

RiseUp

Youth Lab: Analyzing and Improving Youth Employability Policies in the EU Local Event

Project No: 2023-3-EL02-KA154-YOU-000184073



DAGNE



INTRODUCTION

RiseUp is an Erasmus+ KA154 Youth Participation project designed to enhance youth inclusion and employability across the European Union. It brings together four partner countries — Greece, Italy, Latvia, and Bulgaria — to empower young people to actively participate in shaping employment policies that affect their future.

The project focuses on EU Youth Goal #7: Quality Employment for All, aiming to create a fair, inclusive, and sustainable labor market for young Europeans. RiseUp encourages youth to become co-creators of policy solutions, bridging the gap between education, skills, and real-world job opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

1) Policy Analysis:

Examine existing EU and national youth employment policies, such as the Youth Guarantee and Skills Agenda, identifying their strengths, gaps, and impact on young people.

2) Empower Youth Participation:

Engage young participants as active policy contributors rather than passive beneficiaries, ensuring their voices are heard in shaping employment-related decisions.

3) Bridge the Skills Gap:

Explore how education, training, and vocational programs can better align with labor market needs, particularly focusing on digital, green, and entrepreneurial skills.

4) Promote Diversity and Inclusion:

Address barriers faced by youth with fewer opportunities (e.g., those in rural areas, migrants, or people with disabilities) and promote equality in access to jobs.

5) Develop Policy Recommendations:

Co-create actionable proposals that support fair working conditions, sustainable job creation, and inclusive employment systems.



OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH LAB

Youth unemployment remains one of the most pressing challenges in Europe. Despite progress made through various EU initiatives, many young individuals still face difficulties entering the labor market due to structural inequalities, skill mismatches, and limited access to quality job opportunities. The Youth Lab aims to unpack these issues, fostering a deeper understanding of how policy decisions at the EU and national levels impact real-life employment conditions for young people in Italy and beyond.

- YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES ACROSS EUROPE.
- DESPITE PROGRESS THROUGH EU INITIATIVES (LIKE THE YOUTH GUARANTEE AND SKILLS AGENDA), MANY YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO ENTER THE LABOR MARKET.
- THE YOUTH LAB SEEKS TO ANALYZE AND ADDRESS THESE ISSUES THROUGH DIALOGUE AND RESEARCH.
- IT AIMS TO DEEPEN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW EU AND NATIONAL POLICIES AFFECT REAL EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS.



INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The Lab began with an introductory session that presented the overall goals of the RiseUp project and highlighted the importance of EU Youth Goal #7 - Quality Employment for All. Facilitators introduced participants to the main European frameworks such as the European Youth Guarantee, the EU Skills Agenda, and Italy's own National Youth Employment Plan. This session helped participants understand the broader policy landscape and how these initiatives aim to reduce youth unemployment and support transitions from education to work.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS



Following the introduction, participants engaged in interactive workshops and group discussions. They were divided into smaller working groups, each focusing on a different theme: skills development, inclusion and diversity, fair working conditions, and youth entrepreneurship. These sessions encouraged open dialogue, allowing participants to share their personal experiences, identify the barriers they face in finding quality employment, and suggest practical improvements to existing policies. The workshops were guided by youth facilitators trained in non-formal education methods, ensuring that everyone's voice was heard.

POLICY MAPPING AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Following the introduction, participants engaged in interactive workshops and group discussions. They were divided into smaller working groups, each focusing on a different theme: skills development, inclusion and diversity, fair working conditions, and youth entrepreneurship. These sessions encouraged open dialogue, allowing participants to share their personal experiences, identify the barriers they face in finding quality employment, and suggest practical improvements to existing policies. The workshops were guided by youth facilitators trained in non-formal education methods, ensuring that everyone's voice was heard.

IALOGUE WITH POLICYMAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The event also featured a panel discussion with local stakeholders, including representatives from local government, youth organizations, and small business associations. This dialogue gave participants the chance to present their findings and discuss directly with policymakers the changes they wish to see in youth employment strategies. The conversation emphasized the need for better coordination between educational institutions and employers, more accessible vocational training, and stronger support for youth-led entrepreneurship.

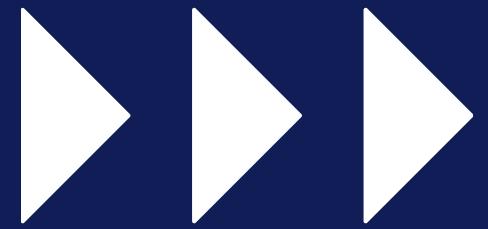
Outcome:

- The dialogue fostered mutual understanding between youth and policymakers.
- Local stakeholders expressed interest in continuing cooperation with youth networks for future initiatives.



CONCLUSIONS AND OUTCOMES: YOUTH VOICES FOR THE FUTURE

The Youth Lab concluded with a collective reflection session, during which each group presented its recommendations. Participants expressed a strong commitment to staying involved in future RiseUp activities and continuing their advocacy for youth employability. The results of the Italian Youth Lab will be shared across the project's network and will contribute to the final European report on youth employability policies. Overall, the event successfully empowered participants to think critically, collaborate across sectors, and recognize their role as active contributors to shaping Europe's employment future.



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