

NEWSLETTER

Routes for fostering sense of initiative and active citizenship among disaffiliated youth

1. Hearing Young Voices: European Report on Consultations with Youth

To ensure that all upcoming resources truly reflect the realities of our target group, project partners conducted extensive national consultations and focus groups with over 40 disaffiliated young people aged 13 to 25 across Belgium, France, Portugal, and Serbia. Held in safe, trusted, and youth-friendly educational environments, these sessions allowed young people from marginalized or precarious backgrounds, including NEETs, early school leavers, and youth in alternative care—to speak openly about their experiences.

The key findings from these consultations have been compiled into a comprehensive EU Report, highlighting several critical dimensions:

- **Personal Growth & Digital Health:** Young people shared that low self-confidence, a feeling of not being heard by institutions, and digital fatigue are major personal barriers. They expressed a strong preference for practical, visual digital content and peer-to-peer storytelling.
- **Education & Employability:** Many face uncertainty regarding career options and feel that formal education can be disconnected from real-life prospects. They highly value hands-on, project-based learning and mentoring from individuals with similar backgrounds.
- **Civic Engagement:** While trust in formal political processes is low, youth showed a high willingness to engage in concrete, youth-led community projects, sports, and digital media initiatives.

These invaluable first-hand insights and direct recommendations from the youth served as the guiding foundation for shaping our digital toolkit and platform features.

2. EU Capacity-Building Training in Paris: Empowering Master Trainers

On 5 and 6 May 2026, the Youth in Route partners gathered in Paris for an intensive and vital two-day EU Capacity-Building session. Under a "train-the-trainer" model, this session brought together a select group of youth workers destined to become master trainers. They are now fully equipped to cascade this innovative knowledge and practical expertise back into their respective countries through upcoming national-level training sessions.

The training program is firmly rooted in Robert Castel's sociological theory of disaffiliation, providing a robust analytical foundation to understand social exclusion.



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Over the two days, partners collaboratively reviewed and experienced the complete architecture of our 3-Level Training Programme:

- **Level 1: Theoretical Understanding (Led by BAO-J):** Participants explored key concepts of disaffiliation as a dynamic process rather than a static state.

Through participatory games and role-plays, youth workers practiced analysing warning signs and tipping points for re-engagement.

- **Level 2: From Theory to the Field (Led by FCB):** This segment bridged the gap between academic theory and daily field practice. The master trainers mapped out progressive skills journeys covering vital topics like youth outreach, creative engagement, handling trauma, and leveraging digital tools.
- **Level 3: From Field Action to Systemic Change (Led by Lycée Louis Lumières):** Moving beyond direct support, this level equipped youth workers to initiate institutional change, transform observations into credible policy advocacy, and build genuine participation mechanisms for marginalized youth.

By empowering youth workers to move from simply navigating the system to actively changing it, this capacity-building milestone marks a major step forward for youth inclusion across Europe.



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3. Milestone Achieved: The "Youth in Route" Digital Toolkit is Ready!

We are thrilled to announce the finalization of the conceptual and pedagogical framework for our **Digital Toolkit (PR2)**, developed under WP3. Directly following the recommendations from our national consultations with youth, the toolkit adopts a preventive and restorative approach to tackle the root causes of youth disengagement. It is fully digitized, self-paced, and designed to fit the specific needs of disaffiliated young people, while also serving as a practical facilitation instrument for youth workers.

Available in English, French, Portuguese, and Serbian, the toolkit is hosted on our online Digital Incubator and is structurally divided into 3 main routes:

- **Route 1 – Ignite Your Potential (Personal Growth):** Coordinated by Mindshift, this route focuses on self-discovery, boosting self-esteem, and promoting digital health and emotional resilience. It offers youth tools for stress management and maintaining balanced online habits.
- **Route 2 – Bridge to Tomorrow (Career Opportunities):** Coordinated by CEPORA, this dimension connects youth with innovative educational pathways and career planning. It provides practical guidance for skills assessment, CV writing, and exploring alternative pathways like entrepreneurship.
- **Route 3 – Community Mosaic (Community Engagement):** Coordinated by Mindshift, this route empowers young people to transform from passive recipientsof support into active change agents. It builds civic awareness, teamwork, and leadership through volunteering frameworks and digital activism guides.

Each route delivers approximately 4 hours of active, gamified learning, complete with short introductory video tutorials, interactive self-assessment quizzes, and downloadable practical worksheets.



4. Third Partnership Meeting in Lisbon: Mapping Out the Piloting Phase

On June 19, 2026, partners from Belgium, France, Serbia, and Portugal gathered in Lisbon for the Third Transnational Partnership Meeting, successfully hosted by Mindshift. This pivotal meeting allowed the consortium to validate project milestones, review the beta version of the Youth-led Digital Incubator, and coordinate the next six months of intensive field activities.



Key decisions and next steps from the Lisbon meeting include:

- **3-Level Training Programme Integration:** Following the final presentation by Lycée Louis Lumières, the training modules are currently being prepared for upload to the incubator, with national translations underway to make them accessible across all partner countries.
- **Launching the Piloting Phase:** Partners finalized the harmonized guidelines and supporting frameworks to test the Digital Toolkit. Moving forward, each partner organisation will pilot the platform directly with at least 15 young people and 40 youth educators through regional training and evaluation sessions.
- **Boosting Dissemination & Sustainability:** The partnership aligned plans for upcoming awareness media campaigns, the roll-out of youth-led storytelling circles, and cross-sector policy dialogues designed to bridge frontline youth work with systemic decision-making.

With a clear roadmap and strengthened collaboration, the Youth in Route partnership continues its mission to create sustainable, inclusive pathways for young people across Europe!

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