

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	Udruga mladih "Mladi u Europskoj uniji"
PIC number:	947590673
Project name and acronym:	Social innovation for Better Living — SO I BeLiv

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP1
Event name:	International conference Croatia: The impact of COVID-19 crisis on young people in Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia and Spain
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	in-situ
Location:	Polytechnic of Sibenik, Trg Andrije Hebranga 11, Croatia
Date(s):	13.4.2023
Website(s) (if any):	http://mladi-eu.hr/
Participants	
Female:	75
Male:	60
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [name]:	France: 4
From country 2 [name]:	Croatia: 109
From country 3 [name]:	Italy: 6
From country 4 [name]:	Slovenia: 8
From country 5 [name]:	Spain: 8
Total number of participants:	135
From total number of countries:	5
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>All the activities of the international conference were held on 13. 4. 2023 in Polytechnic of Sibenik, Croatia. The event was attended by 135 participants out of which 26 were foreigners and 109 local participants. Attending the event were youth, experts in the field of education, social field, policymakers and other relevant stakeholders in the field of youth.</p> <p>The agenda of the event was as follows: 11:00 – 11:15 Welcome address on behalf: Ljubo Runjic, Dean of Polytechnic of Sibenik and Matej Matic, udruga mladih "Mladi u EU" 11:15 – 12:15 Presentation of national research results: The impact of COVID-19 crisis on young people: Matej Matic, udruga mladih "Mladi u EU" (HR), Fabrizio Mascali , Unione degli assessorati (IT), Mathieu Decq,</p>	

Pistes Solidaries (FR), Tjaša Dragoš, IC Geoss (SI), Carmen Lancha Montes, Caminos (ES)
 12:15 – 13:00 Round table about mental health: Matej Matic, udruga mladih "Mladi u EU" (HR), Emanuele Galati, Unione degli assessorati (IT), Mathieu Decq, Pistes Solidaries (FR), Tjaša Dragoš and Tjaša Vozel, IC Geoss (SI), Angela Pittl and Ana Lancha Montes, Caminos (ES)
 13:00 – 13:30 New mindset: Be creative, be circular (new employment opportunities for youth after COVID-19: Dr.sc. Jelena Šišara, Polytechnic of Sibenik
 13:30 – 14:00 Non-formal networking time!

The activities of the event were divided into two parts. The first part was dedicated to the presentations of the national desktop researches on the impact that the COVID-19 crisis had on young people in Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia and Spain, which the project partners produced prior to the event. This national desktop researches were gathered into a synthesis report titled: Research on the impact that the COVID-19 crisis had on young people in Croatia, France, Italy, Slovenia and Spain that is now available for free and downloadable on partner's websites. Partners presented how COVID-19 pandemic impacted youth in their countries, looking from the view of employment and education, health, well-being, lifestyle and civic engagement. The research also included results of online surveys that were conducted among young people in partner countries. The participants had the opportunity to hear which life areas of young people were affected most, in different European countries, and if there are any differences in the extent of the COVID-19 impact on young people, related to differences in measures to prevent COVID-19 impact that the government took. This information has the possibility to empower the participants to become more active in the area of civic engagement and be, especially young people, drivers of change while policymakers heard good practices from other countries that they can follow to improve the situation in their own national/local environment.

Since the outcomes of the research and the surveys identified COVID-19 impact on mental health of young people as one of the most important aspects of the pandemic, the second part of the event was dedicated to a round table on the topic of mental health. Experts in the field of mental health and/or youth and the public were discussing the consequences that the pandemic has for youth in their countries and how to tackle them. Through a moderated debate the participants of the round table and the event participants discussed how to tackle the consequences and prevent further damage. Young people shared their personal experiences and expressed their needs and concerns and this information the experts and policymakers can now address and easily and better deal with.

Since the impact of the pandemic on the (un)employment of young people was also defined as one of the biggest issues, the event continued with the session New mindset: Be creative, be circular, where new employment opportunities for youth after COVID-19 were presented and discussed with the public. Especially young people benefited from this activity since it gave them ideas, an outline of how to create their own employment opportunities.

The event concluded with non-formal networking time where the public had opportunity to create new, international connections, exchange opinions and share experiences. This activity contributed to the strengthening of European identity and creating cross-sectoral connections among all the participants.

Testimonies of participants:

"I think the activities presented at the conference were great and appropriate for the topic. What I liked most was the round table about mental health, as it was interesting to hear different perspectives on the topic of the impact of COVID-19 crisis on young people – from young people to teachers and other working professionals. This was also the most dynamic part of the presentation. I also liked the overall research presentation, as it was interesting to learn how different countries reacted to the COVID-19 crisis and what young people think about it and whether opinions differ from country to country". (Participant from Slovenia)

"It was very insightful and informative; it was made clear how big of an impact COVID-19 had, especially on young people. Even I didn't recognize how left aside the youth was during those times since the focus was on the elders. I learned that this period of time had a big impact on how we get and perceive information. And the importance of socializing and spending time with other people to improve our mental health." (Participant from Spain)

"Participating in the International Conference showing the results of the research on the "Impact of the Covid 19 Crisis on Young People", held in Sibenik, I have gathered information and impressions on the subject that I did not have before. I had the opportunity to learn different effects caused by the pandemic on young people, that occurred in the countries participating in the event. Besides thanks to the deepening on the topic, through the confrontation with the project partners, I had the chance to better internalize the European community spirit."

(Participant from Italy)

"Taking part in the event was an enriching experience for me. It enabled me to learn more about the reality of covid-related measures in the various countries present, as well as the consequences and impact that the pandemic has had on young people. It gave a better understanding of the realities of the different European countries present. This forum for exchange gave rise to a desire to continue thinking and to reflect on concrete projects that could meet the needs of young people, particularly with regard to the mental health of young people in France." (Participant from France)

Links to press articles/social media pages related to the project event:

- <https://epale.ec.europa.eu/sl/blog/so-i-beliv-socialne-inovacije-za-boljse-zivljenje>
- <https://www.mojaobcina.si/smartno-pri-litiji/novice/ic-geoss-na-poti-1.html>
- <https://www.mojaobcina.si/litija/novice/ic-geoss-na-poti.html>
- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/soibeliv-3/>
- <https://rb.gy/x6ce5>
- http://www.unioneassessorati.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2964:in-croazia-una-delegazione-dell-unione-per-partecipare-al-primo-meeting-del-progetto-so-i-beliv&catid=13:in-primo-piano&Itemid=147
- <https://www.facebook.com/icgeoss>
- http://mladi-eu.hr/pozivamo-vas-na-okrugli-stol-the-impact-of-covid-19-crisis-on-young-people/?fbclid=IwAR2_4uQtuDln1115lIOMRJ53eI-851ypko3jdPK3mPwwS9tIVVaCKBsvPzM
- <http://mladi-eu.hr/odrzana-prva-konferencija-u-sklopu-projekta-so-i-beliv/>
- <https://www.sibenik.hr/clanci/odrzana-prva-konferencija-u-sklopu-projekta-so-i-beliv/11854.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/udruga.eu>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Asoccaminos/posts/pfbid02vSkuXicktFoJRCbQvUuNupS2hSt5WXcjoZ2wzZssekDA22qQWihGKDgkYojwADt2l>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7053689738943172608>
- <https://www.pistes-solidaires.fr/limpact-du-covid-ches-les-jeunes/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=632091608963962&set=a.556223949884062>

The event description sheet is published on the project's dedicated pages:

- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/en/projects/soibeliv/>
- <https://www.ic-geoss.si/projekti/so-i-beliv/>
- http://www.unioneassessorati.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2928:so-i-beliv&catid=8&Itemid=108
- <https://www.pistes-solidaires.fr/projet/so-i-beliv/>
- https://www.asoccaminos.org/files/So-I-BeLiv_project-information.pdf