

An Erasmus+
Youth Exchange
project

#ACTIVE YOUTH CHALLENGE

LARISSA, GREECE
29/9-6/10 2019

A collaborative
handbook on youth
participation and active
citizenship



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ
ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑ ΒΙΟΥ
ΜΑΘΗΣΗΣ



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Disclaimer

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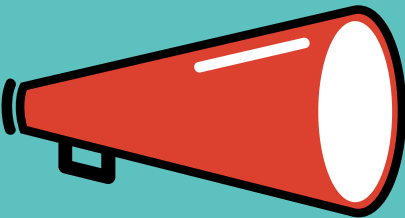


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Introduction



Hello there!

Welcome to this handbook.

This production is an initiative taken from a group of 50 young people who participated in the youth exchange “Active Youth Challenge”, organized by the I-PARTICIPATE Ngo, between 29th of September to 6th of October 2019 in Larissa, Greece, co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme.

There were two parts already implemented, one in Germany-Kassel 2018 and one in Greece-Larissa 2019. 50 people from Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Norway gathered with a similar purpose and a common need, to explore and now spread awareness about the topic of youth participation and active citizenship focusing especially in the participation of NEETs and young people with fewer opportunities.

This handbook is a tool for everyone to grow beyond, get informed and be a more active citizen in everyday life.

The objectives of this program were to:

- exchange ideas on how to activate people on an online and local, national, international level.
- bring ideas and realize our own ideas as independent people and how to act on them, create content from them and grow at least on a local level.
- explore why young people are less politically and socially active.
- explore why they struggle to enter from the educational to the labor market.
- map the reasons why people with fewer opportunities (NEETS) are less active and why do they feel disappointed.
- increase participants knowledge on volunteerism and getting involved in local movements and organizations.

We, the participants of the youth exchange “ActiveYouth Challenge” hope that by exploring this handbook, the methods and the practices you will start a journey very important and helpful for understanding more about youth participation and active citizenship. We have learned a lot and we know that there are many young people who are looking for opportunities to make a difference.

We wish you the best of luck with you future endeavors!

Enjoy!



Meet the Partners



I-PARTICIPATE,
Larissa, Greece (Coordinator)

I-PARTICIPATE aims to strengthen active citizenship, to support active participation among citizens and to promote European values, ideas and European identity and culture, while at the same time highlighting lifelong learning as a necessary means for strengthening citizenship. Most of its activities aim to empower and support young people through non-formal education, sport and culture, develop social and human capital and create more favorable conditions for strengthening social equality, social cohesion and political activity and support initiatives to protect individual, political and social rights and human rights in general.



PROGETTO GIOVANI
(office of Municipality of Padova),
Padova, Italy

Progetto Giovani is the office of Municipality of Padova that helps youngsters in counseling and orientation in the job world and school choice (e.g.: the CV drafting).

During the year it arranges workshops, meetings where people can learn other European languages and meetings and workshops focusing on the skill assessment, in order to “connect” the school and the job world.



UTESEKSJONEN,
Oslo, Norway

Uteseksjonen do outreach work in the centre of Oslo during the day and evening every day throughout the year. The organization is in contact with people who, for various reasons, need help or who live difficult lives marked by substance abuse, crime or poor mental health. Uteseksjonen also collaborates with the organisation Perspektiv working together with vulnerable communities and social groups in the centre of Oslo. Perspective arrange talks and events for youth and offer counseling for those who want advice and guidance, offering alternative activities such as music therapy, school visits and workshops.

The “Kommunale Jugendbildungswerk der Stadt Kassel” is part of the youth office of the city of Kassel. It is working on non formal education with young people from 13 – 27 years. Its activities aim to foster participation of young people in local social life and local decisions, the preoccupation of young people with topical themes of politics, environment, society, history and other topics. KJBW operates also the so called Haus der Jugend – centre for non formal education and youth groups and cooperates with the non profit organization called Freestyle.



iszosz
Ifjúsági Szolgáltatók Országos Szövetsége

ISZOSZ,
Kecskemét, Hungary

ISZOSZ the Hungarian Association of Youth Service Providers was founded in 2011 as an umbrella organization of professionals and organizations dealing with youth service. The organization is seated in the southern part of Hungary, in a city called Kecskemét. Kecskemét itself has 3 youth centres to unite the local youth and support them in spending their spare time in a valuable way. It aims to support the quality development of domestic youth services, provide professional assistance and basic background for youth organizations and professionals working with youth service

Active Youth Methods

Oslo, Norway.

We have a project where a group of 8 peer-educators are working in Uteseksjonen which is a part of Oslo's Social and Welfare services. In collaboration with professionals, the peer-educators work with vulnerable communities and social groups in the center of Oslo. Their area of work includes preventive youth work with those under 18 and direct outreach towards those in the communities. They arrange talks and events for youth and offers counseling for those who want advice and guidance. They also offer alternative activities such as music therapy, school visits and workshops.

Through their work, peer educators want to remove the taboo and lower the threshold for young vulnerable people to contact the welfare services when they need help. They aim to inform and have conversations with young people about topics such as drugs, mental health, loneliness, bullying, identity, sexual orientation and hate-speech.

Through their work, they bridge the gap between vulnerable communities and the welfare services. Peer educators know the importance of having support during a vulnerable transition, like when overcoming drug-use, leave a criminal environment or if you are struggling with mental health.

Peer educators have self-experience and know what it is like to be in these situations and the importance of meeting likeminded individuals. All the peer educators know from experience that it's useful to ask for help and want be a part of making a difference in the lives of young people in Oslo.

Padova, Italy

Among the various activities promoted by Progetto Giovani, two of them are particularly relevant in terms of active participation of youngsters in the life of the city: these are MAC and Anime Verdi.

MAC (Makers Artisti Creativi) is a co-lab in which a group of young artists and creative makers, selected every year, can implement their creative projects, receive training about entrepreneurship and try to start their business. The project is implemented in partnership with other stakeholders, such as Confartigianato

(Craftmen's Association), Scientific – Technological Park, IUAV University of Venice, CNA Padova (association of artisans and SMEs) and GAI (Network of Young Italian Artists). The co-lab is located in Piazza De Gasperi, a square of Padova that has been interested by phenomena of marginalisation and a substantial state of abandonment in the past years.

The selected artists can use this space for free, but they are asked to contribute with their activities to the reactivation and regeneration of the square, involving the surrounding inhabitants and becoming themselves agents of change through their art. Thus, MAC allows the young artists to take active part to the life of the square through their art, acquiring at the same time entrepreneurial skills and developing their potential in a concrete context.

Anime Verdi (Green Souls) is the festival of open gardens, organised by Progetto Giovani – Municipality of Padova in collaboration with local organisations (Il Raggio Verde and Xena). The aim is to promote and enhance the landscape heritage hidden behind the doorways of private households in the city centre of Padova. For two days, the landlords of the private gardens open their properties to thousands of visitors, thanks to the precious work of the staff of young volunteers involved in the project.

Such volunteers take part in an enriching experience, in which they develop important social and management skills.

The initiative involves about 120 volunteers, who are guardians, designers, storytellers and musicians, who work together in order to animate the gardens and create an opportunity for social aggregation for the whole city. In June 2020, the 3rd edition will take place.

Thessaloniki, Greece

The Municipal Youth Council is a structure of young people's active participation. They take initiatives on issues that concern them but also on issues of general interest. It enables young people to become active citizens. To plan actions in the areas of employment, culture, information and leisure. It contributes to the development of values such as solidarity and tolerance. It encourages initiative and cultivates responsibility to those who participate. It is a participatory body, which ensures that the young people between 15 and 30 years old are active in the local community without exclusions and discrimination.

Through the Municipal Youth Council, the virtues and dreams of youth are highlighted. The dissemination of democratic principles, the raising of awareness towards behaviors that promote the role of responsible and active citizenship are achieved. It is possible for young people to get to know the local society and its institutions better, to make their ideas and suggestions heard, to express themselves institutionally, to formulate and exchange views and to contribute to the development of the local society.

The decisions as well as the conclusions will be forwarded for implementation by the President of the Youth Council to the meetings of the BoD of KEDITH and will be presented to the Municipal Council of the Municipality.

Kassel, Germany

The organisation called Freestyle works in many ways according to a new model: not only bringing different partners and institutions together but also offering through sports experience and knowledge. Freestyle sees itself as a place for sports and social skills training as well as a point of contact, advice and placement for children and young people.

The main objectives are:

- to support young people improve their sport skills
- to support young people to overcome problems in everyday life
- to support youngsters find vocational perspective

The moto of the organization is that "Exercise and sport are the keys to successful integration, prevention and health promotion for young people, children and adolescents.

Kecskemét, Hungary

Student Councils operate in number of cities and towns in Hungary and on many levels. They consist of youngsters and students who work as representatives of their peers and cooperate with decision-makers. The members are elected and meet regularly, and are supported by experienced adults such as teachers, youth workers, etc. There are student councils working within school, and cooperating with teachers in order to organize cultural events or after school activities, and in general focus on everyday concerns in the life of the school.

There are also youth councils that operate on a town-level. They meet with the municipality to work on cultural events within the community, and to communicate the wishes and needs of the young people within the community, e.g. in Kecskemét public transportation was improved with the help of the youth council, especially regarding evening and night buses, which enables the youngsters to go out and have fun during the evening and be able to return home safely afterwards. They also organize events such as an annual dance ball and regular forums where young people have the chance to meet and discuss about issues relevant to them.



Gallery







*Thank you for
reading!*