



# SUMMARY REPORT

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YOUTH AT RISK - How to prevent criminal engagement and promote youth empowerment through the European Social Fund?



## Background

During the European Year of Youth 2022, one of the four thematic categories of the 20<sup>th</sup> European week of region and cities was Youth Empowerment. A term that is becoming more frequently used in European politics, but rarely discussed in terms of who, how and when. When these three questions are taken into consideration, youth empowerment is often taken to mean the political activation of young people. However, a precondition to political activation is trust in institutions and the political system itself. A precondition often absent for youths living in vulnerable conditions, disenfranchised communities, or those facing societal discrimination: a group this workshop refers to as *youth at risk*.

One of the overall objectives of [the EU Youth Strategy \(2019-2027\)](#) is "to encourage young people to become active citizens and actors of positive change". To achieve this objective, new methods sensitive to the specific needs of youth at risk are required. This workshop was created with the aim of exploring the concept of youth empowerment where the target group specifies youths at risk - focusing on the perspective of societal inclusion as empowerment, with the added benefit of preventing criminal engagement through such initiatives, and how the new [European Social Fund \(ESF+\)](#) can support projects targeting these individuals.

If the EU wants to get serious about its youth policy, it is necessary to treat youths as the heterogenous group of individuals that they are. Only by treating them as such, and by extension understand the hindrances faced by varied groups of young people, can we create policy that empowers and includes them all, both societally and by extension politically.

## Key Messages

- Youths are a heterogenous, not homogenous, group and must be treated accordingly when creating youth policy and programmes.
- Different youths face different problems. By identifying which youths to target you can identify specific needs and devise appropriate strategies.
- Programmes, evaluations, goal setting and approaches should be co-created with the youths they aim to support.
- Working with youths at risk requires a holistic approach to young people's needs as well as a diverse working team in terms such as age, background and competencies.
- Relationship building, with both the youth and their family, through actions and continuous, available support over a longer period of time is key to success when working with this particular target group.
- Transnational cooperation is important as we can learn and be inspired by each other to solve mutual challenges.



- When applying to ESF+ connect the objectives of the fund and your project with other relevant EU strategies to increase the chances of your project being selected. For youth at risk the European Pillar of Social Rights, the EU Youth strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals and the ESF+ have complementary objectives.
- Proper targeting of EU funds is needed in order to reach the intended objectives and target groups.
- At EU-level, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the term youths to better achieve the objectives of empowering and including youth.

## Introduction to the webinar

The workshop presented the current state of play for youth empowerment in the EU through the work of the Committee of the Regions and the newly created ESF+. Further, the workshop shared best practices from two implemented ESF-projects and how one could build further on their insights to foster the social innovations needed to develop new sensitised methods for the empowerment of youths at risk.

Both projects, [YoungEast](#) (Gothenburg) and [Bradog Youth Diversion Project](#) (Dublin), work with tailor-made solutions to provide individual support and prevent criminal behaviour by empowering youth through societal inclusion. YoungEast shared its methodology of combining behavioural programmes with support measures through institutional collaborations. The Bradog Youth Diversion Project presented its inclusion programme, paying particular attention to its targeted work with Roma youth.

At the end of the workshop, four evaluation questions were asked to the participants which helped the organisers evaluate the workshop. These results are briefly presented at the end of this report.

Moderated by Johanna Kreicbergs: Communicator at the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

## Youth policy in the Committee of the Regions

*Kieran McCarthy, Member of the Committee of the Regions, Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget, and the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture*

### What is the CoR?

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) is a formal EU institution which is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union. It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact



on regions and cities (70% of all EU legislation). A lot of its work on youth has followed the policy lead of the European Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture.

### **Youth policy track record**

Lately, CoR has increasingly covered the topic of youth from several angles, such as education, cultural work, participatory democracy, brain drain, brain gain, youth guarantee, and the reinforced youth guarantee. Topics closely connected to [the European Pillar of Social Rights](#). However, not enough work has been done on the topic of inclusion and very little has been done with the specific target group youth at risk. While CoR have produced opinions relating to the allocation of the ESF, the local and regional authorities are often at the whim of national government in terms of how the funds are distributed locally. There is however a strong desire to make sure that the roughly 90 billion euros that will be funnelled through the fund over the next 6-7 years go to the appropriate organisations and institutions. As a European institution, we are only scratching the surface of youth policy, making the topic of this session important to begin to have a deeper understanding of youth inclusion and empowerment.

### **Expanded focus – from opinions to outreach**

Over the past 4-5 years, CoR have expanded its work beyond writing opinions to also include citizen outreach, focusing on meeting young people; by, for example, having town hall debates with young citizens and creating a young, elected politician programme where young people ages 18-40 are invited to Brussels to share their perspectives.

2022 is the EU year of youth, and at the beginning of the year the CoR, working closely together with the [European Youth Forum](#), launched a youth charter which will be assembled by the end of October. Within the charter ideas on topics such as education, cooperation, societal participation, access to new technology, digitalisation and a section on the ESF which is under construction.

During the Conference on the Future of Europe, over 800 citizens took part in the conference, where I was a part of the working group on youth, culture, education and sport. Some of the final recommendations to come out of that working group did specifically make references to vulnerable youths but going forward it is a topic which requires a lot more details.

### **Learning from the local**

This is simply a broad overview of an EU institutional perspective on youth inclusion thus far. There is a lot of great work being done at local and regional level, such as



the two projects in this session, but at European level we really need a more determined focus that no one, especially youths at risk, are left behind.

In conclusion, I will take away points raised today to the Committee of the Regions.

## How can the European social fund support youth inclusion?

*Tereza Vilén, National Coordinator, The Swedish ESF-Council*

### What is the Swedish ESF Council?

The Swedish ESF-council is the Swedish Managing Authority of the ESF-fund in Sweden, and we are divided across eight regions.

The ESF-fund is the EU's main tool for investing in people and to support the implementation of the European Pillar for Social Rights. It has a total budget of 99.3 billion euros for the programming period 2021-2027. This money is dedicated to employment, social inclusion, skills, and will contribute to structural reform in these areas. The ESF+ has been named accordingly because it is the result of a merge of four other previous funding instruments from the last programming period, namely [FEAD](#), [YEI](#), and [EaSI](#).

### Connecting ESF+ objectives with empowering youth at risk through EU strategies

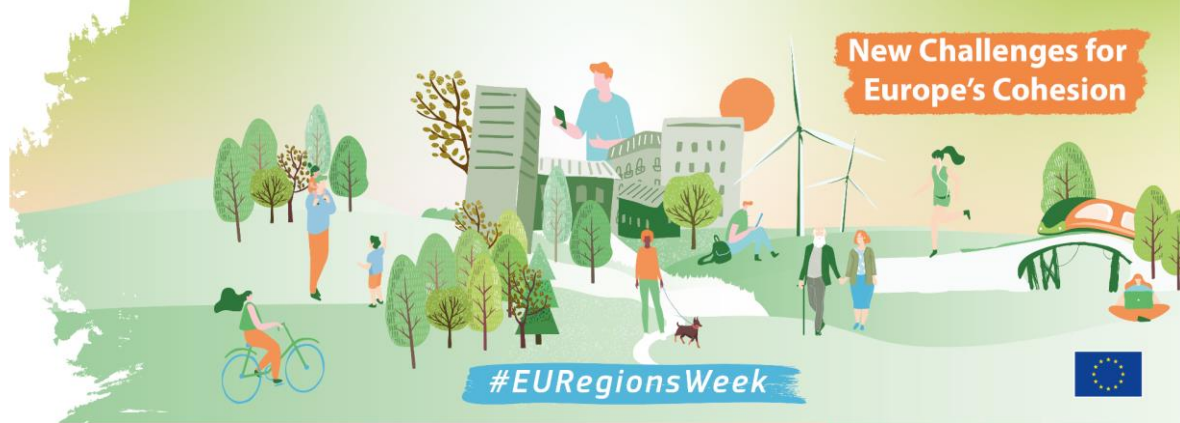
The ESF+ is one of the [EU's structural funds](#) which aims to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the union, as well as correcting imbalances between the different member states and their regions. As one of the structural funds, the ESF+ is governed by the general 2021-2027 priorities of EU investments to contribute to:

- A smarter EU
- A greener, carbon dioxide-free EU
- A more connected EU
- A more social EU – *this priority is most closely linked to the ESF+*

The ESF+ itself is specifically intended to contribute to:

- Improved access to employment
- Promote lifelong learning
- Encourage active inclusion
- Promote social inclusion

These objectives overlap with the objectives of several other EU strategies. To increase your chances of being successful in your application, it is wise to point out how your project also contributes to EU objectives established in other strategies.



When targeting youth at risk, it would be wise to connect your objectives to [the European Pillar of Social Rights](#), [EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#), and [the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), as demonstrated below.

The main objectives of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 that relate to youth empowerment are:

- Enable young people to be architects of their own lives, support their personal development and growth to autonomy, build their resilience and equip them with life skills to cope with a changing world
- Encourage and equip young people with the necessary resources to become active citizens, agents of solidarity and positive change inspired by EU values and European identity
- Improve policy decisions with regards to their impact on young people across all sectors, notably employment, education, health and social inclusion
- Contribute to the eradication of youth poverty and all forms of discrimination and promote social inclusion of young people

As such, [ESF+ objectives](#) that overlap with these objectives are within the areas of employment, labour mobility, education, and social inclusion, namely:

- Access to quality employment for all, including youth employment
- Promote gender-balanced labour market participation
- Social integration of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- Socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma people
- Equal access to quality education and training

The European Pillar of Social Rights sets up the EU's ambition to build a strong social Europe that focuses on jobs, skills, and social inclusion. [The pillar's action plan](#) for implementation lists the following three objectives:

- 78% of those aged 20-64 should be employed by 2023
- at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year by 2023
- the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion should be reduced by 15 million people, of which at least 5million should be children

These objectives also align with those of ESF+. For example, because of the specific reference to children in poverty, ESF+ can be used for projects that aim to address child poverty.



The ESF+ can also be used for projects that contribute to the enhancement of the SDGs, especially goal one<sup>1</sup>, four<sup>2</sup>, five<sup>3</sup>, eight<sup>4</sup> and ten<sup>5</sup>.

### **Transnational cooperation**

Another important aspect that the ESF+ promotes within its projects is transnational cooperation. It is important to understand that member states can support each other to overcome common challenges. This is an important objective of ESF+ projects. Exchanges of best practices not only inspire innovative thinking, but also creates synergies and prevents us from reinventing the wheel over and over again.

Transnational cooperation can, when working with the target group youths, also provide young individuals with the possibility to develop social competencies and enhance their employability. Hence, with a transnational cooperation objective you can use other EU funding instruments, such as [Erasmus+](#), and the [European Solidarity Corps](#), to create funding synergies within your project, something that will also increase the chances of having a successful application.

### **Understanding youths as heterogenous, not homogenous**

While it is important to support youth inclusion and address discrimination of young people, we must remember that youths are not a homogenous group. People have different needs, backgrounds, and situations which affects what approach is needed to reach them through initiatives. Thus, the success of initiatives depends on the ability to correctly identify the specific needs of sub-categories of youths, such as youth at risk.

There are also needs of youths specific to member state context. Therefore, all member states have their own ESF+ managing authority and their own national operative programme, which are sensitive to their place-specific challenges while still being guided by the general objectives of the fund. Yet all ESF+ projects should follow the horizontal principles of gender equality, accessibility, and non-discrimination.

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<sup>1</sup> No poverty

<sup>2</sup> Quality education

<sup>3</sup> Gender equality

<sup>4</sup> Decent work and economic growth

<sup>5</sup> Reduced inequalities



## Questions and Answers

"Mr McCarthy, can you tell a bit more about the youth charter?"

**Kieran McCarthy:** *It's a political statement from the CoR in the context of the European Year of Youth 2022. The CoR wanted to create something like a charter that would contain 50-60 recommendation as to in which direction youth policy should go. Fundamentally, it is an attempt to get a youth testimony in place to ensure that any structural fund policy being enacted includes a youth perspective where youths have been consulted. This is the sentiment of the charter.*

*The recommendations in the charter vary from the need of citizenship education, the need for more cooperation with local and regional youth organisations, establish local youth councils/support existing ones financially, potentially lowering voting age to 16, internet safety, promote participation in local politics/local community.*

*This charter has been established together with the Youth Forum, which means we have co-created the charter with national local youth representatives, to avoid a top-down approach. We wanted to work with the people who are actually on the ground and with an openness approach to ideas.*

*It will be released to the public in December.*

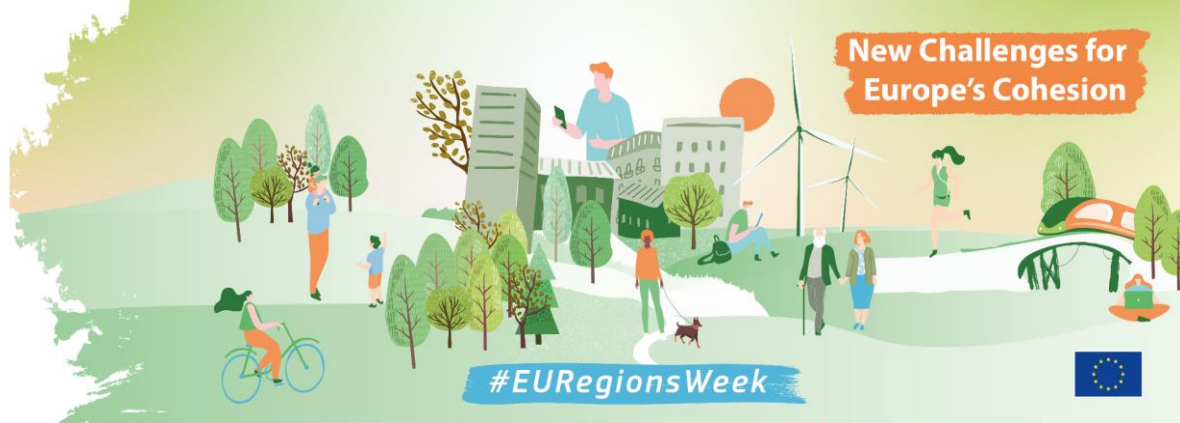
"If we only scratch the surface of youth inclusion, what do you see as the next logical step?"

**Kieran McCarthy:** *The political statements, like the Youth charter, are very important if we want to move EU institutions, such as the European Parliament or Commissioners, towards a certain perspective. What I meant by scratching the surface, is that we have begun scratching the surface of the political commentary around youth inclusion.*

*In the last presentation, there was a great slide outlining the different aspects of the European Pillar of Social Rights, showing the great wheel of ideas. Local authorities are at the forefront of most of those ideas shown in the wheel. I am not saying that nothing is being done, but I am saying that we need more political discussion and more politically engaged politicians to help the people on the ground more.*

*I find that politics at local, regional and EU level move really slowly and those working on the ground don't have that time to wait around. Especially those who are trying to live their lives and sometimes political commentary go on for year, especially when trying to help those who are the most vulnerable. A discussion on how to ensure that the funds within the ESF get to the right people at the ground is certainly welcomed. That is why we need proper targeting.*





*While one size does not fit all, we still need to make sure that the political commentary goes in the right direction in regard to targeting the funds.*

*“Do you see a need for ESF+ calls specifically targeting the category youth at risk?”*

**Tereza Vilén:** *In Sweden we have these calls, but we do not refer to them as youths at risk, but rather young people far from the labour market. However, we have other calls, like for example, an ALMA call targeting young people who are the most in need of labour market integration and education, such as those with migrant backgrounds.*

*In Sweden we have had several calls targeting young people. These calls are needed to enable projects that specifically work with the social inclusion of young people at risk.*

## **“YoungEast - Support to youth at risk of crime” in Gothenburg, Sweden**

*Inger Jayakoddy, Development manager EU/international affairs, City of Gothenburg  
Danne Larsson, Head of Unit YoungEast, City of Gothenburg*

Young East is an activity for young people aged 15-25 living in the Northeastern neighbourhood of Gothenburg, particularly those at risk of criminal activity. The aim of YoungEast is to support and motivate young people to have a better and more independent life. The project developed a methodology of combining behavioural programmes with support measures through institutional collaborations between eg. social services, police, and the city resource centre for honour-based violence. It was such a successful project that it has now become integrated into the city’s day-to-day operations.

### **YoungEast 2016-2019**

Our neighbourhood had, and still has, the highest level of socioeconomic deprivation in the city. There is a strong dominance of street gangs and organized crimes in this area, which led to an increased number of people in need of institutional care due to anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

We found that we were lacking both the methods and the cooperation among key institutional actors such as the police, the probation officers, local schools, health care services etc. needed to provide solid support to prevent criminal behaviour and negative gang affiliation to our community’s youths.



In response to this need, we started a platform for cooperation using the ESF fund in 2016 and named the project YoungEast. Our aim was to develop better cooperation between key actors, establish a team of youth counsellors who would provide behavioural support programmes to help young people either re-enter school or find employment possibilities. Transnational cooperation ended up being very important for the projects as it enabled us to adopt existing tools, but that were new to us. This project ended in 2019.

### **YoungEast 2020-2022**

The results of the external evaluation of the project indicated a need for further initiatives specifically aimed at tackling mental illness among young people, honour-related violence, and the effects of vulnerability and its impact on young people. We also needed to enhance our cooperation with employment services to enable better possibilities to connect these youths with the labour market. This resulted in our second ESF+ project running from 2020-2022, where we added the aim to disseminate the YoungEast model established through the 2016-2019 project.

We are currently running an ongoing ESF funded pre-study, called Girls & Gangs, investigating the situation of girls affiliated or affected by gangs and how the YoungEast model could be adopted to better suit the specific needs of these young girls.

### **Innovation and transnational cooperation**

Our project was innovative in the way we approached our target group youth at risk. The characteristics of our target group was:

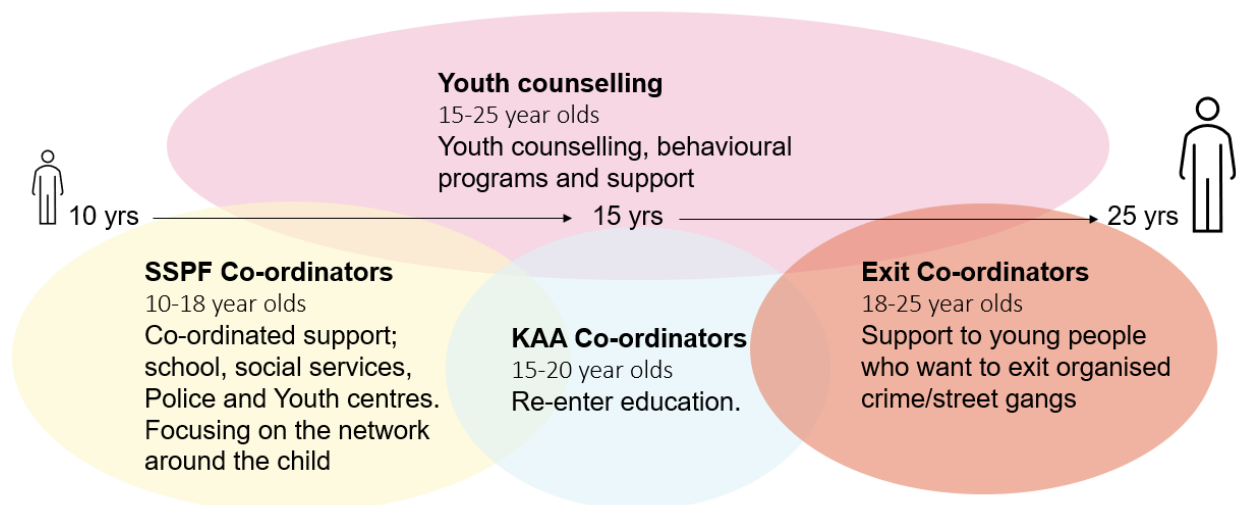
- Antisocial behaviour
- Low academic achievement
- Substance abuse
- Gang affiliated – specifically those at risk of being further incorporated into gang operations
- Risk of placement in institutional care
- Transitioning from institutional care back home
- Exposed to honour-related oppression and control
- Experienced domestic violence and abuse within the family

As we experienced lack of knowledge and working methods, we got inspired by studying the UK Gangs Unit model, but also through a job shadowing of the London Westminster Gangs Unit. This did not just include our YoungEast team, but also police and other local key partners. After having studied and observed their work, we sat down with our local partners in Gothenburg, especially the police, to discuss



and adopt the UK model to a Swedish context. For example, how we could adopt it to the legal framework of Sweden. This resulted in the methodology that we could test/improve on the ground through the YoungEast projects.

### How the YoungEast team operates



Our team covers the ages of 10-25, but there are different roles within the team focusing on different ages and tasks.

- SSPF Coordinators focus on the network around the child/youth
- KAA Coordinators focus on dropouts and re-entering school
- Exit Coordinators focus on youths wanting to leave a criminal lifestyle
- Youth Councillors work with all the youths, but in a more individual manner with focus on long-term and tailor-made support

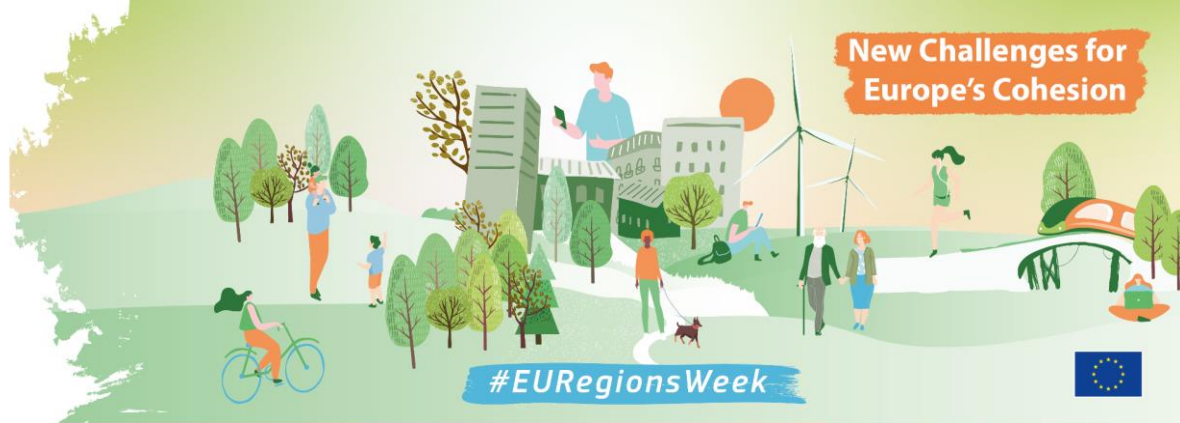
Our team works very close with each other to enable the holistic support we want to offer our youths. This is important, as there is often overlap between the different roles and the support need of a youth.

### Results

- 61% re-entered school
- 6% entered employment
- 7% enrolled in an internship

Following our external evaluation, a few keys to success could be identified.

- Keep the door open to the former participants



- Focus on the small successes
- Always seek out the root of the problem and tackle one problem at the time
- Meet the youth where they are
- Cooperation and consensus between all involved
- Successful recruitment – a team of mixed background, competencies, age etc. You need the “right person in the right place”
- Holistic approach to the young person's needs

### Contact details

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### “Bradog Youth Diversion Project” in Dublin, Ireland

*Eddie Sirbu, Roma Youth Justice Worker, Bradog Youth Diversion Project*

Bradog Youth Diversion Project is co-funded ESF+ community-based specialist project which supports young people in the North West and Inner City of Dublin. It seeks to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social and/or criminal behaviour, by providing suitable activities to facilitate personal, positive, social and personal development, civic responsibility and long-term employability prospects. Bradog received funding in 2021 to employ Roma Specific workers to engage Roma young people who were facing barriers from participating in the Garda Youth Diversion Programme and subsequently limited access to support services such as Bradog.

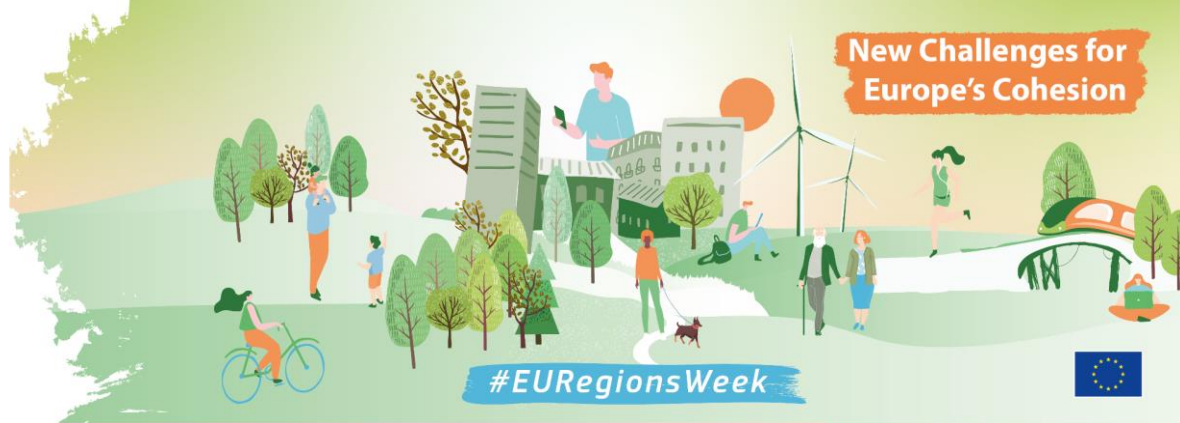
### Project outcomes

Mission: provide effective interventions and programmes for young people by building relationships and creating opportunities to foster their development, growth, and wellbeing.

Vision: that young people reach their full potential and become the drivers of change in their community.

In the short term, we aim to:

- Increased involvement in external activities
- Reduced impulsivity
- Increased decision-making skills with peers



- Improved positive attitudes and behaviour
- Improved educational attainment

In the long term (2-3 years), we aim to:

- Reduce youth offending
- Improve opportunities
- Enhance civic responsibility and connection with the community
- Improve community functioning
- Improve pro-social behaviour
- Enhance health and wellbeing of the young person

### **Who do we work with?**

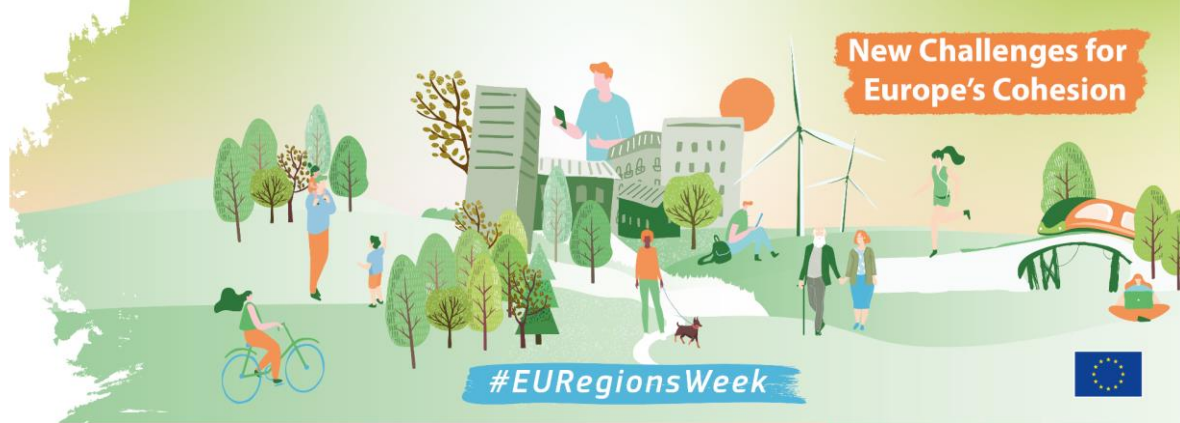
We work with 12-17 years old who are at risk, engaged in anti-social/offending behaviour or have received cautions from Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLO). We also work with younger children ages 8-11 through what is called early intervention, when the child has been identified as a future youth at risk due to behaviour or family circumstances. We support and respond to the needs of the referred young person's family or guardians. After the youth reaches the age of 19, they are no longer suitable for the Garda Youth Diversion Programme. However, Bradog continues to support young people where needs are presented, and offending/anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue. Intervention might include, driver theory and CV building to help them gain employment, court support and providing referrals.

Our participants are referred to us either by a JLO, Community Gardai, local agencies (e.g. education services) or via self-referral. Following the referral, we evaluate whether they are suitable for the programme by assessing their risk level.

Our participants are referred to us either by a JLO, Community Gardai, local agencies (e.g. education services) or via self-referral. Following the referral, we evaluate whether they fit into the programme.

### **A need for Roma specific Diversion**

Following a joint consultation with the department of Justice, Gardai Diversion Programme and Local Diversion Projects, it could be observed that a higher percentage of Roma offending resulted in court appearances. This was due to a language barrier where the offenders did not understand what was being said to them, lack of engagement with youth diversion programmes, authorities being unable to locate the youth or their family, lack of understanding the consequences



of not entering the diversion programmes and trust issues. As a result, funding was diverted to support specific Roma workers, such as myself, with a specific task to overcome these challenges.

Us Roma workers improve the Roma engagement with the Garda Youth Diversion Programme by:

- Attending meeting with JLOs
- Making phone calls/house calls/organising visits to explain the diversion programme and project
- Translating to find out the reasoning behind the offence

### **Specific risk and needs of Roma young people**

In our annual plan, we have identified a number of risks and needs of our young people, and which ones that relate specifically to young Roma, namely: family, education, leisure activities, and attitudes. Roma youth for example are more likely to experience adverse living conditions, racially motivated abuse, and social exclusion. These risks then lead us to identify what additional needs Roma youths might need and in which areas we need might need to provide extra support.

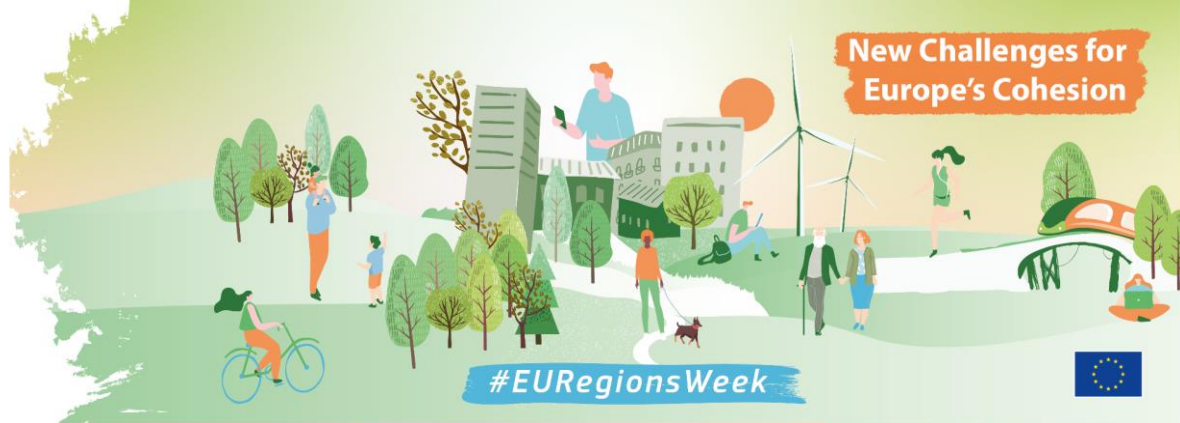
Some of the interventions we have done for our Roma youth focus on

- community integration
- pro-social activities
- advocacy work
- employment support
- education support – of great importance in our programme
- targeted skills programme
- language skills
- life of choices

We co-create our programmes with our youths who are able to suggest activities for us to do, how to improve them, and what programmes might help them. We have had programmes focusing on exercise, leadership, and cooking. The last Roma event we put on had 70-80 participants from Dublin and our neighbouring counties.

### **Specific challenges when working with Roma youth**

As an organisation, and as a Roma worker myself, there are specific challenges that we have faced when working specifically with Roma youth. It was a challenge to build a relationship with the Roma community and it was important that we were present when they needed us. This improved our relationship with the community massively over the past a year and a half, which also helped us with the integration in their community and getting to know the families to understand who is who.



It is also a challenge to work with a limited knowledge of the activities already available in the area, which has required a bit of work from our organisation to learn more about the existing landscape.

And of course, trust is a huge thing for the Roma community which means we must build trust within the community. If you manage this, that is basically 50% of your work done. Because once they understand that you are there to help them and that they can ask you for help they engage. If they do not trust you, they will not engage with you either.

### Contact

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### Questions and Answers

"How did you evaluate the first YoungEast project - what were the indicators of success used?"

**Inger Jayakoddy:** *The main indicator was the number of youths that re-entered school or engaged with a labour market initiative. We also held interviews with the participants where we asked them to evaluate the service and their progress.*

"I am interested in how you work in the context of honour-related violence, could you tell us more?"

**Inger Jayakoddy:** *From interviews with the participants and the youth counsellors, we came to understand that many of our participant live in an honour-related context, either from family, society or socially. We had to be better at identifying this and then assessing, so we mainly needed better tools to better understand the context which our youths live in.*

*For us it is just about knowing if our youths are dealing with an honour-related context and social control. If it is a very serious situation where for example the life of the youth is at risk, then we bring in other parts of the social services to provide them with a different type of support like re-placement.*

"How did YoungEast identify relevant cities to have a knowledge exchange with before the project?"



**Inger Jayakoddy:** *It started when me and another project leader in the city went to the European Week of Region and Cities 2016 and networked with other actors. We were lucky enough to meet an organisation that in turn set up a workshop in London and invited us and a lot of the London boroughs to that workshop. It is all about being in the right time at the right place and about taking a chance, putting yourself out there and knock-on doors. But it is difficult to find the right type of partnerships.*

*We are very interested in connecting with other cities around our newly established project "Girls and Gangs" to learn more about how we could develop this project further. Please contact us if you would like to connect with us.*

*"How do you keep your doors always open and at the same time work with project money?"*

**Eddie Sirbu:** *Yes, this is an important part of our trust building with the community, to always be available to the youths and their families. As far as I am aware, we are now funded for three years, but as it is not my area of concern, I cannot answer more specifically.*

**Inger Jayakoddy:** *When we initiated the projects our politicians and administrative leadership wanted us to start up this kind of service as part of the social services provided in Gothenburg. And our second project was added as a method for development of the first project. Our base programme is now funded by the municipality and ESF funds the development process. In this sense, the project isn't dependent on project money.*

**Danne Larsson:** *This is a crucial point of how we have used project money to build up this kind of unit. For our politicians and administrative leaders, it has always been about long-term investments. Project funding is a good way of ensuring continuous development/improvements of programmes.*

*"How do both of these projects handle the trust building with parents of the youths, as I guess you must have parental permission for these interventions?"*

**Eddie Sirbu:** *A big part for us is the parents and we found it difficult for us to connect with the youths, because of the parents' lack of trust in the organisation and our workers. What we have done is to make sure that we are there for the parents as well, for example to help translate documents or fill them out. Bringing the parents to our facilities, showing them around, showing what their youths will be doing while here, and just to make sure it feels like a safe space.*

*But simple action also helps, like being punctual to meetings with the parents. Or responding to message and texts, keeping them informed if it takes longer time to*





get back to them so they know they have not been forgotten about. These will go a long way.

**Danne Larsson:** *I agree with what Eddie is saying. For us the counsellors are well-known in the community and at youth clubs. The main part for us is to offer help to parents who want to and have waited for help. They have previously often asked in many other places for help. It is important to do what you say and to preserve a long-term continuity in your relationship with the youth and their family.*

“Do any project have a sunshine story to share with us from their respective projects?”

**Eddie Sirbu:** *At the moment, we are trying to build a peer-to-peer leadership programme and we have identified a few Roma youths who we think could be leaders within their community. For example, they could help out with providing local services such as running after school activities that young people can engage in. This is still a work in progress, but hopefully by the end of next year, we will have one or two youths willing to work with us in this regard.*

**Danne Larsson:** *In Gothenburg we have a well-known family in the city, well-known in the fact that they have a long history of being drivers of organised crime and criminal activity. We have now had 5 or 6 youths belonging to this family, where their parents have come to us asking for help to get these youths out of these circles. To help them break the cycle of children repeating the behavioural patterns of their parents/family members.*

“A question to Inger/Danne: how long has the participants been in the project and when does one leave successfully the project?”

**Danne Larsson:** *It varies. Some people are in the system for a year or even longer and we have individual goals for each youth. If we (us or the youth) feel like the youth needs more time to achieve their goal, we sometimes ask the authorities for more time.*

*For further information*

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