

# young adult



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

‘Open public university Diopter’ –  
*‘Pučko otvoreno učilište Diopter’*

HR-IS-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 open public university Diopter is local institution that provides LLL education for adult learning. Its purpose is to provide primary and secondary education for adults and professional development, training, and retraining for youth that is outside of the formal system of education.

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.



## ‘Open public university Diopter’ – What is it about?

### The challenge on site

In Croatia, the percentage of people enrolled in adult education is significantly lower than the EU average. In 2015 there were only 3.1% of adults (age 25-64) participating in the adult education programmes (ISCED 0-8), while the EU average is 10.7% (Eurostat, 2015). The public open universities are main providers of LLL education in the Republic of Croatia.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The Diopter is an institution of community interests, and it is dealing with different types of users (people without any completed education, unemployed people wishing to get a retraining, employed people who seek another education level). More than half of the users are young adults, aged 18 to 29 years. The most usual type of users who come to open public university are young women and young men who graduated from a vocational school, already have some working experience, even family life, and now want to obtain another qualification in order to get a better job. Another type of users are people who already work and need a proof of a qualification in order to keep their job.



## What is the policy aiming at?

- **The main purpose of the Open public university Diopter** is providing primary and secondary education of adults as well as professional development, training, and retraining of youth outside the formal system of education.
- **Open public university Diopter is one of the main stakeholders in the field** of transition of young adults from education to the labour market. Its goal is compatible with the goals of other stakeholders in that field, which is to raise young adults' employability. Diopter is trying to reach that goal by developing young adults' skills, but at the same time trying to remain competitive at the highly developed market of public universities.
- **Nowadays, Diopter is the largest private open public universities** in Istria Functional Region with more than 20.000 participants since 1995 (around 100 participants per year). Diopter has 5 persons employed and more than 50 external experts.
- **Diopter lacks adequate evaluation methods** to investigate whether it is successful in reaching its objectives.



## How does it work?

- **The open public university Diopter is offering 40 types** of professional training programmes and 12 types of programmes of re-training and acquisition of vocational qualification.
- **Diopter has a very clear management structure** with a head manager, education professional, and secretary. It is cooperating with different stakeholders, like Croatian Employment Service and some secondary schools.
- **Open public university Diopter is one of the open universities engaged in the implementation of EU-funded projects.** So far, it has implemented six projects, and all of them have included young people as a target group. Diopter uses those projects to fund the participation in the programmes for those who are unable to pay for their training or retraining.
- **So far, the projects have targeted different professions**, such as barmen, an herbal medicine manufacturer, a cooker of traditional food, innovative methods in tourism and self-employment of youth. Through these projects, this open public university aims to create programmes that would be more interesting for young adults.
- **Diopter uses many innovative teaching methods**, and the way how these methods approach the participants reflects the overall goal of raising the motivation of young people to successfully complete the programmes they have enrolled into.



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### IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy Open public university Diopter, please consult: <http://www.diopter.hr/>
- 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](http://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](mailto:parreira@uni-muenster.de) · University of Münster (WWU) · Münster, Germany



# young adult



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'Community Makers'

HR-IS-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.

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The international programme called Community Makers has the purpose of providing an opportunity for young people to build the necessary knowledge and skills for the programming of a media portal on the Internet. The different portals will be created by and for the youth, taking place both in Spain and in Croatia.

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## 'Community Makers' – What is it about?



### The challenge on site

Through formal education, young people in Istria County do not have the opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be active in media development projects. According to the Eurostat data, Croatia is one of the 28 EU countries with the lowest percentage of people who use media technology for cultural purposes. Studies show that only 4% of all of Croatia's population is using Internet for creating web pages and blogs.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The target group of this programme are, therefore, all interested young people (aged 15 to 29) from Istria Functional Region. There are no additional conditions for participation in the project. The project lasts for 18 months, and different educative and informative activities take place. The project is coordinated by non-governmental organisation Youth Association ZUM.

## What is the policy aiming at?



- **The overall objective of the project is to create an opportunity for young people to gain knowledge and acquire skills to develop and operate a new online media portal (infocentartzum.org).** The main characteristic of that portal is that it is developed by youth. The young adults will be taught the basics on how to be active media users.
- **One of the aims is to increase knowledge and skills** of young people from Istria Region for creating and planning cultural projects in the field of new media through seven practical educations and continuous mentor support.
- **Also, it is a good example of increasing the international cooperation** of young people by participating in two transnational trainings.
- **However, the main purpose of the new portal that will be developed** during this project is to help young people to get information that will help them in their further skills development and in their job search.
- **Evaluation of the project is planned** at the end of the each activity and at the end of the whole project implementation.

## How does it work?



- **Through the project, interested young people** participate in different activities in order to be competent to develop and operate a web portal.
- **The project contains further activities, such as** education on strategic portal planning with a question: How to create a magazine; education on basics of journalism; education on photography and photo editing with a focus on the protection of copyrights; education on new media and media tools; education on media management and public relation; and education on Web design and programming.
- **In addition, it offers the possibility to gain international** competences in transnational training *Social Networks and online audience building*, and transnational training *Commerce, Finance and Sustainability of media project*.
- **Apart from the education activities during the project,** young people participate in mentor meetings on a weekly basis.

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### IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy Community Managers, please consult: <https://infocentartzum.org/>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young\_Adultt project, please consult the YA project website under: [www.young-adultt.eu](http://www.young-adultt.eu)
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# young adults



## POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

### INOVA - Innovative initiative for employment of long-term unemployed

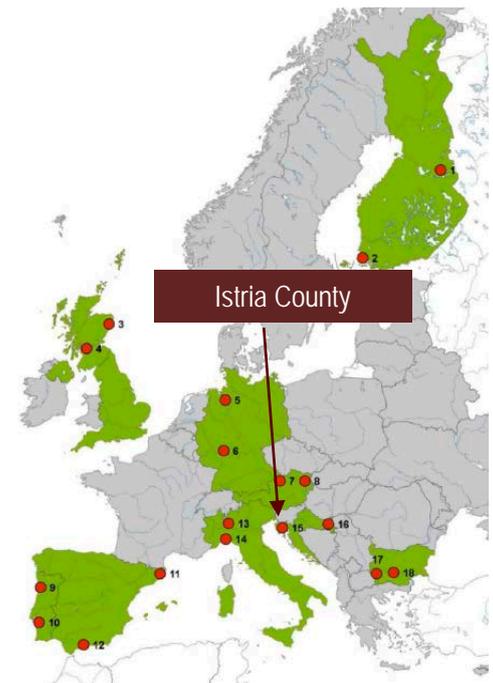
HR-IS-3

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Over the course of the INOVA project, an analyse-based education programme will be developed that will be in line with the gathered data about needs of long-term unemployed people and employees at hotels. Long-term unemployed persons will develop competences to fulfil the agreed requirement profile that hotel managers have underlined as important to work in their hotels.

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## INOVA – What is it about?



### The challenge on site

The percentage of long-term unemployed of Croatia's entire registered jobless population is as high as 63.1%, which is the highest percentage of all EU28 member countries. In Adriatic Croatia, the percentage is 61.9%. In the Istria functional region, belonging to the Adriatic Croatia, 50% of the unemployed are without a permanent job for up to six months and 18% of them are unemployed from 6 to 12 months. The percentage of unemployed persons from the age group 20 to 29 that are unemployed for more than 3 years is 4.8% in Istria County.

### Who is the addressee of this policy?

The project will take place in 4 functional regions in Croatia: Istria, Vukovarsko-srijemska, Primorsko-goranska, and Splitsko-dalmatinska. The addressees of this project are long-term unemployed persons. That includes also young adults, aged 18 to 29 years. In the project, 20 hotels in four Croatian functional regions participated, while the project was lasting for 20 months.

## What is the policy aiming at?



- The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the employment of long-term unemployed through the development and implementation of innovative initiatives for employment on a local level and through the implementation of the Development strategy of human potential.
- The specific objective was to raise the employment of all unemployed people in Istria, Vukovarsko-srijemska, Primorsko-goranska, and the Splitsko-dalmatinska functional regions, by implementing innovative measures for the development of human potential.
- Project objectives were being fulfilled through the cooperation of the project leader Učilište Studium (adult education institution from Vukovar) and respective project partners (Croatian Employment Service – Vukovar branch, Institution for education and culture from Rijeka, Open public university 'Diopter' from Pula and Adriatic education – institution for adult education from Split).
- The project developed three types of education programs that were stressed as important by hotel managers: Specialist for bar-work, Specialist for eno-gastro jobs, and Specialist of modern trends in gastronomy. Results of the evaluation showed that more than 70% of participants became employed after the project.

## How does it work?



- The project itself has four main fields of activity:
- **Hotel needs analysis** – 20 hotels have participated in this activity. Its goal was to investigate hotel needs for specific workforce, with a focus on the competences, knowledge, and skills that people working in tourism should have.
- **Development of education programs** – During the first session, three types of specialists have been identified: a specialist for bar-work, a specialist for eno-gastro jobs and a specialist for modern trends in the gastronomy sector. Education programs for those qualifications have been then developed.
- **Education programs** – During this phase of the project, training opportunities have been provided in order to offer long-term unemployed participants the chance to develop innovative competences and skills recognized by hotel managers. Sixty long-term unemployed participants have finished (at least) one of the three education programs.
- **Practical education** – All participants have been able to develop their skills for their qualification as a specialist for bar-work, as a specialist for eno-gastro jobs and as a specialist for modern trends in gastronomy by undergoing practical education in one of the eight hotels that were project associates.

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### IMPRESSUM

- For more information on the LLL policy INOVA project, please consult: <http://inova-projekt.eu/>
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