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#EU4Youth

# EU4YOUTH

## Achievements Report

2022





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# FOREWORD



**GERT JAN KOOPMAN,**  
*Director General DG NEAR*

The **European Year of Youth 2022** put young people at the forefront of the European agenda. This initiative, first announced by European Commission President von der Leyen in her 2021 State of the Union address, proved instrumental: it contributed to reorient policy discussions toward youth education, employment and participation, especially in the wake of the pandemic.

Within the EU, initiatives such as the **Erasmus+ programme**, the **Youth Guarantee**, and the **EU Youth Dialogue** illustrate the EU's commitment to support young people in their transition to adulthood.

Young people are also important drivers of change in our immediate Neighbourhood, notably in Eastern Neighbourhood countries. This is why the **EU4Youth regional programme** was designed to engage, empower and connect young people in partner countries, and to take measures to help reduce youth unemployment.

As 2023 marks the 5th anniversary of the EU4Youth programme, this **Achievements Report** illustrates the joint results of this regional programme under the many "EU4Youth" projects for which the EU has invested more than EUR 50 million since 2018. EU support contributed to strengthen youth Employment and Entrepreneurship, to facilitate engagement as active citizens and to help deliver on international commitments such as the Paris Climate Agreement under the framework [Youth Action Plan in EU external action](#).

Support to youth in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood will continue in a challenging regional context. The EU stands by Ukraine and continues its support amidst the Russian war of aggression, and to the people of Belarus who struggle for freedom. 2022 was also a **bearer of hope**: this is the year when the European Council granted candidate status to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, as well as a European

perspective to Georgia. Young people will be at the forefront when it comes to advancing necessary reforms to bring their countries closer to the EU.

With the EU4Youth programme, the EU will continue to support innovative visions, engagement and participation; it will strive to give young people in the Eastern Partnership more and better opportunities for the future.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EU4Youth programme is the **flagship regional programme** for EU support to young people in the Eastern partner countries. The programme includes different types of projects, the largest being the regional grant projects supporting youth through targeted activities on the ground. Over the last 5 years of EU4Youth, the projects have held over 2,000 competence development activities including trainings, workshops, and study visits, dedicated to improving education, employability and empowerment skills and creating opportunities for young people.

Set as the **European Year of Youth**, 2022 was a busy year for all actors working to better support young people in the EU and beyond. For EU4Youth, the largest ever EU4Youth Days were organised, which included participants not only from the Eastern Neighbourhood, but also the Southern Neighbourhood, Western Balkans and Türkiye. Over 160 people joined in person in Brussels for the event, with over 1,400 joining online in parallel sessions, facilitated by the EU Delegations. The event provided a focal point to raise awareness, share experiences and policy discussions on the needs and opportunities for young people in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions.

For the EU4Youth grant projects, the phase II grants continued implementation in 2022, which for many was the last year of activities. With the pandemic restrictions lifted, organisers and participants were finally able to meet again in person, with some keeping the hybrid set-up where needed. Over **450 competence development activities** were held in 2022, with more than 9,000 participants.

The Russian aggression against Ukraine which began in February 2022 changed the **regional context** with EU4Youth projects also being affected. Implementation in the Eastern regions of Ukraine became impossible, with an influx of internally displaced people or refugees fleeing the destruction which has also impacted the neighbouring countries. Projects had to adapt in the circumstances, with EUR 2 million being repurposed under the EU4Youth phase III to fund emergency aid for young people in Ukraine.

Despite this setting, the programme results continue to demonstrate the relevance and impact of **EU support to young people** in developing their work-readiness, their (social) entrepreneurship and their engagement as active citizens. In particular, the EU4Youth Alumni Network continued to make a difference in local communities, through 45 initiatives implemented by 80 alumni in the latest 2022 phase of the programme. Through the 39 policy discussions, Youth Policy Labs and EU4Youth policy roundtables held in the countries, policy makers and youth were brought closer together, fostering dialogue on the road ahead for a more structured youth dialogue and better engagement in policy-making.

This Achievement Report marks the **fifth year of the EU4Youth programme**, providing the opportunity to look back at the impact over the years. The programme has seen how work-based learning and the recognition of transversal skills can have a positive impact on young people. Paired with support mechanisms for career guidance and job matching and the active involvement of national stakeholders, this can contribute to bridging the youth unemployment gap.

By providing financial assistance and **entrepreneurship** training to youth, new businesses have been opened and jobs created in the Eastern partner countries. Further support for creating a positive business environment and cooperation with Public Employment Services are key actions of the programme. The work done through the Youth Policy Labs and structured policy discussions have laid the foundations for the development of an EaP Youth Dialogue, bringing societal and policy stakeholders together to further empower and engage youth in the countries. These are pillars that will continue under the implementation of phase III of the programme, and the upcoming EU4Youth phase IV.

## In 2022...

**450+** competence development activities organised with over 9000 participants

**19** new mentors and **132** new mentees

**63%** said their confidence to find a job increased after receiving support

**85** entrepreneurs funded

**39** policy discussions, including Policy Labs, trainings and roundtables

**80** Alumni organising **45** initiatives

**24** scholarships to the College of Europe

# CHAPTER 1



## Overview of policy framework and context

With the adoption of the **Youth Action Plan** in the **European Union external action for 2022-2027** in October 2022, the EU sent a strong message, not only to the Eastern Partnership (EaP), but to young people all around the world.<sup>1</sup> Rounding off the **European Year of Youth 2022**<sup>2</sup>, the Youth Action Plan represents the first-ever global EU policy framework for a strategic alliance with young people all across the world to create a future that is more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.<sup>3</sup>

The European Year of Youth 2022 highlighted the importance of youth in constructing a better future - one that is greener, more inclusive, and digital. Moving forward in a post-pandemic world with confidence and hope, the European Year of Youth offered numerous possibilities to learn, meet people, and participate in activities throughout Europe and its neighbouring regions. Activities organised in the framework of the European Year of Youth ranged from trainings and workshops, to festivals, studies, competitions and exhibitions.<sup>4</sup> DG NEAR hosted the **EU4Youth Days 2022**, a flagship event bringing together youth workers and practitioners, policy makers and researchers from the EaP, the Western Balkans and Türkiye, and the Southern Neighbourhood. The event focused on ways and support needed to enable young people to enhance their own resilience and engage actively in decision making across a range of global and regional thematic areas of concern.<sup>5</sup>

For young people in the EaP, the celebratory activities organised in the light of the European Year of Youth 2022 were **overshadowed by the Russian military aggression against Ukraine**. Following the beginning of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, many projects operating in the framework of the **EU4Youth programme redirected funding for emergency response**. The redirection of funding was based on the European Commission's implementing decision of 11 March 2022, amending the planned financing of the European Union's bilateral and regional cooperation with Ukraine.<sup>6</sup> Projects operating in or with partners located in Ukraine and other affected parts of the region were forced to terminate, redesign some of their planned activities or, in a few cases, reorient funding towards humanitarian aid. Political tensions and armed conflict also continued to affect the programme's activities in Armenia and Azerbaijan, while in Belarus the environment for civil society organisations has continued to deteriorate significantly.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine resulted in a strong political message from the EU towards EaP countries. After Ukraine, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova formally applied for membership to the EU, **Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were declared candidate countries** in June 2022.<sup>7</sup> Georgia was given a European

perspective and will be granted candidate status once key priorities have been addressed.<sup>8</sup> The EaP ministerial meeting on 12 December 2022 reconfirmed the EU's commitment to the EaP, and willingness to make it more flexible and tailored to the needs of partners, as well as ensuring complementarity between the bilateral track and the enlargement process.<sup>9</sup>

In this broader context, work on the EU4Youth programme continued also in 2022. In light of implementing the New Deal for Youth, the EU4Youth programme<sup>10</sup> was further developed with EU4Youth Phase III - **youth Employment and Entrepreneurship**, and Phase IV - **youth Engagement and Empowerment**. With this focus, two thematic and policy pillars of the New Deal are being addressed: the Economic and Employment Pillar (co-funded by Lithuania and implemented by their Central Project Management Agency - CPMA since 2021), and the Governance and Participation Pillar (co-funded by Germany and implemented by their Agency for International Cooperation - GIZ as of April 2023) respectively. In November 2022, DG NEAR further announced an increase under phase IV,<sup>11</sup> with an additional EUR 2.5 million to ensure continued technical support and coordination of the overall EU4Youth programme in the EaP for the coming years.

<sup>1</sup> [European Year of Youth 2022: EU adopts first Youth Action Plan to strengthen engagement with young people worldwide - EU NEIGHBOURS east](#)

<sup>2</sup> [What is the European Year of Youth? | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [European Year of Youth 2022: EU adopts first Youth Action Plan to strengthen engagement with young people worldwide - EU NEIGHBOURS east](#)

<sup>4</sup> [What is the European Year of Youth? | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [EU4Youth Days - EU4Youth Days](#)

<sup>6</sup> [C\\_2022\\_1588\\_F1\\_COMMISSION\\_IMPLEMENTING\\_DECISION\\_EN\\_V2\\_P1\\_1853589.PDF \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> [European Council conclusions on Ukraine, the membership applications of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, Western Balkans and external relations, 23 June 2022 - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Opinion on Georgia's application for membership of the European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2022/12/12/?utm\\_source=dsms-auto&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Eastern+Partnership+Foreign+Ministers+meeting](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-ministerial-meetings/2022/12/12/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Eastern+Partnership+Foreign+Ministers+meeting)

<sup>10</sup> Since 2017, the European Union's (EU) Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) supports young people in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) through the EU4Youth programme.

<sup>11</sup> [Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C\(2022\)2421 final as regards increasing the scope and Union assistance of the annex IV Action "EU4Youth - Youth Engagement and Empowerment" \(europa.eu\)](#)

# EU4Youth Programme overview

## The EU4Youth initiative

EU4Youth, launched in 2017 and led by the European Commission's Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), aims at increasing the employability and active participation of young people in the six Eastern partner countries. The flagship programme seeks to increase investment in young people's skills, entrepreneurship and employability, and to encourage their active participation in both democratic life and the labour market. The programme tries to reach in particular disadvantaged youth, with specific attention given to gender equality and women's empowerment.

The regional EU4Youth programme is structured around three key pillars:



### EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY

Strengthening the employability of young people in the region through the targeted development of skills. This includes capacity building to create more education and employment opportunities and activities to provide and improve work-ready skills and to foster youth employability.



### ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

Increasing the entrepreneurial skills of young people involves educating both organisations and youth about (social) entrepreneurship. Understanding what young people need to secure employment and improving youth policy design through evidence-based policy recommendations are a key part of this pillar.



### ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Enhancing young people's participation in society by increasing youth awareness in terms of national policy developments. This will contribute to improvements in youth policy design and help to strengthen young people's capacity in terms of civic participation.

## GRANTS

### Small grants

In 2017 and 2018 the European Commission's DG EAC / EACEA granted 102 small projects in the region involving over 600 organisations from 37 countries, including the six Eastern partner countries. The projects focused on capacity building for youth organisations and youth workers. A few projects will end in 2023 (€ 11 million).

### Large grants

Since 2018, EU4Youth has provided grants over two phases to ten large regional projects focusing on increasing the employability, (social) entrepreneurship and participation of youth in society, aiming to trigger effects that go beyond the individual beneficiaries and contributing to potential systemic impact for reform at national levels. In early 2023, a few projects from the second phase are still ongoing (€ 14.5 million).

### Large grants

In Q1 of 2023 ca. 9 additional large projects are expected to start focusing on supporting youth participation as well as employment and entrepreneurship particularly in the areas of green and digital economies (€ 6 million). In addition, 2 grant projects have been signed so far to support societal and economic resilience in Ukraine (€ 2 million).

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### EU4Youth Coordination and Support - EY 2018-2023

Ensures the smooth coordination of the overall EU4Youth programme, and in particular the large grants launched in 2018 and 2019-2020 by supporting their monitoring, communication and visibility. This service contract further coordinates the EU4Youth Alumni Network, provides sectoral expertise for better alignment with policies and initiatives and supports key thematic activities for young people (€ 4.8 million).

### EU4Youth Youth Engagement Roadmaps - GOPA 2019-2023

Has promoted youth participation, youth employment partnerships and youth social entrepreneurship. It has supported the development of more evidence-based policy responses to the challenges faced by young people and to involve them in policy discussions. The project has used policy roundtables, and promotes the tool of policy labs in the region to facilitate youth engagement in policy making (€ 2.2 million).

### EU4Youth Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship - CPMA 2021-2025

Co-financed by Lithuania, a delegation agreement with this EU Member State's agency CPMA 2021-2025 as part of EU4Youth phase III, one component covers activities for capacity building and networking among public employment services and other stakeholders to address youth employment issues, promoting youth involvement and facilitating knowledge transfer and exchange with the EU experience on the Youth Guarantee (€ 5.02 million).

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### College of Europe (Natolin Campus - Poland) scholarships - CPMA 2021-2025

Increases the understanding of EaP youth of European politics and governance and fosters multi-cultural learning through scholarships for the College of Europe. It supports cross-cultural postgraduate studies for an estimated 75 young people from the Eastern partner countries (€ 1.10 million).

## NEXT PHASE

### EU4Youth IV: Youth engagement and empowerment - GIZ 2023-2025

Started in Q2 of 2023 through a new EU member state contribution agreement. Implemented by GIZ, and with co-financing from Germany, it aims to contribute to increasing the influence that young people in the EaP region have in determining policy outcomes, through:

1. Increased capacity of youth organisations and public institutions to jointly implement more participatory and structured policy dialogue.
2. Improved quality and outreach of youth work for mobilising and engaging more young people from remote/less advantaged areas. (€ 5 million),

## Timeline of EU4Youth key events in 2022

### JANUARY

#### Round table: Strengthening Youth Policy in Moldova

- On 18 and 19 January, a round table on 'Strengthening Youth Policy in Moldova' took place in Chisinau, where discussions on the current status of EU4Youth programme activities and the way forward in 2022 took place.

#### EU4Youth Alumni Network IdeaLab

- On 22-23 January, the EU4Youth Alumni Network held an IdeaLab event to develop initiatives for disadvantaged youth groups in local communities. A total of 73 Alumni from six different countries came together to spend two days working with 70 young representatives from the beneficiary groups.

Online trainings on **Advocacy Tools for Youth Participation in Political Decision-Making** were organised by EU4Youth Youth Engagement Roadmaps on 24 and 25 January.



### FEBRUARY

On 24 February, EU4Youth Coordination and Support organised a **workshop on communication and the use of social media** for the participants of the EU4Youth Alumni Network.



### MARCH

#### EU4Youth Crisis Communication Workshop

- On 10 March, EU4Youth Coordination and Support held a crisis communication workshop for EU4Youth Grantees to improve communication activities in crisis situations using an emergency content package addressing immediate needs related to the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

#### EU4Youth Internal Crisis Meeting

- On 30 March, an EU4Youth Internal Crisis Meeting was held in Brussels with representatives from EU4Youth Technical Assistance projects and SALTO EECA as well as DG NEAR. The participants discussed the impact of the Russian aggression in Ukraine and other events in the EaP region, such as repression in Belarus, renewed tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, political instability in Georgia, and disinformation, on young people. The meeting resulted in recommendations for addressing the changing needs of young people in the short and long term, and identified ways to strengthen the EU4Youth programme through enhanced cooperation with key stakeholders.

#### EU4Youth Steering Committee meeting

On 31 March, the EU4Youth Steering Committee meeting took place in Brussels.

#### EU4Youth Workshop on monitoring and evaluation

- The workshop, held online on 31 March, mainly addressed the monitoring and evaluation experts of the EU4Youth grant projects. It covered monitoring and evaluation under EU4Youth for the ongoing project implementers.

### APRIL

#### Launch of call for proposals for grants to develop youth employment and entrepreneurship in the Eastern Partnership

- CPMA launched the call for the next generation of EU4Youth grants for actions aiming to foster young people's digital skills, develop skills for the green transition, and improve entrepreneurial and career management skills, with a focus on disadvantaged youth.

### MAY

#### On 13 May, EU4Youth Coordination and Support launched the EU4Youth 2021 Achievements Report.

#### Enterprising for Tomorrow: Social Entrepreneurship and Youth Engagement Conference

- The event, held on 13 May, brought together leaders from the OECD, European Commission, European Investment Fund, policy and civic leaders, social entrepreneurs from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Romania and Armenia, to engage in a hybrid experience around social entrepreneurship. Organised by **Alaturi de Voi Romania Foundation (ADV)**, the event aimed to activate a space for dialogue for policymakers, international experts in the social economy, pioneers, and social innovators, to catalyse the impact of social entrepreneurship in the EAP countries and Romania.



### EU4Youth Conference in Tbilisi

- More than 100 people participated in a conference on youth challenges and opportunities in Georgia, organised on 16 May by EU4Youth Youth Engagement Roadmaps and the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN).

Council of Europe's **Youth Action Week** in Strasbourg (27 June - 2 July 2022)

EU4Youth Youth Engagements Roadmap launched the new generation of **EaP Youth Policy Labs**



### JULY

#### EU4Youth Alumni Network Evaluation Event

- The EU4Youth Alumni Network gathered in Tbilisi, Georgia, for the Phase II Final Evaluation event from 8-10 July. The two-day meeting was the first time the Alumni could meet each other in person since the start of the 10 months cycle (due to COVID-19 restrictions) and exchange best practices, share challenges and reflect on what more could be done for future projects.

On 21 July, the **Unlocking project** (led by the Gustav-Stresemann-Institut) came to an end, having helped young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine to launch social start-ups. The closing conference was attended by a total of 150 participants, including 50 onsite and 100 online.

#### EU4Youth scholarships

- Ten students from Eastern Partnership countries that received EU4Youth-sponsored scholarships graduated from College of Europe in Natolin.

### AUGUST

#### Launch of call for applications for EU4Youth Alumni Network

- The call for the applications for the third cycle of the programme was launched on 19 August.



### SEPTEMBER

On 14 September, the Mercy Corps-led **EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship project in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)** project came to an end. The project closing event was organised on 14 September with 79 participants and 26 attending online.

**Social Innovation Impact - a strategic partnership project** led by ADV Romania launched the **first interactive map of social enterprises** from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine.

### OCTOBER

On 4 October, the EU adopted the first **Youth Action Plan** to strengthen engagement with young people worldwide.

#### EU4Youth Days

- On 11 and 12 October DG NEAR's European Year of Youth flagship event brought together more than 150 youth workers and practitioners, policy makers and researchers from the Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans and Türkiye, and the Southern Neighbourhood. In the framework of the EU4Youth Days, the EU4Youth Award Ceremony took place. Representatives of 5 projects implemented in the framework of EU4Youth Phase I and II were invited to present their projects and received awards in different categories that were based on the individual projects' reports and monitoring results.

In May as well as in October, the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team conducted **monitoring visits** to observe the status of the ongoing grant projects.



### NOVEMBER

#### National onboarding workshops for EU4Youth Alumni

- On 12 and 13 December the EU4Youth programme had an open exchange with stakeholders and experts concerned with youth participation, youth employability, self-sustainment of livelihoods and inclusion of young people exiled and/or forced to relocate to other EaP countries, or still present within the country's borders in Vilnius, Lithuania.

### DECEMBER

#### Round table: Addressing the needs of Belarusian youth in the EU4Youth Programme

- On 12 and 13 December the EU4Youth programme had an open exchange with stakeholders and experts concerned with youth participation, youth employability, self-sustainment of livelihoods and inclusion of young people exiled and/or forced to relocate to other EaP countries, or still present within the country's borders in Vilnius, Lithuania.

On 31 December, the **'School Garden' for Agricultural Entrepreneurship project** (led by Green Cross Belarus) came to an end.

# BUILDING PATHS FOR A STRONGER YOUNG GENERATION

## ENGAGEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

## EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT

Policy Labs

START-UPS

Alumni Network

TRAINING

INTERNSHIPS

STAKEHOLDERS

policy discussions

WORKSHOPS

MENTORSHIP

Roundtables

Career guidance

Innovation Hubs

Capacity building



## CHAPTER 2



### EU4YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS 2022

This Chapter reports on the main impacts achieved in 2022 by five grantees under EU4Youth phase II, one grantee under EU4Youth phase III, the Technical Assistance projects (EU4Youth Coordination and Support by EY, Youth Engagement Roadmaps implemented by GOPA, and the Youth Employment component by CPMA), as well as College of Europe Scholarships. In addition, this chapter highlights the success stories of the implementers and the challenges faced over this period. The data was collected through (1) bi-annual monitoring visits; (2) bi-annual quantitative data collection from the different projects; and (3) the EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey.<sup>12</sup>

It is worth mentioning that less data was reported for this year, since the large grants under phase II prepared to close their projects and had implemented most of their activities planned over the previous year(s). The first half of the year was challenging for the grantees

implementing activities in Ukraine. Most of them had to cancel or readjust the scope of their activities due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Despite the complicated circumstances, some of the activities were relaunched later and/or shifted to a web-based or hybrid mode.

<sup>12</sup> More details on the EU4Youth monitoring process can be found in Annex A.

## MILESTONES – 2022

50%

of the total competence development activities focused on entrepreneurship

65%

of the beneficiaries (strongly) agree that the support increased their confidence in finding a job

75

alumni implemented 50 different initiatives across five Eastern partner countries



### EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

#### INCREASED WORK READINESS SKILLS

##### Competence development activities

In 2022, a total of 468 competence development activities were undertaken across five countries. These include workshops, seminars, study visits, trainings and other related activities which helped the beneficiaries to increase their employability and social skills adapted to the current labour market.

##### Examples of activities implemented include:

- trainings for young people to improve fundamental business and social enterprise skills, in particular on fundraising, business development, financial accounting, planning and reporting;
- cross-border study tours (e.g. between Georgia and Armenia) offering a good opportunity for interaction and showcasing linkages among beneficiaries;
- study tours organised in Belarus between rural schools and business incubators to introduce modern/organic agricultural technologies and business.

Training

Study tours

Workshops



Results of the end beneficiary survey show that **training** is the most popular form of support received by the end beneficiaries.

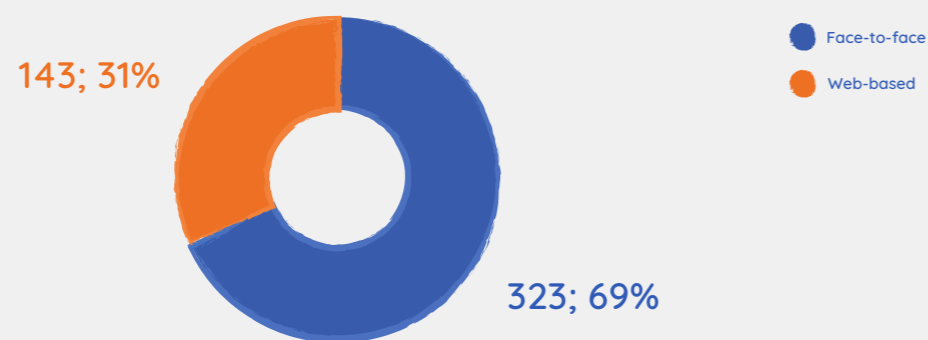
The first half of the year was challenging for implementers who planned their activities in Ukraine. Due to the Russian invasion that began on 24 February 2022, many of the activities were cancelled or postponed with an adjusted scope to the context. In addition, new activities such as crisis management were considered by the implementers to support future social entrepreneurs.

Over the last year, almost 70% of the activities were organised in-person with the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, project implementers could again meet with beneficiaries

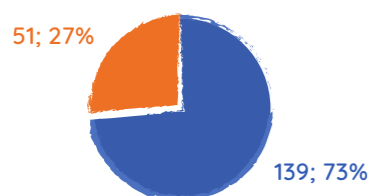
and have face-to-face interactions. However, the figures below show that this is not the case in Ukraine and in Belarus where fewer than 30% of activities were held face-to-face, mainly due to the current political situations in these countries.

**70%**  
of the total activities were held face-to-face (323 activities)

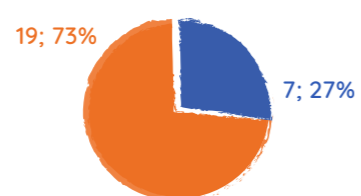
Number of face-to-face and online competence development activities, 2022 (N=468)



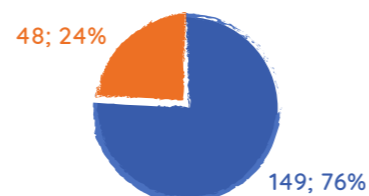
Competence Development Activities, Armenia



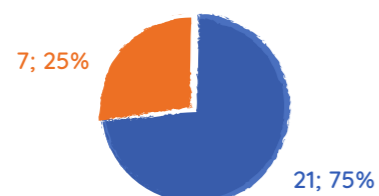
Competence Development Activities, Belarus



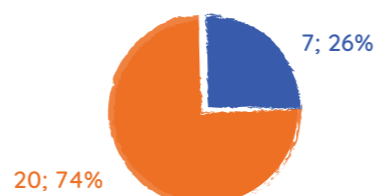
Competence Development Activities, Georgia



Competence Development Activities, Moldova



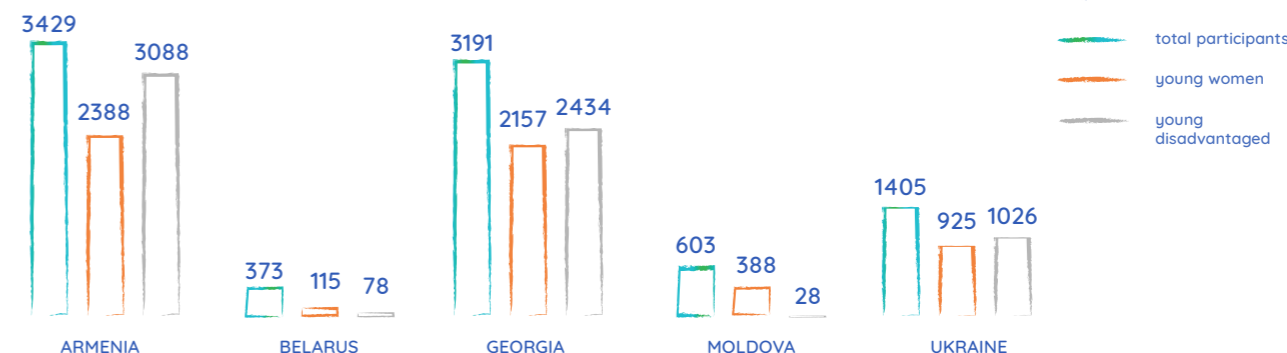
Competence Development Activities, Ukraine



In 2022, more than 9,000 young participants took part in competence development activities, 66% of whom were young women and 73% were disadvantaged<sup>13</sup>. Most of the participants came from Armenia, making up almost 40% of the total.

**66%** were young women  
**73%** were disadvantaged

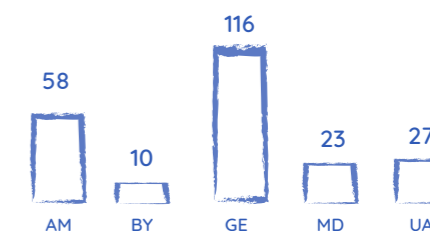
Number of participants in competence development activities, 2022 (N=9001)



Activities focusing on entrepreneurship

Out of the total competence development activities implemented in 2022, **50% (234) were focused on (social) entrepreneurship**. Almost half of these activities took place in Georgia, followed by Armenia with almost 25%.

Competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship, 2022 (N=234)



Project - EU4Youth School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship

*"We started a small business of growing snails in our school. This new knowledge, the discoveries and experience we gained open new earning opportunities for us in rural areas."*

— Valeria Kravchenko (centre), pupil at the Boroviki school

With EU4Youth support, pupils in 13 Belarusian schools started to learn the basics of business and marketing and received their first entrepreneurial experience in school business initiatives.

<sup>13</sup> The identification of 'disadvantaged' participants is carried out by the grant projects individually and then reported to the monitoring team. The definition of 'disadvantaged' from the Erasmus+ programme guide was shared with the projects as a reference for them to collect this data.

### Mentorships

In 2022, 19 new mentors were onboarded by the grant implementers and **132 mentees were closely guided** in different mentorship initiatives (e.g. writing a business plan, conducting a market study or a SWOT analysis).

For example:

- In Ukraine, some of the topics proposed for the mentorship sessions had to be adapted considering the war context.
- In Georgia, more mentors were hired to provide additional support to beneficiaries on marketing and branding and on loan procedures and applications.



Mentorship and mobility activities are the type of support which allow for the **largest positive impact on the change of occupational status.**

### Jobs and business fairs

Over the last year, a total of **six jobs and business fairs** were organised by two large grantees. The majority of these job fairs were held in Armenia and Georgia, attracting almost 600 participants.

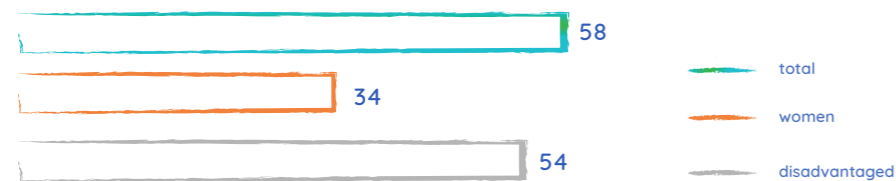
- The EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development SEED (CENN) project organised two job fairs in Armenia. One in Tavush region where around 40 companies were present, including leading banks. Nearly 300 young people attended the JobFest. The second job fair was organised in the Shirak region of Armenia gathering around 40 employers proposing 400 vacancies.
- The EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG) (Mercy Corps) organised a further four job fairs. These were mainly business fairs where young people could present and sell their products.

### Internships and apprenticeships

Under the EU4Youth project support, young people had the chance to gain professional learning experiences in different private organisations.

In 2022, **58 young people took part in an internship/apprenticeship**, most of them in Georgia and Armenia, 93% of whom were disadvantaged and 58% young women.

Number of participants in internships and apprenticeships, 2022



In Georgia, **20 disadvantaged youth from Gori municipality** were trained and had the opportunity to work for a greenhouse.

### Certification and validation of learning

In 2022, **348 young people received certificates** in the Green and Social Entrepreneurship course organised by EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development SEED (CENN).



Since 2018, **1,636 young job seekers** completed a certification and/or validation

...almost **75% were women** and **67% disadvantaged people**

### Increased confidence to find a job



For 2022, the EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey shows that 63% of the respondents agree that their confidence increased in finding a job after being involved in the EU4Youth projects; nearly 75% of them are women, and 47% disadvantaged. 18% of the total respondents of the survey started to look for a job after the support ended.

The EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey reveals that **1,436 respondents** were not in education before the support started;

**9%** of them (129) started going to school after receiving support.



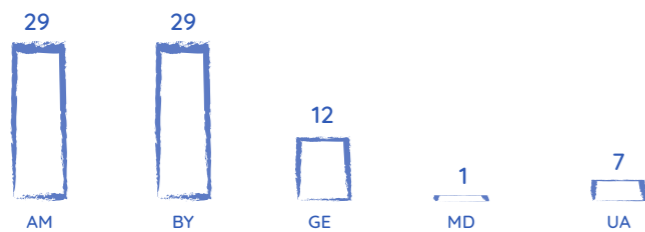
## INCREASED CAPACITY TO DELIVER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Educational resources

In 2022, **two new formal educational resources** were developed by the grantees (curriculum on social enterprise and an IT manual on agriculture) and **three were put into practice (all focused on organic agriculture and business)**.

Over the years, a total of **78 new formal educational resources** were developed by EU4Youth projects.

Number of new formal educational resources developed since 2018 (N=78)



### Youth Educators

EU4Youth projects have contributed to the development and training of youth educators from different countries over the years.

In the first half of 2022, **40 new youth educators** were trained under the **EU4Youth: School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship (Green Cross Belarus)** project. This involved in particular courses related to organic agriculture methods and techniques.

A few examples:

Manual on Circular Economy developed in Armenia

Social Entrepreneurship courses in Ukraine

Manual on Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Belarus



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EMPLOYMENT

### ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

#### Financial assistance

In 2022, **85 young people** received financial assistance in starting or further developing their business.



Project - **EU4Youth Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine**

*“The EU grant supported the building of an arena, allowing the Centre to reach a new level and become a fully-fledged social enterprise.”*

— Anna Derkach

Anna is a founder of the Hippotherapy and Development Centre, which uses horses to help physical rehabilitation among people with disabilities. EU4Youth supported the growth of her social enterprise to make her services accessible to a greater number of young people with disabilities.

Project - **EU4Youth Social Innovation Impact - A Strategic Partnership**

*“Without the EU4Youth grant, I don’t think I could have put my idea into practice. Thanks to the grant I was able to rent a premises, purchase electrical and manual tools to process different materials.”*

— Romanița Alexeev

The first upcycling studio in Moldova was founded by Romanița, a social entrepreneur from Chișinău. With an EU4Youth grant, she launched this social venture to save and recycle the many good things that often end up in the rubbish. It is now a place where creative reinventors give fabulous new lives to old objects.



• In Ukraine, under the EU4Youth phase III project **Support for internally displaced persons and youth entrepreneurs (SpivDiia' Charity Fund)**, 50 micro/small business who were impacted by the war received financial assistance (up to EUR 2,000) to support their business recovery.

The top three main areas supported were:

- (1) food production;
- (2) production of clothes and accessories;
- (3) agricultural production.

In addition to the financial assistance provided this year, the 'SpivDiia' team helped **227 Ukrainian entrepreneurs with technical assistance**.

UA

Project - **EU4Youth Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship**

*"The EU funding helped my business greatly, as it enabled me to purchase the basic materials needed to produce the yogurt."*

— Andriy Gdovskyi

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the life of 33-year-old Andriy, the owner of the Super Yogurt business, was turned upside down. EU4Youth helped him to revive his business and turn it into a humanitarian initiative, supporting old people, shelters, hospitals and kindergartens.



Across all editions of the EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey, 133 respondents tried to open an enterprise and 67% of them were able to do so.

In 2022, almost 29% of the respondents of the EU4Youth survey reported that the support they received had focused on improving general entrepreneurial skills, 27% on social entrepreneurial skills, and almost 14% on green entrepreneurial skills.

**29%**

improved general entrepreneurial skills

**27%**

improved social entrepreneurial skills

**14%**

improved green entrepreneurial skills

GE

Project - **EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities**

*"My goal was to do something in Akhmeta, to set an example for others. If it had not been for EU support, this dream would not have become a reality."*

— Avto Chikadze

34-year-old Avto from Akhmeta in Georgia could never have imagined that one day he would have his own workshop. EU4Youth helped him to turn his hobby into a successful business and open a furniture showroom.



Building start-ups

In 2022, **21 start-ups were created in the first half of year; and were running for more than six months after their creation**.

In terms of fields of activity, two entrepreneurs from Moldova focused their businesses on growing strawberries and growing sweet peppers and eggplants.

In the case of the **EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG) (Mercy Corps)** and **EU4Youth: Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine (Gustav-Stresemann-Institute (GSI))** projects, the owners opened their businesses in different domains such as production and trade of e.g. biofuel feedstock from plant residues, pet food, wooden toys and ceramic decor and utensils.

Due to the war in Ukraine, some of the start-ups that opened in 2021 had to close as their owners moved into military services.

Project - **EU4Youth Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia**

*"We started with a small step — a few machines only for plastic processing. After a few months we had a machine that almost produces products from plastic, thanks to the EU4Youth project."*

— Edgar Chatinyan

The presence of plastic waste in the region motivated Edgar from Armenia to establish the 'Ed Plast' social enterprise with EU4Youth support. The enterprise aims to solve environmental challenges and create employment opportunities for youth and physically challenged people.





In 2022, seven business owners responded to the EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey: six out of seven are still successfully running their business.

- Throughout the years, the EU4Youth survey shows that business created by women are on average the ones employing the least employees, but they are the ones running the longest.

More than 50% of respondents selected lack of access to finance as the main reason not to establish a business

Beneficiaries' confidence to open a business

- Respondents from the 2022 edition of the EU4Youth survey feel **more confident** in opening a business than respondents from previous years.
- Respondents who received mentorship, internships or grant support are the ones with the highest confidence in opening a business.

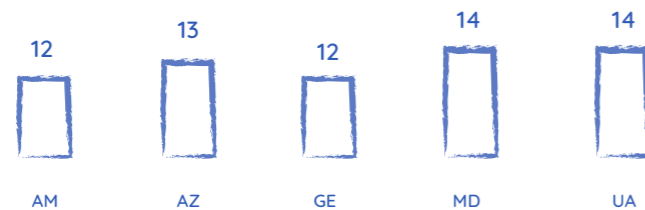
## YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

### Stakeholders involved

Under the EU4Youth: Youth Engagement Roadmaps (GOPA) project, the grounds have been prepared to develop Youth Employment Partnerships in the Eastern partner countries. In 2022, a total of **65 stakeholders** were involved in related discussions.

Related work is continued under the EU4Youth - Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (CPMA) project. Discussions with Public Employment Services (PES) were started on the introduction of a benchmarking methodology, including a common assessment framework and definition of mandatory (qualitative and quantitative) indicators.

Number of stakeholders involved in youth employment partnerships, 2022 (N=65)



## ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

### YOUTH RELATED POLICIES

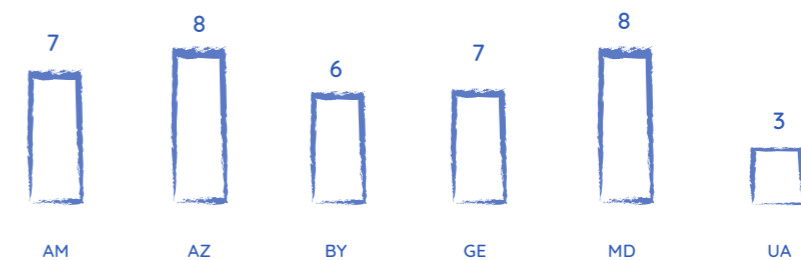
Over the years, EU4Youth projects have developed policy and legislative recommendations with the aim of improving youth education, entrepreneurship and participation. In 2022, **three more policy recommendations were added to the total amount of 118 policy related initiatives** since 2019. These refer mainly to the development of social entrepreneurship, and the challenges and opportunity for development of social enterprises in Georgia developed by EU4Youth: Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia - SEAG (Mercy Corps).

### Enhanced youth participation in policy development

Under the EU4Youth: Youth Engagement Roadmaps (GOPA) project, **39 youth-related policy discussions** were held in 2022. These include six Youth Policy Labs, each consisting of three rounds of discussions conducted around various topics, such as the 'Inclusive Youth Lab', 'Youth Participation in Society and Economy', 'Youth entrepreneurship and Social entrepreneurship'. Likewise, this includes

trainings (e.g. on Public Policy and Policy Analysis, on Indicators for Self-Assessment as Part of Public Employment Service Benchmarking Approach, on Strengthening Citizen Engagement and Youth Participation in Political Decision-Making in Ukraine), workshops and round table discussions.<sup>14</sup> These youth-related policy events gathered **467 participants, 64% of whom were young women**.

Number of youth-related policy discussions, 2022 (N=39)



<sup>14</sup> Note that the regional events or those covering multiple countries are counted in each country.

MD



Project - EU4Youth Youth Engagement Roadmaps

“The Policy Lab format allowed the creation of a dialogue space between different parties interested in the topic of transition from education to the labour market. It helped us bring decision-makers to a more innovative and inclusive policy approach.”

— Mariana Iatco, Policy Lab participant  
EU4Youth - Youth Engagement Roadmaps organised and carried out 6 Policy Labs in all six Eastern partner countries with the aim of reducing the gap between the policy making elites and ordinary citizens who are supposed to benefit from policy initiatives.

The EU4Youth Alumni Network brings together former participants of EU-sponsored programmes, and contributes to the inclusion of disadvantaged young people. In the last finalised cycle until July 2022, 75 alumni developed and implemented 50 different initiatives in their local communities across five Eastern partner countries. Through all the initiatives together, the Network reached more than 870 young beneficiaries in each country.



37% of respondents to the EU4Youth end-beneficiary survey answered that EU4Youth Alumni support helped them to become active citizens. Among the younger respondents, over 54% became active citizens (compared to only 20% of the 31-35-year-olds). Overall, this percentage increased over the past 4 years. The specific country context, however, does have a clear influence as much lower percentages are found in Belarus and Ukraine (18% and 11% respectively) than in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova.

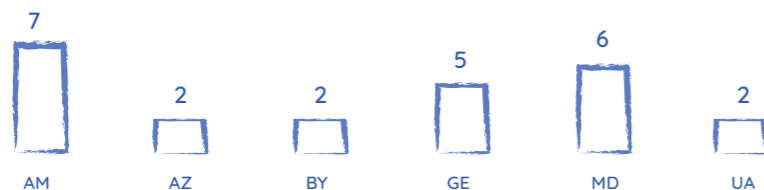
Scholarships

The College of Europe (Natolin campus, Poland) awarded 24 scholarships to young students coming from the Eastern partner countries for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic years. The scholarships cover tuition fees, full board and lodging on campus. The scholarships offer academic opportunities to young people from

Eastern partner countries along with the ability to improve their knowledge and competence about the European Union.

Until 2025, the College of Europe aims to award 51 more scholarships to young people from the Eastern partner countries.

Total number of scholarships, 2022 (N=24)



INCREASED CAPACITY OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND YOUTH GROUPS

Capacity building for youth structures

Since the start of the EU4Youth Alumni network, a total of 148 youth groups and structures were formed and supported under EU4Youth project support.

Project - EU4Youth Coordination and Support

“As EU4Youth Alumni, we wanted to develop the social skills of young people with Down’s syndrome and support their access to education and employment. It was a very rewarding experience.”

— Alishir Boyukkhanli and Sabina Mammadova

With their project designed through the EU4Youth Alumni Network, Alishir and Sabina worked with young people with Down’s syndrome to help them put their educational strengths to work.



COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

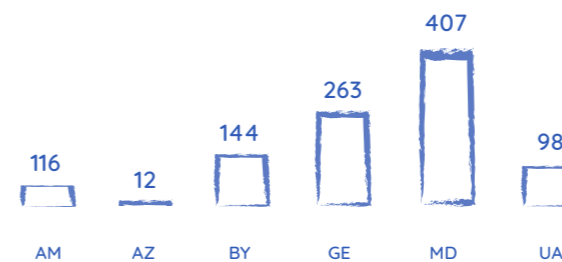
PROJECT COMMUNICATION

In 2022, a total of 1,040 unique communication materials were produced, developed and distributed across the different projects, resulting in more than 280,000 audience engagements.<sup>15</sup>

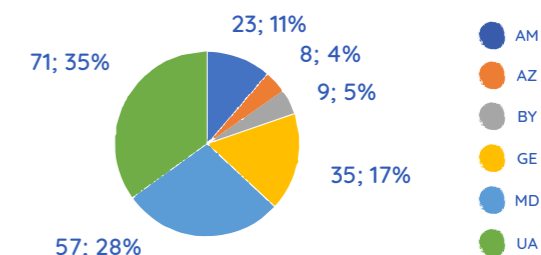
The communication materials reached more than 1.9 million people across six Eastern partner countries.

More than 200 awareness-raising events (both online and in-person) were organised for the wider public. Most of the events took place in Ukraine (35%) and were prepared by the EU4Youth phase III Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship - Grant Scheme of Charitable organization “SpivDiia” Charity fund, which started to promote its activities and opportunities from the very start of their project.

Number of communication materials produced, developed and distributed, 2022 (N=1040)



Total number of awareness raising events, 2022 (N=203)

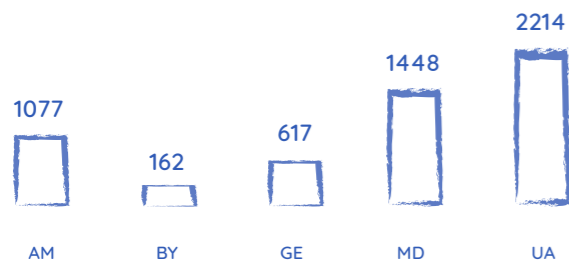


<sup>15</sup> Engagements are reported in terms of copies distributed, page views online of the material and/or social media comments, likes, shares. Social media reach corresponds to the number of social media users who received a post or an event update to their newsfeeds of project-related updates. As this is an indicator of audience size, it is much larger than the engagement indicator.

- Nearly 30% of the total awareness raising events were held in Moldova, and the major contributor was the **EU4Youth: Social Innovation Impact – A Strategic Partnership (ADV)** project, with more than 40 organised events.

- In Ukraine, the implementers under the **EU4Youth: Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine (GSI)** project adapted the topics and concept of awareness raising campaigns to more strategic communication and planning due to the war.

Number of young people reached through awareness raising events, 2022



More than 5,500 young people were reached through awareness raising events in 2022



- 85% out of the total survey respondents (1,986) found the application for support easy.
- Respondents identified mobility programmes as the most complex type of support to apply for.

## PROGRAMME COMMUNICATION

The EU4Youth Coordination and Support (EY) team has been actively supporting the different EU4Youth projects in the development of communication materials and creating awareness on ongoing activities within the EU4Youth programme.

### Key numbers in 2022



- 27,000 page visitors to the [www.euforyouth.eu](http://www.euforyouth.eu) webpage
- 49,000 page views to the EU4Youth webpage
- 7 newsletter editions, 21 in total since 2019



Once again, the significant multiplier effect of the EU4Youth projects was seen among respondents. In 2022, the EU4Youth survey revealed that 84% of respondents shared information about the EU4Youth projects with others.

More than half of the respondents in the 2022 edition of the EU4Youth survey were able to identify the European Union as the organisation funding EU4Youth projects.

**EU4YOUTH DAYS 2022**

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

The 2022 EU4Youth Days were organised on 11 and 12 October, gathering young people, policy makers, researchers, youth workers and practitioners from the Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans and Türkiye, and the Southern Neighbourhood.

Over two days, participants had the opportunity to discuss and debate relevant subjects such as youth employment and entrepreneurship, the green transition, youth participation and digitalisation.

More than **160 participants** attended the event in person in Brussels and over **1,400 joined online**.



## AWARDS

The Youth Days provided the opportunity to award the EU4Youth grant projects active in 2022 for their achievements in the field of youth empowerment, inclusion and participation.

Project	Award category
EU4YOUTH PHASE I - 'School Garden' for Agricultural Entrepreneurship	Excellence in Rural Outreach
EU4YOUTH PHASE II - Social Innovation Impact - A Strategic Partnership	Excellence in raising public awareness on social entrepreneurship
EU4YOUTH PHASE II - Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities	Excellence in green social entrepreneurship education
EU4YOUTH PHASE II - Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine	Excellence in Advocacy and Policy Dialogue
EU4YOUTH PHASE II - Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)	Excellence in training and youth skills development

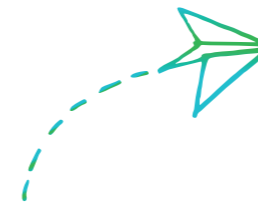




# EU4Youth in ARMENIA

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Grant scheme – digital skills and youth entrepreneurship <sup>16</sup>		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Youth employment – capacity building of institutions		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• College of Europe, Natolin – scholarships and research fellows		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)	Mercy Corps Europe	AM – GE			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network Association (CENN)	AM – GE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE I (ENI 2016/2017)</b>										
Fostering potential for greater employability	Danish Red Cross	AM – BY – GE	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Employability and Stability	SOS Children's Villages	AM – BY – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓				
SAY YES – Skills for Jobs	World Vision	AM – GE	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Better Skills for a Better Future	Save the Children	AM – GE – UA	✓	✓	✓					

<sup>16</sup> At the time of writing this report, the recipients of the next generation of EU4Youth grants have not been published yet.



## Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in Armenia since 2018

### Competence development activities

EU4Youth has helped over **12,630 young participants** to gain new skills through **713 face-to-face competence development activities**.

### Youth educators

EU4Youth has trained almost **670 youth educators** as part of various projects.

### Mentorship

Almost **140 mentors** provided mentorships and guidance to more than **1,235 mentees** in the 2018-2022 period.

### Certification

**343 job seekers completed certification** and/or validation process since 2018, of whom almost 75% were women and more than 95% were disadvantaged youth.

### Stakeholders

More than **290 stakeholders** were involved in (non-) formal education, employment mechanism and internships.

### Start-ups

**55 start-ups** have been launched with support from EU4Youth projects.

### Policy strategy and legislative recommendations

**30 policy strategies or legislative recommendations** to improve youth education, entrepreneurship and participation have been developed.

### Capacity building

**34 capacity-building programmes** were implemented by EU4Youth projects since 2018.

### Scholarships

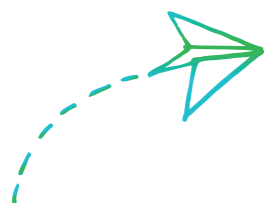
**7 scholarships** were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic year.

### Alumni Network

**25 alumni** participated in the 2020-2022 finalised cycles, organising almost **280 activities** under different initiatives, involving more than **300 beneficiaries**.

# EU4Youth in AZERBAIJAN

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Grant scheme – digital skills and youth entrepreneurship		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Youth employment – capacity building of institutions		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• College of Europe, Natolin – scholarships and research fellows		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		



## Alumni Network

### Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in Azerbaijan since 2018

25 alumni participated in the 2020-2022 finalised cycles, organising more than 140 activities under different initiatives, involving almost 300 beneficiaries.

## Scholarships

2 scholarships were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic year.

## Youth civic participation and leadership

A total of 28 policy events were conducted in 2022; 526 young people took part and 54% (286) of the participants were young women.

## Youth employment partnerships

In total, 47 stakeholders were involved in the youth employment partnership events that were organised as part of the Youth Engagement Roadmaps project since 2020.



# EU4Youth in BELARUS<sup>17</sup>

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
<b>Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship</b>  • Grant scheme – digital skills and youth entrepreneurship • Youth employment – capacity building of institutions • College of Europe, Natolin – scholarships and research fellows	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
		Regional								
		Regional								
		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE I (ENI 2016/2017)</b>										
School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship	Green Cross Belarus	BY – MD – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fostering potential for greater employability	Danish Red Cross	AM – BY – GE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Employability and Stability	SOS Children's Villages	AM – BY – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

## Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in Belarus since 2018

### Competence development activities

EU4Youth has helped over **7,045 young participants** gain new skills through **145 face-to-face competence development activities**.

### Youth educators trained

EU4Youth has trained almost **360 youth educators** as part of various projects.

### Mentorship

More than **810 young people** have received mentorships from almost **100 mentors** involved through EU4Youth, in areas such as career orientation or developing a business.

### Stakeholders

More than **140 stakeholders** were involved in (non-) formal education, employment mechanism and internships.

### Starting your business

**18 start-ups** have been launched (since 2019) with support from EU4Youth projects.

### Certification

More than **150 job seekers** completed certification and/or validation process since 2018.

### Scholarships

**2 scholarships** were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 academic year.

### Alumni Network

**7 alumni** participated, developing more than **100 activities** under **6 initiatives**, involving almost 150 beneficiaries.

<sup>17</sup> In line with the Council Conclusions of 12 October 2020 and in light of Belarus's involvement in the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, recognised in the European Council Conclusions of February 2022, the EU has stopped engaging with Belarusian authorities. The EU focuses on intensifying cooperation with non-state stakeholders, including notably civil society, independent media and youth via its relevant cooperation programmes.

# EU4Youth in GEORGIA

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Grant scheme - digital skills and youth entrepreneurship		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Youth employment - capacity building of institutions		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• College of Europe, Natolin - scholarships and research fellows		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Social Entrepreneurship in Armenia and Georgia (SEAG)	Mercy Corps Europe	AM - GE			✓	✓	✓			
Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development (SEED) Programme for Green Growth in Borderline Communities	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network Association (CENN)	AM - GE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE I (ENI 2016/2017)</b>										
Fostering potential for greater employability	Danish Red Cross	AM - BY - GE	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Enhancing Youth Education, Employment and Participation in Conflict-affected Areas in Georgia and Ukraine	Danish Refugee Council	GE - UA	✓	✓	✓	✓				
SAY YES - Skills for Jobs	World Vision	AM - GE	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Better Skills for a Better Future	Save the Children	AM - GE - UA	✓	✓	✓					

## Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in Georgia since 2018



- Competence development activities**

EU4Youth has helped nearly **10,480** young participants gain new skills through **610 face-to-face competence development activities**.
- Internships and apprenticeships**

**496** young people have taken on an internship or apprenticeship facilitated by EU4Youth, of whom **73% were women** and **56% were disadvantaged**.
- Mentorship**

Almost **550** young people have received mentorships from more than **165 mentors** involved in EU4Youth projects, in areas such as career orientation or developing a business.
- Certification**

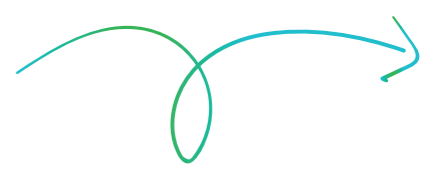
More than **850** job seekers completed certification and/or validation process since 2019, of whom almost **73% were women** and nearly **40% were disadvantaged** young people.
- Financial support to start a business**

**30** young people received financial support, **70% of whom were women**, and **50% were disadvantaged** youth.
- Improved policy frame**

**29** policy strategies or legislative recommendations to improve youth education, entrepreneurship and participation have been developed.
- Scholarships**

**5** scholarships were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic year.
- Alumni Network**

**24** alumni participated in the finalised cycles (2020-2022), developing more than **170** activities under **16** initiatives, involving more than **310** beneficiaries.



# EU4Youth in THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Grant scheme – digital skills and youth entrepreneurship										
• Youth employment – capacity building of institutions										
• College of Europe, Natolin – scholarships and research fellows										
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine	Gustav Stresemann Institute (GSI)	MD – UA			✓	✓	✓			
Social Innovation Impact – a strategic partnership	Alaturi de Voi Romania Foundation	MD – UA			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE I (ENI 2016/2017)</b>										
School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship	Green Cross Belarus	BY – MD – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

## Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in the Republic of Moldova since 2018

### Competence development activities

More than **1,840** young participants gained new skills through **50** face-to-face competence development activities.

### Youth educators trained

EU4Youth has trained **66** youth educators as part of various projects.

### Improved entrepreneurial skills

Over **50** competence development activities focused on entrepreneurship, gathering more than **1,200** young participants.

### Alumni Network

For the finalised cycles (2020-2022), **25** alumni organised more than **170** activities aimed at strengthening the inclusion of disadvantaged youth, reaching almost **340** beneficiaries.

### Start-ups

**6** start-ups have been launched with support from EU4Youth projects.

### Youth employment partnerships

**43** stakeholders were involved in the youth employment partnership events that were organised as part of the Youth Engagement Roadmaps project (2020-2022).

### Stakeholders

More than **110** stakeholders were involved in (non-) formal education, employment mechanism and internships.

### Scholarship

**6** scholarships were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic year.

# EU4Youth in UKRAINE

Project name	Lead implementer	Countries	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-...
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE IV (NDICI 2021)</b>										
Youth Engagement and Empowerment (upcoming)	GIZ	Regional						✓	✓	✓
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE III (ENI 2020)</b>										
Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship	Central Project Management Agency (CPMA) Lithuania	Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• Grant scheme – digital skills and youth entrepreneurship		Regional					✓	✓		
• Youth employment – capacity building of institutions		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
• College of Europe, Natolin – scholarships and research fellows		Regional					✓	✓	✓	✓
EU4Youth Coordination and Support	EY	Regional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE II (ENI 2018)</b>										
Unlocking the potential of young social entrepreneurs in Moldova and Ukraine	Gustav Stresemann Institute (GSI)	MD – UA			✓	✓	✓			
Social Innovation Impact – a strategic partnership	Alaturi de Voi Romania Foundation	MD – UA			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Youth Engagement Roadmaps	GOPA	Regional		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
<b>EU4YOUTH PHASE I (ENI 2016/2017)</b>										
School Garden for Agricultural Entrepreneurship	Green Cross Belarus	BY – MD – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Enhancing Youth Education, Employment and Participation in Conflict-affected Areas in Georgia and Ukraine	Danish Refugee Council	GE – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Employability and Stability	SOS Children's Villages	AM – BY – UA	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Better Skills for a Better Future	Save the Children	AM – GE – UA	✓	✓	✓					



## Highlights of the EU4Youth programme in Ukraine since 2018

<b>Competence development activities</b>	EU4Youth has helped over <b>2,600 young participants</b> gain new skills through <b>135 face-to-face competence development activities</b> .
<b>Stakeholders</b>	More than <b>630 stakeholders</b> were involved in (non-) formal education, employment mechanism and internships.
<b>Mentorship</b>	Over <b>510 young people</b> have received mentorships through EU4Youth in areas such as career orientation or developing a business.
<b>Certification</b>	Nearly <b>290 job seekers</b> completed certification and/or validation process since 2019, of whom almost <b>85% were women</b> .
<b>Financial support to start a business</b>	<b>323 young people</b> have received financial support, <b>66% of whom were women</b> , and <b>94% were disadvantaged youth</b> .
<b>Start-ups</b>	<b>36 start-ups</b> have been launched (since 2019) with support from EU4Youth projects.
<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>2 scholarships</b> were offered by the College of Europe for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 academic year.
<b>Youth participation in policy development</b>	<b>340 participants</b> joined Policy Labs and other policy events organised as part of the Youth Engagement Roadmaps project (since 2020).
<b>Alumni Network</b>	<b>30 alumni</b> participated in the finalised cycles (2020-2022), developing more than <b>210 activities under 19 initiatives</b> , involving <b>360 beneficiaries</b> .



# CHAPTER 3

BY

Young people played a crucial role in the mass protest movement demanding a democratic transition after the rigged presidential elections in 2020. Many young people have been forced into exile after severe repression since 2020. The Strategy for the Development of the National Youth Policy in the Republic of Belarus 2021-2030 was adopted in June 2021. A number of independent NGOs have been closed and participation in non-registered organisations/initiatives has been criminalised. Banned youth organisations relocated to EU and other EaP countries continue providing online non-formal learning, training and other possibilities from abroad to young people inside Belarus.

UA

Young people struggle for survival, with much work outside usual fields to assist those in need. Young people have been leading the humanitarian response and have demonstrated extraordinary results. The effectiveness of the youth sector has been recognised both by the state as well as the international donor community, resulting in new supported programmes and youth centres opening in Ukraine.

MD

After playing an important role in the last Presidential (2020) and Parliamentary Elections (2021), young people had a stronger interest in developing youth policy in the Republic of Moldova. In August 2020, the National Youth Agency in Moldova was created, which started operating only in January 2023. The National Youth Strategy was drafted in late 2022.

## 5 years of EU4Youth: Connecting the dots

The EU4Youth programme, launched by DG NEAR in 2017, has the mission to empower young people in the six Eastern partner countries by enhancing their employability and employment as well as active involvement in society. Over the past 5 years, the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team has been working to support coordination and create synergies between the various EU4Youth implementing partners with a programme logic that connects also with other initiatives, ensuring that individual project outcomes are interlinked and complementary.

As we reach the 5-year milestone of the programme, it is a good moment to take stock and reflect on the impact EU4Youth has had on the Eastern Partnership region's youth policy context. The past 5 years have been marked by various challenges and disruptions, such

as political instability, ongoing conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russian aggression against Ukraine. These events have greatly affected youth policies of the Eastern partner countries and have left a lasting impact on the lives of young people in the region.

Despite these challenges, as evidence shows, EU4Youth has been able to make a positive impact on young people's education and employability, entrepreneurship and employment, and engagement and empowerment. The programme has been able to adapt and evolve to the changing political and societal landscape, which is a testament to its agility and effectiveness. As we look towards the future, the EU4Youth programme will continue to play a vital role in creating opportunities and empowering young people in the Eastern Partnership region.

GE

The State Youth Strategy 2023-2026 and the action plan for 2023 were adopted by the government of Georgia in December 2022. Through six strategic goals, the document addresses the topics of youth development, enhancement of the health and well-being of young people, economic empowerment, youth participation in public and democratic processes, and improvement of the youth policy management system.

AZ

The youth sector in the country is expecting the third State Programme on Youth (2023-2027). Young people are concerned about the lack of decent employment opportunities and quality education, gender equality and youth participation in decision-making processes. Young people have a growing interest in citizenship education and community engagement resulting in new community building initiatives and increased access to opportunities.

AM

After playing a critical role in the Velvet Revolution in 2018, some young leaders received political and administrative positions in the public sector. The increased interest for public affairs among young people in Armenia shifted towards security and social issues after the 2020 war and 2022 military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the youth policy domain, the government's priority is the development of the Employment Strategy and Law on Youth.



## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY

The EU4Youth programme puts young people at the centre of attention. The programme is not just about supporting youth, but deliberately engages the young in creating and building their own opportunities. Particularly under the pillar of education and employability, activities focused on the direct involvement of young people, especially the most disadvantaged among them. Through competence development activities, mentorships, traineeships, and the certification and validation of skills developments, disadvantaged youth have been given the practical tools to take action and have been empowered to create their own opportunities to achieve positive change.

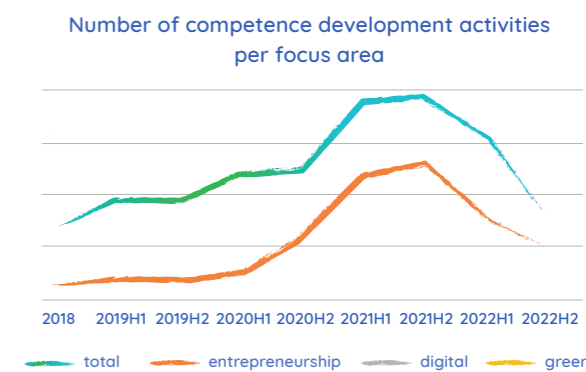
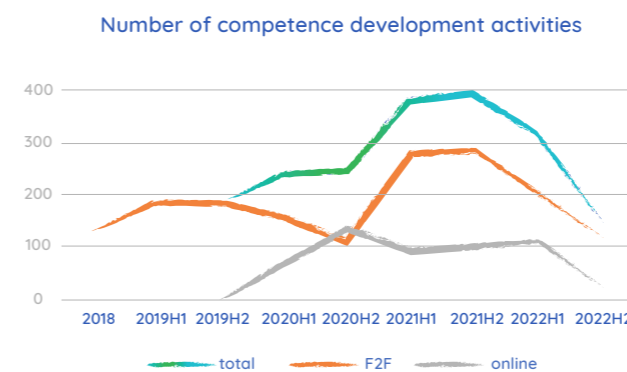
**Over the past 5 years, 2,211 competence development activities, 3,123 mentorships, and 899 traineeships have been organised, and 1,636 certifications have been awarded to young people by the EU4Youth programme.**

projects proved their capacity to adjust to the changing conditions, for example by shifting easily from face-to-face (F2F) events to online competence development activities, and adjusting the timeline for implementation of other activities affected by a range of challenges in the region.

The numbers probably would have been even higher had circumstances allowed. The different

**Competence development activities have been a key element in the EU4Youth programme.** Evaluating the past 5 years, all project implementers agree that while online trainings definitely offer added value, **F2F trainings remain the preferred option**, as they also allow for deeper involvement and better connection

with and between participants. On average, 28 people participated in each F2F training. Online trainings have varying sizes of attendance that cannot be accurately estimated like F2F trainings since they can be organised in different ways (one-off trainings or online learning modules to follow at any time).



Most phase I projects ended in 2021 while most phase III projects - with focus on green and digital - are gearing up in 2023.

**The EU4Youth programme also enabled the training of a large number of educators.** Since 2018, 2,000 youth educators have been trained in the Eastern partner countries. These educators, who range in nature, scope and competencies, can now provide a better basis for further capacity building and skills transfer activities for youth.

The competence development activities have **focused on diverse groups of (mostly) disadvantaged youth and were developed on different types of topics.** While under phase I (2018-2020), grantees initially aimed at putting the focus on concrete hard skills development (like entrepreneurship, marketing & branding, English, etc.), it became clear that, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, the

development of soft skills (like problem solving, critical thinking, communication and self-esteem) was more urgent. During the pandemic, addressing the needs of NEETs<sup>18</sup> was particularly difficult, as there were only online events and activities, which made participation of this target group difficult.

Under phase II (2020-2022), the focus of the EU4Youth programme shifted more towards (social) entrepreneurship, which explains the increase of trainings in this focus area from 2020. With new projects starting under phase III (as of April 2023), it is expected that trainings on social entrepreneurship will continue with a particular focus on green and digital skills.

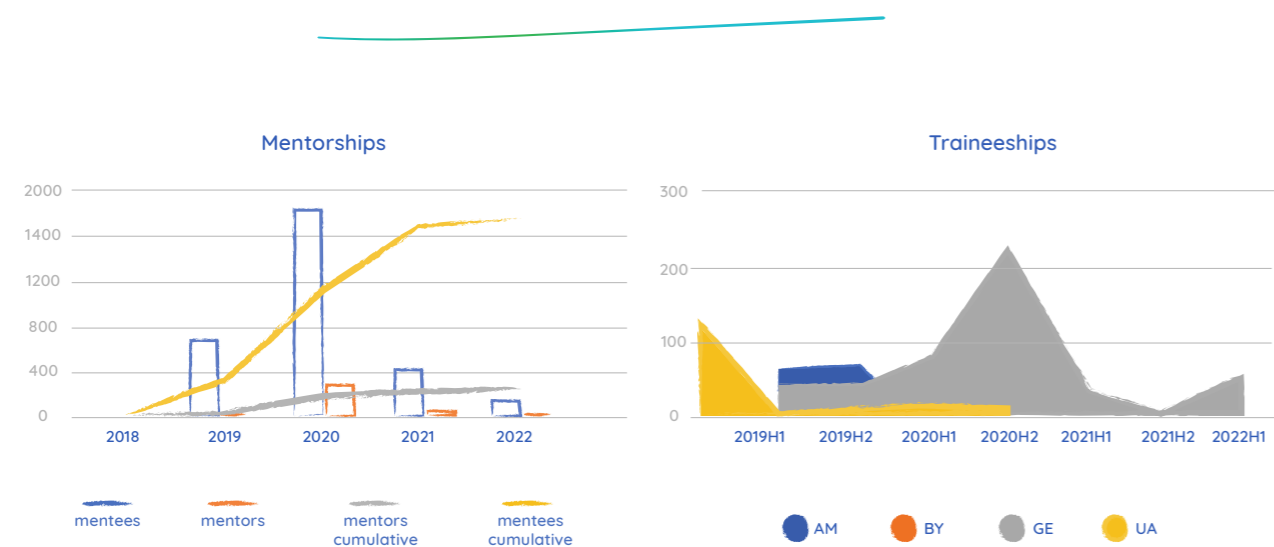
<sup>18</sup> Youth 'Neither in Employment nor Education and Training' - NEETs.





Although the digital focus was only introduced as an indicator to be monitored for phase III projects, digital skills were already in stronger focus over the past 5 years. While in the initial phase, digital skills were a challenge for both

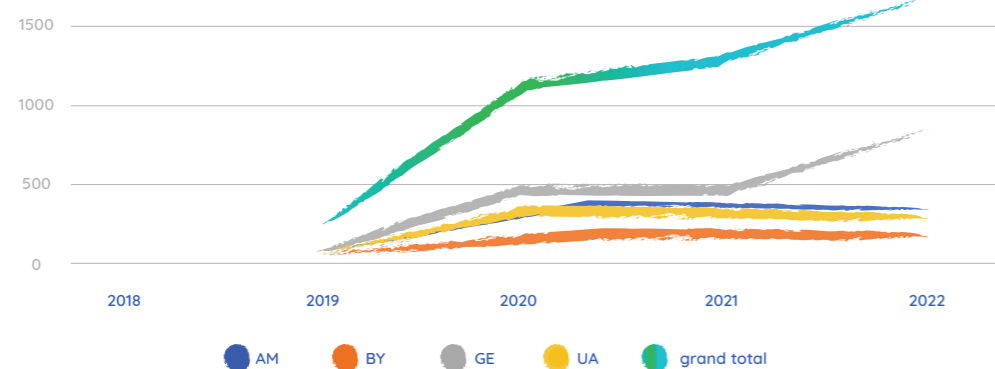
young people and project staff alike, by 2022 **digital skills have been considerably developed and improved, providing a foundation for further development.**



**With the focus on work-based learning, creating opportunities for young people to take an apprenticeship or mentorship has been evaluated as a valuable experience for young people.** The end-beneficiary survey results confirm this, highlighting apprenticeships and mentorships the most significant factor in increasing beneficiaries' confidence to find a job. Finding mentors and job placements turned out to be more challenging and resource-intensive for grantees, as the value of such initiatives is not always fully recognised by private sector

partners in the partner countries. Different EU4Youth grant projects have offered on-the-job learning activities in varying degrees, which is also reflected in the number of traineeships in each of the countries and the number of mentorships over the years. On average, 7 mentees per mentor can be counted, but big differences exist between the projects' mentorship programmes, clearly showing the popularity of this type of activities as well as the difficulties of some grantees in matching demand and offer.

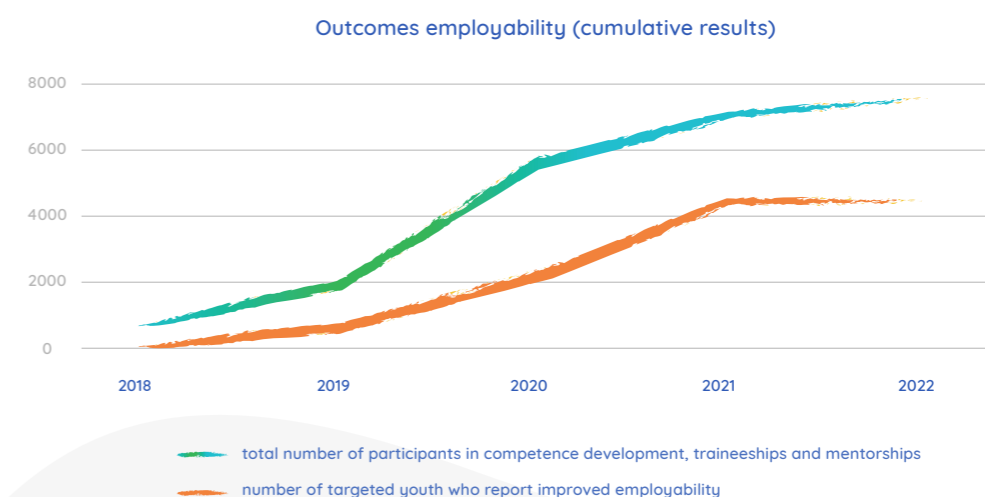
Number of job seekers who completed certification and/or validation process (cumulative results)



When organising trainings, validation and certification is also important. This has been a growing point of attention for EU4Youth grantees. During the earlier years of the programme, projects focused on developing their own educational resources and putting in place their own certifications, but the subsequent **development of cooperation with universities has opened up promising pathways to create sustainability in the use of educational resources** and the recognition of the certifications obtained by participants.

The next step will be to better connect these non-formal and informal learning initiatives to EU recognition and validation frameworks, such as the Youthpass tool, and to look for linkages to qualification frameworks, as currently under development by the **Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (CPMA)** project.

Overall survey results show a **60% success rate for participants in the different competence development activities, traineeships and mentorships in increasing their employability.**



The overall results show that the EU4Youth programme has recorded concrete impacts in the three areas for recommendations that were identified in previous editions of the achievements report. At the same time, these positive results show that keeping up the work in these areas could help to further improve young peoples' situation in the partner countries. The main focus therefore remains to:

- Strengthen the educational ecosystem with a stronger focus on work-based learning;
- Promote the recognition, validation and certification of transversal skills;
- Focus on support mechanisms for career guidance and job matching.

Active support and involvement from state institutions and governments will be important to increase the impact and sustainability of project-based initiatives. Further developing a dialogue and collaboration with various stakeholders (e.g. NGOs, businesses, public employment services and training centres) will allow to raise the current, often local or regional successes to a more national scale.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT

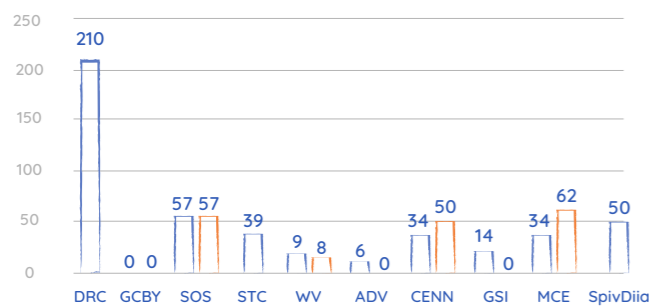
At the EU4Youth Days in October 2022 Olivér Várhelyi, Commissioner for EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement mentioned the brain drain (the emigration of highly trained or qualified people) as one of the biggest challenges facing partner countries, adding that the EU aims to offer more opportunities, and to support better education systems in its neighbourhood to help young people towards a better livelihood. Between 2018 and 2022, the EU4Youth programme countered the Eastern Partnership region's brain drain by creating job opportunities in the countries and guiding young people to these opportunities, while also encouraging and empowering them for entrepreneurship.

Between 2018 and 2022, EU4Youth grant projects supported **453 young entrepreneurs through financial assistance**. The financial and technical assistance received through EU4Youth grant projects enabled young entrepreneurs to create their own start-ups, out of which **177 were reported still operational 1 year after opening**. Overall, these **start-ups created a total of 583 new jobs in the region**.

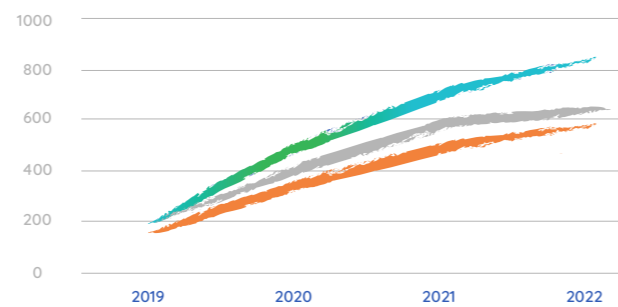
The grant projects did not only provide financial support to candidates, but also supported

them with more technical assistance and mentoring. Start-up grants were awarded through competitions. This approach has helped participants on the one hand to develop their business plans, and on the other has contributed to **making young entrepreneurs more independent and better prepared to work with financial institutions**. This was evaluated by all grant implementers as an essential success factor for those start-ups that received funding<sup>19</sup>.

Support for start-ups



Number of unemployed targeted youth who became (self) employed (cumulative results)



number of grants    number of start-ups running after 1 year    total    women    disadvantaged youth

<sup>19</sup> It must be noted that for DRC and STC projects no data on the start-ups were collected, while for ADV and GSI the grants were distributed in the last phase of the projects, which makes that current financed start-ups do not have yet a duration of one year reached.

EU4Youth grant project implementers have been testing new approaches and learning how to help young people find employment. Between 2018 and 2022, EU4Youth grant projects organised or have participated in **37 job and business fairs, which were attended by 6,366 participants**. However, job fairs have been evaluated as less successful, while **mentorships and traineeships, as well as new approaches like job shadowing, prove to be more effective**.

The grant implementers reported 12% of their targeted youth becoming successfully employed. However, since the grant implementers often record these figures in the period immediately following the different activities, this result is likely an underestimate. Indeed, the end-beneficiary survey shows more positive results, with **67% of those that did look for a job after completing the activities successfully finding one**. Moreover, the survey results also show that 17% of all respondents who were in a precarious situation before their participation, have moved into employment or training. The survey also shows that **the projects' impacts are greater with older respondents (31-35 years old), with**

**25% moving from a precarious situation into employment**.

With the introduction of phase II of EU4Youth, the focus on entrepreneurship shifted to social entrepreneurship. Besides working directly with young people, the large grants in this phase and the **Youth Engagement Roadmaps** project (GOPA) also focused on **enabling national governments, and helping them to develop more refined policy frameworks** with regard to social entrepreneurship. These efforts resulted in 20 legislative recommendations adopted by national governments. EU4Youth Phase III is focusing more on the digital and green economy, building on the achievements made on social entrepreneurship and taking them further to make sure these will be imbedded in actual legal frameworks. The first results under the **Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (CPMA)** project look very promising, as active engagement and enthusiasm is triggered from the stakeholders in the different partner countries, which is fundamental in building strong Youth Employment Partnerships.



To ensure systemic changes and sustainable results, it remains important for the EU4Youth initiative to further combine activities directly targeting and involving young people with larger policy dialogue processes and capacity building of governmental and non-governmental institutions. A positive example here are the ongoing efforts made under the Phase III in establishing youth employment partnerships and further developing career guidance services with Public Employment Services and other institutions. Under the EU4Youth initiative, the work has considerably evolved, but will need to continue focusing on the recommendations of previous years, with a priority to:

- Further invest in the development of entrepreneurial skills and initiatives to promote entrepreneurship education;
- Support the (social) entrepreneurial potential of young people to promote innovations, especially in the areas of digital and the green economy;
- Further build on a positive business environment;
- Support Public Employment Services in developing more targeted youth employment measures and increased collaboration with social partners in this area.



## ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Over the past 5 years, youth engagement and empowerment has been a cross-cutting aspect of all project activities under the EU4Youth initiative, with particular attention paid to disadvantaged youth. In addition to numerous activities aimed at youth empowerment through active participation under the grant projects, two activities implemented under the technical assistance projects stand out: the EU4Youth Policy Labs (implemented by Youth Engagement Roadmaps (GOPA)), and the EU4Youth Alumni Network (implemented by the EU4Youth Coordination and Support team (EY)).

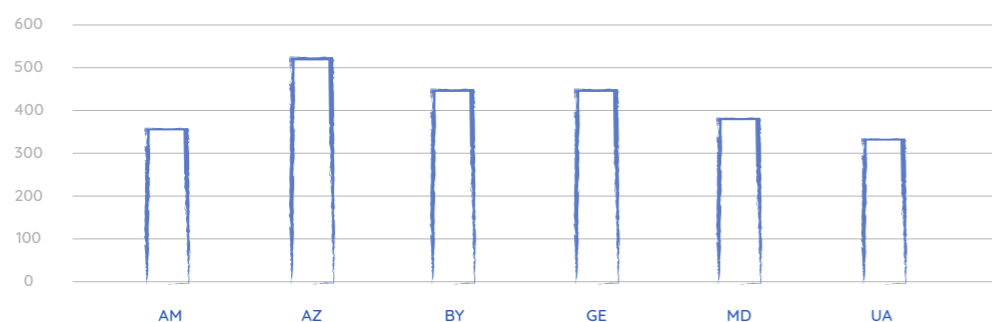
The Youth Engagement Roadmaps (GOPA) project has had a positive impact in including young people in political debates and valuing their opinions. Between 2020 and 2022, a total of **2,530 participants took part in EU4Youth Policy Labs and other policy events**, out of which 1,662 were young women and 35 were disadvantaged.

Over the course of the years between 2020 and 2022, 8 Policy Labs and 15 round table events fed into the formulation of **15 sets of policy recommendations**. The recommendations address country-specific challenges such as youth work and digitalisation (GE), or the lack of awareness about employment opportunities (AM). These 15 sets of recommendations have been shared with the responsible authorities with

so far relatively low response, while it remains up to policy makers in the region to consider these recommendations in the further process of decision making.

Policy Labs are particularly effective as a tool for youth participation in policy development, bringing together young people, public authorities and other stakeholders around a topic of common interest. A success factor will be to ensure inclusivity and participation of a diverse range of participants, particularly young women and those disadvantaged or representing them. Experiences of the Policy Labs will be further developed and institutionalised under EU4Youth phase IV, which is set to focus on youth engagement and empowerment.

Total number of participants in Policy Labs and other policy events (2020-2022) per country



Young Policy Lab participants from Georgia reported that:



*“The character of the Policy Lab made us feel responsible for the change we propose and helped us think out of the box, with an open mind, so that we are not stuck in our own frames and viewpoints but listen and understand each other.”*

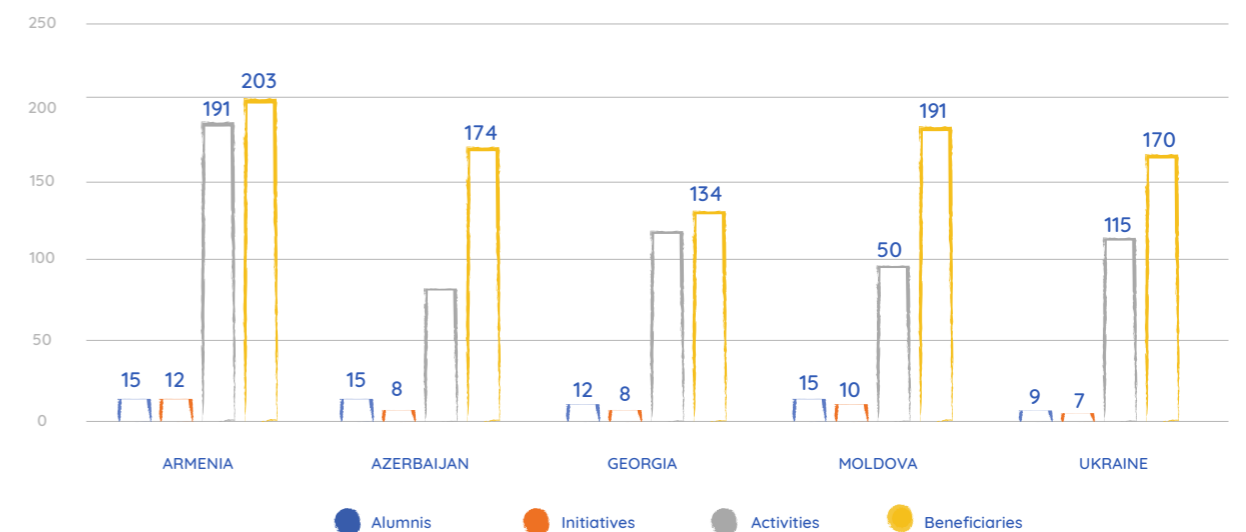
Concrete steps in the development of an **EaP Youth Dialogue** have been taken since the launch of the New Deal for Youth at the EaP Youth Summit in July 2020. In this respect, National Youth Councils were consulted on a draft concept of EaP Youth Dialogue, and awareness raising events were organised in Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova. In addition, trainings on advocacy tools for youth participation in policy decision-making were organised. With EU4Youth IV starting in spring 2023, the process for more structured youth dialogue at various levels will be further supported.

The **EU4Youth Alumni Network** helps young people who have previously participated in EU-funded initiatives for young people in the Eastern Partnership (such as Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, and Young European Ambassadors) to bring their new experiences and skills back to their communities and to support especially those with fewer opportunities. From the start of the EU4Youth Alumni Network in 2020 until July 2022, the activities organised by **145 Alumni** had reached over **2,000 beneficiaries**. Resulting from increasing pressure on Belarusian civil society in 2021 and the Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022 the number of Alumni,

initiatives, activities and beneficiaries in Ukraine was slightly lower than originally planned, while support provided to young people in Belarus had to be paused for security reasons. From 2023, the project is continuing its cooperation with young people from Belarus and Ukraine and is stepping up efforts to bring support back to previous levels.

The **EU4Youth Alumni Network has been particularly successful in empowering disadvantaged youth** (through peer-to-peer work), encouraging their active participation and engagement, and proactively targeting their needs at local level.

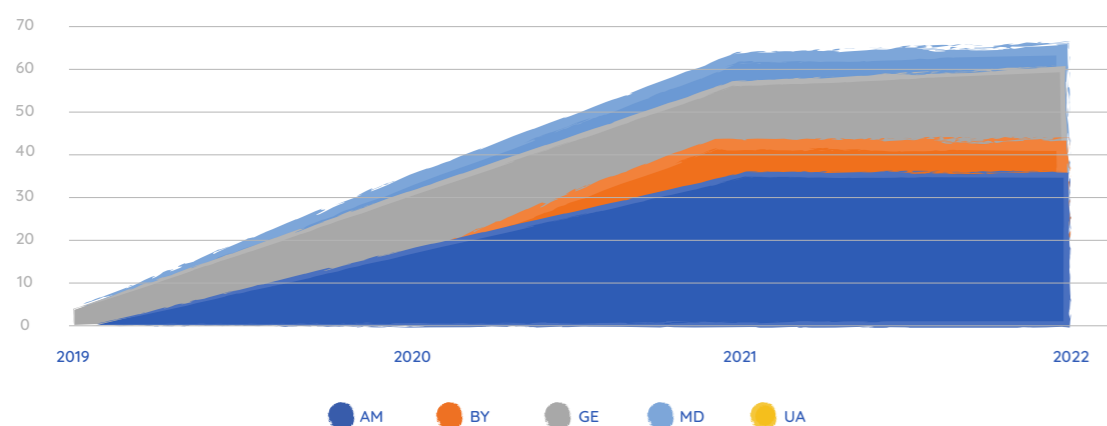
Alumni Network between 2021 and July 2022



Also within the scope of **EU4Youth grant projects** initiatives have been developed to build capacity for youth organisations and groups, mainly at the local level. In total, 65 initiatives were developed and 148 structures and youth groups (i.e. governmental and non-governmental) have been supported through the different projects since 2018. These **structures and groups have been evaluated as key catalysators in promoting youth empowerment and**

**engagement** in various youth-relevant policy areas in both the economy and society. In order to promote the role of youth in policy dialogue and strengthen a more informed culture of policy dialogue in partner countries, it is important to further develop cooperation with national youth councils and other relevant youth organisations, building the capacity of both organised and non-organised youth and state actors.

Number of capacity-building programmes for youth organisations implemented (cumulative results)



In the past 5 years, the different EU4Youth projects have been successful in bringing youth into the political debate, enabling young people to have a greater voice. Projects have focused on the development of soft skills among young people to help them to be more confident and critical, developing structures and tools for policy dialogue, and actively engaging youth groups and young people in actual policy debates, including at national level. Many success stories exist, but there still is a lot of room and potential for improvement. The recommendations therefore remain valid for the next phase(s) of the initiative, especially under Phase IV:

- Advance initiatives for meaningful youth engagement in policy making;
- Invest in enabling (legal), sustainable and dedicated safe spaces that allow young people to access information and services as well as actively engage and participate;
- Strengthen professional psychosocial support opportunities for young people, to help them to better cope with the stress caused by instability and insecurity in the region while becoming more vocal and resilient at the same time.

## EU4YOUTH BEYOND 2022

While implementation of phase II of EU4Youth is coming to an end, showing interesting results from the different projects, the EU4Youth programme will continue and build on the achievements of the past years.

The EU4Youth programme is closely aligned with the priorities of the European Year of Skills 2023, which aims to empower young people to navigate the rapidly changing job market and fully engage in society and democracy. As the green and digital transitions are increasingly creating new opportunities for young people and the EU economy, the EU4Youth programme aims to promote in the Eastern partner countries more opportunities for young people to develop the skills and knowledge needed to participate in advancing recovery, resilience and reform.

To achieve this, the **EU4Youth phase III** projects will focus on **providing training and upskilling opportunities** for young people in the Eastern Partnership region. This will include utilising its own capacity building initiatives and grant opportunities, as well as highlighting relevant EU initiatives and funding possibilities that can support the implementation and delivery of better opportunities on the ground. EU4Youth will also continue to organise events and awareness-raising campaigns across the region to support mutual learning and knowledge sharing among partners. Collaboration within and strengthening of the **PES network and youth employment partnerships** will be further developed under the **Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship (CPMA)** project.

### The European Year of Skills 2023

Following the announcement to make 2023 the European Year of Skills by President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2022 State of the Union address (14 September 2022)<sup>20</sup>, the Commission adopted its respective proposal<sup>21</sup> on 12 October 2022. The European Year of Skills has the objective to boost competitiveness, participation and talent. More specifically, the European Commission, together with the European Parliament, Member States, social partners, public and private employment services, chambers of commerce and industry, education and training providers, and workers and companies, aims to:



- Promote increased, and more effective and inclusive investment in training and upskilling to harness the full potential of the European workforce, and to support people in changing from one job to another;
- Make sure that skills are relevant for labour market needs, by also cooperating with social partners and companies;
- Match people's aspirations and skill sets with opportunities on the job market, especially for the green and digital transition and the economic recovery. A special focus will be given to activate more people for the labour market, in particular women and young people, especially those not in education, employment or training (NEETs);
- Attract people from third countries with the skills needed by the EU, including by strengthening learning opportunities and mobility and facilitating the recognition of qualifications<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> State of the Union Address by President von der Leyen (europa.eu)

<sup>21</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=26148&langId=en>

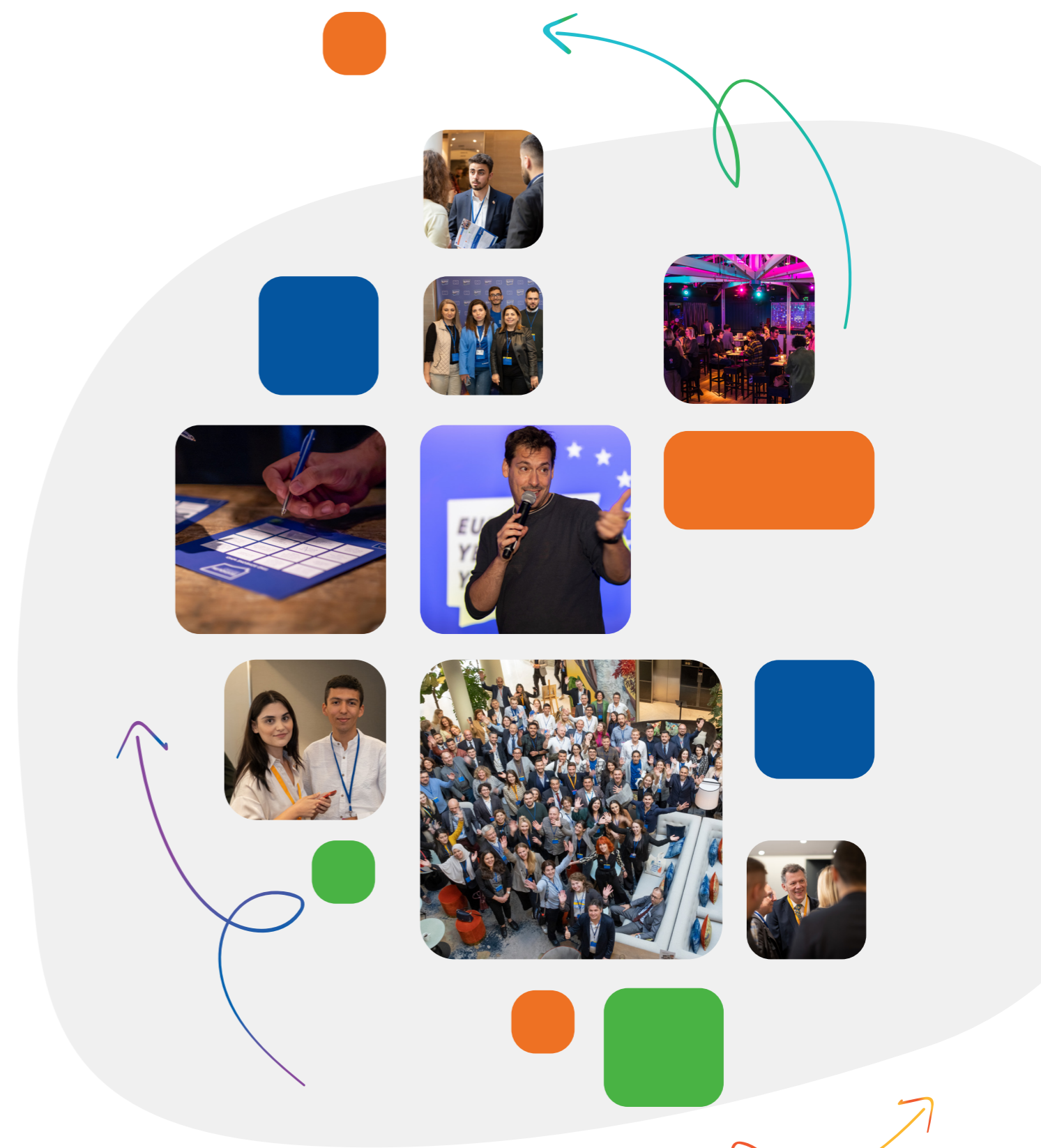
<sup>22</sup> Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills (europa.eu)

In 2023, **phase IV of EU4Youth programme** will be kicked-off. The **Youth Engagement and Empowerment (GIZ)** project is set to advance the achievements within the third pillar of the programme, with the objective to increase the influence of young people in the EaP region on determining policy outcomes. The project will develop further initiatives to increase the **capacity of youth organisations and public institutions** to **jointly** implement more **participatory and structured policy dialogue** in the context of the EaP architecture, as well as at local, regional and national levels. Furthermore, there will also be a focus on improving the **quality and outreach of youth work** for mobilising and engaging more young people from remote and less advantaged regions, including from conflict-affected areas and young people currently in the diaspora.

Challenges will remain in the implementation of the EU4Youth programme, as it is unpredictable how the situation will further evolve in the region that is affected by a large number of conflicts and instabilities, above all the Russian aggression against Ukraine and its direct and indirect impact on the overall regional security. The programme, however, has proved in the past 5 years that despite all the challenges, successes can be achieved by adopting an agile approach. The **EU4Youth Coordination and Support** team has put much emphasis on promoting a programme approach, by bringing together the different projects under one roof. Building

synergies and strengthening complementarities not only between projects within the EU4Youth programme, but also with other initiatives in the EaP partner countries, allowed to bring concrete results. The strength of the programme is exactly its agility, strengthening existing structures and tools rather than creating new ones, adapting to local, national and regional realities, promoting knowledge transfer and exchange between partner countries and with EU counterparts, combining grant projects working more on the ground with technical assistance projects working on a more structural level, all guided and monitored, making sure that the different pieces together bring better opportunities for young people and structural improvements for the youth sector in the region.

EU4Youth will continue to provide a foundation for constructive cooperation with young people in making decisions that affect them, which is also underlined by the newly launched EU Youth Action Plan in EU external action 2022-2027 (YAP). The YAP aims to give young people a voice in shaping solutions that impact their present and future, and the planet. With its three pillars - ENGAGE, EMPOWER, and CONNECT - the YAP seeks to shape external action in partnership with young people, accelerating progress on international commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.



# ANNEXES

## Annex A: Monitoring in EU4Youth

Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 provide an overview of the results achieved under the EU4Youth programme from 2018 to 2022. The information is presented in an aggregated form per country, and represents the data collected from the various EU4Youth projects implemented in that country in a given year. This annex provides more information on how the data is collected and the monitoring framework of the EU4Youth programme.

### What results are presented?

The EU4Youth programme is guided by an intervention logic that provides an overview of the activities and how they are linked to specific output, outcome and impact objectives. This intervention logic is structured using three main pillars (the areas in which EU4Youth aims at making a difference for young people).



Each of these categories contains specific key performance indicators (KPIs) that allow the EU4Youth team to monitor the progress of the programme against the set objectives. Though the monitoring framework was set up at the beginning of the programme, it is also able to evolve alongside needs and challenges that present themselves.

Phase III of the EU4Youth programme was launched in November 2021, and the framework was updated to recognise the additional objectives within the three pillars. This was accompanied with additional KPIs to reflect the focus on green and digital skills in the upcoming third generation of EU4Youth large grant projects.

The ultimate aim of the monitoring framework is to be able to accurately situate the programme and its objectives within the wider environment and context. This means recognising where the programme makes a difference so synergies and cooperation mechanisms can be developed between the various elements that are working towards the same objectives.

### Where does the data come from?

The results are collected from many different sources across the EU4Youth programme. The large grant implementers and service contractors report on quantitative indicators bi-annually, in addition to providing qualitative insights. Not all projects report on all indicators, it depends on the focus of their activities and which countries they are active in. As there have been two phases of large grants, the number of projects reporting on the indicators varies according to the timeframe. The figure below gives an overview of the number of data sources per country per reporting period from the 10 large grant implementers. A further source of data for Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 was the follow-up survey of end beneficiaries launched by the EU4Youth coordination and support team as an annual exercise to collect direct feedback on the impact of the support provided by the EU4Youth programme. The fourth edition of the survey was run during December 2022. A total of 1986<sup>23</sup> beneficiaries have taken the survey since the first edition in July 2020. The results from across the three editions are included in the chapter to show the impact the project has had on the young people in the region.

### Disadvantaged status and social inclusion

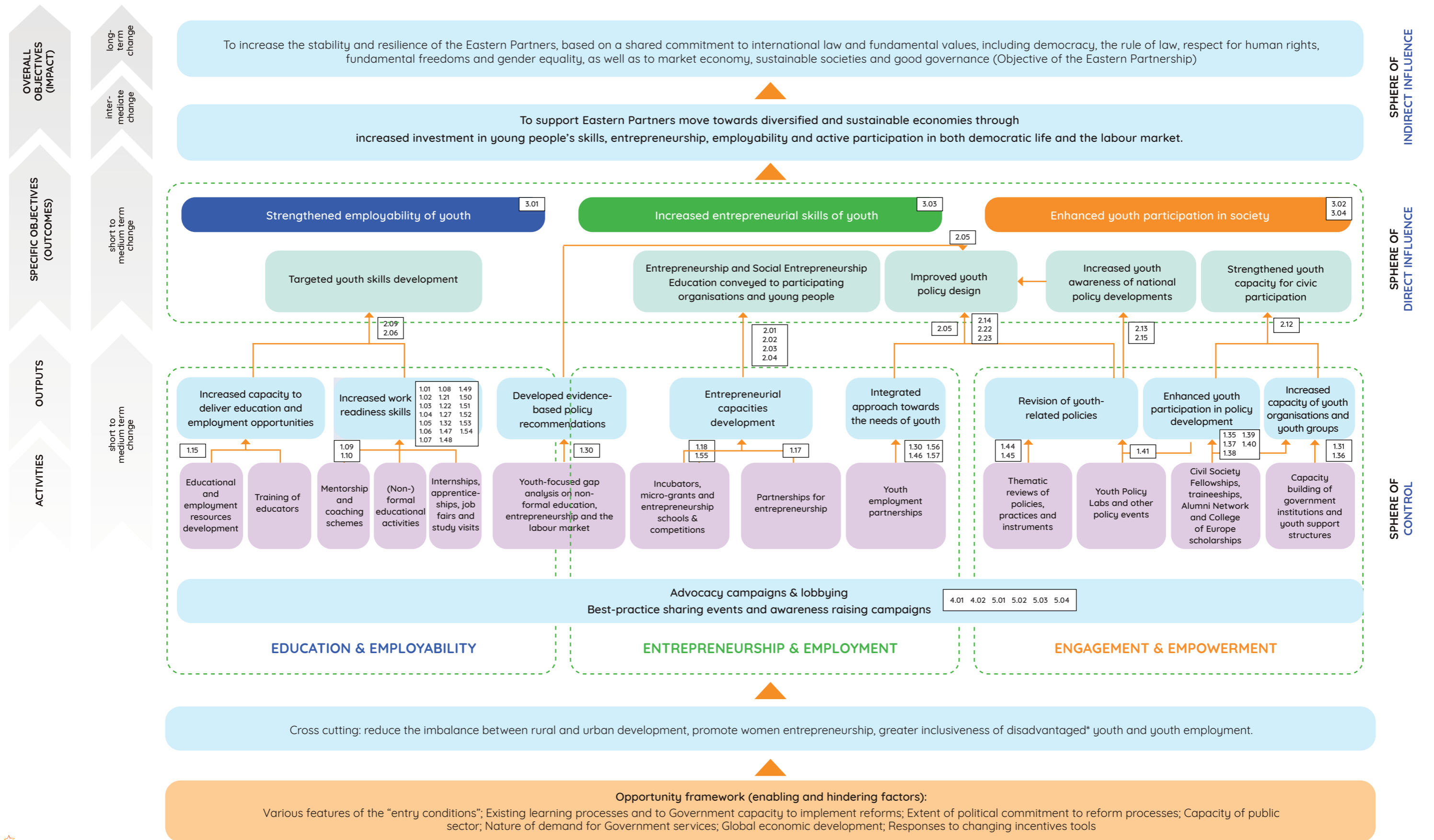
Social inclusion remains a priority for the EU4Youth programme, with young people from a disadvantaged background a key part of the target beneficiary group. The definition is intentionally broad, so it can better reflect the needs of young people.

*'Disadvantaged youth' is defined in the Erasmus+ Programme Guide as: 'All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans; geographical obstacles (people from remote rural areas, small islands or peripheral regions).'*

*Reference: Erasmus+ Programme Guide.*

<sup>23</sup> For respondents who were answered in more than one edition (and provided their email address), only answers from the final edition they participated in were counted.

INTERVENTION LOGIC OF EU4YOUTH



\* All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans; geographical obstacles (people from remote rural areas, small islands or peripheral regions)." Reference: Erasmus+ Programme Guide

## Annex C: EU4Youth Key Performance Indicators

The list of EU4Youth programme indicators is included in the following table. The indicators are organised by monitoring level (output, outcome and impact).

No.	Indicators	Type	Level
1.01	Total number of competence development activities	Key	Output
1.01_1	# of face-to-face competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.01_2	# of web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.02	Total number of competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.02_1	# of face-to-face competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.02_2	# of web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.47	Total number of competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.47_1	# of face-to-face competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.47_2	# of web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.48	Total number of competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.48_1	# of face-to-face competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.48_2	# of web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.03	Total number of participants in competence development activities	Key	Output
1.03_1	# of participants in face-to-face competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.03_2	# of participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.04	Total number of participants in competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.04_1	# of participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.04_2	# of participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.49	Total number of participants in competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.49_1	# of participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.49_2	# of participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.50	Total number of participants in competence development activities focusing on green transition	Key	Output

No.	Indicators	Type	Level
1.50_1	# of participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.50_2	# of participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.05	Total number of women participating in competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.05_1	# of women participating in face-to-face competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.05_2	# of women participating in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.06	Total number of women participating in competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.06_1	# of women participating in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.06_2	# of women participating in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.51	Total number of women participating in competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.51_1	# of web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.51_2	# of women participating in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.52	Total number of women participating in competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.52_1	# of women participating in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.52_2	# of women participating in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.07	Total number of disadvantaged participants in competence development activities	Key	Output
1.07_1	# of disadvantaged participants in face-to-face competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.07_2	# of disadvantaged participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities	Non-key	Output
1.08	Total number of disadvantaged participants in competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.08_1	# of disadvantaged participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.08_2	# of disadvantaged participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Output
1.53	Total number of disadvantaged participants in competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.53_1	# of disadvantaged participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.53_2	# of disadvantaged participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on digital skills	Non-key	Output
1.54	Total number of disadvantaged participants in competence development activities focusing on green transition.	Non-key	Output
1.54_1	# of disadvantaged participants in face-to-face competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output



No.	Indicators	Type	Level
1.54_2	# of disadvantaged participants in web-based (i.e. online) competence development activities focusing on green transition	Non-key	Output
1.09	# of mentors	Key	Output
1.10	# of mentees	Non-key	Output
1.15	# of new formal educational resources developed	Non-key	Output
1.15_1	# of new formal educational resources put into practice	Non-key	Output
1.16	# of youth educators trained	Key	Output
1.17	# of stakeholders involved in (non-)formal education, employment mechanisms and internships	Non-key	Output
1.18	# of young entrepreneurs who received financial assistance	Key	Output
1.18_1	# of young women entrepreneurs who received financial assistance	Non-key	Output
1.18_2	# of young disadvantaged entrepreneurs who received financial assistance	Non-key	Output
1.55	# of young entrepreneurs who received technical assistance	Key	Output
1.55_1	# of young women entrepreneurs who received technical assistance	Non-key	Output
1.55_2	# of young disadvantaged entrepreneurs who received technical assistance	Non-key	Output
1.21	# of job fairs and business fairs	Key	Output
1.22	# of attendees in job fairs	Non-key	Output
1.22_1	# of women attendees in job fairs	Non-key	Output
1.22_2	# of disadvantaged attendees in job fairs	Non-key	Output
1.27	# of job seekers who completed certification and/or validation process	Key	Output
1.27_1	# of women job seekers who completed certification and/or validation process	Non-key	Output
1.27_2	# of disadvantaged job seekers who completed certification and/or validation process	Non-key	Output
1.30	# of policy strategies or legislative recommendations developed to improve youth education, entrepreneurship and participation	Key	Output
1.31	# of implemented capacity-building programmes implemented	Key	Output
1.32	# of participants in internships/ apprenticeships	Non-key	Output
1.32_1	# of women participants in internships/ apprenticeships	Non-key	Output
1.32_2	# of disadvantaged participants in internships/ apprenticeships	Non-key	Output
1.35	Total number of people who have participated in inter/intra-regional mobility activities other than trainings	Key	Output
1.35_1	Number of women participants in inter/intra-regional mobility activities other than trainings	Non-key	Output

No.	Indicators	Type	Level
1.35_2	Number of disadvantaged participants in inter/intra-regional mobility activities other than trainings	Non-key	Output
1.36	Number of institutions who have benefited directly from the project	Key	Output
1.37	Total number of individual beneficiaries	Non-key	Output
1.38	Total number of civil society fellows	Key	Output
1.39	Number of Alumni	Key	Output
1.40	Number of outreached disadvantaged youth through the Alumni Network	Key	Output
1.41	Number of participants in Policy Labs and other policy events	Key	Output
1.41_1	Number of young women participants in Policy Labs and other policy events	Non-key	Output
1.41_2	Number of young disadvantaged participants in Policy Labs and other policy events	Non-key	Output
1.44	Number of youth-related policy discussions	Non-key	Output
1.45	Number of policy recommendations developed	Key	Output
1.46	Number of stakeholders involved in youth employment partnerships	Key	Output
1.56	Number of youth-related policy discussions	Non-key	Output
1.57	Number of policy recommendations developed	Key	Output
2.01	Total number of start-ups created that are still running after 3 months of being opened	Key	Outcome
2.02	Total number of start-ups created that are still running after 6 months of being opened	Key	Outcome
2.03	Total number of start-ups created that are still running after 1 year of being opened	Key	Outcome
2.04	Total number of jobs created by these start-ups which are still running	Key	Outcome
2.05	Number of accepted strategies and legislative recommendations to improve youth education, entrepreneurship and participation	Key	Outcome
2.06	Total number of unemployed targeted youth who became (self) employed	Key	Outcome
2.06_1	Number of unemployed targeted young women who became (self) employed	Non-key	Outcome
2.06_2	Number of unemployed targeted disadvantaged youth who became (self) employed	Non-key	Outcome
2.09	Number of targeted youth who report improved employability	Key	Outcome
2.09_1	Number of targeted young women who report improved employability	Non-key	Outcome
2.09_2	Number of targeted disadvantaged youth who report improved employability	Non-key	Outcome
2.12	Number of structures and youth groups (i.e. governmental and non-governmental) formed/supported promoting youth integration and participation into economy and society.	Key	Outcome

No.	Indicators	Type	Level
2.13	Number of young people aware of national policy developments	Key	Outcome
2.14	Number of policy strategies or recommendations implemented	Key	Outcome
2.22	Number of employers reporting increased awareness about decent work standards	Non-key	Outcome
2.23	Number of young people reporting increased awareness about decent work standards	Non-key	Outcome
2.15	Total number of youth participating in policy development after being in training activities with the project	Key	Outcome
2.15_1	Total number of young women participating in policy development after participating in training activities	Non-key	Outcome
2.15_2	Total number of young disadvantaged people participating in policy development after participating in training activities	Non-key	Outcome
4.01	# of communication materials produced, developed and distributed	Non-key	Output
4.02	# of young people reached through awareness raising events	Non-key	Output
5.01	# of face-to-face competence development activities focusing on entrepreneurship	Non-key	Outcome
5.02	# of audience engagements with the communication materials distributed	Non-key	Outcome
5.03	# of people reached via digital presence on websites	Non-key	Outcome
5.04	# of people reached via social media activities	Non-key	Outcome
3.01	Share of youth not in education, employment or training, total (% of youth population)	Key	Impact
3.02	Civic participation score	Key	Impact
3.03	Global Entrepreneurship Index	Key	Impact
3.04	Score for personal rights	Key	Impact

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