

Reframing attitudes of minors and youth at risk of offending / re-offending through training

"Youth Regained" project will assess the key competences and life-skills that youth offenders lack and if acquired their employability success rate would be considerably increased. Then, it will design and develop a unique training program/course providing soft-skills for child offenders. The Regained project focusses on developing approaches to strengthen ex-convicted child offenders' competences and basic skills in order to ease their transition to adulthood and support their integration in the labour market. It will support CSOs focusing on the protection and the re-integration of child offenders and will educate and engage them and stakeholders from the business sectors to eliminate the stereotypes related to child offenders post release employability.

Studies

Several studies across European countries show that the vast majority (from 60-75%) of youth offenders are reoffending after their release. The primary reason for this is their social disintegration - juvenile offenders are less likely to find a job, therefore are more likely to struggle with issues such as poverty, housing and so on. Crucial for the lack of their employability is their lack of education and their awareness about key competences they need to develop to increase their employability



The project partners **Centrul pentru Promovarea Invatarii Permanente (CPIP)** from Romania, **Social Action and Innovation Centre (KMOP)** from Greece, **Social Innovation Fund (SIF)** from Lithuania, **SYNTHESIS** Center for Research and Education from Cyprus, **Accion Laboral** from Spain and **REDIAL** from Ireland met on the 17th & 18th of March 2022 in Timisoara (Romania) to agree on the first milestones for the successful implementation of the project in each country.

At the meeting partners shared the concerns about the particularities of the juvenile justice systems in their countries and discussed the ways they will approach from CSO perspective the needs of the practitioners and those of the youth offenders. Also, they agreed to apply the MOBI method with the co-production methodology as an intrinsic part of it.

Since then the partners worked on: 1) the Nuclino - shared tool for the collection of data, decided on 4 options of implementations of stakeholders' activities; 2) each partner completed field research face to face, over telephone or using e-mails, aiming to collect info about the stakeholders' opinions of: 1) what kind of games would be relevant for the young offenders the stakeholders are directly working with and how a game would work; 2) what are the particular competencies most in need for the young offenders in their care.

Romania

In Romania, young offenders have an extremely low level of education and have difficulty writing or reading a text. Most of them lack the skills and information needed to find a job, so they need assistance to enter the labour market. So, they need to develop a range of skills to help them enter the labour market, such as digital skills, teamwork, leadership and coping skills, as well as financial and legal knowledge and communication skills.

Based on it, the gamified attractive E-course will be developed for the young offenders within the 2023.

Spain

According to the needs identified in Spain, it is confirmed that offenders face significant social adjustment problems, which may include stigmatisation and ostracism from family and community, and the consequent impact on the offender's life. They may include stigmatisation and ostracism from family and community, and the consequent negative impact on their ability to find employment, return to formal education, or return to work in their ability to find employment or housing.

Employability-oriented projects in this country hardly exist or are very rudimentary or only accessible to a small percentage of offenders.

Focus group participants discussed that the skills that young offenders lack and therefore need to cultivate in order to successfully enter the labour market are:

1. Literacy skills
2. Digital skills
3. Self-awareness, HHSS, planning, organisation, and time management
4. Employability skills include not only the understanding and use of standard work conventions, but also the ability to understand the "hidden curriculum", the way others communicate and interact, reciprocity and the ability to establish working relationships.

Lithuania

In Lithuania young offenders lack of social habits, patience, don't know neither follow any social norms of behavior. They need help with Smart ID, usage of various IT devices; knowledge on how to follow IT innovations online, need help with learning to learn and staying involved in job market or educational system.

Improvement of competences needed for their successful employment should start with: general literacy; elementary literacy in IT and self-presentation; job search competence; knowledge about support services; learning to learn; increase self-esteem and motivation for work and learning; developing patience.

They would get involved in Simulation games, Dynamics groups where they have to make decisions, realize and recognize their natural behaviors and later reflect on the experiences; the games related to employment and labour market, CV writing, self-presentation during a job interview; communication at work skills game.

In their games Supervision is needed, Competition and Reward for achievements is important.

Greece

In Greece, the field research was conducted in October 2022 and aimed at gaining insight into young (ex) offenders' training needs in terms of employability skills fostering their integration into the labour market. KMOP approached 10 professionals (educators, volunteers, psychologists, researchers and legal advisors) from Greek CSOs focusing on the protection and the reintegration of child offenders and support of young people at risk of marginalisation. The research team using various methods, from group or individual consultation meetings to questionnaire distribution, managed to abstract fruitful data that will contribute to the next stages of the project.

Cyprus

From September 2022 to November 2022, SYNTHESIS carried out a field research that aimed to collect information on young people with a delinquent background to identify their needs for an easier transition to their adulthood and support their integration in the labor market. For this field research, SYNTHESIS, organized focus groups, interviews, and distributed surveys. SYNTHESIS, contacted professionals such as educators, school and clinical psychologists, as well as legal advisors.