

Working with young people

Thematic Incubator Youth – Online Meeting 2

30 June 2021

13:30 – 15:30 CET

Zoom

Background

In recent years EPR members have increasingly expressed interest collaborating in the area of working with young people with disabilities. The joint work started off in December 2020 at the (online) National Awareness Raising Event (NARE) in Germany where a number of EPR members presented their services and programmes for young people with disabilities. In addition, EPR is currently leading 2 Erasmus+ projects with members focused on young people, [Jump2Job](#) and [TransitAction](#).

The meeting of the Thematic Incubator Youth on 17 May helped identifying key challenges relevant for many if not all service providers and topics of common interests for the EPR members participating (for more details see the report of the meeting).

Important challenges mentioned were 1) the need to reorganise service provision due to evolving needs of users and the effects of rapid digitalisation, 2) a stronger complexity of the needs of the young people with disabilities, 3) a higher incidence of mental health issues, 4) problems to create a life and employment project due to low level of motivation and a related school absenteeism, 5) a lack of adequately trained staff to deal with young people with complex mental health issues and 6) the impact of a low socio-economic status and/or lacking family support on the possibilities of young people with disabilities or mental health issues to use existing services and to deal with new challenges due to online/hybrid modes of learning and training.

The participants also identified the following topics of common interest: 1) Adaptation of services to new demands in the labour market for young people with a disability or mental health issues and to their specific needs; 2) Improvement of the employability of young people with a disability or mental health issues, including by Addressing motivational issues for them to learn; 3) How to effectively accompany and support a shift to hybrid models of learning, teaching and training; 4) Inclusive education – successful models to learn from; 5) Organisation of trans-national exchange for young people with a disability or mental health issues.

Participants agreed to look in more detail at these common challenges and interests in a follow-up meeting. Participants are asked to present their work and existing/good practice in relation to one of the five topics listed above. In the registration form participants are asked to indicate on which of the topics they could make a contribution to facilitate mutual exchange and learning. They will also discuss the interest to jointly develop a project concept and proposal. The EPR Secretariat will give an overview on the relevant EU policy framework and recent initiatives in the field of youth in order to help contextualising our thematic work.

Agenda

13:30 – 13:40 **Welcome and introductions**

13:40 – 13:45 **Recapitulating the main joint challenges and common topics**

In order to have a common starting point, participants will look into the report of the meeting of the Thematic Incubator Youth on 17 May to see if the group work of the first meeting is well reflected, if important points are missing or need to be adapted.

13:45 – 14:50 **In-depth exchange on topics of common interest**

2 or 3 presentations by members on their activities and existing/good practice in relation to one of the five topics of common interest listed on p. 1.

Questions to address: How do the services provided help addressing the (new) challenges identified? What still would need to be improved? What gaps in services are there? What could regulators and funders in public authorities or governments do to better support you in this specific area?

14:50 – 15:05 **Overview on EU policy framework and recent initiatives in the field of youth**

15:05 – 15:15 **Revisiting possibilities for EPR members to engage in the current EPR youth-oriented projects [Jump2Job](#) and [TransitAction](#)**

15:15 – 15:25 **Assessing the interest to work on a joint project concept and proposal or resource collection/development; to address improvement or gaps in provision**

15:25 – 15:30 **Drawing conclusions and discussing next steps/future work**

Registration

To attend this meeting, please register [here](#) before the 24th June. The link to join the seminar and further instructions will be sent to all registered participants a few days prior to the event.

If you become unable to attend, please let EPR know in advance.

Contact

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