



Personalised Youth Work

01-05-2021 - 31-12-2022

Jan 2022newsletter



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What is the project about?

“Personalised Youth Work” is a European project with 6 organisations from 4 countries: UK, Austria, Cyprus and Bulgaria.

The project is aimed at enabling youth workers to apply a personalised learning approach when working with young people seeking to enhance their employability, with a particular focus on needs assessment and developing adequate intervention strategies.

This project (no. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-079111) has been funded with support from the European Commission. This document reflects the views only of the author and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which might be made of the information contained herein.



Focus Group 1

21 Trainers "youth workers / experts" from the UK, Bulgaria, Austria and Cyprus took part in Focus Groups during the months Aug - Sept 2021. During the focus groups the partners collated the opinions and contributions of youth workers / experts in the field on their expectations of the Personalised Youth Work Manual (PYW Methodology). Alongside this all feedback on the proposed structure and thematic focus of the manual was taken into consideration, in order to assist with the development of the methodology. Furthermore, the focus groups provided relevant and practical information on how to embed effective measures in how to enhance the quality of youth work and the well-being of young people.

The OBJECTIVE of the PYW Methodology will be to provide structured and comprehensive guidelines on how personalised learning can be applied in youth work to enhance labour market integration measures to boost young people's employability.

"The current support system is underperforming and needs to be adapted to today's needs young people have. The economic crisis followed by the pandemic have deteriorated the situation and created added needs"

Summary of the Findings

It was felt that collaboration is key and this methodology will empower youth workers to include these new skills within their practise and to also share with others. Getting a young person excited about career opportunities is key along with letting them have a chance to explore different career opportunities in order to find a sector they enjoy and therefore stay in work.

Using person centred tools and training will help to keep the process bespoke to the young person. Some Youth workers possibly may need to be upskilled in digital resources in order to support Young People more efficiently (however, time is something that all youth workers do not have the luxury of). To face this challenge, learners will need individualised, competency-based training that is tailored to their specific situations and needs. Trainers can better reach young people and support them into work, especially through individualised informal learning.



Focus Group 2

During the months Aug - Nov 2021 the partnership carried out more focus groups with 21 youth workers / experts from each partner country.

The aim of these focus groups was to collect feedback and map the opinions of youth workers on the proposed structure, indicative content and thematic focus of the Personalised Youth Work Toolbox.

« The Toolbox will contribute to supporting youth workers in developing and sharing effective methods »



Summary of the Findings

From the feedback from the participants it was clear to see that they all were invested in the project and the PYW toolbox. They could see the usefulness of it and appreciate the topics we are focusing on. It was interesting to learn about the tools and resources that they are using already in their work with young people, especially with regards to:

- Increasing motivation
- Positive mental attitude
- Confidence building

Overall, all participants stated that as envisaged the PYW Toolbox seems very useful, practical and focused on interesting topics. They were also unanimous regarding its applicability.

It was also important to learn to listen to the Young people and find out what they see as their barriers as a reference starting point (as each young person will have a different story).

"The PYW toolbox includes information on design thinking (one of the most powerful tools), peer learning and self-oriented activities and seems useful and inspiring"

"A successful approach to boost young people's employability includes assessment of individual needs, goals and strengths, identifying of individual learning needs and designing of a learning plan which is competence - oriented and focuses on their personal strengths and interests, support young learners to find their individual career paths"

“Thanks to the focus groups, the target groups also had the opportunity to reflect on their working practices and the theme dealt with by the project. Youth workers who participated are now more aware of their role in supporting young people by applying a more personalised approach to their day-to-day work”.



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This project (no. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-079111) has been funded with support from the European Commission. This document reflects the views only of the author and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which might be made of the information contained herein.

