YOUTH MEDIATORS in BULGARIA

WHO ARE THEY WHERE ARE THEY

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Problems addressed by the practice

- High number of young NEETs
- A small coverage of those NEETs registered with the labour offices
- Lack of trust in institutions
- Need for individualized approach
- Need for interventions on local level
Who are the Youth Mediators?

- Young, previously unemployed, persons (up to 35)
- With tertiary education degree in the area of social, pedagogical, humanitarian, economic and legal sciences
- With good communication skills, knowledge of the legislative framework in the field of employment, education, social assistance, etc.
- With acquired professional qualification, part of the profession “Social Worker” and “Labour Mediator”
Where Youth Mediators could be found?

- In the municipalities with the highest number of young NEETs
- As a part of the municipality administration's staff
- In an informal environment - among young people, in the cafés, on the streets, in the community, in schools
Youth Mediator’s activities

- Identification of young NEET
- Information and consultation
- Support
- Cooperation
Identification
Out-reach
Support
Activation
Education/Training
• Going back to school
• Vocational training
• New skills
Employment
• On the primary labour market
• Subsidized job places
Registration with the labour office
• Labour mediation
• Job search workshop
• Work with psychologist/case-manager
Results

• An informal network established by the Youth Mediators
• Youth Mediators became recognizable both by young NEETs and by local employers and institutions
• Monthly reports by the mediators shows that:
  ○ 16,846 young people were identified as NEETs not registered with the LOs
  ○ 10,461 (62%) were assisted for a contact with an organization which could help them to become active
  ○ 5,175 (31%) were registered with the LOs
  ○ 1,940 (12%) young people were hired without the mediation of PES
Some practicalities

- The practice was introduced in the framework of a National Program “Activation of Inactive Persons”
- Remuneration and training financed by the state budget (2015 – 2017: total sum of EUR 1 041 425)
- A commitment by the municipalities for job places provision
- A special training program elaborated for the training of the selected to be Youth Mediators
Challenges for the sustainability

- Youth Mediator as a part of the municipal administration’s staff
- Personal data collection
- Lack of activation opportunities in some municipalities
- Continuing training and support for Youth Mediators
Thank you for the attention!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

HTTP://WWW.YG.MLSP.GOVERNMENT.BG/EN/