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Foreword by
the Mayor
of Starachowice

01



Dear Readers,

Youth politics is a topic that is particularly close to my heart. As early as in my teenage years, when I was intermediate and secondary school student, as a volunteer I got involved in social activities run by non-governmental organisations. That led me to co-found the Youth City Council of Starachowice in 2007.

These were my first steps when it comes to social activity, and the experience and skills I gained continue to bear fruit. I always wanted politicians and decision makers to take into consideration the voice of the youth, following the principle "Nothing About Us Without Us".

Now, as the Mayor of Starachowice, I am proud that our town is so active in this field and eager to meet young people and encourage them to become involved in social activities. With the support of external funds, as one of very few local governments in Poland, we implement international projects for the youth in the field of non-formal education,

environmental protection, the European Union, entrepreneurship and volunteering. Thanks to European programmes, we organise exchanges or study visits where young people can broaden their horizons, get inspired and learn languages.

Now, as never before, the world is opening up to young people, providing them with unlimited opportunities for development. At the same time, as never before, we are facing momentous problems and challenges. The coronavirus pandemic, geopolitical situation, and climate crisis are no issues that can be tackled in a distant future...

Therefore, our goal must be to get the youth more involved in society and to engage them in solving the difficulties we all are facing. Looking at the potential and energy of the young people who participated in the project and with whom I have the pleasure of working on a daily basis, I find comfort thinking about the future.

Marek Materek
The Mayor of The City of Starachowice



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Information
about
project partners

02

Starachowice is a town with a population of almost 50,000, located halfway between Kraków and Warsaw. We have a rich industrial and long traditions with which the STAR truck brand is inextricably linked. Currently, the town also boasts a thriving industry on which its economy is based, and the potential to attract new international companies. Starachowice is one of the biggest administrative, economic and cultural centres of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, found in the middle of the woodland in the northern part of the region, at the foot of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains.

The mission of Starachowice is to provide professional, reliable and friendly service to the citizens and to meet the needs of local community by implementing the principle of self-government. The political changes of the 1990s left a strong mark on Starachowice. Thousands of people lost their jobs. In addition to the state of public space and city building, the town faced social problems, high unemployment, alcoholism, crime and poverty. Nowadays, Starachowice is a dynamic industrial centre with a thriving Special Economic Zone. The unemployment rate dropped to 7.7% in 2018. Despite good economic condition, the town has been facing many problems such as depopulation, ageing of local society and low quality of living. The scope of the city's activities which correspond to the idea of the project include in particular the following matters: 1. social assistance, 2. education, 3. culture, 4. sport and tourism, 5. pro-family policy, 6. support and dissemination of the local government idea, 7. cooperation with non-governmental organizations, 8. cooperation with local and regional communities of other countries.

The municipality of Starachowice is the supervisory authority for 8 primary schools attended by 3,100 students. The town has the ambition to take education to a new level, realising that it is an investment in the future and a development factor that will be a magnet for new residents. With that in mind, in September 2021, the town's first bilingual class launched in one of its primary schools.

The municipality of Starachowice is very active in the field of youth policy. In 2007, Marek Materek founded and became

The Municipality of Starachowice (Poland)

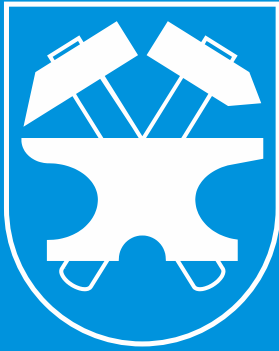


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the first chairman of the Youth City Council in Starachowice. Currently, the council consists of 25 young people from local schools. Youth councillors work on increasing the interest and commitment of young people in public affairs of our town, as well as on developing structural dialogue. They cooperate with seniors, people with disabilities and non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and national institutions. Additionally, as part of the Erasmus + programme, in 2018 young people developed their own strategy, in which they indicated the directions of activities that would make the town attractive to young people. The continuation of this project was the "Starachowice Map of Youth Activity", yet another Erasmus project, where young people developed specific actions as part of the strategy implementation. In addition, the municipality has been carrying out international projects for youth, with the first one being a youth exchange in North Macedonia in 2019, taking place as a part of Erasmus KA1, and Starachowice being the first municipality in Poland to organise a youth exchange for the Youth City Council.

In 2020, we started new projects from Erasmus + KA2 and Europe for Citizens as a partner in the field of ecology,

Starachowice



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the European Union, active citizenship, non-formal education, cultural heritage and entrepreneurship. The youth were crucial partner in the project. In 2020, we also launched the "Cities for YOUth" project, assuming the role of its leader, where we exchanged good practices on youth policies with our partners from Greece, Portugal, Spain and Lithuania.

The youth was also a key partner in the development of the project from the Norwegian funds, within the framework of which, in addition to training sessions, a space is being planned for young people in the revitalised building named "Little Palace".

Last but not least, we have the youngest mayor in Poland. When Marek Materek won an election, he was 25 years old. And yes - he is the same person who has founded the Youth City Council :)

www.starachowice.eu
www.facebook.com/gmina.starachowice



The Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs IRTEA (Greece) - 06 -

How it all started

The Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs (IRTEA) was created by specialised youth workers and experts, and aims to become a powerful think tank in Greece and South Europe, bridging the gap between the youth, policy making, society and labour market. With its consultative status to the European Parliament and policy making role at the European Institutions, IRTEA aims to support young people, especially those who face social, geographical and economic obstacles, as well as Greek society in general.

Our Vision

- Our vision is one Europe with cities and metropolitan areas committed to the youth and actively involving youth policies in local and regional development, participatory processes and decision making.
- Our vision considers youth participation, equal opportunities for the youth and sustainability of youth structures as driving forces of medium and long-term urban development, with a key contribution to the quality of life of all inhabitants of cities and the

surrounding regions.

- Our vision takes into account youth policies and strategies of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations, and aims to implement them effectively at a local level.

Our mission

- Major goal of the organisation is to promote innovative actions and policies related to the European youth and structured and open dialogue between the civil society and EU officials, and to foster civic engagement, youth active participation and European citizenship through its projects and activities.
- What constitutes the competitive edge of the organisation is the interaction with both Greek and European student communities, its expertise in both educational and non-formal learning activities, such as simulations of EU bodies, conferences and researches, its experience in lobbying for EU projects and a direct contact with the decision-making centres and labour market.

Our objectives

- to enable project-based interaction with special emphasis on the youth, and to develop platforms between networks and partners focusing on solidarity in the cooperation process;
- to set sustainable and demonstrative standards, frameworks and good practices in terms of policies on local level youth participation and active citizenship;
- to emphasise youth empowerment, investments and advocating for their support. The implementing actions by the organisation, including education and training, aims to develop and enrich skills and competences that will make the youth more qualified and competitive so as to meet the needs of labour market;
- to support entrepreneurship, smart innovation and specialisation for new scientists, entrepreneurs and employees through specific educational and training actions;
- to foster innovative and high-quality research for policy making in the fields of youth, environment, economy and growth by producing and disseminating scientific



- knowledge in line with the EU values and principles;
- to promote democratic values of respect of the fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination, and support participatory democracy, cultural diversity understanding and multilingualism;
 - to raise awareness of the Greek and European citizens, especially the youth, regarding the EU policies;
 - to promote structured dialogue and foster knowledge on the EU bodies, functions and legislative procedures.

OurValue

Young people are the ones who generate added value. We only engage, connect and empower them.

www.irtea.gr

Facebook: @I.R.T.E.Agr

Instagram: irtea.eu



The Municipality of Santarém (Portugal)

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With 552.54 km² of area and about 60,000 inhabitants, subdivided into 18 parishes, the municipality of Santarém is a municipal body. Its mission is to define and implement policies with a view of defending interests and meeting needs of local population. In this sense, it is responsible for promoting the development of the municipality in all areas of life, such as health, youth growth, education, social action and housing, environment and basic sanitation, spatial planning and urbanism, transport and communications, public supply, sport and culture, as well as consumer and civil protection.

Being one of the largest municipalities in the Ribatejo Region, the Santarém City Council has always been involved in defining the national youth policy and quality framework in the area of work with and for the young. Therefore, we seek to accumulate a notable experience in the areas of strategic planning and guarantee the quality with regard to services with and for young people. There is a wide range of funding opportunities that the city offers both to organisations and to young people in order to develop their initiatives. A variety of free and subsidized



leisure activities are also provided for the youth. The co-creation approach that the city has been implementing together with youth organisations for the past two years, has led to the creation of a network of stakeholders.

The Education and Youth Division of the Municipality of Santarém is a unit of the municipality of Santarém whose objective is the coordination of the council's daily work in the areas of formal and non-formal education and work with and for Youth of the Municipality of Santarém.

In terms of youth work skills, the Division's duties include the following:

- planning and management of the Municipal Youth Council of Santarém;
- strategic planning and development of the first Municipal Youth Plan of Santarém;
- implementation of the MYC Activities Plan;
- leisure and recreational activities for and with young people (including youth centres and camps);
- support for youth and student associations in the Municipality of Santarém;



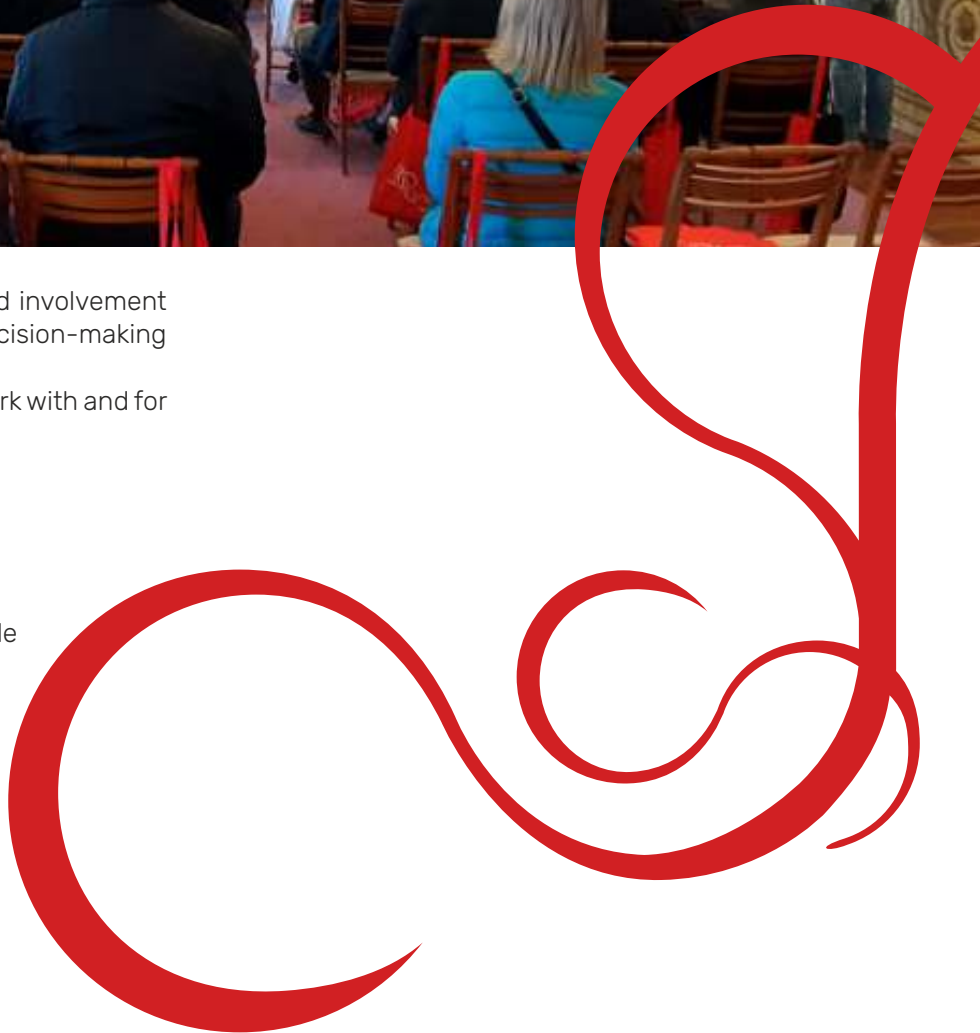
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- cooperation with youth organisations and involvement of young people in the municipality's decision-making processes;
- international cooperation in the field of work with and for young people.

Município de Santarém:
www.cm-santarem.pt

Santarém, Portugal - Wikipedia;
Membros do Conselho Municipal de Juventude
de Santarém | Facebook

Video links:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1VVbpR21g8



The Municipality of Klaipeda (Lithuania)

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Klaipeda is a port city on the coast of the Baltic Sea, in the centre of Western Lithuania, making the country's third largest city. For many it is their first love, a city of education, or simply a home for others. Klaipeda is a unique place due to the innovative scientific laboratories and the modern creative incubator that fit in the city's structure the same way as the cosy Castle Marina and the historic buildings of the Klaipeda University. Currently in Klaipeda, there are around 150,000 inhabitants, with 25,000 individuals from the 14-29 age group. Klaipeda ran for the European Youth Capital title and made it to the finals twice in a row. Finally, we were announced the European Youth Capital for the year of 2021. Our call to #chooseklaipeda was heard and we were given an opportunity to bring the youth from all over Europe together and implement 9 platforms - Dialogue, Spaces, Colours, North-South, Potential, Solidarity, Leadership, Out of the Box, Connections - all related to the challenges that the youth of Klaipeda has identified as most significant.

Apart from the aforementioned, we have implemented the following strategic initiatives:

- Participation budget for schools. The participatory



budgeting allows school pupils to decide how a part of the European Youth Capital budget should be allocated; it also allows school pupils to come up with ideas and vote for the ones they like best;

- "Workation" packages for non-governmental organisations; various business companies from Lithuania have a possibility to come to Klaipeda to run their business and accommodate employees, and - in exchange of work space and accommodation - they are asked to run training sessions for youth organisation on finances, marketing and project management.
- Initiative of Lithuanian Youth Capital 2023. The pilot project in Lithuania with the aim of revealing the Lithuanian initiatives on youth policy, creating conditions and ensuring youth inclusion into political, social, economic and cultural life of the city.
- Youth Ambassadors' Forum with the aim of strengthening the voice of the youth by providing them with spaces, tools, opportunities and support that will allow them to participate in civic processes. Youth Ambassadors' Forum regularly cooperates with policy-makers and executors.

Besides the European Youth Capital Programme, we also run long-term programmes, such as Scholarships for first-year students. In order to attract talents to Klaipeda, the city offers 40 scholarships to first-year students amounting to 100 € for a period of 10 months. In addition, 15 bachelor and master graduates receive 500 € if they commit to devote their theses to the city of Klaipeda. Additionally, 80,000 € is spent on initiatives run by youth organisations which include implementing various projects in order to strengthen their own operations or implement projects prioritised by the Youth Affairs Council.

The Municipal Council for Youth Affairs is a body having a deliberative vote and a long-term objective, which is to ensure the involvement of the youth in solving the most essential issues. The Klaipeda's Youth Affairs Council contains 14 members. Politicians, administrative personnel and representatives of the youth (organisations) cooperate in the council. The representatives of the youth have a chance to learn how to recognise the needs of the youth and represent their interests, combine needs and possibilities, as well as interests of the youth with interests of the community as a whole, and learn the measures of democratic decision-making and implementation procedures. In turn, politicians and representatives of administration can get insight into the situation of the youth, realise what problems they face, and search for the best possible solutions together with representatives of the youth.

www.choseklaipeda.eu

www.klas.lt

www.klaipeda.lt

Klaipeda – European Youth Capital 2021



ACD La Hoya (Spain)

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ACD La Hoya is a Spanish cultural and sport association based on the principles of cooperation, integration, environment protection, solidarity, humanity and universal human values. It promotes an environment in which the community is able to create, think, realise their ideas and build positions and reactions towards important issues.

It is focused on developing activities in the rural community in the area of arts, sports and culture, and is dedicated to the successful implementation and participation of European projects to bring the youth and the senior citizens of Europe closer together.

The main aim of the association is to offer the youth and the community possibilities to spend their time (by engaging in sports, arts, workshops, and cultural events), to support bottom-up initiatives of the community, to improve social work and to facilitate the integration of young people into the society, especially those from rural areas, by involving them in its work, and encouraging their creative spirit that helps increasing the participation of the youth and adults in both local community and society in general.

The Youth Centre offer a space to young people where they can get involved in decision making, learn work habits, develop personal skills, competences, interests and acquire knowledge in the areas of non-formal education, promotion of voluntarism, prevention of unwanted forms of behaviours (delinquency, drug addiction), developing of healthy ways of living, and positive affirmation among the youth.

We search to create the optimum environment for the overall spiritual, intellectual and physical development of the youth, and - on their foundations - help build happy, healthy and safe lives. We offer ping-pong and table games, run various events (including sporting events), cultural activities, tournaments, and create opportunities for formal and informal education by conducting training, programmes, workshops, professional practice, youth exchange, conferences, competitions and youth camps at a local, national and international level.

Each year, we run a number of campaigns and workshops in schools to promote integration, interculturality, healthy lifestyle through sports, encourage sustainable development by engaging in activities that aim at protecting the environment and preserving natural resources, biodiversity, and the values of the ecosystem.

Non-formal project partners

Spain:

- Municipality of Elche;
- Asociación Compass;
- Asociacion Usit;
- High School N°15 La Hoya;
- Asociacion Tabala;
- High School Figueras Pacheco;
- Neighbourhood council La Hoya;
- San Antonio Fathers and Mothers Association.

Poland:

- Świetokrzyskie Youth Assembly;
- Eurodesk Kielce;
- Europe Direct Kielce;
- Starachowice Powiat Authority;
- Vocational school complex no. 2 in Starachowice;
- Secondary school no. 1 in Starachowice;
- Secondary school no. 2 in Starachowice.

Lithuania:

- Klaipėda youth organizations association Round table;
- Lithuanian Sea Museum;
- Klaipėda University;
- Lithuania Business University of Applied Sciences;
- Youth Affairs Council of Klaipėda City Municipality;
- Klaipėda Queen Louise Youth Centre;
- VšĮ Asmenybės Ugdymo Kultūros Centras;
- VšĮ Gausus Gyvenimas;
- LCC International University;
- Klaipėda Student's Self-Expression Center;
- Lithuania Maritime Academy;
- Klaipėda Etnoculture Center;
- VšĮ Klaipėdos Šventės;
- Choose Klaipėda Ambassadors;
- Lithuania School Students Union.

Portugal:

- 18 Parish Councils in Santarem Region;
- Cena Aberta - Theater Company of Santarém;
- Fajudis | Federation of Youth Associations of the District of Santarém;
- Dr. Ginestal Machado Secondary School Student Associations;
- Sá da Bandeira Secondary School Student Associations;
- Santarem Higher Health School Student Associations;
- Santarem Higher Agrarian School Student Associations;
- Santarem Higher Education School Student Associations;
- Santarem Higher Management and Technology School Student Associations;
- Student Association of the Higher Institute of Languages and Administration;
- Socialist Youth;
- Social Democratic Youth;
- Left Bloc Youth;
- Popular Youth;
- Scalabituna | Men's Tuna of the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém;
- TAESAS | Academic Tuna of the Santarém School of Agriculture;
- TAGES | Academic Management Tuna of Santarém;
- TUFES | Women's Scalabitana Tuna from the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém;
- Arriba-Ó-Tunapikas;
- Issótuna | Academic Tuna of the Superior School of Education of Santarém;
- Ribatejo dance & singing group;
- São Domingos Residents Association.

Greece:

- Municipality of Salamina, www.salamina.gr;
- Youth Council of the Municipality of Salamina, www.salamina.gr/youth-council;
- Municipality of Athens, www.cityofathens.gr;
- European Commission, DG-EAC Youth Unit Policy Officer, https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture_en;
- University of Piraeus, Panteion University, University of Macedonia.



Information
about
the project

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03



"Cities for YOUTH" is the first international project of Starachowice which we had the pleasure to implement along with our partners: the City of Santarem (Portugal), the City of Klaipeda (Lithuania), and two non-governmental organisations - the Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs IRTEA from Greece and ACD LaHoya from Spain.

The implementation of youth policies at local and national levels, and the improvement of soft skills of young people through non-formal education were the topics on which we focused the most during the run of the project.

The main project activities included the following:

- 3 Transnational Project Meetings: in Poland, Greece and Portugal regarding project coordination, youth policy, Youth City Councils, activities for the youth and non-formal education, as well as networking. The meetings were attended by the authorities, officials, decision makers and young people;
- Soft Skills Laboratory, i.e., training sessions on soft skills and generating ideas for youth initiatives conducted for

25 young people in Spain;

- Online work on joint initiatives by youth groups from partner countries that promoted social activity and non-formal education among young people;
- International Youth Initiative in Lithuania, presented jointly during a meeting in Klaipeda - the 2021 European Youth Capital;
- The project is 100% financed by the Erasmus+ Programme.



CITIES FOR YOUTH

Step

by

Project
activities

04

Step

The first 'on sight' meeting took place from 26th to 28th July 2021 in Starachowice, Poland after more than a year of online work caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Starachowice hosted 16 representatives of partner organisations, both the project management staff, decision-makers, experts and young people.

The beginning of the 1st day was devoted to the discussion of activities for the youth implemented by the partners. One of the international projects as part of the Erasmus+ and Europe for Citizens programmes implemented by Starachowice was a youth exchange with Macedonia - the only such initiative organised by a local government in Poland.

Additionally, the youth created the first "Municipal Youth Strategy" in the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship and "The Map of Youth Activities". Thanks to the involvement of young people, one of the ventures implemented in the town will be the Creativity Center to be established in the historic

On the 1st day, the project coordinators met to discuss project management and financial matters. Simultaneously, the young attendees participated in a workshop on generating ideas for joint projects. The meeting was moderated by a youth expert - Kama Kępczyńska-Kaletka, and the youth from Starachowice were represented by Igor, Dominika, Ola, Julia, Zuzanna, Borys and Mikołaj.

On the 2nd day a meeting in the city of Kielce was held which began with a discussion about the project management with the focus on promotion, monitoring and dissemination of its results. The following point was a meeting at the Provincial House of Culture of all the participants with the Marshal of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship Andrzej Bętkowski, the chairman of the Sejmik Andrzej Prus, the director of the Chancellery of the Sejmik Marta Solińska -Pela, the director of House of Culture in Kielce Jacek Sabat, and councillors of the Youth Council of the Świętokrzyskie Province, among others. The event was an opportunity

Transnational Project Meeting in Poland

building of the "Little Palace" and financed with Norway grants. As Starachowice, Klaipeda and Santarem all have youth city councils, the meeting in Poland was an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and compare how these advisory bodies function in each country.

The perspective of our non-governmental partners was also interesting, as they presented their activities and experiences. The Spaniards, for example, focus on sport and culture to run their youth centre, and for Greeks - the main platform for action is civic activity and promotion of European values. ACD La Hoya and IRTEA also have very good relations with local governments in their respective cities. The Greeks carry out their activities both in Athens and in smaller towns, such as Salamina, and the Spaniards - in the small town of La Hoya. The main problem of smaller towns though is outflow of young people and the greatest challenge is to stop this trend by creating conditions encouraging their return (e.g. after completion of studies).

to discuss youth policy and promote social activity and non-formal education among young people, to gain new experiences, to exchange views and to establish new contacts. Foreign guests were able to learn what the youth policy looks like in Poland, to get to know about important changes in the act on the commune self-government, powiat self-government and voivodeship self-government, to get introduced to legal empowerment of the existence of youth councils of communes and poviats, as well as youth assemblies in voivodships.

An additional attraction for the participants of the meeting was an opportunity to get to know the greatest attractions of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship by taking part in a virtual journey in the 5D Capsule.

The meeting was led by a pair of youth councillors from the Sejmik - Zofia Mogielska and Katarzyna Makowska.

The main topic of our last meeting in Poland was to summarise the activities conducted thus far and to plan, together with young people, the training sessions expected to take place in Spain in October.





The 2nd project meeting was held in Athens, Greece, 16-18 September 2021.

The first day started at Gazi View, where the representatives of the Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs–IRTEA welcomed all the partners and the attending delegations. IRTEA had a short presentation on the practical arrangements in order to set the ground for the following days, with details about the schedule, COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, as well as follow-up information from the 1st partner meeting in Poland. Next, the hosts briefly presented the profile of IRTEA, its vision, actions and other ventures undertaken. The 1st introductory session closed with a round table discussion where each participant had a chance to introduce themselves to other attendees. In the course of the following session, we connected via a Zoom link with Brussels, where Mr. Babis Papaioannou, European Commission, DG-EAC, Youth Unit, Policy Officer conducted a presentation on the state of youth and youth work in Europe and in Greece, sharing details about the Year of

the project.

The 2nd day started at the Athens City Hall where the participants had a chance to be briefed about the activities of the previous day and take part in a partner meeting to discuss the issues the project tackled, such as - among others - its dissemination and promotion. What followed was the consortium meeting with Mrs. Katerina Gkagkaki, the Vice-Mayor for Social Affairs and Civil Society. The Vice-Mayor warmly welcomed the participants and went on to present the actions and programmes for the Youth and Youth Policies adopted by the city of Athens. She then proceeded to have a round of discussion and a Q&A session with all the participants on issues related to the project's core topics, exchange of good practices, and participation and empowerment of the youth. The next scheduled point of the programme was a meeting of the participants of "Cities 4 Youth" with Salamina Mr. George Panagopoulos, the Mayor of the municipality of and the representatives of the Local Youth Council. The topics discussed were relevant

Transnational Project Meeting in Greece

European Youth 2022, as well as other Youth Initiatives run by the commissions, and had an extensive Q&A session with the participants. The "Cities 4 Youth" Transnational Partners Meeting continued with presentations and discussions on decision making policies and opportunities for the youth at a national level. IRTEA proudly introduced to the idea of Europa.S Conference and welcomed previous participants to share their experience with us. The Europa.S. 2022 conference is a Erasmus+ KA3 funded project and it is the biggest simulation of the European Institutions across Greece and the Balkans. Established back in 2010, it simulates the function of the main institutions of the EU: the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. The last part of the official schedule for the 1st day included a cultural visit to the Pnyx Hill and a workshop for the youngsters on the national youth policies. The representatives of the partner's organisations also had a scheduled partners meeting on administrative issues regarding the best implementation of

to the decision-making policies and the opportunities for the youth at a local level. On the last session for the day, IRTEA presented the Erasmus+ KA2 project named "VR in School Education and Civic Participation" and the participants were presented with a chance to use specialised VR equipment to explore a virtual model of the EU Parliament hall.

On the 3rd and final day started off with a partner meeting where the following issues were discussed: the next activity workshop in Spain, timetable and monitoring, management and financial issues and the up-and-coming steps. The meeting ended with a workshop on a future cooperation and EU funded projects, reflections and evaluation, Q&A session and final goodbye. To sum up, the TPM was successfully implemented by IRTEA, with full participation of all project partners who engaged in a fruitful discussions on youth participation and youth policies that will hopefully result in an exchange of good practices between municipalities and organisations and joint projects in the future.





During the meeting in Klaipeda, the project participants were presented with a chance to acquire knowledge about the city of Klaipeda's youth policy. On the first day of the meeting, the project "Klaipeda – European Youth Capital 2021" was presented with all its assumptions. In addition, the Klaipeda University introduced its research on the youth political literacy. Finally, the attendants had an opportunity to participate in a presentation offered by the association of the Klaipeda youth organization "Round table".

On the same day, all the participants took part in a workshop during which they discussed the implementation of the initiatives they had come up with during their joint meeting in Spain.

Before the event, the Klaipeda team had collected all the ideas and created a Facebook page named "Klaipeda - European Youth Capital 2021" and invited the inhabitants of the city to take part in the "Cities for YOUth" event. It was

in Klaipeda and learned about the types of work in which the youth have been engaged.

The participants spent the 3rd and 4th day of the stay taking part in one of the events of the Klaipeda – European Youth Capital 2021 Programme, namely the hackathon named "Youth for Youth". During the course of the event, the attendants were divided into groups. Each of them received a real business case to present during a pitch session. They also took part in a seminar on business problem solving, a workshop on icebreaking and a brainstorm session, as well as a situation and competitive analysis, a seminar on influencer marketing which tackled the issue of building business with your personal brand, a workshop on defining target audience, value propositions canvas and IMC tools, and a seminar called "Shine on the stage".

International Youth Initiatives - Lithuania

attended by local youth organisations, as well as university students who were presented with a chance to meet project participants and take part in the initiatives. The youth met new people, learned to break the stereotypes about our countries, and discussed differences and similarities with regard to the cultures of each participating countries. In addition, they got to learn more about Klaipeda's everyday life and helped with suggesting their own ideas for finding solutions to the issues with which the city struggled.

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to study visits. The participants visited the Lithuanian Maritime Academy, where they were introduced to the ship simulation and had a chance to navigate a vessel on their own. The visitors also made a stopover at an indoor skate park, open youth centre, and the Klaipeda's student self-expression centre. That way they discovered what infrastructure available for the youth has been created

On the 5th day of the meeting, the participants visited the Lithuanian Sea Museum, where they learned about one of the initiatives of the Klaipeda European Youth Capital 2021 implemented by the museum, as well an ecology programme and the world of the Baltic Sea.





Soft Skills Laboratory - Spain



Main elements: non-formal education methods as a absence of the flow leading to every day learning reflection and self-assessment:

- Getting to know each other,
- Group dynamic,
- Learning,
- Soft skills,
- Communication,
- Motivation,
- Leadership and teamwork,
- Problem solving and conflict resolution,
- Personal portfolio,
- Participation, models and practice,
- Field trip and cultural visits,
- Project management,
- Project idea development,
- Creativity,
- Action plan and conclusion related to the follow up activity,
- Evaluation and learning outcomes/Youthpass.

What Exactly Are Soft Skills?

Soft skills are personal attributes needed for success on the job.

Time Management



Networking



Teamwork



Creative



Conflict resolution



Soft skills are personal habits and traits that shape how you work, on your own and with others:

- Integrity,
- Dependability,
- Effective communication,
- Open-mindedness,
- Teamwork,
- Creativity,
- Problem-solving,
- Critical thinking,
- Adaptability,
- Organization,
- Willingness to learn,
- Empathy.



The Evaluation Transnational Project Meeting took place in Portugal from 21st to 24th November 2021. After a welcoming dinner and having celebrated the 20th birthday of Ola Niewczas the day before, we set off to launch the first day of our activities.

As at each of our meetings we had an opportunity to learn about the youth policy of a local government "from the inside", on the 1st day of our gathering we participated in a session with the Mayor of Santarem Ricardo Gonçalves and the Councillor of the Santarem Youth City Council Diogo Gomes who introduced us to the operations conducted by the office and young activists. They thanked us for the cooperation and wished us many great successes in further work. What followed was a visit to "Casa do Brasil" where we presented the programme of the meeting, all the participants introduced themselves and everyone could get acquainted with the youth strategy implemented by the Municipality of Santarém. The strategy of the town for the

project "Lezíria Youth Goals" was presented. Promoted by the Municipality of Santarém, it involved the inter-municipal community of Lezíria do Tejo and the 11 associated municipalities and engaged young people, youth workers and policy makers. The project promoted the impact of the Erasmus + Programme in Lezíria do Tejo, increased participation of young people, disseminated the Youth Goals, new participation models and non-formal education, and made young people, youth workers and policy makers aware of the real-life opportunities that the EU presented.

Its objectives included promoting a structured dialogue between young people, policy makers and youth workers in the discussion and co-designing of youth policies, implementing a new position for the region in the execution of Erasmus+ programme projects, assessing and recognising non-formal learning, local youth work and structured dialogue at a national and a European level, creating and disseminating mutual learning opportunities

Transnational Project Meeting in Portugal

youth was based on the strategic documents of the European Union, with particular focus on the 11 youth goals identified by the European Union, and on the paradigm shift of the Municipal Youth Council - MYC, involving various entities that represent the municipality's youth in youth policies. The MYC was fundamental in the development of the strategy by governing a relationship of trust, youth dialogue, co-management of youth policies, and co-creation of the Municipal Youth Plan. The MYC was co-created the MYP by debating and applying locally the 11 themes of the European Union's youth goals. What was also taken into consideration during the course of implementation of the strategy was the results of work conducted by the youth online with the use platforms such as Facebook, Zoom or Jamboard, as well as their participation in two Erasmus + projects: the international project "Cities for Youth" and the regional project "Lezíria Youth Goals". After the presentation of the strategy, six representatives of the MYC expressed their opinion about both the MYC and the MYP. In the afternoon, the regional

that increased confidence in political processes and democratic institutions and in the structuring of Youth Policies in the municipalities of Lezíria do Tejo.

The 2nd day started off with a cultural visit to the town of Santarém, where we learned about the history of some of its monuments. In the afternoon, we took part in the final meeting and project evaluation, where representatives and coordinators of each partner talked about their next pending activities, such as reports, necessary documentation, online meeting scheduling, and evaluated the entire project. Young people developed non-formal education activities and engaged in evaluation of the project too.

On the 3rd and last day of the meeting, the attendees met at the Santarém Hotel. During the event, the partners discussed matters related to monitoring, management and finances and the next steps to follow.

The meeting concluded with a non-formal education activity for all the participants and final goodbye. The TPM was successfully implemented by the Municipality of Santarém, with full participation of all project partners. Numerous interesting discussions on youth participation and youth policies took place, which hopefully will result in more exchanges of good practices and projects in the near future among participants.

Six members of the Municipal Youth Council participated in the meeting. They were: André Gomes who represented the party of the Unitarian Democratic Coalition of the Municipal Assembly, Luís Campos who represented the youth of the left-wing bloc party, Sara Pereira who represented the social democratic youth, Joana Gomes who represented the student association at the Higher Health School, João Seabra who represented the Dr. Ginestal Machado secondary school student association, and Diogo Vital who represented the parish council of Abrã.







Youth
policy
in Europe

05

The purpose of youth policy is to create conditions for learning, as well as opportunities and experiences which will enable young people to develop knowledge, skills and competences. This in turn will allow young people to be actors of democracy, integrate into society and, in particular, play an active role in both civil society and labour market.

The key measures of youth policies are to promote citizenship learning and the integrated policy approach.

Youth policy is “a government’s commitment and practice towards ensuring good living conditions and opportunities for the young population of a country” (Finn Denstad, Youth Policy Manual, 2009).

Youth policy can be defined as an entirety of systems and measures, aspiring after the most favourable terms for personal maturity of a young person and their successful integration into society. It is generally accepted to refer to the structures of assistance (fields of socialisation), enhancing the effort of a person and, especially of one’s family, to prepare a young person for independent life. These structures can be divided into informal (friends, contemporaries), non-formal (communities, nongovernmental organizations, youth activity system), formal (schools, universities), and commercial (telecommunications, banks, recreation and entertainment industry).

As part of the project, we had an opportunity to share good practices on youth policies from Poland, Lithuania, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

YOUTH POLICY

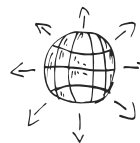
creates conditions for



Learning



Opportunities



Experience

which creates



Knowledge



Skills



Access to rights

The Lithuanian youth policy is targeted at young people (aged 14–29) who at present amount to more than 630,000 individuals – 21 per cent of the country's population. Legislation provides opportunities for young people to take part in relevant decision-making processes and their implementation at both local and national levels. The Ministry of Social Security and Labour is the coordinating authority with regard to the implementation of the youth policy in Lithuania.

In Lithuania, a legal and institutional framework for the formulation and implementation of its youth policy has been established and developed for more than 10 years. The youth policy principles, areas, organisation and management have been laid down with a view of creating adequate conditions for young people to actively participate in an open and democratic society.

organizations, and other institutions working with the youth. The Council for Youth Affairs is a collegial advisory institution, functioning within the Department of Youth Affairs on social grounds that has been constituted on the basis of a partnership of the representatives delegated by the state institutions and the Lithuanian Youth Council.

Every municipality in Lithuania must appoint a youth affairs coordinator who assists municipal institutions with framing and implementing a municipal youth policy. Coordinators of youth affairs serve as mediators between politicians and officers of each municipality and the local youth. The youth (individuals aged 14–29 years) is an age group that is highly receptive to changes, therefore targeted and focused education may be altering their worldviews, values and attitudes. Young people are able to change negative social attitudes which determine current social and economic situation of the state. Youth work is a broad term comprising social, cultural, educational, political or any other kind of

Youth Policy - Lithuania

The programmes that have been implemented aimed at promoting participation and involvement of non-governmental youth organisations in the formulation of the country's youth policy. Furthermore, the relations of NGOs, the state and municipal institutions have been strengthened, while support from the EU Structural Funds and financing have been provided for implementation of the programmes.

The Law on Youth Policy Framework of the Republic of Lithuania governs the activities of structures of the youth policy in Lithuania. The Department of Youth Affairs is one of the main institutions operating in the field of youth policy. The Department of Youth Affairs defines and implements the state's youth policy programmes and measures, analyses the state of the youth and youth organizations in Lithuania, coordinates the activities of the state and municipal institutions in the field of youth policy, as well as conducts other operations relevant to the youth, youth

activities implemented by young people, with young people or for young people. Youth work covers an area of out-of-school education, and also includes special leisure activities carried out by professionals or volunteers that work with young people, as well as by youth leaders. There is a variety of ways youth work can be organised. Among those responsible for its coordination are youth-led organisations, organisations for young people, non-formal youth groups, youth services or public institutions.

Key principles and areas of youth policy implementation

Youth policy comprises the activities targeted at finding solutions to youth problems and seeking to create favourable conditions for personality development of young people and their integration in society.

The framework of the current youth policy has been established in the Law on Youth Policy Framework, adopted in 2003. It provides for the main concepts of youth policy, defines youth policy areas and establishes principles of the implementation of youth policy.



Youth Policy - Lithuania

The main principles of the implementation of youth policy in Lithuania are as follows:

- Parity and subsidiarity – state and municipal institutions and agencies, as well as youth organisations are represented equally, and the decisions are made at a level at which they are most effective;
- Participation and informing – state and municipal institutions and agencies, as well as youth organisations inform young people on the matters relevant to them in an acceptable and accessible form, and youth-related issues are solved with the participation of young people;
- Self-governance, independence and voluntariness – young people themselves choose a field of activities, set its purposes, take an active part in it and are responsible for the fulfilment of the said purposes, set down ways, forms, responsibility and evaluation of the implementation of the purposes of this activity;
- Inter-institutional coordination, communication and cooperation – state and municipal institutions and agencies communicate and cooperate with each other

solving youth-related issues, while Lithuanian youth organisations communicate and cooperate with other Lithuanian and foreign youth organisations, natural and legal persons.

www.socmin.lrv.lt/en/activities/family-and-children/youth-policy

www.jrd.lt/informacija-dirbantiems-su-jaunimu/metodiniai-leidiniai/el-biblioteka/jrd.pdf

The youth policy sector has established and strengthened itself over the years, with the first National Youth Plan launched in 2018, framed in the European priorities and the needs of young Portuguese. In Portugal, the age of the youth policy's target population varies between 12 and 30 years. There is no uniform legal definition of it, as different laws, programmes and initiatives define lower and upper age limits differently, which vary according to the area of activity, type of programme, and support rendered.

The highest authority responsible for youth policy is the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SEJD), currently under the purview of the Ministry of Education. The executive and operational body of youth policies is the Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ, IP).

The policy development in a participatory manner is also reflected in the existence of advisory bodies, such as the Youth Advisory Council, the Advisory Council of the IPDJ,

and policies addressed to groups in a vulnerable situation or with specific needs. Priorities were settled in certain groups, profiles, or social issues, but flexible to all border situations.

Key domains: Formal and Non-Formal Education, Employment, Health and Housing.

Key themes: Governance and Participation, Equality and Social Inclusion, Environment and Sustainable Development.

Action Plans: Priority and strategic goals were devised for each domain or theme, and those correspond to an action plan grounded on the contribution from different areas of government, as detailed below.

Youth Policy - Portugal

the National Youth Council (CNJ), and, locally, the City Councils, among others.

The National Youth Plan (PNJ) is an instrument of coordination of youth policies in Portugal and takes into account the international benchmarks set forth by the United Nations (UN), the Council of Europe, the European Union (EU), the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), and the International Youth Organisation for Ibero-America.

National Youth Strategy

Approved in September 2018, the National Youth Plan (PNJ) is coordinated by the Portuguese Institute for Youth and Sport (IPDJ, IP). It is a political instrument of youth policy's intersectoral coordination in Portugal with the mission of rendering its transversality and strengthening special protection of young people's rights, as stated in article 70 of the Constitution of the Portuguese Republic. PNJ assumes a balance between comprehensive youth policies

The 2018-2021 National Youth Plan

The 2018-2021 National Youth Plan guides the designing, execution, and assessment of measures in such strategic areas as formal and non-formal education, employment, health, housing, environment and sustainable development, equality and social inclusion and governance and participation. The definition of the strategic areas was a result of a wide consultation process with young people and main players of the sector (youth organizations, youth technicians, academics and municipalities). For the purpose of the plan's execution 4,000 answers to an online survey were taken into account that enabled the registration of approximately 250 measures that related to the political fields specified by the European Union.

The national public policy develops a series of programmes and projects converging with European objectives through the institute IPDJ or partners. Some of them are as follows:

Youth Policy Funding

The budget for conducting public youth policies comes from three sources: the Portuguese State Budget, Community Funds, and the income of IPDJ - a body that has executive power to run public youth policies. All projects and programmes developed in the following scopes of action are funded: associationism, employment and entrepreneurship, volunteering, creativity and culture, health, leisure, citizenship and participation, mobility, and non-formal education.

Cross-border Cooperation

Portugal's international intervention in the youth domain has focused, both bilaterally and multilaterally, on Europe (the European Union and the Council of Europe), on Africa

(with the member countries of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)), and on Iberian America, especially the International Youth Organisation for Iberian America (IYO). Through IPDJ, Portugal has bilateral agreements in the area of youth with several countries, namely Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Morocco, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor. These protocols support and promote the development of joint activities and direct contact between young people and promote cooperation between youth organizations and political actors. There is also intensive cooperation between the cross-border regions of Portugal and Spain.

www.national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/portugal/14-youth-policy-decision-making
www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/portugal

Youth Policy - Portugal



The Spanish Constitution (Constitución Española de 1978) in article 48 states that “public authorities will promote conditions for free and effective participation of youth in political, social, economic and cultural development”. Therefore, it is an obligation of public authorities – as it has been done for the last forty years – to develop youth policies. However, as the Constitution does not relate directly to youth policies, in order to address this lack of specific assignment, autonomous regions assume exclusive responsibility for that particular matter in their own statutes.

Spain is a decentralised country – besides the central government (the general government administration being its administrative part), there are two other administrative levels: 17 autonomous regions and two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla), as well as local authorities.

Youth Policy. Article 22 of the Spanish Constitution of 1978, and the Organic Law 1/2002 of 22 March (BOE 073 de

of the total population.

On a national scale, the 2020 Youth Strategy establishes several actions plans, of which the latest one to be implemented was the 2014-2016 Action Plan (Plan de Acción 2014-2016) with a budget of 2,9 thousand million euros covering 211 measures of different Axes of Action of the Strategy. Of this amount, over 90% was allocated to youth employment and entrepreneurship support. This is a specific budget, as determined in the first Action Plan.

Besides the aforementioned plans, there is an ordinary budget for the Youth Promotion and Services (Promoción y Servicios de la Juventud) allotted by the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda of 32,9 million euros (Spanish National Budget 2018 – Presupuestos Generales del Estado 2018).

Youth Policy - Spain

26/03/20002), regulates the right of association, and stresses and recognises the importance of the “associative” phenomenon as an integration into society instrument, and sets forth that the public authorities must encourage the constitution and development of associations, as well as offer advice and technical information to those involved in associative projects.

Although at present there are significant contributions to youth policies visible, we find ourselves in a scenario in which those are neither abundant nor cover different needs of the sector, with a greater tendency towards practice and action rather than theorisation and reflection.

According to data provided by the Spanish National Statistical Institute (INE), in 2020, Spain had an estimated population of 47,329,981, of which there were 7,296,779 individuals comprising the youth (with Spanish policies and public organisations defining the youth as those between 14 and 30 years of age), which roughly translates into 15.41%

In 2017, the Spanish Administration participated in the following funds from the European Budget:

- Erasmus+ (the European Union programme supporting training, sports, education and youth efforts for the period of 2014-2020) with funds amounting to 174,6 m euro.
- Youth Employment Initiative with a budget of 28,3 m euro in 2016 (no data available for 2017), designed to support young people with no employment, and for training or education in regions with an unemployment rate above 25%.
- Pan-European Creative Europe Programme focused on emerging creators and artists, with a financial support of 7,3 m euro.

Youth Councils

The Spanish Youth Council is an autonomous body created by law in 1983, within the framework of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, in which youth organizations from all over Spain and regional youth councils are represented. Its objectives are to promote youth participation and associationism, to represent Spanish young people and to convey the proposals and concerns of young people to the public authorities and public opinion.

Its structure is based on general assembly that meets every two years, participated by all its members. Its main function is the control of the tasks performed, the design of the lines of work and the election of the members of the permanent commission.

ELCHE 2021-2024 Youth Plan

- Youth Project: psychological and social support programme for young people and adolescents to create various spaces for reflective dialogue, social integration and psycho-education.
- Environment: inclusion of workshops related to climate, addressed to the youth.
- Training: in-demand training and employment programmes, for example in hospitality sector, with official IVAJ qualifications that enable young people to find employment.
- Housing: promoting the creation of housing resources for young people, as well as coordination with the Social Housing Office for the referral of young people in vulnerable situations.
- Equality: to offer workshops to make gender inequalities visible through the use of language and the promotion of non-sexist language, as well as to train and raise

Youth Policy - Spain

The Commissions are responsible for preparing specific documents and proposals. There are currently six such commissions: Socio-economic, Participation and Non-Formal Education, Formal Education, Rights and Equal Opportunities, Quality of Life and the International Relations Committee (CRI).

There are three degrees of participation:

- Agreed Youth Organisations (without voice or vote)
- Observer Youth Organisations (with voice, but without vote)
- Full Youth Organisations (with voice and vote).

The debates from the 2020 Youth Strategy involve different scopes, such as the European perspective of the youth policies, the youth as seen by the administrations, the emancipation challenges, equality policies, participation, volunteering and cooperation, lifestyles, leisure and free time, culture, youth creation and ICT, youth in Spain, values and principles.

awareness of equality.

- Sports: to draw up a map of municipal sports facilities in order to make them known to young people and to programme activities on a regular basis.
- Sustainability: review the connections of the cycle lane to study new sections and new youth fares based on their economic viability.
- Volunteering: training for young volunteers, in addition to the implementation of environmental volunteering, and continuing with European volunteering, which is in great demand among young people.
- Associations: making the work of youth organisations more visible and offer legal guidance service to all youth organisations that request it.
- Educational leisure and free time: with a wide range of leisure courses and workshops, expanding and strengthening the areas that are most in demand by young people, such as the "Artprendre" and "Alternactiu" programmes.

The Youth Plan is a project in line with the ELX2030 Strategy that promotes a process of urban transformation based on the introduction of the concept of sustainability in the development of the municipality, in economic, social, territorial and environmental terms.

www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/2017/46/publicaciones/revista110_9-estudios-politicas-de-juventud-en-espana.pdf

www.cje.org/ca/que-es-cje/estructura/
www.national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/spain/1-youth-policy-governance

www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/2018/27/publicaciones/sondeo_2017-1_informe.pdf

www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/JCifras-Valores-Dic2010.pdf

www.injuve.es/sites/default/files/politicas_de_juventud_imprenta.pdf



Youth in Greece

According to available data, the concept of 'youth' is not clearly defined in Greece. While the National Report states that, in line with the EU standards, youth represent that part of the Greek population aged between 15 and 29, the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Country sheet (2012) emphasises that 'youth policy' in Greece is targeting young people aged 15–35 years.

COVERAGE (geographical areas, social groups, policy domains)

The youth related policies in Greece are centralised, based on a top-down approach, weak links between national - regional, and inter-regional layers.

A step in the right direction was a recent reform of the administrative system towards delegating authority for youth policy development and implementation to the lower layers (regional and local).

Urgency for human resource management reform in order to strengthen the civil service and promote mobility;
Shortcomings in data collection and management which stand in the way of effective and evidence-based reforms;
Complexity of a legal framework based on a culture of 'legal formalism' which discourages initiative, puts the focus on processes rather than policy, and blocks reform progress;
Lack of transparency and accountability in terms of budget management.

Youth Policy & Legislation in Greece

Youth policy in Greece is considered "cross-sectoral" with youth affairs legislated across various ministries and incorporating national, European and international policies. Numerous laws cover youth issues such as education, employment, sports, family, rights, health, social protections, and local youth councils. The General Secretariat for Youth, responsible for youth affairs, focuses on three main policy areas:

Youth Policy - Greece

The main challenge (especially at the local level) is to address and overcome differences and establish new integrated forms of governance among merged municipalities, and to develop co-operation with other newly established municipalities (bearing in mind the constraints of their budgets), but also with respective national governing structures.

Public Governance on Youth Policy in Greece:

- A lack of evident overall strategic vision to provide purpose and direction to the long-term future of Greek society/economy, as well as for the short-medium-and long-term measures to be implemented;
- Low level of co-ordination between and within ministries, causing evident fragmentation and overlaps among structures and task;
- Weak implementation of policies and reforms, as a result of a combination of weak central supervision and a culture that favours regulatory production over results;

- 1) unemployment, employment and labour relationships;
 - 2) social exclusion, social inclusion, youth rights and participation;
 - 3) environment, climate change and green development.
- National youth programmes are influenced by the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018).

Public Institutions

The General Secretariat for Youth (GSfY) within the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs has the "primary task of shaping, monitoring and coordinating the government policy for the youth". The youth policy briefing (2012) notes that the main role of the GSfY is "to promote a cross-sectoral youth policy" and heads an inter-ministerial committee. According to the youth policy report (2012), a Youth Committee cooperates "with non-governmental organisations, social and scientific bodies before making and implementing the youth policy".

Youth Representation

The National Youth Council of Greece (ESYN) is an umbrella organisation with 59 affiliated members. It is an “independent, non-governmental, non-profit federation of Greek youth organizations”. According to the youth policy briefing (2012), the ESYN was established in 1998 and its role is “to be the official representative of Greek youth” at international forums and to act as “the main interlocutor” between the Government and young people on “youth issues at the national level”. The ESYN is a member of the European Youth Forum and the Mediterranean Youth Forum.

Strategic framework and vision

One of the main obstacles to efficient and effective policy responses to complex issues that young people are facing in contemporary Greece is the absence of an integrated youth policy, as well as any joint vision, any sense of purpose, or coherent cross-departmental strategy in the

field of youth.

Attempts to develop a platform for local youth policy are clearly random and rely mainly on the local strategy for civil society, even though it does not specifically target young people. These efforts are based on the central European model of municipal engagement and partnership with civil society (as in Thessaloniki, for example).

The key challenge is to establish mechanisms that can release the entrepreneurial and participative spirit of young people, to give them hope and belief in their futures and in their country, but also of regional and local administrations, youth organisations and local youth councils, so that these can provide timely and purposeful intervention and support, and innovation, according to local need and circumstances.

About Youth Work

Some Key points about Youth Work:

- No institutional definition and recognition – but “youth work” does exist as a social practice. It constitutes an integral part of educational and welfare work, and plays a role in supporting young people’s safe and healthy transition to adult life (yet it remains mainly leisure-time activity).
- To some extent, there is already a sense of an emergent youth work profession that, if facilitated properly, could have a transformative effect in working for, with and about the energisation and engagement of youth in Greece – the recognition and visibility of youth work remain key issues.
- No tradition of monitoring and documentation of youth work (know-how), and there are also many uncertainties regarding concepts and indicators.
- Professionals involved in “youth work” are not satisfied with the current status of the field. In particular, they

Youth Policy - Greece

believe that youth work services should assume a more prominent and comprehensive role in Greek society and that more coordinated efforts should be made in this direction.

www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/greece/

Drafted before Poland's accession to the EU, the "State Strategy for Youth for 2003-2012" (Strategia Państwa dla Młodzieży na lata 2003-2012) remains the only document determining the development and directions of the Polish youth policy. Currently, there is no strategy in Poland directly relating to young people. In 2018-2019, the Association for Establishing the Youth Council of the Republic of Poland, together with 600 young people from Poland, developed a document called "The Assumptions for the National Youth Strategy for 2020-2030". It identifies six strategic areas: labour market; civic activity; sport, health, tourism; innovation, internet, digitization; culture; education and higher education.

It is worth emphasising that despite the absence of a youth act, youth policy is more and more frequently regulated at regional and local levels. Local strategies (or other documents) addressing young people are being implemented at various levels of local governments (province, district, commune).

in political life and functioning in the legal system.

At this point, it is difficult to clearly identify one authority at the central level responsible for making decisions about the youth. Currently decisions concerning the implementation of individual public policies remain mainly within the competence of the government administration. It is worth noting that youth policies are mainly developed at a regional level, with youth association playing a crucial role in their establishment.

In the last few years, many entities have been established, both by the Polish government, but also independent organisations. These include the Children and Youth's Council with the purview of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Council for Dialogue with the Young generation, an opinion-making and advisory body for the Chairman of the Public Benefit Committee. In addition to the bodies set up by the authorities, there are also numerous NGO's, associations and foundations operating in the field, such as the Polish Council of Youth

Youth Policy - Poland

Decisions on the implementation of individual public policies (including those related to the youth) remain a responsibility of government administration (e.g. the Minister of National Education is responsible for education and upbringing, the Minister of Sport - for physical education, the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy - for social policy, and the Minister of Science and Higher Education - for higher education and research).

On year-to-year basis, the youth community increases its competences and importance at a national and local government level.

Policy makers notice a growing need for inclusion of young people (from an early age) in decision-making processes about themselves and their future, which results in a growing number of youth councils, youth assemblies, and national councils responsible for youth.

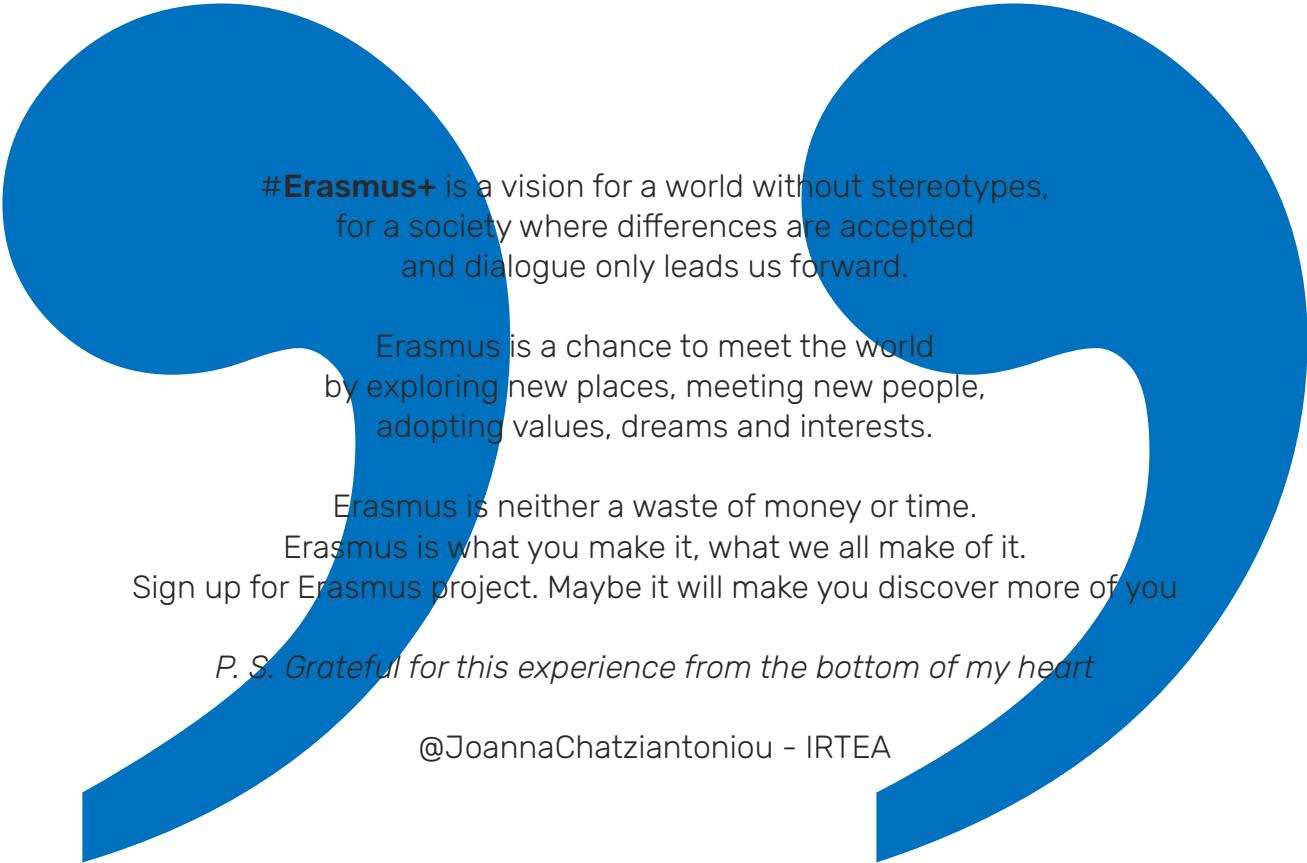
Youth policy in Poland is understood as a collection of legal acts and practices used by public institutions and other actors in the areas such as education, culture, social security and assistance, health, labour market, participation

Organizations or the Foundation Civis Polonus.

After years of consultations, in April 2021, the youth policy was legally regulated in Poland, with the introduction of the amendment of article 5b of the Act on municipal government. Previously, the article had only indicated that the municipality had the right set up a youth council and now it clarifies the situation regarding all councils, organisations and volunteering by clearly defining their duties and competences, etc.

Currently, the youth policy in Poland focuses on 3 pillars: education, activation and communication. Despite different approaches and conducting different activities, they constitute the common basis for the development of young people.

Taking into account the situation of young people in Poland, thanks to a constant development of youth policies, they can count on some sort of support. Each year young people can take advantage of new opportunities, development plans and opportunities that broaden their horizons, answer to their needs and develop skills are financed from programmes such as Erasmus + or Europe for Citizens.



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P. S. Grateful for this experience from the bottom of my heart

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