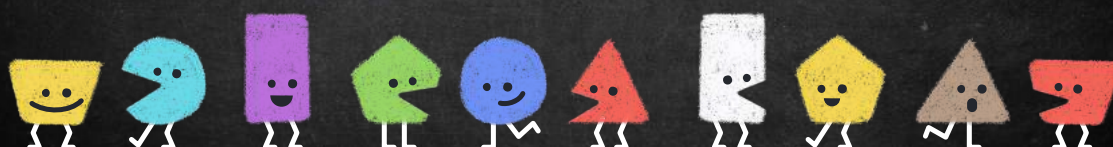




“YoUth PArticipatory budgets empowering
young people using big Data: YUPAD”



Project Newsletter No. 2

About the project

The project aims to enable young people to understand, practice, and influence participatory budgets across European cities. The project will develop the capacity building of educators and local authorities to implement participatory budgeting and increase civic participation among the youth.

Partners

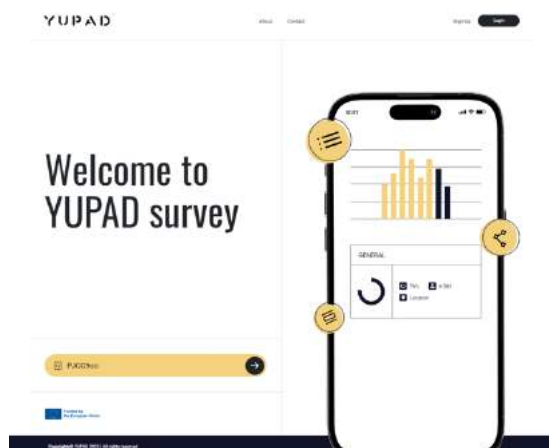
Out of the Box International (Belgium) is the lead organisation and implementing the project with 9 partners: Union of the Baltic Cities (Poland), CESIE (Italy), CSI (Cyprus), SÜDWIND (Austria), RD IKSD (Latvia), OPENS (Serbia), IED (Greece), XWHY and VYTAUTAS MAGNUS University (Lithuania).

Disclaimer

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News from the project team



During this period the project team has created **YUPAD Calculator** – a tailored platform that gathers input from young people on policy priorities, expected outcomes, and their preferences for concrete projects in a city. The Calculator is published on www.yupad.net.

The team also developed **Training Curricula for Educators and Policy Makers** based on the good practices showcased in the previous phase is developed and will be piloted by the project partners. The curricula will serve to develop a set of capacity-building activities adapted to the needs of the target groups (youth, educators, local authorities, and community of practice as a whole).

Generated **YUPAD Bees** are the next step in creation of the system that provides methodology for development of concrete projects or initiatives suggested within the YUPAD Calculator. Through this methodology young people and their educators have a step-by-step approach on how to develop and present a proposal to policy makers, other young people and relevant stakeholders in the community.

Next **transnational partner meeting** is scheduled for July 10-12 in Riga, Latvia. This will be a good opportunity to discuss current and upcoming project deliverables, identified highlights and lowlights in the project implementation and define space for further improvement.

News from the YUPAD partners

YUPAD Launched in Two Municipalities near Palermo

CESIE has started the process of identifying the target group to be involved in the implementation of Capacity building for Educators and for Policy makers of the YUPAD project. Two small villages of the rural areas close to the city of Palermo, Sicily, where CESIE is located, were identified. The Municipality of Prizzi will participate with the Mayor, the Youth Council and a group of educators made up of teachers and activists from local associations. The Municipality of Ciminna, thanks to the enthusiasm of the Deputy Mayor, will participate with a local youth association which engages many young people of their area.



The capacity building will aim to provide educators and local authorities with the non-formal education tools in the field of active citizenship and participatory budgeting, necessary for working with the youngsters to support them in designing the animation on the territory projects for the community.

Created YUPAD Tools Translated and Tested by iED

As responsible for the Greek version of YUPAD Calculator platform, the main goal in the past period was to deliver the translation of the calculator content in the local language. To ensure the platform's functionality, iED reviewed the calculator extensively through a series of tests, focusing on the overall performance and appearance of it to the users.

After collecting feedback and making necessary adjustments based on the findings, iED has contacted the platform's developers for the further finalization. The next steps will be focusing on approaching the project's target groups to plan and schedule their involvement in the project activities.

Xwhy Launched Capacity Building for Educators and Policy Makers



In May 2023, the "Critical+Xwhy" agency successfully implemented the Capacity Building for Educators and Policy Makers in Vilnius city.

This program had a dual purpose. Firstly, it provided an opportunity to introduce the theoretical foundations of youth participatory budgeting to the participants and showcased the best practices documented in the YUPAD "Food for Thought" videos. Secondly, the event served as a teambuilding activity for policy makers and educators, with the hope that they would continue to actively participate in the project's piloting activities, particularly during the YUPAD Bees phase.

The capacity building program consisted of two workshops, attended by representatives from the Vilnius City Administration, the Department of Youth Affairs, and municipal youth workers. Each workshop comprised both theoretical and practical components. During the first workshop, the theoretical part was focused on the core principles and concepts of Youth Participatory Budgeting, along with an introduction to the YUPAD project



and the successful initiatives already implemented across Europe. In the practical part, brainstorming sessions were conducted to explore the needs, opportunities, and risks associated with implementing such a program in Vilnius City, following the methodology proposed by YUPAD.

In the second event, **Xwhy** provided a more detailed presentation of the YUPAD Bees methodology and invited participants to design a Youth Participatory Budgeting model specifically tailored for Vilnius, drawing upon the knowledge gained from both sessions.

The overall outcomes of the capacity building sessions were extremely positive. The policy makers not only acquired new knowledge on the subject but also confirmed the necessity of such a program in Vilnius. They actively participated in brainstorming sessions to develop a potential model for the city. Furthermore, the educators who work with youth expressed great enthusiasm about the potential impact of this program on the self-confidence, leadership skills, and understanding of democratic processes, civil rights, and duties among young people. They saw themselves as mediators between the municipality and youth. The collaboration with these two target groups will continue during the piloting phase of the YUPAD Bees methodology, scheduled for this upcoming fall.

OPENS Launched Event "GET INVOLVED, FIND A SOLUTION"



The event took place on March, 31 2023 at the Youth Center OPENS. The activities were attended by facilitators and professors involved in the program as professional collaborators, as well as new members of the local advisory board of the program. At the meeting, the project steps of this year's "Engage,

Find a Solution" cycle were presented, and the program's local advisory board was reconvened. This year's program cycle is not significantly different from last year's, with the exception that this year the competition of student ideas will not be held at the European level, but only at the local level. In addition, a new board was convened, consisting of 7 participants, representatives of youth, business, civil society organizations and institutions.

