



Declaration on youth unemployment

Introduction

Between the 5th and 13th of February 2018, the participants of the Erasmus+ youth exchange program: “The More Aware – The Closer to the Labor Market” worked on the topic of unemployment in Europe. They gathered from 13 different countries: Greece, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Turkey, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary and Poland in Athens to discuss the topic and look for solutions. The young people worked for a few days on the topic of unemployment and on ways to fight it, they discussed for solutions, they asked people in Athens for proposals and other young people, they used tools such as producing videos and social media applications. During 8 days they worked all together through non- formal learning methods on the following main topics

- ✓ The position of young people in the labor market
- ✓ Causes and Results of youth unemployment at personal and social level
- ✓ Solutions and proposals to combat youth unemployment
- ✓ Awareness raising actions on the issue
- ✓ Ways of intervention and putting pressure for measures against youth unemployment
- ✓ Highly demanded professions today and in the future
- ✓ Necessary skills for the workplace
- ✓ Job interviews, CVs and professional profiles on platforms and social media
- ✓ Youth pass, non-formal education and volunteering



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The group of 65 young people through their discussions and activities collected a series of proposals against unemployment. The most important of them have been then gathered in the current declaration. They wanted most of all to point out that unemployment is a major issue in various European countries, an issue which demoralizes the young generation and requires intensive efforts in order to be tackled effectively.

Proposals against unemployment

A. At social and decision making level

- States should draft and implement a national strategy to reduce unemployment, based on the real situation of each country
- More opportunities must be offered for bringing policy makers, employers and youngsters in the same table to discuss the issue of unemployment. In this way the policy makers will understand better the needs of both the employers and the youngsters in order to draft more targeted policies
- Taxes for companies should be reduced. Lower taxes will attract more investors, will promote the establishment of new businesses and will lead to more job vacancies and better paid jobs
- Extra financial support must be offered to start ups through comprehensive governmental programs and youth entrepreneurship must be promoted and facilitated. Lower taxes must be applied for startups. More free spaces must be offered for the first years of a new company
- A kind of compulsory internships during high school could help youngsters gain some experience and also make more conscious decisions for their future professional life
- Less bureaucracy for companies and freelancers
- Organized efforts and more checks in companies for fighting undocumented work
- Providing and promoting job orientation seminars in schools as well as seminars on drafting an effective CV and presenting oneself in an interview, could properly prepare youngsters for their job searching period and could increase their chances to be employed
- More opportunities for non-formal educational activities must be provided to youngsters at local and regional level and a system of official recognition of these experiences must be developed
- Entrepreneurial spirit must be promoted already from high school or university and support programs on how to turn an idea into a business must be drafted and implemented in order to help youngsters to become entrepreneurs



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- A system of mentorship for young and new employees could help young people gain experience, improve their skills and get some inspiration
- States should reorganize and shape their educational systems and curriculum based on the real needs of the labor market. Less theoretical and more practical input must be offered to the youngsters

B. At personal level for the youngsters

- Young people should be active, engaged and curious in society. They should actively participate in political life and in the decision making through voting, being involved in civil society organizations and organizing initiatives for the issues that concern them
- Volunteering in local Non-Governmental Organizations can improve youngsters' personal and professional skills and at the same time can offer them an opportunity to intervene in social issues, help other youngsters and create impact on the society
- European voluntary service under Erasmus + is a great opportunity for youngsters to gain experience, improve their skill set and through their activities and initiatives to contribute to the fight against unemployment
- Youngsters should invest in their future by properly preparing themselves for employment. Targeted educational and career decisions as well as participation in non- formal educational activities could increase a lot their chances to find a job
- Youngsters can use their network of friends to find a job. Being social will help youngsters to create more professional contacts
- Youngsters could make a change and contribute to the fight against unemployment by making the unemployment problem visible. By creating informal groups of young people and organizing interventions and awareness raising activities on the topic they could “awaken” more youngsters and in parallel put pressure to the policy makers for more effective measures against unemployment
- Youngsters should keep their qualifications up to date and attend conferences, training activities, internships, job shadows in order to obtain new knowledge and skills.
- Youngsters should take advantage of any opportunity they are offered for more education. Lifelong learning is a reality and non-formal learning can effectively complete the gaps of the formal education
- Digital and language skills are currently needed in almost all the professions, youngsters should invest on developing and/or improving these skills



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