



Youth Mediterranean Network

Building bridges between young people across the Mediterranean

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DESCRIPTION

YouthMED is a youth-led non-profit organization, founded in 2013 and based in Lecce, dedicated to fostering international cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It promotes youth participation, non-formal education, and international mobility through various local, national, and international projects. The organization focuses on empowering disadvantaged youth, particularly those with fewer opportunities, by using innovative approaches such as Hip-Hop, trap music, boxing, experiential learning, and theatre of the oppressed.

YouthMED bridges the gap between marginalized communities and academia, entrepreneurship, and policymaking, ensuring youth voices are heard in decision-making processes. It actively fights against social exclusion and disengagement by leveraging cultural initiatives, artistic interventions, and sports. Additionally, the organization strengthens Mediterranean culture as a tool for intercultural dialogue and cooperation.

By collaborating with universities, business incubators, and governmental institutions, YouthMED addresses challenges like unemployment and lack of mobility opportunities. As a member of the National Youth Forum and affiliated with the European Youth Forum, it plays a key role in shaping youth policies at national and European levels. Continuously expanding its impact, YouthMED remains committed to youth empowerment, sustainable development, and fostering a more inclusive Euro-Mediterranean society.

INITIATIVES, EVENTS AND PROJECTS

YouthMED has gained a lot of experience in youth work, with a strong track record of designing and implementing initiatives that promote empowerment, entrepreneurship, mobility, and intercultural dialogue. The organisation has been instrumental in creating platforms where young people can exchange ideas, gain new skills, and explore opportunities for both personal and professional development.

1. **ULTREIA LAB 2.0** (Spain, 2023-2024). Ultraia was a project structured in two phases, each aimed at fostering personal growth and social impact through experiential education. The first phase took place in Madrid, where participants engaged in experiential learning activities designed to enhance their personal development, resilience, and social awareness. Through non-formal education methodologies, they explored new perspectives and gained tools to become active agents of change. The second phase brought all participants from the partner countries to Lecce, specifically to Via Don Bosco, an area characterized by high levels of youth disengagement and criminal deviance. Here, they applied everything learned in Madrid to revitalize and transform the neighborhood, using education, sports, and community-based initiatives as tools for urban regeneration and social inclusion. By actively involving the local youth, the project aimed to counteract social marginalization and

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- offer alternative pathways to those at risk of exclusion.
2. **Euro-Med Youth Forum** (2018, Cyprus) – Brought together 60 young people from Europe and the Mediterranean to discuss sustainable participation, active citizenship, and innovative entrepreneurship, strengthening collaboration between young leaders and institutions.
 3. **SEMINARE Project** (2017-2018) – A transnational initiative in collaboration with UNIMED, funded by the Apulia Region, aimed at enhancing the internationalisation of Mediterranean universities.
 4. **International Conferences Participation** (2016) – YouthMED representatives participated in key conferences, including the UfM Regional Meeting on Higher Education Internationalisation in Barcelona and the PAM Conference on Interreligious Dialogue to Counter Violent Extremism in Rome.
 5. **UNIMED General Assembly** (2016) – YouthMED presented the project proposal “Enterprises and Employability: The Challenge for University Cooperation” and advocated for the establishment of the Mediterranean Youth Forum as a representative body for young people in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
 6. **National Youth Forum Membership** (2015) – YouthMED became a member of the National Youth Forum, joining a platform representing millions of young people and expanding its advocacy at national and European levels.
 7. **Youth On The Movies** (2015, Lecce) – A European Youth Exchange Programme that brought together 35 young people from Italy, Turkey, Tunisia, and Poland. The project used filmmaking and artistic expression to explore social issues and foster intercultural dialogue.
 8. **EURAS Festival** (2014, Istanbul) – Organised by EURAS at Istanbul Aydin University, this event gathered over 150 young participants, experts, and professors. YouthMED facilitated a workshop on “Exchange of Experience” to share best practices and innovative approaches to youth engagement.
 9. **FOCUS ON: Youth, Observations and Proposals** (2014) – Played a crucial role in discussions on the European Youth Guarantee, highlighting the need for investment in young people’s human capital and ensuring access to employment or training within four months of unemployment or leaving formal education.

Through these initiatives, YouthMED continues to strengthen its impact, advocating for youth participation and inclusion in decision-making processes.

Legal Representative

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Si autorizza il trattamento dei dati contenuti nel curriculum vitae in base art. 13 del D. Lgs. 196/2003.



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