



**MY EU. Youth in the move Portal to active citizenship  
of the European Union**

*Type of action: REC-AG*

*Proposal number: 767317*



# **YOUTH CITIZENS FORUM REPORT**

## **Poland**

WP1, D1.3



*Project co-funded by the European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship  
Programme (2014-2020)*



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## **Youth Citizens Forum Report**

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## Poland

**Title of the event:** European Youth Forum

**Date and place:** June 15<sup>th</sup>, Pszczyna, Slaskie Voivodeship

**Duration:** 10.00 – 15.00

**Leading person(s):** Rafał Dadak, Jerzy Kraus

**Agenda of the event:** Attachment 1 to the Report

**Number of participants:** 43

**Description of the event:** The European Youth Forum was organized by the Fundacja Alternatywnych Inicjatyw Edukacyjnych in cooperation with the District Vocational School in Pszczyna – to give the event an additional value. The school for several years has been realising European mobilities to give its students an opportunity to take part in European apprentice placements in Europe. The participants of the forum were: The youth who have experienced European mobilities, their parents, teachers, NGO members (civil society leaders), civil servants from the field of education. The first, short part of the Forum was devoted to sum-up the results of an European mobility project realised by the school, where 40 students participated in apprentice placements in Spain, UK and Germany. The other part of the Forum was divided into two parts: At first, the results of the open on-line survey were presented, along with the „stories from the interviews” (presenting experiences of specific persons of living in EU host country and exercising EU citizenship rights during the stay abroad). The second part was devoted to Europa Café Workshop: There were 4 tables arranged in the assembly hall space, of the four below described subjects, each one with a moderator. The youth were divided into four groups. Each group visited each table sharing their opinions, remarks and ideas, while the moderator was taking notes. The results of the Europa Café Workshop are summarised below.

### Key questions to answered during the Youth Citizens Forum, Poland:

#### 1. Collected feedback on the state of the art survey – (Comparative summary – on-line survey report):

There were 3 supporting questions asked to the Forum participants (A, B and C):

##### 1 A/ Did anything surprise you in the research results?

- Big emphasis on face to face meetings
- A large number of respondents
- Little knowledge about the publication of the image



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- Funds received from the EU
- A large number of people leaving the countryside
- A lot of questions
- A lot of answers to YES
- Preciseness of questions
- Low awareness of the possibility of using EU laws
- A large number of young people participating in mobility

1 B/ What was obvious for you?

- EU funds
- European Health Insurance Card
- Medical care
- Free mobility
- Large liberty of movement of citizens
- Detailed results - the form of their presentation
- That most were on YES
- Tours
- Roaming

1 C/ What was completely new (never heard about it before)?

- Opportunity to participate in public life abroad
- Possibility to perform public functions by foreigners
- Opportunity to study abroad on the same terms as citizens of a given country
- Correspondence in the mother tongue
- Possibility to participate in mobility
- Cost-free mobilities

**2. Collected feedback on the Good practices/success stories report:**

There were 2 supporting questions asked to the participants (A and B):

2A/ How to encourage young adults – who may have various concerns, may not see benefits of mobilities (or their families/friends think mobilities are of no use) – to educational mobilities within European Union (in order to practice, study, volunteer, work, live in a host country)?

- Other work standards (customer approach)
- Using (animal) cruelty - free cosmetics at work
- Emphasis on one's own well-being at work and caring for the employee
- A courage
- New contacts with the youth
- Comparison of respect for my work
- High intensity (work / leisure balance)





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- Sightseeing
- Recreation
- Don't be afraid of logistical problems
- Language skills
- Language challenges
- Logistic support
- Language courses
- New culture
- Comparison of labour standards abroad with Poland
- Approach to an employee
- A looser atmosphere
- Financial support
- Openness to new people
- Group's support
- A resourcefulness
- Comparison of working conditions
- Sufficient working time
- Comparison / increase of work criteria
- Basic industry vocabulary
- Pocket money

2B/ What – and how – could be done, in order to the young adults would know their European Union citizenship rights, and would exercise those rights?

- Information from teachers and the trainee manager
- Internet forums
- Friends who were there
- Embassies
- Information from the police
- Google
- Get a "layette"/be equipped from the/through coordinator about our rights
- Less formalities
- Internet (logistics)
- Europass
- People who were already there



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**3. Discussed needs areas for information/knowledge/tools for active citizenship: What kind of knowledge, and in what form, is needed for the youth to be able to exercise their rights deriving from EU citizenship?**

Further discussing the survey-related questions:

*12. What sources of information do you use to check information concerning your rights in the European Union?*

*29. What (knowledge/information/tools) would help you to realise your EU citizen rights while staying abroad?*

*36. What information did you miss/ you had hard to find when planning European mobility (in order to study/learn/volunteer/work abroad)?*

*42. Please indicate the tools and instruments that should be used to promote the youths' awareness about EU citizens rights and EU mobility.*

*43. What tools/instruments – you would like to use - are missing?*

**NEEDS**

- Differences in road rules (traffic regulations)
- What can you do at a given age?
- Rates of exchange
- Health - what have I pay for from my own funds?
- Weather information
- Tourist information
- Knowledge of the language (communicative forms)
- Getting acquainted with the offer of mobile network operators
- Prices; conditions of the stay
- More expensive cities - other attractions than monuments and ruins (entertainment)
- Working conditions/terms
- Opinions about employers (their requirements, opinions among other employees, development opportunities)
- Places to spend time actively, such as gyms, volleyball, etc.; where you can meet locals
- Recipes (possibilities of integration as well) during the stay on the spot - familiar local food

**TOOLS**

- Facebook (connected to specific countries /professional groups and social groups)
- Translator (inside Internet, programs for translations, dictionary / mobile's versions)
- Internet forums (blogs especially of people living abroad on the spot, conduct by known people, youtube)





- Possibility to talk - personal contact; lack of guides - people who could tell (about a given place, about specific solutions)
- Video - conversations
- Place (information about it), where you can meet with the locals (including the Polish community)
- Leaflets
- A phone to someone similar to a "business angel", only someone who is active on civic right's space

#### **4. Discussed idea for the MyEU Portal. Developed recommendations for the preliminary structure and contents of the MyEU Portal, optimized for mobile devices.**

##### **4a. Recommendations & ideas regarding structure of the MyEU Portal:**

- Transparent interface
- Discussion forum
- Photo gallery
- Short and concise texts
- Compatibility with social media

##### **4b. Recommendations & ideas regarding contents of the MyEU Portal:**

- Basic practical information about the country of departure (currency, prices, accommodation, rights of employees, required documents, security rules, information about volunteering, how to rent a flat)
- Opinions of others about a given place
- Placement of short films with practical advice
- Glossary with basic phrases in the language of the country of arrival
- Information about the weather

#### **4. Possible other comments & ideas.**

None

