

M a g a z i n e

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Introduction



The Youth Entrepreneurs Club is a meeting point for young people who are interested in developing an entrepreneurial project. By means of this club, we want to support the future young entrepre- neurs by giving them useful information.

It started in Lefkada (Greece) in November 2012. We made the first step by creating the networking among the four partner countries. During those days the group set up the content of the web site and the forum. Both constitute the virtual meeting point for the young entrepreneurs.

In order to broaden the network already created and to continue learning from new experiences of young entrepreneurs across Europe, we organized a second meeting in Baile Tusnad, Romania in Ja- nuary 2013.

For the third meeting, a group of sixteen young people met from 11th to 15th of April 2013 in Pa- lermo, Sicily. There we tried to focus on the spe-

cific group of people with any kind of disability, specially blind and deaf people.

In 2013 July the Youth Entrepreneurs Club arrived to the final meeting which took place near Metz, in France. A new group of sixteen youngsters from four different countries gathered there to discuss further entrepreneurial ideas and to search and share information about policies.

During the four days of meeting, the participants had to finalize the website and the forum. But also, they had to present the whole project to the Euro pean Parliament in Strasbourg on our visit there.

This was the end of the first part of our project. The meetings are finished but YouthEclub is still alive thanks to the website and forum we have been creating since last November when we star- ted in Lefkada. So, it is not late to participate. Don’t hesitate and join the club!

Getting to know

On the first day of the meeting, we started by getting to know each other with an outside acti- vity in the nice garden. There, all the participants introduced them- selves with his/her name and a personal sign. This was an impor- tant matter for our future com- munication because among us it was a deaf participant who could associate the people with their signs. After repeating and playing with the signs, everybody memo- rized each other sign.



Intercultural Exchange



The intercultural night is a very important part of every project. Thanks to this activity, people get to know each other better from their culture, food and tradi- tional dances. It took place in the first night of the meeting in order that the participant could get on well with each other since the be- ginning and the work together would be easier next days.

First of all, some of them had to cook. This was very interesting moment because they could see and learn the making process of some of the traditional dishes like the Romanian polenta.

After the preparation, every country had to present its culture through food, drink, videos,

music or dance… it is up to the participants.

The first one was France. In the beginning, they had a presenta- tion about French culture in sign language and Julie, the interpre- ter, was translating for the others. They brought very tasty cheese, salami, biscuits and wine from Bordeaux.

The next country was Romania who presented their cooked food polenta with double fermented cheese. As well, they had home- made sausage, lard with slices of onion and a really tasty home- made chocolate cake as a desert. There were two types of choco- late: white and black.

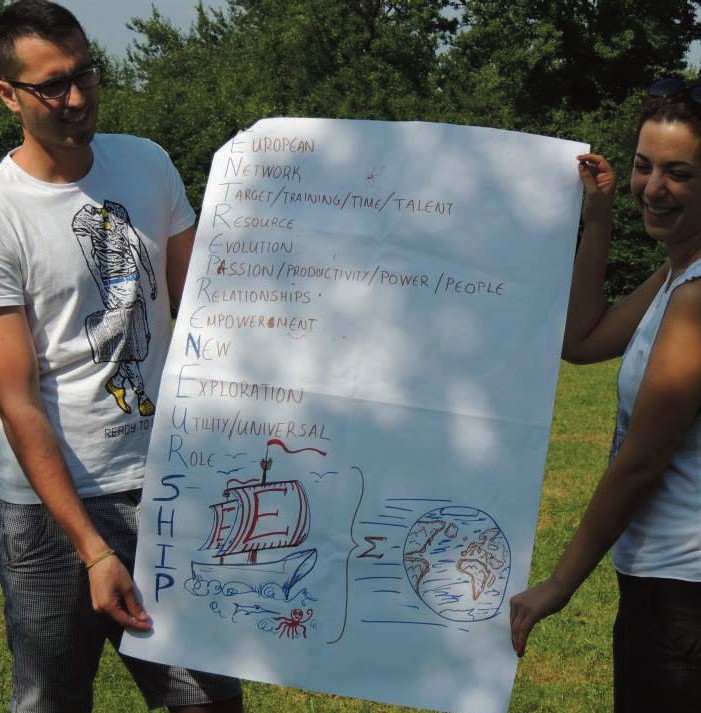
Greece concentrated more on

sweets products based on honey. They invited to taste their halva, homemade pasteli made from se- same and honey, fig in honey and mastic served in a spoon sweet known as "vaníllia". After the sweets, it was the time to try their traditional drink, ouzo.

The last country was Italy. They bought food and drinks from two different regions, Puglia and Si- cily. There were two different kinds of cheese, salami, tarallo and different varieties of wine. After tasting all the food and drinks the participants taught their traditional dances. Every- body had really nice time and le- arned from this exceptional cultural exchange.

Group reflections

The participants had workshops to discuss and reflect about the entrepreneuship field. They worked in group and exchange many interesting ideas and opinions



Divided in two groups, the parti- cipants discussed about the mea- ning of entrepreneurship. Each group had a different subject re- lated with the main topic: what entrepreneurship is? And, how entrepreneurship can be benefit by the society?

Reflections about entrepre- neurship

First, the members discussed and shared opinions. After, they ex- plained their conclusions to the whole group through illustrations and creative presentations.

For the first subject, the objec- tive was to go deeper in the mea- ning of entrepreneurship and to make clear that every participant understand the topic. To present

the results, one of the teams pre- pared a clear and simple work- flow. The other team used a very interesting anagram design for a better approach to the topic.

Reflection about solidarity and entrepreneurship

The second subject about social

entrepreneurship took higher in- terest from the participants. Thanks to the discussions, they thought about real projects and examples focused on the collec- tive entrepreneurship. They had to reflect in group to specify the steps and duties needed in order to realize a social entrepreneur project. They analyzed characte- ristics and effects of different as- pects about entrepreneurship as

the cooperation, the marketing and the managing. The coopera- tion is the result of the searching partners, besides the sponsoring and the popular support. Marke- ting is sponsoring through the website and publicity. Finally, the managing includes sharing kno- wledge, experience and profes- sionalism.As well, participants included the creativity, the diver- sity and the strategy of the envi- ronment as important part of the social entrepreneurship.

In conclusion, the social entre- preneurship is beneficed by the society because it’s the participa- tion of the people with their ideas of high impact and feedback which produce advanced resour- ces.

A nice day of visits in

Strasbourg

VIsit to the European Parliament

The main and important activity of the four days meeting in France was the visit to the Euro- pean Parliament in Strasbourg and the aim was to present Youth Entrepreneurs Club there. The participants explained the es- sence of the club which is the creation of a network around the world among youngsters who want to start their own business or already have their own, in order to help others with their ex- perience. The club also wants to include politicians who can help in legislative field.



The visit took part on the second day of the meeting. When we arrived to Strasbourg, we were welcomed by our guide, Mr Gkinterso. With him, the mem- bers started the presentation of the club and explained in detail everything what has been done till now with ‘YouthEclub’ pro- ject: the website, the meetings and the forum. As well, they sha- red the future ideas for the club and showed all the promotional materials and the outcomes from previous meetings.

After the Youth Entrepreneurs Club presentation, the partici- pants were guided inside the Par- liament. During the tour, it was explained the architectural con- cept of the building. The basic shape is a circle which wants to show perfection. By observing it from up, it has the shape of an ellipse. The main part of the par- liament is the plenary chamber where all the important decisions are made. Here the guide explai-

ned the seating system of the members:

“Members sit in a hemicycle accor- ding to their political groups arran- ged mainly from left to right, although with the non-attached members to- wards the back and right of the cham- ber. All desks are equipped with microphones, headphones for inter- pretation and electronic voting equip- ment. The leaders of the groups sit on the front benches at the centre, and in the very centre is a podium for guest speakers. The remaining segment of the circular chamber is primarily composed of the raised area where the President and staff sit” (Wikipe- dia).



After the presentation of the ple- nary chamber, the group had the chance to ask questions about different topics related to the Par- liament, the members, the Coun- cil, and the Commission, about their tasks and their function. The guide solved all the doubts, so no questions remained unans- wered.

In the end of our tour, they were invited to take promotional mate- rials, brochures and posters in dif- ferent languages from the European Union. All group enjo- yed the tour and they hope that they will come back to this place not as visitors, but as a member.

The second day of meeting, participants went to Strasbourg where they had the chance to

visit the European Parliament and the offices of AMSED. But, also, they could enjoy some free time in the city

Meeting with AMSED

AMSED is a team of hardwor- king people from all over the world that, through international camps for young volunteers, jour- neys of solidarity, youth exchan- ges or programs for employed, pursues their vision of a multicul- tural world of equality of people and opportunities.

After the visit to the European Parliament, the participants met with some volunteers from AMSED and exchanged points of view about the youth entrepre- neurship subject and its connec- tion to volunteering. Simone, a



German student who is doing a EVS in AMSED to develop her skills made an interesting presen- tation that it was followed by a discussion about the impact of volunteering not only on society but also on youth and on their en- trepreneurial skills.

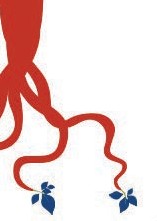
The conclusion of the conversa- tion was that volunteering does more than influence the social and humanitarian level of a per- son’s character, but it actually plays a significant role on buil- ding up other aspects of the per- sonality of the volunteer, such as

creativity, independence, ability to work in teams, self-confidence, decision-making, planning, orga- nizing, managing and learning to use every tool to make an idea come true.

All the skills mentioned above, that are acquired and/ or develo- ped by volunteer work, are the actual characteristics of a young entrepreneur. So, it becomes clear that the entrepreneurial spi- rit can be raised and developed through volunteering work. Kee- ping in mind that volunteering positions are mostly reserved for youth with fewer opportunities, it looks like it’s the best way for a motivated person to acquire skills, qualification and expe- rience outside of the formal edu- cation and the “classic” employment market. Voluntee- ring programs as EVS constitute a great and essential opportunity for ambitious and creative young people all over the world.

Discovering Strasbourg

Once the visit in ASMED was over, two helpful volunteers who had also presented their associa- tion guided the group to the city center of Strasbourg. Unfortuna- tely, the participants had really short time but they still had the chance to admire the beauties of this historical city. They were to- tally charmed by the small stre- ets, the buildings and the atmosphere.



Strasbourg is the meeting point

of different cultures and architec- tural styles like German renais- sance, French baroque and classicism, eclecticism and a lot of others. Walking through the stre- ets suddenly appears a breathta- king view, where you can see the monumental Cathedral of Our Lady which is built in both: Ro- manesque and Gothic style. After sightseeing and buying souve- nirs, the members tried specific local food called Flammekueche

which is traditionally served as a first course or an appetizer with a glass of white wine. The French call it tarte flambée – a thin-crust pizza made with crème fraîche, sli- ced onion and smoked lard tradi- tionally baked in a wood-burning oven and served on cutting board. Very tasty!

They had two short hours to dis- cover the city, then, the group re- turned back and took a well deserved rest.

Our entrepreneurial ventures

During the program, the participants made some business ideas and also, two of them presented existing businesses

Aimilia Tsimini, Greece

Barna Szőcs, Romania

Aimilia Tsimini from Greece, presented her fa- mily business the Tsiminis Beekeeping. The business is the continuation of a three genera- tions old tradition in apiculture. By high effort, devotion and respect towards the tools and kno- wledge provided from one generation to the next one, they have managed to evolve the love for the art of apiculture into a family business. The business makes the effort to provide one of the most valuable Greek natural products, the creation of honey. Near numerous kinds of honey, the business also is selling mother bees to other bee-keepers. They have more than

1.500 colonies. The products are sold in local shops in Greece, but also trough their website (www.melisokomia.gr) .



Management consultant from Romania, presen- ted two businesses where he is working as ma- naging partner. The first one is a pharmacy (www.parafarm.ro), that created a website spe- cially about medical equipments and accessoirs directed to medical doctors. (www.clinicshop.ro). The other business is in the art industry. The Pál Art Gallery (www.palgallery.ro), is a local ga- llery and is working as NGO with the mission of promoting contemporary art and artists. The ga- llery has a monthly exhibition, and also they or- ganize many other activities like discussions with the artists. Every month, the team is edi- ting art catalogues about the running exhibition. The gallery has also freshly started projects, like an online art jewel store (www.bargot.eu) to pro- mote and sell unique jewels made by artists.



Learning sign language and deaf culture

In the group, there was a deaf participant, Justine, who intro- duced her way of communica- ting to the rest of the members, one of them was Theo. After the lesson, Justine and Theo expressed their sensation by being teacher and learner.



Justine

“It was the first time in my life to teach French Sign Language for a group of people.

I was very pleased and happy about it and I had a really nice experience. During the class, I advised everybody to try not to talk, so they can really understand the situation and the cir- cumstances of a deaf person. I wan- ted them to be « deaf » as me.

I know that it was hard for them to understand me in Sign Language. I was using additional elements, like mimicr y, drawings and English words too.

In the first part of my class, I tried to introduce the Deaf culture in general so they could discover and see all the beauties of this culture. After, the plan was to teach the French sign lan- guage. Almost nobody knew that each country has its own sign language. It exists also an international one, but it is not known by everyone. Finally we discussed in four different langua-

ges, like Greek, Italian, French and Romanian, but of course in sign lan- guage.

In the end of my class I showed them on YouTube Giuseppe Giuranna‘s movie. He is a visual virtual (VV) artist, very famous in the world for his performances. They liked the movie and its idea. I realized that for them it was a really big discovery the culture of the deaf people. I had con- tradictor y feelings: happiness and sadness but the main feeling it was satisfaction because I could give so- mething priceless. In the end partici- pants showed me a Greek song as a sign of their reverence. Thank you all”.



Theo

“The whole procedure of learning sign language was ver y interesting and pleasant. Justine was very good at teaching, explained us all and ans- wered our questions. The participants were ver y interested and liked the night lesson.

During the project, also she explained us the problem that deaf people face today. They can have only 200 hours access to interpreters so many diffi- culties in communication.

Overall, it was a great experience to get to know a person with hearing dif- ficulties and it raised my wish to at- tend a school to learn Sign Language”.

Working on the forum

The forum always was the most important part of the whole project. That’s because it will be the place where all members will be in touch to continue discussing about entrepreneurship. For

this reason, in this last meeting, the participants were working hard on the forum in order to im- prove its information and its topics

Searching and uploading policies and resources on the forum

As it was said in every meeting, one of the objectives of the forum is to provide useful information about creating a new business. Also, the relation between poli- tics and business was a recurrent subject in the meetings. For these reasons, it was necessary that the participants worked on policies and shared the informa- tion in the forum.

In one of the activities, the par- ticipants had the task to search on

Internet in order to find the source for policies in different le- vels: international and national. At the beginning, the mission se- emed to be easy, but, once they started, they found a huge amount of information which they had to organize. The hardest part was to select from this amount the most important and useful ones for the club.

The way how they did was by working in groups.

First, divided in big mixed coun- tries groups, they concentrated on International stage.

Later on, they joined a group made up just by their compatriots and worked on the national level. They gathered and analyzed all the information before to upload it to the forum. This was made with one clear objective that was to help existing and future mem- bers of the club from all over the world.

Action plan for the forum

The participants started to upload materials, contents to the already existing forum. The forum will be an online meeting place, but also a knowledge base for the young entrepreneurs, for the club members.

By using management consulting models, the team analyzed the current situation of the forum, and they build up an action plan for the future to develop the forum. They defined clear targets to reach the optimal level of the club in one year, like the develo- ping and uploading of the con- tents. After that, through personal connection and using the social media, the club mem- bers will promote the forum and also they will invite experts, en- trepreneurs, business owner to make a much professional plat-



form for the club.

In this way, the Youth Entrepre- neurs Club also is a social, collec- tive entrepreneurship – because the active members will develop and will run together. The value for them is the participation, the information and the value of the

advanced networking. This is a good possibility to receive useful information and to make new connections and new business partners. Another important ob- jective for the club is to make real job opportunities by the entre- preneurial members of the club.

Open space for future projects

On the last day of the entrepreneurship project in Metz, we gathered together in order to express our ideas about future plans. There were many interesting ideas that showed us that there is a lot of open space for future projects.

Angela from Italy suggested that we should organize a meeting that will collaborate on women’s rights in Eu- rope. For example, partici- pants would try to find similarities and differences between the countries. This could help people and espe- cially women to know their rights and, therefore, to pro- mote equality between men and between countries.

Barna from Romania propo- sed that there could be me- etings about developing entrepreneurship games and tools which would help many youngsters, as well as adults, to understand better the entrepreneurial world. Moreover, he suggested to plan a meeting where parti- cipants could draw up gui- des for country’s laws, policies and opportunities.

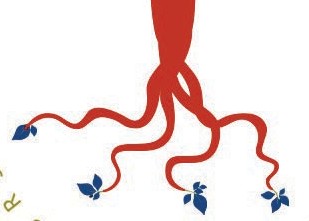
Justine from France propo- sed a partnership with the EUDY (European Union of the Deaf Youth). The part- nership would make the Youth club bilingual and consequently would raise the popularity all over the Europe. By cooperating with people with hearing pro- blems, the deaf community benefit being informed about entrepreneurship.



“All the ideas were very interesting and concrete. We hope that we will see them come to life in the future.”



Partners



Municipality of Lefkas - DEPOKAL (Greece)



Fédération Familles De France Moselle (France) Together (France)



Istituto dei Ciechi “Florio e Salamone” (Italy)



Work in progress (Italy)



Solidarity Tracks (Greece)



Asociatia de Tineri din Ardeal (Romania)



PIHE- Association for Youth and Students in Partium (Romania)

