groups.

- Local Development: The initiative provided mentoring support to promote youth entrepreneurship and their contribution to the local economy;
- Social and Cultural Enrichment: The initiative enriches the cultural and artistic life of the local community;
- Sustainability: With the workshops included in our project, we raised awareness on important issues such as entrepreneurship, environmental awareness and sustainability.



Youth Exchange “Culture In Your Dna”

NGO Youth Club Active (Izum youth club), Estonia

NGO Youth Club Active is a mobile youth organisation, which was created with support of the Youth Center Vihasoo, which has been working since 1994 in the field of youth in Tallinn, Estonia. Youth Club Active is a youth organisation that has existed for more than 10 years, and also has the status of an open youth centre since 2018. We involve youth from the age of 11 years old and provide a variety of activities for self-development. The role of our organisation is to promote the non-formal education, to involve youngsters in different social activities on local and international levels. Our main activities we coordinate on 5 different fields:

- Projects (local and international level);
- Volunteering (sending and hosting volunteers, local volunteers club);
- Non-formal learning events, workshops, human-libraries, youth forums, trainings, etc;
- Camps;
- Youth labour market;

- Working practice (media, coordinating of the volunteer’s club, project writing).

The youth exchange goal was to increase the interest of the participants in **getting to know the culture of their own country and the cultures of other countries** in different ways, through activities, workshops and cultural evenings.

The problem that the participants faced and tried to solve is that the boundaries between different cultures are blurred, people



forget their traditions and the characteristics of their ancestors. Throughout the project, 30 participants (15-19 years old) from countries such as Portugal, Moldova, Georgia, Greece and Estonia, immersed themselves in the topic of culture through various informal methods such as: group discussions, improvisations, cultural evenings, debates, and master classes of various formats. Participants shared interesting facts about their countries, compared situations, discussed and looked for reasons, and also learned about the opportunities of young people, broke stereotypes about other nationalities and strengthened relations between countries.

The leaders of each country conducted workshops throughout the project, where participants created culturally themed products: Performance; Book of legends; Puppet and Mandala; Escape box; The project was very intense and fascinating. The participants got a lot of unforgettable emotions and memories and of course expanded their knowledge about the culture of the participating countries.

Our initiative has had a significant impact on young people and the local community. Leaders from each country organised workshops that resulted in participants creating cultural products such as a legend book, a mandala, a doll, a quest box, and an immersive theatrical performance.



This project became an intense and exciting experience for the participants, bringing them many unforgettable emotions and memories. In addition, participants significantly expanded their knowledge of the cultures of the participating countries, facilitating cultural exchange and strengthening ties within the local community.



For a Story to the World: International Day

Eurocentrum Liberec, Czechia

Eurocentrum Liberec is an organisation under the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Its main objective is to inform the general public about the European Union. Our important target group is young people and one of the main topics we communicate is the opportunities for young people offered by the EU. For example, we prepare various competitions, lectures and cultural events related to Europe and the EU for primary and secondary schools. We also focus a lot on cooperation with the local Technical University in Liberec, where we also organise lectures with experts, and we work closely with the foreign department to disseminate various opportunities for young people.

The event was based on sharing experiences through personal stories. The event was organised at the Technical University of Liberec and was aimed mainly at young people. The main goal was to motivate young people to take advantage of some foreign experience and also to learn about these opportunities.

After the opening ceremony, a lecture on opportunities entitled "Study, Travel, Work Abroad" was prepared for students, where they learned about Erasmus+ at secondary schools, universities, as well as youth exchanges, studying abroad, the European Solidarity Corps, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs and Discover EU, etc. 400 students from about 15 secondary schools from all over the Liberec Region and other students from the University attended. Then "Six stories from Liberec to the world and back", where 6 participants shared their stories from different types of international projects - European Solidarity Corps (ESC), Erasmus+ Youth Exchange and others - with only a few photos. In the next part ("from TUL to the world and back"), students of the university shared their experiences informally. At the end, the results of the **competition for the best poster and photo from Erasmus** were announced. In the foyer of the auditorium, 15 exhibitors had their stands with materials about opportunities abroad.

For international students in Czechia. We prepared a lecture on “How to study and work with scholarship in Europe” and a workshop “The New challenges we have faced in Czechia.

The event was attended by 1,500 visitors from the ranks of high school and university students. There is no similar event in our region. We couldn't even take all the registered schools from secondary schools due to capacity. We had a tremendous response after the event from both young people and teachers. Educators are inviting us to give further talks on opportunities. Students are asking for more detailed information and for specific projects.

We talked about DiscoverEU right at the event, it was a few hours before the application process closed, so a lot of them were filling out the form on the spot. Some contacted us afterwards to say they had won.

The vast majority of participants had very little awareness of the opportunities available to them. We believe that through emotion and personal stories, many more now know about them.



Erasmus Days Mini-Fair: Time to Move

Europe Direct Brno at Jiri Mahen Library, Czechia

Europe Direct Brno is part of the European information network aimed to disseminate information from the EU institutions in the Member States. We organise a wide range of activities, such as public events and programmes for all age groups (festivals, seminars, lectures, debates on different topics mostly related to the priorities of the European Commission). We provide information about the EU e.g. work or study opportunities abroad, travel, rights of EU citizens/residents and benefits of the EU membership etc. Our information point is open to the public in the Jiri Mahen Library where we offer information and consultation services and a wide range of publications.

In cooperation with Mendel University's International Relations Office and ESN Mendelu, we organised **a mini-fair on the occasion of Erasmus Days at the Mendelu Campus** near building X in Brno, Czech Republic, that took place outdoors from 11 am to 2:30 pm. The project provided a free opportunity for youth to learn

about opportunities abroad and was accessible to everyone. The event took place at the yard of a public university that is open to the public, therefore it was open to any passers-by interested in the event. We also made sure that the location is barrier-free and accessible to everyone. At the information stand, we provided information on trips, internships and student mobility within the EU. We prepared an interactive quiz about the EU where all visitors could test their knowledge. For correct answers, they received Eurodesk promotional materials. The most successful participants received a travel diary. Colleagues from ESN Mendelu set up a DJ booth, so the event also had a musical undertone, which attracted more people. As a result, there were around 100 active visitors learning about the opportunities abroad, participating in the quiz, or just relaxing in the chill-out area on our beanbag chairs and reading the Eurodesk brochures and publications while meeting with like-minded young people and exchanging experiences and ideas.

The project brought young people together and enriched them with insights into the opportunities abroad through Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, DiscoverEU and other EU projects. It was an effort to motivate and inspire them to travel abroad through one of the mentioned projects for internship, volunteering or to participate in the DiscoverEU competition as well as encourage them to experience the world and be active citizens. The event was very positively rated by the visitors - students and professors alike. It spread information about opportunities and created friendships among participants.

We believe that thanks to our event we made young people think out of our region and inspired them to take the step outside of their comfort zone and travel, explore and make a use of one of the many opportunities that are on offer. While promoting DiscoverEU to the 18 year olds present they told us they were going to apply, we also heard positive feedback from the participants that they didn't hear about these opportunities before and now feel motivated to participate in them.



European Adventure with Camille

Le transfo (PIJ), France

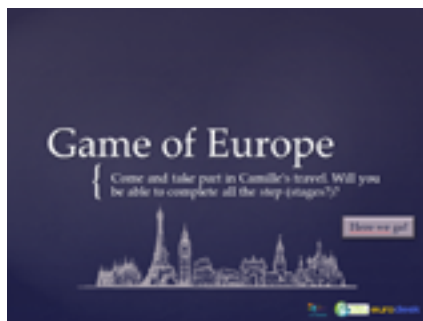
The Transfo organisation is first and foremost a youth information point. We are attached to the Communauté d'Agglomération and our missions are aimed at young people. We're a place where young people can find information on a wide range of topics, such as career guidance, careers, associations, access to rights, etc., or be supported in their projects. That's why we've been Eurodesk-labelled since 2016, to also support young people in their projects linked to European and international mobility.

The game was created for the town of Vendôme's annual "games festival". It can be categorised as **a serious game, since its aim is to provide information on European mobility**. We've only used it once so far, but it's been a success for us, because in the week that followed we had phone calls from young people wanting to find out more about the mobility schemes they'd just heard about.

Game Objective: Your mission is to accompany Camille in her mobility project by helping her navigate through the different stages of her journey.

Instructions: The game is based on an interactive PowerPoint with buttons that will guide Camille through her European adventure. Each button represents a decision or a crucial step in her journey. It's up to you to choose wisely to ensure Camille's success.

This initiative enabled us to communicate information on mobility to young people in a fun and easy way. We've had a positive impact and will continue to use this tool to inform young people.



Escape Room “Eskeipiņš”

MJIC Kvartals, Latvia

The main objectives of the Youth Centre are to provide diverse opportunities for young people's full growth and development, to promote the initiatives of young people in the municipality and their participation in social activities; to promote the well-being of young people and offer active and creative leisure opportunities and to promote and support the initiatives of young people in Līvāni municipality and their participation in social life. The target audience of the youth field is young people aged 13 to 25.

The escape game provided young people the opportunities for volunteering, learning, travelling and other leisure activities available to them in Līvāni, Latgale, Latvia and even at European level. The different tasks during the game were directly linked to current and future Eurodesk activities, where young people have to find this information themselves in the materials available on site. The aim of the event was to create a “Time to Move” activity that

young people with disabilities can also participate in, as the space will be furnished and accessible to everyone without barriers. Inclusion and diversity - everyone was able to participate - from different cities, regions and schools in Latvia, regardless of their financial situation, physical fitness, language barrier (materials for the game were provided in different languages).



Participation in democratic life - the game included a Democracy game as part of the game's challenges, which encouraged young people to think and discuss the foundations of democracy and where they encounter democracy in their daily lives.

Who benefits from this event - young people aged 13-30 who can play the game, including teachers who attended the launch event. Parents, because young people also share further the information they get (there was one parent of a child who came to the youth centre to find out specifically about his child's possibilities to get involved in international projects).

What is the impact of the event on the local community - the local community can see more with real examples that Latgale is part of Europe and that the people of Latgale have the same opportunities as those living in Riga and also those living in other European countries. As the Escape is free of charge, the community also gains an educational leisure activity with added value during the dark months of the year, encouraging young people to be more active instead of sitting at home or on their phones.



EuLab: A Bridge Between Rights and Opportunities

Youth Department of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Italy

The Youth Department of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia called "Officina Educativa/Youth participation and well being" works for and with youngsters 14-35 years old, through 4 main fields: active participation, healthy lifestyle, successful education and creativity. Since 2020, the Department promotes, together with E35 Foundation, the Eurodesk local Agency in Reggio Emilia. It provides information and orientation service to young people (14-35) about international mobility and European citizenship in close collaboration with schools and youth associations. The Eurodesk operators are also involved in the local youth information point, this gives them the opportunity to spread the information about European opportunities during the orientation meetings that they address to thousands of students each year. The Department promotes its projects, initiatives and events (including the Eurodesk ones), through the "Portale Giovani" website.

EuLab aimed to bring young people and citizens closer to the issues of EU rights and opportunities and to highlight their close

connection: knowing the rights and which opportunities allow them to be exercised, promoting opportunities by knowing the rights that support them. The project involved two peer groups (16-22 years of age) previously activated and trained, one on human rights, while the other on EU mobility opportunities, combined then to share the knowledge acquired during previous training, developing it further with the 2030 Agenda and the 2024 EU elections.



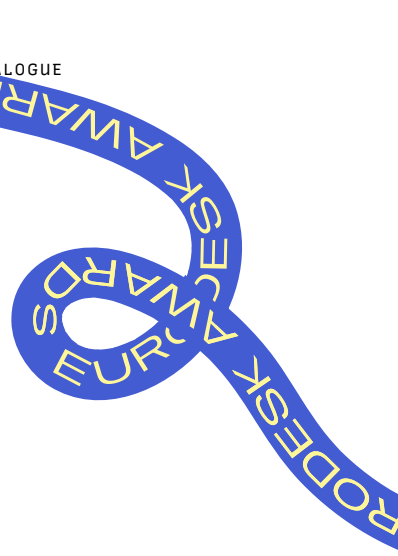
During the project they've designed and implemented interactive workshops aimed at other young people focused on 3 main topics: EU mobility opportunities, human rights and EU Parliament elections. The workshops were held in 4 different contexts, involving around 100 youngsters from youth centres, participants in the "S.Lang" sports/educational project and in an Erasmus+ youth exchange. Participants were mostly youngsters who have fewer opportunities, asylum seekers and NEETs. The peer to peer method has favoured youth participation and protagonism, meeting and mutual contamination and the dissemination of knowledge on the topic of rights and opportunities for EU mobility. The documentation and communication were handled by the peers and by a youth association, leading to the creation of informative social cards on the workshops, the creation of 5 promotion and awareness videos and the design of methodological material.

By participating in the EuLab project, young people have been able to better know and understand the Agenda 2030, the 2024 European elections and the EU mobility opportunities addressed to young people and linked to human rights. Most importantly, they've been able to carry out soft skills important for their personal and professional success, such as:

- Active citizenship: EuLab has promoted civic participation and a sense of social responsibility, encouraging young people to be active and engaged citizens in their community and society as a whole;
- Empowerment and leadership: it has encouraged the development of leadership and advocacy skills, allowing young people to be changemakers in their own lives and in the society;
- European citizenship: it allowed the youths to better understand and actively participate in the democratic EU's life, as well as interact with other youths from other countries sharing their common European sense of belonging.



Within the local community, the project allowed the participants to share thoughts, opinions and ideas among various groups of youths regarding the human rights linked to European mobility opportunities and it disseminated not only information about mobility opportunities, but also general information about the European Union, elections, and the Agenda 2030. This allowed a greater number of young people, even the ones usually considered as outsiders, to know how mobility opportunities work and consequently how to participate.



Slice Of Europe

Jurmala Youth initiative centre, Latvia

Jurmala Youth initiative centre is a Municipality institution which is responsible for youth work in Jurmala city, non-formal education activity organiser, coordinating voluntary work in the city.

The main goal of the event was to travel to different European countries through stories of experiences. To introduce young people aged 13-25 about the possibilities of European Union projects. At the event, we listened to the stories of young people's experiences and asked questions. We played a **game about European countries, cultures and flags.** Young people took the opportunity to talk face to face with the authors of the stories. Hearing the stories, the participants were inspired to try one of the programme opportunities offered by the EU, and to develop themselves.

When meeting their peers, young people were encouraged that European project opportunities are available to every young person.

Young people had a lot of questions and interest about the possibilities and information that the Eurodesk point can provide. A greater connection was made to the fact that we are in Europe and how these opportunities can be used, as there is still a perception that young people from bigger countries have more opportunities. One of the young people who shared his story later got involved in Europeers training because he realised that he wanted to share his experience and the growth he experienced through the projects and this event.



School is ending... And what does the EU offer me?

Eurocentrum and EUROPE DIRECT Jihlava, Czechia

Eurocentrum and EUROPE DIRECT Jihlava is an information centre about the European Union for residents of the Vysočina region. It provides information, answers queries, offers publications, organises lectures, debates, seminars, competitions, or quizzes. It also gives presentations at primary and secondary schools.

This is a completely new educational programme developed by our team. It targets students in their final years of vocational high schools, apprenticeships, higher vocational schools, and universities. Nonetheless, our **primary focus was on students from disadvantaged backgrounds** who do not plan to pursue further studies at the university level, for whom information about mobility and youth opportunities is particularly crucial.

These students were introduced to the various opportunities that the EU offers them upon completing their schooling, including job opportunities, volunteering, further education,

and travel options, such as the European Solidarity Corps, youth exchanges, DiscoverEU, and more. The two-hour programme also incorporates hands-on activities and aligns with the objectives of the European Year of Skills.

Thanks to our project, young people obtained an overview of the opportunities that the European Union offers them after high school. As part of the **workshop activities**, students enhanced their digital skills through a job search on the European Employment Service (EURES). Additionally, students had the opportunity to participate in our competition, where they submitted their CVs created using the online EUROPASS template (we provided guidance on using this template during the lecture). Undoubtedly, the main benefit and impact on the students was gaining information about mobility opportunities for young people.

“YEAH Creativity”- Y Young, E Fun, A Skill and H Happiness

INFORMAGIOVANI EURODESK, Italy

The Youth Information Eurodesk of the Municipality of Iglesias, managed by the CTR Onlus Social Cooperative, it is a public service aimed at young people and has the aim of providing information regarding training, work and orientation in Italy or abroad (provides support for creating your CV and motivation letter), understand and know your rights, manage your free time as best as possible (organisation of events, creative/recreational meetings). It also deals with European opportunities (dedicated to youth exchanges, volunteering, etc.) and carries out orientation activities in person at middle and high schools in the city of Iglesias.

“YEAH Creativity” is a project developed by Iglesias’ Informagiovani Eurodesk. The word YEAH stands for Y young, E fun, A skill and H happiness. The main objective of the project was to **develop convivial moments together with young people**, in which to dialogue, create networks, distract themselves in harmony and try to develop

and/or discover/rediscover new skills through creative activities structured for them. The young people (aged between 18 and 35) joined the project in complete autonomy. The project was promoted through social channels and word of mouth among friends and relatives (who also stopped by the office). Our territory has always been characterised by people with various problems and disadvantages, also from an inclusive point of view. This project involved and included young people with fewer opportunities (from an income,



study, psychological point of view, young people who arrived from foreign countries or from any kind of life story), giving them a space in which to interact and distract themselves from everyday life (often problematic for them also due to previous traumas). Through this project, the young people had the opportunity to make themselves heard, to talk about their experience even through moments of play and breaks.

Our initiative has had a significant impact on young people. The geographical area in which we live has always been marked by numerous economic challenges. Our project has created vital new steps, characterised by information on opportunities

for skills development and personal growth, commitment and empowerment. One of the most tangible impacts of our initiative is evident in the increased awareness and participation of young people, offering them creative and engaging activities. We were able to attract a youth population that would otherwise have been disengaged. The project also offered these young people the opportunity to become active in something and avoid remaining stagnant like NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training). Many young participants requested subsequent participation in various European programmes and initiatives that offer avenues for personal and professional development.



TzillEUreading – Reading from Goceano to Europe

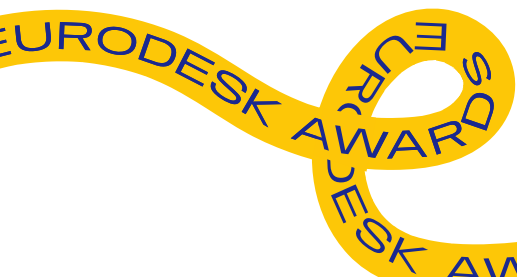
Agenzia Eurodesk dei Comuni del Distretto di Ozieri, Italy

The department APP GIOVANI, of the Centre for the Family Lares, of the P.L.U.S. Health District of Ozieri, in Sardinia was created in 2008. It operates in 16 municipalities of the Health District of Ozieri, included in the two territorial areas called Logudoro and Goceano. It is aimed at young people aged 13 to 30, promotes the youth leadership, offers time and places of socialisation through the organisation of events and the development of associations. APP GIOVANI joined the Eurodesk network in 2020 and promotes the wide range of cultural, training, work, voluntary and national and transnational mobility opportunities.

The Eurodesk Agency of Ozieri decided to make an event in the Island of Sardinia in Bono, a small village of approx 3,500

inhabitants and involved Bulteatro, theatrical association of the territory, that had previously conceived a Project called Tzillereading, which literally means “readings in the bar”. The Department with the association have revisited the contents of the previous project with the aim of building an alternative initiative to get more easily to young people.

Through the theatrical and musical language this Project wanted to inspire in the community the reflection on social and cultural issues, in contexts different from theatres. The intervention has unfolded through a series of readings and improvisations that touched on topics such as: travel,



democracy, Europe, Time and from which then developed the debate, to which not only young people, but also the administrators present and the community, participated. The experimentation of this initiative aimed at youth but extended to the whole community has certainly triggered analysis and reflections about the effectiveness of events of this type, experiential, educational and emancipatory, but also projected to the knowledge of real and concrete opportunities that young people should evaluate in their life path, also as a process of improving the quality of life in small centres. The Eurodesk desk at the event was very important because it was an excellent opportunity to provide information and the contacts.

The Eurodesk Agency of the municipalities of the District of Ozieri and the theatre group "BulTeatro" have curated a collective initiative that has valued young people, and their perspectives. The bar, which is a place for recreation and entertainment, has been transformed, in this circumstance, into a place of training, knowledge and comparison, through the important debate that, after the readings, it triggered between the younger and the rest of the present community.

A way to overcome barriers and experience orientation activities in unusual spaces and with alternative modes. Inspired by the themes addressed in the readings, all the European Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes were illustrated



and the concrete opportunities for young people to participate were presented, with the aim of spreading knowledge and participation in European projects in an increasingly widespread way.

The immediate outcome of this initiative was the access to the service of many young people, who, after the evening, contacted the Agency to ask for an appointment and deepen their knowledge of the youth programmes funded by the European Union. The Agency's social media pages have gained more visibility.







Eurodesk Pop-Up

Info zona, Croatia

The association Info zona was founded in 2008. Today, by producing quality media content and informative events, it operates in the field of organised youth information. With the successful implementation of the youth club, it supports youth initiatives and contributes to the quality of youth free time. It co-creates policies for young people and plays an important role in the development of dialogue between young people and decision-makers. Info zona operates at the local, regional, and national levels.

The event was organised as a storytelling game with (Escape Room-like) challenges for young participants on the topics of the Erasmus+ programme, other opportunities for young people, and the Eurodesk network.

The interactive game aims to inform:

- About the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes and TTM campaign;
- Where the Erasmus+ programme's name comes from;
- Where can participants get information about the opportunities (mobilities);
- Which countries they can choose for mobility;
- How to organise a (green) trip to the mobility location and back with a specific budget;
- What are the sights of other EU countries while travelling to their mobility location.

The narrator (Info zona's employee) reads the story. It's a train of thought of a young person who wants to learn more about the Erasmus+ programme. The story also contains challenging tasks for the young person, which the participants must solve to help the young person successfully achieve his dream mobility. The event was designed in cooperation with the Bookbus (Croatian: bibliobus) service of the Marko Marulić City Library from Split, which visits rural areas of Split-Dalmatia County. In total, 42 participants took part, coming

from 2 elementary schools in Central Dalmatia's rural areas (Potravljje and Hrvace), where the entire school (8 grades) counts up to 74 students.

Info zona holds the event a success because around four young people got to know the term Erasmus+ for the first time, and all heard about mobility opportunities through the Erasmus+ and the ESC programme.

After the storytelling game, young participants were directed to the TTM campaign games - Escape Room Riga and Berlin- and, to their delight, they all received gift packages in the form of a Eurodesk canvas bag with accompanying promotional materials on Erasmus+, ESC, and DiscoverEU.

On the other hand, the new cooperation of Info zona and the Bookbus service opened up more ideas and plans to easily reach youth from rural areas and to provide them with more educational and informational events through future Info zona projects.







Watch Out, Reach Out!

Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT), Romania

Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT) is a youth umbrella organisation in western Romania, with 32 member NGOs and over 33 years of experience. It conducts diverse programmes, from educational and social initiatives to cultural events and policy development. FITT administrates the Timisoara Youth House, a sprawling 11,000 m² facility with various amenities, which has the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centers. FITT also coordinated the Europe Direct centre in Timișoara, facilitating citizen-European Commission interaction. Focused on youth participation, FITT serves as a dynamic hub for young people and youth organisations.

“Watch out, Reach out!” aimed to create accessible contexts and provide educational, artistic, and cultural events tailored to the needs of disadvantaged groups in the local community and young people. Around the 3rd of August, Timișoara Day, we organised two movie projections and two concerts within the Timișoara Penitentiary.

While the city residents enjoyed events in the central area, inmates also could appreciate artistic and cultural activities in the courtyard. Additionally, on the 11th and 12th of August, we celebrated International Youth Day through a series of workshops dedicated to raising awareness of the challenges faced by individuals at risk and with disabilities (including those with hearing, visual, motor impairments, or belonging to minorities). The workshops focused on promoting tolerance, solidarity, and intergenerational dialogue, utilising non-formal education methods and artistic tools such as theatre, music, and dance.





Moreover, each day featured a concert, accommodating individuals with motor disabilities, with one concert also being translated into sign language. Our objective was to create an inclusive environment where every person could feel included and have barrier-free access to education, art, and culture. Through the project, we aimed to promote social integration and build connections between communities, involving international European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteers from 16 countries, as well as local volunteers.

“Watch out, Reach out!” addressed the challenges of exclusion and marginalisation experienced by disadvantaged

groups, including minorities, people with disabilities, and those in detention. It actively responded to the pressing need for social integration by organising cultural activities, creating an inclusive space where individuals felt valued and connected to the community. Thus, the project facilitated intercultural dialogue within Timișoara’s diverse community, striving to foster a deeper sense of solidarity among participants. The main focus on ensuring equitable access to arts and culture was particularly relevant, given Timișoara’s designation as the European Capital of Culture in 2023.

The project effectively targeted systemic inequalities that impacted the well-being of individuals and the broader cultural fabric of the community. It not only recognised but also empowered the often overlooked cultural contributions of various groups, thereby cultivating a more inclusive and dynamic cultural environment. By implementing prompt measures to rectify historical injustices and promote inclusivity, "Watch out, Reach out!" played an important role in developing a more equitable, vibrant, and resilient cultural ecosystem. Moreover, the festival was organised with and by young people, engaging volunteers in a unique experience of learning how to support people with different needs.

The events held in Timișoara Central Park saw an approximate attendance of 1000 visitors per day. Concerts were designed to be friendly for people with motor disabilities, and special efforts were made, including live sign language interpretation, to make them accessible for individuals with hearing impairments. The activities aimed at breaking down barriers and creating an environment where individuals from different backgrounds could come together, and enjoy cultural expressions in a welcoming setting. Moreover, the project's outreach extended to the Timișoara Penitentiary, where approximately 300 participants



per day, mostly inmates, actively engaged with film screenings and concerts, fostering a sense of connection and enrichment even within the prison community. Also, in the preparation phase, FITT invited and engaged with stakeholders working with people with fewer opportunities, but also individuals with disabilities, in order to make sure that the event is covering all their needs – giving them the chance to be involved in preparing such an event. Of course, the volunteers received training on how to

guide the visually impaired, the participants in the workshops were able to learn sign language, and all of them gained the sense of community, of supporting and understanding each other. At the same time, the festival was also an example for other stakeholders in the community, being the most open-accessible event organised in the city.



Journey in Europe

Youth House Sliven, Bulgaria

Youth House is a municipal youth centre in Sliven, Bulgaria. We are organising different events and working with the young people of the municipality. Our focus is European citizenship, personal development, career consulting, soft skills and many more. Youth House is a member of the Eurodesk network and we are the only info point of Eurodesk in the region. We have different workshops, debate club, eco club, music club, training on leadership, teamwork, fake news and social media, volunteering, communication, and more. We have had a youth council since 1998 and the young people organise events according to their needs with our support.

The project was a drawing contest with the topic Journey in Europe.

We published the contest info and made connections with different schools in the region. In the first part of the project students were supposed to draw their dream destination in Europe, where they want to go, or to imagine a trip in Europe and paint it. In the second part of the project all the winners from the drawing contest

were invited to a workshop during which with the help of our mentor - graphics designer, they were able to **draw their painting on a textile bag** with textile paints or markers and keep it for themselves. During the workshops we were able to give information about European opportunities that those young people have. Also we gave them as prizes some painting materials /pencils, water colours, sketchbooks, etc./, a certificate and info materials of Eurodesk. Wearing the bags afterwards gives us a chance to advertise Eurodesk and Time to Move among other young people who will see the logos and the bags.



The impact in the youth community was that we managed to focus the attention of the youngsters on Europe, its principles, the opportunities that the Union is giving to the young people. We manage to give hope and dreams to those who don't believe that they have a future. We offered the young people an alternative to the dark conditions they live in. For our organisation it is a great achievement to be able to change perspectives in that community and in the young people's minds.



Empowering Flashmob

Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület, Hungary

Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület is a Hungarian organisation focused on youth empowerment and European integration. Founded in 2008, it fosters cross-cultural understanding, civic engagement, and leadership development among young people. Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület organises various educational programmes, youth exchanges, training courses and projects aimed at promoting European values, solidarity, and active citizenship. Through its initiatives, it seeks to bridge cultural divides, promote diversity, and empower youth to contribute positively to society. Európa Ifjúsága Egyesület plays a crucial role in shaping the next generation of European leaders, fostering a sense of belonging, and building a more united and inclusive Europe.

Notably, the **planning and execution of the flashmob were entirely driven by the creativity and initiative of the youth involved**. They contributed their unique ideas, including choreography, music, and post-campaign activities,

reflecting their personal commitment to these vital issues and their enthusiasm for promoting positive change in their community. It left a significant impact on the community. With over a hundred individuals witnessing the event firsthand while passing by, the sight of participants donning Erasmus+ branded t-shirts captured the attention of many, prompting some to pause and engage in discussions with the enthusiastic youth. This spontaneous interaction further amplified the message of human rights and inclusion promoted by the flashmob.



Subsequently, sharing the video of the event on various social media platforms extended its reach, allowing even more people to experience the powerful message conveyed by the performance. Through both live participation and online dissemination, the project effectively leveraged the flashmob as a tool for raising awareness, sparking dialogue, and promoting the values championed by the Erasmus+ programme and the “Empowering” exchange.

The initiative had a significant impact on both young people and the local community. For young participants, it provided a platform to actively engage in advocating for human rights and inclusion, fostering a sense of empowerment and ownership over these important issues. Through their involvement in planning and executing the flashmob, they developed leadership skills, creativity, and a deeper understanding of the value of diversity and collaboration.

The event also had a positive effect on the local community by raising awareness about human rights and inclusion among passersby who witnessed the flashmob. Some individuals were prompted to stop and engage in discussions with the young participants, leading to meaningful exchanges and increased awareness about these critical topics. This interaction helped to bridge divides and promote dialogue within the community, contributing to a more inclusive and cohesive social environment. Furthermore, sharing the video of the event on social media platforms extended its impact beyond the immediate community, reaching a wider audience and further amplifying the message of youth empowerment, human rights, and inclusion. Overall, the initiative served to inspire and mobilise both young people and the local community towards promoting a more inclusive and equitable society.



Graffiti and Democracy

LeeWerk-WISA GmbH, Germany

LeeWerk-WISA GmbH is a non-profit educational organisation in the district of Leer. As a subsidiary of the district of Leer, LeeWerk-WISA GmbH takes on a wide range of tasks in the context of training and qualifying young disadvantaged people in order to integrate them into society and work. The organisation also has many years of outstanding experience in the design and implementation of international youth exchanges and specialises in showing young people new perspectives for personal and professional development through "borderless experiences".

References include Eurodesk, EuropaLokal, the Lower Saxony Youth Welfare Office and a local and international network.

The current state elections in Lower Saxony have shown that the understanding of democracy and interest in political issues and solutions is dwindling and polarisation is the order of the day. In particular, the understanding of "otherness", equality and social justice is being

overshadowed by world events. The already successful work with the Noorderpoort College in Winschoten (NL) has shown that this problem also exists in the neighbouring country. As a result, considerations were made as to how, on the one hand, an understanding of democracy can be addressed and, on the other hand, how an interest in a multi-cultural exchange can be awakened in a very practical way. Young people and the so-called "disadvantaged" in particular are difficult to reach. With the prospect of a **graffiti workshop** in Bunde, a journey together to Berlin and appropriate preparation by the target group itself, the



aim is to encourage initiative and commitment and reach young people in an unconventional way. A regular monthly online exchange and two preparation days in person will enable a total of 30 young people to get in touch with each other, formulate their own ideas and discuss them. With the help of the online meetings, the young people can get to know each other and discuss their ideas for the graffiti workshop and their messages for the artwork.

The 3-day stay in Berlin is intended to bring the heterogeneous group from the Netherlands and Germany closer together and enable them to express their own needs and demands through the instrument of graffiti.

By getting to know different graffiti works, the young people will be familiarised with the background to graffiti processes.

In further dialogue with the graffiti artists, the backgrounds and symbols of the graffiti works were discussed and interpreted. With the help of exercises, participants were given the opportunity to design symbols, characters and images and reflect on them in the group. Through creativity in cooperation (working together on a project and thus sending one or more messages), the aim of the project was also to strengthen the sense of togetherness, to trust one's own ideas and to enable experiences in participation processes.



The final joint realisation of the graffiti design in the home region is the highlight of the project. The artwork was released in the break hall of the secondary school in Bunde and thus has a lasting effect on the pupils. The "Freedom" lettering in particular is also thought-provoking at school and is intended to draw attention to the project activities and find imitators. With this project, further structures were initiated to enable future Eurodesk counselling for young people on stays abroad with the cooperation partners.



ReCalibur

EduEra, Slovakia

EduEra aims to educate and inform people about educational opportunities, build and develop their competencies and support their active participation and initiative through many various projects in Slovakia and abroad. The main activity of EduEra is to find a common way for formal and non-formal education and the business sector. In 2018 EduEra was awarded by Slovak National Agency as "The best NGO" in the field of non-formal education supported by EÚ thanks to our European Solidarity Corps (ESC) projects focusing on youth from rural areas in Slovakia. EduEra is the EURODESK multiplier since 2017 and the Slovak information centre in the East part of Slovakia for youth.

The Erasmus+ KA2 strategic partnership project "RECALIBUR - ecotools in youth work for collective creativity" **explored the renewed role of youth work in fostering a shared sense of belonging with communities and the natural world.** The project aimed to enhance and strengthen outer connections as sources of

creative inspiration, with the goal of increasing young people's sense of belonging, well-being, resilience, and information via creativity and ecopsychology.

Objectives:

- To empirically demonstrate the relevance, and evidence, of this renewed approach to youth work identified via empirical demonstration and scientific research;
- To pilot and prototype both this new approach and the related tools in international youth work contexts, as well as in local youth work, as motivators for creativity and



creative expression as well as storytelling via the arts and crafts, empowered through the application of the designed tools;

- To match digital/online and residential/live learning in the promotion of this approach in order to foster youth creative expression in the form of a collective effort through community reconnection and environmental positive engagement.

Activities: 2 training courses, Focus groups, Local activities, Multiplier events, international webinars

Results: Every output is online on our website which was created as a platform for ReCalibur results and dissemination but also as a platform for following steps and activities:

<https://recalibur.eduera.sk>.

By providing innovative approaches and empowering both youth workers and young people, the initiative has contributed to a more inclusive and diverse European society, where opportunities are accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstance. The RECALIBUR initiative has made a profound impact on youth inclusion and diversity.

By promoting innovative approaches in youth work, particularly through the integration of ecopsychology principles, the project has fostered inclusion and celebrated diversity among young people, including those from marginalised or underrepresented groups. Through its collaborative efforts, RECALIBUR has ensured that information about European opportunities reaches a broad spectrum of young individuals, regardless of background or circumstance. The project has revitalised youth work by providing youth workers with new tools and methodologies to engage with diverse groups effectively. This empowerment has led to enhanced recognition and a strengthened role for youth work in the community.



Informational / Active Afternoon

“Sasildies Rudenī!” (Warm up in the Autumn)

Creative Minds for Culture, Latvia

The Association “Creative Minds for Culture” (abbreviated as CMC) is a non-governmental organisation founded by young people, and it focuses on promoting cultural and creative development of the society. The organisation was registered in Sēja Parish, Latvia in 2014. The target group of the organisation is youth with fewer opportunities.

Aims of our organisation:

- To promote cultural and creative development of the society;
- Encourage youth and students to be active citizens in Latvia and be a part of foreign cultural processes;
- To promote intercultural dialogue and tolerance for cultures and cultural heritage. Using non-formal education methods, CMC organises various events;
- Trainings, seminars, camps, discussions and workshops - on topics of interest and relevance to our members, volunteers and the target audience.

The aim of the event was to provide young people with information on local, regional and international opportunities to spend their free time, to strengthen their cooperation, self-expression and mental health by engaging in the Eurodesk “Time to Move” campaign.

The activity consisted of 2 sessions, where young people were:

- Informed about youth opportunities through various organisations, networks and programmes within Europe;
- Invited to participate in a practical free movement workshop with a certified movement therapist and coach with aim to strengthen their mental health and abilities to regulate themselves in an everyday setting.

As a result of the event, 18 young people from the Saulkrasti region learned more about various opportunities to engage at local, national and international

level organised in Europe under Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps and the DiscoverEU programmes. Young people got to know other young people, got together and learned about other opportunities to meet and experience, as well as were able to get to know themselves and their mental health better, and to learn a few useful methods to enhance their wellbeing on a daily basis.

The young people that participated in the **workshop** concluded that they would like to try and participate in other, similar events and use the **international youth opportunities** in the future.

They have also become a little bit more **open to one another** and more aware of the **importance of their own mental health quality**. Conversations between the local youth activity coordinators and the activity authors were led to discuss potential future opportunities to bring more similar events to the local young people of Zvejniekciems village and the area.







StraVol.To – La Gara Di Tutti

Volontariato Torino (Vol.To ETS), Italy

Volontariato Torino (Vol.To ETS) is the Volunteer Support Centre of Turin, a non-profit organisation with 144 member organisations and a network of more than 1,300 associations, to which it provides services according to the Italian Third Sector Law. Vol.To is one of the five biggest Volunteer Support Centres in Italy. The organisation's mission is to qualify and support volunteers in order to enable them to seize opportunities and take individual paths of development. For this purpose, it develops projects to build tailor-made learning paths on the needs of volunteers. Since 2016, Vol.To is also the official Eurodesk Local Point/Multiplier of Turin. Vol.To works to provide free services (such as training, consultancy, planning, communication etc.) to assist associations. Vol.To's vision is a future in which the distinctive features of volunteering will be a guide for individual and collective challenges.

"StraVol.To - La gara di tutti" is a project developed by Vol.To ETS with the assistance of the local Eurodesk point.

The first edition was held on 5 December 2023, on International Volunteer Day but the organisation of the event started in October, through the recruitment of participants, communication activities and the definition of logistic details. Over 120 people took part in Stravolto, divided into 14 teams, which invaded the streets of Turin between 8.30 am and 12 pm, challenging each other **in a series of dynamic and entertaining tests** (e.g. photography, street art, puzzle games, poetry) with the aim of involving as many citizens as possible, questioning them about their previous volunteering experiences, in Italy or abroad,



and increasing the ranks of potential new volunteers. The main objectives were to raise awareness of the presence and role of volunteers in the Turin area, as well as to promote the services offered by Vol.To and the mobility opportunities of the Eurodesk local point. According to the feedback received, the strengths of StraVol.To are the possibility of networking among different voluntary associations and of strengthening cohesion among volunteers. The three teams with the highest score were given vouchers to spend at the 'The Gift of Volunteering', a Christmas market organised by Vol.To on 8 and 9 December 2023, where local non-profit associations could show and sell their products.

The Stravolto is an initiative that promotes Youth Participation and Engagement: in fact, the focus of the event were volunteers (from 18 to 28 years old) of Civil Service projects managed by Vol.To and young people involved through the Eurodesk local point. The idea was to highlight the commitment and passion with which young people do voluntary work in their daily lives. During the StraVol.To, participants were encouraged to enhance teamwork, communication and leadership skills, through entertaining activities fostering cooperation and engagement. The purpose of having the challenges carried



out in the streets of Turin was to make the young volunteers visible, capturing the attention of young passers-by and, through interaction with them to create an easy multiplier effect, conveying the idea that getting involved and doing voluntary work is something that, besides being useful, can be fun and contribute to the well-being of the volunteers themselves. At the pre-registration stage, participants were asked if they belonged to fragile categories and if they had any special needs to take into account. According to the answers, teams with fragile individuals among their members were assigned locations close to the starting place. In addition, the event also emphasised interculturality, as there were many participants of foreign origin, and intergenerationality, as some of the participants were senior civic volunteers (on average one per team).

The StraVolto was conceived as **a big urban flash mob to generate curiosity and interest in people and to spread the culture of solidarity at local, European and international level among citizens, while at the same time strengthening connections between volunteers.**

The flash-mob also represented an innovative communication action: it was based on the one hand on the real-time interaction between the teams and the young people they met during the event and on the other hand on the use of mobile devices to communicate with the Vol.To staff. The teams were asked to involve passers-by in taking photos representing values such as solidarity, unity or active citizenship and to collect testimonies of young people who volunteered locally or had had mobility experiences offered by the European Union.

To increase the impact of the event the teams were asked to make Instagram stories during the event tagging the pages of VolTo and the Eurodesk local point (for a total of +30 tags during the event). The participants wore green bibs in order to be easily visible in the city streets and thanks to the interaction with the young people they met in front of the university venues, they contributed to raising awareness of the volunteering and European mobility opportunities offered by Volontariato Torino - Eurodesk local point.





Organic C.O.F.F.E.E. - Community Of Fervent, Engaged Enthusiasts: Active Volunteer And Animator Hub

Rysy Foundation, Poland

Rysy Foundation is a youth social enterprise. Right now we cooperate with more than 35 young people 18-30 years old through Project Based Learning Methodology. The foundation's activities are aimed at young people in rural and small-town areas. We carry out specific consultancies on the management and creation of non-profit entities and European programmes for young people. The strategic goal is the development of social entrepreneurship and key competencies among young people, and to create changes in thinking about cultural and social education, as well as to develop new tools for its implementation.

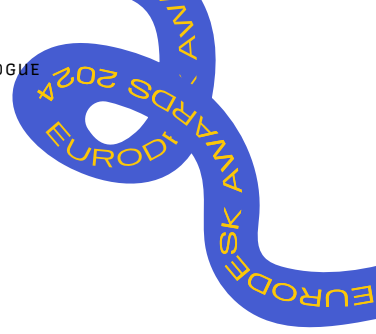
Main objectives of the project were to **increase civic activity, engagement and participation among youth from local schools from rural areas** of the Greater Poland district and better prepare them for upcoming elections to EU Parliament. We have done that by organising a series of Euroclasses about Euro-participation or Euro-projects and similar workshops with the use of

Polish Eurodesk EU on Board and Euro-opportunities board games. Through these sessions, we didn't just educate – we were inspired. After Euroclasses, youth planned together with us their projects for their school or local communities, for which they have obtained fundings: from 400 PLN to 14000 PLN (100-3000 EUR).

As a result:

- Our programme resonated across 11 schools and 4 NGOs, including 3 Eurodesk local points, creating a widespread impact.





- 11 schools and 4 NGOs (among them 3 Eurodesk local points) were involved in the project;
- 2300 youth from rural areas participated in euroclasses and we realised with youth local;
- We have promoted <https://together.eu/> webpage;
- Participants didn't just learn; they turned their newfound knowledge into action, conceiving and executing 11 local projects. These ranged from modest initiatives with budgets of 400-1150 PLN to substantial endeavours funded up to 14000 PLN;
- Together with young people we realised 11 small local projects: 9 with the budget 400 - 1150 PLN, 2 with the budget 10000 - 14000 PLN);
- We have made several interviews with youth about youth participation.

By organising Euroclasses focused on Euro-participation and related concepts, the initiative directly educated young people on the importance and mechanics of civic engagement. This knowledge is crucial in empowering youth to take an active role in their communities and beyond. The use of engaging and interactive tools like the Eurodesk EU on Board and Euroopportunities board games made learning about participation



and the European Union accessible and appealing. The initiative went beyond theoretical learning, encouraging participants to apply their knowledge in the real world. By planning and executing local projects with funding support, youth were not only able to practise their skills in project management and community organisation but also to see the tangible impact of their efforts. Focusing on preparing youth for the EU Parliament elections, the initiative directly contributed to increasing awareness and participation in democratic processes. In summary, this initiative effectively combined education, practical application, and broad outreach to significantly contribute to the thematic category of Youth Participation and Engagement. It not only equipped young people with knowledge and skills but also actively involved them in democratic processes and community projects, thereby fostering a culture of active and informed citizenship.

Among many others, young people realised their local project: different workshops for their schools, common action to build wooden hangers in school, one big concert for over 500 people in Leszno, first aid training for local community, local school radio and studio etc.

These projects addressed various community needs, fostering a sense of solidarity and collective effort. The initiative contributed to the cultural and social development of the participating areas by encouraging young people to take an active interest in their communities. Finally, the success of this initiative serves as an inspiration and a model for future projects.





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Young Mayors (Jovens Autarcas)

Municipality of Vila Nova de Poiares, Portugal

The Municipality of Vila Nova de Poiares is one of the 19 towns/cities of the Coimbra Intermunicipality Region, the biggest Intermunicipality community of Portugal. It has an area of 84,5km², counting with a population of 7000 habitants. It's a periurban area (according to the distance and access to a big city – Coimbra, the district capital), with characteristics of rural area (land use and number of persons by km²) and a large area of forest with 2 rivers in its borders. The municipality's activities focus on a diverse range of areas, such as, environment, youth, sport, social action, education, health, culture, tourism, entrepreneurship, forest, civil protection, mobility and public works.

The “Jovens Autarcas” (Young Mayors) aims to enhance citizenship behaviours, value the opinions of young people, their ideas, and perspectives for the future. By taking an active role in the political decisions of their municipality, the young person acts as a spokesperson for their peers, being jointly

responsible for managing a budget allocated to them, and striving to implement the projects they have envisioned, in a logic of dialogue and sustainability. The “Jovens Autarcas” (Young Mayors) have an annual budget of 10000 euros to manage. Among the proposals presented in their electoral proposals, and which will be executed considering the amount available for investments. They must all work together as a team to provide an annual activity plan to carry out their projects with the help of the Youth Office of the Municipality.



This project is directly related to the “Youth Participation and Engagement” category considering the impact that it has on young people, giving them the opportunity to have a possible financing for their ideas and future projects that will benefit young people and the local community. The possibility to have this kind of opportunity motivates youngsters to participate and ensures the municipality that it is trying to effectively involve young people in decision-making processes, encouraging active participation in European opportunities and promoting a sense of belonging among young people.

The “Jovens Autarcas” (Young Mayors) has increased the motivation for youth participation in the Town. It has been a very hard task to motivate young

people to participate in local activities or events, even related to their age range, but now with these programmes others see young people involved and it has been motivating to have others express their opinions and want to be more actively involved, increasing the youth participation in local activities and event and local NGO and associations.



Recycling and Ecology in Hobby Garden

Kilis Youth Center Eurodesk Contact Point, Türkiye

Kilis Youth Center helps young people spend their free time, directs them to social, cultural, scientific and sports activities, contributes to their personal, social and spiritual development, provides them guidance and consultancy, raises their awareness against harmful abilities and enables them to gain social skills by taking part in various activities. It is a centre that organises various activities, historical and cultural trips, camps and sports activities for the purpose of sharing information.

In Kilis, our children drew attention to the high rate of waste, causing different diseases and negatively affecting the beauty of the city, and asked us to consult us to find a solution. As Kilis Youth Center, we give our children the opportunity to spend more time in **our hobby garden that we use for recycling and ecology and making them use less technology and use their time more effectively**, we teach them to make organic fertiliser by composting their

household waste and contribute to recycling, we made tables and slats and from our industry wastes paint it so that we can at least do our duty towards our nature. We gave training to young people about the environment first and explained information and methods to reduce their ecological footprint. By working in groups, it is aimed to gain the combination of different skills, development of cooperation skills, fast learning, increased responsibility and participation, diversity of ideas, increased motivation, shared responsibility, better decisions, saving time



and resources, and development of social skills. It prevents the depletion of natural resources in Kilis district, saves energy, reduces the amount of waste garbage, provides environmental cleanliness, and contributes to the economy. It also allows them to interact socially. Finally, making time for exercise also helps children sleep better and you can plan outdoor activities instead of time spent with electronics.

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NEU Citizenship Youthmakers Hub, Greece

Youthmakers Hub (YMH) is a European non-profit organisation based in Greece, specialising in Capacity Building, Communication and Dissemination for impact-driven projects in Europe and Africa. The organisation's vision is to cultivate a new generation of empowered young individuals who create positive change in their communities. Youthmakers Hub's mission is to serve as a catalyst for social change by providing the necessary tools and knowledge and fostering collaborations between Europe and Africa. The core values of Youthmakers Hub are Empowerment, Adaptability, Collaboration, Innovation, Inclusion and Diversity.

nEU Citizenship was crafted to enhance civic engagement among Greek youth. Its goals included establishing a youth network, fostering European identity, advocating for civic participation, and promoting sustainable practices in line with European priorities and UN SDGs. To fulfil these objectives, the project organised seven key activities

engaging 311 participants. These included two mobilities in Dorida and Chania that empowered 20 young individuals with knowledge of civic activism and sustainability. Four capacity-building initiatives took place: a programme on Digital Tools for Civic Engagement, a conference titled The State of the Union focusing on education and skills development, a workshop at the University of Piraeus where participants learned to transform ideas into EU projects, and a discussion forum on the role of young Greeks in Europe. Lastly, the Climathon Chania 2022 was significant, highlighting environmental concerns.

nEU Citizenship achieved significant outcomes. It forged a network of youths skilled in digital advocacy and facilitated a deeper understanding of active citizenship and sustainable development, leading to a cultural shift among Greek youth towards more active participation in societal and European affairs.

Winning the award for Youth Participation at the Salto Awards 2023 was a testament to its profound influence on youth and local communities.

The impact of nEU Citizenship extended far beyond the immediate participants, leaving a lasting impression on the local community and stakeholders involved. The 311 participants not only acquired a skill set that spans media literacy, digital tool proficiency, public

speaking, teamwork, and project management but also well-prepared for their future. At the community level, the project sparked a sense of youth engagement in public movements and sustainable development dialogues. Fostering a culture of civic engagement catalysed positive change, encouraging young people to take an active role in sustainable development and public policy dialogues.



This enhanced civic engagement has acted as a driver of positive societal transformation, instilling the youth the confidence and capability to contribute to their communities. On a regional scale, nEU Citizenship underpinned Greek youth's role in shaping the trajectory of Greece within the European fabric.

The initiative highlighted European values and priorities and fostered a sense of belonging to the wider community. The project's impact transcends individual development, creating a positive wave of change that resonates across various levels of society.

Moreover, the project's reach extended to the digital realm, with over 14,000 impressions on social media platforms and active engagement from 1,392 individuals. This online presence not only amplified the project's message but also facilitated broader awareness.



B.R.I.G.H.T FUTURE

Smokinya Foundation, Bulgaria

Smokinya Foundation contributes in creating a world that works for everyone out of love, care and cooperation. The organisation serves as a learning platform for individuals who are ready to commit to their own learning and development needs. We create opportunities and provide space for people to learn, contribute and grow by participation, volunteering and leadership. Our approach is heuristic – a method for empowering a person to discover or learn something for themselves.

Smokinya Foundation realises its vision and values through youth work. Youth work for us is providing contexts and playground for exploration and discovery of the inner spirit of youth that individuals, groups and organisations possess. It started in 2013 as an online blog for popularising youth mobility.

The project took place in a small village in the Plovdiv district (with less than 100 inhabitants), where **a group of volunteers**



from across Europe stayed in an eco-friendly camp. During the project, the participants did a number of activities that promoted: community building, environmental action, leadership and cooperation skills; network with peers and development of ideas and projects related to European Solidarity Corps (ESC) and Erasmus+. During the first week, the volunteers began the onboarding, orientation and team building, in order to prepare them for the coming days. The second and third week consisted in local actions, such as clearing unkempt weeds that affect the village. A lot of public spaces, such as roads and fountains were cleaned in order to help the community. A variety of activities were also performed, such as a basic First Aid course by the Red Cross, a small workshop on how to build baskets, collecting roses and a lot of cooking classes, to teach everyone about the food of the different cultures. The main job, however, involved the abandoned school owned now by us. The volunteers began work in renovation and cleaning of the building, which Smokinya aims to one day turn into a Youth Center. The renovation involved the removal of tiles and grass from the facility and the construction of new structure for the school, such as benches.



As for entertainment, we hosted a **variety of board game nights, a lot of nature trips and we even built a volleyball and a swing for fun.**

Everyone involved had a great experience and loved the camp interaction and activity. The volunteers felt a sense of companionship by the end, and a lot of friendships were made during the month. They felt like they'd grown as people and would never forget this experience.

As for the local community, they were overjoyed by seeing their village gain new life with the young participants. They were so happy with our help in cleaning the village and also in helping locals with a variety of problems, and they said they hoped to see us again next year. We feel like these projects are so important for both parties involved, and their importance to small villages specially cannot be ignored.



Time to Youth 2023

KAINOTOMIA Lifelong Learning Center, Greece

KAINOTOMIA is certified under the Greek Legislation as a Lifelong Training Institution, which was founded in 2013. The organisation's modern facilities are designed in compliance with accessibility for people with disabilities. The goal of KAINOTOMIA is the implementation of continuous training programmes (offline and online through our e-learning platform) targeted at employed/unemployed people, educators, students of higher education, and vulnerable social groups for the development of professional opportunities and their integration into the labour market and society with special focus to unemployed young people, as our region has one of the highest unemployment rates in Europe.

The **Time to Youth 2024 Event** was organised by the KAINOTOMIA Lifelong Learning Center and it's the annual celebration of the Time to Move campaign initiated by Eurodesk. The event took place on October 07, 2023 at 17:00 - 22:00, at our main facilities in the city centre of Larissa.

Main Objective: 1. Celebrate Mobility Opportunities 2. Educate and Inform.

Activities:

- Time to YOUTH" activities and interactive workshops, including: a. "Everything about the well-being of young people" b. "Fast Fashion vs Sustainable Fashion" c. "Digital Marketing Differently" d. "Europe in your hands: Discover participation opportunities".
- DJ party and Networking.

Results:

- Increased awareness: About the importance of mobility, well-being, sustainable fashion, digital marketing, and European



opportunities for youth among participants about the importance of well-being, sustainable fashion, and Digital Marketing;

- **Recognition and Promotion:** of the European opportunities for the youth sector offered by Eurodesk and the role of Kainotomia as a local contact point;
- **Engagement and Empowerment:** The interactive workshops engaged participants, and empowered them with knowledge and skills related to international mobility and personal development;
- **Networking:** Celebration of the campaign and networking;

We strongly believe that the Time to YOUTH 2024 initiative had a positive impact on young people and the local community.

More specifically:

- **Active Participation:** With approximately 50 participants during the workshops and additional attendees during the DJ party, the initiative successfully engaged young people in various activities;
- **Continued Engagement:** The fact that some participants had also taken part in the Time to YOUTH 2022 demonstrates a sustained interest and engagement among the youth community;

- **Community Building:** The DJ party held in an outdoor space of the building facilitated social interactions and community building. The extended stay of participants until the end of the event indicates a sense of community and enjoyment, fostering connections among attendees;
- **Municipal Support:** The presence and participation of the Mayor in the event signifies support from the local government. The Mayor's interaction with young people through speaking engagements further strengthens the connection between the local administration and the youth community.

The Time to YOUTH2024 initiative had a notable impact by fostering active participation, building a sense of community, garnering municipal support, and sustaining interest in mobility actions among young people. The initiative seems to have created a positive and engaging environment that extends beyond the event itself, contributing to the overall development and connectivity of the local youth community.



PARTYzipation – Youth Strategy 2027+

JugendService des Landes Oberösterreich

(Amt der Oö. Landesregierung, Direktion Kultur und Gesellschaft, Abteilung Gesellschaft, Gruppe Jugend), Austria

The JugendService in upper Austria, which was founded in 1948 as the state youth department, is still the central point of contact for young people and youth work multipliers from all over Upper Austria. The preventative nature of youth work is combined with the professional expertise of the staff in the wide range of services offered by the JugendService.

The heart of the strategy process was the dialogue with young people as well as with people and institutions who work with young people on a daily basis. Both online and in person, young people were able to share their needs on the topics of work and education, internationality, interculturality, individuality, society, climate and sustainability.

30,000 inputs from more than 6,700 young people and 130 experts have now been incorporated into the results of the Upper Austrian Youth Strategy. The resulting strategy is a powerful outcome that captures the collective voice of

Upper Austria's young people and focuses on their visions for the future. Strategic goals and fields of action were derived from the extensive source material, which will serve as a guideline for extracurricular youth work in Upper Austria in the coming years.

Young people in Upper Austria were invited to share their opinions and needs on current issues and challenges in their everyday lives.

They were able to discuss issues that concern them with a politician in a dialogue with the Upper Austrian Provincial Youth Councillor Dr. Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer.

The youth strategy gave young people between the ages of 14 and 30 a voice and enabled them to participate in the planning of future extracurricular youth work.



Youth Team Force

City Council of Gaia, Portugal

Gaia is a municipality deeply committed to fostering an entrepreneurial and active culture, where young people have full participation in all areas of municipal intervention. In Gaia we have a premise: nothing is done in terms of youth policies without the contribution of young people. The current executive emphasises the tremendous importance of dreaming big and setting new limits to the scope of action in the field of youth. Therefore, Gaia always sees young people as co-builders, co-managers and co-decision-makers in local youth policies and programmes. In 2023, Gaia Municipal Plan for all Youth(s) 2.0 was initiated. Primary voice was given to young people through dynamics of non-formal education that compose the cycle of auscultation "New Voice to Youths".

Within the "New Voice to Youth(s)" project, all the activities intended to be co-managed and co-produced by, with and for young people, emphasising its role as effective changemakers.

The "Youth Task Force" was created, spreading the invitation to make part of Volunteering Municipal Programme "Youth +", with empowerment moments destined to transform young people into youth facilitators. Their role is designed to boost the different stages of the process (preparation meetings, sessions follow-up and youth dialogue sessions; organising and participating on Generation Labs, project and results dissemination. With the constitution of a facilitators grant and a youth volunteering programme new opportunities for empowerment were created, destined to strengthen peer-to-peer learning. A youth dialogue cycle was part of this initiative, which provided civic and democratic participation to all young people of Gaia. Therefore, Municipality of Gaia organised 17 sessions and 3 generation labs – divided into three rounds: first round, sessions for parishes; second round three thematic generation labs; and on round three sessions for representatives of previous rounds together with

municipal, regional, national and international decision-makers. We must say that all Youth Team Force crew were decisive in the preparation of all the sessions, with a headlight role in all the stages of the event.

This initiative of youth empowerment and participation had a significant impact on both the involved youth and the local community. Firstly, by providing opportunities for youth to actively engage in projects and make decisions that affect their own lives and communities, the initiative fostered a sense of responsibility and self-confidence among the youth. They became more empowered and motivated to make a difference in their communities. Furthermore, by equipping youth with leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, the initiative prepared a generation better equipped to face future challenges. The involved youth were able to develop their skills, discover their talents and potentials, and became role models for other community members.

In the local community, the initiative helped create a more inclusive and participatory environment, where the voices of youth are heard and valued. This strengthened social ties and promoted a culture of collaboration and community cohesion.

Youth became agents of change, working alongside other community members to address local issues, promote sustainable development, and create opportunities for all. Overall, the initiative of youth empowerment and participation had a transformative impact, empowering youth to become active leaders and positive contributors in their communities, while strengthening social fabric and fostering peer development.



From paper to e-form and finally into reality

Eurodesk Comune di Valdagno, Italy

Eurodesk Valdagno is a historical member of the Italian Eurodesk network, in charge of the Valdagno Municipalities and run by a social cooperative called Studio Progetto holding Quality Label for European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+.

The office has developed competences in spreading the values and the opportunities of European Programmes such as Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. We cover a population of 26.000 inhabitants and provide information and guidance to young people in the surrounding area (other municipalities for a total amount of 40000 citizens). Our office is located in the school district of the city and offers information and guidance also on the Italian education system and job-oriented guidance for young people approaching the job market for the first time.

Eurodesk-Valdagno offered **two free training courses on European Project Design**, aimed at girls and boys aged 18-30, youth groups, associations, and student volunteers.

The courses focus on equipping young people with necessary information and tools to create and search for financial support for their ideas through European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+. The first edition of the course, held in March in a hybrid format to include 2 participants with health issues, had 6 participants, two of whom attended online. The course facilitated collaboration through a hybrid learning environment. The methodology used was non-formal education. The second edition was part of a broader programme for seven students in an Educational Pathways for Transversal skills and Guidance. The students designed the topic and participated in 2 European exchanges organised by the Social Cooperative Studio Progetto. Both editions of the training courses provided participants with necessary skills for organising and implementing complex activities, including an international perspective. The participants highly appreciated the initiative, stating that it increased their knowledge about European Union projects and helped them to feel more aware of EU values.

The project promoted participants' knowledge and encouraged the emergence of youth-oriented project topics.

The feedback sent to the office at the end of the course was highly positive. The participants mentioned that they had expanded their knowledge about European Union projects, especially Erasmus+. They also mentioned their participation in a project design workshop for a youth exchange, which helped them develop skills such as decision making and collaboration.

The participants felt that their teamwork skills had improved and they were able to work well with others. They appreciated the trainer's availability and

kindness, and were pleased that their concerns were addressed. They highly recommended the experience to other young people, highlighting the atmosphere of tranquillity and acceptance. The participant mentioned that the training was comprehensive and varied, and the different methods of learning were engaging and encouraged participation. Overall, they considered the educational experience favourable and helpful for knowledge development.



Culture Is Richness

Eurodesk VCO, Italy

The local Eurodesk Verbania has been active for 18 years and is coordinated by Vedogiovane, a social cooperative for over 15 years. During the years of activity of the Eurodesk point, a network of municipalities and local institutions, that supported the service aiming to introduce local young people from rural areas to gain some first European mobility experience. This network of municipalities encouraged us, with the support of administrators of small mountain municipalities, who recognised the importance of enhancing Erasmus+ exchanges in order to bring even geographically isolated children closer to a European dimension.

The project developed some **town twinning activities** in the hosting town of Verbania, Italy. The aim of the twinning was **fostering youth participation toward the engagement and inclusion of youth from rural areas** in Italy and Germany through outdoor education, as a strategy for new actions to support chances for well being and socialisation of the European citizens.

The project took place in Verbania, in the Piedmont region, Italy, a rural area very rich in natural resources, landscapes, and cultural background. Verbania hosted about 50 young Germans thanks to the participation of Italian families who offered to welcome them into their homes. Most of the young Germans were high school students, but the group was accompanied by a small group of adults representing the Mindelheim twinning committee that collaborated with the Verbania twinning committee for the realisation of this project.

A wide set of actions was developed to promote different approaches towards a better use of outdoor education to foster the active participation and cultural awareness of the citizens, also supporting intergenerational solidarity between youth and adult citizens. The programme of the town twinning international meeting hosted in Verbania, included seminars, working groups and an outdoor treasure hunt throughout the monuments and buildings of Verbania, to discover

the history of the city and by playing some traditional games (native games both German and Italian) to create a moment of cultural exchange.

The project supported the inclusion of disadvantaged young people suffering from geographical isolation. Project actions were aimed at supporting the empowerment of the active participation skills of young people in rural areas by supporting their active commitment as promoters of socio-educational and youth entertainment process for the benefit of other peer ages and the entire community.

The project contributed to improving the inclusion, cultural exchange and social aggregation dynamics in place in the territory of the Vco Province and to exploit the potential of the naturalistic, landscape and cultural resources of the rural area as a tool to foster the awareness of the young people about their cultural roots and about the European identity. It helped young people in rural areas to develop and to start ideas for European project, with special regard to Erasmus+ youth exchanges and ESC solidarity initiatives that can be connected to socio-cultural animation in favour of other young people, also applicable to strengthen the cooperation links between their respective towns of Verbania and Mindheleim.

The project in fact also had an impact on the training of the participants to be ready to start several local and European projects alone or in collaboration with other local stakeholders, with particular reference to the social and socio-educational services available in their area, including local Eurodesk services.



EP Goal – European Parliament Goes Local

Fattoria Pugliese Diffusa APS, Italy

FPD was founded in 2009 in Italy, as a youth NGO, with the support of the Apulia Regional Government and the Italian Ministry of Youth. Its mission is to promote and facilitate the development of rural areas of the Apulia Region, thanks to the implementation of projects concerning education for justice, youth engagement and european active citizenship, participatory democracy, volunteering, social inclusion, environment protection, sustainable development, promotion of biodiversity, organic farming, nature and sport and outdoor activities.

FPD is a multiplier of the Eurodesk Network and is also running a web Radio, named FATTORADIO, managed by 10 young people, who produce podcasts focusing on awareness raising on EU policies, programmes and opportunities.

EPGOAL was an initiative implemented in Italy **to promote the values and the founding principles of the EU and bring citizens closer to the Institutions**, reducing the perceived distance and promoting greater awareness of the role that everyone can

have in building the Europe of the future. This goal was achieved through the direct involvement in the activities of young citizens, who have become the protagonists of EPGOAL, the so-called **“EPGOAL Ambassadors”**, and who have marked the timing and directly carried out the planned activities. During the 18 months of the project, in fact, FPD has involved about 30 young italian people, starting from a 2-day training course on the methodologies of the street debate and the podcasts. Subsequently, in the squares of the bigger Italian cities, as in those of the smaller towns, the EPGOAL Ambassadors debated with passers-by, citizens of all ages and with different socio-cultural backgrounds, on issues like the environment and climate change, employment, hospitality and integration, human rights.

The ideas, suggestions, expectations collected from these debates were discussed directly by the Ambassadors themselves with some Italian MEPs and EU policy experts

through the recording of podcasts on FattoRadio. The EPGOAL APP was created, constantly updated with news on the EU Parliament and Together.eu., as well as a simulation on the functioning of the EU Parliament in a High School. The final event was held in Rome, in the office of the EU Parliament in Italy.

The overall goal of the action was to invest in bringing the EU and its institutions closer to Italian citizens. Within this general framework, EPGOAL envisaged, in order to have a real impact, the direct involvement of young people in the design and implementation of a modern communication campaign, which used innovative tools, street debates and podcasts, first and foremost. The young people who participated, the so-called EPGOAL Ambassadors, felt so involved in the initiative that they worked hard to help grow it and to apply additional or corrective actions, if necessary, to achieve the expected results and amplify the impact of the action.

Specific outcomes:

- Motivating the younger generation to take the EU by the hand and lead it toward a future built with a bottom-up approach;
- Providing some peripheral Italian territories with EPGOAL ambassadors, motivated young people who in turn, thanks to their experience, can motivate other young people, especially in terms of participation in decision-making at every level (street debates, podcasts). They will continuously act as local multipliers, supporting the communities where they live with up-to-date information about what the EP is doing for EU citizens and what citizens can do for a better EU future;
- Publicising the tools citizens have to interact with EU institutions and make their voices heard: citizens' initiatives, citizen dialogues, consultations, feedback, and EP elections.



Project? Take It Easy!

Kekava municipality, JIC, Latvia

JIC-New Ideas Center is a place where young people can realise their ideas and receive information and support about opportunities in the region, the country and the world.

The purpose of the event was to provide young people with information about opportunities

to spend their free time, strengthen their cooperation, self-expression abilities by participating in the Eurodesk campaign "Time To Move", and learn more about what opportunities are offered to young people in the local, regional and international environment.

We found out about project possibilities, developed ideas for the realisation of our project. We learned this new thing about Europe, we played breakout games around Riga and found out how far Latvia is from other countries. The main conclusion - DON'T BE AFRAID TO DO!

Youngsters THEMSELVES have come up with ideas with which they want to change, solve or offer something in the region and have

written the project specifications THEMSELVES, have received financial support THEMSELVES and realise THEMSELVES idea. It is the moment when they absolutely feel that they do not need to work in the municipality to influence something, but anyone can be a part of something big or create something big themselves.



We Socialise With Culture And Art

Yedi İklim Culture ,Art, Education,Science
and Solidarity Association, Türkiye

Yedi İklim Culture Arts Education Science and Solidarity Association was established in 2013 as a non-profit non-governmental organisation. Our motto is "trying to produce with love". We strive to be a civil society movement that addresses human morale as well as production. It aims to work in more than one area. The target group is young people (orphans, refugees), elderly people and disadvantaged groups. It focuses its activities on these areas in the fields of culture and art. It tries to be beneficial to people and society by using the aspect of culture and art that is encompassing the human spirit.

Our aim is to raise awareness about the concrete and intangible cultural heritage that is found in our country and which has

been left by our ancestors, which gives identity to the society. Introducing the past to the new generations, telling the future to leave the work of their interest in these areas will focus on activities that will focus on doing projects.

Goals:

- Increasing Participation in European Opportunities: by introducing European opportunities to young people, especially those who



have not heard of the Erasmus+ programme before or have not left their city;

- Creating a sense of ownership among young people: through the project, encouraging them to participate in international projects and providing them with opportunities to take an active role in projects;
- Raising Volunteerism Awareness: in young people and develop a sense of social responsibility through volunteers;
- Providing Support to Young Victims of War: through volunteers, to increase their integration into society and help them cope with the difficulties they experience.

Activities:

- Information and Promotion Meetings;

- Training and Mentoring Programmes;
- Special Projects for Youth Victims of War;
- International Collaborations and Joint Projects.

Results:

- Increasing the Participation of Young People;
- Development of Social Responsibility Awareness;
- Supporting Youth Victims of War;
- Strengthening International Relations.

Positive Effects on Young People:

- Equality of Opportunity and Development: Our project supported the personal and professional development of young people who have never



heard of the Erasmus+ program or have never left their city by providing equal opportunities;

- International Experience and Cultural Exchange: Young people have had the chance to experience and understand different cultures through participation in international projects. This has helped them have a culturally rich experience;
- Improving Leadership and Communication Skills: such as project management, intercultural communication and leadership;
- Social Responsibility Awareness: by providing support to other young people who are victims of war or in difficult situations.

Positive Impacts on Local Community:

- Social Participation of Young People-Strengthening International Relations;
- Social Integration and Solidarity;
- Education and Information Sharing, These effects have contributed positively to the individual development of young people and to the local community gaining a broader perspective and sense of solidarity.



ErasmusDays 2021 Festival

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Türkiye

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University (AYBU) is a higher education institution dedicated to providing students with a promising future through its quality education. AYBU International Relations Office fosters and supports youth and academics through global cooperation and competition, focusing on international education, research, and campus internationalisation. As AYBU Eurodesk Türkiye Contact Point, our office not only coordinates all the university's international activities, including Erasmus+ and MoU exchange programmes, but also provides information on numerous European and youth opportunities.

As AYBU Eurodesk Türkiye Contact Point, we have been organising a wide range of events in different periods every year since 2013. In 2021, despite the pandemic that continues to have a worldwide impact, we thought of welcoming students to their campuses for the first time in a long time with a festival. In this direction, taking advantage of the ErasmusDays events celebrated

all over Europe in October 2021, we, as AYBU Eurodesk Türkiye Contact Point, organised a festival with a wide participation at our university on 15 October 2021. With this festival, which was organised with the participation of not only the students of our university but also all young people in Ankara, it was aimed to enable young people to discover numerous European opportunities, to meet with stakeholders operating in this field, and to create an environment where young people can directly convey their questions and opinions with the participation of policy-making institutions and individuals. In this context, higher education institutions in Ankara, Erasmus+ Higher Education consortium



partner universities, various public and private institutions/organisations, NGOs and student clubs had the chance to meet young people, meet various opportunities and exhibit their good practices through the stands opened in the festival area, especially the Turkish National Agency and Eurodesk Türkiye Contact Points in Ankara.

Through this festival, Eurodesk and EU opportunities have entered the agenda of the university youth even more and this interest has been reflected in the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) applications of our university in the following process. Besides these activities, the last event of the day was the concert organised on the stage by AYBÜ Music Club, which was also founded by the students of our university. Young people were brought together with an **open-air concert**, where young people will both relieve the tiredness of the day and feel special because they have been away from such activities for a long time due to the pandemic. At the end of the event, young people and festival participants were transported to the city centre with the shuttles arranged by our university.

The feedback received on social media and face-to-face is very positive and especially the young people and stakeholder institution representatives,

who have been longing for such collective events for a long time due to the pandemic, expressed their satisfaction and wanted to learn the date of the next event. Since that day, as Eurodesk Turkey Contact Point, we continue to make efforts to bring young people and numerous European opportunities together, and we will continue to do so...



“Be: Aware – Involved – Critical!” – Youth Conference

Młodzieżowy Dom Kultury nr 2 in Piekary Śląskie, Poland

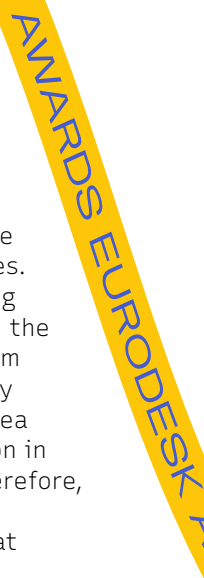
We are an out-of-school education facility and run extra-curricular activities every day from Monday to Friday. More than 400 children and young people take part in our activities every week. We run youth activities as part of our activities, including a Eurodesk Poland point. The site has been in existence since 1938 and has been in place all the time to support the development of children and young people.

The project aimed to promote the personal development, skills and engagement of Polish and Ukrainian youth, with a particular focus on those affected by the conflict in Ukraine. It included various activities to promote leadership, volunteering, activism and project management skills. A highlight was the youth conference “BE: aware - engaged - critical!”, which provided a platform for young people to share experiences and insights. Through workshops and presentations, participants developed critical thinking skills to counter manipulation and hate speech.

The project built a network of organisations supporting youth participation and aimed to influence stakeholders and decision-makers. By integrating refugees from Ukraine and ensuring equal participation, the project promoted inclusivity and European solidarity. Ultimately, it aimed to create a friendlier world and promote a Europe without war and hatred. An added value was the recommendations prepared on the basis of the conclusions of the speeches by a special youth committee consisting of representatives of Eurodesk MDK 2 Piekary Śląskie. The spectacular result was another year-long project prepared by the young people and partners as a continuation of the activities - the second edition, to which we were invited this time by young people from Piła. The project has already received funding and is just starting.

This project is an inspiring example of an initiative that effectively involves young people in decision-making processes and encourages them to actively participate in European opportunities. By organising a youth conference, the initiative enabled young people to participate directly in discussions and decisions about their own future and the development of their community. Young people had the opportunity to express their opinions, put forward ideas and work together to find solutions to the issues that matter most to them. In addition, by participating in the conference, young people gained new skills such as public speaking, negotiation and working with others.

This in turn supports the development of their sense of responsibility and their ability to take the initiative on social and political issues. The networking of the young leaders who participated in the conference has enabled them to continue their community work and to promote the idea of active youth participation in social and political life. Therefore, this project is a significant example of an initiative that effectively involves young people in decision-making processes, encourages them to actively participate in European opportunities and fosters their sense of responsibility for their own future and the development of their community.



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