



## Algarve 2020: a Youth Contract

The participatory based project “Algarve 2020: A Youth Contract” (2014-106) allowed the development of the 1st Regional 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 dropouts 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 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, where a total of 93 entities and organizations and around 1200 young have directly participated.

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.

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