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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'DEMO Academy' – DEMO akademija

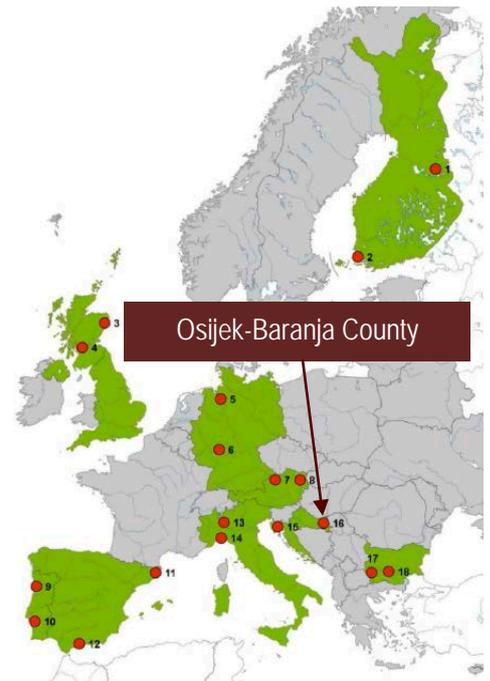
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The project **YOUNG_ADULLLT (YA)** focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults that address young people, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different 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.

Demo Academy is a one-year informal education program aimed at the development of knowledge, the strengthening of skills and the shaping of attitudes and behaviour that are the basis of social and political engagement of citizens and, furthermore, are important for the realization of human and civil rights as well as responsibilities.

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.



'DEMO Academy' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

An LLL policy represents the basis for personal development and for the development of the capability of individuals to adapt continuously to changing circumstances in their personal lives, in the workplace and the community. Young people should be encouraged to become much more involved in various forms of LLL. LLL is the field in which Croatia falls behind extensively in relation to the European average. Most of the population never gets to attend any further professional education and training after having finished formal education.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

This informal learning program is aimed at NGOs and active individuals from Osijek-Baranja County who contribute to the development of democracy, human rights, solidarity, and the reduction of discrimination. This include all young people in age from 15 to 29 years. Priority is given to young people active in civil society organisations.



What is the policy aiming at?



- **The purpose of this LLL multidisciplinary program is manifold:** first, to educate citizens for greater participation and dedication to the ideas and values of democracy, second, to support a lifestyle in the community in which citizens live with and in relation to others and third, to promote living in harmony with values.
- **Moreover, further and more general goals have been included,** such as advocating the idea of democracy, developing a set of competencies and attitudes from valuing and respecting the rights of others to a peaceful resolution of conflicts and seeking common ground for negotiation and agreement, and improving active and constructive participation in the development of society, the decision-making at all levels and ultimately the willingness, inclusiveness, and openness to engage in a dialogue with others.
- **Nineteen acknowledged experts and practitioners** from all over Croatia participated in the implementation of the "Demo Academy" program. Most participants were experts with many years of experience in the development of democracy and civil society.
- **After one year of education,** diplomas have been given to the first generation of students (23 in total) and the evaluation of the program is currently being conducted.

How does it work?



- **The "Demo Academy" includes both the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills** during one year of education. The theoretical part of the programme is organized into six courses (112 hours in total):
 - Democracy and Civil Society
 - Human rights
 - Social cohesion
 - The Culture of peace
 - Sustainable development
 - The European Union
- The practical part of the programme includes (120 hours in total):
 - **Individual and/or group work** regarding the research and analysis of issues or questions relevant to social development and the local community;
 - **Writing** a written dissertation on a selected topic;
 - **Participation in the activities of civil society organizations** and other activities in the local community aimed towards social development.

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- For more information on the LLL policy "DEMO Academy", please consult: <http://demoakademija.vcos.hr>
- 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
- 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

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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

Info Centre for Youth Osijek – Info centar za mlade Osijek

HR-OB-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 youth Info Centre for Youth Osijek is a regional project by Proni Center for Social Education. Its focus is to inform young people and adapt to all their questions and needs. The Youth Info Centre is opened for all young people with no exception and without prior notification.

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Info Centre for Youth Osijek – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Youth Info Centre offers young people various information at one place and enables them to obtain needed skills to find them by themselves. There is information on education, employment and entrepreneurship, social politics for young people, health care and reproduction health, active participation of youth in society building civil society, and volunteer work culture of youth and free time, mobility, informing, and lastly, consulting.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

Info Centre for Youth Osijek has a regional character, that focuses on young people aged between 15 and 29 years. It is adapted for people who lack possibilities for searching information, as well as for all those, whose existing possibilities are insufficient.



What is the policy aiming at?



- **The purpose of this programme is to increase** active participation of youth in the social life of their communities. This purpose is trying to be fulfilled by providing information that young people need at one place, and also by raising young peoples' skills so that they will be competent to find needed information by themselves.
- **The Info Centre for Youth Osijek also provides education on various subjects**, for example, how to organise and implement projects. It offers informational materials from various sources (NGOs, public institutions, citizens, business sector and others), which promote activities and possibilities for young people.
- **In providing services**, users of the Info Centre are given opportunities to make their personal choices. Their autonomy and privacy is guaranteed.
- **There is no evaluation of the level of goals fulfilment**, but there are available data about numbers of participants who have used some kind of service.

How does it work?



- **In the Info Centre young people can receive free information** or get free consulting by a counsellor in the Info Centre or through available documented information (books, leaflet, and videos).
- **Additionally, they can access the information free of charge on** the Internet, by telephone, by e-mail or website, through organised workshops and lectures, and through occasional visits to schools, faculties, and other towns, and villages from region.
- **The work of the Info Youth Centre is based on the cooperation with other relevant services**, public institutions, associated expertise, and volunteers.
- **Over 15.000 different young people** visit the web page of the Info Centre yearly.
- **More than 400 users of technical support** within premises of Info Centre for youth emulate the success.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Info-centre for youth Osijek, please consult: <http://icm-osijek.info/>
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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

'Lifelong Career Guidance Centre' – Centar za informiranje i savjetovanje o karijeri (CISOK)

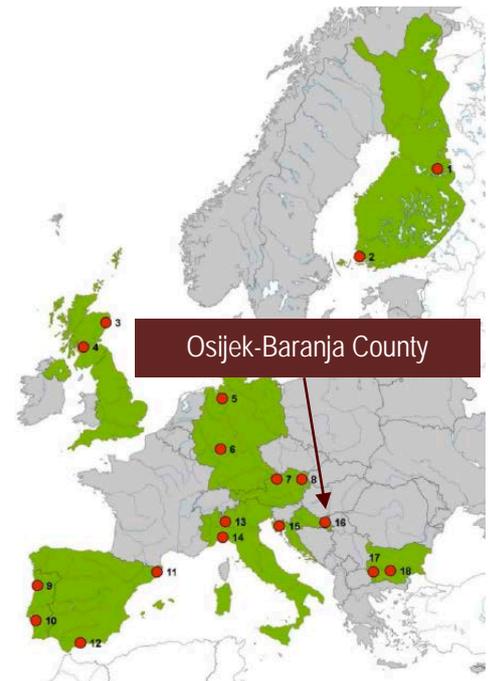
HR-OB-3

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Lifelong career guidance (LCG) is a range of activities that enables individuals at any point in their lives to identify their interests, competencies and opportunities to make educational, training and occupational decisions and to manage their own career. LCG activities provide individuals with professional help in their career development.

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'Lifelong Career Guidance Centre' – What is it about?



The challenge on site

High youth unemployment rate, early school leaving and the social/economic inactivity of young Europeans have become a deep-rooted and burning issue over the past few years. The LLCG Centre serves as a tool for preventing early school leaving, providing support for the reintegration of young people into the labour market and providing support in transition from education to work. The goal is to build a youth support system that facilitates a rapid labour market integration and transition from education to work.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The LLCG Centre offers its services to a wide range of users, from elementary and high school students and their parents to the unemployed and job seekers or to career counsellors. The majority of users are young people ranging from 15 to 24 years of age.

What is the policy aiming at?



- **The purpose of LLCG Centre is to achieve a joint goal:** enhancing users' competences in order to increase their competitiveness and to restore the balance of labour supply and demand. Career guidance can take place at varying stages in a young person's life.
- **Early interventions** include early engagement with career guidance services on entry point, to clarify personal goals and opportunities and to connect personal interests and skills with in the labour market.
- **Guidance and mentorship** are tools for sustaining personal engagement. Mentorship is viewed as an effective means of prevention, as well as in the strategies for labour market or education.
- **Facilitating choices between the elements of the Youth Guarantee** to support people in finding pathways that align their personal interests with positive labour market outcomes by providing complete information on all occupations and the required qualifications offered by the system.
- **Supporting young people** - after they find employment, they help set individual career plans and targets to retain them in a non-subsidised placement or in self-employment.
- **Systematic evaluation has not been developed.** Regular statistics about activities and users are kept without insight in the possible results of these activities.

How does it work?



- **LLCG Centres use a partnership-based model.** It requires cooperation among associated stakeholders including NGOs, youth organisations, local bodies/municipalities, schools, universities, and employer organisations.
- **Self-help web-based services:** self-assessment tools, information on careers, job vacancies, and education.
- **Group activities:** these include group counselling, designed to improve career management skills and other competences required to (re-)integrate into the labour market.
- **Individual case-managed services:** this includes career counselling and is suited to those who are in need.
- **The approach to career guidance services is based on the so-called „tiered system“,** i.e. starting from the objective that the largest number of users should be informed (through group or individual informing, self-informing, computer software “My Choice” etc.).
- **A smaller number of users is included into group counselling** and the smallest number of users undergo the entire procedure of psychological and medical evaluation, which is the most demanding and requires the maximum of both financial and human resources.

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