

Erasmus+
Project Title: Living Land
Ref.: 2019-2-IT03-KA205-016700
Venue: Lecco, Italy



CONTEXTOS

**HOW EUROPEAN PROGRAMS CAN BENEFIT YOUNG PEOPLE,
ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS?**

Brief Overview

How European programs can benefit young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and NEETs?

2022 is the European Year of Youth! What is being done to help young people, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, find jobs and training? Can Erasmus+ help to solve youth unemployment?

Quick Facts

- Due to COVID-19, young people aged 15-29 lose their jobs or suffer a drop in their income.
- Although youth unemployment is coming down (14 % in February 2022 compared to 18.2% in the first quarter of 2021) young people are still twice as likely to be unemployed as the rest of the working-age population (where the average is 6.2 %.)
- In the last quarter of 2021, 12.7% of young people in the European Union were NEETs, which is almost 9 million young people.
 - **Portugal – 9,1%; Netherlands – 4,4%; Italy – 22,7%; Croatia – 14,7%; Poland – 13,7%**

Brief Overview

How European programs can benefit young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and NEETs?

What is being done to help young people, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, find jobs and training?

The European Youth Guarantee (2013)

- 1 in 8 young adults in the EU are not in education, employment or training.
- To help get young people into work, the EU's Youth Guarantee guarantees that all young people under the age of 30 who sign up, will receive an offer of a job, apprenticeship, education, or training within four months.
- Offering young people from disadvantaged backgrounds a chance to gain new skills and confidence by working abroad. (Gaining work and life experience abroad and building motivation and self-esteem.)
- Since it was adopted in 2013, more than 3 million young people have taken up an offer every year, with more than 36 million people helped so far.

"When we look at the results, two years after entering the youth guarantee, we see around half of the young people are still engaged in a job or they are continuing their training or their professional education. So, I would say overall, if well implemented, the Youth Guarantee is a very, very strong and helpful instrument."

Nicolas Schmit, EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

What it is?

- ***“Europe needs to step up support to those who are struggling, and have fallen into the gaps – young people not in any kind of employment, education or training (NEETs)”*; – Ursula von der Leyen**
- Help young people to find their way to the job market, especially the most disadvantaged NEETs aged 18-30 who are vulnerable with regard to their chances of accessing work or training for individual or structural reasons (e.g. disability, long-term unemployment, insufficient school performance / vocational skills, migration background);
- **ALMA will offer participants:**
 - **a supervised stay abroad for a period of 2 to 6 months in another EU Member State;**
 - **a comprehensive project cycle implying coaching and counselling at every step;**
- The objective is to foster their inclusion within their home country by improving their skills, knowledge and experience and give them an opportunity to create new connections across Europe.

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

Who it is for

ALMA is a cross-border youth mobility scheme that will transform the lives of disadvantaged young people not in employment, education or training. It targets young people who:

- have difficulties finding a job;
 - are in long-term unemployment;
 - have insufficient school performance or vocational skills;
 - have a migration background;
 - or live with disabilities;
-
- Youtube - <https://bit.ly/39iPotE>

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

What support will be offered

- Prior to their stay abroad, participants will receive intensive tailor-made training in their home country;
- Participants will be offered a supervised stay including work placement with accompanying mentoring services for a period of 2 to 6 months in another EU Member State;
- Upon their return, continued support will guide them and use the newly acquired skills in their home country to gain employment or further education.

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

What costs will be covered

- The ESF+ funds will help cover the costs of:
 - Travel
 - Insurance
 - Social security
 - Basic needs such as food and accommodation
 - Coaching and counselling before, during and after the stay abroad

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

How to apply?

- Participants will be identified under the ESF+ programs of EU Member States and regions that implement ALMA under their ESF+ programs from 2022 onwards.
- Managing authorities and organizations interested in participating can contact:
 - EMPL-ALMA@ec.europa.eu

ALMA

Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

A new initiative called ALMA, which stands for Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve, was created

Protecting against unpaid internships

- The European Youth Forum warns that certain guarantees need to be in place for ALMA to ensure the placements don't just become unpaid internships.
- *"ALMA can be a really great experience for young people, it can be a real plus, but it needs to come with those guarantees of a salary, of access to social protection, if it's not guaranteed it's not going to be added value for young people."* - **Manon Deshayes**, European Youth Forum.
- The longer-term follow-up data available regarding young people that went through Youth Guarantee schemes since 2014 indicate that, on average in the EU, **more than half of the young people starting an offer are in employment, education or training six, 12 and 18 months later.**
- The Reinforced Youth Guarantee has broadened its offer from 15–25-year-olds to **15–29-year-olds**. It has a focus on helping the hardest to reach and most disadvantaged and making sure they have the right skills for the digital and green transitions.

Notes

How European programs can benefit young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and NEETs?

What is being done to help young people, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, find jobs and training?

EU, already provide nine opportunities for young people, that will be reinforced, the first two in particular: **Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, DiscoverEU, EU Youth Dialogue, European Youth Week, Youth Guarantee, Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, Traineeships, Your first EURES job.**

Besides, in 2022, ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) will be launched to support cross-border professional mobility for “not in employment, education or training” (NEETs).

With this new initiative, the EU Parliament, Commission and Council reaffirm their commitment in the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and, with other programs as the updated **Digital Education Action Plan**, to promote the inclusion.

Notes

How European programs can benefit young people, especially those with fewer opportunities and NEETs?

What is being done to help young people, and especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, find jobs and training?

- The **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027** (“Engage. Connect. Empower”) is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation, whose Work Plan for 2022-2024 will **primarily focus on the resilience and recovery of youth and the youth sector in the post COVID-times.**
- This will follow the priorities highlighted in the **11 Youth Goals**, such as **equality and inclusion, sustainability, mental health and well-being, and quality employment.**
- In addition, for the **European Year of Youth**, the Commission has created a dedicated website: **Youth Portal**; and has published its latest EU Youth Report on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ for the youth field has a number of project formats that are particularly useful for young people with fewer opportunities:

Erasmus+

- **YOUTH EXCHANGES** offer young people a relatively short international mobility experience in the safety of a group and only need one partner organization to do so. **An example:** groups of immigrant girls from 3 countries meet to do creative work on identity, leading to a street theatre performance at the end of the exchange.
- **EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS** normally lasts from 2 to 12 months. However, young people with fewer opportunities can volunteer abroad for a shorter period, starting from two weeks. **An example:** a young person in a wheelchair does his voluntary service in a youth club abroad. He learns a lot about working with youth, but the young people also learn about physical disability.
- **YOUTH PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES** brings young people together with policy makers to get their voice heard or address issues of inclusion and diversity. **An example:** young people from minorities and local politicians meet. They talk about experiences of discrimination and how policy change could improve their situation.

Erasmus+

Erasmus+ for the youth field has a number of project formats that are particularly useful for young people with fewer opportunities:

Erasmus+

- Youth workers can also benefit from Erasmus+ projects to develop their competences in the field of inclusion and diversity.
- **TRAINING, NETWORKING AND JOB SHADOWING** allows youth workers/youth leaders to exchange and gain professional competences to work on inclusion and diversity. **An example:** youth workers from rural and geographically isolated areas across Europe meet to discuss how to do youth work in areas with limited infrastructure and financial means.
- **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS** support innovative practices and ideas. Different stakeholders join forces to find solutions to challenges faced by young people with fewer opportunities. **An example:** youth organizations, schools and social services in different countries come together to share practices and work together to tackle early school leaving.

Erasmus+

Specific Funding

More money for inclusion and diversity

Erasmus+

- **Young people with fewer opportunities** should be able to participate in Erasmus+ youth projects like any other young person. Sometimes this requires specific support. In Erasmus+ you can apply for funding to cover these special needs (e.g. personal assistant, rental of assistive equipment etc.) or exceptional costs (e.g. mentor, coach, visa, travel insurance etc.).
- If you explain and justify why the participants in your project (young people with fewer opportunities) would not be able to participate without specific support, and what kind of support they would need, the additional costs these entail can be granted up to 100%.

Erasmus+

Specific Funding

More money for inclusion and diversity

Additional Support:

- 1) **Advance Planning Visit:** these planning visits help to build trust, understanding and a solid partnership between organizations;
- 2) **Additional group leaders:** it is possible to include more group leaders than the strict minimum, to run an inclusion and diversity project.
- 3) **Mentorship:** some participants could benefit from the support of a mentor, for instance during a European Solidarity Corps;
- 4) Recognition: every participant in an Erasmus+ youth project is entitled to a **Youthpass Certificate**;
- 5) **Open applications:** when organizing projects for young people with fewer opportunities, it is possible to apply for a project grant without having recruited the particular participants yet.
- Video: <https://bit.ly/3zkpxwh>

Effects on personal capacity and development

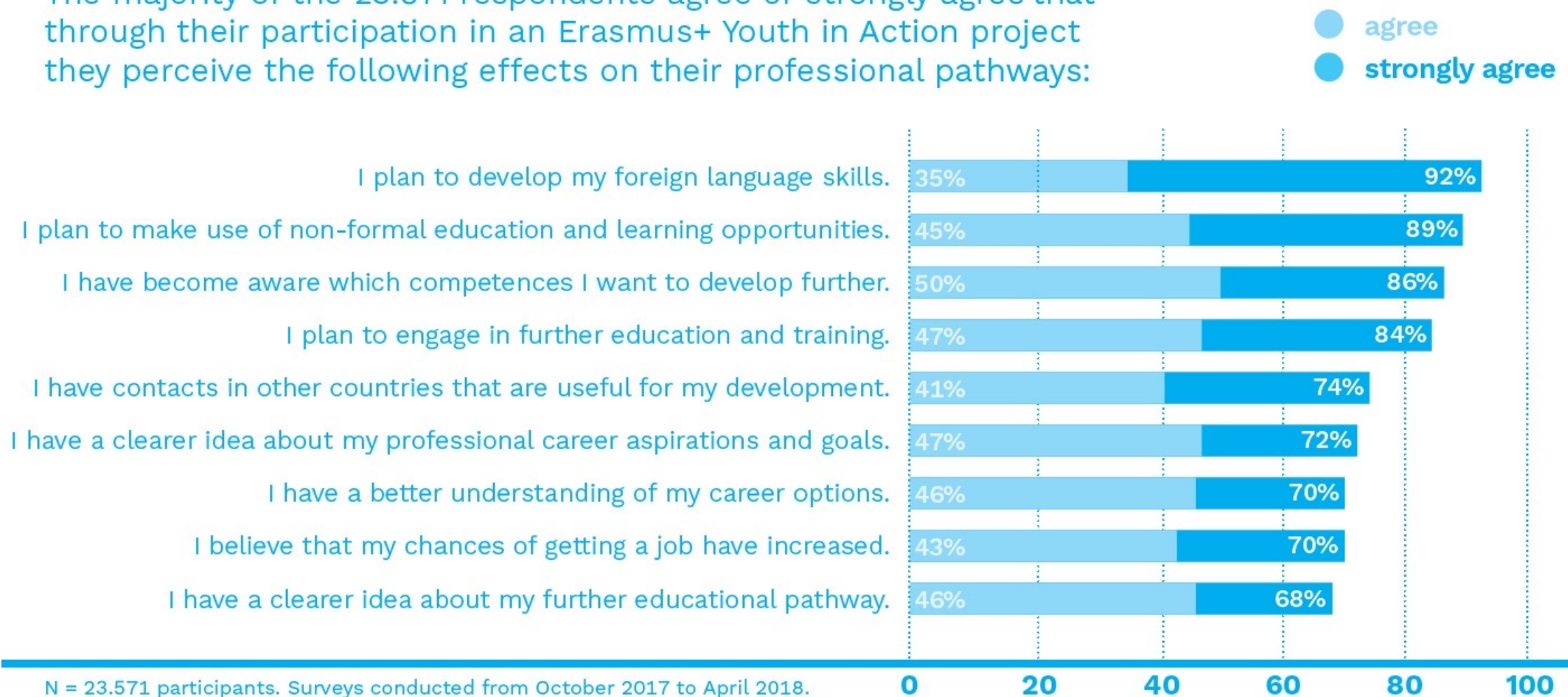
The majority of the 23.571 respondents confirm that through their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth in Action project they perceive the following effects on their personal capacity and development:

● yes



Effects on professional capacity and development

The majority of the 23.571 respondents agree or strongly agree that through their participation in an Erasmus+ Youth in Action project they perceive the following effects on their professional pathways:



Contextos

What are we doing?

“INKEY - Innovative tools to promote KEY competencies for lifelong learning”

INKEY

The project aims to offer NEETs new **motivating and stimulating programs to acquire the key competence stressed in the LifeComp Framework** by developing engaging digital tools that embed game dynamics, mechanics, and components, and online communities of practice.

General objectives are:

- 1) To enhance the employability of NEETs; 2) To increase the quality and effectiveness of the empowerment actions of the organizations and professionals working with NEETs.

Outputs/Results

- “LifeComp for the Employability of young NEETs: State of Art and Best Practices” (FEMXA, Spain)
- INKEY Tailored Learning Programs (Contextos, Portugal)
- INKEY.eu E-Learning Platform (Lasco, Italy)
- Toolkit for Youth Workers and Trainers (KEAN, Greece)

Contextos

European Projects

What are we doing?

Blue Generation

- The aim of the Blue Generation Project is to **ATTRACT** and **ENGAGE** young people between 15 and 29 years and **CONVERT** them to pursue a sustainable career in Blue Economy in Greece, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria and Poland.

THE CHALLENGE

- The European Blue Economy, currently representing around 5.4 million jobs, is set to double its employment by 2030. Its problem is that young people are not being attracted to maritime careers, while businesses cannot find the required workforce, skills and profiles (European Commission SWD, 2017).
- At the same time, the EU has up to 14 million young people between 15 and 29 years who are NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) and millions more who are at risk of becoming NEETs due to early school dropout, difficulties in entering the labor market, or other personal problems. **The Blue Generation Project is set to fill this gap by re-introducing Blue Economy careers as an attractive, modern and prosperous professional pathway and way out of unemployment for the young.**

Contextos

Blue Generation

The Blue Generation project organizes info days about blue career prospects and offers free mentoring programs for those among the young who wish to pursue a career in Blue Economy and mobility exchanges through study visits for gaining first-hand experience in **coastal tourism, aquaculture, ocean energy, marine biotechnology, shipbuilding, maritime transport and fisheries**.

- **The Blue Generation Project main activities:**

- Organizing info-days and activities in high schools, adult education centers, NGOs, unemployment services and local associations to promote Blue Career opportunities
- Training youth to increase awareness in the Blue Economy career opportunities and prospect mentors to become knowledgeable promoters via the Blue Career MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) Platform
- Guiding young people through skills validation, personal mentoring and short exchanges to suitable employment and training in Blue Economy job sectors.
- Offering, at no charge, a Blue Career Guide, and a Blue Career Job Platform.

- <https://bluegeneration.guide/>

- <https://bluegeneration.careers/>

- <https://bluegenerationmooc.thinkific.com/>

- **Basic Nautical Training Course** - <https://bit.ly/3tnYhJg>

- **Free Maritime Security Operator Training Course** - <https://bit.ly/3tiGza8>

How Might We?

Questions

- 1. In your opinion, what are the 3 main problems to be solved regarding NEETs?**
- 2. Which of these problems is the most important to you?**
- 3. Why?**
- 4. How might we address this problem?**

5W1H

1. **What?:** What is the project? What are the objectives?
2. **Who?:** Who are the end-users, target group? Who are the members of the team ?
3. **Where?:** Where will the project take place?
4. **When?:** When will it start? How long will it last?
5. **How:?** Which financial, HR and technical means have been put in place to create the project?
6. **Why:** Why has the project been started? What are the reasons? What is the goal?

OBRIGADO!

Jorge Machado

CEO & Founder | Contextos

jorge.Machado@contextos.org.pt

Rua Dr. José de Matos, nr 17, 4º Direito
8000 - 503 Faro | Algarve | Portugal



CONTEXTOS