



Regione Toscana



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PICTURE ON YOUTH
POLICIES IN EUROPE

7

books of
GIOVANI *si*



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI si

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PREFACE

A Europe that is more united and cohesive, closer to citizens, and more attentive to social questions, putting work, employment and youth issues to the forefront.

Sixty years after the Treaty of Rome, I asked for an amendment regarding young people to be added to the resolution approved by the Committee of Regions. I am convinced that they should be at the centre of European policies because only young people can restart the dream of a united Europe, as our fathers wanted, which can offer “*giving young people real prospects for the future, in work and in education*”.¹

In Tuscany, we have been putting opportunities for young people and the need to support their process of autonomy at the centre of our vision of the future since 2011. What the Region of Tuscany promotes is a transversal system of opportunities that are part of a single communication brand, which we have called Giovanisi. The project brings together all the work aimed at the under 40s, linked to the main aspects of life: work experience, employment, creating companies, study and training, home life, community service, participation, culture, legality, social life and sport.

All the milestones reached over these six years are the product of a constant work of integration, collaboration and coordination between the departments involved. The results are encouraging and make us think that Giovanisi is a valid project, and one that is in continual evolution.

In December 2016, IRPET (the Regional Economic Programming Institute of Tuscany) carried out a survey on the impact that Giovanisi had in four different areas – Work Experience, Home Life, Doing Business and Co-working – and showed for each the strong points and the aspects which have to be perfected, the results achieved and those to be achieved as things evolve².

The research carried out by IRPET is part of a wider comparison process that Tuscany has always supported, and which has had the collaboration and the contribution of other regions and administrative bodies in Italy and Europe which are committed to promoting projects and activity for younger generations.

The aim is to offer a wide range of best practices to share and to spread. What we hope is to stimulate interest in the reader and to give points of reflection on the future of youth policy in Italy and Europe.

Enrico Rossi

President of the Region of Tuscany

1 Committee of the Regions, *60th Anniversary of the Signature of the Treaty of Rome*, Draft Resolution, 2018. <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/Handlers/ViewDoc.aspx?doc=COR-2016-06917-00-01-PRES-TRA-EN.docx>

2 *Effetto Giovanisi. Analisi e valutazioni sul progetto della Regione Toscana per l'autonomia dei giovani*. (“Giovanisi Effect. Analysis and assessment of the Region of Tuscany project for the independence of young people”). Research by IRPET with the collaboration of the Giovanisi Office, 2015 - http://giovanisi.it/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/IRPET_Giovanisi_def.pdf

1. INTRODUCTION

“The project organised by the Region of Tuscany to help young people become independent”, that is the Claim of Giovanisi.

Starting in June 2011, with regional, national and European resources (ROP ESF – POR CREO ERDF – RDP funds)³, Giovanisi has put together a system of opportunities for young people and to do so has tried out a governance model that is innovative in Italian and European policy for young people.

“The human and social capital of young people is one of the greatest European resources for the future. The European Union and its member states have to invest in the skills, creativity and diversity of the potential represented by 90 million young people in Europe.”⁴

That is what the Statement by the European Commission says on youth issues for 2015 (2010-2018) and is the idea which is at the base of the creation and evolution of the Giovanisi project. Resources, potential, skills, future and creativity are some of the key words that have promoted the construction of, and characterise the design of the opportunities that the project offers to young people from Tuscany, and young people who have chosen to live, work and build a future and their own independence in Tuscany.

The overall aim of Giovanisi is to promote the transition process of the young generations to an adult, independent life. To achieve this there are a series of specific intermediate steps which are linked to particular aspects of the life of a young person. Giovanisi feels that they take shape in the so-called seven ‘macro areas’ through which opportunities are structured: Work Experience, Home Life, Community Service, Education and Training, Doing Business and Giovanisi+ (which involves activity related to participation, culture, legality, social life and sport).

With the Giovanisi project, the Region of Tuscany has also set itself and continues to set itself objectives of a cultural and transversal nature, which interact with and influence the capacity to activate young generations, making the most of the human capital within the production system, and creating an ecosystem/an enabling space that allows young people to express their talent and skills. There are over 40 opportunities, coordinated communications and information and an integrated and transversal governance model are the main elements that characterise Giovanisi and which, starting from 2011, have meant that over 236.000 young people have been reached.

3 ROP ESF – Regional Operational Programme European Social Fund, ROP ERDF - Regional Operational Programme European Regional Development Fund, RDP EAFRD - Rural Development Programme

4 Joint draft report by the Council and the Commission on activating a renewed European cooperation framework on youth policies for 2015 (2010-2018), p.2. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=COM:2015:429:FIN>

Over six years after its creation, the Giovanisi project is living through a process of redefinition and movement which on the one hand assumes a moment of reflection that is internal to the Region of Tuscany, and on the other offers chances to open up and compare with the outside world. It is precisely this last consideration that has brought about the event "L'Europa siamo noi. CLICK – istantanea sulle Politiche giovanili"⁵ (We are Europe. CLICK - picture on youth policies) which was held in Florence, at the offices of the Region of Tuscany, on 17th June 2016. The event was promoted in association with the European Committee of Regions with the support of the Office of the Region of Tuscany in Brussels. This certainly represented an important time for reflection, exchange and comparison with an update on youth policy, starting from the Tuscan experience, but while keeping close watch on the experience of other regions, both Italian and European.

The meeting was structured according to theme and divided into four panels, whose aim was to compare Giovanisi programme with the experiences and good practices on: 'work experience and orientation' (City of Bremen and the Region of Lombardy), 'work and entrepreneurs' (Wales and the Region of Emilia-Romagna), the relationships between 'young people and institutions' (the Algarve Region and the Region of Umbria) and 'transversal policies' (Finland and the Region of Campania). The event was also a chance to have an update on European Union strategies on active employment policies and youth occupation to make a first assessment two years after its start, of the youth guarantee programme, outlining how it may develop in the future.

During the meeting, the strategic importance of the structural funds (ESF, ERDF and RDP) became clear. Thanks to them significant resources are allocated to incentivise policies to support younger generations. Since 2014, with the Youth Guarantee, specific funds have been set aside for member countries which have youth unemployment of over 25% so as to improve orientation, training and introduction to work for NEETs (young people who are *Not in Employment, Education or Training*). This work is also financed in Tuscany by, above all, ROP ESF which calls for a specific investment priority to counter youth unemployment, to such an extent that over 35% of the resources of the current programme are aimed at measures for young people and thus finance activities promoted by Giovanisi.

The collection of reflections which emerged from the very positive assessment made at CLICK, have pushed the Giovanisi office to want to 'freeze frame' the collection of information and reflections, not just of the experience that have made it up, but also those which, in the Italian and European scenario, present elements of interest and/or innovation. Why? Because while a snapshot freezing the status quo runs the risk of becoming 'outdated' in a short time, it also makes it possible to put together focused, comparative and wider-reaching analysis compared to a single experience. This publication is characterised by diversity, as it is a collection of contributions by Public Administrations and local bodies which, despite the numerous differences, share a common link: an active, defined and concrete policy.

5 <http://giovanisi.it/2016/06/21/leuropa-siamo-noi-click-istantanea-sulle-politiche-giovanili-i-contributi-dellevento-del-1706/>

The idea is to bring together the elements that characterise each experience, posing focused questions and listening to the replies, providing – as far as possible – interpretations and analysis, which show up the elements that they have in common, and those that divide them, new perspectives on a common road to be taken by those who want to promote focused and efficient youth policies.

To compare policies which are potentially quite different from one another, their quantitative aspects (numbers, resources, activities) and their qualitative ones (challenges, future prospects, and key words) must be described, with the strong points and critical elements singled out. An analysis of this type, which is complex and at the same time fascinating, starts from the presupposition that the decisive element is unquestionably the far-sightedness and the attention that a public administration places on the promotion of a youth policy. In this regard the most difficult challenges are linked to the ability to know how to read and interpret society in a realistic way, and to positively activate the institution-youth-region link, with a careful eye on, and in synergy with, national and European strategies (and not just these).

2. EXPERIENCES OF YOUTH POLICY

Questions and answers from Italy and from Europe

After having explained the reasons that brought the Giovanisi Office to work on this publication, we now arrive at the heart of its content, or the contributions of the bodies that promote or sustain the good practices of youth policy.

The choice has been to directly ask those (executives, civil servants or implementing bodies) who move these projects forward on a daily basis to tell us the 'what', 'how', 'why' of what they do, and also 'what will happen'.

The chapter which follows has separate entries for each project, each subdivided into two sections. The first part of each entry contains the main technical information which allows the reader to position the work in terms of content, the current situation and 'numbers'. The aim of the second part, through a form of interview, is to record the cultural aspects, bringing out the most important elements, the key words, the obstacles that have been overcome and are yet to be overcome with a look at how the future will be.

THE REGION OF ALGARVE (PORTUGAL)

Algarve 2020: a Youth Contract

PROMOTED BY

**ECOS – Cooperative of Education Cooperation and Development,
CRL (Portugal)**



DESCRIPTION

The participatory based project “Algarve 2020: A Youth Contract” (2014-106) allowed the development of the 1st Regional Youth Action Plan for youth policy implementation and monitoring in Portugal, contributing with a measurable tool to support different stakeholders responsible for policy making and implementation in the region of Algarve to change the current trends of unemployment, school dropout and under participation. This regional youth action plan has around 255 concrete actions with defined results, indicators, actors to mobilize and calendar, divided in different thematic areas of public policies to be implemented till 2020.

This project starts as a follow-up of its precedent “Algarve 2020: a Youth Proposal” (2012-13), where a wide youth consultation process took place across the 16 municipalities of Algarve - through methods of non-formal education, events of structured dialogue and on-line tools, and where it was established a Partner Coordination Commission where youth leaders, youth organisations, youth workers, officers and public authorities from along the region planned, discussed and worked together for all different phases and activities of the project.

During “Algarve 2020: a Youth Contract”, the Partner Coordination Commission was resettled and enlarged and different Working Groups were organized, composed by experts, educators, officers, investigators, youth workers, youth leaders and youth organisations that were selected regarding their expertise in 22 different public policy areas. Along the project they were facilitated to create specific action proposals that could be feasible, measurable and that could be a response to the challenges and proposals of youth.

All this process was followed with several events where youth, experts, educators, organisations and decision makers could meet, debate, share, learn and work on proposals for their region together, having the support of experienced trainers and facilitators in non-formal education.

The publication of the “1st Regional Youth Action Plan of the Algarve” is the final result of all the learning, sharing and working along the different activities of Algarve2020: a Youth Contract and its ancestor.

This project proves that youth can make a difference by actively contributing as a key actor on the economic, social and political development of the region. We believe that the

project will contribute for the different stakeholders to see young people as a source of inspiration for the current challenges we are facing in our society and to consider them as fundamental partners in the policy making in the region.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The main regional entities in Algarve assumed the compromise to assure the monitoring of the implementation on the Plan, having signed up a Memorandum of Understanding in presence of the Secretary of State of Youth at the 11th of March 2016.

These entities are:

- AMAL – Coordination of the Municipalities of the Region;
- CCDR – Commission for the Coordination and Development of the Region;
- IPDJ – Regional Directorate of National Youth and Sports Institute;
- FAJALG – Federation of the Youth Associations of the Algarve;
- UALG – University of the Algarve;
- AAUALG – Academic Association of the University of the Algarve;
- ECOS – Cooperative of Education Cooperation and Development, CRL (Portugal).

A strategy of monitoring of the Plan was proposed by these entities that assumed official responsibility over the different aspects involving the implementation and monitoring of the Plan.

In between, the different partners and stakeholders are implementing several actions of the plan and ECOS is supporting the implementation and adaptation of the regional plan to Local Youth Action Plans in 2 of the Municipalities of the Algarve, as well as, promoting the European Structured Dialogue at regional level together with the National Youth Council.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

Both editions of the project were around 75.000 euro financed by Youth in Action / Erasmus + and the partners supported also with supporting transport, renting of the working space, involving volunteers and staf in the organization of the activities.

The project involved all 16 Municipalities of the region of Algarve and all main regional entities and directorates in a total of other 77 entities and organizations working with youth.

Since the “youth proposal”, in 2012, more than 1200 young have directly participated in the activities of promotion of active participation and consultancy.

The project has also been followed and debated in several different national and international events, allowing a wider reflection on how this project could be improved for future editions and adapted to other regional realities.

*INTERVIEW with **Sofia Martins**
Coordinator for ECOS - Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e
Desenvolvimento*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

ECOS was recently established in the region (2010) by a group of young adults with different experiences at international level in issues such as citizenship, participation, community development and education and training. This group had in common their youth associativism background and belonging to the region of Algarve and their wish to diminish the gap between European recommendations and good practices and their real impact at local level.

In 2011 ECOS develop the 1st project DYPALL – Developing Youth Participation at Local Level – an international partnership with organisations and municipalities from different countries in Europe. During this project we could start a diagnosis and first approach with 3 municipalities of the region and it became clear the need and interest in creating a specific project for the region.

The region of Algarve have all the conditions to have a mainstreamed and effective youth along the territory, promoting in youth their sense of belonging and offering means, conditions and opportunities to young people to develop their full potential and contribution to the development of their region.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- ALGARVE2020, since it reflects the goals of the Strategy Europe2020 and it is the name for which the project is recognized broadly;
- CO-CREATE, since the Regional Plan was the result of the cooperation of different stakeholders (decision-makers, entities, youth workers and youth) that were working together in the different phases of the project including planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring;
- PARTICIPATORY, since the project was a window of opportunity for the different stakeholders to reflect, experience and reinvent this adjective and regain believe in democratic processes.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

Being proposed and promoted by a NGO the project was able overcome the challenge of being assumed the responsibility and ownership by the main entities responsible by the regional development, coordination and youth.

A challenge still to be faced is the constant consultancy of youth and need of update of the plan. Being a pilot project and having a time frame of 2012-2020, it's needed to take in consideration that the plan needs to be followed and reviewed through structured dialogue methodologies. Moreover, it's needed to create mechanisms to ensure youth engagement in medium-long term.

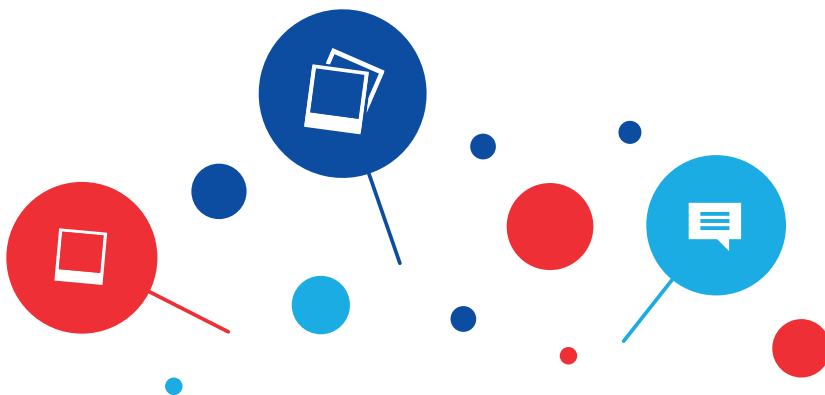
4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

We aim that, in 2020, the region of Algarve can have new conditions and opportunities for youth, that can allow them to develop their full potential as human beings and support them to participate actively for the development of their territories and community!

We hope, that by this time, the different stakeholders can be designing together another edition of this project (Algarve2025?), improved, with open dialogue channels, with effective and cooperative working methods and with more participatory and conscious youth collaborating.

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THE CITY OF BARCELONA (SPAIN)

Career Project



PROMOTED BY

Barcelona Activa - Economic Development Agency of the City Council of Barcelona

DESCRIPTION

The Career Project (Projecte de Vida Professional in original Catalan), launched 14 years ago, aims at bridging the gap between the high schools and the labour market in order to pave the way of the high schools' students (mainly of those students following the last courses of high schools) towards the labour market.

This project is promoted by Barcelona Activa, the economic development agency of the City Council of Barcelona together with the Consorci d'Educació de Barcelona, the Fundació Barcelona Formació Professional and FemCat.

Barcelona Activa has been, for the last 30 years, a driving force behind Barcelona and its hinterland's economic activity, supporting policies to develop employment, entrepreneurship and business, while promoting the city and its strategic sectors internationally, but from a regional perspective.

The Consorci d'Educació de Barcelona is a consortium built between the government of Catalonia and the City Council of Barcelona and aims at improving all the education services provided in the city of Barcelona.

The Fundació Barcelona Formació Professional aims at fostering the vocational training and the economic development in the city of Barcelona.

FemCat is the businessmen and businesswomen association of Catalonia and it aims at promoting both social and economic development in Catalonia.

The Career Project is nowadays a core project in the frame of career orientation in the high schools in the city of Barcelona. It focuses on the future career of the students, analyzing their preferences, interests, skills, motivations and vocations so that they can think about their future as employees or entrepreneurs.

One of the main outcomes this project aims at is to raise awareness among youth about the importance of education when taking decisions about their career.

Young people need a direct contact with labour market in order to really understand how real labour market works: jobs, careers, emerging sectors in their city, business... are issues they get familiarized with. Therefore the Career Project coaches them in the frame of their studies and career decisions, in order to improve their success chances in the labour market.

The Career Project combines activities developed in the high schools with activities

developed in the Porta 22 facility of Barcelona Activa, so that the students get to know an important facility of the city especially devoted to promote the economic development. The Porta 22, is the metropolitan reference centre for new emerging professional profiles and emerging and transforming sectors. The amenity is designed as an open free-access space, aimed at people looking for new job opportunities, career guidance or advice about their future professional evolution. The centre also hosts tailor made programmes for target groups with special difficulties finding a job.

Objectives:

- empowerment of young students in the process of making decisions about their academic and professional future;
- awareness about job opportunities according to the emerging sectors in the city;
- identification of the different learning paths to access a degree;
- fostering entrepreneurship;
- to prepare access to the labour market;
- to bring the young people closer to the business world;
- raising awareness about the values and labour market rules.

Program Structure:

1) Workshops

- 2 hours Monographic sessions, stimulated by specialized experts in education and labour market.
- Topics:
 - self-knowledge (Professional Interests, Training system, Soft Skills);
 - labour market (Job profiles, Job interview, Cover letter and resume; selection processes; 2.0 means for job searching);
 - values and rules of the labour market (Entrepreneur Spirit and rules of the labour market).

These workshops are held in Porta 22.

2) Activities led by entrepreneurs

- One-hour speeches given in the high schools by successful entrepreneurs. These speeches focus on the role that business plays in the society and on the entrepreneurial skills. Leadership, discipline, creativity, commitment, honesty, initiative, no fear to take risks, team spirit, flexibility, decision-making, critical spirit... are some of the skills/attitudes especially significant in this frame.

These speeches are held by the FemCat members in the high schools.

3) "Entrepreneurship with values" speeches

- Entrepreneurship with values: we promote among young students the skills, values and attitudes they should have before any professional challenge.
- The main objective of the speech is to promote dialogue between young people

and significant people that developed their career taking specific values into account.

These activities are held in different venues of the city.

- 4) Visits to local companies: getting to know the labour market
 - Visits: The aim is to bring young students closer to professional environments, and to give them the opportunity to learn how companies work, which values are promoted, what type of professionals work there and which professional skills they consider when hiring their staff.
 - We try to highlight the importance of the social economy in the city of Barcelona by promoting visits to the companies in this sector.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

15.216 people participated in the Career Project in 2016, which meant that the 70% of the high schools of Barcelona participated in this project.

Nowadays the project is an important resource for the teachers of the high schools in the city of Barcelona when supporting their students to decide what they want to do after high school.

Barcelona Activa thinks this project is useful as it is nowadays and therefore, one of the aims we have is to go on with this core role in the education field in the city of Barcelona. We'll work to improve the coordination with the high schools in Barcelona and to better know the needs of the companies of the city in terms of humans resources, especially those related to 4.0. industry and new and emerging economic sectors in the city.

Finally, Barcelona Activa is working on a new professional orientation model. This model would mean a higher level of coordination with the Catalan Employment Service and, as a result, we'd like to have a single professional record for the users of the professional orientation services. Therefore, we'll have more accurate information about the orientation needs of the population and the companies operating in the city.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The resources needed in this project are mainly coaches and officers focused in the labour market needs and trends.

Regarding the beneficiaries, they are high school students of the city of Barcelona (mainly of those students following the last courses of high schools).

It is important to highlight the fact that all the activities of the project are held both in the schools and in different venues related to the labour market and the business world. It is actually another strategy of the project so that students are familiarised with facilities that can be useful for them when designing their career.

One of the strengths of the project is the network of entities involved in its implementation, showing the commitment of many stakeholders of the city towards youth employment.

INTERVIEW with Glària Rossell
Head of Professional Orientation at Barcelona Activa

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

The project is specially targeted at youth and it tries to bridge the gap between schooling system and labour market. Since young people face an especially high unemployment rate in the city of Barcelona, Barcelona Activa thought that such a project would tackle a concrete and specific problem in order to overcome this situation.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- CAREER PROJECT (projecte de vida professional);
- TO COACH, support in the definition of the aim of the professional career;
- FINDER, it raises awareness among youth regarding their skills, interests and competences so that they can “discover/find” their professional aims more easily.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

One of the main challenges we had to face is to find the best means and ways to disseminate and communicate the project among the high schools in the city.

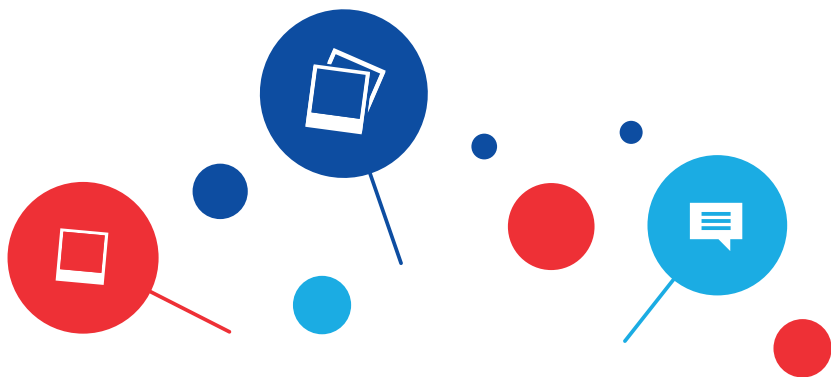
One of our wills is to involve all the stakeholders related to education and labour market in the city of Barcelona and to keep the project as a path so that the students have the feeling they can follow it.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE..

- New IT tools and the way they evolve will play a core role in the frame of this project.
- We'd also like to be able to build links with other leading centres in order to improve our tools.
- Finally the new and emerging sectors in the city of Barcelona will be a key issue in order to assure that our project is useful for its target population.

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THE CITY OF BREMEN (GERMANY)

The Youth Employment Agency



PROMOTED BY

Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

DESCRIPTION

Bremen has a high youth-unemployment rate of 9,6 %. The Youth Employment Agency is a contact point for all young people under the age of 25 in Bremen and Bremerhaven. The agency tries to help them getting vocational training or a place at university. Furthermore, the agency provides support and advice during the training or study period.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Youth Employment Agency was founded in May 2015. Today, three locations are established: two in Bremen, one in Bremerhaven. At these locations, young people can ask for a personal counseling interview. Furthermore visiting counseling services are established.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The Youth Employment Agency is financed by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, national funds and the European Social Fund (ESF). The Land Bremen finances almost 16 full-time positions for vocational counselling in schools as well as for integrated counselling in the Youth Employment Agency for all young people under 25. Furthermore, Bremen funds measures with the "Ausbildungsgarantie" to increase apprenticeship/vocational training positions. The vocational counselling services in schools and a marketing campaign are funded by the European Social Fund.

*INTERVIEW with **Jessica Blings**
Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Ports*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

The Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (Land Bremen) is a two-city-state in northern Germany with in total 660.000 inhabitants. It is the smallest German region with a strong economy. However, the unemployment rates are - compared to the average rates in

Germany - relatively high. Bremen has a rate of 9,6% youth-unemployment whereas the average-rate in Germany is 5,4 %.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, is a contact - and service - point for young people in order to help them finding their way from education into working life;

- TO ADVISE, it is important to advise young people who are full of doubts concerning their future. The staff of the agency tries to help with "words and deeds". The agency works together with the employment-agency, the job-center and other institutions of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen;

- HELPFUL, the agency is a contact-point in terms of school, study, training, career or personal problems. Young people have the opportunity to get advice and support on their way into a successful future.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

The Youth Employment Agency is based on the strong cooperation between the partners of different ministerial units (work/economy, youth/social welfare and school/education), the Employment Agency and the Job-Centre as well as social partners. The first step of establishing case-oriented counselling was made by the foundation of three locations of Youth Employment Agencies. At these agencies, all partners can be contacted by young people and their counselling processes can be connected. In the future, the cooperation has to be deepened and the network has to be widened within the region. Furthermore, the challenge of data-exchange between the cooperation partners with the aim to identify early school leavers without apprenticeship/vocational training position or a place at university has to be met.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

- The number of early school-leavers will be decreased.
- The number of graduated young people who started directly after school with vocational training or study will be increased.
- The number of interrupted vocational trainings or studies will be decreased.
- The number of young people who found a new challenge after interrupting their vocational trainings or studies will be increased.
- The number of young people who found a job after finishing their study or training will be increased.
- The youth-unemployment rate in the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen will be decreased.

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THE REGION OF CAMPANIA

The “Benessere Giovani” initiative



PROMOTED BY

**The Department for European Funds, Youth Policy,
European Cooperation and the Euro-Mediterranean area,
Region of Campania**

DESCRIPTION

The regional policy in Campania for young people is based on a policy system approach. It derives its juridical foundation from the recent Regional Law “Costruire il Futuro. Nuove Politiche per i giovani” (*Building the Future. New Policies for Young People*, Regional Law 26/2016) which substitutes the previous ones which were based mainly on work through projects and on other reference points for young people. The current law looks to consolidate a transversal approach, selecting the interdisciplinary areas which impact on young people and resulting policies that are included in an organic vision so that to improve the situation for young people.

With these regulations as a base, the first organic intervention “Benessere Giovani” (*Youth Wellbeing*) was adopted: it is a “system action” worth 16 million euros from the ESF and the National Fund for Youth Policies for 2015, which both manages a transition phase from the heavy inheritance from a few years of lack of attention paid to youth policy, and also opens a new approach to young people. The law seeks to promote and bring out the best in young people’s potential, together with the local authorities, youth associations, and local business; the focus is on improving the provision of good conditions in which to have a path for growth, the acquisition of experiences and skills, the expression of talent and the growth of independence.

The Regional Law takes account of national and European orientation on youth policy, and considers new generations to be a unique asset and a strategic resource for Campania that is worthy of investment.

The transversal nature of the approach of the regulations rests on the limited amount of resources in the regional accounts, and on the resources of the European programme.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The challenge and the main task is to clear up after the “darkness” of past years, creating the best environmental conditions so as to develop the independence of young people and the capacity of the regional system of regional actors to invest in them. It is proposed to bring forward in a systematic way the vision of youth policy, also looking to the actions of the local system, and recognising youth representation at various levels.

The two-year programme on youth policy (Regional Executive Order 795 from 28/12/2016) envisages a broad series of actions in the medium term to encourage the deployment of youth potential: "having experience" at an early age, creative inclination, the talent of young people from Campania and the improvement in living conditions in the places where young people can express their capacity and cultivate their interests.

Amongst the actions that have been carried out, and are which are being carried out, it is worth noting:

- the public notice "Benessere Giovani - Organizziamoci" (*Youth Wellbeing - Let's Organise*, Official Bulletin of the Region of Campania number 81 of 02/12/2016) which allocates ten million euros to hold workshops aimed at young people inside the multi-functional spaces made available by municipalities. The workshops are aimed at stimulating personal and professional growth amongst young people, promoting employability and adding to quality of life and social integration. The action finances projects with a maximum duration of 24 months, which will be presented by the Municipalities of Campania in partnership with youth associations, companies and other bodies from the region. The ranking was published on 03/07/2017 and 115 projects were funded.

- The youth policy Regional Monitoring Unit (Regional Executive Order 586 of 25/10/2016) has been set up at the Regional Council with the job of understanding and monitoring the different situations of young people in Campania so as to improve the decisions made by policy makers. The *Osservatorio Comunicazione Partecipazione Culture Giovanili* (OCPCG, Youth Culture Communication and Participation Monitoring Unit) has been activated as part of the Regional Monitoring Unit in association with the Department of Communication Sciences at the University of Salerno, which carries out research and detection work to understand the reality of youth culture in Campania, supporting youth projects and creativity and helping them to take centre stage. In line with this is the *Chiamata alle Arti* ("A Call to the Arts") project, a webgallery dedicated to young artists from Campania, who are offered the chance to use a virtual space to exhibit their works and thus have visibility at a regional level.

- The launch of a public consultation for the creation of a Regional Council initiative for the establishment of the Regional Civil Service, which could be a further step forward to enhancing young people and boosting their autonomy.

- At the offices of the President of the Regional Council, the Regional Forum of Young People has been set up, as a stable body of reference and exchange between young people, the Region and local bodies; that too was regulated by the same Regional Law and its representational character was accentuated both in its composition and in its application to young people.

- So as to identify and increase the visibility of youth associations that work on the regional scale, a register has been set up of the youth associations which work in the region with their own offices and in a continuous way.

- A process to recognise the figure of the youth worker, and their progressive professionalisation has begun as well as the valorization of Non Formal Education.

- Resources have been deployed to finance around three thousand study grants to take part in the Erasmus Plus – Individual Mobility in Campania international programmes,

and a further four million euros for the three-year period 2017-2018-2019 to support exchange and international mobility programmes for students from universities in Campania. The Region of Campania is the only one in Italy to finance the European Erasmus programme with additional resources, to give more opportunities to students to have the experience of studying abroad. Every year around a thousand additional study grants will be granted, with priority to deserving students from low-income families.

- The Erasmus start-up programme has been launched in Campania for 600 start-ups or aspiring entrepreneurs and around two million euros have been put aside for the three-year period 2017-2018-2019 to carry out international mobility activity for “start-uppers”, spin-offs, or aspiring entrepreneurs from Campania at incubators, accelerators, international academies and other structures that support company start-ups. A goal of the activity is to support the internationalisation of regional human capital.

- Campania is the first and only region in Italy to guarantee free public transport to all students (80,000 travel passes). That is an annual investment of over fifteen million euros to guarantee mobility to young people in Campania, and a saving per family of around 300 euros a year.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The Region of Campania has equipped itself with regulatory and financial tools aimed at young people so as to stimulate their creativity and design potential both as individuals and in associations and/or informal groups. This is a real change compared to the past because young people are considered not just as the recipients of actions, but are at the centre of a new way of constructing their own future. Currently the resources which are strictly linked to the law and come from the regional accounts are the three-yearly allowance of 3 millions euros, comprehensive of the Youth Policies National Fund, and of 18 millions euros from the ESF.

Young people can benefit from many other resources related to student transport, Right to Education (scholarships, phd).

*INTERVIEW with **Serena Angioli**
Councillor for European Funds, Youth Policy, European Cooperation
and the Euro-Mediterranean basin*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

It was decided that the policies that were to be implemented to support young people should be a coherent part of a system vision, moving from a sectoral view of the actions to a transversal and inter-disciplinary ones, identifying the areas of interest. Transversal policies are characterised by being:

- horizontal, since they are aimed at identifying the links between the various different policies in the sector, so as to make policies that have an impact on young people more efficient;
- vertical, since they also favour multi-governance between all the players involved in a process at various different institutional levels. The suppression of the barriers to learning and training by young people is considered a political priority, as is financing to increase their independence and entrepreneurial spirit, as well as generational change.

Why do we need a law on youth policy? Because young people are greatly disadvantaged in terms of quality of life and the gap in opportunities, both inside the region (both urban areas and inland ones), and also looking at young people in Campania compared to those who live in other Italian and European regions. After 27 years, Campania is once again trying to be innovative by investing in young generations.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN 3 WORDS

- CHALLENGE, because a challenge is of an internal concept, where the emphasis is on young people's wellbeing and on their enthusiasm, and through this we can focus on reaching a general, common aim;

- CHANGE, because only by adopting new behaviours and mental approaches is it possible to substitute ones that have become entrenched and which for a long time have led to the changed needs of young people "not being listened to", including by the public sector;

- EVOLVING, because a policy is evolved if it takes account of the process of change to which the actions to be implemented (and linked to youth field) are related.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

The law provides visibility and flags the lack of attention to the situation of young people in its overall dimension and doesn't just involve areas of social disadvantage or youth unemployment. The law took a tortuous route, with at least six years work, changes and deferments. The final action in relation to it was dated 25th August 1989. We accepted the challenge and overcame the obstacle.

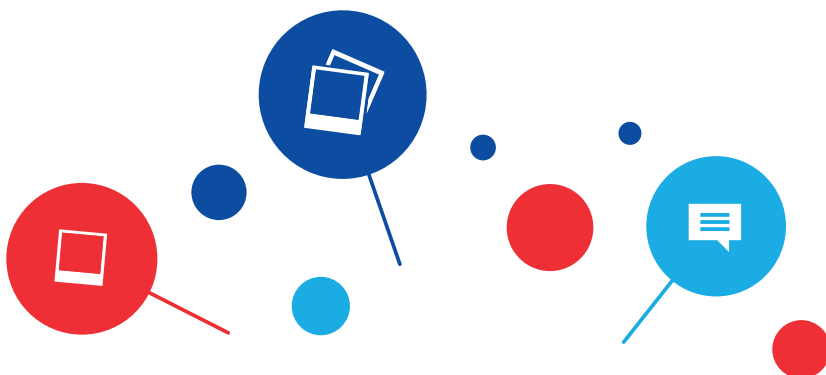
4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

The three-year plan for young people 2016-2018 which, in line with the aims of the European Strategy 2020, represents a tool which can rationalise the actions taken for young people, and seeks to avoid duplication, malfunction and dispersion of resources, has the aim of increasing the level of quality and efficiency in the planning of transversal policies, so as to improve the conditions and the prospects of the recipients, and – at the same time – significantly raise the governance of the entire institutional chain involved.

The Region of Campania has set itself the goal of making young people the centre of attention, and creating the conditions so that they are a real asset and resource for our community by 2020.

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THE REGION OF EMILIA-ROMAGNA

Eroi di impresa



PROMOTED BY

Department of Youth Policy at the Region of Emilia-Romagna

DESCRIPTION

The financing provided by the Department of Youth Policy at the Region of Emilia-Romagna means getting in touch with young people from the business sector in the area, so as to create start-ups, new ways of working characterised by significant innovation, allowing a new model of youth self-employment initiatives to emerge.

This work addresses local administrations, both large and small, at a moment in time when there is a serious economic crisis, so as to try to help the creation of new forms of collaboration on the issue of employment and to assist in thinking again about solutions to the needs which are expressed by youth groups. And it is through the regional bidding processes run by the Department of Youth Policy that the growth and development of meeting places in the area are promoted, so that they are a real point of reference where sociability can grow, there can be discussion and paths can be taken in which young people play a central role. In these spaces, which are meeting places for young people, above all in the last few years and because of the effect of the economic and employment crisis, there has been an exponential growth to start projects which focused on the issue of work. In that way, starting from the Aggregation Centres and Informagiovani (*"Inform youth"*), some programmes were created which we like to call "proworking", which are mainly aimed at young men and women who are neither involved in a training nor in work, the so-called NEETs. Italy holds a worrying first place in this group amongst all the OECD countries (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development). The "proworking" action includes orientation and information initiatives to enter the job market, starting from the aggregation spaces, including through the creation of preparatory tools like putting together a curriculum vitae, the use of search tools and other channels to together find job opportunities, indicating the best ways in which to present one's candidature for a job opening, holding motivational talks, help with preparing for attitude tests and time to study the main issues from labour law and contractual frameworks. Another "proworking" action is the training and professionalisation programmes with which to develop skills and make young people fully aware of their abilities and a whole series of tools that can support the start of working autonomously, such as free advice on tax or legal issues, on access to credit, on marketing and fund raising.

Part of this work includes the *Eroi di impresa* ("Business heroes") project which is promoted by the Union of Municipalities of Low Romagna. The project aims to put local companies in contact with new generations, so as to spread business culture and to make young entrepreneurial talent emerge.

Various different schools in the area are involved, and after a first phase linked to knowledge of companies and what doing business means today, work groups have been set up so as to draw up innovative proposals and project work. A group of experts, consultants and entrepreneurs assess the projects and select the so-called "Business heroes". The *Eroi di Impresa* project seeks to bring out entrepreneurial talent and to make the best of the invaluable contribution that their personal perspective and their lateral thinking can bring to the community.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Eroi di Impresa project was first run in 2014 and then again in 2015 and 2016. Taking part in the project were the Ricci Curbastro Scientific High School with the annex section of the Classical High School Trisi-Graziani in Lugo, the Technical and Professional Centre in Lugo, and the Sacro Cuore Technical Institute. Also involved were the Municipalities of the Union of Low Romagna: the Municipalities of Alfonsine, Bagnacavallo, Bagnara di Romagna, Conselice, Cotignola, Fusignano, Lugo, Massa Lombarda and Sant'Agata sul Santerno. Eight companies were involved, one for each of the municipalities of the Union and 450 students from senior high schools.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The project has received a contribution of 14,000 euros (regional resources). For 2017 the Low Romagna Union will have 24,166.50 euros of ministerial funds at its disposal.

In the last edition, 450 senior high school students took part.

INTERVIEW with Yuri Briccolani *Union of the Municipalities of Low Romagna*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Over recent years, both local administrations and also regional government organs have recognised the role and the importance of co-working spaces and have also promoted policies for young people aimed at supporting and promoting a shared work experience.

It is worth stating that all this is happening in Emilia-Romagna, which is famous for the cooperative movement, for its strong association network, where places, for young and less young people, whether they are social clubs, civic rooms, music halls, are very widespread, and small/medium size companies are very strong.

This situation sees the revitalisation of locations owned by local administrations, which are sometimes unused, which starts from the youth policy itself in the sense that through regional contributions provided by these “fragile” policies to develop innovative ways of co-working and Fablabs, the locations are being equipped with technical equipment and tools (for example computer work stations, wireless Internet connections, fibre optic cabling and tele-conference and/or live streaming equipment). It also means the acquisition of hardware/software for computer workstations with graphics and animation, design, audio-video, logistic fittings and also musical areas, fitted out with suitable acoustics and the necessary soundproofing, as rehearsal rooms, performance rooms, rooms equipped with musical instruments etc and “informagiovani”, places dedicated to youth information, which generally have computers and Wi-Fi.

In all this the strength of relationship economics should certainly be stressed, which starts from the central role of young people in a community and thanks to open and cooperative innovation, create – or recreate – new ways of local development and creating employment.

It is definitely a great wealth, that of sharing time and skills, so that new local relationships are created which often become types of inter-generational collaboration, between young and old people in the community, between young people and schools, between young people and local companies.

These actions can ensure a constant link with the localities and communities in the area. The strength of local administration lies in recognising a fertile environment and opening up to innovative formulas that transform spaces of aggregation into multiple innovation containers.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- HERO, a term to describe a generation that doesn't give up and which lives in an “Italy of innovators, both large and small”;
- CHANGE, in terms of innovation and the involvement of younger people as possible advocates of innovative proposals;
- GLOCAL, the project acts locally, but with a wider purpose, linked to the possibility of socio-cultural change.

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FINLANDIA

One-Stop Guidance Centres (Ohjaamo)

PROMOTED BY

**Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and
European Social Fund**



DESCRIPTION

One-Stop Guidance Centres and integrated e-Guidance provide low-threshold support for young people in various transitions in their individual lifepath. As well as public administrations, educational institutions, social rehabilitation and health services, the Centers' wide collaborative networks include third sector organizations, voluntary organizations and other bodies that work with young people. The Centers also function as a link to the business community through local companies and trade associations and promote connections between employers and young people. The young people themselves have an active role in the design and evaluation of the Centres and are actively involved in the daily activities.

The fundamental idea of the operation of the Centre is that the professionals working at a Centre work as employees of their host organizations (e.g. municipality, career and education guidance, educational institution, the Kela benefits service, etc), but are based at the common Centre premises. The professionals' input into a Centre's operation can vary from full-time to collaborative periodic on-duty sessions. The development of the competences of those working at the Centre is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture. A long-term goal is to develop an integrated career guidance model with parallel face-to-face and multi-channeled online services.

The One-Stop Guidance Centres are based on the knowledge, advisory and guidance services of various organizations as well as on the complementary skills and co-operation between social and health care providers. The operating model requires strong partnerships between the various actors and will develop new operating practices and skills in multi-sector management. The focus is on young people below the age of 30. The Centres offer services to various groups: pupils, students, employed and unemployed.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

We have built wide network for the implementation of One -Stop Guidance Centres services. For the time being our work has reached acceptance in national government in Finland and centres will be sustainable part of guidance practices. Centres has integrated youth guidance services in many towns and regions, but we have still challenges to cover

it nationwide network. In Finland we are running into renewal of regional administration and during this development work financial ground of these Centres have to be solved.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

Ohjaamo-concept is based on the guidance services of various organizations and in 2016 there was 429 employees in 40 Ohjaamo-centres (min. 1day/week) They are mainly funded by host organizations and only 20% is funded by ESF.

Recent analysis of the service usage identifies the most common support needs in the following order: 1. Employment or entrepreneurship support, 2. Educational guidance and 3. Personal budgeting and financial support

Across Finland, 80.000 young people used the Ohjaamo services in 2016.

*INTERVIEW with Pasi Savonmäki
Project Manager, Meeting site–project ⁶*

1) BACKGROUND OF THE INITIATIVE

There has been long discussion and need for collaboration among youth guidance. The idea of Ohjaamo-centres has waited implementation for many decades. Finland faces nowadays structural labour market challenges and in the same time economic growth levels are low. In addition to this, youth unemployment rate in Finland is high at least by Nordic standards. In this social context there is clear need of integrated services for youth by making low threshold service and collocating them under the same roof. Specifically it means that young people would make full use of services and support including social and health services. Integrated service model makes the youth also easier to navigate the system. We also try to develop this model by expanding the network to voluntary sector and employers. Our main focus is to help the youth going forward in their lives.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- INTEGRATION, Ohjaamo-concept is integrating services for young people;
- SUPPORTING, Ohjaamo-concept is supporting all young people under 30 and try to advance positive transitions in their life path;

6 Meeting site - project (Kohtaamo) coordinates the One-Stop Guidance Centres (Ohjaamo) in Finland

- FLEXIBLE, this concept is developing all the time and is based on public-private-people-partnership.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

One-stop guidance centers is implementing a shared policy and administrative responsibility of several ministries at national and regional levels and one of the challenges for the pilot projects is the establishment of consistent co-operation model with other sectors and service providers. The decisive thing in this Ohjaamo-concept implementation has been that ministries (Ministry of employment and economy, Ministry of education and culture, Ministry of social and health affairs) has formed a forum for discussion and decision making. They also support these service activities at the highest level in Finland.

One of the biggest challenges to the service model relates to data sharing. One of the potential benefits of this approach is that services can avoid young people being asked to provide their basic information multiple times. This, however, assumes the ability to share data amongst the service providers.

Data protection laws are carefully designed to protect citizens from third parties abusing their personal data. These rights are important and well intentioned. However, one of the unintended consequences is that organisations collaborating to support clients cannot share anything more than basic information. Consequently, each agency has to gather and properly maintain its own data. At the national level, work is under way to establish a new, shared data model for these centres.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

Our vision in 2020: Ohjaamo-model has integrated youth guidance services in low-threshold and multiprofessional model across every regions in Finland.

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THE REGION OF FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Giovanifvg.it



PROMOTED BY

Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia

DESCRIPTION

The giovanifvg.it portal is the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia's official IT communications system on youth policy, as laid down by Regional Law 5 of 22nd March 2012, "Law for the independence of young people and on the guarantee fund for their opportunities". The portal sets itself the following objectives: improving young people's access to information and promoting their participation.

Developed in accordance with article 29 of the Law, it is an interactive web space aimed at young people, and at those who work with and on behalf of young people and all the associations and groups in the region.

Information and regularly updated news are available on the site, dealing with the following areas of interest for young people: employment; study and training; travelling abroad; voluntary and association work; home life and social services; events with and for young people.

It focusses first and foremost on the work and the services of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia for young people, but the portal also goes further, offering all-round information on opportunities for young people at a regional, national and international level.

A wide range of sources of information are used in writing the information on the portal and involve young people, youth bodies, associations, schools and universities, local bodies as well as bodies and entities whose activity is directed at young people.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Having been devised and developed in 2012, the structure of the portal and the layout was completely remodelled in 2015. This modernised it, using the most innovative web technology solutions and making it especially responsive and easy to use, not just on computers but also other devices (tablets, smartphones), which are now widely used, especially by young people. Linked to this is the work of writing, and sending out a weekly newsletter.

With the aim of creating interactive spaces for young people, a Facebook page, a Twitter profile and a YouTube channel are also linked to the portal.

The goals for the future include: to increasingly spread knowledge of the portal amongst young people in Friuli Venezia Giulia, increasing the number of people who are signed

up to the newsletter and increasing users and engagement on social media linked to the portal, as well as strengthening young people's direct participation in the creation of the portal's contents. Amongst the new actions programmed to reach these aims, there are, for example, the promotion of the portal through media and participation in events, the opening of an Instagram profile linked to the portal, the creation of an app available to users who link to it from a mobile device. There is also the selection, through a special call for tenders, of a youth association from the area which has expertise in visual arts and multimedia, who can be asked to take pictures and videos to be put on the portal and on linked social media.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The portal has an average of around three hundred visits a day. It is linked to a weekly newsletter which currently has 2.732 subscribers. The Facebook page currently has 8.169 likes, and the Twitter profile has 3.891 followers.

The resources set aside for the design, development and execution of videos, information material, promotion (including through taking part in events and trade fairs) and management of the portal in the first three years amounted to 150.000 euros (from 2012 to 2014).

The portal has been developed within the FVG project (*Futuro Valore Giovani*, "Future Value Youth") which consisted of five interventions, amongst them giovanifvg.it: information on the measure, which was in accordance with the agreement with the President of the Council of Ministers (*Italian prime minister*), Youth Department and the Civil Service.

Regional resources for maintenance are 22.500 euros a year (since 2015).

*INTERVIEW with **Loredana Panariti** Regional Councillor for Youth Policy*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Giovanifvg.it was created to set up as a point of reference for information on the web for the young people of Friuli Venezia Giulia, who – through the portal – can be guided through the mass of information that can be of most interest to them.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- INFORMATION, because the portal seeks to inform and direct young people over work

opportunities aimed at them at a regional, national and international level;

- CONNECTING, because the portal seeks to put itself forward as an interactive space on the web to bring together young people and all the organisations which work for – and with – young people in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia;

- YOUNG, because the portal is aimed at young people and seeks to interact with them to build a publishing project which is more and more responsive to their need for information and promotion of the initiatives aimed at them.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

A challenge that has been overcome is that of having ensured on the portal and on linked social networks that there is a continual and constant updating of information of interest to young people. A challenge which still has to be overcome is that of strengthening the direct participation of young people in the creation of the portal. To reach that aim, new system actions are being started, including:

- the direct involvement of the members of the regional council of young people in FVG (*Friuli Venezia Giulia*) in writing portal contents;

- the coordination of the network of local orientation, European information and Informagiovani points presents in the region, which already involve a lot of young people and from which new editorial content to be put on the portal comes;

- the setting up of a concession notice of contributions to support youth associations which will propose video production projects on the main opportunities of the FVG Region for young people, to be published on the portal and on linked social networks.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

Increasingly “social” and increasingly “mobile”, with a stronger presence on social media and the use of technologies to get the most out of mobile devices, and increasingly “young”, through a greater involvement in the creation of portal content (there is an idea for the creation of a real “editorial staff” at the portal, increasingly made up of young people who actively contribute to creating news, articles, pictures, and videos to be published on the portal).

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IRELAND

Youthreach



PROMOTED BY

Department of Education and Skills/ SOLAS

DESCRIPTION

Youthreach is the principal national Government's response in Ireland to the difficulties faced by young people who have left school early. It is an education and training programme targeting in particular those between 16 and 20 years of age who have left the mainstream school system with poor qualifications or none at all. The Youthreach programme provides two years integrated education, training and work experience for unemployed early school leavers without any qualifications or vocational training who are between 16 and 20 years of age. We do take students on the programme, if they are aged 15 years, provided that all links have been broken with school under exceptional circumstances. There are almost 6,000 places available nationwide under the Youthreach umbrella. Almost 3,700 of these places are provided by Education and Training Boards (ETBs) in just over 100 Youthreach centres. The majority of the remainder of places are provided in Community Training Centres, also managed through a community based management committee under the aegis of the local ETB.

The Youthreach programme aims to provide early school leavers with the knowledge, skills and confidence required to participate fully in society and progress to further education, training and employment.

The programme objectives are social inclusion and progression into further education and training opportunities and the labour market

For the participants, the programme aims to promote:

- personal and social development and increased self-esteem,
- independence, personal autonomy, active citizenship and a pattern of lifelong learning.

The programme is delivered in out-of-school settings nationwide or in some cases, schools that have become idle due to amalgamation of local schools in the area. These Centres are intended to be dynamic settings capable of innovation. A pillar of Youthreach is local centre management supports that are provided that enhance local individual responses to local social, economic and cultural environments and their respective individual community needs.

Basic skills training, practical work training and general education with a focus on

literacy and numeracy are general features of the programme, and the application of new technology is integrated into all aspects of programme content.

There is a strong emphasis on personal development, on the core skills of literacy/numeracy, communications and IT, along with a choice of vocational options and a work experience programme.

Youthreach centres managed by Education Training Boards (ETBs), are designated as 'centres of education' under the Education Act, 1998. In 2006, the Department's Inspectorate began carrying out formal whole centre evaluations of Youthreach ETB centres. These inspection reports are put on the Department's website in a similar manner as school inspections.

Learners on the Youthreach programme are entitled to receive a limited training allowance if under 18 years, but when over 18 years, they would be entitled to a training allowance that would be getting if on social welfare. Additional allowances for meal, travel and accommodation are also available.

Programme structure:

- the Youthreach programme is a full-time programme;
- the Youthreach year is 226 days per annum, 35 hours per week;
- learners must attend the programme for a minimum of 209 days per academic year and be timetabled for a minimum of 28 hours per week over 5 days. The remaining days are for staff development and non-classroom work. Staff should schedule, planning and evaluation, continuing professional development and general administration and management work for those days where the Centre is open. It is accepted that the Quality Framework Centre Evaluation and Improvement Planning processes days occur at any time during the year but staff should try to schedule these for days that learners are not in the Centre;
- all full-time Co-ordinator and Resource staff are expected to be present on the days that learners are in attendance;
- generally Youthreach Centres are staffed by Resource Staff who are present for 35 hours per week in the Centre, who teach for 20 hours and engage in administration/support work for the remainder of the time;
- the short periods of closure at Christmas and Easter (concession days) are at the discretion of the Chief Executive (CE) of the ETB.

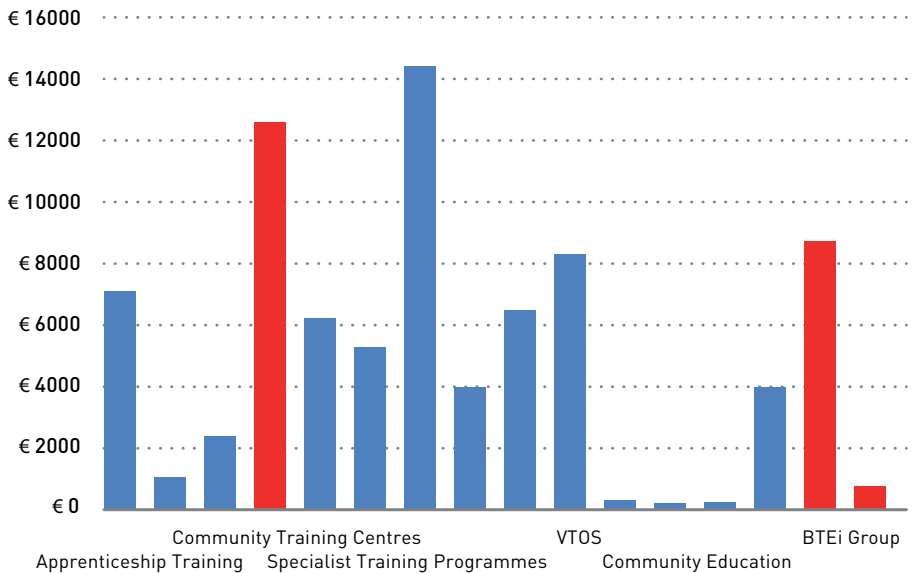
RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The Table shows the number of students that availed of the Youthreach program in 2015 and 2016.

Full Time Provision	Enrolled/ Started 1st January 2016	Starting Courses During 2016	Beneficiaries of FET ⁶ Provision in 2016	Started 1st January 2015	Beneficiaries of FET Provision in 2015	Beneficiaries of FET Provision in 2015
Youthreach	3.358	4.249	8.895	3.512	6.535	10.047

The average yearly budget to run the Youthreach programme is 66.630,869, while the budget for the Community Training Centre programme is euro 35.190,133.

The Table below shows clearly the cost of 1 beneficiary on each of the programmes, a Youthreach participant costs over euro 8.200 per year. The budget for the programme will be the same for 2017.



The Youthreach programme is part funded under the ESF Operational Programme for Education, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020, for which the Irish Managing Authority is the Department of Education and Skills. Twenty Million Euros is available to the Youthreach programme over the new PEIL programme.

INTERVIEW with Gerard Griffin
National Co-ordinator Department of Education and Skills, Ireland

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

The project was launched in order to help reduce early school leaving and support the engagement of these students back into education.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

Responsive, Innovative, Creative. The reason why these 3 words were chosen is that the programme is based upon the needs of the young person attending, the needs of the young person are paramount, and can differ from Centre to Centre, for example the needs of a rural centre can be much different than that of an urban Centre so the Youthreach programme has to be responsive to the ever changing needs of the young people attending in a way that has to be innovative and creative to ensure the engagement of the young people who have totally disengaged from education previously is maintained.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

One of the main challenges facing the programme in recent years was that the aims and objectives of the programme, previously aimed to improve the overall experience of young people within education by providing national certification outcomes that would ensure progression onto other Programmes. There was a lot of anecdotal information that the programme improved their soft skills/coping skills of the young people attending, but these improvements weren't necessary identified in the certification outcomes. The challenge was to develop a mechanism that would validate these soft skills in a manner that was appropriate to the young person.

A new Youthreach curricular programme was created, including the following ten building blocks:

- 'soft skills' development;
- basic skills;
- personal, Social and Health Education;
- practical/vocational skills appropriate to the learners' needs, abilities and aspirations;
- academic subjects appropriate to the learners' needs, abilities and aspirations;
- new technologies and the technologies and media of youth (including Digital media);
- work experience;

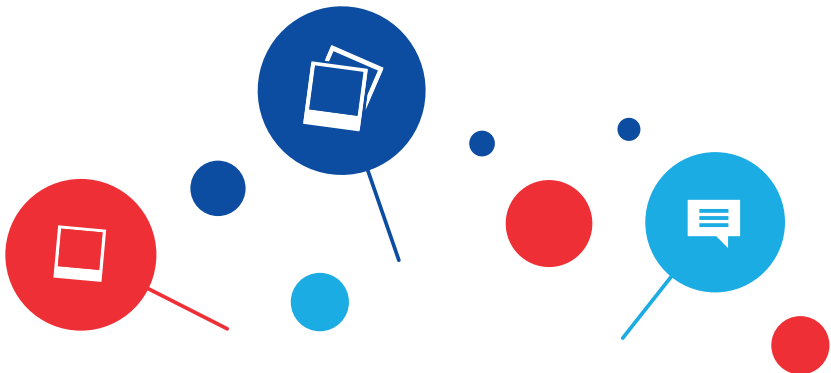
- active and Participatory Citizenship and Community Engagement;
- energy and ecological awareness;
- enrichment activities including a wide variety of arts-based, cultural, sports and community-based activities.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

Youthreach is the government's response to early school leaving, however, it seems to exist parallel to mainstream education and training, but not seen fully mainstream, therefore by 2020, the programme will be in existence for more than 30 years, by that time I would hope that it would get the recognition that it is providing a quality education and training programme for young people and get the recognition for this work across the teaching profession and elsewhere.

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THE REGION OF LOMBARDY

Dote Unica Lavoro



PROMOTED BY

Department of Education, Training and Employment of the Region of Lombardy

DESCRIPTION

Dote Unica Lavoro (*One-off Employment Grant*) is the instrument for active policies which have been started in Lombardy as an evolution of the grant system that was created as a consequence of training policies and which is aimed at unemployed people resident or domiciled in Lombardy, to all classes of unemployed people, to laid-off workers who benefit from an income support fund, or who return to their jobs with contracts that lower their hours, as well as employed people who want to follow permanent specialised training courses.

Someone who wants to get a grant chooses the operator that is accredited to the employment services which best meets their needs, so as to receive skilled support in looking for work. Dote Unica Lavoro is strongly orientated to results in terms of employment and includes incentivising mechanisms which seek to maximise the chances of getting a job.

The main characteristics of the Lombardy model involve the introduction of a budget given to each operator; payment is for results in the job placement service, and refunding of a part of the training services dependent on the beginning of work experience or an employment contract.

It is a unified intervention system which is accessible to everybody, and can be used at any time.

It offers the *chance* of a job placement which is "tailor made" for the individual, since it means that the route to be taken by every person can be *assessed* on the basis of previous experiences.

The system is based on the "centrality of the individual" with services which are adapted to the various different needs of the beneficiaries. In fact the value of the grant, and thus of services that can be financed, is calculated on a profiling system, based on elements and characteristic which are specific to the subject (age, gender, educational background, distance from the employment market) and is based on a reward criterion aimed at incentivising the employment outcome or professional retraining and on discouraging creaming-off strategies. Technical devices have thus been deployed to avoid employing only those people who are most easily redeployable, allowing small operators to not be excluded because of a lack of resources, and orientating the system towards effectiveness, or obtaining employment objectives.

Using weekly monitoring on the progress of the measure, any potential areas of improvement or criticality can be assessed, so as to adopt the right technical solutions.

As already occurred during the closure of the first edition 2013/2015, an assessment of the effectiveness of the model will again be carried out at the end of the second phase, as part of the system's continual evolution.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

In January 2016 the second phase of the initiative began, deploying a further 85 million euros from the ROP ESF 2014/2020.

The challenge for the near future will be accompanying the evolution of the regional system of active employment policies in the context of the new national legislation (in accordance with the new areas from legislative decree 150/2015), also in reference to the start of the test of the relocation cheque, the first tool to find work for unemployed people which exists in a uniform way in all the regions, even though it is limited to that group who receive unemployment benefits (NASPI) with at least four months out of a job.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

For the first edition of the initiative, which started in October 2013 and ended in December 2015, 77 million euros were earmarked from the ROP ESF 2007/2013, with the award of 82,217 grants and a total of around 81 per cent of people beginning work. As far as specific segments are concerned, those aged 15 to 29, a full 93% of the young people who have signed up to the DUL found a job.

These results have been achieved thanks to the model of active policies which is founded on the presence of public and private operators who guarantee quality, customised services which are aimed at achieving an employment outcome.

*INTERVIEW with **Gianni Bocchieri**
General Director of Education, Training and Employment Department*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Dote Unica Lavoro was created to accompany people in the job market with customised services aimed at an employment outcome. Since it was thought up as a universal measure, it is also aimed at young people.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

The three words which best describe the DUL model are: *unitary, customised, result orientated*.

- UNITARY: it is a unitary system of intervention which is accessible to everybody, which is open and usable at any time.
- CUSTOMISED: the DUL offers the chance to have a *customised* job placement since it allows to choose between different baskets of services to find the ones that are best fitted to individuals and their needs, calculated in terms of distance from the job market through profiling. The value of the grant, and thus of the services that can be funded, varies according to the profiling index which shows the specific characteristics of the subject (age, gender, educational qualifications, distance from the job market).
- RESULT ORIENTATED: the interventions are done through a series of incentives aimed at stopping creaming off. The operators are paid according to the employment outcome obtained, that is only after an employment contract is signed by someone who has benefited from the service.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

An obstacle that has been overcome:

- control of the system through the introduction of the budget as a tool that is useful to assess operator's performance;
- introduction of mechanisms to balance the measure to help employment and the insertion of the weakest sections of society in the job market (band 3 and 3 plus).
- A challenge to be met:
- reducing potentially opportunistic behaviour from operators by constantly checking and updating the measure.

4) IN 2020 THE INITIATIVE WILL BE...

We are thinking of confirming the structure and the model because they are continuing to produce positive results, even in this programme. Nevertheless, with the continual evolution of the system, we make use of monitoring during the programme and retrospective assessments to determine ways to improve.

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THE REGION OF PIEMONTE

Giovani a 360°



PROMOTED BY

The O.R.So. social cooperatives (head of list), Vedogiovane, Vedogiovane Asti, Stranaidea, CISV - Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato⁸. The Region of Piemonte. Progetto Città Social Cooperative (Savona – Italy), Gruppo Scuola Social Cooperative (Parma – Italy), “Safe House” Shelter (Riga – Latvia), Nexes Interculturals de Joves per Europa (Barcelona – Spain).

DESCRIPTION

So as to start the participatory process and gather together elements that are useful to prepare for the final event, during the months June to October 2016, 25 different experimental workshops have been organised, involving all the provinces in Piemonte. The significant increase in the number of meetings carried out compared with the eight which had been forecast at the planning stage was made possible by specific investments made by the regional department, which is interested in promoting the wider involvement of young people in the area in the process of legislative revision. All the meetings were carried out by youth workers of the REP network and/or other entities of the third sector involved in the process, supported by experts and people with experience in the specific issues dealt with (Environment; Employment; Citizenship and Legality; Inter-Cultural Issues; Entrepreneurship and New Professions; Housing; The Social Economy; Culture).

The young people taking part have been able to share their demands and needs, and draw up proposals concerning the issue discussed during the workshop, including through practical activities and from listening to experiences. So what emerged has thus been summarised in two different documents that form the base for building the subsequent meeting/debate with the adult world and the policy makers that was held on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th December at the Luigi Einaudi University Campus in Turin (Lungo Dora Savona, 100).

Transversally to the other actions and with the aim of accompanying/supporting the entire participation process and promoting and narrating during the process what has been done, the partnership has activated and implemented a specific portal (www.regaliamociunidea.it) with Facebook page connections and a WhatsApp communication system with those who have signed up.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The project financed by the National Young People’s Agency ended as scheduled on

⁸ Bodies belonging to the REP– European Network Piemonte

31/12/2016.

The Region of Piedmont, however, intends to continue, in 2017 as well, the consulting and participatory activity for young people so as to arrive at a co-definition of the new regional law for youth policy.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The project in question has received a contribution from the National Young People's Agency for a total of 38.000 euros, to cover the cost of activation/implementation of the portal and the organisation of the final event.

The Region of Piedmont has further supported the creation on the provincial base of experience workshops, setting aside a further 8.000 euros.

Through the various different actions, the project has reached in terms of indirect beneficiaries:

- 3.341 visitors to the portal;
- 613 likes on the Facebook page (over 80% of which aged 18-30);
- an average of 162 views of the various different videos published as a review of the event, in terms of direct users;
- over 450 young people who participated in the 25 experimental laboratories at a provincial level;
- 152 young people (aged 14-30) involved in the final event of the project (16/17 December 2016);
- 36 decision makers (regional administrators and local body administrators, youth policy officials, sector experts) involved in the final event of the project (16/17 December 2016).

*INTERVIEW with **Andrea Genova**
President of the ORSo cooperative*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

The GIOVANI A 360° project ("a 360 degree view for young people") was jointly created by the REP – Europe Network Piedmont (a grouping of organisations from the third sector who are active in Piedmont in the youth policy area) and the Region of Piedmont, starting with a two-fold and shared interest. First of all, the proposers, in line with the provisions of Lisbon which are aimed at "encouraging the participation of young people in democratic

life in Europe”, felt it was useful to promote the activation and animation of localities and occasions to reflect, compare and jointly project between the young people themselves and the world of adults and decision makers. At the same time, the Region of Piedmont, as part of the work programme from the Youth Policy Department itself, has expressed the intention of obtaining the revision of Regional Law 16/95, “Coordination and support of activities for young people”, committing itself to favouring the active involvement of the same young people in the programme.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- PARTICIPATION, because young people have been able to have a real exercise in active citizenship in all phases of the project;
- LEARNING, the idea of letting young people express themselves on issues that concern them through concrete experience has guided the project. We think that “gaining experience” is an effective method to be used in youth policy projects since through experience, skills are developed;
- ENERGETIC, because the project was a fulcrum of creative energy.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

An obstacle overcome: a lot of young people have taken up, with courage and commitment, the challenge of meeting up and discussing with each other and with adult decision makers. The subjects of debate were issues linked to their future which will come together in a law aimed at them. They have had a trusting and willing approach, negating the suggestion that “young people are distant from the institutions”. The project has shown that a dialogue between politicians and young people is possible.

A challenge to win: securing the approval of the new Regional Law on young people in Piedmont so as to not disappoint those who have taken part in the journey to make it.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

...will have been a model for other regions.

...will be seen as having been an important training experience for young people who have taken part in it and who will think again about what they have experienced.

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THE METROPOLITAN CITY OF ROME

Your first EURES job

PROMOTED BY

**National Agency of Active Work Policy (ANPAL) and
the Metropolitan City of Rome**



DESCRIPTION

The initiative seeks to promote European labour mobility and professional development of young people aged 18 to 35, while at the same time ensuring new skills and opportunities to European companies which, thanks to the mobility of young people from a different European country, can make their companies more competitive and innovative.

The project is open to European Union citizens, and also those of Norway and Iceland, aged between 18 and 35 and to all employers (public and private) that are legally based in one of the EU countries, Norway and Iceland and which offer a work contract (of a minimum of six months) or work experience (minimum duration three months).

With "Your First EURES job" (YfEj) both young people and companies receive specialised services, including:

- professional orientation;
- programming, organisation and provision of brief training to strengthen language, inter-disciplinary and soft skills;
- training seminars on how to write a CV in English, and participation in a work interview abroad;
- customised assistance to companies right from the time they join the programme;
- analysis of company needs;
- help in describing jobs on offer;
- a careful process of candidate analysis and selection, with the organisation of recruitment days both at the companies and at the Porta Futuro facilities in Rome;
- organisation of pre-departure language courses for selected young people, delivered both in person and on-line;
- programming of pre-admission training to be carried out at companies for those who have just been taken on;
- logistical support for preparing for the experience of working abroad;
- post-contractual assistance to those who have just started, and to companies.

To help match demand to supply, and vice-versa, specific financing is also given to young people and to companies to organise work interviews abroad. Financing is also given in cases where an employment contract of over six months has been offered, to cover the first costs for moving to the new employee and to provide language and new recruit training, agreed with companies and validated by the partnership.

Access to YfEj is done on-line through the yourfirststeuresjob.eu portal to ensure that it can be used by all European citizens.

Services are provided by the national EURES network, which is coordinated by ANPAL (National Active Work Policy Agency), and the "PORTA FUTURO" (*Future Gate*) structure of the Metropolitan City of Rome, where a European mobility hub has been created, where in cross-channel mode, both young people and companies receive specialist, customised services provided by employees of the Metropolitan City and Capitale Lavoro (*capital work*).

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The European Union, through the community programme for occupation and social innovation - EaSI⁹, finances the EU initiative Your first EURES job.

The National Active Work Policy Agency and the Metropolitan City of Rome the Capital (with the fundamental provision of its own in-house providing company Working Capital) have been bringing the work forward since 2012.

In December 2016, the European Commission approved a new candidature (YfEj 5.0): this planning phase will conclude in February 2019.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

The project is financed by the European funds set aside by the EaSi programme, with a budget of around four million euros, of which 80% are for contributions to the beneficiaries (young people and companies).

Also, the Metropolitan City of Rome the Capital co-finances the work with its own funds and personnel completely dedicated to project work.

Up to now, over two thousand work contracts have been signed, a larger number than had initially been expected.

*INTERVIEW with **Dario Manna**
Operations Manager Your first EURES job*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Though YfEj the aim was to try out a new and efficient Public Employment Service, with

9 <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

specialist personalised services, aimed at the real needs of people looking for a job and of companies that want to take on quality employees.

Thanks to the important results achieved, the YfEj model has become an effective and stable service of the Italian EURES network and of the Metropolitan City of Rome the Capital.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- OPPORTUNITIES, work experience abroad provides great opportunities for young people, encouraging character and professional growth and helping introduction into the work market;
- ORIENTATION, YfEj helps to find a real job in an EU country. It starts from getting the most out of a young person's skills, through special orientation and training programmes;
- EUROPEANS, European citizenship is built by meeting each other, mixing and travelling. YfEj helps multi-dimension approaches and thus strengthens European citizenship.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

At the start we had to fight the stigma that public employment services have in the eyes of companies: so far we have had over 500 European companies that are happy to use our recruitment services.

Now the challenge is to continue to be efficient, given the large number of young people that come to YfEj.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

The project is currently financed until 2019.

A new European Union call to tender is scheduled for 2018 to refinance the activity until 2021.

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THE REGION OF TUSCANY

Giovanisì

PROMOTED BY

Region of Tuscany



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI SÌ

DESCRIPTION

Giovanisì, the project organised by the Region of Tuscany to help young people become independent, is a system of opportunities structured in 7 macro-areas: Work Experience, Home, Community Service, Doing Business, Education and Training, Employment and Giovanisì+ (which covers actions on the issues of participation, culture, legality, sociality and sport). The direct and indirect recipients of the project are young people aged under 40 (the specific target segment vary according to the kind of opportunity). The over 236.000 young people who have received over 720 million euros allocated (regional, national and European resources) show the strength that the Giovanisì project has acquired in recent years.

Since May 2014 Giovanisì has been supported by Youth Guarantee, a programme which, in Tuscany, was included in the wider strategic framework of regional measures aimed at young people.

Giovanisì was created in 2011 by the clear political will of supporting young people in obtaining an autonomous life with an integrated, transversal and innovative approach, which is distinguished by three main elements:

- *Opportunities* offered to young people: there are over 40 of these, and they are broken down into four main types of action, to which the macro-areas of the project are attached: professional insertion and consolidation (Work Experience, Doing Business, Community Service, Employment); autonomy from place of residence (Home life), strengthening and promotion of the opportunities linked to the right of education and to training (Education and Training) and youth participation in terms of activities which are mainly cultural (Giovanisì+). Some of the activities that the regional project promotes have existed since before it was created, many others were created with the Giovanisì project with the aim of building a real 'architecture of choices'¹⁰, which is dynamic and multi-dimensional and in which each young person can, at a given moment, find a push towards their own autonomy.
- *The communications model.* One of the most innovative aspects of the Giovanisì projects is having structured a coordinated and integrated communications model. This has allowed Giovanisì to become a real public brand which gives communicative and

10 'Nudge' by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein

informational strength to its individual announcements, through online tools (websites, blogs and social media), offline means (events and meetings in the region) and through multi-channel work (communications campaign). Amongst the numerous areas of communication work we note Giovanisi's storytelling, 'Accenti', thanks to which the regional project is told through direct accounts and the stories of the young beneficiaries.

• *Governance.* The Giovanisi project's system of governance establishes a single leadership, headed by the President of the Region's Office, which has the role of harmonising and coordinating the individual opportunities, managed directly by the seven competent departments (Department for Housing Policy, Department for Productive Activities, Department for Education, Training and Employment, Department of Agriculture, Department of Welfare, Department for the President's Office and Department for Culture, Universities and Research), so as to offer a package of integrated actions. The President's Office has entrusted the management process for the project to an office that has been created ad hoc, the Giovanisi Office, which is composed of a staff of nine, employees of the Fondazione Sistema Toscana (*Tuscany System Foundation*), whose role it is to:

- provide information on opportunities (toll-free number, dedicated e-mail address);
- draw up, coordinate and manage communication strategies and activity (on and offline);
- monitor and systematise project work in partnership with the competent regional sectors;
- coordinate regional activity;
- promote new tests and activate participatory processes, including through European planning.

The Giovanisi Office represents the main point of contact and meeting between the regional administration and young people.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The process of constant systematisation, coordination and integration has led Giovanisi to shift and redefine itself a lot over time. Six years after starting, some of the measures that have characterised the project since 2011 are still active, renewing themselves and adapting to the new situation. A lot of new things have also been introduced, which represent the answer that the Region of Tuscany has given both in the context of the processes of change that involve young people, and also to the priorities that the regional administration has identified as strategic and finally the company as a whole.

From the project architecture point of view, starting in 2015, the project was enriched with a new area, Giovanisi+, which promotes opportunities linked to new dimensions, with a broader outlook, such as culture, music, sport, participation and legality. Giovanisi+ represents an evolution of a cultural type, that the project has undergone, and the opportunities of this new area have gone to support those which relate to the most

traditional dimensions, which are considered to be crucial in achieving autonomy.

Project activity is now more and more aimed at two specific segments: the youngest part of the youth segment, and professionals.

Actually, starting from 2015, regional priorities are aimed in a decisive way at those who drop out of school through courses of Professional Instruction and Training, *leFP* (with a trail of the dual system) and on alternating school and work, without forgetting those who want to take an approach to higher education which is an alternative to university (for example ITS courses – Superior Technical Instruction) or professional training in strategic supply chains identified by the Region after having analysed the needs of the productive structure.

Young professionals are a segment which are aimed at by Giovanisì, especially from 2016 and still more in 2017, with a real package of opportunities to support those who want to train (training vouchers and paid apprenticeships), starting and consolidating their own freelance professional work (guarantee fund and contribution in interest-bearing account, vouchers for young co-workers).

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

- Young people who are beneficiaries of the project: over 236.000
- Pages visited (website and blogs): over 14 million
- Single visitors reached by web tools: over 2.7 million
- E-mails received: over 28.000
- Telephone calls to the toll-free number: 70.000
- Information events organised: 850
- Resources allocated since 2011: over 720 million euros (regional, national and European resources). We particularly note that over 255 million euros of the ROP ESF 2014/2020 (around 35%) is earmarked as resources intended for young people.

*INTERVIEW with Chiara Criscuoli
Head of Giovanisì Office, Region of Tuscany*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

When Giovanisì took its first steps, in 2011, it was during the most severe part of the economic crisis of the past few years, and young people were amongst the most affected by it. The Region of Tuscany, which already promoted a lot of work intended for young

people, decided that a system action was needed which focused policies on this segment.

With the Giovanisì project, the Region of Tuscany has decided to make an integrated intervention on youth policy. The strategy includes intervening in three specific aspects of the life of young people: preventive and emergency types of action, action specifically to support access to the work market and action to develop talent and personal skills. All three lines of intervention represent an important base on which to develop a programme of autonomy.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- OPPORTUNITIES, this is definitely one of the key words of the Giovanisì project. Opportunity means 'favourable circumstances' and that is just what the regional project wants to do in all the work it does: creating, for the young people who benefit from it, conditions which are favourable for arriving at a state of autonomy;

- TO COMMUNICATE, Giovanisì is a communications project, a real public brand that brings together in a single communications grouping all the regional actions aimed at young people. What Giovanisì promotes is innovative institutional communication that, over time, has been renewed and evolved to reach an ever-growing number of potential beneficiaries. There are a lot of administrations that promote action for young people, and all of them have to face the challenge of managing to communicate them to the relevant target segment. And this is precisely one of the main missions of the Giovanisì project;

- TRANSVERSAL, this is a description of a very significant part of the Giovanisì project, which encompasses the main dimensions of wellbeing and personal autonomy. The idea on which an approach of this type is based is that, in a given time in life, one aspect becomes more important than another, and each age range can have different needs and priorities. With this in mind, Giovanisì tries to meet the needs that characterise the different stages of life.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

One of the most difficult obstacles that Giovanisì has had to (and in part must still) deal with has definitely been that of overcoming young people's diffidence to Public Administration.

Over these past few years, Giovanisì has given itself the goal of trying to close these gaps (including the more than 40,000 young people who have participated in the 850 informational events organised in Tuscany, and the hundreds of young people who have benefited from the project and who have decided to tell their stories on the Accenti¹¹ blog since 2013). We tell how the regional project has created opportunities for young people to be heard, to talk, to meet and to work in the construction of a two-directional, open relationship.

11 <http://accenti.giovanisi.it/>

The challenge? Becoming a structural project that can 'export' its governance model, with the necessary wisdom, to other areas of intervention.

4) IN 2020 THE INITIATIVE WILL BE

After the experience of the first legislature, the Giovanisi project was included amongst the 24 strategic projects of the Regional Development Programme 2014/2020, through which the Region of Tuscany seeks to reach the aims of Europa 2020.

Specifically, Giovanisi contributes to reaching four of the aims of 2020:

Objective 1: 75% (67% for Italy) of the population aged 20-64 must be employed;

Objective 4: bringing school drop-out rates down to 13% (16% for Italy);

Objective 5: At least 40% (26% for Italy) of people aged 30-34 should have university education or the equivalent;

Objective 6: Reduce to at least 20 million the number of people at risk, or in poverty or who are socially excluded.

In 2020, the opportunities of the Giovanisi project will have reached many other young people with the idea of knowing how to grasp change, consolidating the commitment of the Region of Tuscany to achieve the objectives of Europa 2020.

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THE REGION OF UMBRIA

Regional Law
“Norme in materia di politiche giovanili”



Regione Umbria
Giunta Regionale

PROMOTED BY

Region of Umbria – the programming service and development of the network of social services and health and social care integration

DESCRIPTION

The Regional Law “*Regulations on Youth Policy*” was approved on 1st February 2016 after a participatory process that involved young people and stakeholders in the region, and was broken down into three phases: “Let’s Gov”, “LexGov” and “Let’s Show”.

After an event with the “adult” stakeholders which, at a local, institutional and private social level promote youth policy in the region, on 26th February 2014 the “Let’s Gov – Promoting opportunities and practising citizenship” event, a process in which young people met with Umbrian regional institutions on issues which closely relate to their own situation was held at the Umbrian Public Administration School headquarters in Perugia on 26th February 2014. The day-long event was attended by 120 young people, aged between 18 and 27, who came from throughout Umbria and who had been selected as being amongst the most socially committed in the areas where they live. The participants became central players in a horizontal meeting, aimed at bringing out the problems that were flagged as being most urgent or relevant, as well as positive experiences and good practices. The discussion involved the following issues: “*towards independence – education, training, employment and accommodation*”, “*active and aware citizens – participation, inclusion and legality*”, “*issues of style- wellbeing, health and lifestyle*”, “*central players in the community and in the region – free time, aggregation, culture and creativity*”.

The results of the work were then presented to the technicians of the institutions and on 4th April 2014 the young people taking part met with the President and the Members of the Regional Council, putting together proposals and sharing with them some of the priority interventions to put at the centre of future regional programming.

The process continued, in December 2014, with “*LexGov: Partecipa Pensa Proponi*”, (“participate think propose”), a phase that was broken down into three meetings aimed at putting together proposals to draw up the design of the Regional Law on youth policy. There were 150 people involved, including public administrators, young association members and bodies that reflected the region, from all the social areas of the Region: with them the results of the previous phase (Let’s Gov) were analysed and ideas and proposals put forward.

In 2015, the first law adopted by the Council was presented to the region’s public and

private institutions, during an initiative called "Let's Show".

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The draft law was approved by the regional council with the regional government decree 308 of 16/03/2015: it is called "Legislation on youth policy." At the beginning of 2016, the Legislative Assembly finally approved the Regional Law 1 "Legislation on youth policy".

The main innovations introduced by this law are:

- the recognition of young people (age 14-35) as a resource of the regional community who have autonomous rights;
- the establishment of a multi-level governance system (Region, Municipality, private social);
- the implementation of youth policy through the integration of the various different policies of the sector (education, work, mobility, home life, health...);
- the promotion of intervention and services aimed at young people (informagiovani, the Info@giovani portal, young person's card...);
- the establishment of the regional council of young people, as an organism to participate and link between the organised youth organisations and the Region.

In detail:

Education and Training

- promotion of informal and non formal education and implementation of the system of skill certification (*explicit requests from the Forum*);
- experimental projects to integrate the right to study (*requested by Altrascuola*);
- the chance to support projects and activities from student associations and student representation bodies (institute and university representatives, provincial student boards...);
- peer education.

Health promotion

- a new push to prevention and information work linked to the use of psycho-active substances in entertainment venues and sports environments;
- support to prevent and combat bullying and cyber bullying.

Participation:

- recognition and involvement of committees and informal groups;
- extension to sixteen year olds, including foreigners, of the right to vote in regional consultative referendums, of the right to promote petitions and the right to participate in the decision-making process of the consultation.¹²

¹² No other regions which have introduced the extension of the right to participation to sixteen-year-olds emerged from a summary check. Emilia-Romagna expects them to take part only through a very special participating law (public hearings on the legal or administrative instruments of a general character). But that extension is present in many municipalities..

Community service:

- implementation of regional community service.

Meeting spaces:

- regeneration and care of communal urban and social goods so as to increase the size of locations aimed at youth meeting places.

RESOURCES AND NUMBERS

For the implementation phase, in 2016 the Region has identified four priority objectives and four pieces of intervention to be carried out in consequence with national resources (young people are the present Framework Agreement), of 43.764.69 euros, and with resources from the regional fund for youth policy, of 70.000 euros. The interventions that have been identified are:

1. backing the creativity, participation and coming together of young people (73.764.69 euros);
2. *capacity building of the public sector in regional services for young people (30.000 euros);*
3. promoting of the creation of new channels of information and communication by making the integrated information system (2.000 euros);
4. a regional youth day, in accordance with article 22 of Regional Law 1/2016 (8.000 euros).

In particular, to implement the number 1 line of action, the call to tender "Aggregation, Protagonism, Creativity" was published and there are 56 planning proposals presented by financed associations/association networks.

***INTERVIEW with Alessandro Maria Vestrelli**
Director of the Programming Service and development of the network
of social services and health and social care integration.*

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Because of the fall in the birth rate and the ageing of the population, young people have become a scarce resource. This is even more the case in Umbria, one of the regions where people live longest in Italy. According to the Italian statistical agency, ISTAT, on 1st January 2014, the population aged 0-30 in Umbria was 254,410, which is 28.4% of the total. The 14-35 range was 200,039 people, or 22.3% of the total. The average age of the population was 45.6. Umbria is also one of the most multi-ethnic regions of Italy, with 11.1% migrants, a number that is second only to Emilia-Romagna, and it has a notable presence of second generation migrants.

The great changes of the last few decades have an impact on the generations which are becoming adult, with surprising effects that cannot be understood or categorised as they would have been in the past. Being young has undergone two profound changes that can be summarised in two words: *lengthening and rupture*. Lengthening because the transition period lasts longer. Adolescence has got longer, the individual life cycle has moved forward: more time is needed to study, find employment, set up a family, have a child. Rupture because the precarious nature of employment, the increase in time spent studying and to look for one's first job and the profound social transformations have broken the traditional, rigid succession of the phases: education-employment-setting up a new family-having children. Young people from the beginning of the Third Millennium are the first globalised generation, and the first digital natives. Most of all they are the first generation that is destined to have material living conditions that are not better, if not worse, than those of their parents. That is something that didn't occur at all during the twentieth century.

If this, in broad terms, is the situation, we cannot escape the urgency of doing something, of intervening, of giving a signal. If young people are already the present and not just a future which is indefinitely delayed, something has to be done now. They have to be recognised as a resource, human capital that is already available. Specific public policies have to be made not just for young people, but – most of all – with young people, noting that they have their own autonomous needs and rights. So that the central role played by young people who get together, who get involved in politics, who interact with the institutions, who produce new culture, can be the yeast of our regional community. Even though in a different shape and form as the generations follow from one another, the innovative impulse, the desire to change the world and make things better are structural traits of the youth of every age.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- PRESENT, young people, all young people in our region, are the present: a human capital which is already available, an essential resource for the development of Umbria;
- PARTICIPATE, participation is the trait that characterises the entire Regional Law, and thus also future regional programming on youth policy;
- DYNAMIC, the process which led to the approval of the law and has been lively, energetic, dynamic even, and has actively involved young people and stakeholders from the region.

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WALES (UNITED KINGDOM)

Jobs Growth Wales 2

PROMOTED BY
Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

DESCRIPTION

The Jobs Growth Wales 2 Programme provides job-ready, unemployed young people aged 16-24 with a paid job opportunity for 6 months. The programme reimburses the employer 50% of the wages of the young person during the period of support. The aim of the Programme is that the employer will continue to employ the young person when the 6-month period of financial support comes to an end. The Programme is administered on the Welsh Government's behalf by 6 contracted Managing Agents who provide administrative and mentoring support to both the young person and the employer. Jobcentre Plus and Careers Wales advisers provide advice and guidance to unemployed young people in Wales and Careers Wales hosts the online application service.

- General information - Statistics and research
www.gov.wales
- Information for employers
www.businesswales.gov.wales
- Information for young people
www.careerswales.com

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Programme is in its second year of delivery and following a review of delivery over the first year, the wage support offered to employers was reduced from 100% to 50% of the young person's wages. It is intended that the Programme will continue in its present form until at least March 2018. On 15th November 2016 the Welsh Minister for Skills and Science announced her intention to reshape skills and employability support for job-ready individuals in Wales, with a view to streamlining and simplifying the support on offer. Support for unemployed young people will form part of an all-age skills and employability programme, which will draw on the experiences and best practice of existing programmes, including Jobs Growth Wales 2.

RESOURCES AND BENEFICIARIES

The Programme is part-funded by the European Social Fund and operates pan-Wales. In

May 2015, £25 million of European funds were made available for a period of 3 years. The Programme aims to create 8.955 job opportunities over this period.

Between the start of the Programme and 12th June 2017, 4.690 job opportunities were created and 2.602 job opportunities were filled. Of those young people who completed their 6-month job opportunity, 84% were in employment, self-employment, an apprenticeship or further learning at the end of their participation in the Programme.

INTERVIEW with LISA PUGH
Head of Programme Delivery, Employability & EU Funding
Division - Welsh Government

1) THE BACKGROUND BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

Young people in Wales were disproportionately affected by the recession; unemployment rates rose more quickly among 16 to 24 year old in Wales between 2009 and 2012 than for both similarly-aged individuals across the UK, and faster than older age groups within Wales also. We had considerable concerns at the time we developed the programme about the effects on young people, both in the short- and long-term. This was the context in which JGW was designed and implemented; we felt there was a strong rationale for public intervention in order to reduce the risk of the long term impact of unemployment on young people in Wales.

2) THE INITIATIVE IN THREE WORDS

- EXPERIENCE;
- SUPPORTING;
- SUSTAINABLE.

3) AN OBSTACLE OVERCOME AND A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

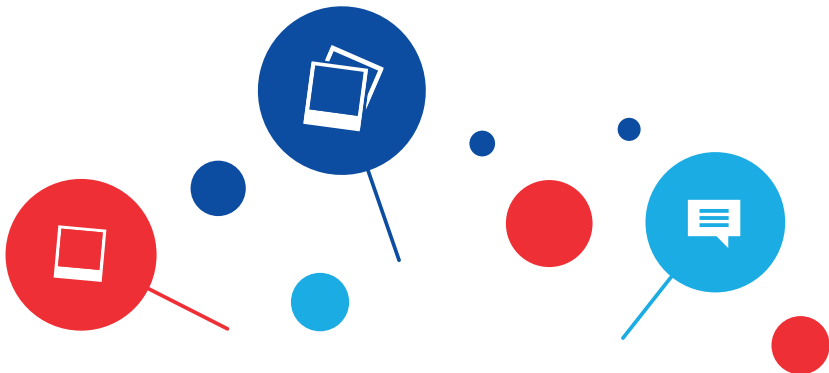
The majority of unemployed young people are enthusiastic about starting work and have the right skills and attitude; the problem is that they don't have the experience that employers are looking for. We needed to break the cycle of young people who couldn't find a job without experience but who couldn't get experience without a job! The challenge was providing job ready young people with real, paid job opportunities – not just short work experience placements – which would give them the chance to gain experience in the workplace, impress employers and lead to sustained employment. We achieved this by developing the Jobs Growth Wales 2 programme.

4) THE INITIATIVE IN 2020 WILL BE...

Following the Welsh Minister for Skills and Science's announcement it is likely that programmes such as Jobs Growth Wales 2 will be reviewed and activities that support unemployed young people in Wales will be taken forward under the all-age skills and employability programme. The economic situation in Wales is constantly changing and we need to ensure that our programmes are sufficiently flexible to adapt to these changes and respond to Ministerial priorities.

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3. THE YOUTH GUARANTEE PROGRAMME: REFLECTIONS ON THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

“Now is the moment at which we must know how to throw away old burdens which have become weighty, and to ready ourselves to what is new which is arriving and is so different to everything that had been imagined, rejecting the old who are incompetent and encouraging new energy amongst the young.”

Ventotene Manifesto. Ventotene. August 1941

Youth unemployment, economic crisis, stagnant birth rates, these are just some of the issues that are increasingly topical at seminars, conventions, often becoming the subject of political strategies both at a national and a European level.

It is undeniable that young people are and have been the main victims of the economic crisis and for that reason safeguarding their future, over the past few years, has inevitably become one of the priorities of European political action.

The data which have emerged from a survey conducted by Eurobarometro in April 2016 are certainly not encouraging: of the 10,294 Europeans aged between 16 and 30 from 28 EU member states interviewed, over half admitted feeling marginalised in their own country because of the economic crisis.

The 2007-2013 economic crisis forced EU member states to move together to deploy strategy to solve a problem, which – albeit with different kinds of impact – was affecting all member countries indiscriminately: youth unemployment.

Starting in 2013, after a proposal from the Commission, the EU member states decided to sign up to the foundation of a guarantee for young people. It was thus a political commitment, made in the shape of a recommendation from the Council¹³ (April 2013), to provide all young people with a qualitatively valid job offer, of continuing their education, of apprenticeship or work experience within four months of their becoming unemployed, or finishing formal education.

Youth Guarantee has become a reality throughout the European Union. Since January 2014, 14 million¹⁴ young people have participated in the programme, of these as many as nine million young people have taken advantage of an offer which in most cases has been a job offer.

13 Recommendation from the Council of 22nd April 2013 on the establishment of a guarantee for young people, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20160504PVL00110/Eurobarometer>

14 Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament, to the European Council, to the Council, to the Economic, and Social Commission and to the Committee of the Regions. The guarantee for young people and the initiative to promote youth employment, three years on, 2016.

The current generation of young people is unquestionably the most educated ever, and yet despite this, more and more young people struggle to find quality employment, which is a serious barrier to their autonomy.

The human and social capital of young people is one of the greatest European resources for the future. The European Union and its member states cannot allow itself to lose a potential as important, both in terms of skills and creativity, as these 90 million young Europeans.

In this chapter, we will try to briefly analyse how much and how the Youth Guarantee programme, three years after its beginning, has allowed this goal to be achieved.

Significant financial support from the EU to back the guarantee for young people has been mobilised through the European Social Fund (ESF) and the initiative on youth employment (IOG). When started in 2013, IOG initially had 6.4 billion euro funding. The main aim was to provide direct and focused support to young people who are neither in employment, nor engaged in a course of study or training and who live in regions with youth employment of over 25%.

Three years after the start of the youth guarantee programme, there are 1.4 million fewer young people and there has been a significant decrease in the number of them who are either unemployed or not on a training or education course (NEET), despite the disparity in results between member states.

Over 14 million young people have participated in the opportunities given by the Youth Guarantee programme, and at any given moment an average of two million young people were registered on it. Already in 2015 the annual rates of youth unemployment fell 3.4% to 20.3 % and the NEET levels fell by an average of 12% in the EU.

Despite the significant data which have emerged, it would be an understatement to assume that Youth Guarantee is just an instrument to incentivise the measures supporting young people. In fact, this programme has also been a potent driver to reform existing policies.

Indeed it is undeniable that the policies should be rethought. There are more and more educated and well qualified young people who nevertheless find it increasingly difficult to find a job that matches their skills. There are those who talk of them asking for too much, others who talk of a gap between the education system and the world of work, of a lack of preparation. In any case, whatever the cause may be, a new statement of policies so as to bring the best out of human capital, especially that of young people was certainly necessary. The Youth Guarantee programme has actually brought out the importance of the various actors involved working in synergy, eliminating the compartmentalisation between various strategic sectors, through the construction of valid partners.

Coordination between the employment, education, instruction and youth policy sectors has been strengthened, especially after the push created by the member state's plans to implement the Youth Guarantee programme. New partnerships with social partners and services for young people have been created.

This coordination, which was wanted and also determined by the impulse which came,

albeit in a different way, from the individual single member states, was also supported by a reform of existing policies. Between 2013 and 2015 member states adopted a total of 132 reforms of the labour market to help young people showing strong attention to the policies on youth employment.

The effect of this new push has been that significant EU financing has been allocated to youth employment, especially the ESF and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). A lot of effort has been made and a lot more will still have to be made, so that the subsequent programme, which is currently taking place, can reach a larger number of young people.

The political priorities that the European Union has set itself for the next programme range from greater participation from all young people, especially those at risk of marginalisation, to the increase in social inclusion, especially NEET young people or young people from a migrant background. The IOG and the ESF directly invest at least 12.7 billion euros in labour market integration measures for young people for the 2014-2020 period of the programme. Additionally, for the same time frame, member states have allocated around 27 billion euros to combat dropping out of school, permanent learning, professional instruction and training. Likewise, young people have also been one of the main beneficiary groups of ESF financing for entrepreneurial approaches and autonomous work, which amount to over two billion euros.¹⁵

The Commission and member states have chosen to aim their initiatives at sectors such as social inclusion, and at spreading practices to reach disadvantaged young people, so as to ensure their full participation in social and civic events.

But something that is still fundamental is the collaboration and complementary nature with policies such as that of education, employment, training, health, culture, digital media, sustainable development, citizenship and sport.

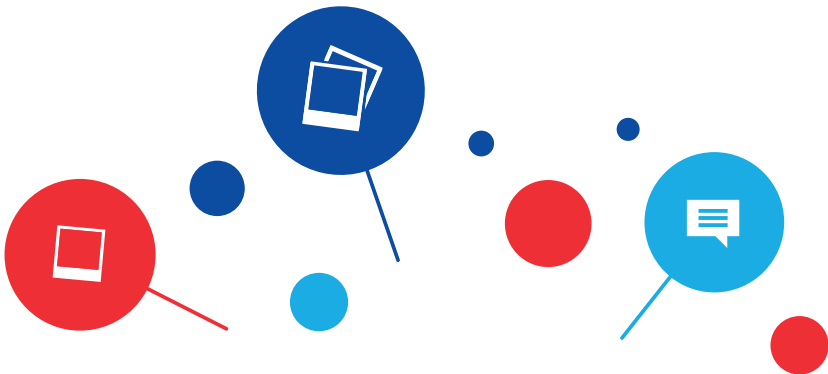
The mechanisms of the cooperation framework can support that collaboration. Thanks to the EU work plan, the Commission and the member states can further realise and perfect inter-sectorial structures and employment methods.

European cooperation on young people should be part of a wider political programme for young people. The initiatives can only have a real effect if the political decision makers at an EU level and the member states work together on the terrain with operators, service providers, educators and companies to mobilise resources and funds to reach a critical number of young people. Innovative solutions must be provided to complex phenomena like marginalisation, exclusion and the lack of participation.

In a final analysis, efforts must be urgently increased. To offer a larger number of younger people a real prospect of becoming full and committed members of their community, a global approach is needed which is at the level of the challenge which is to be dealt with. That means a coherent political programme, also backed by system activities that allocate larger and more consistent EU financing, such as the ESF or the IOG. National and regional resources must also support these efforts, where possible.

15 Ibidem

We live at a time in which disenchantment with European values, the spread of increasingly anti-European sentiment makes a strong answer necessary, and above all one of content. It is thus important to channel energy so as to make a greater majority of young people, especially those at risk of exclusion, autonomous. This will only be possible by allocating more and more finance aimed at including young people in the labour market so as to be able to develop their human capital. It is undeniable that this is the only route possible if we feel it is important to *'stimulate new energy in young people'*.



4. CONCLUSIONS

To conclude, and to put together complex ideas on the framework of policies described, we feel it would be useful to start by highlighting the specifics which characterise individual contributions gathered, and to then stress the words which they have in common and bring out some concluding reflections.

4.1 DIFFERENCES AND SPECIFICITY

The seminal idea of this publication was to try to compare and contrast different policies and it is thus useful to begin by describing the differences and the main peculiarities which characterise them.

- **Target and focus**

Some projects are aimed at a specific issue/need or are aimed at a specific group of young people. We note in this respect the experiences of the Metropolitan City of Rome in promoting European mobility (*Your First Eures Job*), that of Ireland in combatting the drift away from school (*Youth Reach*) and the support by Emilia-Romagna to its municipalities in the development of youth meeting centres and in the growth of a business culture (*Business heroes*). Focusing on a specific aspect and/or on a particular sub-segment of young people certainly has the advantage of being able to concentrate on equally specific needs, on dynamics that characterise the process and on factors that condition it. The good results achieved, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, from these focused policies show the results of a good job done both in terms of content and of action management.

- **Regulatory aspects**

Still with regards to the main differences, a deeper consideration of the 'regulatory' aspects is merited. Some of the experiences amongst those that have been told, above all in the Italian situation, come from the need to build or update the regulatory framework on youth policy (Umbria and Campania before the rest, but Piedmont is also on the way) and Friuli-Venezia Giulia has since 2012 had its own "*Law on the autonomy of young people and on the guarantee fund for their opportunities*". The assumption of this approach is that of doing so in a way that each of the actions undertaken for young people should be introduced into an overall, mid to long term programme and regulatory framework. In this framework, based on the needs identified (including through participation processes), strands and priority objectives are defined upstream from the strands and actions, over time, should be in synergy one with another.

- **Resources**

Another important aspect which it is worth lingering on is that of resources. The range of resources made available by the various different programmes varies significantly. Experiences like *Dote Unica Lavoro* (Lombardy), *Job Growth Wales* (Wales), *One-Stop*

Guidance Centres (Finland), *Youthreach* (Ireland) are a reflection of the enormous importance that European resources take on, especially the European Social Fund, for public administrations. Because of structural funds and cohesion policies, the regions have the chance to implement European strategies and to promote active policies for employment and training which involve a lot of people and have a decisive impact on the life of young people. Structural funds are thus a vital tool to orientate the political and social economy of the regions and represent an extraordinary and invaluable stimulus to every kind of regional type public investment. When then it is possible to integrate different kinds of resources (regional, national and European) and different kinds of structural funds (ESF, EAFRD and ERDF), as in the case of the *Youth Employment Agency* project in Bremen, or of *Giovanisi*, the possibilities and the margin for manoeuvre increase significantly and also allow the kinds of intervention to be diversified. In addition to the use of structural funds, some experiences show how financing opportunities can be directly managed. In this direction are *Giovani a 360° gradi* (Piedmont) and *Algarve 2020* (Algarve), both projects financed as part of Erasmus Plus, which have cultural aims and 'process' objectives that are preliminary to the implementation of real action. These experiences, which were promoted through the use of this kind of resource, stand out because of their participatory character, in which policies were co-defined.

4.2 WORDS IN COMMON

Interviews carried out with those who coordinate or personally manage projects have allowed us to identify three words (a noun, a verb and an adjective) which recur and represent concepts that they have in common.

1. **Opportunities**: this word is found in all of the policies described. The lack of opportunities or an inability to take them, is the main brake on the process that makes every young person their own creator. But when opportunities for young people, thanks to information and communication, reach the intended target market, they definitely lead to a substantial improvement in their wellbeing. Each one of the projects that has been covered in these pages has given opportunities to the young people who have taken part in them.

2. **To orientate**: this verb recurs more and more often because there are a lot of initiatives in which the structure is aimed at directing and orientating young people to a training or work route which heads towards future prospects. Macro goals such as reducing youth unemployment rates or stopping the emergence of the NEET phenomenon go through some intermediate goals, which need more defined skills and ability from the local and regional administrations. One of these is certainly that of orientating each young person with respect to their own capacities, and to opportunities to be taken.

3. **Flexible**: policies that stay unchanged for a long time lose contact with reality and with the changes that characterise society and young people. Although it is true that some points must always be in the political agenda together with the attention to the youth segment, it is also true that priorities or strategies to be adopted can be changed. A flexible project means having the capacity to move together with young people.

4.3 AREAS TO REFLECT ON

On the base of all these considerations it is of course possible to say that there is no preordained recipe for the construction and implementation of a 'good' youth policy project. But there are some characteristics that, more than others, promote efficacy and responsiveness to targets in terms of the improvement of life for young people.

#Information and communication

An initiative which may have valid contents loses strength if it doesn't reach the relevant target market. Public administrations don't always stand out for their capacity to explain what they do. Nor do they make it widely known by differentiating the means used according to the end purpose, the approach for the issue in question, and the tools used according to the target market. Consequently, knowing how to give the right level of visibility to information and conveying it in an effective way are decisive elements, above all when we are talking about action taken for young people. Amongst the contributions received, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Tuscany are the regions that pay especial attention to communication tools. Friuli-Venezia Giulia actually uses and regularly updates its website and social media, which are youth-friendly tools par excellence. The Region of Tuscany has created with Giovanisì a communication brand that uses online, offline and multi-channel tools so as to reach the largest number of young people.

*Organizations that promote projects with this characteristic:
BARCELONA, FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA, PIEDMONT, ROME,
TUSCANY*

#Managing transition moments and contact with the world of work

Firm bridges must be built between the most significant moments of building an adult life, without leaving discontinuity or dark areas where young people can feel disorientated or even lose themselves. This concept comes through very strong and clear, even in its differences, from the framework that this publication depicts. One of the main tasks of the institutions (and not just them) towards young people is that of putting together an ecosystem that is enabling, and which helps moments of transition and to bring closer the various different stages of life, with especial attention paid to the step between training/education and the world of work. That means continually immersing and cross-fertilising the world of training and that of work, and going to find young people in their own places and at the times that are best suited to the goal in question.

From this point of view, the *Career Project* from Barcelona unquestionably represents a reference model, since it involves 70% of the senior secondary schools of the city. Elsewhere, Lombardy with its *Dote Unica Lavoro* and Wales with the *Jobs Growth Wales*

project show very high levels of insertion of young people into the world of work (93% and 83% respectively), a synonym of the validity of the approach and the functionality of its contents.

*Organizations that promote projects with this characteristic:
BARCELONA, BREMEN, EMILIA-ROMAGNA, FINLAND, IRELAND,
LOMBARDY, ROME, TUSCANY, WALES*

#Coordinated governance and joint responsibility of the actors involved

Good governance and the joint responsibility of the actors involved are decisive elements for the good functioning of a youth policy project.

The regions, in close collaboration with municipalities, as for example in the case of Emilia-Romagna, are the institutional level which is best suited to coordinate effective and efficient youth policies because, if on the one hand they can have a realistic and focused vision of 'their own' young people since they are organisations in close geographic proximity, on the other they are close enough to nationwide processes and European strategies to be able to implement actions that go in the right direction, including as far as everything that happens outside the region is concerned.

On the other hand, almost any process of constructing and implementing a youth policy project has to start from real joint responsibility, from the start, of all the stakeholders involved (even, and most of all, including private subjects such as companies or the third sector), each with their own competencies, responsibilities and with their own role well defined, avoiding overlapping or repetition.

*Organizations that promote projects with this characteristic:
ALGARVE, EMILIA-ROMAGNA, FINLAND,
IRELAND, LOMBARDY, TUSCANY, WALES*

#Participation

Involving young people in the processes that involve them is a vital aspect. Policies that 'come from above' only work with difficulty, and are not easy to keep going. It is thus essential to activate consultation processes, or in the best of cases co-design of the youth policy programmes and of the various different actions that compose it. The projects promoted by the Algarve, Umbria and Piedmont are those which show this character more than other regions. However doubtless the participation of young people is an element which, although with varying intensity according to the case and the 'moment in time', should touch upon the process of construction and implementation of a project of

youth policy and the dynamics that characterise it. With regard to this, it is fundamental for public administrations to clear up at the start the terms of the participatory process to avoid creating false expectations, and to make it realistic.

*Organizations that promote projects with this characteristic:
ALGARVE, CAMPANIA, PIEDMONT, TUSCANY, UMBRIA*

#Integration and transversality

We have hinted at the opportunity of integrating the resources utilised, and the integration and transversality of the contents is of great importance. Integration is the key concept of the Finnish project *One-Stop Guidance Centres* (Ohjaamo), which is an integration in terms of collaboration between various different bodies and types of activity. The transversality of the approach of the new law in Campania "Building the Future. New Policies for young people" represents another example of how regional youth policies ought to be treated as system actions, rather than as individual actions in response to an emergency. In this situation, the structure and the governance of the Giovanisì project recall both the concept of transversality and that of integration, factors that undoubtedly constitute a starting point to positively activate the institution-youth-region link.

*Organizations that promote projects with this characteristic:
BREMEN, CAMPANIA, FINLAND, FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA,
TUSCANY, UMBRIA*

In this publication we have taken a snapshot of some of the initiatives which currently represent good examples of youth policies in Europe, each of them with their own peculiarities.

The elements presented can be important inputs to promote global reflection on the issue of young people. Even though none of the experiences individually exhaust the issue of youth policy, overall they represent a varied and cohesive scenario which takes account both of the global aspects and of local applications.

The elements which have emerged, if contextualised, mixed and adjusted on the base of the individual territorial specificities can thus become important ingredients in the good outcome of a youth policy project.