



# WHY



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## WE HEAR YOU!

**On the spotlight a training course for youth professionals**

**NEWSLETTER N°3**

This is the third newsletter of the “WHY” project.

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**ENJOY THE READ!**



# INTRODUCTION

ULRIKA WENNERHOLM, PROJECT COORDINATOR  
VASTERAS MUNICIPALITY SWEDEN



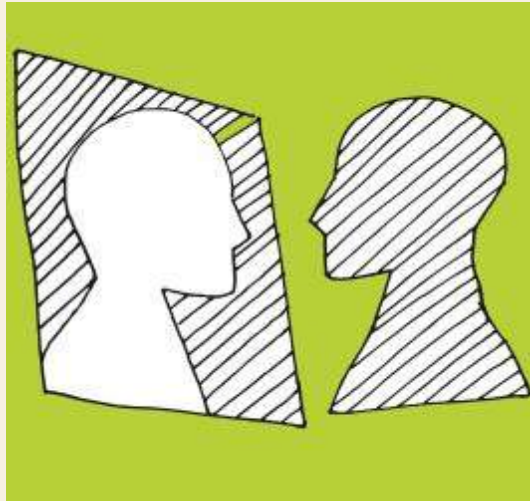
There is a growing sense of frustration concerning the low level of youth participation in democratic processes, as well as young people's lack of trust in democratic institutions and values. The youth professionals worry about these perceived democratic deficits and the consequences it has for the youngsters and for society in general, which is particularly concerning when it comes to vulnerable youth at risk of being marginalised in society.

The feeling of being marginalised puts the youngsters at risk of actually becoming excluded, and is conducive to discrimination, racism, political and religious extremism, school absenteeism, and drop-out, from school, work or youth programmes

The professionals working with young person 16 and 25 need new methods and tools to improve their capacity to communicate with youth in a more participatory way, and to understand the importance and impact that their attitude has. There is also a need for structures, methods and tools that will support the democratic institutions ability to reach the concerned youth groups. This project aims to provide a basis for an improved culture amongst professionals as well as structures that will support democratic dialogue and youth involvement in order to promote civic participation, create participatory mechanisms, thus preventing marginalisation and its negative effects on individuals and society.

The project will focus, among its outputs, on the development of training tools such as two on-line courses. The partnership will, in this issue, concentrate on a first course tackling the development of self-awareness, attitude and skills. It will support practitioners to engage with young people in trusting ways to examine and understand their legacies of experience, so that their aspirations can be not only envisaged but achieved.

# ON THE SPOTLIGHT: THE PRODUCTION OF AN ONLINE COURSE FOR YOUTH PROFESSIONALS, BY BRIAN DE LORD, DOUBLE HELIX RESOURCES



*This 'E-Learning' course is designed to support practitioners working with marginalised students' helping them to explore and engage with the concepts and activities of democracy, thereby enabling more active citizenship.*

The WHY Course 'A', 'Reflections' Course has been written over the past 12 months. Periodically, the content was presented to groups of WHY partners, feedback collected and the course adjusted. This has been a lengthy but comprehensive process attempting to ensure that all partners were satisfied with the content and could feel confident about using it with their colleagues and associates. The content and could feel confident about using it with their colleagues and associates.

This 'E-Learning' course is designed to support practitioners working with marginalised students' helping them to explore and engage with the concepts and activities of democracy, thereby enabling more active citizenship.

After a short introduction, the course is organised into 3 sections:

## **i. Developing Skills for Democratic participation.**

This section begins with the proposal that the basic human need to belong is the basis of all democratic activity. It then examines the consequences of social exclusion, before encouraging reflection on the skills and qualities needed by individuals in order to participate in democratic systems.

## **ii. Models and Tools for Democratic Participation.**

In this section the course introduces practitioners to a range of models and tools that begin a process of understanding their student's thinking and behaviour. It also encourages reflection of why we perceive in the way that we do and how to be more aware of this. This important section will contribute to developing sustainable and more effective ways of working.

## **iii. Application, Culture & Structure.**

The final section of the course encourages action in thinking about and planning the implementation of the learning of the first two sections. The success of the implementation will also depend on support from the environment of the organisations that this work will be carried out in. It briefly highlights some threats to democracy and how this may be followed up, before ending with a short segment on evaluation.

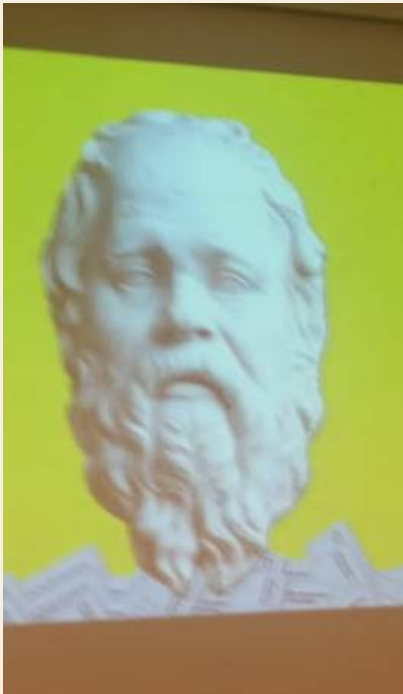
After each section of the course, multiple choice questions are provided to ensure full comprehension of the content. There are also tasks, discussion and action suggestions provided to further advance the thinking and professional behaviours of practitioners in their organisational contexts.

As well as being a self-contained and useful exercise we hope that Course A will also act as a link to the WHY Course B on Democratic Dialogue, that is currently being finalised.

It has been a fascinating and rewarding course to research, write (& re-write!) and record.

We hope that the course will continue to sustain the development of effective practitioner behaviour in future years and that this in turn will contribute to the evolution of democratic thought, behaviour and structures.

Thanks, are due to Kanefer Chatawa for her excellent illustrations, to Heman Yones & Miltos Sackellariou for their technical support, to Bob Townley for editing the content and to all the WHY colleagues who contributed to this course's development.



# SYROS INTERNATIONAL MEETING BY MILTOS, SAKELLARIOU, ANADRASSIS INITIATIVE INFORMATION, HERMOUPOLIS, GREECE



**ANADRASSIS** Initiative Information has been responsible for the organization of the meeting in Syros which was hosted by its President Leonardos Palaeologos and the team participating in the “Why” project. ANADRASSIS is a non-profit organization founded in 1995, which has worked as a receiving organization with the European Program ERASMUS +.



**ENSA** spokesperson in “WHY” **Elena Curtopassi** had the opportunity to meet Deputy Mayor **Mr. Roussunelos Apostolos** and his special associate, **Anna Maroulis**, to inform them about the actions of the ENSA Network and the possible cooperation with the Municipality of Syros, Ermoupolis. The ENSA Network is already collaborating with the Social Cooperative of Cyclades and ANADRASIS.

In the recent years ANADRASIS has been participating in the local network for Prevention and Health Promotion for the Prefecture of Cyclades. Through the important collaborations with these organizations, it participates in European programs, one of them is the Erasmus + WHY.



**ANADRASIS involved the following extensive collaborations for the ERASMUS + programme WHY:**

**A. Youth Counseling Station of the Cyclades Prefecture**, Public Entity -Greek Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs with its Director the psychologist Miltos Sakellariou who is the Coordinator of ANADRASIS for the WHY program.

The objectives of the Youth Counseling Station are to:

- assist the psychosocial needs of school units of the Cyclades prefecture, through the identification, diagnosis, psychological intervention and referral of cases of students who deserve particular psychological treatment.
- implement, support and monitor health education programs for students producing and distributing educational material, informing and training teachers.

The Youth Counseling Station of Cyclades trained the educators who train then student mediators for a “PEER MEDIATION” program. A group of peer Mediators from a High School of Syros participated at the international Syros meeting showing example of this practice.



- Create parents counseling groups, to strengthen their parenting roles and skills, for the upbringing and empowerment of children.
  - Provide individual psychotherapy to Parents - educators - students with psychological problems.
- <http://ssnkyklades.wixsite.com/ssnkyklades>

**B. EPA Syros - Society for the protection of minors of Syros**-Public Entity supervised by the Greek Ministry of Justice of the Aegean District, provides Social Services for the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency. The purpose of EPA Syros is the active contribution to the prevention and treatment of victimization and juvenile delinquency.

The Interdisciplinary Group of the EPA Syros, consists of psychiatrist / child psychiatrist, health visitors, psychologists, social workers and Representative of School Community in order to provide effective psychosocial support to minors and their families.

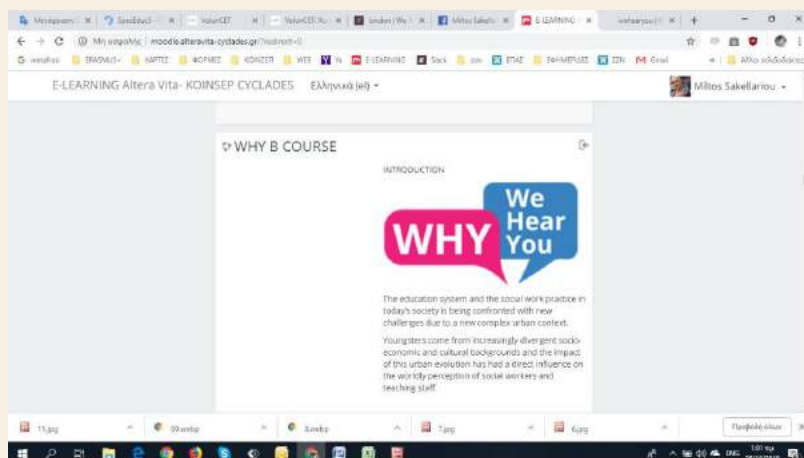
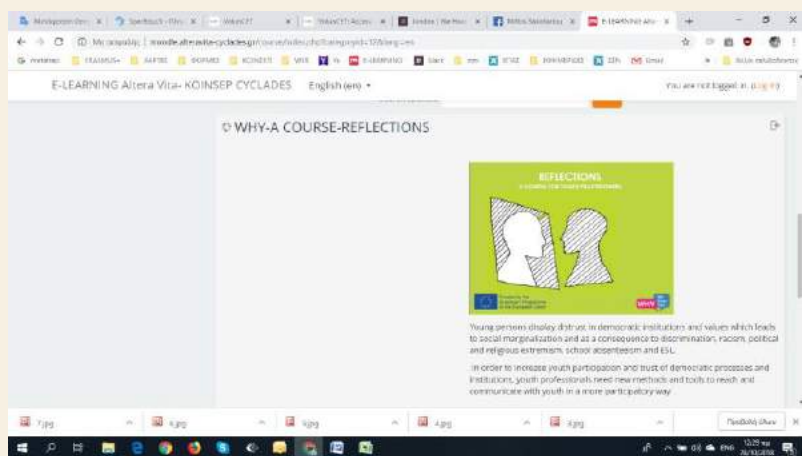
EPA Syros works with registered volunteers providing also legal assistance in cases of abuse of minors or juvenile delinquency, as well as educational support. <http://epasyros.wixsite.com/epasyros>

**C. Social Cooperative -KOINSEP CYCLADES-ALTERA VITA** based in Syros since 2015 with action area in the prefecture of Cyclades.

Altera Vita is a scientific research centre which implements education and awareness programs, working with volunteers in the fields of Environment and Culture and social intervention programs. The President of ALTERA VITA is Miltos Sakellariou also Local Project Manager of the WHY project. ALTERA VITA organizes domestic and transnational training sessions. To this end, it collaborates with a network of experienced trainers and experts. Trainees have the opportunity to follow a flexible program from wherever they are. Alternative education programs became important due to the growth of social and professional changes in areas such as social economy, Health Promotion, Organic Farming, Environment and Sustainable Development, Arts and Culture, Pedagogy, Psychology, new technologies. The participants to these programs benefit updated knowledge through non-formal and qualitative ways of training. A System of distance learning is applied based on the use of e-Learning Moodle platform. Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Developmental Learning Environment) is certified as a free educational content management software (Course Management System) and is primarily used for the purpose of asynchronous Distance learning.

The two courses produced by the WHY program are hosted on the MOODLE Platform with the help of the Social Cooperative of Cyclades. This is a great advantage for the impact of the WHY project.

<http://moodle.alteravita-cyclades.gr/course/index.php?categoryid=12&lang=en>







## NEXT MEETINGS

The next transnational meeting of the project will be held in 1-2-3-4 April 2019 Venice and Padua (Italy) and in October 2019 Brussels.

### **APRIL 2019**      **Venice and Padua**

**1-2-3/04/19**      Internal WHY partner meeting, topic: follow-up and elaboration of the second on-line course.

**4/04/19**      Joint “We Hear You” and “A Way Home” project meetings

**5/04/19**      ENSA thematic youth and child working groups meetings on the agenda family networks and study visits

### **OCTOBER 2019**      **Brussels**

Final dissemination meeting and sustainability of the project

### **Joint “We Hear You” and “A Way Home” meetings Padua and Venice 4, 5 April 2019.**

**Joint “We Hear You” and “A Way Home”** meetings . Both projects target marginalized and at risk youth , “A Way Home” is centered on defining and implementing clear after care policies. The objective is to see how the best practices from both projects can benefit from each other. These common meetings will be co-organised by the **Youth Care Platform** ([www.youthcare.eu/](http://www.youthcare.eu/)), the **ENSA network** and the **WHY consortium**. They will be followed on the 5th by an ENSA child, Youth and Family working groups meeting where on the agenda the topics will include family networks and policies and dedicated study visits. The Child working group is coordinated by the Flemish agency for child welfare and the Youth and family working group is coordinated by Veneto Social Services Department of Youth, Family and Civil Service.



# PARTNERS NEWS

## THE WHY PROJECT HIGH ON THE AGENDA OF THE ENSA General Assembly 2018

**“Eu Pillar on Social Rights: delivering at local level” , Vänersborg, Sweden 5/6/7 December.**

With a joint collaboration between ENSA, the Veneto Region, the European Youth Care Platform and the Vänersborg Municipality, the objective of the ENSA general Assembly 2018 has been to focus on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level. The areas addressed have been elderly, disability, youth family and child issues. Policies, projects and practices had been collected with the purpose to include them in the civic dialogue between the European Institutions and both public and private stakeholders. The following principles were enhanced: active support to employment; Education, Training and life-long learning; Equal opportunities; Childcare and support to children; Inclusion of people with disabilities; Long-term care.

The topic of youth participation has been high on the agenda and the WHY project has been discussed in the plenary session and in the thematic working groups with contributions from Ulrika Wennerholm (Vasteras), Miltos Sakellariou (Syros), and Soerish Chattarpal (Rotterdam).. The Representative of the EU Commission in Sweden Mr. Magnus Astberg actively contributed to the debate with a presentation of the Pillar.

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# INVITATION: “EUROPEAN YOUTH: POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PEOPLE”

**ORGANIZERS: AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF BOLZANO/BOZEN - SOUTH TYROL,  
VENETO REGION, LOMBARDY REGION, ENSA (EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SOCIAL  
AUTHORITIES), YOUTH CARE PLATFORM**

Following the ENSA, General Assembly 2018 about the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level held in Sweden-5,6,7/12/18, this event will offer the opportunity to address specifically some of the aspects related to youth policies, such as early school leaving, addiction, bullying, NEET, prevention of youth exclusion.

The meeting will focus on the analysis of good practices and examples that address these challenges with integrated approaches and collaborative tools, through projects that have a high potential for transferability.

One of the objectives of this initiative is to enable those who deal with youth policies on a daily basis to meet, discuss and learn from each other. With this email we would like to invite you to propose an intervention based on best practices from your region, successful projects or exciting new project ideas, tools developed by you or other stakeholders that could inspire others and contribute to the ongoing dialogue.

**Here you can register to the event:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/european-youth-policies-practices-and-people-tickets-53429988534?aff=affiliate1>

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# EUROPEAN NEWS

## **Erasmus+ Programme for Youth. The voice of the European Commission Jadranka Vukovic-Johnsson, DG EAC (Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture)**

The new EU strategy for youth (2019-2027) will be discussed by the Council of the European Union. Europe's objective is to encourage the participation of young people in civil and democratic life, their connection to mobility programs, to improve learning, solidarity and intercultural understanding. Efforts have been made to create greater convergence and mutual reinforcement between European policy and programs for young people implemented through the Erasmus+ project and the **European Solidarity Corps**.

The Youth in Action is a program of the Commission that promotes non-formal education, European projects for international youth mobility through cultural exchanges and voluntary abroad activities. This program is implemented through three key actions: the first concerns the mobility of young people and youth participation activities; the second one encourages partnerships cooperation, including those on a small scale, innovation partnerships and the creation of online platforms and tools for virtual cooperation. Finally, the third key action concerns the preparation and implementation of the EU's youth policy agenda taking into account quality, transparency and the recognition of skills and competences.

The Commission is working to build a European Education Area by 2025, to strengthen the cultural dimension of the European Union and the participation of young people, with a new set of measures, including a new strategy for young people and a new agenda for culture.

In the period 2014-2020, the Commission allocated 14.7 billion euros and gave to over 4 million people the opportunity to go abroad. For 2021-2027 the Commission, on the other hand, aims to allocate 30 billion euros to give 12 million people the chance to leave.



# USEFUL LINKS

**European Youth Portal:** the opportunities accessible for youth are published on the portal. From EU Solidarity Corps to social inclusion, passing through several learning tools open source, the Union involves the European youngsters.

[https://europa.eu/youth/EU\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/EU_en)

## **YOUTH - Supporting youth actions in Europe**

**Participation in civil society:** the EU Youth Strategy seeks to encourage young people to participate in the democratic process and in society.

[https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/civil-society\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy/civil-society_en)

**EU Youth Strategy:** in May 2018 the European Commission has put forward proposals for a new EU youth Strategy for 2019-2027, which have to be discussed by the Council of the European Union.

[https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en)

**A renewed EU Youth Strategy proposed by the European Commission for 2019-2027:** the Commission Communication 'Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy' proposes to focus on the following areas of action.

[https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/eu-youth-strategy-adopted\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/eu-youth-strategy-adopted_en)

**Implementing the Strategy:** the EU Youth Strategy is implemented by EU Member States with the support of the Commission.

<https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/implementation>

**Changes in Erasmus+ Youth Mobility as European Solidarity Corps delayed:** transition period

[https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/changes-erasmus-youth-mobility-european-solidarity-corps-delayed-transition-period\\_it](https://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/changes-erasmus-youth-mobility-european-solidarity-corps-delayed-transition-period_it)

## **Youth policy - Council of Europe**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/youth-policy>

[https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/priorities#{%224902356%22:\[0\]}](https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/priorities#{%224902356%22:[0]})

for further information go to: [wehearyou.eu](http://wehearyou.eu) - [facebook.com/wehearyou](https://facebook.com/wehearyou)



## GREETINGS FROM THE WE HEAR YOU PARTNERSHIP!

With our best wishes for an inclusive democratic 2019...



...and merry Christmas!



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<https://www.whywehearyou.eu/>