

Today's Young Adults Integration in the European Society of Tomorrow

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Abstract

Nowadays Europe is subject to permanent transformations, and has become a huge home for all its inhabitants. Continuous education is now a must for all European citizens. We could not speak of tomorrow's Europe without considering its tomorrow's adults. The Internet, the websites, the communication platforms must represent common communication tools that the future adults should use in their education. The situation is more complicated for the young people who leave school and who, because of different socio-economic reasons, don't have the possibility to come into contact with the new communication and educational technologies.

Keywords: Communication platforms, educational modules, model events, social integration of youth, website.

I. Introduction

The project proposes to discover the real reasons due to which young people consider the current educational systems as ineffective, and consequently propose some improving measures and devise new educational modules, to respond to target group's exigencies.

The project target group is made up of young people aged between 16 and 25, facing the danger of being socially excluded (they have either quit school or are unemployed).

The educational models developed under the project can be also used by other groups on the brink of social exclusion, such as disabled young people.

Other beneficiaries:

- training organization / institutions involved in social activity programs,
- schools which will benefit from the outputs in order to prevent and help students in difficulty,
- teachers, trainers, workers in the field of general education, educational advisers
- social workers, tutors,
- politicians responsible with education, etc.

In this respect, the project partners will establish a direct dialogue with the target group and persons responsible with their education, to discuss on their problems, and better understand how they perceive reality. The project will promote social integration of youth, and prevent the danger of their being socially excluded.

During the workshops, the young adults will be encouraged to use the new technologies. A special communication platform was adapted for the young people in danger of marginalisation in order for them to learn how to use it and the project partners develop their activities on another communication platform adapted especially to the needs of the project.

The project aims are to be accomplished by observing the Commission's White Paper stipulations, of finding methods to stimulate the European youth, so as they may become main pawns of their own general education, and thus significantly get to influence the educational offer and demand, according to their own needs.

II. Research problem and objectives

The international partnership will develop with the help of the young several "model events" adapted to their needs so that the young should be attracted and motivated at the same time to study throughout their lifetime.

2.1. Objectives

1. Establish a direct dialogue with the target group and persons responsible with their education, to discuss on their problems, and better understand how they perceive reality.
2. Propose some improving measures and devise new educational modules, to respond to target group's exigencies.
3. Promote social integration of youth, and prevent the danger of their being socially excluded;
4. Finding most suitable methods to motivate young adults become "consumers" of permanent education.

III. Work methods

Starting from the researches undertaken by each partner country separately, 2 analyses were developed: one on the situation of continuous education at European level and another one on the situation of the young people of the target group in danger of marginalization.

Each partner could thus choose their own target group to address.

The dialog with the target group represented the turning point of the project.

By the means of the direct dialog, the questionnaire and the interview, each partner could draw up a socio-psychological profile of the chosen target group and could establish their educational needs.

The young people have at their disposal a communication platform that offer them the chance to learn and communicate with the help of a modern communication means, but they also have the opportunity to communicate through the discussion forum from the site of the project.

Following the direct communication with the target group and based on the experience and expertise of each of the partners, 8 model events were developed, perfectly adapted to the chosen target groups.

The content of the created models refer to basic skills in the field of technology, foreign languages, social skills, culture in areas related to Internet / virtual reality, music handling, access to labour market.

IV. Results

4.1. Achieved results

1. Analyses on the actual situation of continuous education in every project partner country – the analysis contains 50 pages with the presentation of the educational systems from the partner countries with reference mainly to the adult education (legislation, funds, institutions, position of the adult education in the context of continuous education, etc.)

2. The synopsis and the analysis on the situation of young people, between 16 and 25 years of age, facing the danger of being socially excluded in the project countries – the paper contains 80 pages that realize a fresco at the level of the countries partner in the project concerning the number of the young of the target group, the educational situation, the categories of young in danger of marginalization, existing legislative measures, institutions in charge of these young).

3. Analysis of target group's needs, at the level of the group chosen by each project partner – the needs analyses were developed during the workshops that had as aim the characterization of the chosen target groups from a social point of view and also from the point of view of their needs of continuous education.

4. Discussion forum, to ensure fruitful exchanges of ideas and experiences between social factors interested in the project – the forum is addressed to all those wishing to exchange information and opinions on adult education, especially the education of the young disadvantaged;

5. Presentation of model events (1 for every partner country each) regarding concept, publicity, implementation and evaluation by the participants – the created models are diverse and original, being adapted to the needs of the young.

6. Web-based services:

a) flexible communicational platform for partners, providing project materials specific to each phase of its development – <http://www.srep.ro/tyaest/phprojekt/>

b) flexible communicational platform for young adults – <http://www.srep.ro/tyaest/young/>

c) a project site, providing information on the project, partners and project development;

4.2. Results that will be accomplished by the end of the project

1. Analysis of the implementation of the “model events”- the implementation of the created model events will last 3 months and during this time the partners will have the chance to improve their models with the help of the young.

2. “Model events” evaluation – it will be accomplished internally and externally.

The self-evaluation will be achieved by the creation of a self-evaluation concept by each partner separately.

The internal evaluation will be ensured by the evaluator of the project.

3. Comparative study on the obtained results and analysis of the obtained model's transferability to other similar groups from the project partner countries;

4. Good practices guide – the good practices guide in written and online format will represent the most important result of the project that will summarise the entire work of the partnership: results, expectations, successes and failures as well as useful advice for the people working with the target group.

V. Discussion

The model events developed within the project will be submitted to comparison with a view to establishing their transferability, an important phase in the project that refers to the possibility to transfer the model events to other target groups.

VI. Conclusion

The present project is the result of the work of almost 2 years of 9 partners from 9 different countries.

The success of this project is due to the combination of the experience and expertise of the partner organisations, as well as to their intense work within the project.

We wish that the result of this project should constitute useful help for all those interested in young adult education, especially the education of adults in general.