

INTERNATIONALE AKADEMIE BERLIN für innovative Pädagogik, Psychologie und Ökonomie gGmbH (INA)



Mid-Term Report 2021

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FOREWORD

The activities of YEPP EUROPE and YEPP Community Network members are developed and implemented in response to global, European and local issues. Some of the specific issues YEPP EUROPE has been working on over the years and also focused on in 2021 are migration, radicalisation, xenophobia, unemployment, digital overload and inclusion/exclusion, the climate emergency and mental health issues in the context of the ongoing global pandemic.

To address these issues and counteract negative societal trends, YEPP EUROPE develops and facilitates capacity building for and with youth as well as youth workers and community stakeholders especially in communities with fewer opportunities, that provide life skills, competencies and attitudes necessary for personal and professional growth in the areas of civic engagement, human rights, advocacy, media literacy, project management, community-based entrepreneurship, as well as self-confidence, creativity, tolerance and respect for diversity, critical thinking and digital well-being. YEPP EUROPE also qualifies youth workers in the YEPP Community Network to professionalise their work and support youth in different fields of interest. YEPP EUROPE Community members also work with municipalities on designing more youth-supportive policies and facilitate local and transnational exchange and dialogue with policymakers involving youth.

As every year, also in 2021, the needs and issues of young people, youth workers and YEPP community members were studied by YEPP EUROPE through online surveys and face-to-face activities, e.g. seminars, workshops, youth exchange, and shared in the YEPP Community Network.

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions continued to affect almost all areas of young people's life: education, career, employment, social life, as well as physical and mental health and therefore the work of YEPP EUROPE, who continued to directly address its target groups' needs and adapt to the situation through innovative initiatives and projects and acting as the centre of a growing and vibrant European network of organisations working for Youth and Community Empowerment.

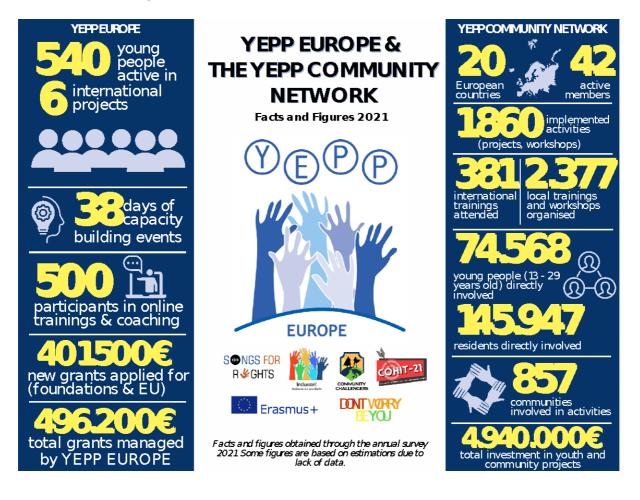
This Mid-term report records the progress of INA-IYCE/YEPP EUROPE (further referred to as YEPP EUROPE) from 1 January to 31 December 2021 according to the YEPP EUROPE Strategic Goals 2021-2022 and activities in the field of service provision, advocacy, international networking & partnerships, dissemination and expansion, fundraising & income generation, coordination & management.

The narrative section of the Mid-term report is followed by the financial report.

This report is based on the evaluation reports of YEPP EUROPE international activities, site visit reports of the YEPP EUROPE Team members, as well as on the minutes of the YEPP EUROPE Team (Evaluation) Meetings, the YEPP EUROPE Advisory Board Meetings and the regular updates for the YEPP Community Network, including the Annual YEPP Community Network Survey.

Key developments 2021

The graph below gives an overview of key developments and key facts and figures of YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network. The facts and figures from the YEPP Community Network were obtained through a survey conducted by YEPP EUROPE in December 2021. Due to the lack of exact figures from some YEPP Network Members, some figures were estimated.



YEPP EUROPE Outreach

540 young people took part in **6** international projects led by YEPP EUROPE: INCLUSION, Don't Worry be YOU, Community Challengers, Songs for Rights Italy, Songs for Rights Berlin, COHIT-21.

500 young people and youth coaches were trained in international online training & coachings organised by YEPP EUROPE and a total of 38 training & capacity-building days were delivered.

In terms of fundraising, YEPP EUROPE applied for **401.500**€ to the programmes of the European Commission and European foundations. The total amount of managed grants by YEPP EUROPE in 2021 is **496.200**€.

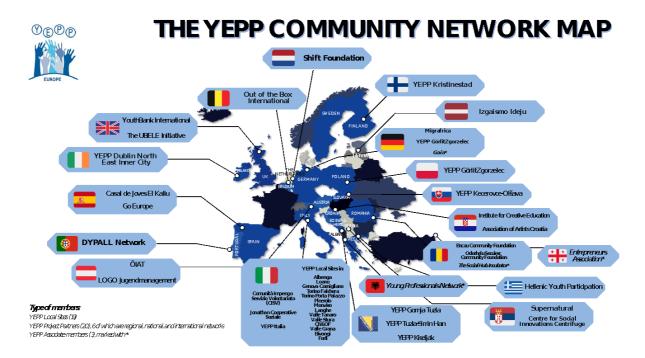
The YEPP Community Network Outreach

The YEPP Community Network grew in 2021 to **42** active members (19 YEPP Local Sites, 20 YEPP Project Partners of which 6 regional, national & international networks and 3 YEPP Associate Members) in **20** countries.

The outreach of the YEPP Community Network and its members translates into the following figures: **1.860** implemented activities, **381** international trainings attended by participants of the network members, **2.377** local trainings and workshops organised, **74.568** young people (13-29 years old) and **145.947** residents in **857** communities were directly involved in the members' activities. The total amount of investment (through grants and funding) in youth and community projects in the YEPP Community Network is of **4.940.000 EUR**.

YEPP Community Network members 2021

These figures demonstrate that in 2021 YEPP EUROPE continued to increase the outreach of young people, residents and communities to address current social issues and needs in Europe, and position itself as an advocate for equal opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities, including migrants and refugees. YEPP EUROPE and the members of YEPP Community Network continuously provided capacity-building activities for youth and community residents, developed offline and online solutions, and collaborated to facilitate the exchange of experience and best practices within the YEPP Community Network.



Through the collective effort of the members of the YEPP Community Network, several noteworthy achievements have been attained in 2021. These efforts have been collected through the annual survey launched in December 2021. A few

examples of the network's work on youth and community empowerment are the following:

1. 840 young people were directly involved in the activities, training, focus groups, conferences, and seminars organised by DYPALL Network in Portugal. Through a local programme, Geração XXI, young people receive support to develop their own initiatives, create associations, and interact with peers.

2. A total of 220 workshops, local initiatives, and seminars were held in person (150) and online (70) by Hellenic Youth Participation in Greece. In addition, they coordinated 3 Erasmus+ mobilities and supported 25 European Solidarity Corps volunteers. Some themes were environmental awareness, equality, healthy relationships, and sexual education.

3. 6 international workshops with the topics of sustainability and social entrepreneurship were attended by our associate partner in Georgia, Entrepreneurs Association.

4. 1600 local residents have received support and advice from Migrafrica in Cologne, Germany. Moreover, 16 migrant lead businesses have been established this year.

5. 287 communities have been assisted by LOGO Jugendmanagement in Austria. They have been coworking and sharing materials with all Styrian cities and villages.

6. 13 cities and municipalities have been working with Tuzla Community Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote youth empowerment through the creation of youth strategies for 2020 - 2024.

7. Ubele, based in the United Kingdom, developed a project called Navigating Space Under Lockdown, which recruited 12 young researchers from black and marginalised communities from 6 regions in England. They were then equipped with technical skills to gather qualitative and quantitative data from other marginalised communities with the aim to identify the impacts of the pandemic on young people.

8. Around 30 organisations were assisted by Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation in Romania through a fundraising sporting event.

9. The Municipality of Kristinestad in Finland has engaged around 300 young people through the youth garden and a variety of clubs (sports, handicraft, climbing, photography).

10. Supernatural in Serbia has worked on the setting up of a Danube youth network, involving seven countries. This initiative aims to involve youth in decision-making processes regarding the EUSDR (EU strategy for the Danube Region).

The contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



YEPP EUROPE has committed to contribute to reaching these ambitious targets. We believe that creativity, know-how, technology and resources are needed from all communities to achieve the SDGs in every context and that it is possible to contribute at the local and global levels through multi-stakeholder involvement, including youth. With its holistic and inclusive empowerment approach, YEPP EUROPE focuses in particular on the civic engagement of young people with fewer opportunities as agents of change.

YEPP EUROPE's work can be linked to the following SDGs: Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 13 (Climate Action) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Goal 1 - No Poverty

Our target groups are young people in communities with fewer opportunities. Many are struck by poverty, its causes and its consequences. With our capacity-building programmes and facilitation of participatory processes, as in Community Challengers, INCLUSION!, Don't worry be YOU, etc. we reach out to marginalised young people and youth living in poverty or at risk of poverty.

Through the programmes, they gain life skills, competencies and attitudes that empower them going forward. They also become more resilient to external shocks or events in their lives. At the heart of our every learning activity is the trust in people's strengths - not being victims or passive recipients of assistance but becoming active and empowered change-makers.

To foster more equality in the field of human rights, YEPP EUROPE implements the Songs for Rights project for children, which is about claiming your rights through music and rights education workshops.

Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-being

Well-being and health-care issues, e.g. polluted rivers, lack of sports facilities, poor eating habits, drug addiction, etc. affect many young people in communities with fewer opportunities. Therefore, the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, as well as creating awareness about health risks, eating and drinking habits, climate crisis, etc. is part of the work of YEPP EUROPE and all members in the YEPP Community Network.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In the context of the pandemic, YEPP EUROPE has started a new two-year project funded by ERASMUS+ called "Don't worry be YOU - Fostering Youth and Community



mobilisation and building of trans-sectoral partnerships of community stakeholders and policymakers. They aim at fostering economic growth,

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design and implementation of entrepreneurship and nonformal capacity-building programmes for young people and youth workers across Europe. Some examples include former projects such as Build Your Future, People Places Partnerships and Welcomeship, but also the new project Community Challengers in which Entrepreneurship solutions for climate issues play a central role. These programmes also include influencing policy change and

Goal 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth Community Empowerment is one of YEPP EUROPE's Goals and

context of YEPP approach and methodology implies that young girls and women are being included in decision-making processes and structures. Equal opportunities are outlined in the YEPP Working Standards. These have been signed by all members of the YEPP Community Network. In 2021, YEPP EUROPE also made session proposals on the topic of gender equality for two conferences in 2022 such as the Feminist Foreign Policy Summit in Berlin.

Advocating for the empowerment of young people and communities within the

The first Goal of YEPP EUROPE is Youth Empowerment. It includes equal opportunities for young people regardless of racial or ethnic origin, education, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. Gender equality is promoted and monitored by YEPP EUROPE and the members of the YEPP Community in all activities, educational programmes and even governance structures.

Principles and is targeted at communities with fewer opportunities. This includes the promotion of development-oriented policies, fostering of creativity and innovation through community-based

the engagement,

Goal 5 - Gender Equality

migrant backgrounds or from families with socio-economic difficulties. YEPP EUROPE capacity-building programmes promote diversity, gender equality and aim at building capacities, skills and competencies as well as attitudes and confidence of young people in media literacy, communication, creative thinking, advocacy, project management, sustainable development, (social) entrepreneurship, proactivism, inclusive education and human rights to become responsible active citizens contributing to positive change. At the same time, young people develop skills in a wide range of employability related fields.

be YOU, INCLUSION!, Songs for Rights, etc., are designed for young people with fewer opportunities. Our target group includes young people with disabilities,

Goal 4 - Quality Education

LEARNING is a crucial part of YEPP EUROPE's holistic empowerment approach. It is one of the 5 Goals and Principles and is implemented as part of YEPP EUROPE's capacity-building programmes focusing mainly on non-formal learning.

The capacity-building programmes of YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network, such as Community Challengers, Don't worry

Wellbeing" which involves partners from 7 European countries and will focus on the development of learning tools in the field of physical and mental health of young people with fewer opportunities.







social justice, sustainable development, setting up (social) businesses and the employment of young people.

Goal 10 - Reduced Inequalities

The first of YEPP EUROPE's Goals and Principles is Youth Empowerment. It implies that all young people have equal opportunities regardless of racial or ethnic origin, education, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief. The reduction of inequalities is promoted by all members of the YEPP Community Network in their local communities and is fostered

throughout YEPP EUROPE activities at the international level, as well as social media awareness-raising campaigns and, in particular, support of young people and communities with fewer opportunities.

Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Positive environment is a key topic in youth-directed capacitybuilding programmes and activities in most communities across the YEPP Community Network. In the times of climate crisis and youthled movements, such as Fridays for Future, reducing CO2 emissions and waste, changing consumption habits and reducing the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities has become a priority in

the advocacy work of YEPP EUROPE and members of the YEPP Community Network across the continent. The new 2021 project Community Challengers has Climate Action at its heart and tackles the issue through Art & Entrepreneurship. Partners in 7 European countries are currently implementing this project and working on sustainability solutions in their cities and communities.

Goal 13 - Climate action

YEPP EUROPE seeks to create awareness for climate crisis and impact reduction by informing the YEPP Community and external audience of the latest news, developments and examples of best practices via our website, the newsletter, the social media channels, and also by promoting sustainable event management through our own example. In the two-years' (2021-2022) Community

Challengers project, an educational programme on changing habits for climate change mitigation is being developed and tested by young people and youth workers across Europe.

Goal 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decisionmaking is at the core of the YEPP approach and methodology. It is a process-oriented bottom-up approach that gives decision-making power to all community stakeholders and young people in particular. The key targets of YEPP activities are the strengthening of civil society and the development and improvement of the communities at local and global levels.

In 2021, also the **members of the YEPP Community Network** have been hard at work incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into their operations and projects.









According to the results of our 2021 survey, Good Health & Well-Being and Quality Education are the two most worked-on SDGs, reached by 11 members each, closely followed by Sustainable Cities and Communities (8 partners), Reduced Inequalities (7 partners), Gender Equality, Climate Action, and Partnership for the Goals (6 partners each).

Our partner organisation ideenfluß e.V. created an educational platform about the coal industry in Görlitz, Germany. They describe the project thus: "Getting the Train Rolling - Station for Creative Minds: Acquisition, Expansion and Implementation of a Networking and Education Point with Skilled Worker Qualification and Headquarters for the Cultural and Creative Industries in the Historic Train Station in Görlitz". Supernatural, a partner organisation from Serbia, created a garden with the help of young people to increase the biodiversity of a local area and promote bees and beefriendly plants as a key driver of biodiversity. Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation showcased an excellent creative project, championing the Responsible Production and Consumption SDG. The organisation ran a mosaic competition in Harghita County, Romania, where teams of up to 10 young people were to create a mosaic about the topic of the environment using old bottle caps. Finally, Hellenic Youth Participation in Athens ran the project Solidarity for Fashion: the project aimed to act against fast fashion and to support green ethical fashion businesses in Athens. These are only a few of the many inspiring examples of projects run by our partner organisations in 2021 in support of the global SDGs.

12 10 8 6 2 73% (11) 73% (11) **53%** (8) 47% (7) Good Health and Well-Being Quality Education Sustainable Cities and Reduced Inequalities Communities 40% (6) 40% (6) 40% (6) **33%** (5) Gender Equality Climate Action Partnerships for the Goals Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions **27%** (4) **27%** (4) **27%** (4) **20%** (3) Life on Land No Poverty Decent Work and Economic Zero Hunger Growth **7%**(1) 20% (3) **13%**(2) 7%(1) Responsible Consumption Industry, Innovation and Clean Water and Sanitation Other and Production Infrastructure

What Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have you been working on or have been incorporating into your work over the past year?

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European Youth Goals

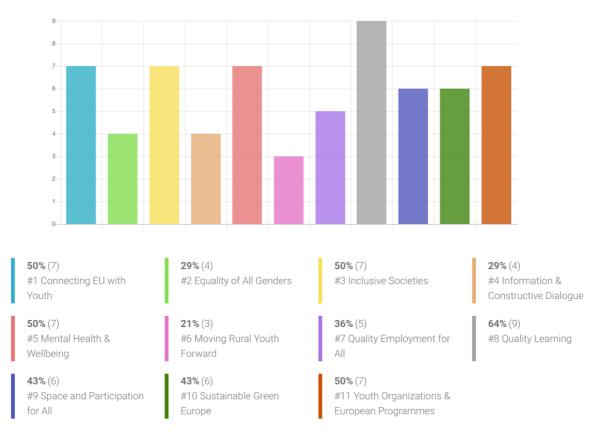


In 2021, the members of the YEPP Community Network also have been hard at work incorporating the European Youth Goals into their operations and projects. According to the results of our 2021 survey, the majority of the partners prioritised quality learning, with 9 organisations highlighting that as their focus. Nearly as important, 7 organisations flagged the following EYGs: Connecting EU with Youth, Inclusive Societies, Mental Health & Wellbeing, and Youth Organisations & European Programmes.

There were many projects in our network that went hand in hand with the EYGs in the past year, for example, the Ecological Youth Camp on the Danube. It was conducted by our Serbian partner **Supernatural**, the aim of the camp was to build capacity and knowledge of biodiversity through practical knowledge. At the camp, the youth paddle on kayaks, learn to cook a fish stew, walk in the forest, do bird watching, ride a bicycle on Eurovelo 6 Danube cycling route.

Despite the COVID challenges which prevented the international participants from joining, the local youth was able to take full advantage of the program. Another project, centred around the Inclusive Societies EYG, was project INCLUSION!, which YEPP EUROPE ran with multiple partners from 10 European countries.

Another project that pushed the EYG Quality Employment for All was the workshop series 'time to empower young professionals to use marketing and branding tools to increase their employability, conducted by our partner Hellenic Youth Participation. Finally, Entrepreneurs Association in Georgia ran a sustainable rural development accelerator programme to create sustainable and innovative social enterprise projects using hackathons.



Which European Youth Goals are you addressing in your work?

Erasmus+ Transversal Topics

The priorities of the Erasmus+ programme for the coming years are Diversity and Inclusion, Digital Transformation, Green Mobility, and Participation in democratic



life. Our annual survey shows that in the coming year, most YEPP Network members set out to spur European Digital transformation, with 11 organisations marking that as their priority, with democratic participation coming just short of that with 9 organisations prioritising that. With this in mind, many of the partners have already made impressive progress towards these goals. For example, our partner organisation **UBELE** in the UK recruited and trained a group of 18-30-year-old people from the Black community and other marginalised groups on quantitative and gualitative research methods. They conducted a survey on the impacts of COVID-19 in their community. The training programme included a series of 5 workshops and discussions, including a focus group (attended by 19 young people) which aimed to identify and agree on key themes associated with the current Covid-19 restrictions and their impact on young people: 1. well-being and mental health 2. relationships: intrahousehold, generational, to friends and to the neighbourhood, and 3. connectivity and mobility: links to work and space. Another inspiring project which promotes the Digital Education goal is called Heureka Fund, run by our partner organisation Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation in Romania. They describe

the project thus: "Our youngsters are easily lost because the educational system does not offer a colourful/ adventurous learning experience. That's why we support after-school educational projects for middle school kids, which make science, technology, arts and mathematics attractive". Promoting STEM to young children is crucially important, especially for otherwise marginalised youth in remote regions such as Odorheiu Secuiesc.



Which transversal topics of Erasmus+ are you planning to address in 2022?

YEPP EUROPE Strategic Goals 2021-2022

20 years of work in the field of youth and community empowerment since the start of the Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP) in 2000 allowed YEPP EUROPE to position itself and the YEPP Community Network as a key player in addressing a wide range of challenges affecting youth, in particular young people with fewer opportunities. The focus of YEPP EUROPE, therefore, remains on young people, communities with fewer opportunities and marginalised groups within those communities.

Poverty and social exclusion, lack of educational and employment opportunities, lack of belonging and faith in the future and civic engagement, the climate crisis and the pandemic related negative impacts on mental health and wellbeing are the challenges that YEPP EUROPE addresses in its work. It does so by supporting the implementation of the "YEPP" approach and methodology which has been enriched with community-based entrepreneurial tools and by empowering young people and communities through capacity building programmes and opportunities for stakeholder engagement and active civic participation.

The priorities of YEPP EUROPE in 2021-2022 are based on the three Strategic Goals 2021-2022 and the results of the annual YEPP EUROPE Team Evaluation which took place in December 2021. They include further development and implementation of capacity building programmes for young people and youth workers in the areas of community development, social inclusion, human rights, active citizenship, project management, advocacy, media work, climate action, mental health & wellbeing and community-based entrepreneurship; coordination and expansion of the YEPP Community Network and sustaining YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network beyond 2022.

The Strategic Goals 2021-2022 are as following:

STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Empower young people and local communities with fewer opportunities through the "YEPP" approach and methodology with a special focus on capacity-building

Strategic objectives:

- support lifelong learning for young people and people working with youth, especially those with fewer opportunities, through the development of capacity-building programmes on current global issues which affect youth and their communities, such as unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, migration, radicalisation, xenophobia, digital developments and challenges, climate change, human rights issues, and other issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- foster transnational exchange and learning (online & offline).

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Mainstream the "YEPP" Goals & Principles and increase outreach

Strategic objectives:

- build strategic partnerships to develop needs-based capacity-building programmes for youth and those working in the youth field through ERASMUS+ programmes and other alliances,
- expand to new communities and countries in and beyond Europe,
- advocate and promote the YEPP values (e.g. equal opportunities, young people at the core of decision-making processes, ...) and inclusive and resilient communities in cross-sectoral collaboration with stakeholders and decision-makers at the local, regional, national and international levels,
- align the work on the YEPP Goals & Principles with the Sustainable Development Goals, Human/Children's Rights and the European Youth Goals.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Sustain YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network

Strategic objectives:

- develop a diversified funding scheme,
- develop new offers and programmes assuring the sustainability and further development of YEPP EUROPE and the quality of the YEPP Community Network as a lively, inspiring and capacity-building international platform.

While the first two goals serve the YEPP EUROPE mission as the central entity within the YEPP Community Network and its current operations, the third goal is focused

on the sustainability of YEPP EUROPE, the YEPP Community Network and funding schemes for the years 2021, 2022 and beyond.

YEPP EUROPE's work along each Strategic Goal, as well as the account of strategic objectives, expected outcomes, activities and mid-term assessment is presented in the next section of this report.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

Empower young people and local communities with fewer opportunities through the "YEPP" approach and methodology with a special focus on capacity building

Strategic objectives:

- support lifelong learning for young people, and people working with youth especially those with fewer opportunities, through the development of capacity-building programmes on current global issues which affect youth and their communities, such as unemployment, poverty, social exclusion, migration, radicalisation, xenophobia, digital developments and challenges, climate change, human rights issues, and other issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- foster transnational exchange and learning.

Expected Outcomes:

Local actors strengthened their capacities in youth and community empowerment work, advocacy, media work and (community-based) entrepreneurship, children's rights and climate action. Learning and exchange were fostered by YEPP EUROPE through a series of international conferences and workshops, training and coaching, as well as by webinars and other online activities.

YEPP EUROPE Activities

1. Community Challengers: Climate Survey

In February 2021, YEPP EUROPE launched a survey "Climate Action NOW!", conducted in the framework of the project "Community Challengers! Towards sustainable & climatesmart communities through Arts & Social Entrepreneurship". The purpose of the project is to empower young people with the necessary tools and knowledge to engage in climate action. Therefore, the goal of the survey was to identify young people's needs and interests for topics and exercises for action and



incorporate as many ideas and opinions as possible into the project and the production of Intellectual Outputs.

YEPP EUROPE received 365 responses, mostly from Latvia, Portugal, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, and Belgium. Other represented countries were Albania, Montenegro, Turkey, France, Greece, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the United Kingdom, Azerbaijan, Brazil, and the USA. Most prominent age groups of the respondents were 20 - 24 year olds (23%) and 25 - 29 year olds (17%). 53% of the respondents were students and 68% of all respondents identified as female.

The questionnaire was referring to **the awareness of key environmental issues**. Those issues that respondents were most aware of were pollution (86%), global warming and climate change (82%), industrial and household waste (75%), as well as deforestation (73%). Issues of least awareness were acid rain (36%) and urban sprawl (22%). A strong desire to learn more about the loss of biodiversity (51%) and urban sprawl (50%) was reported.

Regarding **the role of individual citizens** in reducing the effects of climate change, 94% of the respondents agreed that young people have a particular role to play and that a strong need for intergenerational and interdisciplinary cooperation is remaining.

As for the promotion of action at the local and community level, cultural, practical, and political layers were outlined. Suggestions for action were involving the local community and the youth, engaging networks, utilising social media, and getting active in advocacy and discussions with government stakeholders.

Knowledge and information were desired about factual answers on the impact of climate change on community level, the impact of corporations and big industries as well as the clarification of the most known false facts about climate change and the possible consequences of not achieving the 2020 and 2050 goals. Respondents further showed high interest in advocacy work, getting an overview of study programmes in environmental science in the EU and learning about active organisations in the field. Additionally, a call for action on how to change individual habits towards a greener lifestyle, practical guidance and examples linked to young people's local reality and daily life was outlined.

The results of the survey built ground of the chosen topics, practical examples and highlighted practical advice for the Intellectual Outputs (Handbook, Mapping Toolkit and Challengers Guide).

2. Community Challengers Online Meetings, Training & Coaching

On 27 January 2021, the YEPP EUROPE Team conducted an online training on the EU rules of **project administration and reporting**. It was organised for the Consortium of partners involved in the project "Community Challengers! Towards sustainable & climate-smart communities through Arts & Social Entrepreneurship" as part of the monthly online sessions. The YEPP EUROPE Team introduced the partners to the Project Management and Administration Manual which was produced in January 2021 by YEPP EUROPE to support the project teams with an explanation



of the EU rules, as well as some recommendations. The Training received positive feedback and the Manual was found to be a helpful tool.

In line with the regular **Online Coaching Sessions** provided in the Community Challengers project, partners came together online on 18 August, 26 October and 29 November 2021. Current developments were discussed, the Training of Trainers in Portimao was planned and results later shared; impressions and learnings were discussed within the project consortium. Experiences and recommendations from



Workshop practices made in Portugal, fed into the finalisation of three Intellectual Outputs. Partners were invited to comment and edit from their perspective, while YEPP EUROPE was in charge of the final edit. The Intellectual Outputs served as preparation for the implementation of local challenges in Portugal, Italy, Latvia, Croatia and Serbia.

3. Community Challengers: Production of Intellectual Outputs

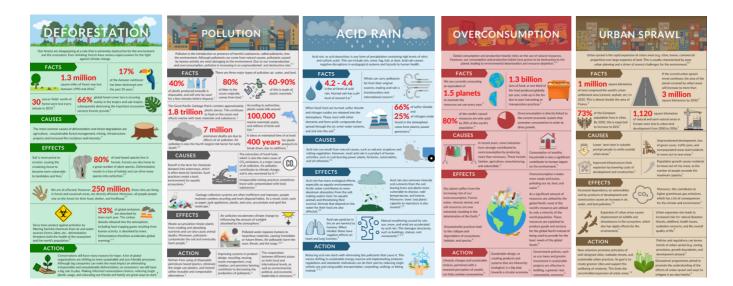
During the first year of the project (2021), the main focus was the production of Intellectual Outputs, which will be tested through local workshops, training and blended learning (so-called 'challenges') in the second project year (2022).

With the involvement of all project partners, Intellectual Outputs 1-3 were prefinalised until October 2021. After testing of exercises described during the Training of Trainers, further comments and experiences were included and final edit was done in December 2021 - January 2022. The following Intellectual Outputs were produced:

IO 1.1: The Sustainability & Climate Action Handbook: Background Information

The Handbook was published as the first part of the Intellectual Output1 and acts as illustrative storytelling. The objective of this Handbook on background information is to inform young people and the wider public about key environmental issues, their causes and effects in the ecosystem, international initiatives and goals, such as the SDGs, European Youth Goals and the European Green Deal. Further, the Handbook shall support everyone to become aware of their potential to act as an individual, as a consumer, as a part of a group or community, and thus act for change.

Addressing young people, the descriptions are featured with cartoons, illustrations and infographics which were produced by YEPP EUROPE in order to facilitate learning and make the learning material more youth-friendly.



The structure is divided into key environmental issues, present-day environmental issues as well as Stakeholder Actions (individual Level, industrial level/business, and policies /international initiatives). Additionally, the last chapter involves a collection of sources for literature, podcasts, movies, art, personalities and projects to follow.

This Handbook is being translated at the beginning of 2022. It will be available in six languages: English, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Croatian and Latvian.

IO1.2: The Sustainability & Climate Action Handbook: Practical tips and experiences: workshop formats, tips by trainers

The 2nd part of Intellectual Output 1 is focussing on practical tips and creating solutions for communities, together with young people. It is addressed to youth workers and trainers and should be a guide and ground for the preparation, development, implementation and follow-up of workshops and training with young people to become activists against climate change. Following the survey outcomes and the structure of IO1.1, this guide is focussing on the following topics: Deforestation, Depletion of the Ozone Layer, Overpopulation, Overconsumption, Acid Rain, Climate Change & Global Warming, Urban Sprawl, Pollution, Industrial & Household Waste and Loss of Biodiversity.



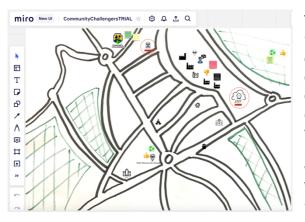
A combination of theory and practical exercises is meant to give youth workers and educators the necessary non-formal learning & teaching tools to deliver engaging, participatory and practice-oriented workshops, including exercises and tasks that provoke further reflection or inspire action. This Handbook is available in English and will be available as an online version with interactive features where users (trainers and participants) can leave comments and feedback.

Link to the Community Challengers Platform: <u>https://communitychallengers.org</u>

IO 2: The Community Mapping Toolkit

The Intellectual Output 2 is the Community Mapping Toolkit. It shall provide the guidance for trainers and young people to prepare, conduct and follow-up for

Community Mapping workshops. The objective is to blend offline research, mapping, analysis & reflections in the community; to identify environmental and climate issues, as well as resources, key players, initiatives and potential solutions, and allow for different perspectives to be discussed and debated in groups. Moreover, the method shall digitalise and further develop YEPP's situation analysis to become an innovative, sophisticated, action- and vision-based mapping tool to reflect the existing needs of young people and youth workers.



The Toolkit is split into three parts. Part 1 is for Offline work and contains the experiential and participatory methods of community analysis. Part 2 is Online and contains a step-by-step guide on how to digitalise community maps produced by young people using digital mapping tools, in particular the free software MIRO. Part 3 will list experiences shared after the Workshop conduction from partners and trainers across Europe.

By the beginning of 2022, the toolkit is translated into six languages (English, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Croatian, Latvian) and will be available in a PDF version and online version with interactive features.

IO 3: The Community Challengers Guide

The Challengers Guide is the third Intellectual Output of the project and blending different formats of workshops that will be held as the challenges of the project. **PART 1** is focusing on art challenges in the fields of Film, Visual Arts, Performance/ Play and Songs. Each challenge is proposing a two-day Workshop structure and is highlighting possible evaluation questions. Project partners agreed to hold at least two of these challenges.

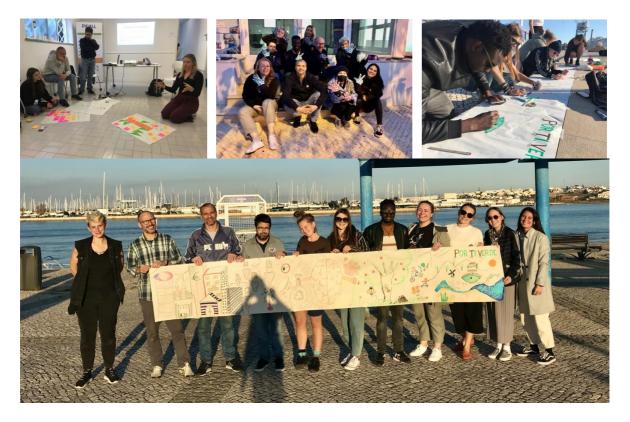
For all challenges it is expected that young people create their own art pieces and learn how to reflect climate-related topics, challenges and solutions in their own artistic language. In consequence, participants learn to express their perception of societal, ecological developments reflected from their own perspective and reality. **PART2** of this Guide is describing the entrepreneurship challenge, bringing together the format of a Hackathon with the topics climate change, eco-friendliness, sustainability and activism. This 5-day challenge will be implemented by all partners of the project after an international Youth Exchange in Belgrade, Serbia (May 2022). The translation into six European languages (English, Italian, Portuguese, Serbian, Croatian and Latvian) should invite any youth worker or trainer interested to use this Guide in order to create artistic and entrepreneurial challenges with young people, help them reflect their perception of climate change issues and get active for awareness-raising, information-spreading and solution-creation in their local community and beyond.

The remaining Intellectual Output of the project is "IO 4: The Advocacy Tutorials on Climate Action" which is foreseen for 2022.

Information about the Intellectual outputs is published here: https://communitychallengers.org/?page_id=59

4. Community Challengers: Training of Trainers in Portimão

As part of the Training and Learning Activity of the Community Challengers project, trainer and youth workers of the project partners came together for a week of "Train the Trainers" in Portimao, Portugal (7-13 November 2021). DYPALL Network kindly hosted the training week. During the five days, project's Intellectual Outputs were presented and Workshops as well as training exercises tested and experienced with the group. The thematic focus included different workshop formats, e.g. recycling, composting, and community mapping. Further, creating own art pieces through photo safaris, drawing murals and composing own songs on climate issues. Sharing knowledge and jointly developing workshop formats to be tested by young people in Europe, made the week full of impressions on Climate Activism and the questions on how arts and entrepreneurship can inspire young people to get active, protect the earth, protect the climate and create sustainable solutions. The workshops (challenges) are being implemented on local level until May 2022, when youngsters will be coming together in Belgrade for a Climate Bootcamp.



5. Songs for Rights Workshop & Event Berlin

From 12-16 July 2021, a Songs for Rights workshop was held in Berlin at Gemeinschaftsunterkunft Degnerstrasse, a housing facility for refugee families. The 15 participating children (8-13 years old) learned and exchanged about children's rights and worked with the trainers Sabina Salimovska (children's rights), Juan David



Garzon (music) and Thomas Knapp (video) to produce the song and video clip "Ich bin ein Kind so wie du" (I am a child like you). The results presented were to the children, their parents, funders. partners and community stakeholders



during a final event on 23 September 2021.

During this event at the same location, the final presentation of the song, the music video created and a video of the process of the workshop week were displayed. The event included speeches from young participants, trainers and a representative of the funding Hele Avus Foundation. Next to organisers, funders and participants, parents and friends attended the presentation, with pride and joy of the achievement made by the children. The event ended with an informal exchange between the participants.



The music video of "Ich bin ein Kind so wie du": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=URIVnpsZALQ



The workshop behind the scenes video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxGt</u> YNHDaWM

6. Songs for Rights Project in Italy

6.1 Four implemented Workshops

In 2021, the Songs for Rights project in Italy implemented four workshops in the YEPP Local Sites of Monviso, Albenga, Langhe and Turin-Falchera (lasting four days in each of the communities). During the workshops, the groups of 10-15 participating children learned about children's rights through the Songs for Rights/ musical learning methods. They wrote and composed their own songs on children's rights, produced a song and a video clip. The workshops were facilitated by Manuel Peluso (musician and music educator) as well as Alessandra Alloni and Maria Anna Rabaglia (children's rights experts from the organisation <u>Articolo 12</u>).



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YEPP EUROPE was very involved in this process through the designing of the project, the learning methods, the final video, consultancy to the trainers, the production of a trainers manual, visited some of the workshops and attended the final event.

6.2 Site Visit to Workshop in Turin-Falchera, Italy

"Come un fantasma" is the name of the song written and produced by a group of 20 children together with local trainers and musicians in Turin, Falchera/Italy. During two weekends in September 2021, participating children and adolescents learned and discussed about childrens' rights and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). The topic was discussed in general, in reflection of the global situation and especially in reflection of the



participant's own lives, surroundings and circumstances. During the second part of the workshop, the group wrote, composed and recorded their own children's rights song. On 25 and 26 September, Jochen Schell visited the Songs for Rights workshop and could testify to the incredible creativity and collaborative work.

6.3 Final event in Turin, Italy



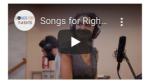
On 5 December 2021, the final event of the Songs for Rights projects in Italy was held in El Bario in Turin-Falchera. Participating children and adolescents from Albenga, Langhe, Monviso, and Turin-Falchera attended along with the organisers, the partners, the trainers and local as well as international guests. During the event the project was presented; each group also presented the youth work in their community through participatory games. The big highlight of the event was the presentation of the four songs and video clips which were produced by the groups. The result was amazing and the young song producers were praised for their incredible work. The Songs are available on the <u>Songs for Rights</u> YouTube channel. A final report along with project video

and a training manual for trainers was also produced and will be published in early 2022.

6.4 **Project Results**

The produced songs & videoclips:





https://www.youtube

.com/watch?v=X6EOYl





Falchera

Langhe

avkvQ

Monviso

https://www.youtube .com/watch?v=9zDXsA vxfv0 Albenga

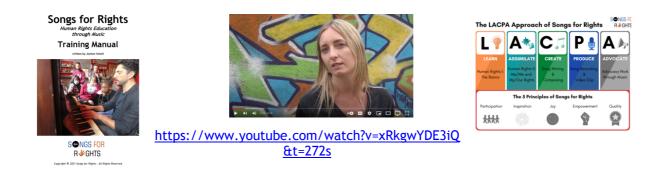
https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=rYAhAhU mZxQ

https://www.youtube .com/watch?v=ld_avM ZYcaw

23

The Training Manual for Trainers & final video about the outcome of the project:

A 40 pages manual for trainers was produced featuring a wide range of learning methods on how to facilitate children's rights workshops through the LACAP approach which was developed by Jochen Schell.



Given the success of the project YEPP EUROPE and ist partner Articolo 12 have engaged in a new partnership for a Songs for Rights Second Edition project in 2022.

7. INCLUSION Youth Exchange Athens

As second face-to-face youth exchange for the project "INLCUSION! Actions Across Boundaries", the Youth Exchange II was held in Athens, Greece on September 10-16th 2021. pandemic Respecting restrictions, the number of participants and participating project countries was downsized. With a total of 26 participants from Germany, Portugal, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, activity could the be



implemented at place. The overall goal of the week was to explore insights, share best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of local inclusion projects in the partner communities. The programme also catered for practical skills development in organising a photo exhibition and community event, using arts for storytelling, drafting sustainability plans for local projects, networking and advocacy work involving policy makers. Further, participants were given the opportunity to self-organise playful and fun activities during the evenings, such as movie nights and karaoke parties. The activity ended with presentations of stories and pictures of the international INCLUSION! Photo and Arts Challenge.

The video summarizing the youth exchange <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SoYyjE3E-uA</u>

8. The COHIT 21 Initiative

In 2021, YEPP EUROPE introduced the COHIT-21 initiative. COHIT stands for Confidence, Opportunities, Hope, Inspiration and Talents and COHIT-21 was aimed to address Covid-19 issues in a series of online learning and exchange activities such as podcasts, video messages, webinars, challenges, online debates and campaigns. All projects should take into account the impact COVID-19 was and is having on young people and other target



groups which was reflected through the content and format of these capacity building programmes.

The following initiatives were part of COHIT-21 during 2021:

Juice Up Your Meetings Webinar



On 18 February 2021, YEPP EUROPE held an online workshop called "Juice Up Your Meetings". The main objective was to equip youth workers and trainers with effective tools and methods to make online events more interesting and fun, especially in light of countless online meetings since the beginning of the pandemic. The guest speaker was Helena Habdija, a youth facilitator, trainer, and coach, who shared her expertise on digital tools and processes. It was acknowledged that the main challenge of many youth workers was how to translate face-to-face activities into online events.

Numerous insights and practical tips were shared on how to keep engagement high in the digital space.

The workshop was attended by more than 200 individuals from around the globe and was broadcasted through Zoom and Facebook Live. It lasted for an hour and concluded with a Q&A portion. Link to the recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJRexgK9fzw

Juice Up Your Meetings 2

On 21 April 2021, the second part of "Juice Up Your Meetings!" was held in response to the large number of inquiries and requests received for more in-depth and detailed tips, tricks, and information on how to conduct online meetings and activities. The guest speaker Helena Habdija provided the audience with a great example on how to hold online meetings in engaging and fun ways. She introduced more tools, dove into the necessary elements of fun meetings, and provided insider tips on how to keep the attention of an online audience. The webinar was broadcasted through Zoom and Facebook and had around 80 participants. Link to the recording: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHcRnT3MFkk</u>



Superhero Challenge!



As an additional part of the COHIT-21 initiative, the Superhero Challenge was launched on Social Media. It was the aim to encourage young people to share inspiring stories about their personal superheroes and superheroines. Assuming that superheroes and superheroines can be everywhere in everyday lives, young people were invited to participate by answering these guestions: who has inspired you recently? Is there anyone who has

helped you in the past week? Someone you look up to? With the invitation to share these personal perceptions online and tagging at least three friends, inspiration and encouragement should be spread.

Bouncing Back: An Interactive Workshop on Resilience

On 16 June 2021, an interactive workshop was conducted, focusing on the topic of resilience. The guest speaker Zsofia Gaudi is a mental health coach, co-founder of "Environ.mental", and a creator of Unfolding Training and Coaching. The workshop focused on the meaning of resilience, its links to mental health, and how to develop tools and strategies of resilience in and for daily life. Presentation and discussion gave good insights on how to respond to emotions, how to identify personal needs, and the importance of supportive people in life. At the end of the workshop, the participants received more resources on resilience and mental health.



The technical set up of this online workshop was an interactive "conference call" and not a "Webinar". For this reason, there is no recording of the workshop since it would reveal personal data of participants and it would not be GDPR compliant.

The Skills Factory



Moving towards online channels is not always easy, especially when it comes to practical, creative, and handson activities like training, facilitation, and education. Shifting from an offline to an online environment requires you to think, plan and operate in a creative and innovative way.

The success of the Webinars Juice up your meetings! showed the need and high demand for transforming face-to-face events into online events and making them interesting and appealing. Answering to this need, YEPP EUROPE developed a 5 days' online training which will start in February 2022 called *The Skills Factory - Designing and Running an Online Workshop*. The training will be run by Helena Habdija, an expert from Croatia, and be sold at 200EUR per participant. Link to more information: <u>https://yeppeurope.org/the-skills-factory/</u>

9. Entrepreneurship Stiftung: Webinar on Value Proposition

On 1 March 2021, Jochen Schell and Helena Habdija held a Webinar on the topic "The Dos and Don'ts of Value Proposition". The Webinar was given to the winners of the <u>Citizen Entrepreneurship</u> <u>Competition 2020</u>. Presentation and discussion focused on the questions of how to create and communicate an effective value proposition, how to provide a clear message to your customers, how to deliver on your promise and How to differentiate yourself from your competitors.



Mid-Term Assessment

In 2021, the objective of supporting lifelong learning among the YEPP Community Network members was achieved with a series of international training activities organised and coordinated by YEPP EUROPE, all of them on needs-based topics as reflected in the members survey:

- The project Community Challengers Towards sustainable & climate-smart communities through Arts & Social Entrepreneurship produced a needs survey, online coaching, training and meetings, an online partners meeting, a Training of Trainers in Portimão and the development and testing of Intellectual Outputs involving 100 young people and youth workers and experts from seven European countries and engaging them in Climate Action.
- The Songs for Rights projects in Berlin, Germany and Albenga, Langhe, Turin-Falchera and Monviso in Italy engaged 100 children and adolescents in human rights and children rights educational programmes and produced their own Songs for Rights and childrens' rights advocacy tools.
- The INCLUSION! Actions across boundaries project engaged approximately 100 young people from 11 countries through online and offline activities such as a photo and art challenge and exhibitions, local INCLUSION projects and a youth exchange in Athens.
- The COHIT-21 initiative has engaged more than 300 young people and people active in the field of youth empowerment in online activities such as three webinars, podcasts, videos and social media campaigns.

Local actors strengthened their capacities in youth and community empowerment work, advocacy, media literacy, climate action and community-based entrepreneurship.

The local work was supported by site visits by members of the YEPP EUROPE Team. Additional online learning tools on a wide range of topics were developed through Tutorials, a digital Community Mapping Tool, Training Manuals and new developed websites. Learning and exchange were fostered by YEPP EUROPE through a series of coaching sessions and Inspiration Labs.

Next Steps 2022

In 2022, YEPP EUROPE will further address the topics relevant to youth and those working in the field of youth as expressed in the Members' Survey 2021.

Although the funding for projects *INCLUSION* terminates in 2022, the results will be disseminated to a wider audience, and young people's ideas followed up with the aim of working on solutions to further include marginalised groups on the basis of race, gender, health, sexual orientation, religion, disability or cultural background.

In addition, YEPP EUROPE will further implement the *Community Challengers* project and support local youth challenges in the form of videos, songs, performing art, visual art and entrepreneurship tackling the issue of the climate emergency; and will produce a series of tutorials on the topic how to advocate for climate action.

Also, in 2022 YEPP EUROPE will continue to develop the project *Don't worry be YOU* in collaboration with their European partners organising a partners meeting and a Training of Trainers and developing a blended learning model along with learning tools in order to tackle the issue of mental health and wellbeing of young people.

The further development of *Songs for Rights* (Human Rights Education through Music) will be accelerated through a new project manager and new projects in different countries in Europe as well as and newly developed Training of Trainers. If the ERASMUS+ KA2 grant proposal is approved in March 2022, YEPP EUROPE will engage in a 2 years programme "*Songs for Change*" aimed at promoting the EU values through music and developing a blended learning programme with seven European partners.

In 2022, YEPP EUROPE is planning to submit another ERASMUS+ KA3 (with focus on youth policy reform) and a 2-year project proposal to the European Commission ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 - Strategic Partnerships. The topic will be based on the needs survey of the YEPP Community Network members.

2022 was also declared the *European Year of Youth* and in collaboration with YEPP Italia, YEPP EUROPE is planning a series of Webinars promoting the YEPP approach and methodology and highlighting the need for more youth participation and stronger youth policies across Europe. In 2022, YEPP EUROPE will also develop a new strategic plan for the years 2023-24 and beyond.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

Mainstream the "YEPP" Goals & Principles and increase outreach

Strategic objectives:

- build strategic partnerships to develop needs-based capacity building programmes for youth and those working in the youth field through ERASMUS+ programmes and other alliances,
- expand to new communities and countries in and beyond Europe,
- advocate and promote the YEPP values (e.g. equal opportunities, young people at the core of decision-making processes, ...) and inclusive and resilient communities in cross-sectoral collaboration with stakeholders and decision-makers at local, regional, national and international level,
- align the work on the YEPP Goals & Principles with the Sustainable Development Goals, Human/Children's Rights and the European Youth Goals.

Expected Outcomes:

YEPP EUROPE strengthened its position as an expert for youth and community empowerment, youth policy, community-based entrepreneurship, media work, climate action and human/children's rights addressing burning European and global societal issues, such as youth unemployment, social exclusion, migration, as well as health, social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and further developed strategic partnerships with partners, practitioners and funders in these key areas.

The YEPP Community Network gained new members and increased visibility and outreach to young people and marginalised communities benefiting from its work.

The YEPP values such as youth and community empowerment, inclusion, equal opportunities and active citizenship are promoted through the YEPP Community Network using a wide range of communication platforms and advocacy work. Moreover, European and global goals and initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Human/Children's Rights and the European Youth Goals are actively promoted, disseminated and worked towards through the work and projects of YEPP EUROPE (e.g. Community Challengers, INCLUSION, Songs for Rights, etc.)

Local actors in all YEPP Local Sites and Project Partner Communities across Europe work in partnership with the municipalities on sustainable local change and influence youth policies at a local, regional and national level to further build critical mass for stronger policy influence.

YEPP EUROPE Activities

YEPP Community Network Expansion

In 2021, YEPP EUROPE extended its outreach and network and gained new project partners from Greece, Bulgaria, Latvia, Croatia and Serbia (see also YEPP Community Network Map on p.5). This was mainly achieved through new projects funded by the EU programme ERASMUS+ Key Action 2 - Strategic Partnerships, such as Community Challengers and Don't worry Be You.

Further, a new membership type *Associated Members* was created (<u>https://yeppeurope.org/get-involved/</u>) and new Associated Members from Germany, Georgia and Albania joined the network. The aim of this membership is to reach out to more like-minded organisations across Europe, to foster exchange and collaboration with youth organisations.

For the three membership types YEPP Local Site, YEPP Project Partner and YEPP Associate Member, new members have to to sign the YEPP Community Network: Working Standards (https://yeppeurope.org/wp-

<u>content/uploads/2017/10/YEPPEuropeWorkingStandards2017FINAL-1.pdf</u>) embracing the YEPP Goals and Principles.

Support for Policy Reform Civil Society Cooperation

In February 2021, YEPP EUROPE submitted the final report of the Erasmus+ programme KA3 - Support for Policy Reform Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Youth. The project's work programme 2020 was composed of 42 activities, implemented by a consortium of 12 partners from 12 countries. The target group were young people with fewer opportunities aged 14-29, youth workers,



municipality representatives and youth civil society stakeholders. The activities were conducted both offline and online using participatory, engaging and inclusive methods, and varied from youth exchanges, training courses, arts challenge to advocacy & information campaigns.

All the project results of this project can be found on the YEPP EUROPE Website. <u>https://yeppeurope.org/eu-youth-strategy/</u>

A new application for the Erasmus+ Call, Key Action3-YOUTH "Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Youth (ERASMUS-YOUTH-2022-CSC-OG) was submitted in December 2021 under the coordination of DYPALL Network. The final approval is still pending (Stand Feb 2022). Link to the call: <u>Funding & tenders (europa.eu).</u>

Community Challengers

On 19 and 22 March 2021, YEPP EUROPE held its first ever International Online Partners Meeting for the project "Community Challengers". Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, the initially planned face-to-face meeting was held online istead. The objectives of this meeting were to present organisations involved and get to know each other better; to clarify the tasks for the Intellectual Outputs; to understand the project through practical activities and be able to explain the project to young people; to discuss communications: peer exchange. promotion and dissemination; and to answer open questions. The meeting was designed in a way to recreate the team-building experience of a



face-to-face meeting, and to have a combination of informative content, result-oriented group work, and fun. The meeting left the participants very inspired and motivated for the next steps of the project.

Don't Worry Be You: Project Approval and Kick-Off

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the realities of young people, leaving traces on their mental health and wellbeing, due to isolation, inactivity and loss of purpose. The project "Don't Worry Be You- Fostering youth and community wellbeing (KA 220-YOU-AB29466B0) was approved in November 2021.

The project is based on a holistic learning model that combines a mindfulness programme with embodiment practices, community initiatives and advocacy work, and thus targets all three human dimensions - the intellectual, physical and spiritual. The learning

model draws on a 4-pillar methodology developed for this project: Learning- Embodiment-Mindfulness- Connection (LEMC method).

On 28 April 2021, the partners held a prep session to get to know each other, discuss the project, agree on the split of tasks and define next steps. After approval, project partners met online on December 1st 2021 for a pre-Kick Off and laid the foundation for the project start.

The project implementation is January 1st 2022-December 31st 2023.

INLCUSION! Photo & Art Challenge and exhibitions

As part of the INLCUSION! Project, the Photo and Art Challenge was launched inviting young people from across Europe to showcase (through photos/artworks and a story) what inclusion means to them. The results of the challenge were shared online on the INCLUSION Website (<u>https://projectinclusion.eu/?page_id=35</u>) and 2 exhibitions were held in Athens and Berlin. With a total of 29 entries, the results showcase how young people understand inclusion and how they think it is practised in their community and daily life. The photos along with their stories (written text & audio files) were used to bring communities together to discuss the inclusion of disadvantaged groups. Along with these photo exhibitions, young people, community stakeholders, and policymakers discussed how to address the social exclusion of





these groups and how to build more inclusive communities and more inclusive societies as a whole.

On September 27th 2021, YEPP EUROPE opened its photo exhibition in the Berlin offices. Together with colleagues from INA (Internationale Akademie Berlin), the INCLUSION! The project was presented, followed by a joint discussion on the general concept of Inclusion. Afterwards, the exhibition was opened for attendees to walk around and explore the gallery exhibit. With each photo, a QR code with an audio file was provided. A video was made to show how the exhibition was set up in the INA/YEPP EUROPE office: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNMc-HWJyFY</u>

SALTO Awards: Fake Off! Finalist

Each year, SALTO Youth is awarding outstanding Erasmus+ projects that have created an impact in their thematic fields. In 2021, the categories of the awards were 1) Environment & Climate Action, 2) Digital Transformation, 3) Youth Participation, 4) Solidarity & Volunteering as well as 5) Media and Information Literacy. In the project, "Fake Off!", YEPP EUROPE worked in cooperation with Bit Schulungscenter (Austria),



Future Balloons (Portugal), GoEurope (Spain), Jonathan Cooperativa Sociale (Italy), ÖIAT (Austria), and LOGO! Jugendmanagement (Austria). Focusing on the topic of fake news and the issue of misinformation, a general didactic concept, a resource toolbox, an Android & iOS app, and a comprehensive, nearly 200-page training material for youth workers were developed. The project became one of the four finalists in category 5) Media and Information Literacy.

YEPP Community Network Annual Survey

Each year, YEPP EUROPE collects evidence of its work and achievements by the YEPP Community Network. The results are building the basis for new founding proposals, creating new project ideas, and building partnerships. In 2021, YEPP Community Network partners were also asked to outline their connection to the Sustainable Development Goals, the European Youth Goals as well as the Erasmus+ Transversal priorities (see results in "Key Developments 2021").



Communications, Advocacy & Publications

YEPP EUROPE continues to be very active in terms of communications, promoting its work and advocating for causes like climate action, mental health, inclusion, human rights, SDGs, etc. through 6 websites and more than 10 Social media pages and groups on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linked-In, Spotify and YouTube.

In 2021, several efforts were made to explore the potentials of communication channels and tools in order to promote the work of YEPP EUROPE along with its values and the YEPP Goals and Principles, to reach out to its network and potential new members of the network (expansion), to build new strategic partnerships and to engage with the wide range of audiences YEPP EUROPE interacts with:

- There was already a YEPP EUROPE Team member in charge of communications (Social Media, Newsletters, production of content, etc.) who was reinforced by an intern specialised in Social Media.
- A Communications and Social Media Strategy was developed defining what target groups to reach out for through what channels and how.
- New content was produced: videos, podcasts, songs and social media campaigns (e.g. Superheroes, The climate tips series, Songs for Rights is ..., etc.).
- The YEPP EUROPE Newsletter has seen an increase of subscribers of 50% in 2021.
- New innovative tools have been developed and used to promote YEPP EUROPE content such as Instagram carousel, Instagram takeover, etc.
- The regular webinars developed and organised by YEPP EUROPE were promoted on the SALTO YOUTH platform, which has drawn a very high number of people from the youth field towards YEPP EUROPE (e.g. for one the webinar Juice up your Meetings, 500 people registered and most subscribed to the YEPP EUROPE Newsletter).

The combination of these measures with the fact that YEPP EUROPE also gains more exposure online and offline through its participation in EU projects has had as a result that YEPP EUROPE is solicited on a regular basis (weekly) by youth organisations from across Europe and beyond for the participation in new projects, partnerships or collaborations. These solicitations have increased dramatically in 2021.

Also video-making and giving young people a voice through various communication channels remains a strong component of YEPP EUROPE's communications. Here are some examples:

European Youth Goal 4

The goal of "Information and Constructive Dialogue" seeks to ensure that young people have access to reliable information, support in evaluating information, and opportunities to engage in participatory dialogue. Why is this youth goal relevant to young people these days? In this <u>video</u>, Sandhya shares her thoughts on the importance of proper information sources and the role of dialogue in today's world.

European Youth Goals 1 and 4

"Connecting EU With Youth" is the first goal of the European Youth Strategy, which aims to build a bridge between the EU and young people in order to increase active societal participation. The 4th goal, "Information and Constructive Dialogue", seeks to ensure that young people have access to reliable information, support in evaluating information, and opportunities to engage in participatory dialogue. In this <u>video</u>, Sara talks about the goals that

are most applicable to her work with youth, and the crucial relationship between "Connecting EU with Youth" and "Information and Constructive Dialogue".

European Youth Goal 10

A sustainable green Europe is easier to achieve when young people are environmentally active, educated, and able to make a difference in their everyday lives. In this <u>video</u>, Federica shares some tips on how to contribute more positively to the environment.







Inspiration Labs (Podcasts)



Inspiration Labs is a podcast series of YEPP EUROPE set up during the pandemic. The aim is to inspire, give hope, share ideas, positive vibes, and energy! It is addressing young people, youth workers, NGOs active in the field of youth and all interested people. The podcast series gives people from the YEPP Community Network a voice to 1) share their opinion and wisdom about the issues of their concern, such as dealing with crisis (e.g. COVID-19 situation), digital well-being, actions for climate emergency, human rights, building an inclusive society, etc. and 2) share their skills which could inspire other people.

All YEPP EUROPE Inspiration Labs can be found on SOUNDCLOUD (<u>https://soundcloud.com/yeppeurope</u>) Here is one example:

Inspiration Labs - Elda from Albania

"Many small actions done with great care on a daily basis have the potential to make a change." In this episode, we talk to Elda, who works with the organisation Young Professionals Network. Based in Albania, they seek to connect young people to training and learning opportunities across Europe. This is especially important during times when mostly everything has moved online. She is sharing her thoughts about creating online communities,



connecting young people, and how little things make a difference. Link to the episode: here.

New! The Community Challengers Website



As a platform for exchange and important part of the project's dissemination work, the website of the Community Challengers project was set up in 2021: <u>www.communitychallengers.org</u>. The website features all key information of the project, its partners, the Intellectual Outputs and the LACA learning model representing the key pillars of the project: LEARN - ANALYSE - CREATE - ADVOCATE. Environmental awareness, artistic

expression, empowerment and entrepreneurship education for young people with fewer opportunities are the objectives of the Community Challengers project. Project developments, Intellectual Outputs and Workshop implementation results will be shared on the website. With the aim of involving further trainers and youth workers outside the project consortium, Intellectual Outputs can be discussed through comment tools. This interactive feature is foreseen for 2022.

New! The Songs for Rights Website



Also for the Songs for Rights project a new website was launched in 2021: the <u>website of Songs for Rights</u>. The website promotes Songs for Rights and its methodology in Human Rights Education through Music, featuring the historical background, the LACPA methodology (Learn - Assimilate - Create - Produce - Advocate), the partners and

projects as well as the mission and vision. All Songs for Rights projects, workshops, training, produced songs and video clips are featured on this website which is also linked to Songs for Rights Social Media Channels (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube).

Publication: Working Paper - Civic Strategies Addressing Populism



Working Paper of the European Citizen Action Service: Civil Strategies Addressing Populism In April 2021, a working paper was published by ECAS, analysing ten case studies representing projects that aim to tackle populism, including the YEPP EUROPE project "INCLUSION! Actions across boundaries". The findings contributed to designing guidelines for project managers setting up similar initiatives. Based on those findings, four general recommendations were put forward, namely: ensuring sufficient and easy-to-access public funding for (innovative) projects addressing populism; more proactive use of project outcomes by policymakers; more synergies between different kinds of projects; and dedicated

channels to facilitate the exchange of expertise between project managers responding to the challenges posed by populism. Link to the working paper: <u>here</u>.

Civil Society Hub for actors addressing populist movements

YEPP EUROPE joined the Civil Society Hub for actors addressing populist movements which was initiated by the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS). On 6 July 2021, YEPP EUROPE participated in a first meeting between members to decide on the modus operandi of the hub. The idea behind launching this hub: ECAS is aware that populism is a complex phenomenon and that there is no single factor that causes populism. Instead, there is an interplay of different factors resulting in very different



manifestations. Based on that, ECAS decided to bring together actors who already have a solid knowledge base and experiences in the field. The hub is envisaged to work in 3 dimensions: Networking, Exchange of knowledge and good practices and (possibly) creating synergies and cooperating across borders.

In 2022, YEPP EUROPE will continue its participation and has joined the task force "Diverse Participation" one of three Task Forces of the Civil Society Hub (Democratic Progress, Diverse Participation, Inclusive Societies) which will meet several times in 2022.

YEPP Berlin 2022



YEPP EUROPE started to look for local youth organisations in Berlin which could become a partner and implementing organisation of YEPP EUROPE projects in Germany. It would allow YEPP EUROPE to directly work with young people in Berlin and to implement EU and other projects in the city in which it has its base. This search and setting up of partnerships will continue in 2022.

YEPP EUROPE Sustainability Concept

In the light of the climate emergency, in 2021, YEPP EUROPE has developed a sustainability concept for its operations and in particular for its international events such as conferences, training, partners meetings, training of trainers and youth exchanges. Through this sustainability concept YEPP EUROPE wants to reduce its negative impact on the environment and the climate. First of all, the ecological footprint is mitigated through a more environmentally friendly event design (choice of materials, location, food,



etc.) and reduction of the impact on the environment through the choice of transport, reducing plastic consumption, etc. Secondly, YEPP EUROPE calculates the ecological footprint for each

of the meetings by using the online calculator myclimate (<u>www.myclimate.org</u>). As a third step, YEPP EUROPE and its participating partners of the meetings offsets their emissions through a range of measures: Through local activities (planting trees, cleaning river banks, etc.) during the events and/or donations to local environmental projects. This concept will be implemented from 2022 onwards.

Mid-Term Assessment

In 2021, YEPP EUROPE's objectives of strengthening and expanding the YEPP Community Network were achieved through new strategic partnerships and new network members joining the YEPP Community Network. This development considerably increased the outreach and social impact of YEPP Community Network as a whole.

Burning European and global societal issues such as the climate emergency, social exclusion, mental health & wellbeing in relation to the pandemic and human rights issues were addressed in a series of face-to-face partner meetings, international exchanges, online sessions, and activities such as the INCLUSION photo and art challenge and Social Media campaigns organised by YEPP EUROPE (see also Activities Goal 1). Some follow-up projects are planned to continue strategic partnerships in the thematic fields.

Due to the ERASMUS KA3 projects which terminated at the beginning of 2021 and the INCLUSION and Community Challengers project, project partners reported strengthening partnerships with the municipalities on sustainable local change and are working to influence youth policies at a local, regional and national level.

The outreach of YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network was also enlarged and reinforced through an elaborated communications strategy and through a wide range of communications efforts including webinars to promote YEPP EUROPE's work and position in the field of Youth and Community Empowerment, Social Media campaigns and initiatives, the production of videos and podcasts and the development of new websites and Social Media channels.

Next Steps 2022

In 2022, the European Year of Youth, YEPP EUROPE will engage in a series of Webinars in collaboration with YEPP Italia in order to promote the YEPP approach and methodology as well as its work in the aim of positioning itself as a strong player in the field of Youth and Community Empowerment in Europe.

YEPP EUROPE will also seek to involve the current partners from recent and current projects - INCLUSION, Community Challengers, Don't worry be YOU - in the Network activities and will further expand the YEPP Community Network through its three membership types: YEPP local Sites, YEPP Project Partners and YEPP Associate Members. YEPP EUROPE will look for new partnerships for the new ERASMUS+ KA2 and KA3 proposal 2022 to further expand its outreach and enrich its expertise with new collaborations. If approved, the project "Songs for Change" will engage YEPP EUROPE into new strategic partnerships with partners from Greece, the Netherlands and Portugal.

Through a new partnership in Berlin, YEPP EUROPE will have a local youth organisation as a strong partner in order to implement its projects directly with young people and youth workers in Germany.

In terms of its visibility and outreach, YEPP EUROPE will continue to promote its values and will position YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network along with its work and the YEPP Goals & Principles within the context of European and global initiatives and standards such as the Sustainable Development Goals, Human/Children's Rights and the European Youth Goals. It will do so using creative and innovative ways in terms of production (videos, tutorials, podcasts, Social Media campaigns, etc.) and current as well as new communication channels.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

Sustain YEPP EUROPE and the YEPP Community Network Strategic objectives:

- develop a diversified funding scheme,
- develop new offers, services and programmes assuring the sustainability and further development of YEPP EUROPE and the quality YEPP Community Network as a lively, inspiring and capacity-building international platform.

Expected Outcomes:

YEPP EUROPE is more independent from the infrastructural funding of the current main funders Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and Compagnia di San Paolo. It receives additional funding from other sources, e.g. European Commission's ERASMUS+ Programme and foundations, and fundraises successfully for new projects in the field of Youth and Community Empowerment, Entrepreneurship Learning and Inclusion.

YEPP EUROPE Activities

Fundraising & Income generation

YEPP EUROPE applied for and received the following new grants through EU programmes and foundations in 2021:

ERASMUS+ KA2 Community Challengers	191.199 EUR
ERASMUS+ KA2 Don't Worry Be YOU	179.204 EUR (main applicant SH!FT Foundation)
Hele Avus Stiftung (Songs for Rights Berlin)	10.000 EUR

ERASMUS+ KA2 Songs for Change (tbc in March 2022) 200.253 EUR

In 2022, the following new grant applications are planned:

ERASMUS+ KA3 - Support for policy Reform	40.000 EUR
ERASMUS+ KA2 - (Topic tbc)	200.000 EUR
Hele Avus Stiftung (SfR)	10.000 EUR
Deutscher Volkshochschulverband (SfR)	7.000 EUR
Berliner Projektfonds Kulturelle Bildung (SfR)	11.000 EUR
Songs for Rights Italy 2.0	10.000 EUR

Don't Worry Be YOU - Fostering youth and community wellbeing

The project "Don't Worry Be YOU- Fostering youth and community wellbeing (KA 220-YOU-AB29466B0) was written by YEPP EUROPE in spring 2021. Since YEPP EUROPE had already one KA2 project running (Community Challengers) and was planning to apply for another one in autumn (Songs for Change), it agreed with the Shift

Foundation from the Netherlands to be the lead applicant. The project was approved in November 2021. Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme (KA2: Strategic Partnerships in Youth), the project starts on January 1st 2022 and lasts 2 years. Under the coordination of Shift Foundation (Netherlands), the partners, YEPP Italia (Italy), Institute for Creative Education (Croatia), Alter Network (Bulgaria), Roes Coop (Greece) and YEPP EUROPE (Germany), are testing different formats of wellbeing, delivering resilience skills and mobilising communities with innovative, appealing and game-based measures in six areas: mind, body, spirit, planet, place, and people. The approved grant is 179.204 EUR.

Application Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Cooperation: Songs for Change

In October 2021, YEPP EUROPE applied for a new ERASMUS+ project (Key Action 2 - Strategic Cooperation Partnerships), called "Songs for Change". The project is based on the Songs for Rights methodology and aims at fostering learning and promoting EU values through music. If granted, the project will last 2 years and will

involve the production of the following project results: The Songs for Change TOOLKIT, the Song Production SERIES (Webinars & Workshops), the Video Clip Production TUTORIALS and the Songs for Change BROADCAST which includes the creation of a web radio promoting EU values. Partners from Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Portugal, Greece and Belgium will be involved in the project. Selection results are expected for March 2022.

Songs for Rights (SfR)

In 2021, Songs for Rights has offered new (funding) opportunities and YEPP EUROPE has realised its great potential. It has received funding through the Songs for Rights Italy (funded by INTESA SAN PAOLO through YEPP Albenga) and Songs for Rights Berlin (funded by Hele Avus Stiftung) projects. Due to a lack of capacity, YEPP EUROPE was

not able to follow up on all funding opportunities and has therefore decided to employ a Songs for Rights Project Manager from 2022 onwards. The new project manager should have competencies in project management but also fundraising enabling them to gain new project funding for the further development of Songs for Rights. In 2022, it is also planned to develop a Training of Trainers which could be designed in a way that it generates income.

After very successful collaboration during the Songs for Rights project and workshops in Italy, YEPP EUROPE and its Italian partner Articulo 12 decided to work on a new project "SfR Italy 2.0" in 2022. This new collaboration is aiming at implementing further workshops and fostering the dissemination of the Songs for Rights methodology in Italy. A new application to Hele Avus Stiftung, who already announced that they were open to a new proposal, is planned and an application for a Songs for Rights project in Berlin was written and sent to the Volkshochschulverband in the beginning of 2022.

In order to support the strategic development of Songs for Rights in a wide range of fields such as sustainability, content & methodologies, outreach, etc. in 2021, a new Songs for Rights Advisory Board was set up. It meets twice a year online and is composed of experts in the field

S NGS FOR R GHTS





of music, human rights (education), philanthropy and (social) business development. The first meeting will take place in February 2022.

These are the members of the board:



Todd Fletcher PluralArts International (USA/GER)

Expert in

music



Marion Haak-Schulenburg Katholische Universität Eichstätt (GER)

(GER) Expert in **music**



Maria Rosaria Centrone Articolo 12 (IT)

Expert in Children's Rights



Lea Fenner & Else Engel Right Now (GER)

Experts in Human Rights Education



Thomas Biotteau Mowgli Foundation & EBRD (FR/TN)

Expert in

communications, digital

transformation and

(social) business development



Darren Bird Learning for Well-Being Foundation (WLS)

Expert in child & youth participation

YEPP EUROPE Team Evaluation Meeting

At the end of each year, YEPP EUROPE is reflecting yearly achievements and experiences, team structure and processes. On December 8th 2021, the YEPP EUROPE team discussed learnings from 2021 and the following questions: What is success for us? What is growth for us, how do we achieve it and how can we measure our impact? Which topics are we addressing and what do we want to achieve during next year?



The discussion led to the annual planning for 2022. The year will

include the further implementation of ongoing projects, developing new concepts, youth participation on the local and international levels. Upcoming activities will also be conducted in light of the European Year of the Youth 2022.

YEPP EUROPE Advisory Board

On 26 of May, the YEPP EUROPE Advisory Board met online and discussed the recent development of YEPP EUROPE as well as strategic development issues in relation to fundraising and income generation, new projects as well as the enlargement of the current Advisory Board.

After the board meeting, YEPP EUROPE contacted Bruno António, the Coordinator of the DYPALL network in Portimão, Portugal and asked him to join the YEPP EUROPE Advisory

YEPP EUROPE Advisory Board (online) Meeting

26 May 2021 11-12.30 am CET



Board. He agreed to join from the beginning of 2022 onwards. Bruno António graduated in Social Education at the University of the Algarve in Faro, Portugal. During his educational path, he lived abroad, namely in Brazil, India and Scotland. For the past 12 years, Bruno has been actively engaging in international youth work, working as an expert and external consultant for several institutions, such as the European Commission and the Council of Europe. He previously

took office as Secretary-General of Youth for Exchange and Understanding, as well as Executive Director at ECOS - Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento.

YEPP EUROPE Youth Committee 2022

In 2021, YEPP EUROPE has decided to set up a YEPP EUROPE Youth Advisory Board or Youth Committee in 2022 which would give young people a voice in relation to the development of content but also on strategic development questions. The role of this Committee and its members and how to set it up as well as its Modus Operandi will be decided on in 2022.

Change of Name of ICE: Now IYCE

In 2021, it was decided that from January 2022 onwards, the Institute for Community Education (ICE) would be renamed to express and represent our commitment, our work as well as our positioning in the scientific spectrum since more than 20 years that, indeed, is rooted in community education but going beyond by now. It was named:



Institute for Youth and Community Empowerment (IYCE)

YEPP EUROPE Human Resources

2021 was a year of change and transition in relation to the Human Resources of YEPP EUROPE. Tanja Katsbert left on maternity leave in October and was replaced by Saskia Weißenbach as a project manager, who manages the projects Community Challengers and Don't Worry be YOU.

Virginia Gallo Cobián, the finance and administration officer, resigned at the end of the year and will be replaced by Angelika Klammt from the beginning of 2022. Angelika will be in charge of finances and administration as well as the event and office management.

Karla Morales, the communications and event manager, will be in charge of communications only from 2022 onwards and was supported by Margarita Levitova, during a three months internship. It was decided that Margarita's contract will be extended in 2022.

The search for a Project Manager for Songs for Rights started towards the end of 2021 and will be filled through a part-time (16-24h/week) position in 2022.

Mid-Term Assessment

In 2021, YEPP EUROPE managed to attract new funds from new sources, including the EU funding for the ERASMUS+ KA2 *Don't worry be YOU* project; and foundation funding (Hele Avus Stiftung) for the *Songs for Rights* project. In addition, YEPP EUROPE applied for the ERASMUS+ KA2 grant "Songs for Change".

Furthermore, new funding opportunities were discovered through research and collaboration. In particular, in the field of *Songs for Rights*, several possible grant opportunities have been identified. Some examples are Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk (Germany), Deutscher Volkshochschulverband (Germany), Berliner Projektfonds Kulturelle Bildung (Germany). In the beginning of 2022, a new project manager for Songs for Rights will follow up on these opportunities.

In addition, new EU programmes were discovered such as the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) on which YEPP EUROPE will follow up and try to get funding in 2022. In terms of Income generation, YEPP EUROPE has also invested efforts in the development of capacity-building programmes that could generate income for YEPP EUROPE. Two examples are *The Skills Factory*, a training of online facilitation, planned for March 2022 and a *Songs for Rights Training for Trainers*, to be designed and finalised in 2022.

The sustainability and strategic development of YEPP EUROPE has also been supported by current and new bodies such as the YEPP EUROPE Advisory Board, the Songs for Rights Advisory Board and will be further supported by the Youth Committee or Advisory Board in 2022.

Given these positive developments, the objective of diversifying the funding scheme was successfully achieved for 2021. **Next Steps 2022**

YEPP EUROPE is preparing new funding proposals with a range of different funders to secure infrastructural and activity funding for 2022 and beyond:

- Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnerships 2023 2024
- Several application for Songs for Rights Projects:
 - Berliner Projektfonds Kulturelle Bildung (Germany)
 - Deutscher Volkshochschulverband
 - Aufholpaket Kulturelle Bildung
 - Songs for Rights 2.0: A contract was signed with Articolo 12 which commissions them to do a funding mapping as well a a grant proposal for a new Songs for Rights project in Italy in 2022
 - Hele Avus Stiftung
 - A Training of Trainers will be developed which could become a income generating training in the future
- ERASMUS+ KA2: If the grant proposal of Songs for Change will be declined, YEPP EUROPE will improve the proposal and apply again in 2022
- New EU programmes such as CERV
- Erasmus+ KA3 Support to civil society and policy reform 2023
- Other grant opportunities which will come along in 2022, as lead applicant or partner.