

Co-funded by:

“Youth Empowered and Skilled” (YES! PROJECT)

BACKGROUNDER

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

To participate in this project

Call launched on 23 April

Deadline for applications: 5 May 2021

- **Background of the YES! Project**

Youth Empowered and Skilled (YES) is a project aimed at empowering and strengthening the employability of up to 60 young people (aged 18-25) who are nationals from or are residing in one of the 4 following countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Portugal and Serbia, including 40 young people with fewer opportunities who are at a disadvantage compared to their peers

Example of the exclusion factors and obstacles that young people face when they are disadvantaged are: disability, health problems, education difficulties, cultural differences, economic obstacles, social obstacles and geographical obstacles.

The YES project builds upon the challenges that young people face to thrive in life, especially following the global pandemic COVID-19, and will help them to identify their needs, gaps and the changes needed to build up a better future for all. Framed by the SDGs Agenda and the two Global Compacts for Refugees and Migrants endorsed by the European Union, the YES project aims to be a contribution to the achievement of these goals by focusing on young people unique role as drivers of change. The YES project is based on the principles of empowerment and participation of young people as active citizens and change-makers.

Furthermore, it is aligned with the ERASMUS + Programme on Youth as it seeks to "improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, as well as to promote their participation in the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity".

Finally, it aims to support young people by offering them better opportunities to access employment through education and training and for solidarity, learning mobility and participation as recommended by the European Commission Communication (December 2016) within the Europe 2020 Growth and Jobs Strategy.

2. Aim and Objectives of the YES! Project:

The Yes! Project includes a one week in-person training programme that will be held in Portugal in the Fall 2021. This programme comprises non-formal and informal training activities as well as a social impact project to be developed by the participants.

This one week in-person training programme will bring together 60 young people (aged 18-25) residing in 4 countries – Lebanon, Jordan, Portugal and Serbia – from different walks of life, backgrounds, and interests. The participating group will include 40 young people facing

vulnerable situations (refugees, forced migrants and in general young people caught up in crisis situations).

The objectives of the one week in-person training programme are as follows:

- To reflect and address the challenges faced by youth, especially those in vulnerable situations during these times of great uncertainty.
- To provide youth with a wide range of social and soft skills that can enhance their employability and support their social inclusion.
- To enhance youth resilience, motivation and abilities for social entrepreneurship.
- To strengthen participants understanding and practical knowledge in the areas of intercultural dialogue, positive management of diversity, peaceful resolution of conflicts, mediation and leadership.
- To support collaborative action and networking among young people by giving them the opportunity to "learn by doing" through collaboration and the definition and implementation of a joint social impact project that will enhance their entrepreneurial competences in a multicultural atmosphere.

3. Outputs and activities of the YES! Project:

I. **Preparatory sessions** will be organised on a weekly basis over two months (June and July) via CISCO Webex Telepresence system with the aim of creating a dynamic relationship between young participants involved, promoting reflection and raising awareness about issues related to the skills and competences trained during the one week in-person training programme such as: i) employability challenges in XXI century; ii) intercultural dialogue and tolerance to cultural diversity; iii) migration and emergency issues in the XXI century; iv) social inclusion challenges; v) entrepreneurship learning; vi) soft and social skills; vii) media literacy and digital skills; viii) social innovation practices.

During the Preparatory Meetings, young participants will be also invited to reflect about and design a joint social impact project through collaborative action and networking with the aim of giving them the opportunity to "learn by doing" and enhance their entrepreneurial competences in a multicultural atmosphere.

II. **One week in-person training programme**, called *Fall School*, to be held in September 2021 with the objective of strengthening youth social and soft skills. This one week in-person training programme will include activities such as:

- Practical workshops on soft skills: 1) communication, 2) self-motivation, 3) leadership, 4) responsibility, 5) team-working, 6) problem solving, 7) ability to work under pressure and time management, 8) decision making, 9) flexibility, 10) negotiation and conflict resolution.
- Thematic workshops: i) *Employability challenges in the 2020 and beyond;* ii) *intercultural dialogue and good governance of cultural diversity;* iii) *building a sustainable world, what does it mean?* iv) *what does an inclusive society stand for;* v) *social media, digital tools and critical thinking.*
- Social Impact Project: *11 action oriented and pitch sessions.*
- Food for thought sessions led by young participants.
- Sharing Success Stories sessions led by young participants.
- Experts' lectures and fast talks.
- Mindfulness sessions.
- Good practices and field visits.
- Documentary field experience led by participants.

III. **Follow-up and mentoring sessions**, expected to take place from October to December 2021, with the aim of raising challenging topics that need to be further reflected and discuss, supporting young participants in the implementation of the joint social impact project designed, supporting them in the building process of their own professional profiles and paths, as well as assisting those with entrepreneurial purposes in identifying fundraising and incubation opportunities. Finally, these follow-up sessions will help us to offer networking opportunities to be developed within the YES Project.

4. Methodology:

The YES! project highlights the value of non-formal learning and informal training activities such as workshops, exercises, hard talks, role-plays, simulations, storytelling, development of a joint project, outdoor activities and documentary experience.

The one-week in-person training programme, Fall School, will gather up to 72 participants in total (60 young participants and a group of 12 facilitators, group leaders and trainers) in a one weeklong in-person programme using a variety of educational methodologies such as: thematic, methodological, and political inputs and discussions, innovative technologies, guides and reference documents, simulation exercises, groups dynamics, interactive role plays, examples of good practices, etc. The one week in-person training programme is designed using a process of mutual learning, being the participants' experiences the starting

point of the training-learning process. It will use mutual learning methods, where participants can compare their approaches and concerns in a dialogical intercultural approach and environment.

Active participation and in-depth reflection are key methodologies to be used. Young participants will be responsible for the organisation of concrete activities such as *Food for thought sessions*, *mindfulness moments* and *success stories*. Participants will be invited to act agents of change and will engage in the preparation of a concrete social impact project to be carried out once back home.

Through the one-week training and the social impact project to be developed in this framework, participants will become more aware of social challenges, realise how collaborative approaches are key to solving problems and discover how cultural diversity sparks innovation and creative solutions as well as will have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and strengthen their soft skills.

The educational team for this project is composed of twelve experienced trainers, facilitators, and group leaders with relevant experience in youth work. The trainers have specific and complementary experience and will be involved specifically to further design and implement this project, including the preparatory meetings, the one week in-person training programme and the follow-up/mentoring sessions. It should be expected that the trainers' team also reflect gender balance and the cultural, political, and geographical diversity of the regions. The educational team will be responsible to further design and implement the methodology of the course. Experts and relevant guests invited to participate in the one week in-person training programme will provide proposals for reflection in a process based on formal and non-formal education and participant-centred methodologies.

All sessions and communication within YES! Project will be in English.

5. Profile of participants:

Youth Empowered and Skilled (YES) is a project aimed at empowering and strengthening the employability of up to 60 young people (aged 18-25) who are nationals from or are residing in one of the 4 following countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Portugal and Serbia, including 40 young people with fewer opportunities who are at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Example of the exclusion factors and obstacles that young people face when they are disadvantaged are: disability, health problems, education difficulties, cultural differences, economic obstacles, social obstacles and geographical obstacles.

This project will bring together 30 young participants from Portugal, 10 from Serbia, 10 from Jordan and 10 from Lebanon. A participation respecting at least 60% - 40% gender balance will be sought. All participants will benefit from the non-formal and informal training activities of the one week in-person training programme, including preparatory and follow-up meetings, in an equal perspective.

Young participants will be selected through this call for applications and in agreement by all partners.

Participants are invited to submit their applications through the partner based in each of the 4 countries. See details in the session on *How to apply*. First pre-selection will be carried out by each local partner and final selection will be conducted jointly by all partners.

Participants and their profile:

- diverse social, cultural, and geographical background (including disadvantaged and minority groups).
- aged between 18 and 25.
- have already some qualification or experience in terms of international youth work, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, migration issues and project work.
- be committed to attend the full duration of the one week in-person training programme, its preparatory and follow-up activities and to participate actively in the development a social impact project.
- be able to present the context of their work, their way of tackling problems, the challenges they meet and identify.
- be able to work and communicate in English.

6. Learning Outcomes

YES project will use YOUTHPASS Certificate offered by the Erasmus+ Programme to validate the competences acquired by the participants during their experiences within this initiative. Competences and skills will be pre-evaluated during the preparatory meetings and evaluated during and after the Fall School through brainstorming meetings, surveys, and questionnaires.

7. Fees, travel, and accommodation

No fees are associated to the participation in this project and its in-person training programme. Organisers will be responsible for ensuring a travel ticket, accommodation and meals to the participants selected to ensure their participation in the one week in-person training programme. A contract of agreement will be signed between the Global Platform for Syrian Students and each participant.

8. How to apply:

Those fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should complete the electronic form (link) by **5 May 2021, 23h59 Lisbon time**. Candidates selected will be contacted by email at the end of May 2021.

9. Further information and contacts:

For participants based in Lebanon:

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For participants based in Jordan:

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