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CONTINUE

Connecting European Youth through Storytelling

1st Newsletter

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COMPARATIVE
RESEARCH
NETWORK:



C O
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Introduction



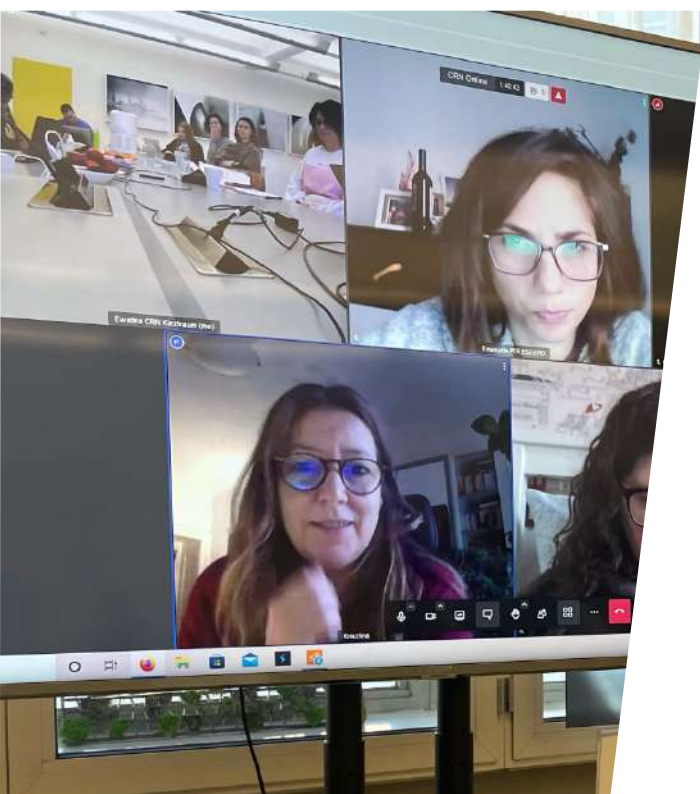
CONTINUE

Connecting european youth through storytelling

CONTINUE will support young people suffering from social exclusion to tackle the specific challenges of post-COVID times in terms of staying connected and integrated into European communities.

For youth on the margins of society, COVID emergency raised multiple complications such as:

- increase of their financial, material and health related vulnerabilities;
- loss of their existing connections to the institutions, social care system, job opportunities & decrease of their chances of social integration;
- lack of some basic skills and capacities in digital communication cutting them from their social, educational and economic connections.





For tackling these challenges, CONTINUE intends to:

- understand the main difficulties of marginalised youth during COVID-19 and their vision about the main challenges of post-COVID times;
- create a digital framework for supporting a smooth transfer from offline to online exchanges between young people, youth organisations and governance structures;
- capacity build for young people to delivery local social actions;
- enhance dialogue between stakeholders, policy makers and youth and improve relevant policy.

CONTINUE will be realised by a Consortium of 8 NGOs working with marginal youth groups, experienced in youth education, community-based activities, policy recommendations, working with an extended network of organisations from different sectors.



C O
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**Participating
organisations
& the Community
Reporting experience
in Europe**



The first stages of the *Community reporting*

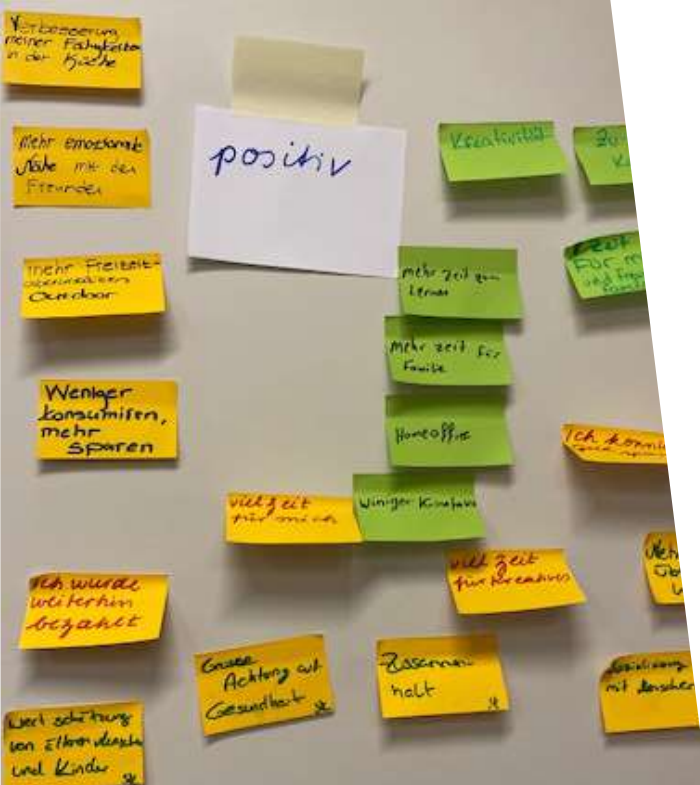
From May 2021 till January 2022 groups of young people in Italy, Germany, Portugal, England, Hungary, Lithuania, Denmark have been invited to share their personal story on how covid-19 impacted their life through the storytelling method of *“Community Reporting”* developed by PVM – People’s voice media.

Using a diverse range of insight storytelling techniques, each partner organisation supported young people to use digital devices and the Internet to share their own story of lived experience.

After a training in Chester (November 2021) delivered by PVM, youth workers and trainers worked with young people to identify the insights in their stories and package them in a visual report that will be soon available!

How did the first stages of the Community Reporting method go? Find here below a short outline of the *“gathering”* and *“curating”* stories experience in each partner country.





CRN

COMPARATIVE
RESEARCH
NETWORK:

Bio

Comparative Research Network (CRN) is an NGO founded in 2007 that works in the field of adult education and research. The CRN Network is specialised in training activities within the fields of intercultural competences, intergenerational learning, mobilities and migration. Additionally, the CRN is specialised in creating and performing evaluation and dissemination processes.

The Community Reporting experience in Germany

As many of cities in Germany, Berlin had a challenging time during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently the government is talking about the possibility of a 4th lockdown which not only brings back memories of the prior lockdowns, and most importantly of the first lockdown, but also comes with frustration and despair. The residents of Berlin – having had many freedoms during all lockdowns – nevertheless found creative ways to manage their every-day life, despite several restrictions. Our peer group – 4 young Berliners who are between the age 20 – 27 – reveal through their stories how they have experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. Interestingly and unexpectedly enough, many told us about positive moments in which they even enjoyed slowing down on life and used the time to focus on themselves more than usual. However, they also spoke about mental health issues and a general rise in domestic violence.





Active Youth



Bio

Active Youth is a Lithuania-based for-purpose organisation that unites young leaders, thinkers and doers, those who seek change and those who make change with the mission: to create opportunities for youth and sustainable positive impact in the way we treat our planet, health, vulnerable people & online community.

The Community Reporting experience in Lithuania

Young people had very different experiences: some saw only the negative part of the pandemic, some saw the positive parts which came unexpectedly together with the pandemic, some told about both sides of their COVID-19 experience. But there are some common feelings: the hopeless feeling of not knowing what is going on and when will it end, the fear of Covid-19, the fear to get sick with Corona, to infect your loved ones, to meet people in general, but also missing live socialization.

Although the further impact came a little bit later. For some it was very negative: from the side of anxiety, anger, depression, lack of motivation to do anything, to the side of getting to know yourself more, your needs and wishes, discovering the cons of the pandemic, adapting to the changes and even changing your lifestyle in some healthy ways.





Artemisszió



ARTEMISSZIÓ
Intercultural Foundation

Bio

Artemisszió was founded in 1998 as a charitable foundation based in Budapest, Hungary. They believe in an open, tolerant society, where disadvantaged people are given opportunities and interculturality is valued. We work towards these goals in our home country and abroad as well.

The Community Reporting experience in Hungary

In the framework of the CONTINUE project, Artemisszió Foundation organised two workshops of Story Gathering and Story Curation in Budapest in the autumn of 2021. *"It was hard for everyone"* - All storytellers reported about some form of anxiety, stress, depression or other difficult emotional states. Most of these were associated with the lockdown and the fact that the youngsters could not meet their peers, do team sports or do other extracurricular activities. A common point in most of the stories was the uncertainty connected to the pandemic and *"overcoming the fear of the unknown"*. Storytellers also described their strategies of coping with the situation. In times of lockdown, they tried to focus more on themselves, on the smaller and indoor things, like reading, watching movies, regular workout or doing DIY activities. We believe in an open, tolerant society, where disadvantaged people are given opportunities and interculturality is valued. We work towards these goals in our home country and abroad as well.

Reflection
 Positive experience in the Beginning
 → Online-School
 → sleep in Vacation
 Prison - Home
 Time for yourself
 Freeing Family Time
 Walk/running outside
 Stressful w/ Exams
 Lack of Motivation
 Anxious
 home workouts
 Liked Online School
 Isolation
 → missing friends
 Scary/Unknown Future
 Fear of Covid
 Weightgain
 New Hobbies
 low learner effect
 able to cheat

Crossing Borders



Bio

Crossing Borders is a non-profit, civil society organization. Crossing Borders educates and empowers young people to become active global citizens. Across cultures and professions, they provide platforms for young people to cross-fertilise ideas and form global associations, networks, and communities worldwide. In a learning environment where all participants are encouraged to grow and learn from one another, we enable youth to share their best ideas, best products, and best practices.

The Community Reporting experience in Denmark

Through the CONTINUE project, we want to bring youth perspectives into the conversations we are having about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their voices deserve to be heard, especially when considering the important milestones they have missed out on over the past two years. In our WP2 activities, we gathered the stories of youth between the ages of 14-17 living in Denmark, many of whom we learned have suffered from a lack of motivation, boredom, strenuous family relationships, and the unpredictable education that the pandemic brought. Through gathering their experiences we learned that the benefits of engagement in education, independence and autonomy from the family home, time to focus on their own interests outside of school, and a vibrant social life in which they are allowed to experience normal teenage milestones cannot be understated and should be taken into account in policymaking going forward. .





FAJDP



Bio

The Federation of Youth Associations of the District of Porto (FAJDP), is a non-profit, non-partisan and secular non-governmental organization (NGO), whose mission includes the fight against all forms of discrimination, the training of young people through of non-formal education and the construction of an active, tolerant and solidary citizenship.

The Community Reporting experience in Portugal

On 10th November, FAJDP has carry out our Curation Activity with a group of young girls. This activity took place in FAJDP House of Associations in Porto, Portugal, and these group came from a Professional School from Matosinhos (a nearby city), where they are studying Social Cultural Animation. All participants – 12 in total – are girls and aged between 17 and 19 years old. During this workshop, girls had shared stories and realities that not everyone in the group were totally aware of. Sharing that reality made them understand better what everyone went through that period and create a better, more cohesive and understanding group. For them, lockdowns and COVID19 pandemic in general bring mix feelings: In one hand, they were sad to be at home, without social events, friends, or school. But, when the lockdowns ended, they were afraid to be again around other people. Also, they appreciate the time at home with their close family, although they miss other distant relatives.





People's Voice Media



Bio

People's Voice Media was established in 1995 and is committed to supporting people to improve their lives and bring about positive social change from the ground up. Using a diverse range of insight storytelling techniques, People's Voice Media supports people to use digital devices and the Internet to gather and share their own (and their peers') stories of lived experience.

The Community Reporting experience in U.K.

Since September PVM have been working with Gorse Hill Studios – A Youth Arts Charity based in Greater Manchester – on CONTINUE: a new project focused on gathering young people's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initial stage of the project involved delivering a series of community reporter training session with young people. For PVM in the UK this happened at Gorse Hill Studios in Stretford. Young people learnt storytelling techniques and developed digital skills before recording their own lived experience stories reflecting on life during the pandemic. Some stories revealed the negative impacts such as feelings of isolation and loneliness and others highlighted how it gave them time to focus on developing hobbies and interests.



Per Esempio Onlus



Bio

Per Esempio Onlus is a non profit organization created in Palermo in 2011 by a group of young workers with different professional profiles willing to focus their skills on the third sector. Their aim was to blend professional wishes with the will to encourage a positive social change.

The association is inspired by values and practices aiming at cultural, social and ethical development through the promotion of active participation of individuals and civil society. Per Esempio mainly works in the fields of education, mobility, volunteering and migrants' inclusion.

The Community Reporting experience in Italy

How did covid pandemic impact your life?" In a welcoming and comfortable environment, young people have been accompanied through an experience of self-reflection using digital techniques for telling personal stories: snapshot stories, photography icebreakers, storytelling through images, music.

These workshops had one main purpose: to give voice to young people. Autochthonous and youth with a forced migratory background from Tunisia, Maroc, Camerun, Ivory Coast between 14 and 30 years old shared their experience of the pandemic through videos or audio.





YES



Bio

Youth Europe Service (Y.E.S.) is an NGO founded in 1999 in Potenza (Italy) with the aim to positively impact at social and environmental level. The association works to promote the social inclusion of people with fewer opportunities and foster European values contributing to the social and cultural development of societies. YES, organizes annual events and activities to promote new learning opportunities for young people and adults.

The Community Reporting experience in Italy

Yes organized a specific event live in Potenza (Italy) to introduce the project and Community Reporting method to a wider audience of young people aged 20-30, coming from different European countries. We aimed to collect individual stories and focus on putting all participants at their ease, so personal stories could emerge. Finding a calm place for the interview and dedicating time to each interview was the first step to take. "The interviews were voluntary. I was surprised by the altruism and maturity of all those people. In fact, my interviewers are really young people", said Anna from YES. Ironically, we had to stop our interviews while the event became a Covid-19 cluster. The diverse emotional impact of stories and live meetings experience itself shows how difficult time we are living and how many difficulties we are facing.





Stay tuned and follow us!

CONTINUE Website

www.continue.community/

CONTINUE Facebook page

www.facebook.com/continue.eu



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