



THE BEST

of Youth



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PROJECT REPORT

Consortium



Project Summary


In last years, members and staffs of the organizations involved collected an expertise of best practices, experiences, instruments in non-profit and Youth fields that is a patrimony to not to lose and that can be the driving force of new actions and projects. Through this expertise, lots of organizations involved in non-profit and youth fields today register some fundamental problems about young generations:- young people in general are often identified in negative terms,- frequently, in mass media storytelling, young people are connected only to problems about job insecurity, life precarity, unemployment, familiar instability,- often they are mentioned as generations of social network life, without having moral and ethical values of previous generation. This kind of narration, also if sometimes is connected to facts and reality, often assumes a predominant and unlimited dimension, with some dangerous effects:- the general image of young generation is basically negative, because young people today are identified as the generation of precarity, of values crisis, of cultural poor levels,- lot of young people "absorb" this image of themselves, in this way losing trust in the future, confidence in being satisfied from their commitments in different aspects of life,- scepticism, for lot of young people, to having the possibility of changing the world around them, about their personal lives but also about collective paths and communities, so, as consequence, the increasing of individualism attitude, with less attention to common good and the spreading of the mistrust to others, to who's considered "different", to changes.




But in spite of this negative image, In the world there are lots of young people with good ideas, with innovating projects, with positive experiences. So, it is fundamental to change the predominant narration of young generations, to clip over cliches about young people, for promoting the positive narration and letting know best practices, virtuous experiences and innovative ideas born by young generation, with particular focus on non-profit fields. In this way the project aims to promote a positive narration to the people in general, promoting role models that will stimulate activation and initiative spirit. For reaching that purposes, the project foresees local and international activities, in particular:- identifying and mapping best practices and innovating experiences in non-profit fields created by young people in countries involved,- creating a web platform able to collect and promote the role models;- realising two mobility events (a Training Course and a Youth Exchange) aimed to give youth workers and young people instruments and skills for realising positive and innovating ideas and projects,- realising a Capacity Building international event for improving the network between the partners and for creating together new projects for promoting positive attitude and initiative spirit of young people, for young people.


Report of the project implementation


- ▶ The project “The Best of Youth” officially had started on December the 1st 2020. Since the beginning it was affected by the world pandemic situation caused by the Covid-19 virus.
- ▶ The project had involved partners from Italy, Spain, Romania, Republic of North Macedonia, India and Ghana, with international activities in Romania, Italy and Spain. At the beginning of the year 2021, travel limitations and sanitary rules were different for each country involved in the partnership, and there were no concrete options to organise and realise the foreseen Capacity Building transnational meetings and the Mobility Activities, with safety and with good quality, ensuring the participation of each partner delegation.
- ▶ So, in name of the partnership, ECA Onlus had communicated to EACEA the decision to suspend the implementation of the project because of force majeure, due to the limitations generated by the Covid-19 pandemic situation. It happened on February the 15th 2021.
- ▶ The project has restarted after six months, on September 2021.


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- ▶ The partners started to work together again in preparation of the Kick Off Meeting, that was realised on 17-19 February 2022.
 - ▶ The participants met in Bucharest, with the involvement of delegations from European and non-European partners from: Romania, North Macedonia, Spain, India and Ghana.
 - ▶ The meeting was the occasion for discussing about best practices to be implemented during the life of the project, in order to ensure the maximization of results and the implementation of quality activities designed with and for the young people who form the heart of the project.
 - ▶ The representatives of the organisations involved were able to discuss the final details for the start of the implementation phase. In addition, they had the opportunity to dialogue in order to discuss together needs and requirements related to the general and specific objectives of the project. They had the chance to confront about: - status of its activities and expectations regarding the implementation of the project and the activities, - joint analysis of the work schedule, needs related to the individual international events, details of local activities related to the specific objectives; Identification of specific indicators for the impact of the project, - analysis of details and needs related to evaluation tools and communication and dissemination strategies (style and type of content, etc....).
 - ▶ After the Kickoff Meeting, in view of the training course, each organization started the selection of participants and their preparation for the next event.

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- ▶ In the following months, the involved organisations opened the procedure for selecting the participants and prepare them to the Training Course, in particular, they have to identify the main characteristics of a role model, according to their opinion.
 - ▶ The Training Course took place in Rome from 21 to 25 of September 2022. It has been developed within the framework of capacity building in the youth field and it has seen the involvement of partners from Italy, North Macedonia and Spain. Unfortunately, due to administrative issues and travel limitations, not all delegations were able to participate in.
 - ▶ In order to achieve the expected results, the participants took part in several training activities over five days which involved the use of non-formal learning methods (exercises, comparisons, simulations, debates, etc.), by means of which the participants will acquire skills and competences in the field of design and project management in the non-profit sector. During the training, participants had the chance to get more deep in the following topics: the fundamental elements for the creation of a project, how to transform an idea into a structured project (e.g.: analysis of needs, logical framework, objectives and expected results, etc.), in-depth analysis of the main European funding programs in the non-profit sectors, comparison with the forms and application forms; building a partnership, how to build your own network; to manage a project: fundamental tools for coordinating and managing a project.

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- ▶ Participants were involved in evaluating the characteristics that a positive youth worker must have in order to be perceived as a potential role model for young people. As consequence of the sharing work by mixed groups, they had to decide in plenary session on only ten characteristic out of the total of those listed, and the result that emerged from this comparison was that they had more soft skills (empathy, cultural awareness, communication skills) than hard skills.
 - ▶ Moreover, as a subsequent activity, each participant was randomly assigned a topic to be developed according to the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ Program and so participants had time to get to know the city by doing video interviews with people they found on the streets of Rome. They were asked to cover topics such as: climate change, digital transformation, active citizenship, inclusion, and diversity, as well as interviews in relation to the Erasmus+ Program, and they also recorded videos of some of them.

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- ▶ After the Training Course partners were involved in the local work. In particular they identified different experiences (organisations, groups, etc...) that can be considered as role models for young people, regarding commitment in societies and communities. The partner worked also on the networking of the different experiences at local level, for promoting and improving the visibility of the role models and the possibility to create future project.
 - ▶ Then, in November 2022, took place the planned youth exchange. The partnership decided to carry out the project activity in blended mode, i.e. through the online connection of the different groups of participants, while the Italian group met in presence. Different working tools were used during the exchange, alternating between zoom sessions of exchange of experiences and good practices, and work carried out remotely by each national group. The activity focused on the theme of comparison and exchange between the experiences identified as role models, trying to extrapolate the common features and differences, in order to build the content base of the document "Positive role models for youth: characteristics and perspectives", aimed at disseminating elements and ideas to improve the narration of positive experiences and models for the young generations in the non-profit sphere.

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- ▶ During the exchange, each group introduced the different experiences identified on the topic of youth role models, contributing to the assembly work of identifying the fundamental characteristics of the role models presented. The groups then worked on a project idea for the promotion of youth policies. There was room for a shared discussion on the issues influencing the dominant negative narrative of the young generations. Finally, the group worked together reflecting on possible measures that can be used in the field of youth policy to promote a positive counter-narrative. Finally, it identified key points for the paper “Positive role models for youth: characteristics and perspectives”.
 - ▶ After the Exchange the partnership started the work for systematising all materials produced during the project, that will merge inside the project website.

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- ▶ Then, the Closing Meeting of The Best of Youth project was held at the beginning of December 2022. The Meeting allowed the first evaluation and closure of the project activities. It was attended by project managers and leaders of the organisations involved.
 - ▶ The participants focused first of all on the analysis of the results and the evaluation of the implementation phase. They reasoned together on how to strengthen and make dissemination activities more effective.
 - ▶ The meeting then focused on some Capacity Building activities, i.e. the deepening for the identification of new project ideas in which the consortium will be involved, which can reuse, develop and improve the contents of the project currently implemented; the deepening for capacity building in communication and dissemination, through the exchange of good practices and the sharing of experiences.
 - ▶ The meeting was also the occasion for the presentation of all implemented activities.