

young adultllt



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'New Opportunities Centre'

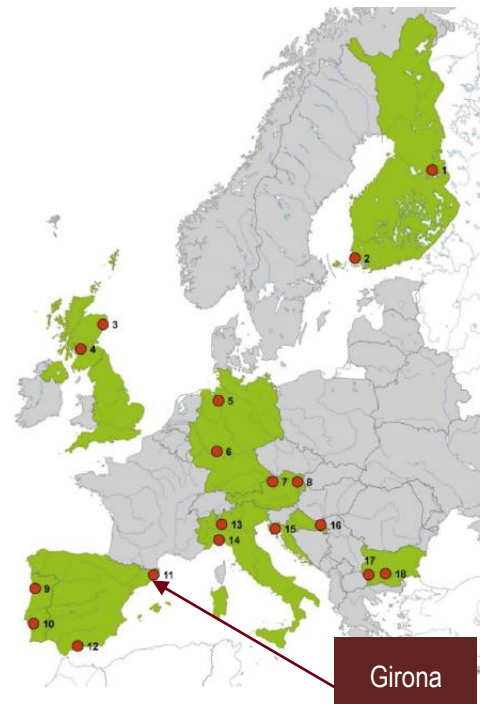
ES-G-1

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 LLL policy *New Opportunities Centre (NOC)* is the latest measure introduced by the Employment Service of Catalonia aimed at providing mid-term guidance and training opportunities for young NEETs. The Girona's NOC is one of the eight centres set in motion in Catalonia in the last two years.

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.



'New Opportunities Centre' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Youth unemployment and dropouts from school are relevant problems in Catalonia and in the region of Girona. The impact of this situation in terms of economic development and of social cohesion are a matter of concern for public and private actors in the region. Dropping out has been traditionally linked to job offers in the tourist industry. As a result of the economic crisis, many young adults have lost their jobs or have difficulties to find any, and now seem willing to come back to their studies.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

NOC is addressed to young NEETs (16-24 years old) who have not received more than the Compulsory Secondary Schooling certificate and who are registered in the Youth Guarantee. The programme started in 2016 and provides about two years of guidance and professional training to its beneficiaries. This timeframe is longer than the average duration this group of population takes for other (vocational) training measures.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **Helping youngsters go back to school or enter the labour market** are the central objectives of the NOC. For achieving these goals, the main strategies are focused on individualised attention, guidance, and capturing the interest of the beneficiaries.
- **The NOC combines education and labour market activities** to satisfy its twofold objective. However, it is more oriented towards the labour market since most of the activities offered are related to making different professions known and provide young adults with basic qualifications to perform them.
- **The programme also connects participants with local companies** both in terms of training and accessing apprenticeships and job placements. Improving the local network and the capacity of young people to move within it is yet another objective of the NOC.
- **Young people are guided in the definition of their own trajectories** with the objective of constructing solid paths based on each person's interests. Individualised rather than standardised proposals are co-constructed among professionals and beneficiaries to increase the engagement of the latter and to improve the outcomes of the programme.

How does it work?

- **Beneficiaries are selected among all the applicants.** However, prioritised are those with lower educational achievements, those supervised by the Directorate General for Child Care and the Department of Justice and those derived from any other public service.
- **Youngsters are provided with personal counselling and guidance sessions,** through which they define their personal and professional projects. This is done departing from an analysis of their personal experiences and interests. This phase lasts six weeks.
- **Different training activities** linked to the labour market and the enforcement of professional and transversal skills are developed during the following 12 months. These activities respond to the definition of personal training itineraries. Personal guidance is also provided during this period of execution of the vital and professional/educational project.
- **Working in groups** to support the insertion of the labour market strategies as well as the social network of the young adults occupies the last 4 months of the programme. In this period, the programme is also focused on providing labour market experience to the participants.
- **There is an important network** of public and private actors committed with the training and the insertion dimensions of the programme. Employers are especially important for the success of the measure as they can provide both training and employment opportunities to the young adults.

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- For more information on the LLL policy New Opportunities Centre, please consult: <http://www.formacioifeina.cat/>
- 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)
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young adults



POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'Youth for Occupation'

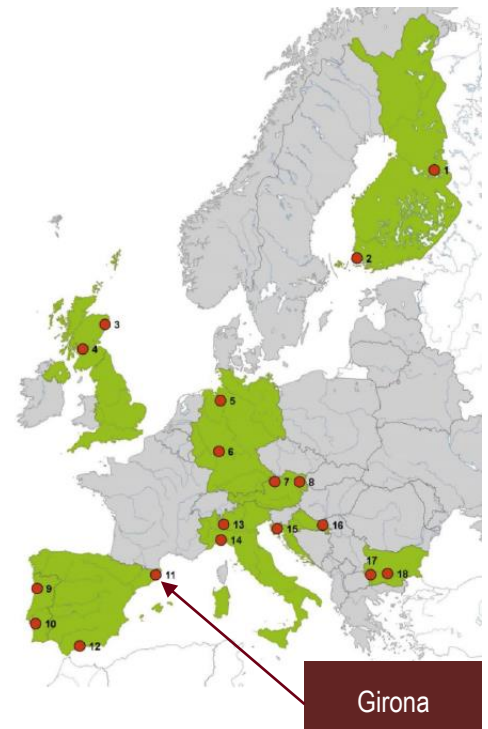
ES-G-2

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 LLL policy *Youth for Occupation (YfO)* is a 12-15 months long programme aimed at improving the employability of unemployed and unskilled young adults by providing them with three months professional training, one month of training in a work environment and guidance during the rest of the period.

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.



'Youth for Occupation' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Youth unemployment and dropouts from school are relevant problems in Catalonia and in the region of Girona. Moreover, some of the cities in the region have received many immigrant populations with low qualification levels and weak social networks. The impact of this situation in terms of economic development and of social cohesion is a matter of concern for both public and private actors in the region. The Employment administration is just as involved as the Education and Youth administration.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

YfO selects young NEETs (16 to 24 years old) who have achieved the Compulsory Secondary Schooling certificate and who are registered in the Youth Guarantee. It started in 2012 under the active labour market policies developed by the Catalan Employment Service and each call lasts between 12 and 15 months. It is currently being restructured to increase the involvement of local agents.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **Increasing the qualifications and the employability** of low qualified young adults are the two central aims of the programme. For achieving them, it is focused on providing personal guidance, training, and apprenticeship opportunities to the participants.
- **Enrolling in adult schools** is compulsory for those lacking the Compulsory Secondary Schooling certificate. However, labour market-oriented training is the central activity of the programme.
- **Improving the image companies have of young people** is the central goal of this programme. It is done by involving employers in training activities as well as making proposition to offer apprenticeships or job positions to the participants. Employers collaborating with the programme receive fiscal benefits for these contracts.
- **Confidence among workers and young adults** is the key for the programme's success. Objectives and commitments are agreed by both parts according to the interests and possibilities of the participants. The programme aims at providing them with the social network, which many of the young adults lack.

How does it work?

- **Selection of candidates** among all the applicants is the first step in the programme. This selection is conducted by the workers of the programme through the development of personal interviews.
- **Selected candidates may choose among the different training options** and attend three months of training courses. During the last period, the training is focused on cooking operations, basic operations in accommodation apartments, and sound operations.
- **One-month apprenticeship experience** is provided to the beneficiaries in the professional area in which they have received the training. Occasionally, the programme is also able to manage six month job contracts with fiscal benefits for the companies.
- **The role of the programme workers is crucial** for its success as they are in charge of the main coordination and guidance activities of the programme including the selection of candidates, orientation in the definition of personal trajectories/career paths, contact and management of the relationship with companies, and guidance in the search of the jobs.
- **The programme has gradually increased the local coordination capacity.** The involvement and the trust of the local companies have grown just as the cooperation among local agents, both publicly and privately.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Youth for Occupation, please consult: <http://www.saltjove.cat/joves-per-locupacio/>
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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW 'Promoters of the Youth Guarantee'

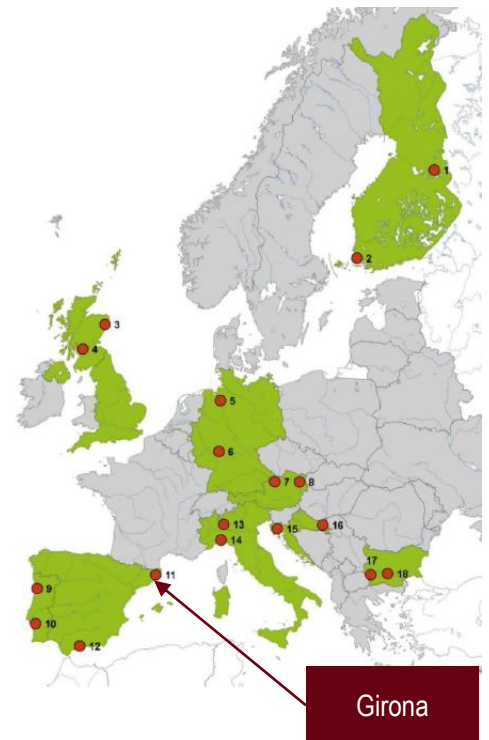
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The *Youth Guarantee Scheme Facilitators Network (YGSFN)* is composed by different professionals working at the local level whose function is to deliver key information to any young adult and to start with some career guidance. The Catalan Employment Service funds public and private agents to hire these professionals.

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.



'Promoters of the Youth Guarantee' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Youth unemployment and dropouts from school are relevant problems in Catalonia and in the region of Girona. Highly qualified youngsters hardly find jobs corresponding to their level of skills. Similarly, low qualified youths have difficulties entering the labour market because they cannot compete with better skilled colleagues. Many of the former leave the country to find job placements of higher qualification, while the latter keep occupying precarious employment without opportunities of ascendant trajectories for further career steps.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

YGSFN is addressed to young adults between 16 and 29 years old who are NEET, or who are registered in the Youth Guarantee Scheme (YGS). It is not a programme composed by particular measures, but rather an information and guidance service that generates individualised recommendations to each personal situation and interests. It informs on the three different alternatives within the YGS: training, work experience, and entrepreneurship.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **Eventually, the YGSFN assumes the objectives of the YGS**, which are fundamentally reducing the rate of NEETs in the country by providing training and working opportunities to both qualified and unqualified young adults.
- **Disseminating the Youth Guarantee Scheme** and its related activities and measures is the specific aim of this network.
- **The Promoters centralise information** about the different courses provided in the region under the YGS umbrella. They are also aware of the work experiences and the measures to support entrepreneurship that are developed on site.
- **The Network assists a variety of young adults** seeking for advice, guidance or information about a wide range of questions such as formal and informal education, labour market demands, and labour opportunities abroad.
- **Training is the most important dimension of the YGS** and low qualified young adults, especially the people who make more use of the Network. The pre-eminence of the training activities over the working ones is common to the development of the YGS all over the country.

How does it work?

- **Professionals located in different public and private institutions – promoters** – receive youngsters who address them spontaneously or come from other public services. Depending on the characteristics and interests of each person, the promoters give them advice and information on the different available alternatives.
- **Youngsters can address to the Network as many times as they need.** If they ask for it, they receive assistance to register in the YGS, to elaborate their curriculum vitae and to get information on their areas of interest. When the promoter lacks this information, s/he can recommend the youngster to another local service.
- **Promoters need to be in permanent contact with one another** and with the different providers of courses in the city/region. One of the main difficulties of their job is staying up to date on the increasing offer of courses and training activities. They do not limit their advice to those measures under the YGS. Rather, they include all the information they know according to the young adults interests.
- **Depending on the volume of people they serve**, they can devote more time to individual counselling/consultation. Those professionals working in public services (city councils and country councils) receive many people and thus, the guidance they can provide is limited.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Youth Guarantee Scheme Facilitators Network, please consult: <http://serveiocupacio.gencat.cat/ca/detall/article/Xarxa-dimpulsors-del-Programa-de-Garantia-Juvenil-a-Catalunya>
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