

DYPALL network

European Network - Developing Youth Participation at Local Level

1. Project Summary

DYPALL is a project currently involving 22 European partners, youth organizations and municipalities from 17 countries, that aims to involve young people in the decision-making process, which will enable municipalities and regional authorities to address the needs and interests of youth, at the same time that will contribute to engage youth as an active actors of the solutions for their problems, increasing the level of ownership, commitment and involvement an important part of our communities that is being neglected on this level.

DYPALL stands for the creation of effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authorities through the development of strategies, the building of structures and relations of trust and between actors. The project demands the development of knowledge, sharing of experiences and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making.

2. Background of DYPALL Network

Since 2011 Cooperative ECOS and their international partners have dedicated efforts in fostering the potential of young people to be active citizens and actors of real social change in their local communities, as well as in their regional and international realities. In the wide range of implemented activities, there were a diversity of projects where we have involved and strengthen the work of a network of municipalities and youth workers. These experiences strengthened our belief that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially when in regard to decision-making processes on issues of direct concern and interest of youth. It is essential to look at youth as a forceful and creative source of solutions for our societies that can largely contribute for their development.

We believe that creating and effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authorities' demands willingness and commitment from both parts, but also the development of knowledge, sharing of experiences and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the development of strategies, building of structures and relations of trust and cooperation between actors.

Fortunately, we can already find few but still a diverse range of practices across Europe in terms having young people directly involve in decision-making at local and regional level, where strong bonds and cooperation areboosting the involvement and participation of youth and youth organisations in representative democracy structures and in their local communities. However, we still miss in general a deeper reflection and a space for the development of competences of the youth workers, youth leaders, local authorities' officials and other people involved in developing and supporting structures to enhance youth participation at the local level.

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3. Informal European Network

The partners of this project sharing this common need decided to build an informal network of youth organizations and local municipalities to jointly increase the number and quality of structures and instruments where youth can work with local authorities in the development of local youth policies and strategies for the development of their communities.

The network will increase the opportunities of members to develop youth participation by pooling experiences and exchanging good practices, with the support of ECOS who will coordinate the network during the first 3 years and implement joint activities where members will learn, discuss and find new ways to involve young people to actively participate and contribute to local policies development in their communities.

Members will have a space to reflect on the extent to which youth is actually involved in shaping their society and in contributing to democratic processes; they will work on the need to develop policies that create the conditions for youth participation to become real and effective and to bring actual change to the life of young people and to society as a whole.

4. Objectives of DYPALL Network

In order to realize this ambitious and challenging project the project partners defined the following objectives:

1. To identify and to promote structures and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making and debate about their potential and challenges on public governance;
2. To develop more inclusive approaches to foster the participation of young people with fewer opportunities into spaces such as local youth councils and youth fora;
3. To develop the capacity of their members on issues such as advocacy, policy making, partnership, participative and representative democracy;
4. To allow youth organizations and municipalities to share their best practices in terms of cooperation between local authorities and civil society;
5. To support the development and implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes at local and regional level in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;
6. To develop the governance model that will allow a sustainable growth of the network.

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5. Project Stages and Activities

The project will have the duration of 3 years (2015-17) and will provide an unique opportunity to mainstream youth policy development at local level. Nevertheless represents a challenge that implies the need of commitment from all the partners, their involvement in developing and strengthening the overall project and the sharing of a wide range of experiences, needs, expectations, suggestions and recommendations regarding to the project. In this line, the project is aligned with participatory methodologies, aiming to allow that the project is designed and implemented together with all the partners.

The project is organized in 3 different phases: preparatory phase, implementation, evaluation & follow-up. The implementation phase is divided in 4 main pillars.

I. PREPARATORY PHASE

The foreseen activities under this phase are:

a. Steering Group Meetings

The Steering Group will be meeting 4 times until the end of 2015.

II. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

PILLAR 1: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

The foreseen activities under this pillar are the following:

b. International Conference on Youth Participation on Decision Making

c. Mapping of existing models of local youth councils within the network

d. Publication about best practices on youth participation

e. Mapping of what organisations are part of their National WG on SD (consultation on local level)

f. Seminar of Structure Dialogue

These activities will be developed to reach the following objectives:

- Empower young people to actively participate in decision making processes and youth policy development on local, national and international level;
- Identify and promote structures and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making and debate about their potential and challenges on public governance.

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PILLAR 2: YOUTH EMANCIPATION AND AUTONOMY

The foreseen activities under this pillar are the following:

- g. International seminar on youth policies with the focus on Youth Guarantee schemes at local level**
- h. Seminar to exchange best practices and innovative approaches on how to address young people NEETs**
- i. Support EVS, youth workers motilities and other mobility programmes among network members**

These activities will be developed to reach the following objectives:

- Support youth emancipation and autonomy;
- Support the development and implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes at local and regional level in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;
- Increase the employability of young people through fostering the development of competences and skills;
- Allow young people to have access to quality information on mobility, training, internship and employment opportunities.

IV.PILLAR 3: SOCIAL COHESION

The foreseen activities under this pillar are the following:

- j. Research and publication on how to develop inclusive approaches for YP on decision making;**
- k. Develop international activities in partnership with organizations with knowledge and experience on specific excluded target groups: migrants, Roma, NEETs; etc.**

These activities will be developed to reach the following objective:

- Develop more inclusive approaches to foster the participation of young people with fewer opportunities into spaces such as local youth councils and youth fora;

V. PILLAR 4: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

The foreseen activities under this pillar are the following:

- l. Steering group meetings;**
- m. Assembly of Members meeting**
- n. Working groups meetings;**
- o. International networking and representation on relevant events.**

These activities will be developed to reach the following objectives:

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- Create the basic structure and develop the governance model to allow a sustainable growth of the network;
- Create the model for the network governance for the coming 3 years based on a participatory and democratic, youth led and youth driven process;
- Implement the Assembly of members to agree on the core principles and governance model and to appoint the international steering group;
- Introduce and test several tools for e-governance and innovative approaches for decision making for the network management and governance;
- Support the network enlargement in terms of geographical representation;
- Support the development of network members by providing various educational, training and volunteering opportunities for personal, socio-educational and professional development;
- Increase the impact and multiplying effects by enhancing the cooperation with relevant stakeholders to ensure knowledge transfer.

III. EVALUATION & FOLLOW-UP PHASE

Since DYPALL is a 3 years project, the evaluation of it will be continuous. In general, the foreseen activities under this pillar are the following:

p. The development of a Quality Assurance System for the activities developed in the network;

q. To have an evaluation report of the activities developed by the network in 2016.

These activities will be developed to reach the following objectives:

- To monitor and review the implementation of work plan each year;
- To support the quality of the project, by developing a quality assurance system;
- To support and ensure the achievement of the goals set for the project and for the different activities;
- To support the network to identify its growth potentials;
- To identify funding opportunities and develop further the financial sustainability strategy for the network;
- To create new projects embed of the values and resources of the network;

6. Who we are – Coordinating Organization

ECOS –Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, is an organization run by professional youth workers and educators active on the development of youth programmes and Structure Dialogue on local, national and European level. *ECOS* works mainly on the promotion of non-formal education, social inclusion and youth participation, particularly by supporting the development of local, regional and international projects that aim to enhance youth engagement in the decision making process of their communities and democratic institutions.

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Through our activities, we try to contribute to the development of a more human, sustainable, fair, inclusive, participative, democratic, equitable, solidary, cooperative, dialogical, diverse and integrated society.

Our **Mission** is to contribute to the development, nurturing learning, the construction of trust bonds and fruitful alliances among social actors, entrepreneurs and institutions (through dialogue and cooperation) and articulating agendas of action.

Our scope of **intervention** is on the following axes:

1. Creation of spaces for structured dialogue, cooperation and collective construction among diverse social, business and institutional actors;
2. Promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of playful, educational, social, cultural and sustainable development projects, in formal and non-formal spaces, through non-formal education, always in a way that it complements formal education and contributes to lifelong learning;
3. Development of organizations capacity to do a more efficient management of their resources and projects through training and new technologies of information and communication;
4. Monitoring, support, assessment and consultancy to individuals, organizations, institutions and respective educational programmes and social intervention projects;
5. Promotion, recognition and validation of non-formal education and other alternative pedagogical methodologies that contribute to social transformation.

7. Partner Organizations

Please find below a table with some information and a contact list of the members of the DYPALL Network.

Organization Name	Role	City	Country	Website	Organization e-mail
Active Youth	Partner	Kosice	Slovakia	http://activeyouthslovakia.wix.com/activeyouth	activeyouthslovakia@gmail.com
ADYNE -Netherlands	Partner & Member of the Steering Group	Terneuzen	Netherlands	www.adynenetherlands.nl	info@adynenetherlands.nl / emukana@adynenetherlands.nl
Agenzia per la Promozione dei Giovani	Partner	Roma	Italy	www.forumgiovani.eu	agenziapg@gmail.com
AGU Youth Factory	Partner & Member of the Steering Group	Kayseri	Turkey	www.agu.edu.tr	youth@agu.edu.tr
Biedrība "Aktīvais biedrība" (NGO "For active society")	Partner	Rēzekne,	Latvia	—	active.society@inbox.lv

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Câmara Municipal de Portimão	Partner	Portimão	Portugal	www.vivaportimao.pt	juventude@cm-portimao.pt
CID Center for Intercultural Dialogue	Partner & Member of the Steering Group	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	www.cid.mk	info@cid.mk
Danube.EDU	Partner	PINNACLE	Romania	www.danubeedu.org www.danube-blacksea.Net	dumare.edu@gmail.com
ECOS - Cooperativa de Educação Cooperação e Desenvolvimento	Coordination Organization & Member of the Steering Group	Faro	Portugal	http://ecos.pt	geral@ecos.pt
Fundacja centrum aktywności wórczej	Partner	Leszno	Poland	www.fundacja-cat.pl	fundacja.cat@gmail.com
GOEUROPE	Partner	Magdeburg	Germany	www.goeurope-lsa.de	info@goeurope-lsa.de
Habitat Center for Development and Governance	Partner	Istanbul	Turkey	http://habitatkalkinma.org	info@youthforhab.org.tr info@habitatkalkinma.org
Local Council Slobozia	Partner	Slobozia	Romania	www.sloboziail.ro	office@sloboziail.ro
Maritsa Municipality	Partner	Maritsa	Bulgaria	www.maritsa.bg	obshtina@maritsa.org
Municipality Center of Creative Services of Eastern Latvia	Partner	Latvia	Latvia	http://www.rezekne.lv/izglitiba/austrumlatvijas-radospakalpojumu-centrs-zeimuls/	jevgenija.kusca@rezekne.lv
Município de Estarreja	Partner	Estarreja	Portugal	www.cm-estarreja.pt	hilario.matos@cm-estarreja.pt
No Excuse Slovenia	Partner	Ljubljana	Slovenia	www.noexcuse.si	jan.peloza@noexcuse.si info@noexcuse.si
Norwegian Social workers Without Borders	Partner	Oslo	Norway	nsugrenser@gmail.com	nsugrenser@gmail.com
TOGETHER Luxembourg	Partner	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	www.network-together.eu	anna.roganova@network-together.eu
United Society of Balkans	Partner	Thessaloniki	Greece	www.usbngo.gr	projects@usbngo.gr / info@usbngo.gr
YEPP Italia	Partner	Turin	Italy	www.yepp.it	info@yepp.it
City of Vukovar	Partner & Member of the Steering Group	Vukovar	Croatia	www.vukovar.hr	gradonacelnik@vukovar.hr



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AGU YOUTH
FACTORY



for active society



center for
intercultural
dialogue



Social Workers without Borders
Sosialarbeidere Uten Grenser



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