

Education for the future

The main applicant: Assistance and Programmes for Sustainable Development – Agenda 21

Partners: General Direction of Child Assistance and Protection Ilfov

Location: Ilfov County, Romania

Duration: 12 months (September 2013 – August 2014)

Context:

Young people stimulate the economic development as enthusiastic employees or as entrepreneurs with innovative ideas or as active participants in the market, but still represent one of the most vulnerable groups in society, facing challenges related to education, finding a job, social inclusion and health. Eurostat shows that unemployment among young people aged between 15 and 24 years old from European Union rose with 50% from the beginning of the crisis, from an average of 15% in February 2008 to 22,5% in July 2012. In Romania, Eurostat data showed that in 2011, the unemployment rate was 7.4%, but the most affected category of age was the one between 15 and 24 years old with a percent of 23.7%. In Bucharest – Ilfov 22.2% of young people were unemployed in 2011.

Although, there are no recent data regarding the situation on the labor market of the institutionalized young people, it can be asserted that they face bigger difficulties than other categories of young people regarding their insertion on the labor market and their capacity to live independently. The institutionalized young people represent an extreme vulnerable category which needs a special attention taking in consideration the extremely sudden transition to the life post-institution. At the age of 18, if they don't continue their studies, they must leave the institution of social assistance and face a reality unprepared enough. The integration in the social and professional life is a difficult period for any young man.

In this context, the endowment of institutionalized young people with all the means to allow them harness their potential on the labor market, with abilities and attitudes requested by the employers with necessary information to know where and how a job becomes a priority to assure the an independent life. The project aims at developing to the young people the necessary qualities, abilities, understanding and attitude to create a strong basis in order to facilitate their transition to adult life and insertion on labor market, in the context of an economic environment in permanent change. The project is centered on the developing of “soft-skills” and transversal competences which young people can use in any activity field they choose.

Purpose

The project itself has as main purpose the education for employability being focused on the vocational training and young people equipping from the target group with information, abilities and necessary attitudes for their integration on labor market no matter what the field they will work in is. The project will use non-formal education and education for employability as methodologies for all the activities and will include four main directions: “Volunteer, employee and employer”, “Self developing and self-knowledge”, “Local and global citizenship” and “Entrepreneurship”. This way, the project will contribute to the necessary abilities development for employment and abilities of entrepreneurship of institutionalized young people, will stimulate the initiative spirit, creativity and inventiveness, will give them self – confidence in their qualities and potential, and for a long term will contribute to the decrease of unemployment rate among institutionalized young people and will encourage them to be more active in the community.

Objectives

- Promotion of non-formal education and employability education as tools for facilitating social inclusion.
- Creating a group of multipliers who work directly with institutionalized young people to develop the necessary competences to educate them regarding the facilitation of their insertion on the labor market.
- Identification and awareness of talents, personal abilities and developing them to raise the rate of employability of institutionalized young people.
- Adjusting the tools developed at the European level on employability education topics to the national realities.
- Realizing a Toolkit which can be used by other actors.
- Promoting volunteering as a form of participation in order to facilitate young people’s development of necessary abilities for employability and entrepreneurship abilities.

According to these objectives and activities, this project answers to the general objectives of the Programme Youth in Action, as follows:

- It contributes to the developing of active citizenship and especially young people citizenship who come from rural areas from the rural areas introducing an activity to train the target group on the topic of local and global citizenship which will concentrate on the aspects linked to diversity and cultural identity, equal opportunities, democracy and active participation, understanding the factors which influence the individual and group identity, understanding the operation mechanism of public institutions and European framework.
- Through the approach of aspect that are related to individual and group identity, ways the individuals and groups express the identity and understanding of concepts of prejudice and stereotype, the project will contribute to the development of solidarity, tolerance and mutual

understanding among young people, helping them to explain the differences between cultures and enjoying the diversity.

- The European cooperation in the young people field will be assured through the identification of progresses and material which other European countries made in the line of education of employability and through their adjustment to realities in our country. During the project, the young multipliers will be encouraged to contact different authors and experts from similar institutions to those where they work in, to share with them their experience and bring more value to the training material which will be elaborated.

Target group

- ❖ 12 young multipliers aged between 18 and 30 years old chosen who are educators, trainers, teachers, psychologists, volunteers.
- ❖ 30 young people institutionalized who are the beneficiaries of social assistance and child protection services and come from rural areas in Ilfov County.

Topics

- ❖ Self development and self knowledge
- ❖ Local and global citizenship
- ❖ Volunteer, employee and employer
- ❖ Entrepreneurship
- ❖ Learning to learn

The main activities

- ❖ The project launch
- ❖ Selection of the group of young multipliers
- ❖ Selection of institutionalized young people
- ❖ Training course for multipliers
- ❖ Workshops with the institutionalized young people – peer to peer education
- ❖ Toolkit elaboration
- ❖ Radio show dedicated to the project

Expected results

Disseminating and exploitation of results will represent the essential stages in the process of assuring the project's success contributing to the validation of the learning results of participants. The expected results of the project are tangible and intangible, as follows:

Tangible results:

- A training course of 5 days
- A set of training materials on employability education topics and non-formal education

- 12 young multipliers who work with institutionalized young people trained on employability education and non-formal education.
- 12 workshops with institutionalized young people
- 30 young participants in the workshops
- 1 Toolkit
- 2 press conferences

Immediate results:

- Developing abilities and skills which contribute to the raise of integration on labor market of institutionalized young people.
- Developing facilitation abilities of 12 young multipliers, employed in the system of social assistance and child protection which runs educational activities with institutionalized young people.
- Promoting volunteering as a form of involvement which contributes to the develop of necessary abilities for labor market integration.
- Promoting entrepreneurship as an option of viable career for institutionalized young people.
- Validation the learning results of multipliers and institutionalized young people through their involvement in elaboration of a Toolkit.

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