



Youth Re-Working Rural

IO 6: Best practices and open challenges
booklet

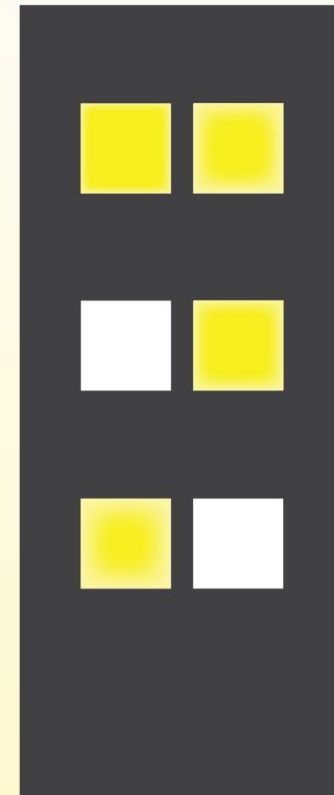
Summary

Full Report available at the link: <https://youthreworking.eu/results/>

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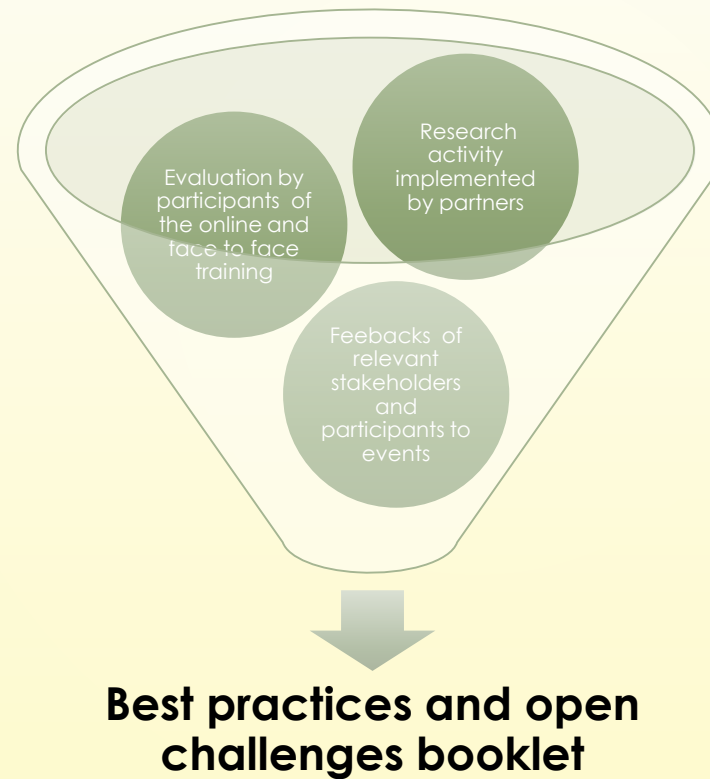
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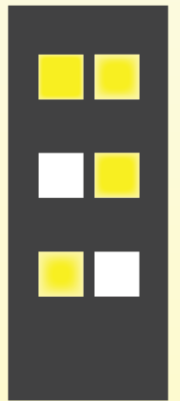


Introduction

The best practices and open challenges booklet is an important milestone for the project results exploration and sustainability



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Background

- The project was inspired by EU experiences aiming at boosting the creation of employment and economic activity in rural areas and to promote the value of co-working;
- Rural areas present common challenges such as high unemployment, brain drain, lack of jobs and innovation;
- Co-working spaces can be the driver of business development and innovation, by boosting people potential, favoring networking and knowledge sharing and by creating job opportunities.





Slovenia

In Slovenia co-working are focusing on shared offices and on building a friendly working community (network).

The spreading of co-working spaces in Slovenia was favored by the governmental policy on entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Partners visited **Poligon Creative Center**, the largest co working platform in Slovenia and a training ground for creative communities and self-employed operating in the field of creative economies, social entrepreneurship and culture (<http://www.poligon.si/en/>)



Slovenia

Partners visited also **Katapult**, an entrepreneurial incubator and a co-working space, located in the village of Trbovlje, in Zasavje region (<https://katapult.si/>). It was selected as location for the Slovenian multiplier event.

Partners were able to learn from the experience and inputs of its attractive community. The knowledge gained was fundamental to shape training materials.

Three motivated Slovenian learners participated to the training activity in Italy. They gained knowledge, interesting information and made beautiful acquaintances in an international environment.



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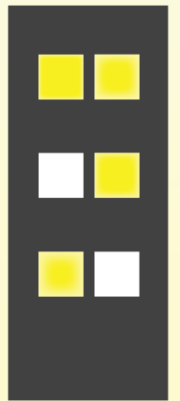
Italy

The project has been challenging and inspiring as it allowed project partners to exchange view and experiences as well as to image new scenarios for all countries and target groups involved.

The location for the learning activity was **Barco Ducale**, an historical building of the XVII century; recently renovated to host a temporary co-working.

Partners and young people had the opportunity to test the opportunities and difficulties linked with its reuse.

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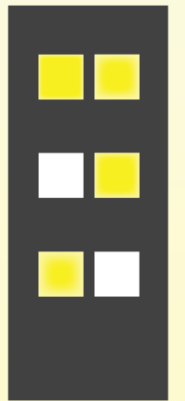
Italy

Partners visited also **Warehouse Marche**, based in Marotta (<https://warehouse.marche.it/>), as an example of an industrial building reconverted in a co-working space.

Warehouse Marche was selected as location for the first Italian multiplier event. Partners were able to learn from the experience and inputs of the founders, while young people had the possibility to see real experiences of what they have learnt during the training.



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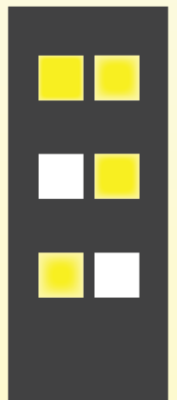
Greece

In Greece, there is a lack of co-working spaces in rural areas due to the fact that the initial capital to start an activity is often a problem.

In Larissa, there are only two places that promote the philosophy of co-working: **Lido Co-working and SB technologies**. Partners had the possibility to visit both places in occasion of the Greek visit.



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Greece

Three Greek learners attended the training week in Italy. The key lessons learned are the following:

- When starting an activity, you need to use your own capital;
- The break even point is reached generally after two years of activity;
- The community of a co-working is at the core of sustainability;
- The location of your co-working influence the first impression of the users;
- Co-working spaces should offer experiences and training.





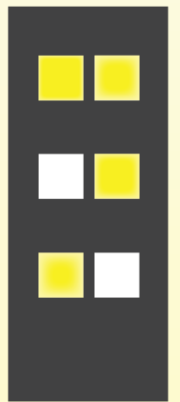
Spain

Co-working can be a powerful tool to promote economic and social growth and to retain young talents in regions such as Extremadura.

Awareness raising about the concept of co-working is necessary in regions such as Extremadura as people often lack the knowledge, tools and mindset to start their own activity; while funding do not represent a problem.

Potential entrepreneurs need to know that they can find support and can build a win to win relationship with other entrepreneurs; co-working can represent the perfect location for this purpose .

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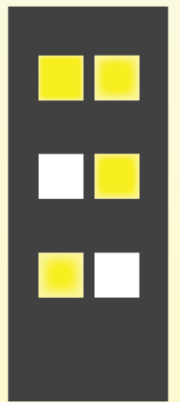
Spain

Spanish participants to the learning activity have acquired knowledge on how a co-working space work and on how an abandoned building can be renewed and exploited. Moreover, they have improved their soft skills and abilities as team players.

Young people participating to the online pilot training acquired these skills as well.

In the long run, the experiences acquired during the project implementation will lay the foundation for a change in mindset and a greater predisposition of innovative ways of working.

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Latvia

Co-working spaces are spreading in Latvian cities; local municipalities often support their establishment.

Apart from that, the number of abandoned and vacant building is growing in Latvia. It is important to maintain these buildings until they find a new use.

During the multiplier event hosted by **Darba Vieta** (<https://darbavieta.rocks/>), partners had the possibility to learn about the “Free Riga” association best practice; they work as intermediary between building owners and the community in the need of space.



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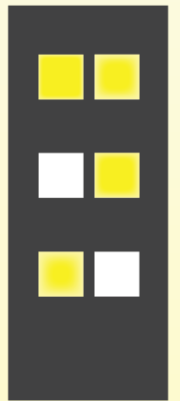
Latvia

In rural areas in Latvia, co-working spaces can become an important part of local society.

Soft skills as well as business skills are needed to successfully manage co-working spaces.

During the training week in Italy, Latvian learners have gained relevant skills to start and manage co-working spaces; they were also encouraged and stimulated to become entrepreneurs through setting up co-working spaces in currently abandoned spaces.

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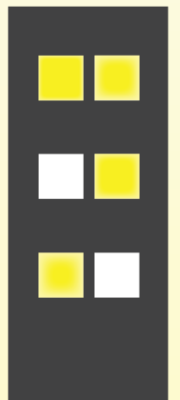
Norway

The concept of co-working is rapidly growing in Norway both as a business idea (investors facilitating a workspace) as well as from bottom up prospective (group of entrepreneurs initiating themselves the co-working space development).

Leadership of a co-working space is crucial for its sustainability, as co-working spaces are more than just spaces.

The Norwegian multiplier event was organised in **Flow Co Working Space** in Tromsø (<http://www.flownorway.com/>). This co-working was initiated as a bottom-up initiative, where young entrepreneurs used an abandoned beer brewery to facilitate entrepreneurial work space.

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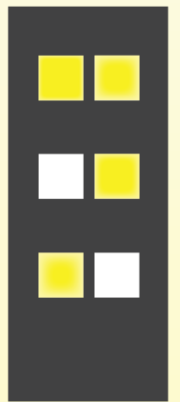
Norway

During the multiplier event, partners got feedback on how a co-working space can be useful for rural development.

Norwegian youths participating to the online pilot gathered a lot of useful knowledge as well as new insights about co-working spaces leadership; while participants to the mobility week underlined the success of experiences exchange among participants.



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Common challenges and priorities

- Co-working are necessary in rural areas and small towns as these territories offer less opportunities for young people;
- Co-working should be built according to the needs of users and of the territories;
- Private co-working spaces are less successful than public ones mainly due to high start-up and maintenance costs;
- Strategic vision and a sustainable business plan are fundamental for the success of the activity;
- Policy and funding favoring youth entrepreneurship, spaces reconversion & maintenance as well as a cut in the bureaucratic burden can favor the spread of co-working spaces.





Follow up & sustainability

- Partners are committed to strengthen the collaboration with each other and with other key stakeholders to assure Youth Re Working Rural results and products sustainability;
- In particular, all training materials and this booklet will be transferred to relevant stakeholders free of charge as well as used by the partners in their daily activities;
- Among other possible actions: joint new initiatives such as training courses and research activities, partnership with existing co-working spaces and/or creation of new ones.





New project proposals

- Partners could exploit opportunities offered by the EU in term of support for clusters, hubs and youth entrepreneurship;
- Particularly interesting are funding opportunities in the framework of Erasmus Plus and Cosme programmes.

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