

Raising empowerment and inclusion among youth at regional and local level – 12WS2260

COVID-19 has significantly changed our lives. It is an event that no one expected, and that quickly became a phenomenon over which we had no control. It forced us to change our way of life, to adapt, to learn and relearn. The pandemic has made it more than clear that there are certain challenges that we cannot face unilaterally.

However, it is also these tough times that lead to deep transformations and necessary changes for a better future, as the sudden exposure of certain problems leads to the immediate search for solutions. Moreover, it can also be an opportunity to improve and focus on issues or groups that can mean a great development in the economic and/or social field of the European Union. This is an opportunity to emerge from the pandemic, to build and transform into a stronger society and economy and work for a better Europe that is for all citizens.

Taking advantage of the fact that 2022 is the European Year of Youth, we want to give voice and support to the generation that will lead the future of Europe and will make it greener, more inclusive and digital. To make the best of this European Year of Youth, it is important to involve those concerned, that is, the young people themselves. Creating an inclusive and empowering society for youth necessarily implies intentionally incorporating young people into the community. Not only do we need to give young people opportunities and facilities for a better future, but we also need to make them part of the decision-making processes and let them raise their voices. Related to it, the European Commission launched an initiative called [ALMA \(Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve\)](#), which aims to support young people, especially those who are not in employment, education or training, to find their path to the job market. In addition, [NextGenerationEU](#) will also be an important step towards our objective: making Europe green, digital, healthy, strong, and equal.

Empowering and inclusive youth require the engagement of authorities at national, regional, and local levels. Everyone, including the private sector and citizens need to be involved to make youth heard and active in society.

Agenda

Welcome by **Valentina Chanina, EfVET** and **Iñigo Araiztegui, Director of Internalisation, TKNIKA**

1. Presentations and reflections at European and Regional Level

Empowering young people in times of COVID-19

- Jasna Maric Krajacic, European Commission, DG-EAC

Supporting young People through inclusive and quality VET: Cedefop contribution

- Irene Psifidou and Ralph Hippe, CEDEFOP

Overcoming new barriers to mobility, the role of youth information

- Ms. Audrey Frith, Eurodesk

2. Good practices presentation

Tuscany Regional

- Bernard Dika, Regional Minister for Youth Policies and Innovation

NEETs for NEETs: how to improve inclusive methods to empower young adults

- Jonas Abrahamsoon, Region Västra Götaland

Youth aspiration: Study of changes in mental health after COVID

- Kornel Tibor Magyar Digitális Oktatásért Egyesület (young people/wellbeing/inclusion)

3. Q&A/Discussion between speakers and participants. How can young people be involved more actively in society? What are the ways to empower youth?

Closing

Moderator: Iñigo Araiztegui, Director of Internalisation, TKNIKA