

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals  
Action Type: Mobility of youth workers

### Project Title

# Mediterranean Youth Academy - Bounded for Occupation

## Project Coordinator

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## Project Information

**Identifier** 2022-3-ES02-KA153-YOU-000093072

**Start Date** Mar 1, 2023

**End Date** Jan 31, 2024

**EC Contribution** 20,154.4 EUR

**Partners** Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development (EG) , TDM 2000 ODV (IT) , KINITRO AMKE (EL) , Mediterranean Forum For Social Development (MA) , Interaktiva (HR)

**Topics** Youth employability ; International relations and development cooperation

# Project Summary

## Objectives

Mediterranean Youth Academy - Bounded for Occupation (MYA- BO) is a KA1 project, which aims to give tools to decrease the rate of youth unemployment and create greater opportunities for cooperation and partnership between the participants and their organizations on a scale targeting the countries bordering the Mediterranean. The idea came in the Mediterranean Youth Academy, organized in September 2022, in Alexandria, Egypt, where youngsters from different countries from the Mediterranean Region gathered together to discuss and debate about topics and conflicts that are affecting the region. We agreed on youth unemployment as a key point of challenge in our countries.

The project targets the Mediterranean region, as countries on its coasts are amongst the ones most affected by unemployment, surpassing the average EU rate. According to data from January 2022, the unemployment rate amongst youth under 25 -Greece (31.4%), Spain (29,4.3%), Italy (25,3%) and Croatia (15,9%) and according to data from June 2022 Morocco (30,2%) Egypt (23,4%) - surpasses the EU average (14.9%). The average youth unemployment rate in the Mediterranean region amongst countries of the EU is 20,31%, overcoming the EU average of 14.9% for over 5%, signifying the need for boosting and empowering the youth of the Euro-Mediterranean countries in regards to the topics of entrepreneurship and business development.

The MYA-Bounded for Occupation for youth workers counting on the role of civil society and youth workers in promoting business development through youth employment, aims to equip youth workers with the proper tools when developing the skills/competences of young people, bringing about higher levels of social awareness and job-market preparedness in the Mediterranean.

Therefore, the more specific objectives of the project are:

- to define the reasons of youth unemployment and find solutions for it.
- to enhance cooperation among youth workers in the Mediterranean region
- to strengthen the competencies of youth workers, in empowering young people and enhancing their soft skills, in order to get employed
- to support the professional development of youth workers/trainers/NGOs in the Mediterranean, in improving the quality of teaching, training & youth work across the Euro-Mediterranean region, especially regarding issues, such as youth employability.
- to overcome the prejudices and stereotypes among the countries, realizing the common Mediterranean roots.
- to build sustainable networks between civil society organisations that are active in the Mediterranean region, as well as among the participants, paving the way for future cooperation.
- to provide participants with a platform to exchange ideas and good practices on youth work as well as develop new project ideas
- to promote European values to countries outside the EU, such as Egypt and Morocco.
- to increase the capacity building of organizations active in education, training & youth work to better respond to the needs of individuals, within and outside Europe

By the end of the program participants will have a vision on the nature of the common opportunities and challenges that the region is faced with and will generate a number of ideas to address these challenges, with greater emphasis on youth unemployment. Most importantly, the project aims at developing the competencies of youth workers, when dealing with young people, empowering them and enhancing their soft skills, so as to get employed.

## Activities

In the MYA-Bounded for Occupation project will participate 6 countries (Egypt, Morocco, Spain, Italy, Greece and Croatia), with 4 participants per country, in total 24 participants, plus 2 organizers (1 person in logistical stuff (Spain) and the other in charge of the communication(Egypt)) and 1 trainer (Italy), in total there will be 27 people involved. For this training course, we encourage the participation of active youth workers, working with people with fewer opportunities.

The profile of the participants will be: active youth workers, with no age limit, who are motivated by the subject, want to increase their skills in the field of non-formal education, learn new knowledge and competences to combat youth unemployment, break stereotypes and promote a more inclusive and respectful society, open to work in international teams and create network in order to exchange methodologies and practices.

The MYA-Bounded for Occupation will include non-formal methods and activities such as:

- Name games and Icebreakers: The first days we will do name games to be able to remember the names of everyone and start getting to know each other.
- Team-building: During the first day, there will be team building and trust activities, to start growing confidence between the participants.
- Teamwork: Most of the activities will require working in teams. (Team building, searching the situation in each country, the preparation of activities, percentage, let's do business together...)
- Intercultural learning; cultural simulations and breaking stereotypes activities (Lemonheads and Whoppers, discrimination). Also the participants will learn more about the other cultures thanks to the intercultural night.
- Critical-thinking/diversity: there will be an activity (GOMETTS) will make the participant reflect about how much we don't mix with people with differences and why we always prefer to be surrounded by those ones with similarities, and the Problem solving & Critical thinking workshop that will help the participants to be innovative for their future campaigns.
- Debate: We think the group debate is really important to learn how to listen, learn from the others and grow. That's why there will be debate during and after most of the activities, to also develop critical thinking. (Mediterranean unemployability, percentage...)
- Presentations: the participants will have to prepare and present the situation in their countries in relation to the topic, it's a way to develop their skills in analysis of data and public speech.
- Learning by doing: The participants will have to participate in activities that will bring them new tools and methodologies. (How to write a CV, Opportunities for youngsters, tools to share)
- Theatre: The participants will do theater related to the topic, in this case, it will be social theatre, which means the bystanders can stop the theatre and change the situations.
- Role-playing: My first job interview activity will be done by role-playing.
- Learning by examples: The participants will be able to learn from their peers, the tools and activities they are using in their daily work.
- Reflexion and autoreflexion: Every evening, before dinner, there will be half an hour to talk about what we have learnt during the day in small groups. Also, there will be the Youthpass activity to reflect about their own learning and what competences they have developed during the project.
- Evaluation: The participants will be motivated to share feedback with the trainer and coordinator, in the mid-term evaluation (to change and improve things if it's the case) and in the final evaluation.

## Impact

We believe that through MYA-Bounded for Occupation, the impact on the youth worker's work will be greatly enhanced and thus, will be also visible in the young people they work with.

The program will enhance the youth worker's skills and competences when dealing with young people. The youth

workers will have the chance to explore tools, such CV creator, Unemployment map of Mediterranean, as well as learn more about how to deal with unemployment issues that young people face through simulations, role plays, discussions etc. This will help them strengthen their competences in youth work and empower youngsters to develop their skills and get employed, through the tools explored.

As the program is characterized by the unique cultural diversity of participants, it will contribute to the development of their communication skills, and will enhance their abilities to deal with and understand youngsters from multiple and diverse backgrounds. Moreover, youth workers will experiment with tools and exercises during the main mobility regarding intercultural communication, cross-cultural dialogue which they will be later able to enforce in their work with young people, helping to eradicate discrimination among youngsters.

#### -Impact on participants:

Participants in our youth workers' mobility will be able to enter into dialogue with experts, facilitators and other fellow youth workers, exchange ideas and good practices, which as a result will enrich their youth work with new tools and methodologies regarding employment for youngsters, and thus, they will be able to effectively tackle issues in their local communities. Participants will share their knowledge and experience with other trainers/youth workers/leaders after they return to their countries, present the results of our project as the best practice in their activities and to improve what has already been learned. Participants will be able to form a perspective on the cultural and civilizational nature of the Mediterranean region and the countries bordering it. This will contribute to enhancing participants' understanding of the importance of cultural diversity and its role in understanding the other and accepting differences. Participants will have the opportunity for cooperation between its countries.

#### -Impact on participating organisations:

The program will be an opportunity for the partner institutions to learn about the nature of youth work and projects in the Mediterranean region and for the institutions to be able to network with other participating organisations, forming a Mediterranean network of organisations active in Erasmus programs. In addition to that the institutions will be able to cooperate better in the future and plan other projects together. Furthermore, our partners will gain further experience in organising and implementing projects, by experimenting with new concepts and methods in our project, and thus, will be able to organize training courses and sessions for young people (on entrepreneurship, youth unemployment etc) on a local and national level.

#### -Impact at a local/regional/European level

The most important result of the project will be that youth workers will develop tools and methodologies that after, they will apply in their daily job with youngsters, creating an impact on reducing the number of unemployed youngsters, and it will be applied in their regions, affecting in a local, regional, national and European and nonEuropean level. Moreover, there will be more understanding of cultural diversity, tolerance and acceptance by the participants, thanks to the mix of countries and cultures that will gather in the project.

We will increase the visibility of the Erasmus + program among citizens and hope that young people and young professionals will open up to new cultures and practices of other countries. The impact of the project will include not only the change between participants but also the local levels of the participating organizations, in Spain and in the partner Countries. We will also include the local community in which partner organizations are active, as well as the local communities of youth workers. We will support as much as possible by encouraging a more in-depth sharing of contacts between participants and their organizations to create more long-lasting local and international cooperation.

#### -Impact on International Level

One of the objectives of the project is to create an international network for the future, which will operate in the same field and exchange methodologies and tools in relation to each other's knowledge and experience. The replication effect will be achieved by sharing experiences in the partner countries, applying the results of the

project to their local realities.

We want to make sure that this will be repeated in the future. For this reason, our goal is to create an effective partner network that will continue to work together in the future and develop ideas and projects.

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