



HOW TO SCORE A SOUTH GOAL

IO1

EU and national-level mapping
of policies and good practices
implemented in line with the European
youth goals 6, 7, 8, and 9 since 2019.

Contents

3	Introduction
4	Implementation & Good Practices
4	Implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue in Croatia, Germany, Austria and Portugal: a general assessment
6	The impact of the Youth Dialogue on the implementation of the Youth Goals on the local, regional and national levels
7	Impact on the local level
8	Impact on the regional level
9	Impact on the national level
11	Overview of good practices
13	Youth Goal 6 - Moving Rural Youth forward
13	Good practices on the local level
18	Good practices on the regional level
22	Good practices on the national level
28	Youth Goal 7 - Quality Employment for All
28	Good practices on the local level
33	Good practices on the regional level
38	Good practices on the national level
43	Youth Goal 8 - Quality Learning
43	Good practices on the local level
48	Good practices on the regional level
52	Good practices on the national level
57	Youth Goal 9 - Spaces and Participation for All
57	Good practices on the local level
63	Good practices on the regional level
68	Good practices on the national level
74	Policies on the EU level
75	The EU Youth Dialogue on the EU level - An assessment
77	Official Policy Documents
77	Youth in the EU priorities 2019-2024
78	The European Commission's report on the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2021
79	Council Conclusions and Resolutions
81	Collection of Recommendations

3 Introduction

This is a publication of the Erasmus+ KA2 project “How to score a Youth Goal”. The publication comprises three sections and was produced collectively by the partners involved in the project.

The first section gives an overview on the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) in the countries involved in the project. It comprises a mapping of good practices implemented in line with the European Youth Goals 6, 7, 8, and 9 on the local, regional and national levels. This mapping shows good practices from the countries represented in the project consortium of KA2 “How to score a Youth Goal”, namely Croatia, Germany, Austria and Portugal.

The second section focuses on policies implemented in line with the European Youth Goals 6, 7, 8, and 9 on EU level since 2019.

The third section features recommendations aimed at the given levels, based on the insights obtained as a result of the overall mapping exercise from the first two sections and created together by all partners in a transnational project meeting in Vienna in November 2022.

The outcomes of this publication should be useful to all actors in the youth field not only as an (1) inspiration of what has already been achieved in relation to the European Youth Goals 6, 7, 8, and 9, but also (2) as a basis for steering the further policy and practice developments in these areas. The outcomes can also be used (3) as a quick orientation tool for advocacy based on the recommendations in section three.



4 Implementation & good practices

This chapter offers an insight into good practices implemented in line with the European Youth Goals 6, 7, 8, and 9 in Croatia, Germany, Austria and Portugal on the local, regional and national levels since 2019. All involved organisations are National Youth Councils and directly involved in the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue in their respective countries and thus best qualified to contribute to this project. The practices were identified, collected and put forward based on organisational knowledge by the respective organisations involved in the consortium of this project from each of the mentioned countries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE IN CROATIA, GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND PORTUGAL: A GENERAL ASSESSMENT

All partners have made a general assessment about whether the past two cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) have had an impact on the implementation of Youth Goals in their countries.

CROATIA

Throughout the last two cycles of EUYD, the implementation of Youth Goals has been quite deficient and sporadic. It has to be mentioned that in the last two years, Croatia has had several crises, primarily the corona crisis, and then two major earthquakes in continental Croatia, which had a significant impact on setting priorities in the design of guidelines and the allocation of financial support for content and opportunities for young people. Croatia was one of the countries presiding over the triumvirate of the EU Council, with the topic of opportunities for youth in rural areas, which is why Youth Goal #6 received the most attention. The national body responsible for youth in Croatia has focused on incentives for young farmers and increasing the visibility of activities for young people in rural areas, as well as the involvement of young people from rural areas in decision-making. After the earthquake, the priorities have changed somewhat, so now the focus is mainly on the inclusion of young people from the earthquake-affected areas in the priority groups for tenders and working groups dealing with young people. In the last two years, there was no national plan for the implementation of the results of the EUYD process in Croatia, and in addition, the absence of a National Working Group for the implementation of the EUYD since the beginning of 2021 caused the state bodies and relevant stakeholders to have no pressure to implement the opinion of young people, which is carried out every year.

5 GERMANY

The last two years were very challenging for the implementation of the EUYD due to the pandemic. On the one hand, all events and participation processes had to take place digitally, on the other hand, the focus of youth association work was on structural support (e.g. saving youth centres). Also, there were other European participation processes that member organisations of the National Youth Council focussed on such as the Conference on the Future of Europe or the European Year of Youth. Here, the EUYD in Germany did not play a leading role. However, what the EUYD always manages to do is to set new topics that then have an impact on the association landscape as an impulse. For example, the demands of the German Federal Youth Council for the European Year of Youth are based on the demands of the European Youth Goals. In addition, the EUYD creates access for young people to political leaders with whom they would otherwise have no contact. Approaches developed by the EUYD, such as the "I bet that" method, in which politically responsible people make commitments in dialogues that are then followed up on, are important instruments for achieving effectiveness in participation. What is difficult to communicate and understand for young people is the effect of their demand at the European level. What has also been stated by stakeholders is that the EUYD affects the political empowerment of young people stronger than decisions on the political level. With its online series "You have influenced politics", the German Federal Youth Council tries to make the effects on the political level visible and comprehensible and to show which demands influenced the conclusions of the Council of the EU. However, more resources are needed to monitor the implementation of the recommendations in Germany that were formulated in the Council's conclusions to the EU Member States and thus to be able to measure the concrete impact on the national, regional and local level. Another factor that makes it difficult to measure the impact of the EUYD is the change in the European Commission's funding programme for EU Youth Dialogue projects. Since the funding programme was extended to youth participation projects in general, it is no longer clear which EUYD projects exist at all. To implement the EUYD by a broad range of actors at all levels (local, regional, national) and to make it visible, the National Working Group in Germany is very broad and diverse. However, it is more of an advisory body, it implements little itself and also repeatedly signals that the connection of a European participation process with its regional structures is challenging. Another challenge here is that there are established structures of youth participation in Germany and the EUYD is only "needed" at the European level. Parallel structure to established youth participation procedures in Germany is to be avoided. However, dovetailing with each other is difficult. That's why our approach is to feed the results of other participation processes or projects into the EUYD. Most of the implementation of the EUYD comes from the German Federal Youth Council itself. Some Regional Youth Councils also implement EUYD projects. However, these are usually only individual events or temporary projects.



6 AUSTRIA

In general, one can say that it is very hard to assess the direct impact of the EUYD on the implementation of the Youth Goals as its effect can be hardly isolated because it impacts many different areas - often indirectly. The EUYD is a very meaningful participatory process including various political and civil society actors on local, regional and national levels all over Austria. While we would assess that the EUYD has an impact on all three levels on the implementation of the Youth Goals, we can most directly assess this impact on the national and regional levels where we directly interact with various stakeholders in the National Working Group. The Youth Goals are quite impactful and well-known in Austria because of the Austrian role in creating the Youth Goals during the Trio-Presidency. The Youth Goals are also part of the Austrian National Youth Strategy and were connected with the Austrian Youth Goals developed by the respective ministries. For the last two cycles, it is especially hard to assess the direct impact as the pandemic has complicated the process. Furthermore, less continuous and direct contact with young people and decision-makers for the implementation of the European Youth Goals was possible.

PORTUGAL

The EUYD has been a very useful tool in the development of just and adequate policies for youth in Portugal. However, it has been harder to assess the direct impact of the last two cycles due to the pandemic that forced all countries in the world to re-adjust themselves and place some important matters aside. Nationally, many virtual events took place, however, it is hard to measure whether they spread to regional and local communities.

THE IMPACT OF THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH GOALS ON THE LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

This section should give an overview of the impact of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) on the local, regional and national levels in the countries involved in this project. It has to be noted, that the impact of the EUYD can hardly be isolated and that this is no scientific classification but an assessment made by people working with organisations nationally involved with the implementation of the EUYD. Taking into account their assessments it becomes visible that the EUYD with its instruments itself has a stronger impact on the national and regional levels.

7 Assessment of the impact of the EU Youth Dialogue in the implementation of the Youth Goals on the local, regional and national levels

	Local level	Regional level	National level
Croatia	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM
Germany	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Austria	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Portugal	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH

IMPACT ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

Croatia: LOW

There is insufficient visibility of the EUYD process at the local level, and there is no functional cooperation between local government units and the central body responsible for youth, so that the current priorities and current needs of young people are placed on the agenda of local policies. In addition, in most cities/counties, there is a Youth Council, but most of them are dysfunctional and made up by young people from political parties, which is why party affinities are presented instead of the current needs of young people at meetings. There are several functional and visible Youth Councils that go public and seek specific measures for young people, most of which overlap with the Youth Goals.

Germany: LOW

Due to the pandemic few dialogue events took place on the local level. The German Federal Youth Councils plan to implement more local dialogues in cooperation with local stakeholders (e.g. local youth centres) to broaden the visibility of the EUYD and to reach more and other young people. On the other hand, the above-mentioned projects that some Regional Youth Councils implement have a primary local impact – also on the political level (see good practice example on YG#7). In cooperation with the National Agency, the German Federal Youth Council promotes the possibility for youth organisations to apply for funds for local Youth Dialogue projects.

Austria: LOW

Unfortunately at the local level, the EUYD has only a low impact. The Youth Goals and the EUYD are not as well-known at the local level as on other levels of implementation. This has partly to do with the way the National Working Group works in Austria and with which stakeholders it interacts but also with the complexity of the EUYD itself and its implementability on the local level. Without responsible focal points on the local level and the structures and resources to continuously interact with them, the EUYD lacks access to the local level.

8 Portugal: LOW

Locally, the consultation phase had an important role in motivating young people to participate in policy-making and democratic mechanisms. Since this process requires the presence of local authorities, young people feel like it is harder for them to be ignored in the presence of a political decision-maker. However, in the implementation phase most of the activities were performed online, oriented to a wide public.

IMPACT ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL**Croatia: LOW**

As on the local level, there is insufficient visibility of the EUYD process on the regional level as well as the need to enact quality policies for young people. Since we do not have territorially clearly demarcated regional areas, the same conclusions apply for the local and the regional level.

Germany: MEDIUM

The EUYD in Germany has a team of young volunteers for each EUYD cycle. The so-called “jump team” is a network of young people that implements the EUYD in Germany. The jump team is engaged voluntarily at the local, regional and national levels. It informs about opportunities for participation in the EUYD, organises dialogue events and collects the concerns, ideas and demands of young people from Germany. The individual jump members take on the role of multipliers and carry out activities such as workshops and small events in their regions within the framework of the EUYD. Collected results and political demands are passed on to the EU Youth Delegates. The EU Youth Delegates then discuss them with policy-makers in the EU. The results are also passed on to political decision-makers in Germany and discussed at national Youth Dialogue events. The request for jump outreaches at workshops or panel discussions of external organisations is continuously increasing. Therefore the impact of the EUYD on the regional level can be assessed as medium.

Austria: MEDIUM

Through the way the EUYD is implemented in Austria, the impact on the regional level is quite strong. Since 2019 the National Working Group is implementing the “Austrian Youth Conference” - an annual dialogue conference that is always embedded in a cycle of the EUYD. Some cycles even have two youth conferences - one in the consultation and one in the implementation phase. The National Working Group has managed to establish a strong connection to Austria's nine federal states and the respective political decision-makers as well as people from the administrative level responsible for youth affairs. The Austrian Youth Conference is always organised at the same time and place as the Austrian summit of regional youth ministers. Furthermore, there is continuous sponsoring and participation of the federal states and actual policies are made at the summit that refer to the outcomes of the youth conference. Therefore, the continuous impact of the EUYD at the regional level has grown significantly. Each

- 9 youth conference brings together political decision-makers from each federal state with youth from all over Austria to discuss the wishes, demands and interests of young people that are connected to the respective Youth Goals of the cycle and relevant for the regional level in an eye-level dialogue. The commitments made during the conference are followed-up on the regional level.

Portugal: MEDIUM

Regionally, the impact of the EUYD is much bigger than on the local level in Portugal. For instance, the autonomous regions of Madeira and Azores with their independent youth entities developed a more efficient process to ensure the implementation of the Youth Goals, noting that they have always presented themselves with a very open attitude in such activities and in collaborating with the remaining entities of the National Working Group. In fact, in our understanding, it was very positive that two of the outermost regions of the Union showed a strong commitment to the EUYD in every phase of the process. Moreover, one example of the implementation of the Youth Goals was the intervention in the pre-election of the local municipalities, in which it was possible to increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society.

IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Croatia: MEDIUM

The implementation of Youth Goals at the national level mainly concerns the placement of those Youth Goals, which were thematized in the EUYD cycles, as priority areas for funding by the national authority responsible for youth. However, as there is no inter-departmental cooperation in this area, these priorities are followed by tenders of, for example, the ministries of education and social welfare. Additional focus was placed on the implementation of Youth Goal #6 “moving rural youth forward”, since it was also a thematic priority during the Croatian Presidency. In the meantime, some quality measures for young people such as internships have been adopted, which is why we mark the implementation of the Youth Goals at the national level as medium.

Germany: MEDIUM

Since 2019 most EUYD events have taken place on the national level. There, young people discuss the current topic of the EUYD both among each other and with those responsible for politics and administration. In this way, political decision-makers learn about what is important to young people and can take their concerns into account in political decisions. The EUYD events play a central role in the implementation of the EUYD in Germany. As participation numbers are continuously high and the willingness of political decision-makers to cooperate in these events exists, the impact of the EUYD on the national level can be assessed as medium.



10 Austria: HIGH

On the national level, the EUYD has contributed to making all Youth Goals part of the Austrian Youth Strategy. As part of this, every federal ministry has established its own “Jugendziele” (= youth targets), which are directly interlinked with the European Youth Goals. The federal ministry of Austria also co-funds the EUYD, is part of the National Working Group and directly and continuously interacts with the coordinators of the National Working Group and the EUYD process in Austria to ensure mainstreaming of the Youth Goals and following up with the outcomes of each EUYD cycle in its areas of impact. In terms of concrete policies on the national level, it is quite challenging to measure the impact of the EUYD. However, through the way it functions and interacts there are measures in place to ensure continuous reporting and advocacy for the implementation of the outcomes of the EUYD on all levels.

Portugal: HIGH

On the national level it was possible to continue working on events to promote the Youth Goals. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the re-adjustments necessary, the activities developed intended to ensure that young people could effectively impact and influence decision-making in all aspects of society throughout its entire process. The activities have taken the form of workshops, seminars, survey publications and recommendation publications. There are still a few challenges to the full involvement of young people in decision-making, however, there is also a large set of proposals to counter them that emerged from the previous cycles.



Overview of good practices

		Local level	Regional level	Regional level
#6 Moving rural youth forward	Croatia	Community centre Bodovljaci	Where there's a "WILL" there's a WAY	Entrepreneurship incubator PISMO Novska
	Germany	48 or 72-hour action	Digital rural youth village	Planathon "Youth Shapes Structural Change"
	Austria	Award for municipalities in upper Austria: Young municipality	Regional Youth Management Styria	Policy: six Austrian Youth Goals on the topic of rural youth
	Portugal	Housing incentive	Invest em Anadia	Financial Incentives
#7 Quality employment for all	Croatia	Job club for Youth Karlovac - Youth employment club	"From learning to knowledge - from knowledge to Employment"	National active labour market policy - employment support for gaining first work experience/ traineeship
	Germany	Youth ticket Bremen	No Graduation without Follow-up - Transition from School to Work in North Rhine-Westphalia	Alliance for vocational education and further training
	Austria	Youth participation project easy in Salzburg	Project Rückenwind for regional youth in Tyrol	Policy: Four Austrian youth goals on the topic of work and employment

	Portugal	Programa Empreende Jovem	eJovem - Programa Empreender Jovem	Emprego Jovem Ativo
#8 Quality employment for all	Croatia	Take action!	Summer school of art and activism	Youth studies for young people
	Germany	Demokratie Werkstatt	Jugend Prägt	U18 – campaign to vote under the age of 18
	Austria	Uniclub in Vienna	AHA PLUS Volunteering Certificate	Policy: eight Austrian Youth Goals on the topic of education
	Portugal	Atreve-te – Um desafio para a igualdade	Extracurricular activities school programme	National Plan for Financial literacy
#9 Space & participation for all	Croatia	Pop-up socio-cultural centres in places affected by the earthquake	PUKOTINE/PKTN	"City for Youth" certificate
	Germany	Northern German Youth Conference	Bavarian Youth Day in Europe	Youth Strategy of the Federal Government
	Austria	"Werkstadt junges Wien" - youth participation for city development in Vienna	"Old enough" Micro-grants from the Styrian province for local youth groups	Policy: eight Austrian Youth Goals on the topic of participation
	Portugal	ESC - Escola Social de Competências	Move-te na Europa	Politicamente desperto

13

Youth goal 6: Moving rural youth forward

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Community Centre Bodovljaci

Organiser of this good practice:

Association for the promotion of active participation "Studio B"

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://udrugastudiob.hr/>

or Facebook [post](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

ured.studiob@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

The Community Centre Bodovaljci was established in 2022 after years of trying and realised on the initiative of the Association Studio B, which has been working on rural youth work for years. Along with their initiative, support and co-financing, the municipality of Vrbje, an educational institution and Brod-Posavina County that donated this space, joined the project of establishing the Community Centre. In addition to the Community Centre itself, the offices of the youth association are also located in the space. It is used as a space for the personal and professional development of young people from the area and for the increase of their capacities and the development of the local community. In addition to the municipality and the aforementioned association, donations for the establishment of the centre were also made by private companies and natural persons. The Community Centre works towards raising the quality of life of all residents of this rural area to respond to their needs as well as of those from the surrounding (rural) areas. The success of this example in practice has certainly increased due to the good and constructive cross-sectoral cooperation of the civil sector, the private sector and the local government. All key stakeholders recognized that the Community Centre was needed and, in a relatively short period of fewer than two years, they successfully implemented the idea. Everyone involved allowed the experts to take care of the part of the project that is their department. Although it has not been open for a long time, the Association Studio B has been working for years and is recognized

- 14 in the area as a serious and relevant organisation that carries out quality youth work and thus continues to successfully attract young people to its activities. Of course, the next period will show how much the existing obstacles will affect the further success of the centre's work and, in general, the implementation of such activities in the area of this local community.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This good practice example contributes to YG 6.1 “Ensure appropriate infrastructure in rural areas in order to provide equitable delivery of public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people”; YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities”; and YG 6.6 “Establish a positive image of rural areas”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

The Community Centre Bodovaljci with its activities also contributes to several other Youth Goals with their constant applications and implementations of EU-funded projects (especially mobilities) they are contributing – to name a few – to Youth Goal #1. In addition, they are implementing several non-formal education activities (Youth Goal #8) and are very focused on dialogue and informing young people (Youth Goal #4) and including them in constructive dialogue with relevant people and other stakeholders, which is visible in their role in the development and adoption of the local youth policy (action plan for youth of the municipality of Vrboje). The establishment of the Community Centre also contributed to Youth Goal #9.

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the local level:

48- or 72-hour action

Organiser of this good practice:

Local groups of Bund der Deutschen Landjugend (BDL) e.V.

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.landjugend.de/projekte/landgemacht>

Contact for questions about this practice:

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Description & Success Factors

Over the course of a weekend, rural youth groups set themselves a task that they have to solve independently. Within 48 or 72 hours, they plan, tackle, build and design for the common good of their region - all voluntarily and with a high level of commitment.

15 These tasks are always specifically geared to the respective situation on site (e.g. restoration of a forest nature trail, construction of a mobile stage, cinema or rest facilities for cyclists, creation of a multigenerational square, organisation and run of a children's festival). The local groups show what young people can achieve and what interests they have. Contact with local associations and groups is created to find support for the implementation or to invite them to the closing ceremony or the ceremonial handover. This means that young people are actively involved in their community. The local generations come into contact with each other, young people become visible, voluntary engagement of young people is recognized and appreciated, the rural area is revitalised and regional development can be initiated from below. And above all, the action itself is a lot of fun for the young people, it is also about a race against time and that they reach a goal together. The groups also regularly get new volunteers through these actions. These actions took place nationwide in many locations in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2019. It will be repeated in 2024.

In the BDL the general meeting decides whether and when the 48-hour or 72-hour actions are carried out. In this way young people decide for themselves when and what they are going to do and how. This autonomy strengthens their personal responsibility. They can bring in and implement their own interests and they receive recognition and appreciation for their achievements by adults, politicians and within their regions.

It is helpful for the groups to have support in public relations work (e.g. with text modules, templates) and that the actions take place nationwide in a common time window, as they then attract more attention beyond their region. Patronage also helps to give more emphasis to the commitment of young people.

Furthermore, it is helpful that the action is already known by the members. This way they can quickly focus on what they would like to do in their region instead of first having to think of ways to get in touch with politicians or how to assert their interests.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to YG 6.3 "Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities". Through the 48- or 72-hour action young people are actively involved in their community. The local generations come into contact with each other, young people become visible, voluntary engagement of young people is recognized and appreciated, the rural area is revitalised and regional development can be initiated from below.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Award: "Young Municipality"

Original: Auszeichnung "Junge Gemeinde"



- 16** **Organiser of this good practice:**
Youth service of the federal state Upper Austria
Original: Jugendservice des Landes Oberösterreich
- Links to find out more about this practice:**
<https://www.jugendservice.at/fuer-gemeinden/foerderungen/junge-gemeinde>
- Contact for questions about this practice:**
Mag. Michaela Seidl
michaela.seidl@ooe.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

The youth department of the state Upper Austria puts light on municipalities that put youth-friendliness into practice by awarding them as “Young Municipality” and funding youth participatory activities at the local level. Goals of the award are to promote youth-friendly measures in the municipality and to establish or further develop a structure for sustainable youth work in the municipality. Municipalities need to set activities with and for young people in the areas of structure, actions, participation, public appearance and spaces for young people.

As the practice is initiated and funded by the state, a strong connection to municipalities as a target group is given. For a municipality to be awarded, it needs to prove already existing youth-friendly practices as well as the planning of new actions with and for youth. When a municipality is awarded, funding is made available for new actions created with and for youth, ensuring that the young people involved have resources at hand to implement their ideas. The practice keeps running as a municipality can be awarded for a two-year-term and then needs to re-apply and set new goals and activities to be re-awarded thus encouraging them to continue their engagement. The practice directly influences young people's realities inside the municipalities by making it necessary to involve them in every part of the process of co-creating spaces for them. This practice is effective in terms of emancipation of young people to be active and visible parts of their own communities in rural areas and thus making them more attractive.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

The practice contributes to YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities” by encouraging directly planning and carrying out new activities within the municipality with and for its young people; It also contributes to YG 6.4 “Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes” by encouraging new processes that are carried out with and for young people in the municipality and thus giving them the power to make decisions that directly influence them which could lead to higher self-efficacy and thus a higher likelihood for general participation in decision-making”;

It also contributes to YG 6.6 “Establish a positive image of rural areas” by awarding municipalities for their efforts in creating spaces for youth and thus strengthening their

- 17 image on the outside in the region and on the inside for the young people living there ;
As well as to YG 6.7 “Ensure protection of rural traditions” by actively making young people a part of everyday life in the municipality through the actions created with and for them and thus increasing the likelihood of them interacting with the people and life around them on the local level.

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Housing incentive

Organiser of this good practice:

Municipality of Oleiros

Links to find out more about this practice:

[*Viver e Trabalhar No Interior: Incentivos*](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 272 680 130

geral@cm-oleiros.pt

Description & Success Factors

The example provided of good practices on the local level has taken place in Oleiros, in the district of Castelo Branco. This village in the centre of Portugal has developed and improved much throughout the years regarding the transformation of the countryside to become attractive to young people. With the slogan “Portugal is not only Lisbon and Porto”, this autarchy has created ambitious policy plans to ensure the countryside develops attractive offers so that young people reconsider their choices of housing or relocation. The main goal is to become sustainable and ensure the relocation of a massive part of the population that lives in the litoral, ensuring a growing economy, a healthy and developed social environment plus demographic growth. With the inflation of housing rents plus the incentives provided combined with a growing culture of working from home, some young people have already chosen to take advantage of the opportunities available to them. In order for the good practice to be established, there were a few variants that contributed. First of all the new working environment. Now people have the tools available to start working from home, which changes their needs and priorities when choosing their place to live. What kept it running was the low percentage of property municipal tax and the investment in cultural activities. Regarding how this reaches young people, the good practice mentioned has a long-term impact on young people's perspective on acquiring property and starting their life with fewer barriers.

18 Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to YG 6.1 “Ensure appropriate infrastructure in rural areas to provide equitable delivery of public services, data connectivity and housing opportunities for young people” by guaranteeing sustainable housing prices.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

The initiative to activate the youth of Eastern Croatia

Organiser of this good practice:

Youth workers from that area by founding the Youth association Ilok "Will"

Links to find out more about this practice:

[Facebook](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

umivolja@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

Although the idea itself originated at the local level, already with the first activities it proved to be very successful and recognized in the entire regional area of Eastern Croatia itself. Several young people - youth workers - decided to dedicate their work and free time to organising activities for young people from their area so that they would be the ones to continue developing that area (which was increasingly deteriorating). After some time of volunteering and designing activities, they decided to apply for a project aimed at empowering young people and civil society organisations from the entire area, because they realised that it is not enough to work only in the local area, but that it is important to connect with all organisations that include young people in their work and activity. As a result of that project, some other associations were founded. For the first time two associations from that area jointly apply for a project and join forces and start working together to open spaces for activities and young people. They also receive great support from the local authorities of their small towns. After one year of project implementation, the initiating organisation meets the criteria for entry into the National Youth Council in order to further capacitate young people and organisations from its regional area.

This practice can certainly be said to be a good example of practice because it is actually applicable to other, similar, regional areas. The success lies in the persistence and endurance of the people. Also, the local government has recognized this impor-



- 19 tance and supports ideas and projects within its capabilities. By constantly attracting and mentoring new young people, they have been working on sustainability from the beginning. The greatest success of this example is certainly the opening of employment opportunities on the project for two young people (for now!), which has never been the practice of civil society in this area so far.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

The practice contributes to YG 6.2 “Ensure that sustainable, high-quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas” as well as to YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities”, YG 6.6. “Establish a positive image of rural areas” and YG 6.7 “Ensure the protection of rural traditions”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

IT can be argued that this story, which has been developing and growing for years in this easternmost Croatian region, touches on several more Youth Goals, because in addition to the activation of young people and the provision of additional opportunities for young people from rural areas, topics and events organised by the association, which was created from these initiatives, include various topics important for young people and certainly connect them with the European Union and European values (Youth Goal #1) and enables young people to access quality educational activities and lifelong learning (Youth Goal #8). In addition, a critical mass of young people and other stakeholders has gathered who are openly and loudly advocating for the need and looking for solutions to open a youth-friendly space that will serve for further personal and professional development of young people (Youth Goal #9), but also of civil society in general in that area.

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Digital Rural Youth Village (Landjugenddorf)

Organiser of this good practice:

Westfälisch-Lippische Landjugend e.v. (WLL)

Links to find out more about this practice:

https://www.wll.de/wll_projekte/landjugenddorf/ <http://Dorf.WLL.de>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Dennis Welpelo
dennis@wll.de

Description & Success Factors

Actually, the Westfälisch-Lippische Landjugend (WLL) would have been in charge of a 20 m² stand at the International Green Week (IGW). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this couldn't take place. As a substitute, they created a whole village on the internet. A tractor cinema, a village pub and a huge threshing floor - visitors could discover all this in the digital village of the WLL. The planned rural youth stand near the adventure farm at the International Green Week (IGW) became a digital rural youth village that could be visited virtually during a week. Up to 200 people were able to hang out in the rural youth village at the same time, casually exchanging ideas and attending events, as well as meeting old and new acquaintances, debating and playing - without any risk of infection. The WLL made this possible through the "gather.town" platform, a welcome alternative to the countless Zoom meetings of these months. With a digital figure, an avatar, visitors could explore the village and address other avatars.

The digital village was created for a single purpose but lived on afterwards and is still regularly used for regional and federal conferences, meetings and workshops.

The WLL built a platform that was stable, fun, allowed for joint work and also for the all-important fringe and coffee conversations. The digital village brings together rural youth despite distance. This way they can connect, exchange, build alliances or invite political decision-makers into their "village".

The WLL is using the digital village to continue networking. The WLL invited e.g. to the WLL Local Group Coffee Drink in the digital threshing floor to exchange information about Corona, experiences and plans. Other regional associations have also already used the space for their own events. The digital village works so well as there is a central organiser who keeps track but also other rural youth associations are invited to use the space. The creation of the gather.town was a sustainable idea.

AUSTRIA**Name of the good practice on the regional level:**

Regional Youth Management Styria

Organiser of this good practice:

A6 - Special Department Society, Unit Youth of the federal state Styria
Original: A6-Fachabteilung Gesellschaft, Referat Jugend Steiermark

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.jugendreferat.steiermark.at/cms/ziel/597996/DE/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

jugend@stmk.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

The Regional Youth Managements (RYM) are the central offices for the coordination and handling of children and youth issues in the seven major Styrian sub-regions. They work on behalf of the department of society and the regional association of the federal state of Styria.

As a basis of their work, there is an individual youth plan for every sub-region in Styria. The youth plans take into account regional conditions, the Styrian children and youth strategy and the regional development strategy.

The Styrian model of RYM development can be seen as a good practice in taking the needs of young people in municipalities and regions seriously. The RYM encourages children and young people to participate and ensures the sustainable anchoring of participatory processes in municipalities. Furthermore, the RYM supports the development of coordinated youth work in the region. Therefore, regular networking meetings and information events for multipliers and other stakeholders are offered. The RYM also offers counselling and support for municipalities when it comes to youth issues and youth-related projects. The RYM together with actors from the youth field and multipliers of youth work represent the interests of young people in Styria.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities” as well as to YG 6.4 “Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes” and YG 6.6 “Establish a positive image of rural areas”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #9 “space and participation for all”

PORTUGAL**Name of the good practice on the regional level:**

Invest em Anadia

Organiser of this good practice:

District of Aveiro - Anadia

Links to find out more about this practice:

[*Programas de Apoio ao Investimento invest_emanadia_2016_guia_eng.pdf \(cm-anadia.pt\)*](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 800 207 081

geral@cm-anadia.pt

Description & Success Factors

The example presented happens in Anadia, Aveiro district, where the municipality proposed a new entrepreneurial strategy to attract businesses, economic growth, social development and employment. By reducing taxes, Anadia has become very attractive to entrepreneurs. Lots of different groups have been involved in this such as the autarchies, entrepreneurs and civil society.

The goal is to encourage the entrepreneurial culture of young people; to work with entrepreneurs and businessmen to jointly generate investment and growth; to ensure that the municipal policy, its programs and activities create an attractive area for business investment (domestic and foreign) and job creation.

The municipality of Anadia has made a number of investments that have transformed Anadia into an ideal place to invest, work and live. This bet has been made in the sports level, culture, education, urban planning and also in the areas of the business host.

The major factor that contributed to the success of this practice was the amazing business analysis capacity to understand the strengths of the region and develop the tools to improve it and profit from it, providing the municipality the financial capacity to continue investing. What kept it running were the inevitable consequences of a well-planned strategy - economic and social development that by itself kept the good functioning of the community and its entrepreneurial activities. This reaches young people by providing them with an attractive place to live with great employability.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to Yg 6.2 “Ensure that sustainable, high-quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas”; to YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities.”; as well as to YG 6.6 “Establish a positive image of rural areas”.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL**CROATIA****Name of the good practice on the national level:**

Entrepreneurship incubator PISMO Novska

Organiser of this good practice:

(State)Development Agency

Links to find out more about this practice:

<http://www.inkubator-pismo.eu>

23 Contact for questions about this practice:

info@inkubator-pismo.eu

Description & Success Factors

The westernmost Slavonian City of Novska, whose economic strengths have traditionally been agriculture, textile, and wood industry, is sovereignly becoming the centre of the gaming industry. They have been working on the realization of this vision since 2016, and the two renovated buildings that house the business incubator PISMO and about 70 tenants, both new (start-up) entrepreneurs and companies, are the best proof that the vision has come to life. (Lidermedia.hr, 2022) A carefully designed plan that includes all levels of education and specially designed education in a city of 11,000 inhabitants creates a critical mass ready to take its share of the video game market. The very idea and proven success of this incubator as well as its recognition at the national level is recognized as a great opportunity for young people. The State Office for Youth in Croatia often highlights this entrepreneurial incubator in that rural area as a true example of good practice for the development and sustainability of rural areas in parts of Croatia that no longer live only from agriculture and that need urgent demographic renewal. Also, this incubator provides young people with opportunities for sustainable and high-quality business opportunities, either in the form of employment or the development of their new (start-up) entrepreneurial idea. The recognized need, the desire of local and regional authorities to revive the rural area and EU funds were key to the development and current success of this idea. Constant investments and a very smart choice of the video gaming industry, which was just developing at that stage, are a guarantee of success. Industry and education on the creation and development of video games are not only a need and priority of the (young) people of that rural area, but of this part of Europe, so the idea of a business incubator was a perfect fit for development in an area that has something to offer. Already in these first few years, the business incubator gathers many young people (entrepreneurs) who come to work in the incubator, live there, develop the community and open new opportunities for themselves and their peers, but also new young people who will become part of this great story. Of course, support and financial assistance from the state and local authorities are of importance, but also further developments and implementation of EU infrastructure funds will continue to be high on the priority list in order to increase sustainability and success.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to YG 6.2 “Ensure that sustainable, high-quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas”; YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities”; YG 6.5 “Ensure equal access to high quality education for young people in rural areas”; as well as YG 6.6 “Establish a positive image of rural areas”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

This example from practice may not directly touch some Youth Goals, but it certainly

- 24 connects young people with the values of the European Union and shows that the investment of European funds brings opportunities that probably would not be possible only from local (national) sources, thus contributing to Youth Goal #1.

GERMANY

Organiser of this good practice:

JugendPolitikBeratung (JPB) in cooperation with five federal ministries and four federal states

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/alle-meldungen/junge-menschen-entwickeln-ideen-fuer-die-zukunft-in-den-kohlerevieren-187134>

Contact for questions about this practice:

kom.kjb@stiftung-spi.de

Description & Success Factors

Fossil fuel phase-out has been decided. But what happens next in the affected regions? How can the structural change be shaped? In order to involve young people in this process and to take their views into account, the Planathon "Youth Shapes Structural Change" took place in Halle (Saale) from 12 to 14th November 2021. It was held within the framework of the Federal Government's Youth Strategy and financed by the Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Affairs. For three days, around 40 young people between the ages of 16 and 27 from Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia developed concrete ideas and proposals for solutions for the three coal-mining regions of the Rhineland, Central Germany and the Lusatia. The "Youth Shapes Structural Change"-Planathon is a new participation format. Young people develop creative, new ideas for the future of the coal regions and enter into a critical-constructive dialogue with experts from various federal ministries and the federal states. The event was organised jointly by several federal ministries and the four federal states of Brandenburg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony as well as Saxony-Anhalt - as part of the federal government's Youth Strategy. The event concept was the responsibility of the "JugendPolitikBeratung" project of Leuphana University Lüneburg. The Planathon "Youth Shapes Structural Change" is a format in which young people can exchange ideas with other young people in various working groups and develop creative, new ideas for the future of the coal region. Moderated and free working phases alternate. The Planathon enables creative work and a close exchange with other young people as well as a critical-constructive dialogue with experts from the federal states and federal ministries.

While the first morning of the Planathon focused on "looking at the big picture", the young people had time from the afternoon of the first day until the second day to develop solutions for the sticking points they had identified. The wealth of ideas

25 impressed both the experts and the participants themselves as well as the JPB team. Almost 600 ideas were collected on the moderation boards, from which 19 project sketches finally emerged, which were presented by the young people on Sunday afternoon in creative presentations. The ideas ranged from the conversion of coal-fired power plants into heat storage power plants, with which the existing infrastructure could be further utilised, to the construction of a research station or the building of conference hotels. The results were compiled in the youth report "Youth Shapes Structural Change". It was compiled by a youth editorial team formed from participants of the Planathon. In 2022, it was handed over to the responsible bodies at federal level and in the regions. In 2023, there will be another Planathon at federal level, and the federal states are planning regional events. In the future, young people want to network via a website and encourage their peers to participate.

The four federal states in which brown coal is still mined today are now faced with the task of implementing the cessation of coal mining step by step over the next 17 years and at the same time creating new perspectives for the coal regions with the support of the federal government. But this task cannot succeed without youth participation. After all, young people are the future founders of families, employees, entrepreneurs and political decision-makers and will therefore have to live with today's decisions and their consequences for the longest time. Therefore, young people must already be involved in today's political negotiation processes. Not least the climate decision of the Federal Constitutional Court in April 2021 has once again highlighted the importance of intergenerational justice. Therefore, a central aspiration of the Federal Government's Youth Strategy is the direct, visible and effective participation of young people. They must be involved in their concerns, especially in the process of structural change.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

The good practice contributes to YG 6.4 "Ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes". As described above, the Planathon is a participation format to include young people's visions and needs concerning the development of their home regions.

Connection to other Youth Goals

As the Planathon is specifically designed to get rural youth engaged in decision-making processes, it also contributes to Youth Goal #9 "space and participation for all".

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Six Austrian Youth Goals on the topic of rural youth

Organiser of this good practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend of the Austrian Federal Chancellery

26

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/jugend/besterreichische-jugendstrategie/jugendziele.html>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend
jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

There are currently 33 Austrian Youth Goals, contributing to exercising the Austrian Youth Strategy. The Austrian Youth Goals exist since September 2020 and are divided into four fields of action: education & employment, participation & engagement, quality of life & commonality and media and information. The individual Austrian Youth Goals are intended not only to contribute to these areas but also very specifically to the implementation of the European Youth Goals. Each Austrian Youth Goal is specifically categorised to also contribute to one or several European Youth Goals. What is special about the Austrian Youth Goals is that they were created as a common effort of all ministries, following a mainstreaming approach and recognising that each ministry must contribute towards achieving the Youth Goals. Besides involving all ministries, there were also young people involved in the process of creating these goals. In “reality checks” young people were able to express their needs regarding the separate goals and define how they feed into the European Youth Goals.

There are six Austrian Youth Goals contributing to the Implementation of European Youth Goal #6 “moving rural youth forward”. More infos on the specific Youth Goals can be found in the link provided.

PORTUGAL**Name of the good practice on the national level:**

Financial Incentives

Organiser of this good practice:

National government

Links to find out more about this practice:

[Jovens agricultores têm novos apoios disponíveis - XXI Governo - República Portuguesa \(portugal.gov.pt\)](https://portugal.gov.pt)

Contact for questions about this practice:

Portuguese Government

Description & Success Factors

This good practice example is extended to national territory, providing anyone between

27 18 and 40 the financial support to continue pursuing their agricultural production or activity. In this national initiative, the goal is to encourage the renewal and rejuvenation of agricultural companies and the agro-industrial production structure, boost the creation of value, innovation, food safety quality, increase the production of tradable goods and the internationalisation of the sector, ensure that investments are compatible with environmental and occupational health and safety standards.

There is a 15 million euros award for young farmers, based on the objective of rejuvenating the sector and agricultural enterprises as well as increasing the attractiveness of the sector to young people by promoting investment and market participation.

The first foundation for the establishment of this good practice was the financial investment made by the national government, allowing new investment opportunities and deals. This motivated young people who thrive in the primary sector to keep investing in their profession and skills, considering that the award available can be life-changing in this industry.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #6

This practice contributes to the YG 6.6 “Ensure the protection of rural traditions”; YG 6.3 “Ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities”; and YG 6.5 “Ensure that sustainable, high-quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also touches the Youth Goal #7 as these types of initiatives and incentives ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work.



Youth goal 7: Quality employment for all

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Job club for Youth Karlovac – Youth employment club

Organiser of this good practice:

CARPE DIEM – Organisation for encouraging and developing the creative and social potential of children, young people and adults

Links to find out more about this practice:

<http://www.jobclub.carpediem.hr/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

info@carpediem.hr

Description & success factors

Job Club for Youth - Karlovac is a project aimed at developing services for unemployed youth through gaining job search skills and additional knowledge required on the labour market. Within the project a job club for unemployed youth was established through which young people were provided with relevant job seeking skills.

Three trainers trained for employment work at the youth club. Young people go through intensive three-week trainings in eight cycles. The good practice example works with young people every day for two weeks, and the primary goal is to motivate them to either return to or join the labour market, to gain additional insight into the offers on the labour market with the help of a self-assessment and to acquire specific skills that will help them find employment more easily and quickly. Among other things, young people acquire the skills regarding writing a high-quality (both technical and content) resume, application, job search, additional development of their communication skills, personal branding, desirable behaviour at a job interview etc.

In each of the cycles within the club, an employer from Karlovac comes and describes the employment procedures in his company/profession to the young people, gives specific advice on writing CVs and how to deal with potential employers and performs several job interview simulation exercises with the young people. In this way, all participants, especially those without work experience, receive direct feedback and additional motivation to improve their presentation skills to employers.

29 Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

This example contributes to YG 7.4 “Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market” Through guided mentoring of persons who are specially trained to work with young people in the process of acquiring relevant skills for entering the labour market as well as with receiving immediate feedback from employers access to learning through practice is ensured for unemployed young people. Through this process young people are also encouraged to independently identify the skills they want to work on in the process of finding the job they want, thus adapting to changing trends in the labour market.

GERMANY**Name of the good practice on the local level:**

Youth Ticket Bremen

Organiser of this good practice:

Bremen Senate

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.senatspressestelle.bremen.de/pressemitteilungen/bremen-stimmt-jugendticket-zu-381097?asl=bremen02.c.732.de>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Ramona Ruf, Youth Council Bremen
ramona.ruf@bremerjugendring.de

Description & success factors

In their Youth Dialogue events the Youth Council Bremen continuously stressed the request for a youth ticket in Bremen. Finally, in March 2022 the Bremen Senate approved the financing of the so-called youth ticket. The youth ticket is designed for school children, trainees and for all those involved in the Federal Volunteer Service. The youth ticket is an important step for climate protection. It is explicitly valid not only in Bremen, but also in Bremerhaven and thus in the entire region for 360 euros a year. In addition to the climate policy component, this is also a socially important aspect. Overall, with this ticket the Bremen Senate has taken a big step forward in the project to sustainably reduce or even completely abolish ticket prices in public transport. They can accelerate the change in transport and offer young people a real alternative to the car. In addition, the youth ticket thus offers all young people affordable access to mobility. If trainees don't have to spend so much money just to reach the training company, it becomes more attractive to start dual training. At the same time, it is also a clear sign of appreciation for apprentices. The continuous pressure from youth organisations on politicians to introduce a youth ticket has been successful and has shown that dialogue

30 formats between youth and politics can have an effect.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

As described above, the introduction of the youth ticket in Bremen goes back among other things to the commitment of youth organisations in Bremen. Therefore, this good practice contributes to YG 7.6 “Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels.” The youth ticket also contributes to YG 7.3 “Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market” as it enables young people from lower income classes to travel to their workplace.

Connection to other Youth Goals

The youth ticket is also a contribution for a more sustainable future as it enables youth to use public transport instead of a car. Therefore, the practice can also be seen as a contribution to Youth Goal #10 “sustainable green Europe”.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Youth Employment Project Easy (Original: Jugend-Beschäftigungsprojekt easy)

Organiser of this good practice:

Caritas Salzburg

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.caritas-salzburg.at/hilfe-angebote/starthilfe-und-bildung/beschaeftigung-sprojekt-easy>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Mag.a Bettina Wippel
easy@caritas-salzburg.at

Description & success factors

Easy is a youth employment project based in the federal state of Salzburg, Austria. The project aims to enable young people (between the ages of 15 and 18 years old) to have low-threshold day-structuring employment with a daily payment of a performance allowance. Easy offers meaningful activities working with textiles and wood involving the young people in the creative process. Provided participants are not currently in full time education, employed, on training or otherwise involved in work projects.

Easy's offer is particularly aimed at young people who, for various reasons, have difficulties finding their way in structures or cannot (yet) gain a foothold in other youth employment projects or labour-market integrative courses. In most cases these young

31 adolescents face multidimensional difficulties such as no school qualifications, complex family relationships, psychological and social issues or serious personal crises which have so far prevented them from succeeding.

The project works with a social business model, partly financed through government funds, through donations and through the proceeds of selling the products produced by the young people working there. The target group of the project is often faced with immense difficulties entering the Austrian job market. The aim of the project is to offer young people a safe framework in which they have the opportunity to face new and different experiences where focus is on their own resources and skills and they are supported in all areas that are crucial for growth. The project is a success in offering first work experience in a structured and supportive environment. By being paid and creating something tangible with their own hands the young people experience self-efficacy.

Before restoring connections to further education or referral into corresponding institutions, Easy primarily focuses on building personal resilience and confidence to be able to advance into the employment market. Through the official certificates obtained in the project the participants can indicate work experience in their future endeavours on the job market.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The project contributes to YG 7.4 “Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market” by creating access to practical experience for young people otherwise excluded.

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #3 “inclusive societies” by specifically targeting young people with fewer opportunities

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Programa Empreende Jovem

Organiser of this good practice:

Fundação da Juventude and Porto Municipality

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.empreendejovem.pt/programa>

Contact for questions about this practice:

(+351) 223 393 530

info@empreendejovem.pt

32 Description & Success Factors

This partnership aims to mobilise a wide range of partners to promote entrepreneurship among young people in the City of Porto. The implementation of this programme for the promotion of youth employment and entrepreneurship aims to pursue the foundation's mission, which is embodied in the training and insertion of young people in adult and professional life, especially through the promotion and dissemination of projects and complementary training activities in the area of non-formal education, youth entrepreneurship, youth employability and the development of youth skills in general, namely through the role played by the foundation at the level of projects and activities with a local focus and that aim to significantly improve the social integration of young people in general, and especially of those with fewer opportunities. The initiatives are all destined for young people who seek to improve their curriculum, those who study in Porto and those who simply want to obtain information on the theme of youth entrepreneurship.

The tools that helped the good practice example to be established was the co-operation between different entities which developed different initiatives within the main project. Such cooperation allowed a large number of topics to be discussed and covered, ensuring the continuity of the programme.

The influence on young people is direct and pretty efficient as these young people can fill their curriculum with different activities and training, plus the network of contacts it allows them to build.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The project contributes to several targets of Youth Goal #7: YG 7.3 "Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market"; YG 7.4 "Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market"; YG 7.5 "Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education"; and YG 7.7 "Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work".

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also relates to Youth Goal #3 because it strengthens outreach of information to marginalised young people, to ensure they are aware of spaces, opportunities and experiences available to them.



33 GOOD PRACTICES ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

"From learning to knowledge - from knowledge to employment"

Organiser of this good practice:

Nova Gradiška Industrial Park

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.ipng.hr/portfolio-item/ucenjem-do-znanja-znanjem-do-zaposljavanja/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

info@ipng.hr

Description & success factors

The main goal of this project was to develop a system to support the sustainable employment of vulnerable groups on the labour market by investing in new knowledge and skills in accordance with local/regional needs and requirements. This project covers target groups from young people without work experience to women over 45 years of age and people with a low level of education.

The project is co-financed by the European Social Fund, which is implemented as part of the Effective Human Potential 2014-2020 Operational Program and the Call for Project Proposals of the Local Initiative to Encourage Employment - Phase III.

The project holder is Industrial Park Nova Gradiška d.o.o. for development and investment, and the partners are the Croatian Employment Service regional office Slavonski Brod, the Chamber of Crafts BPŽ and the Industrial Crafts School Nova Gradiška.

The project harmonized supply and demand on the labour market and increased the competitiveness of the economy and the quality of life in Brod-Posavina County by developing a system to support the sustainable employment of vulnerable groups. Through project activities, 74 unemployed members of vulnerable groups attended training and development projects and received certificates of completed education after completing the training. The target groups of this project, who attended training are the most vulnerable and long-term unemployed persons - young people without work experience, women over 45, people with a low level of education and people with intellectual disabilities. The participants of the mentioned categories completed the training and development programs for the following professions: welder - 5 participants, CNC metal processing - 24 participants, caregiver - 29 participants, basics of the German language - 9 participants.

The biggest success of this project was the development of a local and regional labour market partner network with a special emphasis on the employment of members of vulnerable groups, the design and development of the employment club,

34 which is a working group for vulnerable groups, five motivational workshops and nine employment clubs, 67 vulnerable members of the group completing the training and development programs, promotion and support for encouraging the employment of vulnerable groups.

The success of this example of good practice lies in high-quality cross-sectoral cooperation at the regional level, where this project includes all relevant stakeholders of the labour market in the implementation of the project, thus harmonising the connection between need and demand on the market in real time. Also, the region where this project took place was among the least developed counties according to the National Development Index, which is why the need and demand for this type of activity was more than welcomed and visible to the public.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

This project contributes to YG 7.4 “Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market”; and YG 7.5 “Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education”.

Connection to other Youth Goals

Since this project is being implemented in an underdeveloped rural area, it also touches upon Youth Goal #6 “moving rural youth forward”, with these specific targets in mind: “ensure that sustainable, high-quality jobs, accessible to young people are created in rural areas” ;

“ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities”

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

No Graduation without Follow-up - Transition from School to Work in NRW

Organiser of this good practice:

North Rhine-Westphalia

Links to find out more about this practice:

[*Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss - Nordrhein-Westfalen stärkt den Übergang in Ausbildung und Studium | Arbeit.Gesundheit.Soziales \(mags.nrw\)*](#)

Description & Success Factors

"Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss" (KAoA)/ No Graduation without Follow-up - with this goal, North Rhine-Westphalia is organising the transition from school to vocational training and higher education. The federal initiative ensures that young people receive

35 support at an early stage with vocational orientation, career choice decisions and putting the entry into vocational training or study in practice. The aim is to offer all young people a follow-up perspective for vocational training or study as quickly as possible after leaving school and to avoid unnecessary waiting loops through effective coordination.

Young people and their parents receive sustainable support on their way into the world of work. Due to the school closures, not all offers concerning the transition from school to vocational training or study could be carried out nationwide. During this time, the municipal coordination offices developed alternative formats of career guidance on site and used the possibilities of digitalisation. Synchronously the Ministry of Education of North-Rhine-Westphalia developed and distributed a large spectrum of digital and hybrid offers, including virtual reality formats and serious games, to ensure that the process of vocational orientation could be adhered to. The North Rhine-Westphalian federal initiative "Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss" (KAoA) concentrates on four focal points / fields of action and offers specific and targeted services:

1. Vocational orientation at school
2. Offers and measures to support the transition from school to work
3. Increase the attractiveness of dual vocational training
4. Municipal coordination - bundling activities locally

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The good practice contributes to YG 7.4 "Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market" as it is specifically designed to support young people in the transition from school to the labour market.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Rückenwind

Organiser of this good practice:

Arbeiterkammer Tirol; Verein CUBIC - Kultur und Bildung im Context

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://cubic-online.eu/projekte/rueckenwind>

Contact for questions about this practice:

office@cubic-online.eu

Description & Success Factors

The project targets young people having difficulties looking for a job, disorientation, and no prospects and aims at giving them a tailwind to bring them forward. Rückenwind

36 is an EU-funded project (European Solidarity Corps) of the association CUBIC-Cultur & Bildung im Context in cooperation with the Tyrolean Chamber of Labor and many European organizations and partners from England, Estonia, Finland, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Hungary and other countries. The project targets all young Tyroleans between the ages of 18 and 30 who are looking for professional orientation, are in a phase of upheaval or are taking a break and would like to gain important experience abroad for their future. The aim is to motivate young people to take control of their lives and create opportunities and perspectives together. The focus is on the development and consolidation of personal and social skills. The intercultural exchange in the various projects abroad enables numerous new learning experiences, creates unforgettable experiences and gives new strength and motivation to develop personal future goals. No previous knowledge is required and there are no costs for the participants. All young participants are continuously coached and professionally supported.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The project contributes to YG 7.4 “Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market” by creating access to practical experience for young people

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #1 “connecting the EU with youth” by sending young people abroad to other EU countries; and Youth Goal #3 “inclusive societies” by making practical experiences abroad accessible to all young people

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

eJovem - Programa Empreender Jovem

Organiser of this good practice:

Madeira’s institute for employment

Links to find out more about this practice:

Newsletter_2022_v18032022 (madeira.gov.pt)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 291 145 740

Description & Success Factors

“Empreender Jovem” is a project developed in Madeira and seeks to motivate and inform unemployed youngsters providing them theoretic training on diverse themes and

37 financial support to presented projects.

The main goal is to turn their ideas and ambitions into business projects as well as implement them. It is co-financed by Madeira's operational programme and the European Social Fund. It involves young people with ages ranging from 18 to 29. It has two different initiatives within the project, one that seeks to provide 180 hours of training and another one that provides support for the creation of employment opportunities. The regional plan for employment (in which this project is a part of) has decreased the number of unemployed people by 28% from 2020 to 2021.

The regional plan in which this good practice is incorporated is now in its fifth edition. The main goals consist of growing employability, ensuring the improvement of regional workforce skills plus an efficient, just and inclusive labour-market. With the continuous consultations with European guidelines, meetings with civil society and interest in investing in the regional youth, this programme has been successful in including those who haven't found their careers or work opportunities yet and provided them with the information necessary to improve their skills or enter the labour market. The results speak for themselves - since 2020 due to the plan 8275 people were capable of integrating into the labour market, 3906 people benefited from intervention, training or professional guidance and 580 people were forwarded into vocational training.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The project contributes to several targets of Youth Goal # 7: YG 7.3 "Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market"; YG 7.4 "Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market"; YG 7.5 "Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education"; YG 7.6 "Ensure involvement of young people and youth organisations as equal partners in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies at all levels"; as well as YG 7.7 "Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work".

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also includes Youth Goal #8 because it ensures that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels that is recognised and validated.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

National active labour market policy - employment support for gaining first work experience/traineeship

Organiser of this good practice:

Croatian Employment Service

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://mjere.hr/katalog-mjera/potpora-za-pripravnstvo/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

koresskovic@mmh.hr

Description & Success Factors

After a decade of existence, as of 1st January 2020, the professional training measure for work without establishing an employment relationship (SOR) in Croatia was abolished and the traineeship measure was introduced. SOR beneficiaries received financial assistance and, for example, did not have the right to paid sick-leave, while traineeship beneficiaries now receive a salary according to the level of education and the complexity of the work they perform and have material and other rights from the collective agreement.

The goal of the traineeship measure is to train people for independent work by encouraging the employment of people by co-financing the cost of their gross salary and other costs to employers. It is intended for young people to gain their first work experience.

As a rule, trainee training (traineeship) lasts no longer than one year, unless otherwise determined by a special law in order to obtain the conditions for taking the (traineeship) exam in that profession, but in any case the trainee cannot be co-financed by this measure for the duration longer than 24 months. The traineeship measure can be used in both the private and public sectors. The traineeship measure provided young people with a decent salary for their work as well as with improved conditions for entering the labour-market. In addition, it enabled young people who need work experience in order to take professional exams related to their formal education to get the necessary experience while getting decently paid and having fair working conditions.

By being employed through a traineeship, young people achieve the economic and social security they need for self-actualization and further development. Special criteria have been introduced for employers who can exercise the right to financial support for obtaining trainees in order to prevent abuse of the traineeship measure and the exploitation of young labour. In addition, the upper limit for the salary in the

- 39 position of trainee was abolished, so that half of the salary of a trainee is co-financed by the state, regardless of its amount. Furthermore, the law stipulates that the trainee's salary amounts to 85 % of the salary at the workplace for which he is employed and there is an employer's obligation to provide a mentor who will guide the trainee through adaptation to the first work experience.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

This practice contributes to YG 7.1 “Create quality jobs which guarantee fair working conditions, working rights and the right of living wage for all young people”; YG 7.2 “Safeguard social protection and healthcare for all young workers”; YG 7.4 “Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market”; and YG 7.5 “Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education”.

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Alliance for vocational education and further training

Organiser of this good practice:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action as lead partner, together with federal actors, the federal states, the economy and trade union

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.aus-und-weiterbildungsallianz.de>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, buero-viib6@bmwk.bund.de

Description & Success Factors

In principle, the Alliance pursues the goal of bringing as many people as possible to a qualified vocational qualification. In-company training has clear priority. The Alliance is also committed to strengthening vocational education and training as a practical backbone for securing skilled labour and as an equal alternative to academic education. The Alliance partners want to jointly promote dual training, highlight its diverse development and career opportunities and publicise the possibilities for support more strongly.

The partners of the Alliance have agreed on the following central fields of action:

- Bringing more companies and young people together and keeping them in training.
- Further increase the attractiveness and quality of dual training; jointly promote

40

vocational training.

- Strengthen continuing vocational education and training and promote higher qualifications/higher vocational education and training.

The Alliance partners develop measures, instruments, actions etc., both individually and jointly.

A new Alliance agreement is currently being drafted with the partners, in which an important point will be the improved transition of young people from school to training.

On 17th March 2021, the partners of the Alliance adopted measures to further support dual training under the currently difficult framework conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. With a "Joint Action to Strengthen Training Companies and Young People in the pandemic", the Alliance partners advocate the expansion of digital vocational orientation. In addition, the Alliance partners join the call of the crafts organisation to initiate a "Summer of Vocational Training" in order to promote in-company training more strongly, especially among young people. This "Summer", i.e. the same public relations work of all Alliance partners, will go into the third round in 2023, as it has proven to be very successful.

Part of this joint action was also the extension and further development of the federal programme "Securing apprenticeship places". The corresponding two funding guidelines of the federal programme were adopted by the federal cabinet on the same day. This was an important signal to the skilled crafts enterprises to continue their commitment to training despite difficult framework conditions and to secure the urgently needed next generation of skilled workers.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The Alliance contributes to achieving YG 7. "Ensure equal access to good information and appropriate support services to prepare young people for the changing labour market and the future of work" as it aims to get as many people as possible to a qualified vocational qualification. During the Corona pandemic, the Alliance was also very active in bringing together and supporting apprentices and companies with actions and information.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Four Austrian Youth Goals on the topic of quality employment

Organiser of this good practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend of the Austrian Federal Chancellery

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/jugend/besterreichische-jugendstrategie/jugendziele.html>

41 Contact for questions about this practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend
jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

There are currently 33 Austrian Youth Goals, contributing to exercising the Austrian Youth Strategy. The Austrian Youth Goals exist since September 2020 and are divided into four fields of action: education & employment, participation & engagement, quality of life & commonality and media and information. The individual Austrian Youth Goals are intended not only to contribute to these areas but also very specifically to the implementation of the European Youth Goals. Each Austrian Youth Goals is specifically categorised to also contribute to one or several European Youth Goals. What is special about the Austrian Youth Goals is that they were created as a common effort of all ministries, following a mainstreaming approach and recognising that each ministry must contribute towards achieving the Youth Goals. Besides involving all ministries, there were also young people involved in the process of creating these goals. In “reality checks” young people were able to express their needs regarding the separate goals and define how they feed into the European Youth Goals.

There are four Austrian Youth Goals contributing to the Implementation of European Youth Goal #7 “quality employment”. More information on the specific Youth Goals can be found in the link provided.

PORTUGAL**Name of the good practice on the national level:**

Emprego Jovem Ativo

Organiser of this good practice:

National Institute for employability and professional development

Links to find out more about this practice:

[*Emprego Jovem Ativo - IEFP Portugal*](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 300 010 001
+351 215 803 555
iefp.info@iefp.pt

Description & Success Factors

The national institute for employment and professional development has developed a project which consists of a set of practical experiences in the workplace for those young people disadvantaged in terms of qualifications and employability. It brings together three of these young people and one who is qualified in order to improve their con-

42 ditions of socio-professional integration. The project covers the ages between 18 and 29 who are unemployed and unskilled or academically qualified. The parties involved consist of legal entities of a public or private, profit-making or non-profit-making nature.

The good practice has allowed those who did not have the same academic opportunities to improve their skills and curriculum through real work experience, lifting their chances to score a good job in decent conditions. The factor that may contribute to the efficiency and success of this practice is the financial support given to those entities of a public or private, profit-making or non-profit-making nature to receive and train these young people plus the financial support given to them in order to support expenses during their six month-experience.

The results have been very positive for young people, their communities and even the entities that may draw a contract to those who stood out and learned to operate according to the entities' standards.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #7

The project contributes to several targets of Youth Goal #7: YG 7.3 "Guarantee fair treatment and equal opportunities for all young people in order to end discrimination in the labour market"; YG 7.4 "Ensure equal opportunities for all young people to develop the necessary skills and gain practical experience in order to smoothen the transition from education to the labour market"; YG 7.5 "Guarantee the recognition and validation of competencies acquired through internships, apprenticeships and other forms of work-based learning, as well as volunteering and non-formal education"; as well as YG 7.7 "Ensure equal access to quality information and adequate support mechanisms to prepare young people for the changing labour market and future of work"

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also includes Youth Goal #8 because it ensures that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels that is recognised and validated.



Youth goal 8: Quality learning

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Take Action!

Organiser of this good practice:

Association Delta, Rijeka, Croatia

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://udruga-delta.hr/Projekti/Akcija-za-5>

Contact for questions about this practice:

delta@udruga-delta.hr

Description & success factors

“Take Action!” aims to provide young people between the ages of 14 and 19 with the opportunity to develop necessary skills for active participation in decision-making processes at the local level. The purpose of the programme is to increase active participation of young people at the local level and develop cooperation between young people and institutions that young people often do not trust or that seem abstract or foreign to them. For this purpose, a series of activities have been designed to empower different stakeholders. Within the programme young people between the ages of 14 and 19 take over the municipality and simulate the work of the City Council for one day (from project preparation, debate, and voting). Only one group of high school students wins, and in the period following this central activity, they implement their project with the budget of 665 euros provided by the City of Rijeka. In terms of content, the programme deals with the recommendations resulting from the Structured Dialogue process, while the topic is agreed upon in collaboration with the members of the Youth Council of the City of Rijeka (the topic is different every year).

The programme has been continuously implemented since 2005 and it changes and adapts to the current socio-political situation and trends among young people and the local community every year. Association Delta has been implementing this programme for years as an active multiplier organisation of Youth Dialogue and an active contributor to the mentioned Youth Goal. This example from practice is certainly this successful because of the continuous support from the City of Rijeka and the local

- 44 government, but even more important is the persistence and quality of work of the Association's employees, their continuous work on active citizenship among young people, their political literacy and the value they see in participation of young people in decision-making processes.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

- “guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and lifelong learning”;
- “ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated”;
- “promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and inter-cultural skills”;
- “ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy, and human rights, attained also through”; “community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation”

Connection to other Youth Goals

Although this practice could fit into many other Youth Goals (especially Youth Goal #3 and Youth Goal #4) because the topics change and adapt to the needs of young people, this practice really contributes the most to Youth Goal #9.

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the local level:

DemokratieWerkStadt

Organiser of this good practice:

City Youth Council Kempten

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.stadtjugendring-kempten.de/demokratiewerkstadt.html>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Alexander Haag
haag@sjr-kempten.de

Description & Success Factors

The Bavarian Youth Council (BJR) supports projects that deal with the effects and challenges of demographic change and, against this background, help young people to actively shape the world in which they live. Young people today are growing up in a society that is becoming increasingly older and more colourful. As a provider of non-formal youth education, it is a matter of course for the City Youth Council Kempten to deal with issues such as diversity and democracy. With the project "DemokratieWerkStadt" they want to emphasise the importance of youth participation - especially

45 in the context of intergenerational justice.

The vision of the project is to inspire young people in the City of Kempten for democracy and to enable them to know and use their opportunities for political co-determination. Because democracy is a learning process that can be fun as well as make self-efficacy tangible like no other.

One of the project focuses of "DemokratieWerkStadt" is currently a video podcast on political youth education. Furthermore, various activities were planned around the 2021 federal elections, e.g. the U18 election and an election party.

There are different levels of impact in the project. First of all, there is the internal impact. The person responsible for the overall organisation of the project is involved in an overall control/resonance group in the youth policy area (composed by board members, management, staff of the City Youth Council) and thus has access to key processes. Therefore the project is located in the management and not just any peripheral project that takes place somewhere and is over again after two years. The steering group deals with the topics of democracy and culture of remembrance and youth participation.

Secondly, the project office regularly comes up with temporary project ideas to become more visible. For this, it has to find majorities: through young people (from open youth work) or other stakeholders. In this context, a youth reporter team was created which has given rise to youth policy podcasts. By becoming a youth reporter, the participants not only have fun and gain technical skills and media competence but also come to political understanding. In order to also reach young people with fewer opportunities to participate (e.g. no right of residence) the project created an event called "Meet the World" where e.g. young refugees become visible and heard through surveys and interviews. This way, this group of young people can get empowered and participate.

Through talks with political decision-makers at the municipal level (e.g. visits to the parliamentary group of the city parliament) where youth policy demands are then discussed, the project also has impact on the political level. The City of Kempten has also founded a youth forum where close connections are sought and practised. Here the project worker puts topics on the agenda in consultation with the young participants of the project.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

The project "DemokratieWerkStadt" contributes to the specific target "ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation." The project shows that politics can be fun and that one can get involved in democracy even as a young person.

Connection to other Youth Goals

As the project gets young people in touch with politicians and empowers young refugees to get their voices heard, it also contributes to Youth Goal #9 "space and participation for all".

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Uniclub

Organiser of this good practice:

University of Vienna

Links to find out more about this practice:

Official website: <https://uniclub.at/>

Short movie in english: <https://multininclude.eu/2019/10/28/uniclub-supporting-young-refugees-in-austrian-educational-system/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

info@uniclub.at

Description & Success Factors

Young people with a migrant or refugee background are hugely underrepresented in Austria's higher education system. The goal of UniClub is to support these young people in pursuing a future university career. Young people between 13 and 19 years of age that are currently enrolled in a school that finishes with A-levels whose first language is not German and who want to study at a university in future can enrol in UniClub. At UniClub the young participants get study support in all subjects (in groups or with a personal buddy), they have a chance to meet students and get a glimpse into the academic world. They usually enter UniClub at 13 to 15 years and stay until they finish high school and possibly start to study. They are supervised throughout the whole process. Through several years of mentoring, supervision, study support and direct contact with the university environment the project enables young people with a migrant or refugee background to enter and succeed in the higher education system thus contributing to a more equal representation in Austria's higher education.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

Youth Goal # 8.4 "create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centred methods in every step of the education process" through direct supervision, long-term knowledge building, networking for the future, peer-learning, etc.

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #3 "inclusive societies" by supporting young people with fewer opportunities in gaining access to higher education



47 PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Atreve-te - Um desafio para a igualdade

Organiser of this good practice:

Sê Mais Sê Melhor

Links to find out more about this practice:

[Sê Mais Sê Melhor - Atreve-te - Um Desafio para a Igualdade \(semaissemelhor.org\)](http://semaissemelhor.org)

Contact for questions about this practice:

cmaiscmelhor@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

Faro's local association "Sê Mais Sê Melhor" alongside their many initiatives has developed one that seeks to raise awareness on equality, violence and discrimination issues with the addition of supporting local equality and non-discrimination policies and initiatives. In this context, "Sê Mais Sê Melhor" is part of the equality working group of Faro's Local Council for Social Action.

Despite the impact of policies developed by them, they have been able to gather large and diverse groups of young people and motivate them to collaborate with local authorities to improve education and safety.

This association has been involving young people in awareness-campaigns and has guided them to understand policies, and how to influence them and this good practice is an example of that. It has been able to create educational processes through personalised events and has guaranteed local youth education on matters that are often left behind in the priorities of the school's educational programme or tabus at home. What helps the good practice to be effective is the environment in which it is developed - young people working with young people for young people.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

- "guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and life-long learning" ;
- "ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated" ;
- "promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and inter-cultural skills" ;
- "guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education including sexual and reproductive health" ;
- "ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation"

Connection to other Youth Goals

- 48 It also goes with Youth Goals #3 and #2 because it provides more spaces, opportunities, resources and programmes to foster dialogue and social cohesion, combat discrimination and segregation and ensures equal access to formal and non-formal education and that the design of education systems follows gender-sensitive approaches.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Summer School of Art and Activism

Organiser of this good practice:

Association Domino

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://thisisadominoproject.org/programi/ljetna-skola-umjetnosti-i-aktivizma/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

udrugadomino@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

The Summer School of Art and Activism gathers around 15 young artists and activists from Croatia and the region every year for a seven-day educational program that includes fieldwork and visits to relevant organizations and institutions in Istria as well as lectures and workshops with various experts in the field of human and civil rights. The education covers methods of contextualizing engaged artistic performance, connecting activism and art, mobilizing the wider community, creating actions and happenings (art and activism in public space), creating common platforms, public advocacy, producing new initiatives and other skills and topics relevant to the current social context. It is important to note that all participants are selected through an open call.

The Summer School of Art and Activism is attractive to young people because it covers very interesting topics from a spectrum that is not so common, it goes to the core of a very specific topic that is very interesting to young people. They offer quality content and female experts who deliver the content in an interesting way.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

“create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centred methods in every step of the education process” ;

“incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity,

49 and learning”

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

JUGEND PRÄGT

Organiser of this good practice:

State Youth Council of Thuringia

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.jugendpraegt.de/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Laura Wüstefeld

wuestefeld@ljrt-online.de

Description & Success Factors

The project JUGEND PRÄGT is funded as part of the federal programme "Demokratie leben!" and as part of the state programme "denk bunt" and started in April 2020.

JUGEND PRÄGT is a platform for political education and focus on Thuringia. The project supports young people (core target group 12 - 27 years) in understanding democracy and shows them how they can become active themselves. The key message is: democracy / politics does not have to be complicated! For this reason, the project also pursues the goal of having a low-threshold. The project works digitally and analogue and thus reaches young people in their different life worlds. Another target group are (educational) professionals / multipliers. They are supported in terms of content and methodology, e.g. through educational materials, so that they can work on the topic of democracy with their youth groups without much effort. All contents of JUGEND PRÄGT are freely available and can be used for educational work in and out of school.

Why does the project exist? Democracy has to be learned anew by every generation. It is often taken for granted, but at the same time 37 percent of Thuringians express dissatisfaction and scepticism towards democracy (see Monitor of Thuringia 2019). For this reason, it is important to start democracy education with young people. JUGEND PRÄGT stands for neutral, non-partisan political education. But the project is not neutral when it comes to the basic values of democracy.

Digital and analogue worlds are not opposites. Especially education for democracy can always take place everywhere. What is important is that digital and analogue educational offers have to complement each other in a meaningful way. This was particularly relevant during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the project was able to continue its work almost without restrictions. JUGEND PRÄGT has different formats:

- digital: Instagram, website, YouTube channel with explainer videos (short, simple explanation) and influencer videos (longer, more sophisticated)

50

- analogue: micro-project funding (promotion of local project ideas of young people) with pedagogical support

Thuringia-wide implementation of free workshops; shorter workshops are - if necessary (for example due to Corona) - carried out digitally.

Due to the versatile formats, different types of young people can be addressed or preferences can be served - some prefer to watch a video, others get active in a micro-project etc. In the social networks as well as on the website, the simplest possible explanations are used and the language is oriented towards young people. For example, emojis are always used and the aim is to keep all texts as short as possible. Current issues are addressed, but also the basics of democracy. Every year there is an annual theme (2020: participation, 2021: sustainability, 2022: diversity). In this way, each topic can be looked at in a multi-layered way and from different perspectives and there is more structure. In this way, the project does not get lost in the vastness of the topic and there is a recognisable thread.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

JUGEND PRÄGT is a platform for political education for young people. JUGEND PRÄGT supports young people in understanding democracy and shows how they can become active themselves. With different formats to do so (see above) the project “JUGEND PRÄGT” contributes to the specific target “ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.”

Connection to other Youth Goals

Depending on the focus topic in the project (2020: participation, 2021: sustainability, 2022: diversity) the project also contributes to the Youth Goals #9 “space and participation for all”, #10 “sustainable green Europe” and #3 “inclusive societies”.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

aha plus Volunteering Certificate – aha plus Engagement-Nachweis

Organiser of this good practice:

aha – Jugendinformationszentrum Vorarlberg – aha – Youth Information Centre Vorarlberg

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.aha.or.at/aha-plus-nachweis>

Contact for questions about this practice:

aha@aha.or.at

51 Description & Success Factors

aha plus with its Volunteering Certificate is an initiative of the federal state of Vorarlberg. aha plus is a digital platform where young people can find offers and possibilities for volunteering (“quests”). On the one hand, organisations can create quests on the platform and find young volunteers for their projects and initiatives. On the other hand, young people can use the tool to find volunteering offers. The activities offered tackle a diverse range of topics, such as sustainability, intergenerational work, and many other issues. The activities take place in real or in virtual space and can last for a longer period or are organised just once.

After completing a voluntary work (or a “quest”), the participants receive points. Once they accumulate enough points, they can decide to exchange them for rewards (e.g., a cinema ticket, a job shadowing in a well-known company) or to donate them to a non-profit organisation.

With the aha plus certificate, young people receive a document that details their voluntary work for different initiatives and projects as well as the experience gained through it. The certificate automatically links the volunteer work with different competences. It can be used to support an application for a job or further education.

The aha plus Volunteering Certificate also contributes to raising the visibility and recognition of competences acquired in non-formal and informal learning settings.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

Youth Goal # 8.2 “ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated”

PORTUGAL**Name of the good practice on the regional level:**

Extracurricular activities school programme

Organiser of this good practice:

Açores Island Government

Links to find out more about this practice:

[*Regional Government creates programme for development of extracurricular activities - Communication - Portal \(azores.gov.pt\)*](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 800 500 501

Description & Success Factors

The Regional Secretary for Education announced the creation of a programme for the development of extracurricular activities in partnership with local entities to enhance the skills of each student and promote their success. This programme counts a budget

52 of 300.000 euros to support the individuals and entities involved throughout the region. They will not only promote culture, but also the psychic and motor development of students, or might even complement their studies.

This good practice example is recent, it has been announced in April of this year and is yet to be implemented, however, it has all the capacities to effectively and positively impact the students of the region and hopefully spread through national territory.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

“guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and life-long learning” ;

“promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills” ;

“incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning”

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Youth studies for young people

Organiser of this good practice:

Croatian Youth Network

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://studiji.mystrikingly.com/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

nfo@mmh.hr

Description & Success Factors

Studies on young people for young people is an educational program intended to inform, educate, and empower young activists. The Study on Youth for Youth program aims to encourage young people to take responsibility in their community and to engage in participatory processes of democracy, to encourage the use of research methodology that will help young people in recognizing, analysing and articulating the needs and problems of young people and advocating sustainable solutions. Also, it wants to encourage young people to think critically about certain methods, techniques and possibilities of action in the community with an impact on the development of policies for youth and positive social changes and to encourage concrete application of knowledge in the community. The studies consist of an intensive multi-month educa-

53 tional program based on participatory and experiential learning with the acquisition of skills and knowledge in the field of working with young people, contributing to social change and youth policies.

Given that the study program extends over several months and that participants are expected to continuously engage and participate, it is important to clarify what the implementation of the study looks like in practice. All three program modules have a clearly developed theoretical framework and will be implemented according to the planned schedule. It is important to emphasize that, regardless of the structure, the modules always retain flexibility in implementation in order to ensure adaptation to the dynamics of the group and the needs of the participants. The methodology used in the studies is based on participatory learning, an interactive approach, encouraging the creative exchange of theoretical and practical approaches, encouraging cooperation and networking as well as the development of practical knowledge and skills. The methodology and youth-friendly approach that was used is an important feature of this program. The educational process starts from the fact that every student is equal and contributes to learning with her or his motivation and experience.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

“guarantee universal and equal access to quality education and lifelong learning” ;

“ensure that all young people have access to adequately funded non-formal education at all levels, that is recognised and validated” ;

“promote open-mindedness and support the development of interpersonal and intercultural skills” ;

“create and implement more personalised, participative, and cooperative learner-centred methods in every step of the education process”

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the national level:

U18 – campaign to vote under the age of 18

Organiser of this good practice:

German National Youth Council

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.u18.org/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Julia Riedel

julia.riedel@dbjr.de

Description & Success Factors

U18 elections have always been held nine days before an official election date since the first time in 1996. The pre-election period is used for the federal election, European

54 election, state election and so on. Children and young people deal with the political events and make an election decision for themselves. ALL minors residing in Germany, without exception, can participate. U18 polling stations should be open and freely accessible; in principle, they can be set up wherever children and young people are.

In the run-up to U18 elections, there are various civic education activities. The methods and dimension of the activities depend in each case on the possibilities of the polling stations, the state coordination offices, local funding opportunities and the motivation of the children and young people themselves. The compulsory part of each registered polling station is in principle limited to providing rooms, ballot boxes, ballot papers (a template for this is available) and voting booths. It also includes counting and entering the results into an online tool. Basically, children and young people are supported in their preparation for U18 to form an opinion. They can learn to understand the democratic system, recognize differences in the parties and election programs, decipher political contradictions themselves, introduce issues themselves and create publicity.

Coordination offices at the regional, state and national level provide material on party content, suggested methods and information material for public relations work, which can help as an inspiration and source in political education projects. Because this preparation for election day and the examination of the election is the core of U18, facilitators and supervisors of U18 projects should be politically neutral. An organization by parties or by the youth parliamentary groups is explicitly excluded.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

The U18 campaign specifically contributes to the sub-goal “ensure that young people have access to citizenship education to provide them with solid knowledge on political systems, democracy and human rights, attained also through community-based experiences in order to promote active civil participation.” Far too rarely are there opportunities to raise young issues, to generate public pressure to engage with youth and to confront politicians. U18 is such an opportunity. Shortly before elections, public interest in the actions and promises of candidates, election programs and political events is at its peak. Political opinions, visions for the future, and values are aligned - the discussion moves to the center of attention. This is precisely the moment when children and young people can make a statement about where their political priorities, questions and hopes lie as a young generation.

Connection to other Youth Goals

The U18 campaign also touches Youth Goal #9 “space and participation for all”. It strengthens young people’s democratic participation and autonomy as well as provides dedicated youth spaces for participation.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

55 Eight Austrian youth goals on the topic of education

Organiser of this good practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend of the Austrian Federal Chancellery

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/jugend/oesterreichische-jugendstrategie/jugendziele.html>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend
jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

There are currently 33 Austrian Youth Goals, contributing to exercising the Austrian Youth Strategy. The Austrian Youth Goals exist since September 2020 and are divided into four fields of action: education & employment, participation & engagement, quality of life & commonality and media and information. The individual Austrian youth goals are intended not only to contribute to these areas but also very specifically to the implementation of the European Youth Goals. Each Austrian Youth Goals is specifically categorised to also contribute to one or several European Youth Goals. What is special about the Austrian Youth Goals is that they were created as a common effort of all ministries, following a mainstreaming approach and recognising that each ministry must contribute towards achieving the Youth Goals. Besides involving all ministries, there were also young people involved in the process of creating these goals. In “reality checks” young people were able to express their needs regarding the separate goals and define how they feed into the European Youth Goals.

There are eight Austrian Youth Goals contributing to the Implementation of European Youth Goal #8 “quality learning”. More infos on the specific Youth Goals can be found in the link provided.

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the national level:

National Plan for Financial literacy

Organiser of this good practice:

National Council of Financial supervisor

Links to find out more about this practice:

[plano_nacional_educacao_financeira_2016_2020.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

56

+351 213 934 500
dge@dge.mec.pt

Description & Success Factors

The National Plan for Financial Literacy aims to contribute to raising the level of financial knowledge and promote the adoption of appropriate financial behaviour through an integrated vision of financial training projects and by joining the efforts of stakeholders, contributing to increasing the population's well-being and the stability of the financial system. Prepared by the Directorate-General for Education in collaboration with financial supervisors, this programme was accredited by the Conselho Científico-Pedagógico Council for Continuous Training in the form of a training workshop.

The first thing to point out when it comes to the reasons why this is a good practice is how specific each programme was designed to be, containing adequate content for each age group.

The need for this type of educational program is huge, the majority of the adult population has very little knowledge of financial matters let alone young people. In order to motivate schools to join such practices, the programme also launched the contest "Todos Contam" (= everyone counts) which aims to annually reward the best financial education initiatives in primary and secondary schools in addition to high schools.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #8

"guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education including sexual and reproductive health";

"incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity and learning"

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also goes with Youth Goal #4 because it ensures easy access to understandable youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards.



Youth goal 9: Spaces and Participation for All

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Pop-up socio-cultural centres in places affected by the earthquake

Organiser of this good practice:

IKS youth organisation

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://udrugaiks.hr/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

iks@udrugaiks.hr

Description & success factors

POP-UP DKC (Pop-Up Social Cultural Centre) is an initiative aimed at developing social innovation in the field of social and cultural centers. The concept is focused on bringing young people together in Petrinja, who have been affected by the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, and empowering them to become active citizens and organizers of positive change in their communities. The center is designed as a pop-up location, which will move around the city center and outskirts depending on the theme and activity. The goal is to make POP-UP DKC a model of good practice that can be applied in other local communities, particularly those facing the consequences of natural disasters. Furthermore, the aim of POP UP DKC is to bring young people together and engage them in social and cultural activities in their community, to empower them as active citizens and organizers of positive change.

POP UP DKC was developed as part of the Social Innovators program, led by the Youth Initiative for Human Rights in Croatia. The concept was tested in Petrinja and Sisak in collaboration with IKS employees and volunteers, the coordination of Sisak Youth Associations and the Alternation Association, with inputs from young people in the local community. After the initial testing and a successful crowdfunding campaign to purchase equipment necessary for the implementation of social and cultural programs in the earthquake-affected area, the IKS Association continued its collaboration with active youth in the Youth Club Skwhat in Sisak. Project proposals have also been submitted.

58

The purpose of the first official POP-UP Social Cultural Centre project was to get young people in the affected area, who are feeling disheartened by the aftermath of the earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic, involved in cultural and social activities in their community. The goal was to empower them to be able to organize similar activities independently after the project has ended. According to the latter the project envisioned the implementation of the following activities: exhibitions by young, up-and-coming artists, film-education evenings, musical performances by young, undiscovered musicians, community performances, street art workshops, forgotten games workshops, an information booth with information about opportunities for young people and a harm reduction program.

Additionally, another POP UP DKC project has been created in the field of independent culture and was implemented during 2022. The aim of this project was to provide insights to the young people and the entire community about good practices and quality programs from the independent cultural scene primarily in the City of Zagreb, so that they can develop critical thinking about art and culture and get exposure to new and innovative ways of engaging in these areas. IKS Association believed that the development of different forms of art and culture in the Sisak-Moslavina county is of immense importance, primarily for restoring hope in a better future for our community and to prevent further emigration, especially among young people. In collaboration with the mentioned partner organizations that operate within the Skwhat Youth Club in Sisak, the work of the “sections” within the Skwhat Youth Club (which are closely related to the independent cultural areas covered by this project) was presented during the implementation of the project activities. Young artists from Sisak-Moslavina county were also presented in the context of this project.

Together, all of the mentioned associations will continue to work on developing new proposals and concepts closely tied to the initial idea of the POP-UP Social Cultural Centre and will take the responsibility for empowering young people to act in the field of independent culture even after the above mentioned projects are completed.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

“ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education” through the development of affordable and available opportunities for the participation of young people in crisis situations through informal and non-formal education, workshops and other youth work activities;

“provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation” because the Social and Cultural Centre run by the IKS Association is in the form of a temporary container that is used for the work of the association, but also as a space for organizing activities by young people, the foundation of the centre's management is participatory for young people, so young people participate in creating the centre's rules, programs, and strategic direction.

59

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #8 “quality learning” and “incorporate methods within formal and non-formal education settings that enable the learner to develop personal skills including critical and analytical thinking, creativity, and learning” through POP UP activities – educational movie watching, harm reduction programs.

Youth Goal #6 “moving rural youth forward” and “ensure the decentralisation of different activities by, for and with young people in order to support their inclusion and to benefit local communities” through organising activities in earthquake-affected area, which is also highly underdeveloped and poor.

Youth Goal #5 “mental health and wellbeing” and “fight stigma about mental health issues by developing awareness programmes” through harm reduction programs within the POP-UP workshops.

GERMANY**Name of the good practice on the local level:**

Children and Youth Parliament Berlin Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

Organiser of this good practice:

Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf District Office

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.berlin.de/ba-charlottenburg-wilmersdorf/politik/gremien/kinder-und-jugend-parlament/wahlperioden/artikel.1136622.php>

Contact for questions about this practice:

kontakt@kjp-cw.de

Description & Success Factors

The Children's and Youth Parliament (= Kinder- und Jugendparlament, KJP) in Berlin Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf gives young people the opportunity to express their views on issues of child and youth policy. The equipment of schools, cleanliness, safe traffic routes, nicer playgrounds - all these are, for example, topics on which young people have something to say. In the KJP, children and young people can put forward their own political ideas, which are then discussed by the members of the district assembly. Children and young people should be actively promoted in their rights and be involved in decisions that affect them today and in the future as adults. All children and young people from our district can approach the board of the KJP with their concerns, but also with good ideas. The structure of the KJP and the tasks of the children and young people can be illustrated very well by its work and organisation. The tasks of the children and young people are determined by them.

In order for the young people to be able to work in a goal-oriented way and to implement their wishes, the KJP is a parliament at district office level. The manage-



60 ment coordinates the administrative processes of the KJP (from the elections to the (partly sovereign) implementation of the applications of the young parliamentarians) together with the respective departments of the entire district office.

All city councillors and the mayor support the KJP. This also applies to all parliamentary groups in the district assembly (BVV) - in Berlin, the BVV is more or less the city or municipal council. The BVV and the city councillors form a council that is responsible for the KJP's issues, as the KJP's motions in the BVV are treated in the same way as those of a parliamentary group. However, the KJP is politically neutral and thus has a similar status as non-party city councillors. All political groups work together with the KJP in a neutral way. The motions decided by the KJP are legally submitted to the BVV by the BVV chairperson. The KJP has the right to speak, but cannot vote. Over 90 % of all KJP motions have been decided positively by the BVV in the last 18 years.

However, not all KJP motions are decided in the BVV. They only deal with the "major" motions. For "everyday" solutions requested by the KJP, the district office has established a "small official channel" and deals with this - via the management of the KJP - with the responsible departments (e.g. playground safety, broken traffic lights in front of schools, exchange with young people from twin cities, participation in and organisation of events etc.).

The KJP has committees for technical and specialised work. These are called working groups. Other participation formats can (and should) be involved via the working groups, as co-determination here is not tied to a KJP mandate. This is important because there are also many young people who like to work for a specific goal in the district without being able or wanting to work in the KJP itself in the long term.

In addition, the KJP has a permanent seat in the Youth Welfare Committee and is also represented in other committees of the district authority.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

The KJP is one example of a political participation mechanism that involves children and young people. It therefore contributes to the target "ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people".

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the local level:

Werkstadt junges Wien and Viennese Children and Youth Strategy

Organiser of this good practice:

City of Vienna

Links to find out more about this practice:

61 <https://werkstadt.junges.wien.gv.at/projekte/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Isabella Steger
junges.wien@wienextra.at

Description & Success Factors

In 2019 the City of Vienna started the project “Werkstadt junges Wien” with the vision to make Vienna the most children- and youth-friendly city in the world. From February to April 2019 more than 22.000 children and young people worked together in more than 1.300 workshops throughout Vienna to express their ideas and wishes for the Vienna of tomorrow. Based on the wishes, ideas and suggestions of the young city residents, the Vienna Children and Youth Strategy was developed. It was adopted by the Vienna City Council in June 2020. The goals of the strategy are divided into nine different areas that were chosen after clustering the inputs from the young people and are closely related to the Youth Goals. As a follow-up in the area of participation, the city has established a youth parliament and opened another participatory process in October 2021 where children and young people could propose concrete project ideas for the City of Vienna. The youth parliament clustered and discussed the over 250 ideas and the involved children and youth worked together with experts, city staff and politicians in order to assess the implementability of the ideas. In the second session of the children and youth parliament in autumn 2022 it was decided which projects were made available in an online poll for young viennese people between 5 and 20. The winning projects of the online poll will be realised with a total budget of 1 million euros.

Specific targets of YG #9

Youth Goal # 9.1 “ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people” by children and youth being involved in all areas of the new youth strategy feeding into it with their needs ;

Youth Goal # 9.4 “provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation” by implementing the process directly where young people are with the adequate personnel ;

Youth Goal # 9.7 “provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation” by designing the process together with experts in the field and young people themselves.

Connection to other Youth Goals

Through the participatory approach including young people, their demands and ideas all youth goals are touched upon by the outcomes of the project.



PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the local level:

ESC - Escola Social de Competências

Organiser of this good practice:

Moju

Links to find out more about this practice:

[ESC - Escola Social de Competências | Moju \(mojuolhao.com\)](http://mojuolhao.com)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 289 705 368

moju@mojuolhao.com

Description & Success Factors

The ESC Project - Social School of Competences, arose from a dynamic between various young people who attend the Association's premises on a daily basis. By observing the younger ones, they became aware of a series of difficulties they face in their daily lives, which prevent them from exercising complete citizenship.

The use of non-formal education methodologies aims to ensure the active participation of all individuals involved and active working groups and methods are also used to create an environment that encourages a dynamic involvement of all participants. The planned activities and working methods aim to achieve a maximum involvement of the young promoters and the young participants, who are directly involved in the different stages of the project in order to enhance their personal, social and educational development.

The foundation of this good practice is the motivation of young people to help and provide tools for their younger peers to exercise their citizenship fully and in their best interest.

The young promoters met and made a survey of the main problems experienced by young people, which they structured into three areas: healthy life habits, education - reading and writing and social skills. Following this, a series of proposals were created in terms of actions/activities in order to overcome the problems identified, which were embodied in the creation of the Social School of Competences.

In terms of working methodology, the project is structured in a balanced mix of methods such as the introduction of plenary discussions, round tables and working groups supported by the young promoters in the three fields indicated.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

“ensure equal access to everyday decision making for all young people from different backgrounds” ;

63

“provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for the development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation” ;

“provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation”

Connection to other Youth Goals

It also goes with Youth Goal #3 because it ensures that all marginalised young people have equal access to formal and non-formal learning environments, addressing all the dimensions of inclusion.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

PUKOTINE/PKTN

Organiser of this good practice:

Boli.me, The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation - University of Zagreb, FamilyLab, UNICEF and young mental health professionals

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://pukotine.hr/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

inicijativabolime@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

The Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Zagreb, together with initiative Boli.me and FamilyLab, with the support of the UNICEF Office for Croatia, launched the digital platform Pukotine/PKTN (Cracks), which follows the growth of young people.

Pukotine is a platform whose goal it is to open a virtual space for young people (but also for other generations) - a space where they can detect and define their own problems, identify with others and their difficulties and cracks as well as open the possibility for bonding and healing. It is a space where they feel that they are not alone and lonely. PKTN aspires to become a place that can facilitate processes and stages during growing up in this challenging environment, society, and community.

Young people in Croatia face numerous challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic has made the lives of young people even more demanding.

64

This digital platform was created as a response to the complex problems and needs of young people and as a reaction to the lack of interventions intended to support young people growing up in Croatia. The PKTN platform brings together an interdisciplinary team of scientists, psychotherapists, experts and creatives who monitor the needs of young people, their parents and teachers and create content and preventive activities aimed at promoting the positive development of young people in interaction with them. Using interactive technology close to young people, social networks, photo and video materials, Pukotine/PKTN deal with topics that interest, worry and inspire young people, such as how to survive a breakup, how to deal with loneliness, what to do when being anxious, how poverty or loss can affect them, how to belong and others.

Conducted focus groups with young people and online surveys made it possible to adapt the content and media channel to young people. Through the content, the attitude is nurtured that young people have the strength and competence to be responsible and critical members of society. The developmental vulnerability of their age and the potential that emerges from it is supported. In the long-term, the gathered PKTN team will develop the content created together with young people into scientifically based online programs aimed at promoting the positive development of adolescents.

The platform was created in response to the needs of young people in Croatia determined by research. For the last year, the PKTN team has been working on launching the platform, creating content and preventive activities that are scientifically based, but modern, fresh and close to young people, using technology, social networks, photo and video materials.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

“ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation” through the provision of safe, virtual spaces for young people through the PKTN platform

Connection to other Youth Goals

Youth Goal #5 “mental health and wellbeing”, “focus on prevention measures that ensure young people are equipped with the knowledge and the skills required for better mental wellbeing” and “encourage the development of self-awareness and less competitive mindsets by fostering appreciation for individual skills and strengths” because the PKTN platform brings together an interdisciplinary team of scientists, psychotherapists, experts, and creatives who monitor the needs of young people, their parents and teachers and create content and preventive activities aimed at promoting the positive development of young people in interaction with them

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Bavarian Day of Youth in Europe

65

Organiser of this good practice:

Bavarian Youth Council

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bjr.de/themen/jugendpolitik-und-jugendarbeit/europaeische-jugendpolitik/veranstaltungen-europaeischer-jugendpolitik/bayerischer-tag-der-jugend-in-europa.html>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Leppert.Theresa@bjr.de

Description & Success Factors

The Bavarian Day of Youth in Europe takes place every year and is organised by the Bavarian Youth Council. It takes place in Brussels and brings young people from the Bavarian youth work to Brussels and so to the European level. In 2019, the fourth edition was implemented.

The main objectives of the event are:

- to give young people from Bavaria and the European Union a voice with their concerns and to bring them up for discussion at European level,
- to raise awareness for youth participation and to initiate and further develop processes of lobbying for the concerns of children and young people within the European framework and
- to draw attention to Bavarian youth work and thus to youth politics in Bavaria and Europe.

Six youth organisations travelled from 19th to 22nd November to Brussels to present their projects and exchange their views and ideas with European policy-makers. On the second day, they visited the European institutions and met various policy-makers. The aim of the second day was empowerment and information. On the third day, the Bavarian Day of Youth took place in the representation of the Free State of Bavaria. After several workshops – also with external guests from EU institutions and various organisations in Brussels – an official reception and panel discussion took place in the evening.

The main topic in 2019 was youth participation and political participation: How can young people in Europe express their interests and be heard? How can successful youth participation take place at the various political levels? What are youth-friendly forms of participation? How can young people get involved constructively in the future process of the EU and thus help shape their future?

The Bavarian Youth Council strengthens the European dimension of youth work on the local, regional and European level. Therefore, many youth organisations are already eager to travel to Brussels again, because they see the connection between their work, ideas as well as views and the competences of the EU. The format is already well established, so policy-makers on the EU level know about the Bavarian Day of Youth. Therefore, it is easier to keep the format running.

Every year a different main topic is chosen, so that the current interests of young



66 people are discussed. Young people are reached through their youth organisation. Each youth organisation that applies and is selected can send four young people and one leader.

The format is effective, because the young people not just learn more about the EU, but take part in a real discussion at eye level with policy-makers. They also take their positive experience home and act as multipliers within their youth organisation. Therefore, the European dimension of the youth work is spread on the local level.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

The Bavarian Day of Youth in Europe in 2019 focused specifically on participation and therefore contributed to the goal that young people can adequately influence all areas of society through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people.

Since the main topic was participation, the workshops and panel discussion focused on political participation and co-determination and thus about ways and possibilities of successful youth participation.

Connection to other Youth Goals

The Bavarian Day of Youth in Europe also focuses on Youth Goal #1 “connecting EU with youth”, because the main aim of the event is to establish an exchange between young people and European decision-makers.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

“Old enough” micro-grants for regional youth groups

Organiser of this good practice:

LOGO jugendmanagement GmbH
beteiligung.st - Fachstelle für Kinder-, Jugend- und BürgerInnenbeteiligung
Land Steiermark

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://altgenug.st/projekt300>

Contact for questions about this practice:

johannes.heher@logo.at

Description & Success Factors

The “old enough” micro-grants for regional youth groups were aimed at youth between 15 and 20 years of age and granted them 300 euros to implement their project idea for young people around them. More than 100 projects were implemented. Acknowledging the ideas of young people, money was made available directly for them and their use

- 67 for their community. By creating a very low-threshold application and documentation procedure for the micro-grants it was possible to reach a diverse group of young people implementing projects on various topics. There were no thematic guidelines for the projects as it should be completely up to the young people to decide which projects are important for them to be implemented.

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Move-te na Europa

Organiser of this good practice:

Rede Move Algarve

Links to find out more about this practice:

[Rede MOVE - Move-te na Europa | CCDR Algarve \(ccdr-alg.pt\)](#)
[@redemovealgarve](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

redeMOVEalgarve@gmail.com

Description & Success Factors

The MOVE network is the result of a consultation with young people and its mission is to disseminate and support the access of young people in the Algarve region to opportunities for mobility, volunteering, entrepreneurship, employment, education and other experiences in the regional, national and international context. It aims to stimulate a culture of participation, an attitude towards human rights and respect for the environment, while allowing the development of joint activities and projects between informal groups, organizations, municipalities and entities in the Algarve.

What helped this good practice to be established and successful is the initiative to gather all associations together from the region and compile information making it easier to share information with young people and target which space would suit them better or which projects would be more challenging. Furthermore it also helps them to create a network of friends and colleagues.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

“ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people” ;

“ensure equal access to everyday decision-making for all young people from different backgrounds” ;

“provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces

- 68 defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for the development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation” ;
 “ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation”

Contribution to other Youth Goals

It also goes with Youth Goal #11 because it ensures visibility and provides quality information on youth organisations and European youth programmes for all young people.

GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

CROATIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

The "City for Youth" certificate

Organiser of this good practice:

Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia, the Central State Office for Demography and Youth, the Agency for Mobility and EU Programs, the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, the Croatian Youth Network and the Association of Societies "Our Children" participated in the process of creating the model and certifying the cities.

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.udruga-gradova.hr/grad-za-mlade/>

Contact for questions about this practice:

info@udrugagradova.hr

Description & Success Factors

The title of "City for Youth" was awarded to cities in the Republic of Croatia that met quality standards in eight thematic areas of youth policy: participation, demographic incentives and measures, employment, mobility, health and sports, youth work and culture, education and information.

The methodology of the City for Youth certificate was designed in cooperation with leading Croatian experts in youth policy, based on the analysis of foreign examples of good practice and consultations with experts in the field of education, local and regional self-government, mobility and demography.

The City for Youth certificate is the result of the initiative of the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia and is also the first such project in Croatia and an example of the synergy of two projects that focus on youth and youth policies.



69

Namely, one of the formal criteria for applying for candidacy was the signing of the European Charter on Local Youth Work, created as part of the Europe Goes Local project, which represents a reference form for everyday work with young people and serves as a link between policy and practice of working with young people. The duration of the certificate is three years, after which the winning cities can apply for the recertification process. Each of the cities will receive a City for Youth plaque and flag and young artists will paint a mural with a visual certificate together with representatives of the city.

The competition for awarding the City for Youth certificate will be announced once a year.

The goal of city certification is to make cities aware of the importance of creating a stimulating environment for young people. With this project, in which relevant institutions and organisations in the field of youth participate, the issue of youth was put on the agenda of cities and they were additionally encouraged to think about the importance of investing in young people and working with young people.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

“ensure sustainable funding, common recognition and development of quality youth work in order to strengthen youth organisations and their role in inclusion, participation and non-formal education” and “increase youth participation and thus equal representation in the electoral process as well as in elected bodies and other decision-making organs at all levels of society” through encouraging cities to establish practices and mechanisms for meaningful participation of young people and democratisation of the decision-making system

GERMANY

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Youth Strategy of the Federal Government

Organiser of this good practice:

Federal German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://jugendstrategie.de/> & <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/service/publikationen/in-ge-meinsamer-verantwortung-politik-fuer-mit-und-von-jugend-146332>

Contact for questions about this practice:

jugendstrategie@stiftung-spi.de

Description & Success Factors

Since the cabinet decision of 3rd December 2019, Germany has for the first time had an cross-sectoral Youth Strategy with which the entire Federal Government has com-

70 mitted itself to a policy for, with and by young people. Along different fields of action, the initial situation was analysed from the lifeworld perspective of young people and needs for action were derived from this.

The Youth Strategy provides an overview of the areas in which the Federal Government is implementing measures affecting adolescents and young adults. In the further process, new (interdepartmental) projects and plans have been created or further developed in a youth-specific and youth-oriented manner. One focus is on the direct, visible and effective participation of young people. Events such as the Federal Youth Conferences and Youth Policy Days provide impetus.

Within the framework of the Youth Strategy, the Federal Ministry of Youth has funded several activities which aim for example at further strengthening youth participation (e.g. an initiative for strong youth parliaments, further development of quality standards) or at improving youth-friendly communication. Among these activities is the Youth Budget project which started in January 2021 and made 1 million euros available for activities of young people. At every stage of the process, the overarching goal has been to let young people participate and decide - from brainstorming and voting to implementation. A total of ten projects were funded from autumn 2021 to December 2022 and has been accompanied by the youth jury of the Youth Budget project.

The declared aim of the Youth Strategy is to offer the approximately 14 million young people and young adults between the ages of 12 and 27 living in Germany the best possible conditions to master the challenges associated with the youth phase of life.

Policies for, with and by young people means making good politics for youth, shaping politics together with youth and being open for self-determined policies of young people. Last but not least, with a view to creating equal living conditions, it is also about giving all young people the same opportunities and possibilities to help shape their future in all regions of Germany.

Actors involved in the development and implementation of the Youth Strategy (selection):

- Interministerial Working Group (IMA Youth): Under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Youth Strategy is coordinated together with other federal ministries and accompanied in the implementation process.
- Advisory Council of the Federal Ministry for Youth: In order to involve civil society and youth structures, the Federal Ministry for Youth is advised by an Advisory Council consisting of representatives of NGOs active in the field of youth, municipal umbrella organisations, the federal states and young people themselves.
- Adolescents and young adults are involved as experts in their own right within the framework of various youth participation formats (e.g. topic-specific youth audits, youth policy days).

In November 2022, the Federal Youth Ministry has launched the National Action Plan for Child and Youth Participation (NAP) for further developing the Youth Strategy. With the new NAP particular emphasis is being placed on strengthening possibilities of meaningful involvement of children and young people. The NAP is a dialogue process comprising various formats and involving representatives of NGOs active in the youth

- 71 field, the municipal umbrella organisations and the federal states as well as young people themselves. At the end of the process in 2025, recommendations for better child and youth participation are to be presented to the Federal Cabinet and to the Conference of Youth and Family Ministers of the federal states.

Specific targets of Youth Goal #9

The Youth Strategy is a holistic approach that aims at touching all dimensions of Youth Goal #9. Specifically, it contributes to the target “ensure young people can adequately influence all areas of society and all parts of the decision-making processes, from agenda setting to implementation, monitoring and evaluation through youth-friendly and accessible mechanisms and structures, ensuring that policies respond to the needs of young people” as it systematically tries to put young people's needs and interest on the agenda of decision-making processes in all political areas relevant to youth.

Contribution to other Youth Goals

The European Youth Goals served as one of the bases for the selection of the nine fields of action of the Youth Strategy of the Federal Government.

AUSTRIA

Name of the good practice on the national level:

Eight Austrian youth goals on the topic of participation

Organiser of this good practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend of the Austrian Federal Chancellery

Links to find out more about this practice:

<https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/jugend/besterreichische-jugendstrategie/jugendziele.html>

Contact for questions about this practice:

Kompetenzzentrum Jugend
jugendstrategie@bka.gv.at

Description & Success Factors

There are currently 33 Austrian Youth Goals, contributing to exercising the Austrian Youth Strategy. The Austrian Youth Goals exist since September 2020 and are divided into four fields of action: education & employment, participation & engagement, quality of life & commonality and media and information. The individual Austrian youth goals are intended not only to contribute to these areas but also very specifically to the implementation of the European Youth Goals. Each Austrian Youth Goals is specifically categorised to also contribute to one or several European Youth Goals. What is special about the Austrian Youth Goals is that they were created as a common effort of all

72 ministries, following a mainstreaming approach and recognising that each ministry must contribute towards achieving the Youth Goals. Besides involving all ministries, there were also young people involved in the process of creating these goals. In “reality checks” young people were able to express their needs regarding the separate goals and define how they feed into the European Youth Goals.

There are eight Austrian Youth Goals contributing to the Implementation of European Youth Goal #8 “spaces and participation for all”. More infos on the specific Youth Goals can be found in the link provided.

PORTUGAL

Name of the good practice on the regional level:

Politicamente desperto

Organiser of this good practice:

Conselho Nacional da Juventude (CNJ)

Links to find out more about this practice:

[Politicamente Desperto | CNJ](#)

Contact for questions about this practice:

+351 218 802 130

geral@cnj.pt

Description & Success Factors

The goals of this project are to get to know how young people participate and the obstacles to their emancipation, to provide learning opportunities for young people and those who work with them regarding democratic participation and provide accessible and reliable information on democratic processes.

The way it is implemented is through the development of youth voting campaigns, publication of a study on youth participation and emancipation in Portugal, implementation of capacity-building sessions on democratic literacy for young leaders and those working with youth and training in online activism with the publication of the respective toolkit.

The CNJ believes that it is by knowing better how and how much young people participate and how their reality impacts on their participation that it is possible to find solutions to facilitate, support and enhance the involvement of these same young people in their communities and in the social, political and cultural life of the country. Thus, the Politicamente Despertadas project aims to contribute to informed and massive youth participation in Portugal.

Specific targets of YG #9

“ensure equal access to everyday decision making for all young people from different

73 backgrounds” ;

“provide youth-led physical facilities and infrastructures called youth spaces defined by being autonomous, open and safe, accessible to all, offering professional support for the development and ensuring opportunities for youth participation” ;

“provide youth-friendly, relevant, comprehensive information, also developed by and with young people, in order to enable youth participation” ;

“ensure safe virtual youth spaces are accessible to every young person which provide access to information and services as well as ensure opportunities for youth participation”

Contribution to other Youth Goals

It also includes Youth Goals #3 and #4 because it ensures that marginalised young people are participating in all decision-making processes and are key players, particularly in processes concerning their own rights, well-being and interest. It also ensures easy access to understandable youth-friendly information that follows codes of ethics and quality standards.



Policies on the EU level

In November 2018, a new EU Youth Strategy was adopted by the Youth Ministers in the Council of the European Union for the period 2019-2027. The strategy focuses on three main dimensions entitled connect, engage and empower and encourages a cross-sectorial cooperation in respect to issues concerning young people. The strategy includes specific annexes on the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD, successor of the Structured Dialogue) and the European Youth Goals among others.

One of the objectives of the EUYD is bringing about positive change in youth policy at the European level. Building on this objective this part of the publication aims at mapping policy changes at the EU level through the EUYD since 2019.

Mapping EU policies informed through the EUYD and contributing to the implementation of the Youth Goals isn't an easy task. While numerous EU level policies contribute to the implementation of the European Youth Goals and towards fulfilling the European Youth Strategy, there is hardly a way to isolate the connection of certain policies or processes at the EU level specifically to the EUYD.

Furthermore, while the new EU Youth Strategy and the Youth Goals were a milestone for youth participation through the EUYD, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed a huge challenge in adequately focussing on the priorities outlined there. Another aspect to consider is that the impact of the EUYD is mainly on the individual, local, regional and national levels and there is room for improvement when it comes to its impact on concrete policies and changes at the EU level.

To begin with, it is important to highlight that working on this mapping showed that in order to really assess the impact of the EUYD on EU policy level there would be a need for an extensive, scientifically supported mapping. This publication showcases a number of documents that were created at EU level in line with the Youth Goals since 2019. It also puts light on some other processes that are important for youth, but where connections are not as clear.

Resources

In a first step, a number of resources that can feed into a policy-level mapping were identified. These resources should help identify what has been achieved for young people through the EUYD on a European policy level since 2019. The identified resources include knowledge of experts that have been involved with the implementation of the EUYD on European level, screening of reports on the two cycles in question and screening of official policy documents.

Experts

It was possible to reach one expert who was able to share insights and summarise his assessment in the next section. We would have liked to consult more experts, especially from the respective EUYD steering groups, which are responsible to follow up on the outcomes at the European level. While we unfortunately weren't able to get the chance

75 to consult them and we see it as a possible tool for future assessment.

Reports on the previous cycles of the EUYD

The seventh and eighth cycle were the first ones under the new EU Youth Strategy and within the framework of the Youth Goals. They did very well on outlining clear methods to be used in all National Working Groups to consult young people on the topics in the respective rounds. The reporting of the previous cycles highlight assessments about the implementation of the EUYD on the national, regional and local levels. The 8th cycle was the first to include monitoring of implementation additionally to the consultation, thus the report on the implementation phase from the eighth cycle is the only document available in this regard. While the report gives an extensive overview of implementation on the national levels, it doesn't include the European level.

Official Policy Documents

The main sources for the mapping in this section are official policy documents. There are three different kinds of sources here. First, there are documents where youth was mentioned in the European Commission's official priorities and policy fields since 2019 - not being able to connect this to the EUYD. Second, there are reports of the European Commission on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2021 which highlights the most important aspects on EU policies and activities on youth from the perspective of the European Commission. Thirdly, there are concrete council conclusions and resolutions on the Youth Goals that were focused on a respective cycle during the time period of this cycle - these documents have the clearest connection to the EUYD.

THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE ON THE EU LEVEL – AN ASSESSMENT

Expert interview with Kristof Papp, policy officer for youth participation at the YFJ

In light of the EU level policy mapping we scheduled an interview with an expert on the matter. Kristof Papp is policy officer at the European Youth Forum, specifically focusing on and responsible for youth participation. He has been involved in the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) on the European level for many years and shared his views on a general assessment on the strengths and weaknesses of the EUYD. The content of the interview is summarised in this section.

Kristof Papp assesses that the EUYD has evolved and changed a lot in the previous years and sees the most influential outcome of the EUYD on the EU level to have happened pre-2019.

One very important example is the youth guarantee programme, which was established based on the EUYD, before 2019 still called Structured Dialogue. The biggest achievements of the EUYD happened in 2018 when the process led to the establishment of the European Youth Goals, directly inputted the European Youth Strategy and urged



76 the creation of the office of a EU Youth Coordinator. These achievements themselves are the foundation for a very clear strengthening of the EUYD and institutionalisation of it at the EU level. The Youth Coordinator operates within the European Commission with the objective of enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation as well as knowledge development and exchange on youth issues within the European Commission services and is thus an important actor to use the Youth Strategy and outcomes of the EUYD to inform concrete EU level policies.

While these biggest milestones should be and are a momentum for the effectiveness of the EUYD and self-speakingly influenced policies since 2019, it remains a big challenge to assess their exact impact on EU level policies. Furthermore, there are a number of challenges in making the EUYD as influential as it could be.

First of all, there are hardly any follow-up mechanisms that contribute to transparency of the process. Even though mainstreaming of youth is, of course, happening cross-sectorally and the EUYD strengthens this as well, it is not possible to assess how, where and when in a transparent way. The main political outcome at the EU level are the Council conclusions and resolutions, while reports are published from the EU Youth Conferences as well as from the consultation and implementation phases. The aforementioned documents are particularly relevant because they are calling on the stakeholders to act exactly on the areas that young people across Europe were consulted on, but they have the weakness that there are no follow-up mechanisms. There is also no progress-tracking and no indicators for targets of the European Youth Goals and their impact is thus not really quantifiable and measurable.

Another challenge lies within the possibilities of international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs). They play a key role but do not receive funding for the EUYD, thus also leaving them without resources to follow up on the outcomes. If INGYOs would be considered more, they could play an even more important role.

Even though there are a number of challenges and of course there is room for improvement, the EUYD is an extremely meaningful process that is easy to be reproduced on the local, regional and national levels and can also expand its biggest impact there, which is in its essence also what it is supposed to do. The previous cycle under Germany, Portugal and Slovenia also brought forward an implementation plan and an implementation report which were well aligned to the priorities of the Trio-Presidency - further strengthening the outcomes and being able to act upon them. The biggest achievements gave a chance to new presidencies to follow-up on the outcomes of the previous cycles and build on them making the outcomes more sustainable. Especially the past cycle was well-developed to follow-up on Youth Goal #9 which we can also see through the conclusions brought forward and how all these processes informed extensive action on youth participation on various levels.



77 OFFICIAL POLICY DOCUMENTS

Youth in the EU priorities 2019 – 2024

In its *strategy for 2019 until 2024* the European Commission has outlined six priorities. They include: a European Green Deal: a Europe fit for the digital age, an economy that works for the people, a stronger Europe in the world, promoting our European way of life, and a new push for European democracy. For each priority, certain policy areas have been defined. In this section it is outlined how youth is part of these priorities and policy areas.

An economy that works for the people

One of the European Commission's priorities for 2019-2024 is “an economy that works for the people”. For this priority the European Commission specifically defined a policy area focussing on young people. The policy area youth employment support recognises that young people often face a difficult start in the labour-market, that this has been further emphasised by the pandemic, and that young people deserve all possible opportunities to reach their full potential and to thrive in the green and digital transitions. This policy area includes “reinforcing the youth guarantee”, “future-proofing the EU’s vocational education and training policy” and “a renewed impetus for apprenticeships”. There have been two proposals of the European Commission for Council recommendations on this policy area - one covering vocational education and training and one on reinforcing the youth guarantee. There have been both Council recommendations as well as Parliament resolutions following on these proposals.

An economy that works for the people is the only priority in which the European Commission specifically mentions young people in its policy areas. It is also worth mentioning, that while this priority as well as others have a clear connection to the Youth Goals and the European Youth Strategy, they are not mentioned officially. Nevertheless, there are numerous policies contributing towards achieving the Youth Goals and the European Youth Strategy, however, their analysis would exceed the scope of the resources of this project.

A new push for European democracy

While not specifically mentioning youth for this priority, one of the major events taking place to contribute to this priority was the Conference on the Future of Europe. The conference was a citizen-led series of debates and discussions between April 2021 and May 2022 that enabled civil society from across Europe to share their ideas on the future of Europe. Part of the process was a specific youth-focused consultation organised by the European Youth Forum and carried out together with National Youth Councils and international youth organisations. The 25% project gathered ideas of young people for the future of Europe and presented them at the conference.

78 The European Year of Youth

While youth was initially only specifically mentioned in one of the European Commission's priorities after the implications of the pandemic and its impact on young people the European Commission announced the year 2022 as the European Year of Youth, intending to shine a light on European youth to build a better future - greener, more inclusive and digital.

The report of the European Commission on the EU Youth Strategy 2019 – 2021

The *European Commission's report on the EU Youth Strategy* is directly linked to the EUYD and the European Youth Goals as they are essential parts of the strategy itself. The European Commission has adopted the report autumn 2021 and through it assesses the *EU Youth Strategy's* first three years of implementation. The EU Youth Strategy strives to “engage, connect and empower” young people so that they realise their full potential and become active citizens. The Strategy supports young people through its effective instruments and tools, among others: the *EU Youth Dialogue*, the European Youth Portal and the *EU Youth Coordinator*. The strategy was adopted in 2018 following the Structured Dialogue in which the *11 European Youth Goals* were developed.

The report significantly shows that the COVID-19 pandemic hit young people heavily. In the report, the European Commission highlights and states that the EU has significantly reinforced its support and encouragement measures dedicated to young people. Furthermore, the report highlights ongoing policy initiatives dedicated to boosting opportunities for young people such as the European Education Area, the updated European Digital Action Plan, the European Skills Agenda and the Youth Employment Support package.

Specifically connecting to the EUYD and the European Youth Goals, the report also mentions a number of policy documents directly related, including both Council conclusions and resolutions which will be analysed in the next section.

Council Conclusions and Resolutions

Notably, the most direct and tangible outcomes of the EUYD at EU level are the Council conclusions and resolutions in which both the EU member states as well as the European Commission are directly addressed.

This section gives an overview of the Council conclusions and resolutions connected to the seventh and eighth cycle of the EUYD. Eulex was used to find out in which other documents the resolutions feed into after their adoption.

Seventh cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue

The seventh cycle was held under the Trio-Presidency Romania - Finland - Croatia,

79 which started on 1st January 2019, lasting for 18 months until June 2020.

The thematic priority chosen by the Trio-Presidency was “creating opportunities for youth” with a focus on quality employment for all, quality youth work for all and opportunities for rural youth.

The thematic priorities were therefore directly connected to the three EU Youth Goals #7 “quality employment for all”, #8 “quality learning” and #6 “moving rural youth forward”.

There are five council conclusions focussing on the Youth Goals #6, #7 or #8.

The Council conclusions on young people and the future of work from June 2019.

The Council conclusions on young creative generations from June 2019 highlights various priorities on the matter in order to use the innovation potential that young people can bring to society. The priorities include promoting better access to culture and participation in culture for children and young people, reinforcing cross-sectoral cooperation with a focus on the synergies between culture and education, facilitating youth entrepreneurship in the cultural and creative sector, fostering the emergence of new talent and promoting digital skills and media literacy.

The Council conclusions on education and training of youth workers from December 2019 promote the development of quality education and training for youth workers.

The Council conclusions on digital youth work from December 2019 recognises the importance of digital literacy for today's world and the essential role that youth work can play in achieving the European Youth Goals together with young people in this regard.

The Council conclusions on raising opportunities for young people in rural areas from June 2020 followed after the joint recommendations from the seventh cycle, however they still feed into this cycle and its priorities. The conclusions highlight the need to specifically empower young people in rural areas, specifically by providing them with all the infrastructure needed to fully participate in civic and professional life.

The final joint recommendations from the seventh cycle were taken on board in the *Resolution of the Council adopted by the Council of the European Union on the outcomes of the seventh cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue*. The resolution was adopted in May 2020.

The outcome of screening this resolution in Eurlex was that there are no documents based on this resolution and there are no legislative procedures based on this document. There is one document mentioning this document, namely the *Report from the Commission on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2021)*.

80 Eighth cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue

The eighth cycle was held under the Trio-Presidency Germany - Portugal - Slovenia, which started on 1st July 2020, lasting for 18 months until December 2021.

The thematic priority chosen by the Trio-Presidency was “Europe for YOUTH – YOUTH for Europe: space for democracy and participation”.

The thematic priority was therefore directly connected to the European Youth Goal #9 “spaces and participation for all”.

There are three Council conclusions focussing on Youth Goal #9.

The *Council conclusions on fostering democratic awareness and democratic engagement among young people in Europe* reflect the ideas and opinions gathered at the EU Youth Conference in October 2020. At the event young people from all over Europe discussed topics with political leaders and developed concrete demands on how the European Youth Goal #9 "space and participation for all" could be implemented.

The *Council conclusions on strengthening the multi-level governance* from May 2021 promote the participation of young people in political and other decision-making processes at local, regional, national and European levels. The Council conclusions invite Member States to empower young people through education and training, youth-oriented information, feedback, non-formal and informal learning and youth work. The conclusions also invite the European Commission to organise peer learning activities and to build knowledge and capacity on youth participation in decision-making processes at multiple levels.

The *Council Conclusions on safeguarding and creating civic spaces for youth* from December 2021 aim at facilitating meaningful youth participation by creating spaces for civic engagement of all young people.

The final joint recommendations from the eighth cycle were taken on board in the *Resolution of the Council on the outcomes of the eighth cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue* adopted by the Council of the European Union. The resolution was adopted in November 2021.

The outcome of screening this resolution in Eurelex was that there are no documents based on this document, no legislative procedures based on this document and no documents that mention this document. However, screening the conclusions that took place during this cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue there are a number of other documents that these conclusions fed into, most prominently the *Decision of the European Parliament and the Council on the European Year of Youth*. The conclusions on strengthening the multi-level governance furthermore fed into a *Council recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers*; *Council Conclusions fostering the engagement of young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment*; and proposals for Council decisions on *employment policies* and *pathway to school success*.

81 COLLECTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the examples of good practice, recommendations were formulated. They can be found in the following section of the publication. This chapter includes recommendations on the following aspects:

1. **Reaching the Youth Goals:** How can we work towards making the goals set out in the EU Youth Strategy a reality?
2. **Using the Youth Goals as a tool:** How can the Youth Goals be used to support projects or initiatives?
3. **Strengthening the EU Youth Dialogue:** How can we strengthen the implementation of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) as a quality youth participation process?

The recommendations in connection with reaching and using the Youth Goals are linked to specific good practice examples. Hence, these can be used as inspiration for an example of the practical implementation of a recommendation.

Furthermore, the recommendations work on different levels (local, regional, national, European or a combination of those). Together with each recommendation the respective policy level is/policy levels are mentioned.

The list of the recommendations is non-exhaustive. Experiences from all partners of this project fed into the formulation of these recommendations.

Recommendations on reaching the Youth Goals

The Youth Goals represent a vision of young people for the future of Europe. Under this headline, recommendations on working towards the fulfilment of the Youth Goals can be found.

- Less is more!
Focus on a target (sub-goal) of one Youth Goal when developing projects, initiatives or ideas while keeping the bigger picture in mind (e.g. from Germany: "U18 – campaign to vote under the age of 18") - all levels
- Include young people on every step of the way!
 - Base projects or initiatives on the needs of young people and include them in all stages of your project (e.g. from Austria: "Werkstadt Junges Wien & Viennese Children and Youth Strategy", from Croatia: "Take Action", from Portugal "Move-te na Europa") - all levels
 - Design activities in an inclusive way that reflect the needs of all young people, especially young people with fewer opportunities (e.g. from Croatia: "Pop-up socio-cultural centres in places affected by the earthquake", from Portugal: "Program "Empreende Jovem") - all levels
- Context matters!



- Have a proper analysis of your context before applying Youth Goals as a process/project to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and to follow an evidence-based approach to the implementation of Youth Goals (e.g. from Portugal: “Invest in Anadia”) - all levels
- Incorporate the Youth Goals in funding schemes!
 - Incorporate one or more questions about the linkages between a project and the Youth Goals. This way, many different projects will contribute to the implementation of one specific or more Youth Goals (e.g. from Croatia: “National active labour market policy - employment support for gaining first work experience/traineeship”, from Portugal “School of social Competences”) - all levels
- Build youth policy on the Youth Goals!
The Youth Goals can support when creating youth policy (e.g. from Croatia: “City for Youth” certificate”, from Austria: “Junge Gemeinde in Upper Austria”, from Germany: “Youth Strategy of the Federal Government in Germany”) - all levels
- Decentralise activities to also reach young people in rural/island areas (e.g. from Croatia: “Community Centre Bodovljaci”, from Croatia: “The initiative to activate the youth of Eastern Croatia”, from Austria “Old enough” micro-grants for regional youth groups”) - regional and national level
- A lot is done already, so visibility matters!
 - Link projects and activities that exist to the Youth Goals to show that a lot is already done when it comes to working towards the Youth Goals. Furthermore, a mapping of all activities contributing to a Youth Goal/a target can also help to identify still existing needs(e.g. the project: “How to score a Youth Goal”) - all levels

Recommendations of using the Youth Goals as a tool

The Youth Goals can be a beneficial tool for participation processes and activities. Under this headline, recommendations on why and when it is beneficial to use the Youth Goals as a tool can be found.

- Use the Youth Goals to mainstream youth policy!
 - Use the Youth Goals as evidence that youth policy is cross-sectoral! The Youth Goals are evidence that a very diverse range of policy areas affect young people (e.g. from Croatia: “From learning to knowledge - from knowledge to Employment-Industrial park”) - all levels
 - Use the Youth Goals as an entry way into other policy sectors! The Youth Goals can be a good tool to set foot into other policy areas than “classical youth issues” (e.g. from Austria: “Austrian National Youth Strategy and the specific Austrian Youth Goals”) - all levels
- Use the Youth Goals for your advocacy!
 - Link your demands to the Youth Goals! The Youth Goals can give your advocacy work more weight as they were created by more than 50.000 young people all around Europe within an evidence-based participatory

83

- process (e.g. from Austria: “Werkstadt Junges Wien & Viennese Children and Youth Strategy”) - all levels
- Create more visibility for local/regional/national topics by linking them to the Youth Goals and embedding your topic into a bigger process (e.g. from Germany: “Youth Ticket Bremen”) - all levels
 - Use the Youth Goals as an assessment tool! The Youth Goals can be used as an assessment tool to check whether policies and programs are in line with the needs and demands of young people (e.g. from Austria: “Austrian National Youth Strategy and the specific Austrian Youth Goals”, from Germany: “Youth Strategy of the Federal Government”) - all levels
 - Use the Youth Goals within your participation project!
 - The Youth Goals are a reflection of the needs of young people in Europe. They can support and facilitate your needs analysis.
 - Ensure quality standards in all aspects of participation processes as set out in Youth Goal #9 (e.g. from Germany: “Northern German Youth Conference”) - all levels
 - Prevent the misuse of the Youth Goals for youth washing by using them responsibly - all levels
 - Use the Youth Goals as a starting point for in-depth discussions! The Youth Goals are low-threshold and easy to understand. In a project they can be used to start in-depth discussion and work on a specific topic - all levels
 - Use the Youth Goals in your international project! The situation on certain issues as well as the definitions differ greatly among different countries in Europe. The Youth Goals can be used as a way of connecting and comparing the situations in different countries when talking about a certain topic - European level

Recommendations on strengthening the EU Youth Dialogue

The EUYD is a powerful tool to foster participation of young people on different levels and work on the Youth Goals. Under this headline, recommendations on strengthening the EUYD as a process can be found.

- When implementing the EUYD as a process as well as activities within the process, ensure that the quality criteria for youth participation are met - all levels
- Ensure that the process is transparent for young people as well as decision-makers - all levels
- Aim to get follow-up from decision-makers on the opinions and demands of young people within EUYD activities - all levels
- Communicate realistic terms when working with young people in the EUYD - all levels
- Foster exchange between National Working Groups from different countries (National Working Group meeting) - European level
- Maintain the Youth Goals as a thematic frame in the EUYD - European level

84

- Decentralise national events and link them with existing policy events to increase the impact - national level
- Build connections and synergies to already existing participation processes and projects within your country, especially those working towards Youth Goals implementation - national level
- Put a stronger focus on outcomes and follow-up of the cycles to achieve long-lasting impact - all levels.



2024.