YOUTH DIGITAL PARTICIPATION LAB

Training Course

28 April -6 May 2020, Nea Makri (Athens), Greece.

coconutwork KOHORTTi INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WORK Erasmus+

Context

The continuous and increasing **digitalisation in society**, as well as changes in technology itself, results in strategies and policies becoming rapidly out of date. Youth workers need to continually review and develop **new strategic policies** and measures to meet the new demands for high quality digital education.Non-formal education practices are no less affected not only because technology can impact the way education is delivered, but also because **non-formal learning** has a role to play in preparing young people for a tech-driven world.
Moreover, growing up in the digital age does not make 'digital natives', inherently competent and confident with digital technologies. Surveys indicate, in fact, that the use of technology is to a great extent restricted to leisure time activities, while engagement with technology for educational or participation purposes lags behind.

On the other hand, the challenge is not only to ensure that young people develop the digital competences needed, but also to reap the **benefits from the use of technology** in order to foster engagement in being active citizens in their communities, especially that the lack of youth engagement is still a serious issue around Europe where weak rates of youth participation in civic and democratic processes are still obvious. Furthermore, their dissatisfaction with conventional political engagement opportunities is widely documented: they express general disinterest and skepticism.
Thus, they display a low level of **political participation**, feel estranged from the political system and underrepresented within the traditional forms of participation.

Goal and objectives of the projet

Therefore, the project **'Youth Digital Participation Lab'** aims to level up the digital facilitation skills of youth workers by exploring and adapting **innovative participative digital tools** in order to raise young people's participation in civic and democratic processes.

In order to reach this aim, we'll focus on the following specific objectives:

1. Increase the level of online participation of young people members of partner organisations by thinking of different ways on how to move up the ladder of online participation from E-Informing to E-Engaging.

2. Analyse the forms of digital dis/engagement of young people with democratic and participation processes in the 10 Participating countries.

3. Address digital citizenship and digital inclusion by focusing on specific tools empowering youth workers can use to deliver digital education to young people.

4. Design digital guidelines for youth workers and digital participation ecosystem, based on the analysis of the results of the O2.

Methods and Impact

'Youth Digital Participation Lab' will offer the opportunity to get hands-on a set of tools to grow the youth workers' digital skills, and to promote digital participation of young people.

The project will offer an **experiential laboratory** for youth workers to test and adapt the existing innovative digital tools to youth work practice, where youth workers will be able to plan, and lead digital activities offering new learning formats for their target groups.
This will also allow the evolvement of the participation practices in an appealing format for young people in order to prevent their disengagement.

Besides, the project will allow the participating organizations to improve their **online presence and communication**, while increasing their online activism and advocacy.

Partner organisations

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
Kohortti ry	Finland
ASOCIATIA GEYC	Romania
ENVIRONMENT ONLINE - GREECE	Greece
FREEMINDS IN ACTION	Italy
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN ASSOCIATION OF EXCHANGES VOLUNTEERING EVENTS POLSKA	Poland
Udruzenje Kibitz Kolektiv	Serbia
YOUTHFULLY YOURS SK	Slovakia
FORENINGEN FRAMTIDSTAGET	Sweden
EuroMueveTe	Spain
Association Euro-Méditerranéenne Des Exchanges, Volontariats, Evénements (Euro-Med Eve)	France

Profile of participants

The training course gathers 30 participants from: Finland, Romania, Greece, France, Slovakia, Poland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Serbia.

This project is relevant for participants with the following profile:

- Youth workers: who are empowering young people, and regularly conducting local activities (preferably non-formal) that involve young people or have them as main target group.
- Non-formal education trainers/facilitators: with experience in using/plannig to use digital participation for facilitating non-formal education activities aiming to drive up youth participation in their society
- Project managers: Even though, they are by essence youth workers and occasionally trainers., we will focus on selecting project managers that have different levels of experience in implementing youth projects focusing on the use of digital education with young people as main target groups.

Accomodation

The training course will take place in Thomas Beach Hotel in Nea Makri (Metropolitan Athens).
Website: https://www.thomasbeachhotel.com.gr/
The participants will share double or triple rooms with bathrooms. The hotel has good standards ensuring a quality delivery of our training course, the meals are in buffet and will be taken in the same venue.
We will organize pick-ups and drop-offs from the airport to the venue for the arrivals on April 28th and departures on May 6th. The participants will most likely be waiting for some time for others to land in the airport before the pick-up.

What to bring?

- It is mandatory to have a health insurance valid in Greece throughout your stay such as the European Health Insurance card.
- There will be an intercultural night, you may bring light objects that can represent your country, as souvenirs or snacks.
- A laptop.
- Good mood, ideas and lots of energy!

Travel and finances

- The project funded by Erasmus+, allowing us to cover the transportation, accommodation and meals for the selected participants.
- There's a contribution fee of 40€ (Greek participants are exempt)
- The reimbursement of travel costs up to 2 months given that all the documents are received in the conventional format, taken into consideration the participants' active participation as well as the preparations and the dissemination actions completed.
- The participants are invited to use the cheapest means of transportation.
- Before booking any ticket, kindly consult for validation from our side.
- Private transportation services (taxis, private transfers, etc..) and 1st class tickets are not reimbursed.
- It is possible to arrive and stay a maximum of 2 days before and/or after the activity at the participants' own expense and responsibility given that the travel prices are not higher to those of the set dates.
- It is mandatory to have the European Health Insurance Card valid in Greece throughout your stay.
- Booking flight tickets directly from the airline websites is recommended. Flight tickets should always be accompanied with the boarding passes, when requesting the travel reimbursement
- It is only allowed to travel with a cabin luggage (When travelling with Ryanair or Wizzair, add priority boarding).
- As we have a no-paper policy, please proceed to buy your tickets online and check-in online whenever possible, this will also avoid you having to mail or scan it to us after the activity.
- Do not lose the paper documents, and when checked-in online, please make a screenshot to your boarding pass, as it can get deleted by the wallet app of your phone

Contact

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