



Programme: Erasmus+

Key Action: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

Action Type: Capacity Building for youth in ACP countries, Latin America and Asia

Duration in months: 24

Project Period: January 2017 – December 2018

Country: Italy, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile

Applicant Organization: Futuro Digitale (Italy)

Partners: Municipality of Tarsia (Italy), Asociación PROJUVEN (Spain), Conexx NGO (Belgium), Association “Professional Forum for Education” (Bulgaria), Puente Sur (Paraguay), Cámara de Comercio Italiana de Rosario (Argentina), Grupo Polo Tecnológico de Rosario (Argentina), Agencia de Desarrollo Productivo (Uruguay), Universidad Austral de Chile (Chile).

Expected Budget: 150,000 euro

Project Title: Employability Skills 4 Youth (ES4Y)

Project Description

ES4Y is a Capacity Building project within the framework of the European Commission’s Erasmus + Programme with project partners from Italy, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile joined to develop a toolkit with learning scenarios that bridge the gaps between young peoples’ skills and the world of work via non-formal education methods. All Institutions will form a network for designing, programming and planning of an online e-learning platform that aims to add quality of the systems of support to youth, youth workers and young people with fewer opportunities. This project will contribute to the implementation of “Europe 2020” strategy, working specifically in the fight against poverty and social exclusion of youth.

The online web-based platform (O1) called ES4Y will be the main sharing tool: users will be able to upload resources, methods and good practices (pictures, texts and audio-video contents), which will be available for free downloading and easy feedback during the project and beyond its lifetime. The online platform will include a space with useful tips on visa applications for young people.

Youth workers and youngsters will learn how to plan and implement new and innovative trainings, relational support meetings, workshops and leisure time activities for disadvantaged, adolescents, young universities students and in general young people with fewer opportunities. Therefore, this capacity building project will develop youth workers' and youngsters set of technical, transversal and intercultural skills and competences which may open new job opportunities and improve their employability in the social work field at a local, national and international level. Creativity, entrepreneurship, teamwork and sense of initiative will be continuously developed thus promoting a real and deep personal and professional growth of youth workers and youngsters. The activity will be set the basis for the creation of project work tools. Including an integral study of the abilities and skills needed by employers to facilitate the job creation. The project includes a phase of development of teaching materials of non-formal character of socio-professional skills education.

The project implementation will be in part online, progressively through an e-learning platform and in part will be physical through the implementation of 1 TCs for Youth workers (Italy, Futuro Digitale), several job shadowing activities in all partner organizations and a Youth Exchange that will be realized at month 22 in Ciudad del Este in Paraguay. Through this training tool is intended to enhance the "soft skills" launching 6 e-learning courses (O2) for youth workers and youngsters, specifically focused in youth social entrepreneurship and youth job skills:

1. Social and Communication skills (connecting with others; ability to use various channels for persuasive communication; context appropriate communication; interpersonal and intercultural awareness; tolerance)
2. Informational and communication technologies / ICT (skill for confident and critical use of ICT; virtual collaboration: ability to work productively and demonstrate presence as a member of a virtual team; data and personal security issues in internet, social networking, etc.)
3. Sense of self & community (personal development; self-esteem; confidence; self-efficacy; civic engagement; strengthened bonds to community; partnership work);
4. Leadership, decision making, team working
5. Entrepreneur skills and entrepreneur spirit (planning and decision-making skills, novel thinking, problem solving, finding solutions and responses into unexpected circumstances; ability to plan and to work productively)
6. Training for trainers.

All the materials will be based on ITC experience-based course by using Open Education Resources (OERs) to be shared globally.

The time frame of the project is January 2017 to December 2018.

The project will be launched through an international seminar to be held in Sofia in Bulgaria (month 1, January 2017) and which will bring together representatives of the different organizations and countries (1 persons per partner). The seminar, not only will promote the strategic cooperation in a global problem such as youth unemployment and skills needed in the world of work but also will study and share good practices that are carried out in all partner countries for the employability of young people and other parts of America-Latina. The activity will be set the basis for the creation of project work tools. Including an integral study of the abilities and skills needed by employers to facilitate the job creation at local, national and international level. This study will published under the form of a digital guide (O3) and presented during the ES4Y final conference (month 24) that will be held in Rosario in Argentina. At the same time, during the seminar project leaders will establish the roles of each organization in this partnership.

1. Learning of Methodologies for social innovation
2. Promoting the professional development of youth workers throw networking and exchange of good practices

3. Learning tools and methods that will be later apply with youth beneficiaries in each participant country, promoting their active participation and citizenship, social and labour inclusion.

The wrap up of the project will be the organization of a Youth Exchange (month 22) with the theme of creativity, entrepreneurship and social skills, which will foster youngsters' skills for employability through non-formal learning scenarios where youngsters will experience real life situations, engaged in role-plays, action based or case based learning in safe environment, led by youth workers. The Youth Exchange will be a 9 day course organized in Ciudad del Este in Paraguay with participation of 50 young people (4 per partner) and 10 group leaders (1 per partner). The group leaders will coincide with the youth workers who attended the training course in Italy and the job shadowing mobility and the youth exchange activities will be organised by them. The Youth workers will have the possibility in the youth exchange to apply on the field what learned during the 2 activities and the e-learning courses by interacting directly with their youth target group, namely, young people with fewer opportunities. The program will be monitored and the youth workers will be monitored by one trainer from Spain and one from Italy. This method will allow the peer learning between youth workers.

At month 24 in Rosario in Argentina will take place the closure conference of ES4Y, by which time the finalized output should be presented. The ES4Y conference organized at the end of the project implementation period aim at communicating the project ideas and activities within a wider audience consisting of people from varying professional, educational and cultural backgrounds and from all walks of life. The conference will draw upon ES4Y ideas, concepts, best practices and outcomes but it will be broad in scope; it will be primarily rooted in application-oriented interactive activities with social entrepreneurship and inclusive education methodologies and training practices for youth.

At the end of the project, all the educational resource will be uploaded on the project online platform (O1) with information and educational activities for youth workers and peer educators to support youth mobility will be widely disseminated in English, Spanish, Italian, Bulgarian and French.

Validation and recognition of learning acquired will be a priority for the project, using the created cross-sectoral networks and disseminating the successful European Youthpass experience. The dissemination and exploitation of results will have an itinerant character and will be focused on the visibility of the program Erasmus +, the online platform of employment and training, as well as the active participation of youth in international projects and local events organized by the several partners. An itinerant vehicle will disseminate the outcomes and products of the project.

Main Project Output

O1: ES4Y Online Platform

An online platform will be set up, using open source software, in order to create an online space as connection for project target groups (Youth workers, young NEETs, young universities students, young people with fewer opportunities), and dissemination of project events, progress and deliverables.

The idea is to create an interactive learning platform with user-friendly interface, test evaluations, interactive exercises and videos that will encourage involvement of the target group.

Within the platform, FUTURO DIGITALE (FD) will set up a learning area that will contain e-courses for participants and professionals working in the field of youth work.

The platform will be divided in different spaces:

- Resource Area working as repository of documents, manuals and articles, with different subsections according to the topics chosen by partners (e.g. management, human resources, social entrepreneurship area, training, etc.);
- E-learning Area with a package of 6 e-learning modules (O2), defined with Coordinator and partners;
- Quiz Area offering short quizzes to verify what users have learned after e-learning modules (O2) and TCs organized by partners to enhance skills in the youth work sector.

Users will enter the project website and have access to the online platform, in order to be connected across Europe and Latin-America as an opportunity for swapping new methodologies and approaches. Each of the users will be able to create an account by registering username and password or through Facebook account.

The main languages of the platform will be the 3 target-countries languages and English as global language.

O2: E-learning courses

All the project partners will develop entrepreneurship learning modules, a specific guided path for ES4Y participants so that they will be able once completed all the modules to develop new skills for the training of youth. At a starting phase, the entrepreneurship learning modules will be only available for project participants on the project online platform (O1). Once the first TC will be over the first three learning modules will be freely available to all interested stakeholders through the project online platform (O1) and so on for the remaining ones. There will be quizzes incorporated within each module and participants have to participate on all on-line discussion forums for each module.

The ES4Y project intends to transfer a developed innovative learning models and (e-) learning content which are flexible enough to address the specific needs of the young peoples' skills and the world of work (time and place flexibility), are adoptable and modular (different backgrounds, sectors) and reflect the practical needs of the participants. The intangible outcome of the ES4Y project is innovation of the available curriculum and training programmes, which will be adapted to address specific Youth workers needs in youth field. The target group is also approached throughout good practice examples and case studies.

The e-learning course will be composed of six modules which offer different approaches and methods to different aspects of the topic “young peoples’ skills and the world of work”.

Module 1. Social and Communication skills (connecting with others; ability to use various channels for persuasive communication; context appropriate communication; interpersonal and intercultural awareness; tolerance)

Module 2. Informational and communication technologies / ICT (skill for confident and critical use of ICT; virtual collaboration: ability to work productively and demonstrate presence as a member of a virtual team; data and personal security issues in internet, social networking, etc.)

Module 3. Sense of self & community (personal development; self-esteem; confidence; self-efficacy; civic engagement; strengthened bonds to community; partnership work);

Module 4. Leadership, decision making, team working

Module 5. Entrepreneur skills and entrepreneur spirit (planning and decision-making skills, novel thinking, problem solving, finding solutions and responses into unexpected circumstances; ability to plan and to work productively)

Module 6. Training for trainers.

03. Digital Guide on the skills needed by employers to facilitate the job creation

Digital Guide (in English and languages of all partners countries) with a holistic approach for the training in job skills and social entrepreneurship of youth, containing also an analysis of the main barriers and opportunities for the social inclusion of the most vulnerable youth in Europe and Latin-America, mainly in the partners’ countries. The digital Guide will contain all the good practices drafted taking into account the experience and the opinion of all participants in which the consortium will identify the best approaches to foster youth skills for promoting youth employability.

This will include all the knowledge gained during the implementation of the TC and the job shadowing activities as well as an analysis of the current situation which those youths are living in Europe and Latin America regarding the different crisis (economic, migration or refugees) that affect our society.

This Digital Guide will also ensure the sustainability and improving the achievements made through the project. The project will establish also a list of tips and recommendations in order to continue improving the work in this field, not only inside their own organisations but for all interested organisation in Europe and Latin America which are active in the training and inclusion of youth.

How can we move forward? Analysis of the main challenges that we will have to face to foster young social action, entrepreneurship and raise of new skills in the short and long-term and how to tackle them in order to carry on advancing in the capacity building of youths.



Other objectives of ES4Y

- To raise youth organisations' awareness of the benefits of youth mobility
- To support youth organisations in better dealing with visa obstacles in international youth work
- To share experiences in youth work with young people with fewer opportunities and equip youth workers with competencies to better include them in their organisations
- To share the experience of European youth mobility projects with Latin American youth organisations and explore possibilities for regional youth work in these two regions.
- To use online tools throughout the project period to share results, offer online training and develop the partners' ICT competencies
- To facilitate the exchange of innovative educational practices related to social inclusion in the field of youth between organizations from Programme and Partner countries.
- To develop new competences related to social inclusion through creativity in order to contribute to greater youth active participation in social, cultural and political dimensions of their lives.
- To promote peer learning between youth workers of different continents based on creativity, active participation and intercultural learning
- To create innovative tools related to inclusion, based on exchange of experiences and best practices, development of new competences and peer learning: a set of viral videos; an interactive Blog with best practices from different continents.

Resume Project Calendar

Project Period: January 2017 – December 2018 (24 months)

1. Kick-off meeting to be held in Sofia in Spain (month 1, January 2017)

It will bring together representatives of the different organizations and countries (1 persons per partner).

2. Training course in Italy (month 5, May 2017)

18 Youth workers participants (2 persons per partner).

3. Job shadowing in the various partners countries (month 11,12,13,14 November, December, 2017,January, February 2018)

20 Youth workers participants (14 days)

4. Youth Exchange in Ciudad del Este in Paraguay (Month 19, July 2018)

36 Youngsters + 9 Youth workers

5. Final conference in Rosario in Argentina (Month 21, September 2018)

1 participant per partner