

young adult



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW Career Start

BG-B-1

The project YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The Career Start policy aims at providing opportunities to acquire work experience for unemployed young adults who have completed secondary or higher education, but lack practical experience. In 2017-2018, the program focused on higher education graduates. The policy facilitates the transition between completed education and employment.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



Blagoevgrad

'Career Start' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

The professional realization of young adults after completing higher education is a serious problem both in national and regional contexts. Less than a half of graduates make a living in their trained profession. Therefore, the matching between the higher education and the labour market needs to be improved. Implementing measures for acquiring practical experience is a major challenge for many organizations.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The LLL policy Career Start targets young people under the age of 29 who have completed their higher education and have no labour experience or employment yet. Within the program, young adults can apply for jobs in Regional Labour offices. The program hires young adults for 9 months in the central and regional departments of public administration. The time frame of the project is long-term, it is designed as an on-going action plan to stabilise employment and economic growth in the country and in the local regions. Since its implementation in 2003, the program has a high rating both on the regional and national level.





What is the policy aiming at?

- The policy is based on acquiring practical experience and focuses on labour market integration. The main objective of the policy is to facilitate employment through the support of employers in the public sector. Employers in different public administrations on the national, regional, and local level are provided subsidies for 9 months, during which young people can gain practical skills corresponding to their educational specialties.
- The LLL policy *Career Start* in the Functional Region Blagoevgrad is a labour market policy. It focuses on preventing de-qualification in the workforce among young adults. After completion of the program, it helps permanently employ young adults, attain specific knowledge, skills, and experience, that correspond with the needs of the labour market and market economy.
- The project supports young adults up to 29 years old without professional experience in a completed and/or corresponding university program. They must be registered at the regional Labour Office. Young graduates are then employed for 9 months.
- The target group of this policy are young adults who have graduated and are motivated to gain practical experience. Success of the policy is measured by the number of young people participating in the program as well as by the number of those involved in permanent employment.

How does it work?



- Guidance and counselling for young adults are both offered by experts employed in the organization. The counsellors instruct young adults during the training under real working conditions in collaboration with the team leader and manager of the organization, who is in charge of the engagement of the young specialists. After finishing a nine-month contract, young adults who participated in the program are not employed as trainees.
- The experts assign tasks during the nine-month period to young specialists, by guiding them in performing their activities. Mentors also assess the work, achievements, and skills of each participant and can recommend further recruiting.
- The Career Start project is organized and conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) and by the Employment Agencies, as well as by the Labour Offices as regional structures. The policy is financed from the state budget and supported through national funding.
- This multi-actor network provides co-operation between various organisations and actors from the public sector and young adults through the Employment Agency. It seeks to increase the employment rate of young professionals, addressing the lack of practical experience and skills to take up permanent employment as well as establishing a functioning public administration. It counts as a well-coordinated LLL policy.

young adult 



IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy Career Star, please consult: <https://www.az.government.bg/>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_Adullt project, please consult the YA project website under: www.young-adullt.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- PROJECT NAME: Policies Supporting Young People in their Life Course. A Comparative Perspective of Lifelong Learning and Inclusion in Education and Work in Europe (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral · parreira@uni-muenster.de · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany

young adults



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

LLL HUB – *Career Guidance System in School*

BG-B-2

The project **YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA)** focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The LLL-Hub project (2012-2016) aims at fostering shared visions and values about lifelong learning across Europe by encouraging cross-sectorial cooperation and dialogue about the European agenda at national and regional level.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the LLL HUB, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of this policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



Blagoevgrad

'LLL HUB' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Providing information and vocational guidance for young people has always been an issue in the functional region Blagoevgrad. Students in secondary education need information about vocational schools and colleges across the region as well as about opportunities for apprenticeships and professional realization. Young people need guidance in their career planning and management and in their transition from one level of education to another, as well as from education to employment.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

Career Guidance System targets students from grades 5 to 12 in secondary school. The Career Centres provide specialized and customized services to students from specific target groups – at risk of dropping out, with specific educational needs, living under difficult conditions, etc. The timeframe of the project is rather generous as it is designed as an on-going intervention to support vocational education and training.



What is the policy aiming at?



- **The policy is based on the education and training system**, with focus on training opportunities in the country, available professions/occupations, and the labour market. The main objectives of the policy are related to providing updated information about vocational training and apprenticeship placements opportunities, labor market dynamics, and career opportunities. It also aims at reducing early school dropout, organizing and conducting seminars and interactive exercises in career guidance, and providing diverse kinds of counseling services.
- **The project “LLL – HUB” in functional region Blagoevgrad presents the advantages and benefits in forms of good practices**, compiled in the „Career Guidance System in School Education” as a successful collaboration and appropriate combination of education and training with labour market policy. The policy covers the whole education system of general secondary education and vocational training systems in the functional region Blagoevgrad.
- **The special target group of the policy are young people** – secondary education students, representatives of different ethnic groups, and students with study difficulties who are at risk of dropping out of school.
- **The success of the program is measured by the number of students that received information and specialized guidance from Career counselors on various training issues, apprenticeships, as well as valuable data about labor market supply and demand issues.**

How does it work?



- **Guidance and counselling for young adults** is offered by qualified counsellors. They are available for young adults to conduct career information, advice, and support to students. The mediators are available a few hours per week at the Career Guidance Center located in Regional Inspectorate of Education (RIE) in Blagoevgrad.
- **The mediators and counselors** provide information on career paths and various instruments as interactive exercises. The model is based on the combination of individual work of students information online, face to face counseling, and group training. Mediators work with the families of young people to achieve greater impact on their work aimed at the individual, the family, and the community.
- **The LLL – HUB project was carried out** under the participation of the Regional Inspectorate of Education (RIE) during 2012-2016 in the functional region Blagoevgrad. It brought together ten partners from eight European countries representing public authorities, civil society organizations, chambers of commerce, and educational institutions. The funding was provided by the LLL Programme and the EU Commission.
- **This multi-actor network** used to provide strong collaboration between all parties involved valuable information and counselling to young adults in order to help them in managing their own training activities and benefit from job opportunities through customized career guidance.

young adult



IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy Lifelong Learning HUB, please consult: https://issuu.com/lll-hub/docs/lll-hub_comparative_report_final_we
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_Adult project, please consult the YA project website under: www.young-adult.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- PROJECT NAME: Policies Supporting Young People in their Life Course. A Comparative Perspective of Lifelong Learning and Inclusion in Education and Work in Europe (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral · parreira@uni-muenster.de · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany

young adults



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW University Students Practices

BG-B-3

The project YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA) focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

The University Students Training Practices policy aims at improving the quality of education through gaining practical experience and improvement of practical skills of university students in accordance with the needs of the labour market.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the Students Practices project in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'University Students Practices' – What is it about?



The challenge on site

The difficult professional realization of graduated young adults creates economic problems in national and regional contexts. The project facilitates the transition from educational institutions to the workplace and increases the successful integration of young people into the labour market as well as the number of students with an immediate job after their graduation. The policy started over the period of 2007-2013 and the current stage is for the period 2014-2020. It contributes to the harmonization of regional environment and integrates more young adults into the labour market.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The LLL policy University Students Practices is open to all currently enrolled students, as well as to discontinued students, and doctoral students. The timeframe of the project is designed as an on-going intervention to support vocational education and training.

What is the policy aiming at?

- The policy is based on the internship system, which is a combination of labour market and educational sector. Its focus is the effectiveness of university education and training. The main objectives are the effective functioning of the educational process at the university level and the strengthening of the relationships between education, work environment, and labour market.
- The project *Students Training Practices in functional region Blagoevgrad* is a combination of educational and labour market policy, but is more oriented towards the educational system due to the prevalent role of the university studies.
- The project covers the university education system and all students enrolled in the Register of current and discontinued students and PhD students.
- The target groups of this policy are university students motivated to gain practical experience and to improve their labour skills. The training takes place in actual working environments at various businesses or non-profits, private, state, or municipal organizations and lasts for 240 working hours.
- The success of the policy is measured by the number of participating students and the number of involved training organizations.

How does it work?

- Guidance and counselling for young adults is offered by a mentor who is an employee of the training organization and educates the students during the training practice in real working environment. An academic mentor who is a university teacher - a project partner responsible for practical training of the students from the same university – is involved as well.
- The mentors spend time in the training practices; they are employees of the organisations supporting the project and communicate with the students for many hours. The training provides a real connection between the students' main subject areas or disciplines studied at the educational institution and the completed practices themselves.
- The University Students Training Practices project is organized by the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and is financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds. During the starting period of the project implementation ("Students Practices – 2013-2015") a total number of 5761 students benefitted from the opportunities offered by the SWU Career Centre (SWU-CC) responsible for maintaining the practices.
- This multi-actor network engaged 530 private companies, NGOs, public institutions, schools, and other kinds of establishments within the region, which signed contracts for "training organisations" and accepted students from the SWU (in order to gain practical experience).

young adult

IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy University Students Training Practices, please consult: http://career.swu.bg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=144
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_Adullt project, please consult the YA project website under: www.young-adullt.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- PROJECT NAME: Policies Supporting Young People in their Life Course. A Comparative Perspective of Lifelong Learning and Inclusion in Education and Work in Europe (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
- COORDINATOR: Prof.Dr. Marcelo Parreira do Amaral · parreira@uni-muenster.de · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany

