

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Unione degli assessorati alle politiche socio-sanitarie, dell'istruzione e del lavoro
PIC number:	960638434
Project name and acronym:	Social innovation for Better Living — <i>SO I BeLiv</i>

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP2
Event name:	International Conference Italy : how the local communities reacted to tackle the negative effects of COVID-19 crisis on young people
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Italy, Palermo
Date(s):	11 September 2023
Website(s) (if any):	http://www.unioneassessorati.it/
Participants	
Female:	50
Male:	80
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 France :	8
From country 2 Spain :	8
From country 3 Croatia :	5
From country 4 Slovenia :	8
From country 5 Italy :	101
Total number of participants:	130
From total number of countries:	5
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>All the activities of the international conference were held on 11.09.2023 at Cre.Zi Plus, Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa, Palermo, Italy. The event was attended by 129 participants out of which 29 were foreigners and 100 local participants. Attending the event were youth, experts in the field of education, social field, policymakers, academics, and other relevant stakeholders in the field of youth.</p> <p>The event was presented and moderated by Fabrizio Mascali, on behalf of the hosting partner Unione degli Assessorati. The event was conducted both in English and Italian with subtitles available to facilitate</p>	

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understanding of all of the participants.

The agenda of the event was as follows:

10:00 - 10:30	Check-in and welcome Greetings from Prof. Giacomo Mulè, president of Unione degli Assessorati
10:30 - 11:30	Presentation of each partner's desktop research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Massoli (PISTES SOLIDAIRES) – language: Italian • Tjaša Vozel (IC Geoss) – language: English • Carmen Lancha Montes (Asociación Caminos) – language: Italian • Sanja Barisic (Udruga Mladhi) – language: Italian • Fabrizio Mascali (Unione degli Assessorati) – language: Italian
11:30 - 12:00	Guest speakers: <p>1 Prof. Maurizio Cellura - Full professor of Engineering, physics and technic at the dpt. of Engineering and Director of the Centre of Sustainability and Ecological Transition at the University of Palermo.</p> <p><i>Environmental sustainability and post-pandemic</i></p> <p>Prof. Giancarlo Minaldi - Associate professor of Political Sciences at University "Kore" in Enna.</p> <p><i>The effects of lockdown on the political behaviors of young people</i></p>
12:00 - 13:00	Round table <p>Introduction by prof. Fabio Massimo Lo Verde - Full professor of Sociology at the dept. of Economical, Business and Statistical Studies at the University of Palermo.</p> <p><i>Post pandemia and youth consumption</i></p> <p>Digital activity: involvement of the audience through a set of three questions on Mentimeter.</p>
13:00	End of the conference and lunch

The activities of the event were divided into two parts. The first part was dedicated to the presentations of the five national desktop researches, reporting "how the local communities reacted to tackle the negative effects of COVID-19 crisis on young people" in the five partner countries (Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Spain and France). which the project partners produced prior to the event. This national desktop researches were gathered into a synthesis report titled: "Research on how the local communities reacted to tackle the negative effects of COVID-19 crisis on young people in Slovenia, Croatia, Spain, France and Italy", and Spain that is now available for free and downloadable on partner's websites.

Partners presented the measures taken by local and national authorities in their country, to tackle the negative effect of post-pandemic crisis on young people. Such research focused mostly on the topics of employment, education, mental health, and civic engagement. The research also included the results of an online survey conducted among young people in each of partner countries, and a more detailed face to face interview conducted by each of the partners with a smaller group of fragile youth. The focus of the survey and the interview was to collect the opinions of the project's target group (young people under 30 years old) about the measures taken by the authorities to tackle post-pandemic crisis, if such policies were actually effective, and what could have been done differently.

The participants had the opportunity to hear what measures were taken by local and national authorities, and which areas given most importance by such policies in different European countries. This information was particularly helpful for the representative of institutions and education who attended the conference, in order to give them a more accurate insight on what young people actually need and think about possible alternatives that could help these people overcome the problems generated by the crisis and, in most cases, still affecting them.

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Following the National Reports presentations there was the intervention of three important special guests.

Prof. Maurizio Cellura, Director of the Centre of Sustainability and Ecological Transition at the University of Palermo, with his speech "Environmental sustainability and post-pandemic" connected the conference main topic to other important issues such as climate change and environmental sustainability, and how these were addressed by the policies adopted to face the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

Professor Giancarlo Minaldi - Associate professor of Political Sciences at University "Kore" in Enna - in his speech "The effects of lockdown on the political behaviors of young people" provided an interesting insight on how populist behaviours have taken root among people, particularly following the economic crisis generated by the pandemic aftermath.

In a third speech, Professor Fabio Massimo Lo Verde - Full professor of Sociology at the dept. of Economical, Business and Statistical Studies at the University of Palermo – discussed about "Post pandemic and youth consumption", investigating how the pandemic has affected the habits of young consumers, and introduced the round table.

Since the research and the surveys were focused on feedback from young people about the effectiveness of the policies and measures adopted by local and national authorities, the round table involved representative of the project's target group (young people), of youth organizations and of local policy makers.

Through a moderated debate the participants of the round table and the event participants discussed about their local situation and provided testimonies related to their personal experience. From the round table emerged how each different country gave specific importance to a different area, among those affected by the pandemic, and what where the positive and negative aspects of each of these policies.

France created online platform to intercept requests for support from young people, but did not give the same attention to local association who, knowing better the territory, could have taken more effective actions.

Slovenia focused on social measures, especially addressed to students, and Spain provided training opportunities and an economic support to access it

Croatia encouraged dialogue among citizens and institutions and Italy provided financial support to entrepreneurs.

All the partner countries provided mental health support, although with a very limited access.

Finally, a digital activity was conducted to involve and engage the audience. The digital activity consisted of 3 questions submitted via Mentimeter. The results of this activity consists of 3 word-clouds, attached to the present event description.

The event concluded with non-formal networking time where the public had opportunity to create new, international connections, exchange opinions and share experiences. This activity contributed to the strengthening of European identity and creating cross-sectoral connections among all the participants.

Testimonies of participants:**SPAIN****Emelie:**

"For me, the event gave me an interesting perspective of other parties' thoughts on the COVID-19 topic.

It was an opportunity for me to compare my view on that topic, the view of other juveniles and older generations.

The interactive part afterwards was also a good chance to actually hear what we as juveniles had to say and to explain our issues."

Sandra:

"It was interesting to see how different countries dealt with this crisis. The impact of COVID-19 on people during this time period was also enlightening. Especially as a young person from another country, you perceive this time differently than someone older from Italy, for example.

It was good that at the end we worked with the online tool and collected final thoughts, and everyone was able to contribute something to the discussion."

SLOVENIA**Miha:**

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The conference was interesting in the sense that I learned something new about how different countries reacted to the COVID-19 crisis and the impact it had on the youth. As a teacher, it is especially important for me to be aware of the long-lasting impact of the pandemic on the youth's emotional wellbeing, as well as on their educational path.

Sara:

I belong to the youth category and enjoyed that there were some online activities we could do during the conference. It is nice to see the opinions of other people who were at the conference. It was also interesting to see the huge impact the pandemic had on everyone across Europe.

FRANCE**Brigitte:**

This event gave me the opportunity to realize that the countries reacted differently to the Covid-19 crisis, and with mixed results, but there are many good ideas to get inspiration from.

Etienne:

As a student during the pandemic, I didn't realize we were confronted to the same problems all around the EU. It was very interesting to hear the testimonies from other European youngsters.

CROATIA**Giovanna La Gala**

The conference was an excellent opportunity for me to reflect more upon the consequences the pandemic had on the youth on an international and European level. The joint intervention of youth and youthworkers together with policy makers has been extremely helpful and has given me a different insight on the matter.

Catarina Rende Dominis

The one-day conference provided valuable perspective on how transformative the COVID-19 crisis was for young people, but not only. I gained invaluable insights into how the pandemic has affected not only Croatia, but other partner countries as well, especially from a local and national policy perspective. The data visualized and presented by the partners was fascinating, while stories of experiences enriched the discussions in informal moments after the event. I truly believe that it provided all the attendees with some food for thought about what can be improved to ensure a brighter future.

Anđela Mrčela

It was enriching to hear comparative research and how different countries have dealt with the Covid-19 crisis. It was also instructive to see examples of good practice from other countries and advice from prominent experts on these topics. I think that the examples and experiences of others have helped everyone in searching for new ideas in ways to fight the negative consequences of Covid-19.

I participated in the round table as a representative of young people, which was extremely important for me to be able to express my opinion and the impact of Covid-19 on young people in my local community.

Links to press articles/social media pages related to the project event:

- <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=634489002044011&set=pb.100064487510565.-2207520000>
- <https://www.facebook.com/unioneassessorati/posts/pfbid0L6H42n6LiMm9jkcAsr3uYHV2oUj6XoeZZzL8b71Nn6dqcNQ7ETFYgHzJPGVoDMBql>
- <https://www.palermotoday.it/eventi/conferenza-progetto-so-i-beliv-esplorare-conseguenze-pandemia.html>
- <https://www.balarm.it/eventi/so-i-beliv-a-palermo-conferenza-su-conseguenze-e-rimedi-al-covid-per-i-giovani-127319>
- <https://www.facebook.com/unioneassessorati/posts/pfbid02Mr5X3syDq2HhN5WPPK2Xw2q7VGjweWiCeQWGSTEN3WSbN7PXDAUbeat9LfKJGZoGI>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Asoccaminos/posts/692490079571034>

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- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7107688258276335616>
- <https://www.facebook.com/icgeoss/posts/pfbid0xmw1LBEpkN9GcvfmWGbGfjLseVzoUKrqvdABpzzcXebd8Y1tbE3tPTTDvFywYMfQl>
- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/soibeliv-4/>
- <https://www.mojaobcina.si/litija/novice/?preview=415206>
- <https://www.mojaobcina.si/smartno-pri-litiji/novice/?preview=415208>
- <https://www.facebook.com/100064927650484/posts/pfbid02Ge1U8qWkCveeiRfxS2oYCKgMw7ksNqjBqwD6G6FdqgovLJoiwiGxDGvT9szzMSQl/?d=n>
- <http://mladi-eu.hr/medunarodna-konferencija-u-palermu-projekta-so-i-beliv/>
- <https://www.sibenik.hr/clanci/odrzana-me-unarodna-konferencija-u-palermu-u-sklopu-projekta-so-i-beliv/12162.html>

The event description sheet is published on the project's dedicated pages:

- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/en/projects/soibeliv/>
- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/projekti/so-i-beliv/>
- http://www.unioneassessorati.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2928:so-i-be-
- <https://www.pistes-solidaires.fr/projet/so-i-beliv/>
- https://www.asoccaminos.org/files/So-I-BeLiv_project-information.pdf