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Celebrating the conclusion of a successful project

In our previous YEC newsletter we announced the next steps of the project, which were to finalise the project outputs by taking each one through their final quality assurance checks before they were taken through a design and publish process.

In this issue, we announce the completion and availability of these open-source resources which are now available to read online or download via the project's website www.yecproject.eu.

In this newsletter we focus upon giving a short introduction to each of the resources that have been created.

You can connect with the YEC partners via the following social media platforms Facebook & Twitter (links below) where we encourage you to share your thoughts on the resources ... we'd particularly like to hear from you if you are planning to use any of the training materials.

Methodological Guide

The Methodological Guide provides an insight into how a coproduction approach was used to create, manage, and maintain both the Youth and Employer Advisory Boards created as an integral part of the project. Covering topics such as *Reasons for Creating an Advisory Board and Creating the Right Environment* for operating such Boards, future users of the Guide will also gain an understanding of how methods such as *Participatory Appraisal, Appreciative Enquiry and Theory of Change* can enable a dynamic and equitable environment where young people and employers can work together to bring about change and how employability services are reimagined.

Importantly, the Guide sets the foundation for embedding a *youth work approach* to engaging and working with young people in a meaningful way – ensuring that young people are choosing to take part, that young people are treated with respect and their voice is heard.



“The term ‘lived experience’ is becoming commonplace so it is really important we put in place methods to genuinely capture and learn from the authentic experience of young people, especially those who experience multiple challenges to sustainable economic engagement. The Participatory Appraisal, for example, is primarily a community-based approach to research and consultation that gives priority to the views of local people, on the basis that they are the experts in their own lives. Through YEC this approach has been successfully applied through the Advisory Boards.”

Julie Parish, Principal Development Manager, Rinova

Training Materials

From the outset, the Youth Advisory Board environment provided an opportunity for the young people engaged to develop the key competences such as:

- *communication*
- *confidence*
- *agency, planning and problem solving*
- *relationships and leadership*
- *creativity*
- *resilience and determination*
- *managing feelings*

“In my opinion, one of the most valuable experiences for partners, practitioners, employers, and young people alike was the event held in Rome where we were able to work collectively to challenge, shape and recreate training sessions that were expertly reviewed by the young people by giving feedback on the training content and the learning approaches through discussion groups.”

**Sandra Roche, Project & HR Manager,
Ballymun Job Centre**

As a result, they were able to effectively collaborate with the YEC partners to coproduce training sessions that focus on the following topics, which were found most important.





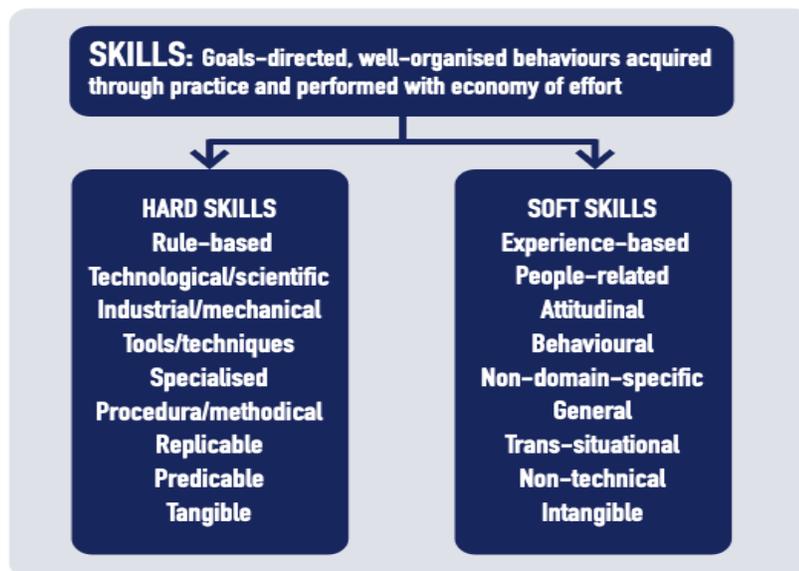
Training Compendium

Despite the impact of the European-wide Covid-19 pandemic, the partners were able to come together to coproduce a comprehensive training compendium and engage in a virtual *Train the Trainer* event for Youth Workers, Trainers, IAG Practitioners and Employers. Set within the context of an EU-wide labour market that is constantly changing and has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the process of coproduction emphasised a rethink based upon the increasingly dynamic and digitized jobs market.

Microsoft's Tomorrow's Jobs (2018) predicts that 65% of today's students will do a job that doesn't yet exist. Within this dynamic labour market context, YEC was developed to focus on the validation of the competences or skills that are often referred to as 'soft skills' – but we all know that these can often be the most challenging to develop.

Thus, the Training Compendium offers Youth Workers, IAG Practitioners, Trainers, and Employers to use a creative methodology for training and learning ... The Theatre of Oppressed, which was developed by the Brazilian theatre director Augusto Boal during the 1950-60s.





According to UNESCO, the main transversal skills such as communication, organisational, self-motivation along with core competences such as literacy, numeracy and digital skills, will be critical across all job sectors. Skills such as advanced cognitive skills, logic, social and emotional skills, will be of particular importance and will be needed in order to adapt and respond to technological change.

Such skills as creativity, problem-solving and cognitive flexibility, will play a bigger part in recruitment and retention of employees within specific sectors, along with a capacity to change and adapt to new and challenging situations

Validation systems

Purpose	Name of the system	Page
For external recognition	European Qualification Network	p.6
	ECVET	p.7
For self-reflection	Youthpass	p.8
	Europass	p.10
For self-learning	Understanding My Journey	p.11
	Open Badges	p.12

Competences Validation Guide

In the production of this Guide, it was soon established that there are multiple validation guides and tools and it can be challenging to select those most appropriate.

Therefore, in the YEC Guide, there is focus upon six EU-wide and recognised validation systems – the first two being the European Qualification System and ECVET, both of which are widely implemented across Europe.



Two more validation systems are Youthpass and Europass, which are designed to help young people reflect on the skills that they have developed during an educational initiative or project, and recognise the progress made.

We consider these especially valuable for young people who are not aware that they have some specific skills (i.e. communication, organisational, and leadership skills) and can be used while preparing for a job interview.

The last two systems are Understanding My Journey and Open Badges, which are designed specifically for self-learning. They help a young person map specific skills that they want to develop and guide them through their educational journey.

As a system, they propose a specific order of learning and help map progress and achievement. This is especially valuable for young people who recognise that there are some competencies that they could develop and are looking for a tool to do so.

Accessing the YEC Resources

All of the YEC resources are open-source and can be viewed or downloaded from the YEC website www.yecproject.eu and are available in the following languages – English, Finnish, Italian, German, and Polish.

We encourage you to share these resources with your networks and collaborators, and of course use them.

Share your thoughts with us through our social media using the following hashtags :



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@Ciofs.fp: @stowarzyszeniestrim: @metropolisneteeig



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