

# Boosting youth participation at the local level 3

## STUDY VISIT

**The Study visit to Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal, allowed the exchange of good practices and tools for boosting youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level**

**The activity allowed youth workers and municipality officers to gather together and observe specific projects designed by and for young people to improve their participation in the local realities.**

It was a great tool to look at the different local realities in Vila Nova de Gaia and to get inspired by many local initiatives designed by youngsters.

It started with the sharing of ideas regarding the meaning of youth participation. Therefore, the participants had the chance to have a deeper look at youth policies described by the Deputy Mayor for Youth of Vila Nova de Gaia, who underlines that the municipality is well recognized at the European level for youth policies, since all of them are made by youngsters to youngsters. By doing so, they have developed trust relationships with the youngsters who feel more involved and willing to share their ideas and put them into action.

Additionally, some sessions focused on different topics like funding and youth participatory budget, which is very important in the process to create projects together with youngsters and empower them to propose ideas and make their dreams come true.



The study visit was the first of two activities of Boosting project, where the second one will be in Eindhoven (Netherlands) in spring 2023.

Finally, the visits to some local projects helped the participants to gain more tools and knowledge on different ways to let youngsters be more engaged in their realities and to propose ideas that can be turned into action.

The specific objectives of the study visit were: (1) to explore, experience and understand the specific challenges in youth participation in low-density and geographically isolated areas; (2) to visit examples of good practices, based upon interaction with the project organizations and to filter out elements to transfer to own reality; (3) to offer possibilities for long-term partnership building among 7 organizations active in the field of youth participation at the local level, for future projects; (4) to create a collection of best practices of participation of youth participation in geographically isolated/low density areas.

# OUTCOMES

- The exchange from one another increases the quality of services at the local level and it fosters the sense of ownership of youngsters
- Get inspired by other realities in order to make youngsters participate more at a local level and to foster their sense of initiative
- The presence of municipalities able to welcome and support the initiatives of youngsters makes it easier for them to pursue their dreams and reach their goals
- Participatory budget is important since it puts youngsters in the process to create projects for their local realities
- The importance of a dialogue between schools and municipalities
- Networking is one of the solutions to solve issues at the local level



Collaboration with local governments can help achieve greater results and make youngsters pursue their dreams for the local realities



The exchange of good practices and the creation of synergies can help to acquire more tools and ideas to change the realities at the local level



Financial opportunities provided by Erasmus+ programme help to know good practices around the world to boost youth participation at local levels

**"Youth participation is about sharing responsibilities to build an intergenerational partnership and to foster a sense of ownership and belonging in the community for young people by creating spaces where they can experiment, fail and create."**

Amir Speranza Salameh, Agenzia per la Promozione dei Giovani (APG), Italy

**"We need to give youth the ability to make their decisions, to show them where to find the information. Teach them that decisions matter and that they are the main characters."**

Mārtiņš Priede, Donum Animus+, Latvia

Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal  
21st November -  
26th November 2022



The Study Visit was based on the non-formal education methodology, which includes sharing practices, mutual dialogue, exploring engagement practices in the different local realities in Vila Nova de Gaia in order to boost youth participation in decision-making processes at local level.

## STUDY VISITS

- "Yes, we can" project
- City hall of Villa Nova de Gaia
- "Meu bairro, minha rua" project

 **26**  
PARTICIPANTS

 **9**  
COUNTRIES

 **6**  
DAYS

 **8**  
PARTNERS

 **12**  
SESSIONS

# HOW

## PLANNING CONCRETE STEPS

### ACTION PLAN

Mapping needs and resources to create a concrete action plan to implement in their local realities

### DEBATING

- Get to know some local projects in Vila Nova de Gaia
- Meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Youth and municipality officers

## Participants evaluation

 **93.3**%  
High & Very High  
Quality Activity

 **100**%  
Positive opinion on  
goals achievement

# THE ACTIVITY

---

[/ Picture Gallery](#)

[/ Social media post](#)

[/ Programme](#)

[/ Resources](#)

The Study visit was organised by DYPALL Network in cooperation with ADYNE Netherlands and Municipality of Vila Nova de Gaia, funded by the Dutch National Agency of the Erasmus+ programme.



Know more about DYPALL Network

