

Youth mobility, exchange, study and training opportunities through the Mediterranean Area

Mobility is in the Mediterranean area a key topic of debate.

“Which are the main reasons that drive young students to study abroad?” [WHO LEAVE? AND WHY?] was the main question that headed the research of the previous edition of the dossier. On this path, this year the study aims to explore if there have been developments regarding policies and if there are additional mobility opportunities offered by Mednet countries (at National and/or Regional level) and / or, among those already known, what are in the mednetters opinion, according to the experience of their association, the most suitable to meet the needs of young people of your country. Into specific, this renewed edition of the dossier intends to highlight what are the Programs and Tools most commonly used by their youth associations to promote international experiences of study and training for the young people. [HOW?]

According to recent study in the field of Youth mobility, four key questions are underpin all migration processes and episodes: (1) Who migrates (and who does not)? (2) Where are people migrating to? (3) Why do people migrate? (4) How do people migrate?

These four questions constitute the essence of the migration process itself, but it is also important to interrogate the impacts of migration: on the regions of arrival, on the regions of departure, on the migrants themselves. Simplifying, the determinants of migration can be seen to exist at four levels: (1) individual, (2) family/household, (3) meso-level social networks and channels, (4) and macro-structures relating to spatial economic inequality and time-dependent macro-economic trends.

At the micro-level of the individual, there are three broad sets of factors that have been hypothesised as determinants of migration/mo-

bility: (1) demographic, (2) socio-economic and (3) psychosocial. The main individual-scale demographic factors which are likely to be contributing determinants of migration are age, gender, generation and level of education. Also potentially relevant are family context – marriage/partnership, existence of children, number of siblings and even birth order (since this can relate to care duties towards parents, inheritance patterns etc).

Following the Horizon 2020 YMOBILITY project, we categorise mobile ‘youth’ into three types based largely on educational status:

- (1) students who are studying at university or some other educational institution in another European country;
- (2) graduates who are working or seeking work abroad – ‘higher-skilled’;
- (3) non-graduates who are working or seeking work abroad – ‘lower-skilled’.

1: Social Inclusion and Young People. Excluding Youth: A Threat to Our Future (p.9), May 23, 2016 <http://www.youthforum.org/publication/excluding-youth-a-threat-to-our-future-report-on-social-inclusion/>
2: Guide to the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, UN-DESA, 2006 (p.31)

The role of Internet and social media

According to young people living in both rural and urban areas, internet usage is considered very important not only for entertainment and leisure, but especially as a freeing tool, as a communication space and as a window onto the world. For them, it can translate into the desire to professional and social improvement that can pass through a higher level of education.

For further information see the report: “Social Media in the Arab World: the Impact on Youth, Women and Social Change”, IEMed, <http://www.iemed.org>.

One of the key objectives of the YMOBILITY programme of research is to establish the extent to which young individuals consider international mobility to be a rational strategy for improving their lives and, in particular, to mediate three significant youth life-course transitions: (1) school or higher education to work; (2) unemployment to employment; (3) youth to independent or ‘full’ adulthood, the latter stage being generally understood as implying partnership formation, having children and establishing a ‘home’.

The severe economic crisis and high unemployment are common problems for the youngsters of every country of the Mediterranean region. More precisely, countries on the South side are facing more complex challenges due to the quality of education and difficulty of access to school, especially for those who live in rural regions. In fact, if in the Southern European countries basic education is nearly assured to every student and the proportion of young people aged 20-24 and 30-34 who have completed tertiary education has continued to increase in the last years, in the Arab states “43% of children are not learning the basics, whether they are in school or not”. This reveals that poor quality of education is the cause of failure in ensuring a good level of children learning. Poor quality education is leaving a legacy of

illiteracy more widespread than previously believed, causing the loss of at least the half of the resources spent by these countries on primary education.

Check the Data on Education in the Mediterranean countries exploring the previous Dossier #3!

As many studies point out, the key to unlock the potential of youth lies in improving incentive structures within existing institutions, for example revisiting tracking and admission policies. But it would not be enough without an holistic and inclusive perspective that requires “the respective efforts of local and national governments, international donors, educators, business leaders and young people and their families”.

The MedNet dimension of Learning mobility

There are several reasons that push young people to leave their countries to study abroad in both sides of the Mediterranean. Certainly, the issue of young people employability is the most relevant one. In fact, the deterioration of young people's living conditions contributes to develop the idea that a higher quality and more specialised education is a way to open new opportunities of work and to break in the negative trend of labour market. However, the paradox is that exactly highly educated new labour market entrants in South Mediterranean countries, have been particularly affected by unemployment.

Nowadays, young people in both sides of the Mediterranean are attempting to adapt to the new social and political environment by focusing on programmes of study that they judge “fruitful”, and more likely to help them finding a job. That is why, especially in countries of the south side of the Mediterranean, forms of private higher education have been developed to provide more opportunities to students in

those sectors which are considered more successful. Despite these efforts to increase the education offering, many young people desire to study and live abroad. The dream of leaving, is more and more spread among students and young people in general. Lots of them see their future outside the country, not only because of the poor market for youth, but also to live their lives in line with the globalization trends and values. Indeed, there is a large part of the students living in the Mediterranean area who choose to study abroad to have a “global experience”. They are fairly convinced that getting an international education is the best way to have global and more complete competences, to be used both in their country and in another one. Moreover the growing importance given to communication skills and the usage of new technologies, such as the internet and social media, makes the study of foreign languages vital: this represents another reason why many students, both from north and south, study abroad.



Why study abroad?

Youth mobility is a far from homogenous phenomenon, and different pathways provide different opportunities depending on whether those concerned are students or workers, skilled or unskilled, male or female, and embedded in strong or weak social networks, including formal recruitment channels for going abroad. [...] There are now diverse migration and mobility pathways that range from student mobility within and beyond Europe, researcher mobility schemes, international placements and internships, to individual job-seeking migration and firm and agency recruitment, at all levels of the skills and experience hierarchy.

Main contrasts

On the other hand, Young people encounter several “barriers” during the path to mobility: some of them are structural barriers while others are perceived. One kind of barrier is represented by financial difficulties, because some young people cannot afford the mobility experience unless they receive financial support. Another problem is the lack of a clear formal recognition of the mobility experience neither in the frame of formal education, nor in families and society in general since, especially in the case of nonformal education, the mobility experience is seen as a sort of “holiday”.

Finally, bureaucracy discourages young people who have to undergo complicated procedures to take part in the programmes.

Not least, a serious challenge that has to be faced when talking about mobility is informing all young people that mobility possibilities exist. Find more in the Dossier #3!

«We, as representatives of Youth Mediterranean Civil society, have to push for more opportunities to study abroad, to attend training and to realize joint projects with youth participants from the two shores.»

Key action, MEDNET

«The network is important to share ideas, to facilitate youth mobility, to create moments of exchange and interaction among youth of the Mediterranean area and to lobby with the EU and the single government in order to give more opportunities to youth. Also, the network will be important in order to foster civil sense and active citizenship, to reach common goals (i.e., youth mobility) and to develop new form of business.»

Mednet's dialogue session on “Mobility opportunities for young people” (23-24 Nov, 2014, San Rossore, Pisa, Italy)

Policies



Explore the previous Dossier #3 to have an updated overview of the many programs and initiatives undertaken by governmental and non-governmental institutions in favor of the Youth mobility with a focus on the Mediterranean area. Furthermore you will find an extensive bibliography and websites on the subject.

The European Union policy on youth learning mobility

Learning mobility is considered by the European Union Institutions, especially the EU Commission, a very important and effective tool to increase education quality, to provide more opportunities of work and to promote intercultural understanding and global citizenship.

We highlighted how vital is for young people in the Mediterranean area to acquire a high quality education in order to reach their goals and become especially “marketable”. At the same time, to thrive they also need to learn to become responsible global citizens and develop skills such as critical thinking, communication, cooperation, leadership and advocacy. These proficiencies are fundamental in a space, such as the Mediterranean one, where very different cultures, traditions, languages, values and views coexist in a more or less unstable way. For these reasons, policies developed by international institutions or organizations, as well as focusing on increasing young people qualification to make them enter the world of work, aim for the development of a new leading class suitable for the present times and ready for the future.

Many policies and initiatives have been developed in order to facilitate mobility of students and youth development across the Mediterranean countries at international, regional and national level. Especially for those living in the Southern side, they represent very important occasions since across MENA countries only 33,3% of countries (7 countries) have a national youth association or organization as representative structure for youth recognized by governments. Moreover the university offering in their

home land cannot respond to the demand yet, and does not suffice to erase inequalities occurring both at the level of the choice of matters studied, and the place of study. In fact even if “universities are experiencing a constant “hyper growth” of their resources”, and public authorities in some countries (Tunisia and Morocco for example), are working on increasing the university infrastructure, they still have difficulties in facing the overpopulation of young people.

An important aspect to highlight is that policies for the mobility of young people do not refer just to formal education but also to non-formal education and volunteering. In fact, the expression “learning mobility in the field of youth” refers to the mobility in formal and non-formal learning settings, and it takes place in the frame of exchange programmes with the aim of promoting and developing personal and professional competences, communication, interpersonal and intercultural skills, and active citizenship.

It is also important stress the fact that the younger population is the target to which these policies should be addressed to. Clearly, more mobility, exchange and training could create opportunities for the youth populations but without an answer to their needs and request, the implementations of other reforms and policies will be conditioned by the discontent.

Discovering Erasmus+

Erasmus+ is the EU Commission Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport developed from the European union for the period 2014-2021.

The EU Commission entrusts budget implementation tasks to National Agencies that play an important role in the Erasmus+ Programme. The rationale of this approach is to bring Erasmus+ as close as possible to its beneficiaries and to adapt to the diversity of national education training and youth system. Overall, the Programme will support actions, cooperation and tools consistent with the objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy and its flagship initiatives, such as Youth on the Move and the Agenda for new skills and jobs. The Programme will also contribute to achieving the objectives of the European Youth Strategy and of the EU external action, as well as the sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education. So it covers both an intra-European

as well as an international cooperation dimension. Among the Erasmus+ programmes, two are more relevant for Youth mobility across Mediterranean countries: the Erasmus+ “Joint Master Degree” which is a continuation of the former Erasmus Mundus, and the Erasmus+ “Mobility Project for Young People and Youth Workers”, for activities related to the field of youth non-formal and informal learning, which can be considered the continuation of the former “Youth in Action Programme”. Both these programmes are open not only to young people coming from Programme countries, but also to those coming from a Partner Country.

The new Erasmus+ programmes on youth mobility for non-formal learning include Youth exchanges and European Voluntary Service projects, while opportunities for youth workers to take part in activities abroad, include Training and networking events.

Insights from MedNet countries

Bosnia and Herzegovina / Young people rarely travel out of their local community

More than half of young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) did not have the opportunity to travel abroad during the last 12 months. Those who did travel, mostly went to some of the neighboring countries. Out of the 86% of young people from urban areas and 80% of rural residents who in the last 12 months travelled to other cities within BiH, most of them went to Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Zenica, Trebinje and Tuzla. The reasons young people usually travel are tourism (66%) or visiting friends (16%).

As for travelling abroad, in the last 12 months 43% of young people from suburban and 53% of young people from the city area, had the opportunity to travel. The countries where they travel the most are the ones in the region, or surrounding countries: Croatia and Montenegro, then Serbia and Slovenia.

The young residents of rural area are less mobile than their peers in urban areas. Even though at the end of 2010, the EU Council adopted a decision on establishing a visa-free regime for citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, giving more opportunities for mobility of young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina, financial constraints remain the main reason why young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina do not travel often.

Discussions with young people show their great desire to travel for various reasons. Except tourist visits, there is a large part of young people who would like to visit other countries through student exchange, mainly in order to

learn and familiarize themselves about other cultures and gain new experiences.

However, young people in BiH do not travel at all or travel rarely out of their local community. Different reasons are mentioned as main cause for lack of mobility in BiH. Some of those are lack of financial resources, fear from unknown, parental bans for travelling alone, or simply being uninterested.

Informing young people is an additional problem in their active participation in the community. In fact, young people are not sufficiently informed about mobility opportunities, conditions of different projects, possible perspectives in their midst. 80% of young people watch television regularly or occasionally, however, generally do not follow the news and political events, but because a high percentage accompany the field of sport. Computer literacy of young people is still low, only 3.6% of young people have completed computer courses, while the rest has a self-taught knowledge. It is necessary to promptly and in detail to inform young people about the possibilities on the local and the national level, through the development of hot-spots for providing information.

Today, those hot-spots are usually organizations of civil society and youth organizations and youth homes.

It can be concluded that in order to adequately respond to the situation of young people, it is necessary to urgently providing mechanisms for youth participation and higher level of mobility.

Lebanon / youth are always looking for incubator places in which they can express themselves

Exchange visits outside Lebanon are always perceived as incentives and motivation for youth to know more and be involved. Basically nearly all activities implemented outside their community are always considered as empowering and encouraging. Youth are always eager and curious to learn new things and discover places. Therefore one of the tools used to mobilize youth are exchange visits and trips. On the other hand, youth are always looking for incubator places in which they can feel safe and express themselves with their talents.

In general, in Lebanon the responsibility of youth mobilization is mainly relying on CSOs since the government is quit absent when it comes to

youth mobilization. In Lebanon there is the Ministry of Youth and Sports and unfortunately the focus is on sports and the part concerning youth is barely existing which leads to the lack of mobilization of youth in Lebanon.

This emphasizes the importance of the active role of youth ministries, entities (private and public), department and policies in mobilizing youth.

Unfortunately this is the situation encountered in countries south the Mediterranean leading to increase the gap in between the North and the South. Here lies the importance of exchange programs and networks with on sites visits as well as maybe a mobile application that would link

all young people together to share their interests and experiences. Adding to that the implementation of programs that aim to promote the culture of the north to the south and vice versa. Which leads to decreasing the gap in between the North and the South and encouraging young people mobility due to exchange of interest and experiences.

Moreover, projects and programs promoting young people mobility should be communicated in a way ensuring the reach to the majority of youth from diverse social classes and backgrounds as well as keeping in mind to always have place for incentives and visits since online activities are no considered encouraging nor feasible to all youth.

Italy / Mobility as a key factor to fight youth unemployment and create global citizens

The issue that the country has to deal with is rather the human capital balance, which is negative right now. Many young people leave the country but there are few people coming to Italy. If mobility is just one way, being a need rather than a choice, it leads to an impoverishment of the human and competitive fabric of the country". [...] "I really believe that something attracting young people is missing, a policy or a tool that seriously analyses the imbalance of the human capital and try to fix it."

Luigi Bobba, Under-Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour

Youth mobility and exchanges have been recognized by the Italian Government as a tools to create global citizens, improve educational and training quality, increase knowledge and competences as key factor for the enhancement of knowledge and awareness. However, the main (not to say exclusive) support to mobility programmes and initiatives mainly come from the European Union and there is a huge lack of reinforcement by the national youth policies.

Youth mobility within the country and abroad as a tool to fight youth unemployment has been highlighted also by the Labour Ministry that is

conducting a weekly monitoring on the development of the Italian Youth Guarantee Programme and that states that "the choices of young people have underlined an evident inclination towards mobility". National and transnational mobility is foreseen by 2 measures of Youth Guarantee, the extra-curricular internship and the professional mobility, in synergy with EURES network and other measures like the EVS. However, youth mobility in Italy is often used as a tool to leave the country and look for better jobs and a better life, which is contributing to the constantly growing "brain drain".

Morocco / Visa and financial statements require more dialogue with the EU

Strategically located less than three hours from the main European cities, Morocco is one of the most dynamic countries in the African continent in term of commercial exchanges.

A challenge for the young Moroccan is the obligation to have the financial statements to demonstrate their needs in following their studies in Europe, looking for an internship or just for a cultural exchange. These rules of control make the mobility of youth in the Mediterranean Basin very shrinking. These facts have contributed in the rising voice hearing of some civil society militants, that recognize the issue is far than just being able to have the means, but it is related to the fact that immigration was and still the key element that has linked Morocco and the EU for several decades.

The need to work hand in hand with the EU in a context of partnership with an objective of ensuring a better management of cross-traveling; based on a comprehensive approach, was, necessary for mutual benefits. Both parts have decided during different meetings to establish a Mobility Partnership with objectives which are often related to "Legal Immigration and studies".

In a conducted survey, 300 foreigner students emphasize unanimously on the same motivation elements: Scholarship, study environment, the diversity of cultures and the freedom of practicing your own beliefs and religion, tolerance has made Morocco a country where Synagogues, Mosques and Cathedrals neighbors in term of building architectures closeness and mutual respect. In a published study made in the last of 2011 by the Ministry of Higher Education, 11 577 students are enrolled in Moroccan State and Private universities/schools and institutions. The Direction of prospectations and Evaluations of the same ministry, has published as well a study that demonstrates the variety of ethnicities of international student studying in morocco. 134 countries are the nationalities of students studying in Morocco, 40% Africans, 66% are from Europe, Asia and America, 16% are Arabs and finely 16% from other different countries.

Even though, the student migration has been considered as a transit migration, Morocco has become since few years' ago, a welcoming country and a master actor in term of foreigner youth mobility.

Experiences and Good practices

Bosnia and Herzegovina / Perpetuum Mobile

Since its foundation in 2006, Perpetuum Mobile – Institute for Youth and Community Development has been working on providing young people in Banja Luka and whole Bosnia and Herzegovina the chance to travel to other parts of the country, region and world.

Perpetuum Mobile has been an organizer and partner in many different programs created for reaching larger level of youth movement possibilities and youth mobility in general.

Some of those experiences are:

- Peaceful life and Cooperation 20 years later, supported by the US embassy in Sarajevo;

- Study visits to Germany for youth workers and youth leaders in BiH;
- Empowering the Brand YOU for the New World of Work, hosted by Global Youth Empowerment Association;
- Social Entrepreneurship Empowerment Possibilities through youth joint ventures: a seminar organized from 29th of August until 2nd of September, 2014 in Brussels, Belgium that gathered 30 youth workers, youth leaders, coaches, young social entrepreneurs, formal educational professionals and employment counsellors coming from Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Slovenia and Portugal who work with

young people with an interest in social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial learning.

Perpetuum Mobile Institute was also actively engaged in projects of both EU programs: The Youth in Action program and Erasmus+, as organizer or participant. Since 2006, members of Perpetuum Mobile participated in various courses/trainings/seminars across the Europe.

A representative of Perpetuum mobile Nikolina Talijan Hinic was recognized as an emerging leader from Bosnia and Herzegovina in by United Nations Alliance for Civilization (UNAOC) in 2015. The UNAOC Fellowship

Program strives to foster international exchange and interfaith understanding by engaging with emerging leaders and young professionals from Europe, North-America (EUNA), the Middle East and North-Africa (MENA). During two-week exchange trips between EUNA and MENA countries, the Program sends participants from each geographic area to their counterpart's region. The networking during the Fellowship enabled Perpetuum mobile to start thinking about possible future cooperation and projects with organizations from the MENA region as well as Europe and North America.

Lebanon / Dpna

As Development for People and Nature (DPNA) our main focus is on youth and their development on all levels. Our work orbits around the concept of sustainable development and capacity building for youth. We provide them with workshops and opportunities allowing them to express themselves and share their ideas and initiatives in order for their voices to be heard, for them to become leaders and to be able to make a positive change in their society. Since we believe that young people are a fundamental asset but in order to enable them to fully express their potential it is necessary to invest in measures for social and economic inclusion.

Throughout DPNA's 13 years of working in the civil society, we have been implementing projects with youth whether it was sharing experiences in between youth from different countries such as the Copain du Monde movement in France, MedNet, ISV Active Citizens, Jezzine Hub and IVLP. Providing youth with guides allowing them to understand their roles and responsibilities in their society as well as to help them in their future such as: Guide for Youth and Municipalities, Guide for Youth to participate in politics, Guide for Youth and Active Citizenship, Guide for participation and negotiation, Youth and Peace Culture, Entrance to enterprise, Guide for Youth and Human Rights and Working with Conflict: all aimed at mobilizing youth and encouraging their active participation as well as to build their capacities using different methodologies and approaches.

Jezzine Hub is a youth-led centre that constitutes a platform and an incubator environment for youth between the ages of 18 and 30 in Jezzine region as a whole to meet, share creative ideas and build their capacities on all levels. The Hub is a project funded by the Italian Development Cooperation and the European Union and is currently being implemented in partnership between: Oxfam Italy, Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA), Italian Development Cooperation and Union of Jezzine Municipalities. The Hub project was launched in January 2015 and will go over a period of 3 years with

close guidance and monitoring from the implementing partners, afterwards the Hub will ensure its sustainability because of the youth and their activities.

Jezzine Hub project highlights the crucial importance of youth mobility and engagement on socio-economic level. It encourages youth to take action by empowering them with the needed skills and offering them the opportunity to apply their learnings in order to be change makers in their communities. Adding to that the exchange visits play the role of essential incentives for youth participation in such a project.

Active Citizens is a project that aims at building understanding and trust between communities by establishing an enduring global network of community leaders, who can work together to address the global issues of the 21st century. Active Citizens connects people and organizations involved in local initiatives that benefit their community. It provides them with tools and support to better understand how to work with people from diverse backgrounds and to put new skills into practice by setting up or adapting the way they run their own social development and innovation, by sharing ideas and practice and working on joint projects with their peers in the global Active Citizens network. Launched in 2009, it is running in over twenty countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, South and East Asia and the UK.

The Active Citizens Learning Journey is core to the overall programme. It is based on an exploration of the ways in which people relate to each other and appreciate diversity. It involves participants carrying out a social action project in relation to an issue of concern to them and putting their learning into practice. It is underpinned by a commitment to social justice, to social inclusion and to enabling people to take a lead in shaping society. The project is implemented in partnership with the British Council targeting people and mostly youth all over Lebanon. So far more than 3600 people has been part of this empowering training.

Italy / Oxfam Italia

Oxfam Italy believes that mobility is a great tool to empower young people and make them global citizens and active change makers. For this reason, lately it has increased the mobility possibilities offered to young people.

MEDNET - Innovation, Exchange and Networking for a New Leading Class in the Mediterranean Area

MedNet is a project financed by the Tuscany Region and led by Oxfam Italia that aims at reinforcing the awareness and the work of youth associations of the Northern and Southern Mediterranean area that want to play an active role in understanding the ongoing processes of cultural, economic, political and social change.

By engaging youth associations in a path of online dialogue and mobility, at the end of the first year of the project, MedNet involved 100 young people (boys and girls) 18-35 years old and 38 youth associations from Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Palestine, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel in a 2-day-workshop on common topics. Study and mobility, unemployment, youth participation in politics and gender equality and equal opportunities were the central focus of the four thematic working groups during which youngsters reflected critically on these issues, creating Mednet Network statement.

The mobility can be considered as a mile stone of the project. In fact, firstly Oxfam Italia identified 8 youth associations coming from the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt; secondly, young people were involved in different online paths on Oxfam Edu platform (<http://edu.oxfam.it>) in order to start sharing experiences, projects and good practices also through non-formal education activities related to the 4 topics. This helped young people reflect on them in a safe online educational and social space, promoting mutual knowledge. Thanks to the involvement of expert organizations, like The Hub Florence, Sociolab Florence, Rondine Cittadella della Pace, plus the Lebanese partner (DPNA), MedNet produced the 4 Thematic Dossiers to be used as the basis for the workshops' discussion.

Having said this, the mobility represented a real opportunity for representatives of youth associations, institutions, foundations, NGOs and decision makers to analyze the state of the art of youth policies and whether they are able to meet youngsters' needs or not.

To know more: <http://edu.oxfam.it/it/project/med-net2-innovation-exchange-and-networking-new-leading-class-mediterranean-area>

MOBNET - MOBility and NETworking among Italy, France, Morocco, Tunisia to foster youth employment

MOBNET is a new Euro-Mediterranean Initiative for the Promotion of Young People Employment (ENPI- CBC MED). In the last two years, it involved four countries: Italy, France, Morocco and Tunisia with the aim to help reduce the rate of youth unemployment in the four countries of intervention through a mobility scheme for new or aspiring entrepreneurs, in order to encourage

business start-up and development of their business ideas.

The project facilitates the organization of 52 mobilities. 52 young entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to experience working abroad in one of the four countries involved. Young entrepreneurs will be welcomed by experienced entrepreneurs who work in a field of interest, for a period of 1 to 3 months, during which they will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills and share their business ideas with the possibility of establishing and develop new international networks in their areas of expertise.

In parallel, to support and strengthen this process of exchange, MOBNET will create networks between 20 intermediary organizations as expert organizations in the field of training, women's associations and youth, socio-professional organizations, institutions and enterprise partnerships, which will improve services. They aim is to facilitate business start-ups in the local labor market, ensuring social cohesion and territorial and become key players to establish a cross-border networks in each country of intervention.

MOBNET also aspires to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of young people and the promotion of youth entrepreneurship with a special look to companies able to generate innovation in the field of social business: we believe that this new economic model could represent a good opportunity to ensure 'inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women and young people from marginalized areas.policies and whether they are able to meet youngsters' needs or not.

For more information: <http://www.mob-netproject.com/progetto/>

SCAMBIEUROPEI PORTAL

<http://www.scambieuropei.info/>

ScambiEuropei is an association and a portal (based in Bologna) that was born from 2 people determined to inform other young people on the several youth mobility possibilities in Europe and in the world, which were scarcely promoted, hidden and placed on complex Institutional websites. It has now got to be the most used showcase by people who want to go on a mobility project (Europe and beyond). It has a colored, fresh and user-friendly layout and different main sections:

1 - Magazine: it collects different information about the lifestyle of different countries;

2 - Partire (Leaving): it groups different kind of mobility opportunities into internship, work, study, contests, European Volunteer Service, Cultural exchanges;

3 - Deadlines: there is a calendar with all the deadlines of the possibilities to help young people not to miss a single chance!;

4 - SharEurope: This is a portal in which you can look for the city you are interested in and read the experiences of other people who are or were in the same city for study, work, internship or volunteering reasons. Each person can draft his or her review to support other young people who want to start a mobility adventure abroad;

5 - Guides to the projects: This section groups all the different projects or programmes that can fund mobilities, ranging from Scholarships, Erasmus+, Intercultural Exchanges and so on.

Morocco / Aiesec

The Kingdom of Morocco has developed during the last 10 years promising strategies and initiatives for legal Mobility and precisely "Youth and Academic Mobility". Morocco has first improved the national program of education. New Universities equipped with high touch academic materials and technologies were built.

The internship program is also a part of this initiative and, it is often led by Youth Leadership Associations, the better known is "AIESEC". Scholarship merits, are being as well a part of these enhanced changes. Grants are offered for Doctorates students with the option to follow their doctorate abroad in fields of science, math, physics and engineering.

Always in the exchange study program, Morocco has increased in the last two years by more than 7% of students that study in Europe. For instance, and more commonly, France, is the country that statically represents the large number of Moroccan students. More than 33 899 students were identified by "Campus France Maroc" in 2013, and approximately 35.000 that entered France to study between 2014 & 2015. A small decrease comparing to 2013, yet, Moroccan students remain the first international population for France in term

of "Mobility Studies", around the world, followed by China and then Algeria as the third ranked country. In February 2014, a program was welcomed between Morocco, France, Italy and Tunisia. The program promotes (Mobility and Networking) and it will ends in 9 of August 2016. This program is an action Grant with a total amount of 555 265.80 €, it targets the Trade Education and Training sectors.

- FORUM CONNECTING CULTURES is a Moroccan no-profit and no-governmental youth exchange organization that promotes youth mobility, intercultural learning and international voluntary services. Forum connecting Cultures, contributes through various projects as EUROMED and ERASMUS plus. Their working field is mainly focused on young people from local communities (Schools, universities, house of youth, youth associations and clubs...). They also focus on developing opportunities for youth that have difficult social and economic backgrounds, to help them to go abroad to experience intercultural exchanges, trainings course, seminars etc. These efforts, made the organization to become a part of a large mobility and exchange programs with ANNA LINDH Foundation.

Equitable access to resources

Young people lack access to natural and financial resources, including credit and land, limiting our social mobility. Within a global neoliberal system, financial and natural resources are increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few and are managed in ways that damage ecological systems and worsen climate change. We call for national governments and multilateral agencies to ensure responsible management of natural resources in a manner that serves the public interest and respects social and environmental rights. We should be involved in the continuous monitoring and evaluation of resource management to ensure transparency, sustainability and promotion of our rights. We also call for the implementation of youth policies that guarantee young people's access to inclusive financial services enabling our social mobility. Youth Manifesto to end Inequalities - Oxfam YAC (Youth Active Citizenship Community)

Recommendations

The European Union confirms a good trend and has widened mobility within its programmes, but it is necessary that each of them is combined with national and regional resources, as the benefits of mobility can have a huge impact on the whole country both for employment and the personal development of young people. It is therefore necessary to financially strengthen existing programmes through significant investments from Institution and to improve communication channels and networking in order to reach as many people as possible, especially those with fewer opportunities and at risk of social exclusion.

A higher dissemination of the information about calls and programmes is required and dialogue between young people and main stakeholders has to be supported. Competent authorities and institutions also have to implement recognition measures that foster young people to actively participate in mobility initiatives.

Moreover, compared to the possibilities to do a mobility experience in the EU, there are still too limited possibilities for Mediterranean countries. Mobility it is so important but still so obstructed, and terrorism is not making things easier.

The government, along with the European Union and

social parties, must work on improving migration strategies. (1) To explore new migration patterns for young people. (2) To stimulate youth labor rights and temporary migration of young people using motivational incentives in order to create a legal harmonization between both youth societies.

Decision makers should as well, take in consideration the impact that their political decision can have on the youth mobility initiative and draw a visionary schema related to the youth improvement in all aspects. This will lead to a healthy mobility where both side will gain, experience in an international work environment and improve their cultural, language, social and humanitarian skills. At the same time, it can help in reducing the burden on the welfare systems for both side, especially in the countries that has a high level of jobless people, some youth, through mobility can for example, be placed as a human resources where they are needed and gaining, sharing cultural experiences. That can be done with the idea of temporary migrant procedure. Enhanced cooperation must be signed in vocational education and trainings. This way, every part can benefit commonly from the same rights of mutual mobility in all terms: Education, Culture, Research and Employment.

The MedNet Project

for the fulfillment of human beings' potential

WHERE - The Mediterranean area

WHO - a Network of young people from countries of both sides of the Mediterranean basin

WHY - to reach common goals: to find shared and common solutions for the challenges that all young people of the Mediterranean area face daily.

HOW - Following Oxfam's Learn-Think-Act process and making our young people the protagonists! They make researches, collect data and support experts in setting up thematic Dossiers, then they reflect on the topics by taking part in online activities and finally they meet and... plan the actions that they want to take!

The key point is adopt the youth perspective to produce and share knowledge and the good practices by young people for young people!

For the second year of the project, the challenge accepted by the Mednetters was to enhance their role as researchers collecting first-hand experiences, starting from their own as key-players and witnesses to the youth condition within their own countries. Thus, during this year the experts have had the great opportunity to collect a series of qualitative thematic Country reports available to be read in a comparative perspective (for regional area) on which they were able to produce four renewed thematic Dossiers plus a new one that include both an overview on the topics that concern all the countries bordering the Mediterranean basin that of further informations about a specific context of each country.

**ARE YOU A YOUNG MEDITERRANEAN LEADER?
THEN, IT IS YOU WE ARE LOOKING FOR!**



For further information, check the 2014 version of Dossier #1 and the Country Reports

In collaboration with Impact Hub, Florence, Italy

