



5 Shape Europe Hackathons: The Solutions

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Solutions from the Hackathon in Latvia

SOLUTION 1

HOW CAN EU IMPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH?

Nowadays only active youth take part in the political processes. Those are the ones, who are interested in politics – and the certain part of the youth is not big enough, to objectively represent the opinion of EU youth. The reasons for not taking part are various: do not know or do not understand how to get involved; are scared, because they believe that participation in such processes is complicated; do not get the aim of participation. For these reasons, it is important to offer the chance to participate in form, which is more understandable/ easier perceptible to youth.

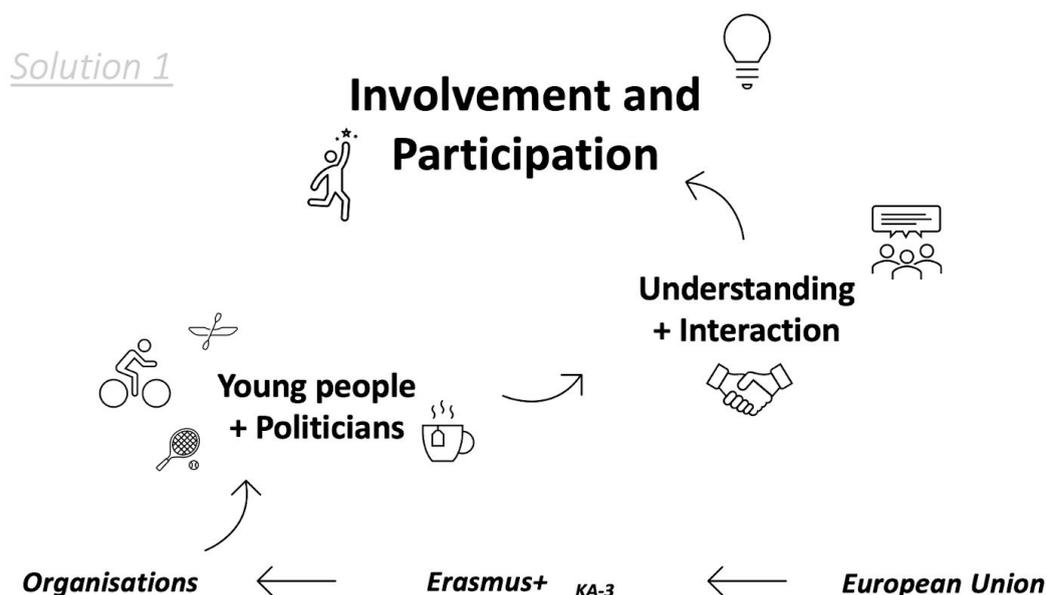
We suggest using the already existing third key action of Erasmus+ programme – Structured Dialogue – and extending it. At the moment, the certain key action is more about the discussions between youth and decision makers about youth policy. However, it is necessary to extend the spectrum of the activities in order to also involve those young people, who are not politically active at the moment due to the reasons mentioned above. It is necessary to improve the interaction of the politicians and youth by bringing them together. The additional possible activities could be about different topics with an added attractiveness and diversity. Nevertheless, the activities would remain high quality, meaningful and with added value. The activities can be held about various topics and in various ways, such as, escape room, activities for physical health, sailing training, activities to get to know green lifestyle etc. In addition, a “stamp” system can be created as a promoter of the participation. The most active participants of such events can collect stamps (whether physically or electronically), after getting 20 of them, they have an opportunity to, for instance, travel to Brussels to visit European Parliament.

How would it work? All of the appropriate European organisations can submit a project under the Erasmus+ programme. The project must be in accordance with the programme’s core working sphere and consist of the activities which will be locally, nationally or internationally (by the choice) organised. The activities should involve young people and decision makers, to give them an opportunity to learn from and interact with each other in order to slowly get to the real political and civic participation of young people in the long term. Consequently, the civically active society will form over the time, because youth will have an opportunity to better understand participation in various forms and levels, which would gradually lead to the youth participation in complicated forms of decision-making, they would see a real person in the politician and naturally get interested in political participation through the interest in other spheres.

What will get both of the sides? Politicians would learn how to trust youth, getting to know their strengths, views and ideas through the particular activities. However, young people would feel safer to go to the decision-makers with their ideas and initiatives, by getting to know politicians



through various activities. In the long term the civically active, educated and versatile society will be achieved.



SOLUTION 2

THE VOICE OF YOUTH IN EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Everything begins with a young person. He or she gets to know information about the EU through various events, initiatives and activities (exchanges, exhibitions, information on media, educational movies) organised by youth organisations. Consequently, the young person gets involved in the youth organisation and its activities.

An individual can stand for elections in Latvian youth commission. However, in order to do that, he or she will need to be nominated by the youth organisation he or she actively takes part in. In these elections an individual represents him/herself and takes an exam about the EU, to show appropriate knowledge and preparedness for the position.

Members of the local youth organisations vote for the candidates to Latvian youth commission. This commission consists of an unspecified number of members, who represent interests of Latvian youth. However, an elected chairman of the national youth commission becomes a delegate to European Youth Commission, which consists of 27 delegates, each from every EU country. They resist to work in their national and political interests in favour of the European Union.

Every young person can make a proposal to the national youth commission. However, every national commission can make a proposal to a European Youth Commission, which has rights to hand it over to European Commission. Therefore, the European Youth Commission is an advisory body of the youth in the EU.



In case of fulfilling this initiative, youth gets a bigger power over their proposals, which can affect the quality of their lives. Furthermore, the European Union gets a legitimate and high-quality perspective of youth on various topics and current problems.



SOLUTION 3

YOUTH COMMISSION

The main aim of the Youth Commission, which is based on the prototype of the European Commission, is to get feedback between the youth and institutions of the European Union. Moreover, it makes not only information about the work of the EU easier to understand, but also gives an opportunity to youth to get involved in the decision-making processes.

The Youth Commission consists of 27 delegates (also called commissioners). Each of them represents an EU country and works in the interests of all youth of the European Union. These commissioners are chosen from the previously created National Youth Commission office. Therefore, members of the National Youth Commission discuss the ideas and initiatives on the national level before bringing them to the meeting of the Youth Commission, which happens three times in a year between youth commissioners and European commissioners.

Information about the National Youth Commissions will be distributed through the influencers who are getting paid. The campaign consists of previously created information about application for the position in the Youth Commission. It also contains the understandable information about this social media platform, the EU and European Commission is created and outspread. In addition, training about the processes of the European Union are provided to those who are interested.

In order to involve everyone, a social media platform is created. The platform is a website sponsored by the European Commission. Moreover, the website has its forum, where young





people can discuss their ideas and listen to the opinions of others. It is possible to propose your ideas to voting system which is similar to ManaBalss.lv*.

Selection of the delegates to the Youth Commissions consists of 3 rounds. In the first one the information about such possibilities is spread on social media and at the schools and universities by the lectures of influencers. The candidates must be 16 – 25 years old. During the second round the CV and motivational letter should be submitted. After that a knowledge test about the EU follows. Later, the best candidates get an interview with representatives from the national institutions, such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Commission. The crucial requirement for the candidates is to have an experience in youth non-governmental organisations, volunteering, youth exchanges or active participation in student association etc. The National Youth Commission has 10 or more (depends on the population of the country) active delegates, who got through the competition. Between these young people one Youth Commissioner is selected. The National Youth Commissioner together with his or her advisers educate youth by organising targeted activities about democratic ideas on national level. However, Youth Commissioners compile the information on the social platform and communicate with European Commission.

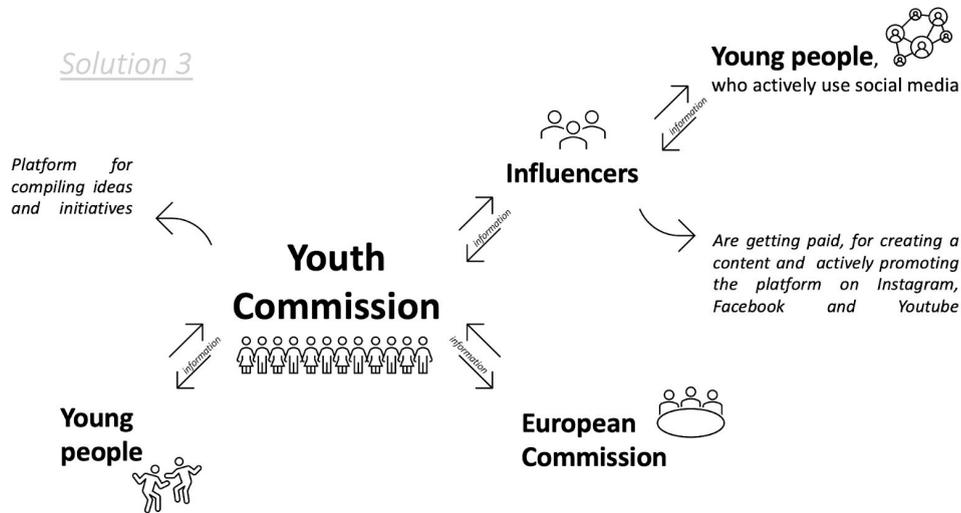
Consequently, not only the politically active young people, but also youth with various backgrounds and interests are being reached. Moreover, the democratic ideas are being popularised on social media and European Commission gets to know the opinion of the youth.

**Additional note: ManaBalss.lv is a platform which provides a possibility for the citizens of Latvia to promote their initiatives and ideas by gaining support by other voters. The initiatives were submitted to the Parliament of Latvia afterwards.*

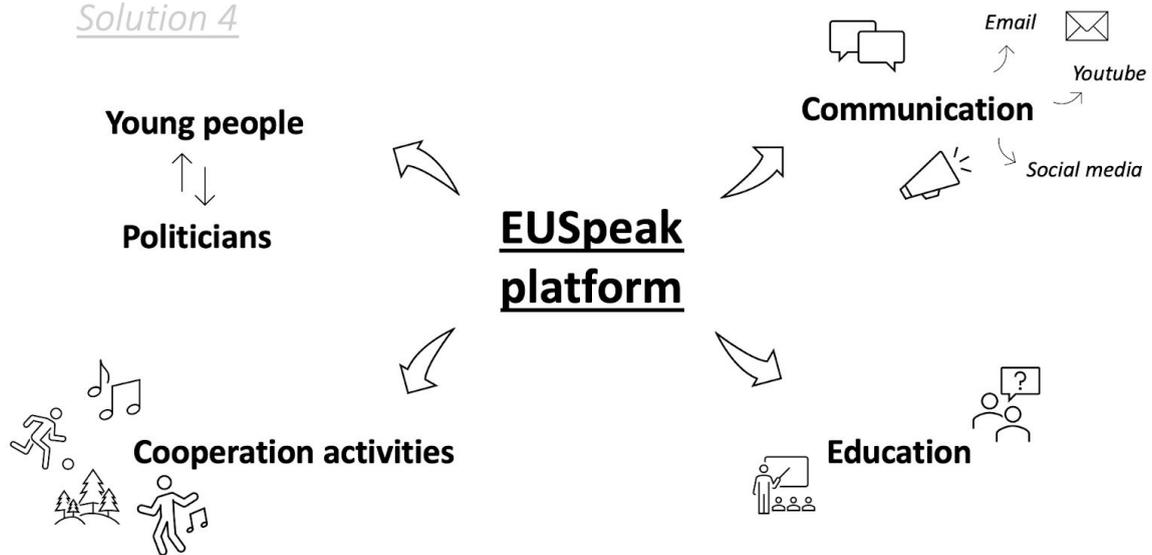




Solution 3



Solution 4



Part II: Solutions from Hackathon in Greece

TEAMS' PROJECTS

CHALLENGE NUMBER 1: ACCESSIBILITY IN A WORLD WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS

Title: SUCCESSABILITY 2020

Abstract:

“Successability 2020” is an innovative action with the purpose of educating people with disabilities and connecting them to the Greek labor market and the employers themselves in real time through online means. “Equal access to success”. 100 companies are ready to offer vacancies to people free of charge. According to the report of National Confederation of People with Disabilities, people with disabilities are considerably marginalized when it comes to the Greek labor market, a problem which we want to combat by shaking down stereotypes and by seeking equal opportunities for all through battling ignorance. During the weekend, on 7 and 8 of November, enterprises, institutions and people with any kind of disability will digitally meet through Zoom with the goal of incorporating people with disabilities in the labor market. Throughout the event the participants will have the chance to converse with each other and with companies which support this cause. Our goal is to make sure that the quest for jobs is equal for people with disabilities or not.

Idea

Nowadays, people with disabilities become increasingly marginalized and they are unable to get into the labor market and so Youth Equality Center tries to connect young people (18+) with disabilities (observable or not) with businesses globally through an online event, which will take place on 7,8 of November so that they have the chance to fill in vacancies and cultivate their soft and social skills. It is a 2 days action which consists of several activities and experts in life coaching and youth unemployment. It is crucial to mention that this digital initiative will include subtitles and interpreters to help the beneficiaries. Furthermore, in case someone has no access to electronic devices or the internet, then our organization has already communicated with the mayors of every region so as to





grant access to the participant to places equipped with computers like computer rooms in schools and universities. In that way, I will attempt to help people with disabilities to escape marginalization and take their lives into their own hands by diminishing the unemployment rate in Greece.

Target Group

Successability 2020 is an innovative action, aimed at young people aged 18-30, who have an invisible or invisible disability and need help to get into the labor market.

It provides easy access to the entire public, as the sessions will take place online thus making it easy for those interested to attend them regardless of circumstances.

Participants will receive extensive information on the latest market news and their position in it from our special staff of experts, as well as we will contact employers learning firsthand what the market demands of them.

At the same time, it is understandable that there will be a cultivation of technical skills known as "soft skills", as well as the transmission of concepts such as socialization.

TEAM NUMBER 2:

Name: Stephen Hawking

Team members: Giannitsi Ekaterini, Karamatzani Efi, Hatzis Matheos

Title: AFETIRIA

Abstract:

AFETIRIA is a CSO with the main objectives of ensuring equal opportunities for people with disabilities in the process of finding work, facilitating these people to practice their work as well as adapting the content of work itself so that people with different disabilities are able to operate equally. Our vision is to create a non-discriminatory work environment. Our values are cooperation, support, solidarity, respect and creativity. The founding members of CSO "AFETIRIA" are:

Giannitsi Ekaterini, Karamatzani Efi, Hatzis Matheos

Its staff consists of professionals of various specialties from the field of Informatics, Marketing, Mental Health as well as support staff composed of volunteers.

Idea:

The path to the solution of the aforementioned problems is important to keep pace with the technological developments and tools of the contemporary world. As stated on the Microsoft site: "One of technology's most fundamental purposes is empowering people to do more, and that's why people with disabilities are often the ultimate early adopters."



Those of us with more challenges to overcome in the workplace may have more to gain by using newly conceived tools or even helping to perfect them. ” (“The power of technology for people with disabilities, Microsoft features. (<https://news.microsoft.com/features/the-power-of-technology-for-people-with-disabilities/>)). **In order to address those needs a platform for searching jobs for people with disabilities, in which the beneficiary will be able to choose their job of interest, taking into account their disability. The results will be offered to the users using algorithms that take into account the data the users have provided to the platform.** The reason why the platform will be exclusively for people with disabilities is to have an impact, to emphasize the need for such a platform but also to reduce competition with other job search platforms. To meet the needs of people with disabilities without internet access or without knowledge of computers or internet use, there will be a team consisting of a health professional and a job counselor who will provide home help finding work. In some cases, seminars on how to use the platform are also provided. Job creation will come as a result of the partnerships with employers which will gradually increase and the platform will be enriched. At its trial stage, until the official operation, there will be no fee for participation in the platform. The amount of the fee will be adjusted later. It is important to note that there will be no charge for users of the platform. Training / training seminars will be provided to staff to familiarize themselves with the cooperation with people with disabilities. At the same time, there will be monitoring to confirm the workplace standards are friendly to people with disabilities. The target groups of our action are two: On the one hand, people with disabilities aged 18-65 years with emphasis on the dynamic ages 18-30 years, who are interested in entering the labor market and live in the four major cities of Greece: Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and Heraklion, Crete. On the other hand, the target group is the companies that are interested in hiring people with disabilities and want to include them in their workforce. People with disabilities are helped by providing support and empowerment in the job search process. This is achieved by providing support throughout the recruitment period. At the same time, people with disabilities learn to become familiar with the use of the platform and to improve their digital skills. In particular, our platform is aimed at young people with fewer opportunities to access the labor market, who have the knowledge and skills to fill relevant positions. However, they have difficulty accessing information about available jobs or have difficulty applying, as well as finding companies whose work environment can meet their needs. In fact, as mentioned above, in Greece the unemployment rate for people with disabilities aged 25 to 29 reaches 58.2%.

Target group

In addition, the innovation of this idea is to cover a wide range of the target group, as it is addressed to groups with different disabilities and needs. Thus, it increases their inclusion in the business staffing process. At the same time, it highlights the positive contribution of people with disabilities to the labor market and promotes their participation in policy-making and decision-making that promotes accessibility and equitable participation.

On the other hand, companies benefit in many ways from participating in the platform. As our platform is developed by people properly trained and trained to work with people with disabilities, companies have the opportunity to participate in training programs to facilitate accessibility in the workplace. This will benefit companies not only for the employment of people with disabilities but also in general for the creation of an environment adapted to the changing requirements of a workplace. Thus, the working environment becomes more accessible not only to people with disabilities, but also to





other employees, whose mobility, for example, may be temporarily impaired due to an accident or other factors.

Finally, in this way, companies gain a positive profile and strengthen the profile of social awareness and promote the inclusion of marginalized social groups.

CHALLENGE NUMBER 2: Protection of Young Entrepreneurship

TEAM NUMBER 1:

Name: Mark Zuckerberg (Winning Team)

Team members: Iason Soultis Avagiannis, Koniari Athanasia, Stagaki- Barlou- Mirsini-Anastasia

Title: SUCCESSIBILITY 2020

Abstract:

Recognizing and identifying the pathogens that have arisen in the European labor market with the successive crises of recent years, young workers in the Member States are necessarily at the center of the ever-increasing issue of employability. The European Youth Employability Platform is the future of youth employability in EU Member States. . A modern and attractive platform, helping to restore European labor values and social acquis, with an emphasis on young workers aged 18-30. The platform aims to inform young workers about their employment rights under EU law, but also those arising from the national law of each Member State separately, with the aim of reducing on the not only the phenomena of deception, violation of labor rights, labor exploitation, etc., but also the increase - in the long run - of mobilities within the EU for career purposes between the ages of 18 and 30.

Violation of labor rights at a younger age is easily observed across the EU. Our project aims on the one hand to inform young people about their labor rights and on the other hand the anonymous evaluation of their employers. All this will happen on our platform "European Youth Employability Platform" to which every new employee, from 18 to 30 years old, will have access with a personal code.

Idea

Our effort is to inform young workers from every different region of the European Union about their labor rights, providing continuous and thorough information in order to motivate more and more young people to work within the EU. In several Member States, strengthening the European acquis on safe occupational rehabilitation. Furthermore, our goal is to create a "European work passport" which will be possible through a single operation of the already existing employment platforms in the long run.

Target Group

Our project targets young people who are now or some time ago joined the active workforce of each EU country, more specifically people aged 18 to 30 who retain the right to free movement and work within the EU . At the same time, we aim to help the



employers themselves who respect the labor rights of their new employees, in order to strengthen their image and their social profile

TEAM NUMBER 2

Name: Jemma Redden

Team members: Χρήστος Ζέρβας, Αρβανιτάκη Ευδοξία, Οδυσσέας Βλαχονικολός

Title: “Youthform”

Abstract:

The solution we invented is the following: Our goal is to create a digital platform that will work with the Ministry of Labor of each country of the European Union in order to ensure transparency in the workplace but will also check whether companies meet the necessary conditions (e.g. working Hours, salaries, working conditions, etc.). If the above apply then the respective company will be listed on the platform and will be offered to potential employees as suitable for work. If not, it will not be added to the platform.

In addition, in actuality it is an NGO, which will be active across Europe and will be composed initially by us and then by young volunteers.

- **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Checking in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor on whether the companies meet the necessary conditions for a young person to work there
- 2) Organizing seminars and other activities in order to further train the Youth
- 3) Enabling employees to express their opinion about their previous employment experience in a company

- **VISION, VALUES, MISSION**

Our team’s vision is to create a world where there will be no exploitation at the expense of young employees who have dreams. We want transparency in the workplace and employees to work without any kind of exploitation. In addition, our mission is to give the chance to the public to express their opinion about their work experience in a company and possibly denounce some fraud.

- **NAME**

The name of our team is "Youthform".

- **STRAPLINE**

"Young people at their best"

- **ELEVATOR PITCH**

What we do is a thorough audit to ensure that there is transparency in the workplace and that the employment rights of each of the new employees in a company are not violated.

Idea

Given the current inadequacy of the modern labor sector, the intervention of both the European Union and organizations aiming to protect labor rights has become extremely





important. Regarding youth employability and ensuring a healthy working environment, and according to the official website of the European Commission, they can contact:

- NGOs,
- labor inspection,
- lawyers,
- national institutions and
- the labor court.

Thus, on the occasion of this reflection and the motivation for the improvement and protection of the rights of new employees, the idea that was born was the following:

An electronic platform of a non-profit nature, which aims at the transparency of companies and the strengthening of the trust of the employees.

Its vision is:

1. The protection of youth labor rights aged 18-30
2. Ensuring transparency between companies-employees
3. 3. The reduction of labor exploitation
4. The development of young people's skills

More specifically, the platform "YouthForm" will cooperate with the Ministry of Labor of each country, which will have undertaken the control part of the process and from which we will draw information about each company. In this way we will obtain information for companies about whether they meet the requirements, such as being standard in payroll, working hours and working conditions.

Then, the companies that stood out, will be registered on our platform as proposed companies. For the most accurate confirmation of this ranking, there will be a special place on the platform where employees who have already worked in the proposed companies, will be able to write a comment or tag. This way the elements will intersect for transparency to prevail.

Finally, we consider it equally important to upgrade the skills of young people affected by labor exploitation. For this reason we will provide young people in the European Union, aged 18-30, with many types of activities, information and training, in order to specialize them so that they are better prepared for future job opportunities and challenges.

Target Group

The age of EU youth: The product we are proposing refers to all of the young people of the European Union who can benefit from it. The customers of the product are the European organizations by young people belonging to an EU country / state and belong to the age group between 18 and 30 years. Usually young men and women of this age are possessed by a spirit of questioning the established, changing and introducing the new, creativity and ingenuity while their fun varies in the same spirit of compromise and frequent alternation.

There are some differences and some common components between beneficiaries and customers as they belong to two different groups. The beneficiaries are the young people of the EU, while our client is the European Union itself.



CHALLENGE NUMBER 3: Sustainable business recovery

TEAM NUMBER 1:

Name: Jack Ma

Team members: Χρήστος Ζέρβας, Αρβανιτάκη Ευδοξία, Οδυσσέας Βλαχονικολός

Title: Digital4EU

Abstract:

Digital4EU is an innovative action, a solution to the loss of e-commerce usage. In other words, it promotes the use of the internet in everyday life, for the realization of all kinds of transactions / sales. Specifically, as part of this three-year action, workshops, training weeks as well as informative seminars will be organized, in order to help employees, businesses and consumers alike to move smoothly into this era of digitization and technological progress, and to get acquainted with the use of e-commerce. Therefore it is addressed to a large portion of the world.

The company's base is in Western Greece, specifically in Patras. Jobs will be offered to graduates of relevant departments, such as computer science and marketing, and the contribution of volunteers will be large. The action is aimed mainly at local businesses and residents of the regions of Central Greece, the Peloponnese and Thessaly.

We chose the form of action because we believe that in this way there will be a direct impact on the local community, it will have sustainability and duration over time, and within the three years of activity a significant change in work and consumer culture is expected, facilitating the daily lives of many people.

Specific objectives we wish to achieve through this action:

- 10% increase in online sales per year
- Training of at least 1000 entrepreneurs. 200 in the first year, 400 in the second and at least 400 in the third.
- Training of at least 5000 employees

Idea

What: NGOs organizing programs to promote digital transformation and digital education

We offer to:

- Employees: Training weeks (seminars, excel, google drive, email)
- Businesses: Transition to e-commerce (model canvas, app, marketing)
- Residents: Information about e-commerce (Benefits and benefits)

What we do: excel, google drive, model canvas, word, powerpoint, pitching, Utilization of EU funding programs Horizon 2020

Problem-solving link: Updating on the benefits of e-commerce will increase purchasing rates using electronic media. At the same time, entrepreneurs will consider e-commerce as an opportunity to maximize their profits and will invest in this method resulting in increased GDP and convergence between regions.

Target Group

Businesses that do not have digital platforms for sales (local mini markets, local bookstores, local pharmacies, local bakeries)





Non-digitally trained workers (potentially unemployed from the digital switchover)
Consumer audience (more targeted at ages 20-45 → more active in digital commerce, according to a Eurostat survey)

TEAM NUMBER 2:

Name: Steve Jobs

Team members: Apostolaki Ansastasia, Christos Batralis, Triantafillos Gkaragkanis

Title: D4Ent-GR

Abstract:

The Ministry of Development and Investment was called to address and find an immediate solution to the need to review its business model due to the behavioral change of customers and their preference to receive services and products electronically. Digital and business skills combined with flexibility & adaptability is what young entrepreneurs and employees need to focus on to add value to their businesses, employers and the world around them.

In particular, the core of the plan was the organization of an educational program for the preparation of staff at the level of know-how for the period 2021-2022, and the provision of logistics equipment for the period 2023-2028. Through this action, both businesses and customers will be served, as the purpose is to adapt the former to the needs of the latter.

According to data from FHW-GSEVEE (2012), that small and medium enterprises in Greece:

- 99.9% of all enterprises, with very small enterprises accounting for 96.6%, small enterprises 6.5% & medium enterprises 0.4% while,
- Main activity exists in three sectors of the economy: a) the provision of services (48.72%), b) production or processing (20.61%) and c) commercial activity (30.77%).

But how will all this be promoted?

Firstly, through the websites, the social media pages & every available medium of the Ministry of Development & Investment as well as the 13 Regions respectively.





Then through the promotion of the program with every available mean (websites, magazines, workshops, etc.) from the 59 Chambers of Commerce - Industry - Craft and Professional Chambers of the country.

Finally, in terms of funding, the total cost of the program amounts to 20 million euros, which will be committed by the Corporate Development Framework Agreement (NSRF) 2021-2027 & specifically by the Regional Operational Programs (RIP) of its 13 regions of the country.

Idea:

Basic proposal:

The creation of a program called "D4Ent-GR" for the digital transition-transformation of small and medium enterprises in Greece, in the context of the implementation of the 2nd Thematic Objective of Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020 called "Improving access to information and communication technologies (ICT), and their use and quality ". The program will be financed from resources that will be committed by the NSRF 2021-2027 & the individual Regional Operational Programs (ROP). The implementing body of the program is the Ministry of Development & Investment.

Target Group:

Beneficiaries of the program:

Beneficiaries of the program are both businesses and their customers.

Target group:

The target group of the program is all small and medium enterprises operating in Greece.

Part III: Solutions from Hackathon in Italy

Solutions

1.WeRank (winner solution)

Big idea: information

Challenge: Create antibodies for public opinion against disinformation in order to increase citizens' awareness of fake news

WeRank, an online platform that helps users find their way around the web and identify fake news.

The WeRank platform (open source and compliant with GDPR legislation) should be managed in synergy between users and experts in each sector. The former report, the latter elaborate and sift. The experts are selected from those who use We-Verify, the European debunking platform and are profiled with certified profiles.

The platform should avoid the risks of degeneration with a mechanism similar to Wikipedia, where the contents are screened by a large number of users.



EU support for financing, sponsorship and reorganization of service providers is hoped for.

2. European Green Academy (runner-up solution)

Big idea: environment - Sustainable green Europe

Challenge: address EU policies in order to contribute to a fair and effective ecological transition.

The idea is to establish, in each European country, a “European Green Academy”, an academic institution (co-operating with 1 or more local universities) that provides a 1-year course on environmental themes and Ecological transition content, in order to train 100 ecological transition professionals every year in every country, almost half youth people and half middle age people that need reskilling in order to meet new job market’s requirements.

Learners should acquire at the same time the most advanced content about ecological themes, the awareness that is a global issue in which there are many stakeholders to take into account, and new skills needed in the job market, such as project management and coding. Learners must deliver, at the end of the course, a digital platform with the aim of raising local awareness of what the citizen can do for the environment, the Green new deal and its opportunities.

The EC should establish a grant for universities that would implement the project and provide scholarships and facilities for learners. EP may set up general goals through a proper resolution.

3. Automatic SMS HelpYou

Big idea: connecting the EU and young people

Challenge: reduce the distance between citizens and institutions - Raise EU awareness among young citizens

As soon as you cross a Schengen border, you receive this message:

"The EU welcomes you to * France *.

IMPORTANT!

These are your rights, read them carefully and keep them with you:

1. You can move and stay freely within the European territory;
2. You can receive diplomatic protection for your protection;
3. You can communicate with European institutions in your language;
4. You can vote and stand as a candidate in the European elections;
5. You can actively participate in the political life of the EU through the citizens' legislative proposal and petition;
6. In case of emergency, immediately dial 112, the single European number

More information here:

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/eu-citizenship_it “



4. Introduce a common European final studies examination and a European evaluation scheme

Big Idea: Quality education for all

Challenge: Being able to standardize the assessment at European level so as not to have disparities in terms of admission tests (both for the world of work and for subsequent education cycles)

As for the European report card, the idea was to create a single European report card to be presented, for example, when enrolling in a foreign university. To do this, the final report cards of the individual countries should be converted into a single rating scale. On the other hand, as regards the exam, it would be necessary to convert the existing exams (such as the Invalsi, which however have only a statistical purpose) to a certain and proper European exam, the same for all, in order to have a uniform evaluation throughout the continent that schools or employers can apply for at the time of admission / hiring.

The idea has been presented simulating a popular Italian information tv show (“otto e mezzo”) showing that the solution is now implemented and now all European young people have a more equal access to universities, jobs and opportunities.

5. Mutual recognition of academic qualifications obtained in member countries

Big idea: Quality education for all

Challenge: Making education more homogeneous in EU member countries

Our solution is the establishment of an expert committee coming from all 27 countries that undertakes to establish specific minimum quality standards for the different grades and types of schools and universities.

This committee will also have the task of preparing a test to which all Union students will be subjected. This tool will be essential to check that all states have reached the minimum standards. If it is found that a state has not been able to comply, funds will be directed for training courses dedicated to teachers and for all possible measures in order to support this state.

The committee should be instructed by a resolution of the European Parliament about the objectives and the results will be submitted to the European Commission in order to allow it to propose a concrete solution.

6. MorEu

Big idea: Quality education for all

Challenge: Reduce the distance between the EU and students

MorEu is an app aiming to support students in all their growth stages. It is a custom container where, depending on your profile (= type of student) you find content such as, for instance:

1) the information that may be most useful to you on the services offered by the institutions at all levels, together with projects, competitions, calls, etc.



- 2) a direct line of contact with the various bodies, from the school level (headmaster / teachers) to the representative bodies;
- 3) Information content of European citizenship type Europe direct.

EU support for financing, sponsorship and reorganization of service providers is hoped for.

7. 4StepsCloser

Big idea: Participation

Challenge: What can the EU do to improve the citizen participation relationship with the European institutions?

Objective: to strengthen the powers of the European Parliament, to encourage the participation and training of European citizens.

1. How do we want to reform the treaties? Conference on the future of Europe 2021 to change the EU and start a new process - birth Convention.
2. Create transnational parties? Need to switch to a single European electoral law., in order to encourage parties to organize themselves at the European level.
3. Citizenship Education? Provide compulsory courses aimed at acquiring credits to entice young people to European civic education program European history. Additional modalities: team questionnaires, multimedia formats. All through the inclusion in the European budget of funds to finance and support teaching in schools.
4. Establishment of a Official European information channel
Insertion of quotas on programming throughout Europe, bind the channels of the European states to insert information programs on the Union.

8. Transforming the ECJ into a real European Supreme Short

Big idea: Democracy - inclusive society for all

Challenge: reduce the distance between citizens and institutions, showing that democracy can be achieved also at a supranational level, and potentially even at a global stage

The extension of the powers of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) is expected to become more and more a real European Supreme Court.

Amendment of the TFEU in the articles regulating the functioning of the ECJ, art. 258-281. Along the lines of the ECHR, the Court will become a new level of judgment at the supranational level: in fact, the Supreme Court is considered one of the most important institutions in a Democracy.

European Governments would be called upon to be held accountable for violations of fundamental rights also at the European level.
Allowing citizens to use the ECJ would bring European law closer to the people and improve the quality of democracy.

It should be avoided overlaps with the ECHR and co-operation must be put in place. It should be clear that there are many resistance from member states in implementing this possible reform, in particular by the Visegrad group side.



Furthermore, the EU should take sides to expand both the powers of the ECHR and thus strengthen respect for human rights at an ever-increasing level, and the competences of the ICC (UN International Criminal Court) to have a protection of fundamental human rights at a global level.

9. Mental health for EU

Big idea: mental health and well-being

Challenge: Change Eu and address EU policies so that they are able to affirm mental health as a right

The EP should address EU institutions and Member States to take three steps to strength mental health as a right in Europe:

- 1) Accessibility: ensure the access to basic psychologist for all european citizens
- 2) Awareness: establishment of the European month of mental health, with the creation of a video campaign and a communication plan for mental health.
- 3) Harmonization: creation of a single system of incentives and disincentives for states in order to increase the prevention and promotion of culture on the subject, up to the provision of EU infringement procedures where states do not comply with minimum standards.

10. In EUrope I can...

Big idea: Participation

Challenge: change the EU to increase citizen participation - involve young people in decision-making processes and let them vote in the European election

Our solution is to reach citizens through an initiative that makes them aware of European values (and what they concretely imply) by making them reflect on their meaning and on how they influence our daily lives, transforming themselves into rights and defining what we can do or be.

We propose to the European Commission to launch the "In EUrope I can" initiative to involve children in schools, participants are asked to express one of the European values with an understandable phrase such as, for instance, "In EUrope I can ... travel freely ", and at the end of this list it is shown how their conclusions are consistent with the European charter of rights.

Part IV: Solutions from Hackathon in Croatia

1. GREEN SCHOOLS

First group tackled the problem of lack of education about ecology, climate change sustainability, zero waste and all the topics related. They constructed some basic input and directions in which we can lead our education system to implement some values that are shared within the EU. The basics of this plan are that we try to make „green education“ closer to the younger generations, especially kids in middle and primary





schools. The ideas we came up with are that we include education about climate change into some existing subjects in our educational system at first. The best solution would be if we could have one special subject in school curriculum that would tackle climate change, since that would be the best way to educate and make young people aware of the consequences that await us if we do not act immediately. However, due to the difficulties in Croatia with the introduction of civic education, we realized that the new subject is difficult to put into practice, so we might start with the implementation of this topic in other subjects.

For the kids in primary school this would include trying to teach them that their actions have consequences. This would be in a form by using fairy tales, pictures and videos in an animated way so we can teach them, for example if they throw out plastic or trash this can harm the environment and show them that it also has a negative impact on animals and on themselves. In primary schools kids would also plant some herb gardens within the school property so we can teach them how to farm and how to make something bio and healthy.

Even Though this subject concerns older generations mostly we have concluded that it is very important to educate kids at a young age so it would lead them to be responsible citizens. We also discussed ways of involving young people into the subjects of Green Europe. This would be achieved by educating them about recycling and climate changes and negative impact of climate change. High school students will have more detailed technical instructions and will get acquainted with the Global goals of sustainable development by 2030. We also think that it would be very important to have some field work, for example visits to Green Houses, agricultural business and landfills. Schools would also try to organize an activity to clean the sea which would be a valuable lesson on the negative impact that plastic has for our economy but also for the quality of our sea and the wildlife living in the sea.

Schools districts would also connect with local farmers and OPG businesses so they could serve locally and organically produced food to students. This would also mean that students get used to leading a healthier life and choosing healthy choices but also consuming and deciding on local products so we would help the small business in our area, especially rural ones. We have concluded that the best way of changing human behaviour and the attitude to the subject of Green Europe and the Green Deal is to educate people from a young age and to focus on local communities as they are the ones who make the biggest impact.

This would make a change from the local level into the regional and then national level all the way up to the EU.

TO SUM IT UP...

We believe that the introduction of a new subject in the school curriculum, which would teach about climate change and sustainable development, would be a turning point and a major step forward in the education system. Schools would include the European Green Deal and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in their curriculum, and introduce a minimum of one school hour per week dedicated to teaching about the human impact on the planet, the causes and consequences of global warming. Sustainability could also be taught in other subjects such as geography, nature and society, biology, etc. Science tells us that the next 10 years are crucial for humanity and therefore we do not have time to wait for the next generations!



2. MORE SUSTAINABLE, GREENER EUROPE WITH ECO TRANSPORT

The topic of the second group was transportation, how to make transportation more eco friendly. Since this is a very broad topic, we decided to take one part and work it out in detail. We have chosen cycling as the mode of transport that is closest to young people and as it is quite underdeveloped in Croatia.

Before we thought about a solution to bring cycling closer to young people and generally work to popularize cycling on a daily basis, we decided to explore the benefits it brings.

In addition to having impact to safety and health, the benefits are also visible to the rural economy and the environment. More and more cities and countries are turning to cycling tourism and bike sharing models, which encourages the creation of new content on bike routes (eco restaurants, souvenir shops, coffee shops, hostels, markets etc) and the creation of new jobs.

Cycling as part of the transport system of cities can play a very important role in reducing CO2 emissions, reducing traffic congestion, saving fuel, but also increasing the number of jobs. According to the ECF, due to the beneficial effects on human health, cycling reduces the costs of the health system and the absence of employees from work. These savings are not negligible and are estimated at around 150 billion euros.

As far as the environment is concerned, the benefits are significant and many:

- Cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change
- Reduces air pollutants (walking and biking emit no greenhouse gases)
- Reduces noise pollution and congestion
- Reduces the need for new parking lots and roadways
- Saves valuable green space from development.
- Reduces your ecological footprint.

So what would be our solution? How to popularize cycling and encourage young people and others use bicycles more and more, on a daily basis by cycling to work, to the store and even as leisure and recreation in their free time? As we mentioned, there are more and more cycling routes that many people who are not professional cyclists do not even know about. That is why we suggest BIKE APP. An application that will unite bicycle paths and routes at the local, national and even European level and represent a long-term plan for preserving the environment and the health of citizens. Since we are the generation of digitalization, the easiest way to encourage young people to cycle and lead a healthier lifestyle is to come up with a youth friendly application that will promote an eco friendly mode of transport.

Along with GPS, the application would display nearby bike routes and the contents that connect them. Popularization and digitalization of cycling tourism would lead to the need of adding tourist content (promoting local farmers and shops), the possibility of installing smart benches, rest areas, fast service points which would all attract young people to cycle more and choose a healthier and environmentally friendly mode of transport. By promoting cycling routes, most cyclists are directed to the same routes and so the need to invest and maintain infrastructure is reduced.

We believe that there are many benefits of cycling, and most of them are related to a healthier lifestyle and environmental protection. If more and more people turned to cycling on a daily basis, the long-term results would be significant. However, in order for this to happen, we need to bring cycling closer to people and offer them attractive content and solutions that will encourage them to make changes.



3. REDESIGNING OUR FOOD SYSTEM - ECO FRIENDLY, VIRTUAL MARKETS

We need to ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food. In order to do that we do not have to choose between producing nutritious, affordable food and the future of our planet. We could have it both! ☺

How good it would be to have a platform that would bring together those small, local, eco-friendly farmers which would make them accessible, affordable, and thus competitive in the marketplace. Family farm products are available at the local markets, which are mostly open from the early morning hours until a little after noon. Most people are at work at the time and it is not practical for them to go to the market. Rarely will anyone go from one family farm to another and buy products individually. Since the products of local producers are not available and accessible to everyone and are therefore difficult to sell, young people for that reason do not decide to engage in agriculture and run their own farm business. By modernizing and digitizing local markets and eco-friendly products, we could attract young people from rural areas not to move to urban areas.

PROBLEM

- Decrease in purchasing local, nutritious, sustainable, healthy food and products, especially from small local farms and producers
- Why? Inadequate marketing and distribution strategies, products not being well promoted, information on where to find them not being readily available, delivery options also limited (long travels to buy local products = time-consuming), lack of information about the product (is it truly local, conditions under which it is produced, etc.)

SOLUTION

- Virtual market - bringing together local producers and their eco, safe products “under the same roof”
- Support for local producers
- Reduced food miles (conventional food typically travels a lot to reach the consumer, and usually requires additional packaging and refrigeration), sustainable production, freshness, taste, health, safety, quality
- Delivery from local farms/homes to consumers all around the country (especially useful during COVID-19 Pandemic)
- Eco-friendly packaging
- Affordable prices
- Review options (was the product good, fresh, etc. or vice versa)

REALIZATION

- Mobile app – VIRTUAL MARKET – application designed for small local producers/farms and their consumers all around the country
- Goal: to improve the marketing and distribution of local food
- How does it work?
 - o Local farmer(s) create a profile with information about their products. On the same profile they advertise the products they want to sell with possibility to update the list adding new products or deleting old ones
 - o Search options for buyers/consumers with filters - buyers can easily search the desired product(s) according to price, location, positive/negative reviews, etc.
 - o Order-delivery options – possibility of ordering products from close- or far distanced local farms and delivering them to buyers homes
 - Same day or next day delivery
 - When local farms are located very far from the place of order –



possibility to book in advance and organise product delivery two/three days per week

- Possibility of cancelling an order
- Review options (five-star rating scale, comment section, etc.)
- Use of eco-friendly packaging in deliveries

Part V: Solutions from Hackathon in Belgium

Group 1 - E-you're-pe

Roleplay

Problem:

- There's not enough participation in the EU elections
- There's no European feeling
- Interrail, Erasmus, etc. - good to create european feeling - for the underprivileged people, it's harder to access this
- How can you access the info about the EY? There's a lot but it's not well explained, lack of information and knowledge

Solution: online platform with all the opportunities, where people can find info and exchange it with others. Team of ambassadors from each MS. Two sessions for these ambassadors to meet, 1 summer before program and another one summer after program. They will be trained on how to manage this platform. This will be done in all EU languages. Every young person can apply for this programme.

Extra information:

- The ambassadors would be present everywhere. The ambassadors won't be alone online, but also on the field like in different universities.
- You can subscribe on the website of E-you're-pe to become a member. You will receive different trainings organised by E-you're-pe. At their trainings, the trainees can meet up with different MEPs and help create a link between the European institutions and young people.

Group 2 - Youth Participation in the EP

Problem:

- Young people are not represented in the EP, average almost 50 years old
- Oldest MEP is 82 years old
- 17% population is young, it's important that the proportion is kept in the EP
- Youth is more and more engaged in politics (example of climate marches)

Existing examples:

- Amsterdam has youth mayor
- There's a youth EU parliament

BUT it is more an advisory role.

Solution: book a number of seats in the EU parliament for youth. Parity with young people. Impose to parties a youth quota for EU elections - every party needs to have a X number of young people on the election list (eg. like with gender quotas in some countries). To be



done though an EU directive - you have to make everything so that your electoral lists have young people (parallel to % of youth). For this group, the youth consists of persons between 18 years and 30 years.

In practice, the EU should adopt a directive imposing parties to have a certain amount of youth in their list of EU elections (i.e: 20%). During the elections, the electoral lists contain a certain amount of youths (i.e: 1 on 5 for 20%). EU-citizens should then vote like usual.

Extra information:

Group 2 believes that putting more young people on the electoral list can lead to more interest from young people that are not affiliated with politics. The main goal is attracting more young people to politics. Group 2 wants to put the younger politicians on the highest possible positions of the list, so they can have more chances to be elected. Group 2 doesn't see the issue for lowering the age to 16. There are some people that have already made an impact before being 18, so we could give a chance for lowering the minimum age to 16 years.

Group 3 - YEUtopia

Problem:

- There is a disconnection between politicians and youth
- Young people don't feel heard
- Young people are perceived as irresponsible or not interested
- Young people do not have a united voice

Solution:

Youth organisations, together with bigger youth organisations like YFJ, JEF etc, go to highschools over Europe and ask kids how they want their ideal society to look like. Kind create their version of the ideal Europe, in any form. The ideas could also be filled on an application. Once all their proposals are collected from all the Member States, they are showcased at the exhibition in the EP. MEPs will have to walk through the exhibition, they will be guided by young people, by the people that invented society. This will help fight the stigma about young people, notably that they are non-engaged and not having ideas. YEUtopia will make young people be more interested in how to change the society they live in. The goal in the long term is that young people could come together with some MEPs to discuss different ideas.

Group 4 - Fragrance - Let's make Europe more inclusive

Problem: Our Europe discriminates. 9 criteria of exclusion:

- Education
- Disabilities
- Financial stability
- Western vs Eastern Europe
- International situation/migration
- Racialised
- Gender discrimination



- Religious beliefs
- Sexual orientation
-

Young people falling under these categories are especially discriminated against.
How do we remove those filters?

Solution: Inclusion office

Assembly with 37 seats, 18 for NGOs, 19 for civil society

Selected randomly

9 chairs, 9 criteria

- 4 seats for civil society: both NGOs and “non-organised” groups
- Randomly selected
- Budget - 10 billion every 6 years
- Functioning fees and funding of different projects propose

Extra informations:

- Civil society is to Fragrance citizens and NGOs.
- According to Fragrance, there will be a consultative assembly that would advise the European Parliament. It also gives the chance to the citizens and NGOs for increasing their influence for the European Parliament. To be clear, it would be citizens that would be engaged and committed to the different issues
- For Fragrance, random selection is a way to have insurance to avoid electoral ways
- Put criteria for avoiding that the same persons would be randomly selected.

Group 5 - Puppies

Problem:

- Young people are overwhelmed by too much information targeted by disinformation and so on
- Young people are facing an identity crisis
- Need to provide them with the instruments and tools to engage in the EU.

Solution: Yourope - obligatory class across the EU, non formal methodologies, simulations, escape rooms, etc.

- These activities give opportunities to youth to develop critical thinking
- Who does this? Development phase - CSOs, experts from MS. Legislation phase
- EC will make it compulsory. Erasmus+ agencies in charge of the whole course, they will have trainers that will teach the teachers. Reach every public school in the EU. Implementation in no EU countries later on (neighbourhood).
- MS will have 3 years to implement the project
- First classes in September 2023, results for EP elections 2024
- Target young people until 18 years old
- Different courses for different age categories



Why?

- To prevent, to stop the negative cycle
- To give future generations confidence about politics
- To give a more European feeling
- To understand better the European Union
- To give them tools for countering disinformation and populism ideas

Extra informations:

Puppies believe that interactivity could lead to more interests for Europe in an educational way. The goal of Puppies is to reach more public schools. Private schools have a more complex structure but they are seeing how they can develop a strategy for them.

