



# Co-design with Youth

Sparkling innovation through collaboration





# Get inspired!

## A catalog made to inspire you to involve young people in co-designing with you

CareerGRIT is a program that EvoCariera, Stowarzyszenie EDUQ, and the Cluj-Napoca Volunteering Center have built in order to help youth workers, teachers, and volunteers working with youth navigate the complexity of guiding young people through their career choices. While planning to build it, we stopped to think. What do we actually know about the needs of our end beneficiaries? About the needs of these young people?

Of course, we already had an idea about their needs. All of our organizations have been working with young people for some years and, each time we built a program for them, we requested their feedback. It was now time to involve them in our thinking process. To give them space to share their views, and to contribute to our understanding of their needs. And this is how we started researching how other organizations have created projects in collaboration with youth.



## What will you find in the catalog?

A collection of programs, from multiple domains and industries, that have managed to plan their work and projects in close collaboration with the beneficiaries of their project, the youth community. A few ideas on how young people can contribute on, or even lead projects for their own community, with minimal support from the adults around them, with minimum guidance.

We believe in the power young people have in shaping their own future and if we were to share one piece of advice after our own experience co-designing CareerGRIT program with them, this is:  
LET YOUNG PEOPLE SPEAK THEIR MINDS AND THEY WILL AMAZE YOU!

## How to read?

Each program contains details on the key aspects you should know:

- What is the project about?
- How is youth involved?
- Project Coordinator

Curious  
to read  
more?





# Teeviit (EU)

## What is the project about?

**Teeviit** is a youth information portal developed by youth for youth. Teeviit is based on surveys and interviews conducted with young people and has content adapted to the needs and language of its readers. The activities of Teevit are organized by the Estonian Education and Youth Board and the content such as webinars, podcasts, or short videos is made available as part of the programme 'The Inclusion of Young People at Risk of Exclusion and Improving their Employability', approved by the Estonian Minister of Education and Research, implemented by the Estonian Education and Youth Board and co-funded by European Social Fund.

## How is Youth involved?

The project is led by a team of young people and all content is based on research conducted with young people in Estonia.

The content includes personal experiences and stories from youth, articles that are related to needs identified for the community, and even events hosted by the youth community.



## Project coordinator

Education and Youth Board -  
Republic of Estonia



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
EDUCATION AND YOUTH BOARD

[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)

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# Comaninity: Transferability and replicability Toolkit (EU)

## What is the project about?

**Comaninity** is an Erasmus+ co-funded project, aimed at solving real community problems by introducing the role of a “Community Animateur” and a framework to develop the required skills and competencies to become one. The program involved youth workers and volunteers that worked to be trained as community animateurs, and social mediators that can help young people on the margins bridge the gap between themselves and the other community actors.



## How is Youth involved?

The project put together the participating youth workers and volunteers with the young people in the respective communities that needed support in solving different issues. The project uses Participatory-Action Research, highlighting the importance of involving young people, the beneficiaries of the program, in developing the interventions of the Community Animateurs, to make them effective in their own groups.

Project coordinator

Arcola Research - United Kingdom



Read more about the project [here](#) and about the different co-design sessions with youth, [here](#)!

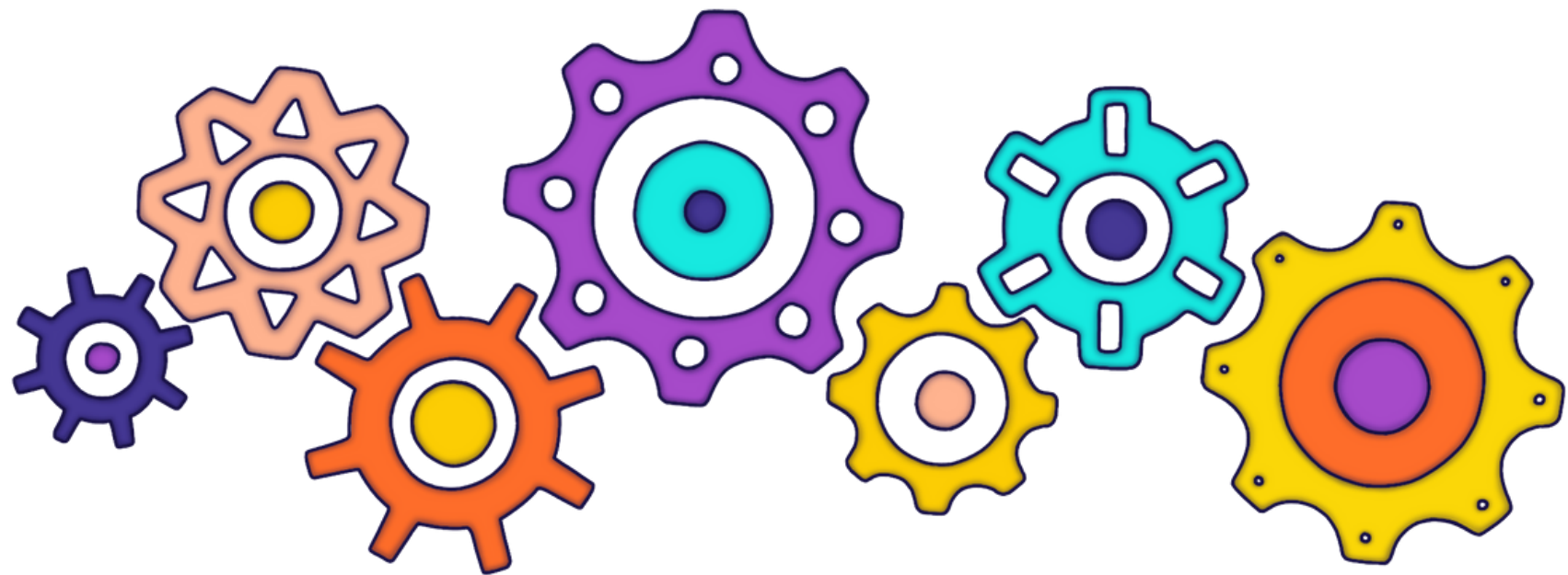
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# FIX - Innovation and Experiment Fund Cluj (EU)

## What is the project about?

FIX is a project aimed at supporting the ecosystems that help communities rebuild themselves, by supporting youth from Cluj-Napoca, Romania to develop entrepreneurship initiatives with high impact in their community. The program sponsors youth between 16 to 26 with up to 50.000 EUR in order to experiment, test, and develop their business ideas.



## Project coordinator

The Mayor's Office  
& Local Council of  
Cluj-Napoca, Romania



[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)

## How is Youth involved?

Young people aged 16 to 26 are invited to share their innovative ideas that contribute to responding to the needs of the Cluj-Napoca community in Romania. Through the process, they are mentored to develop their idea and make them market valuable, but also coached to develop their own team, to develop their entrepreneurial mindset and ways of working. In this way, they become the agents of change in their own communities.

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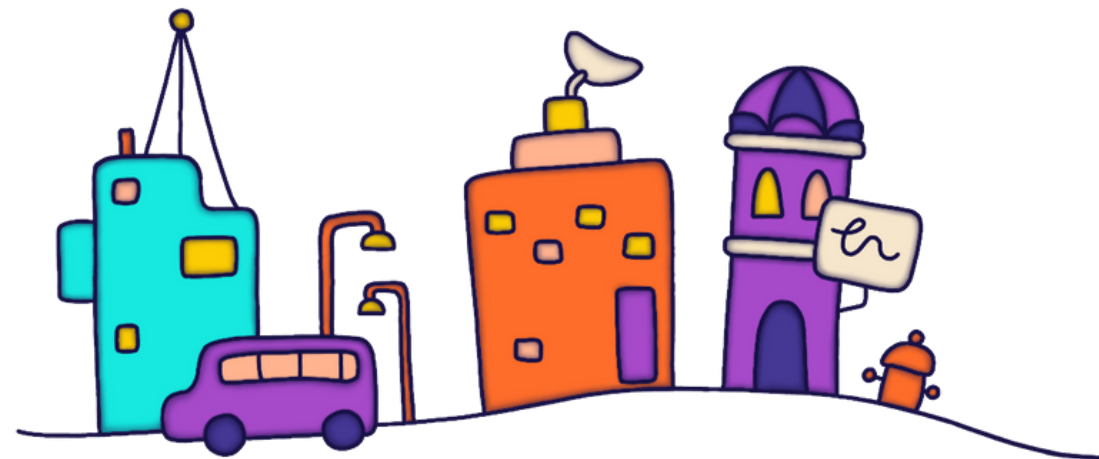
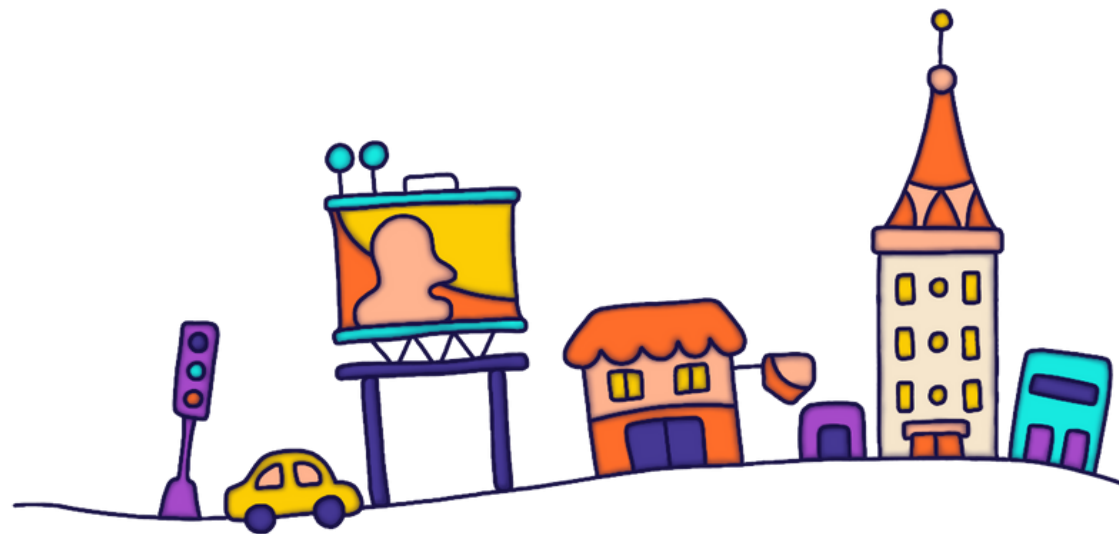
# Rethink Urban Spaces (EU & Thailand)

Project  
coordinator

Thai Civic  
Education  
Foundation



[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)



## What is the project about?

The EU funded project between the European Union Delegation Thailand, the Goethe-Institut Thailand, Thai Civic Education Foundation and Child and Youth Media Foundation aims to rethink urban spaces in Thailand in order to create inclusive cities, which allow for the participation of all stakeholders in matters that affect their present and future well-being.

## How is Youth involved?

Through youth exchanges, youth forums, incubation workshops, round-table discussions about expectations from youth related to their living areas, and an ideathon with the purpose of encouraging new ideas on urban spaces development, the youth are at the fore-front of this project. The final objective of the project is to develop adequate mechanisms for young people to participate in shaping urban development and to empower Thai youth to take an active stand in the proposal of urban development policies.

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# Education Recovery Youth Panel (Scotland, UK)

## What is the project about?

The project aimed at giving young people a space to voice their opinions about education recovery post COVID-19 period. It created a space for young people from 9 years old to 18 years old to share views about their experience during the pandemic and their expectations about the future, in what concerns education.

## Project coordinator

Young Scot Enterprise Ltd.



[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)



## How is Youth involved?

Through online workshops and discussions, young people were given the opportunity to express their views on multiple aspects, such as school safety, self-isolation and its effects on mental health, remote learning, opportunities arising from the remote school context, connecting with friends and colleagues, learning priorities, as well as their vision of the future of learning.

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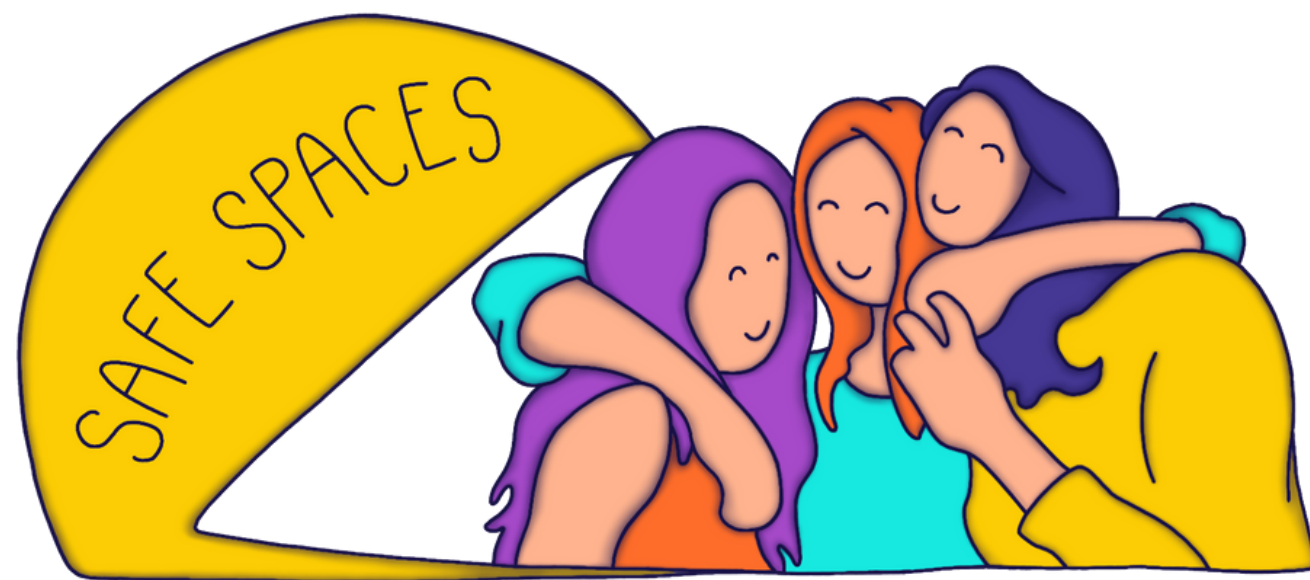
# Safer Cities for Girls (Worldwide)

## What is the project about?

The program's goal is to build safe, accountable and inclusive cities with and for girls aged 13 to 18 years old, through increased safety and access to public spaces, education for boys and girls about sexual harassment, increased active participation of the girls in urban development. It is currently run in cities across Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America and aims to be implemented in more than 20 cities globally in the near future.

## How is Youth involved?

Young girls are consulted in matters related to their own safety, being offered a safe platform to discuss about the issues they face and to propose potential solutions to these issues. By working with social institutions, families and communities, girls and also boys can become active change-makers.



Project  
coordinator  
Plan International

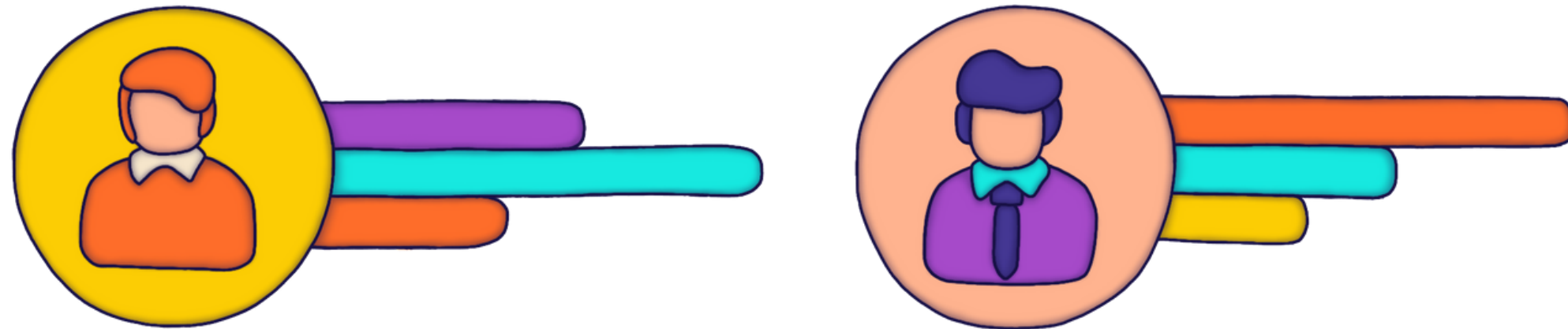


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# Y4Y Youth Force (Australia)



## How is Youth involved?

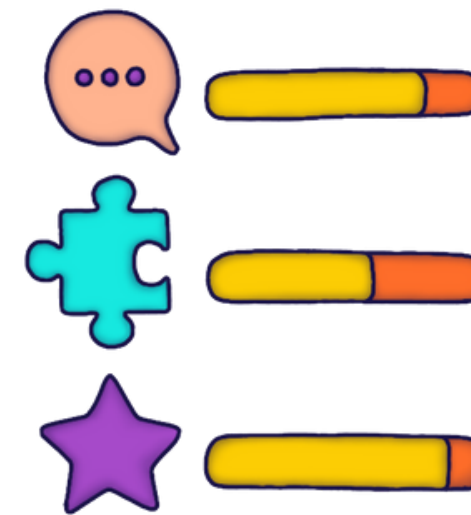
The program used an iterative design process, involving young people at-risk, in order to draw insights from their life experience and build a platform that is adapted to their needs. Through offering task-based opportunities and support in accomplishing these tasks through a youth-led community, participants build their confidence and resumes and increase their chances of employability.

## What is the project about?

**Y4Y Youth Force** is an innovative employment platform that helps young people in disadvantaged groups to build skills, motivation and experience in order to increase their potential for employability and offers young people at risk the chance to access short-term task-based opportunities online.

## Project coordinator

Nous Group, Australia.



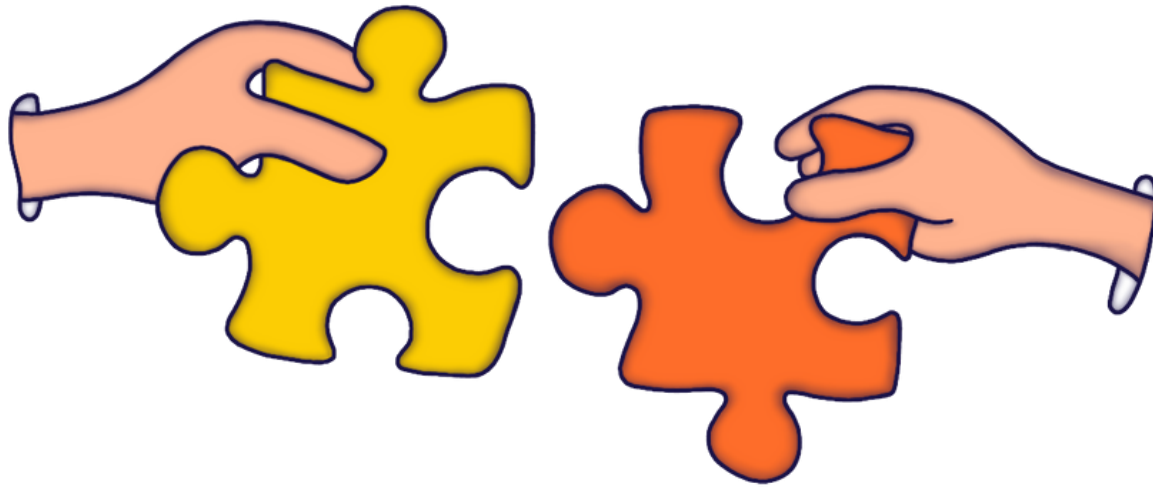
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[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)

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# Co-design Studio (EU)



## What is the project about?

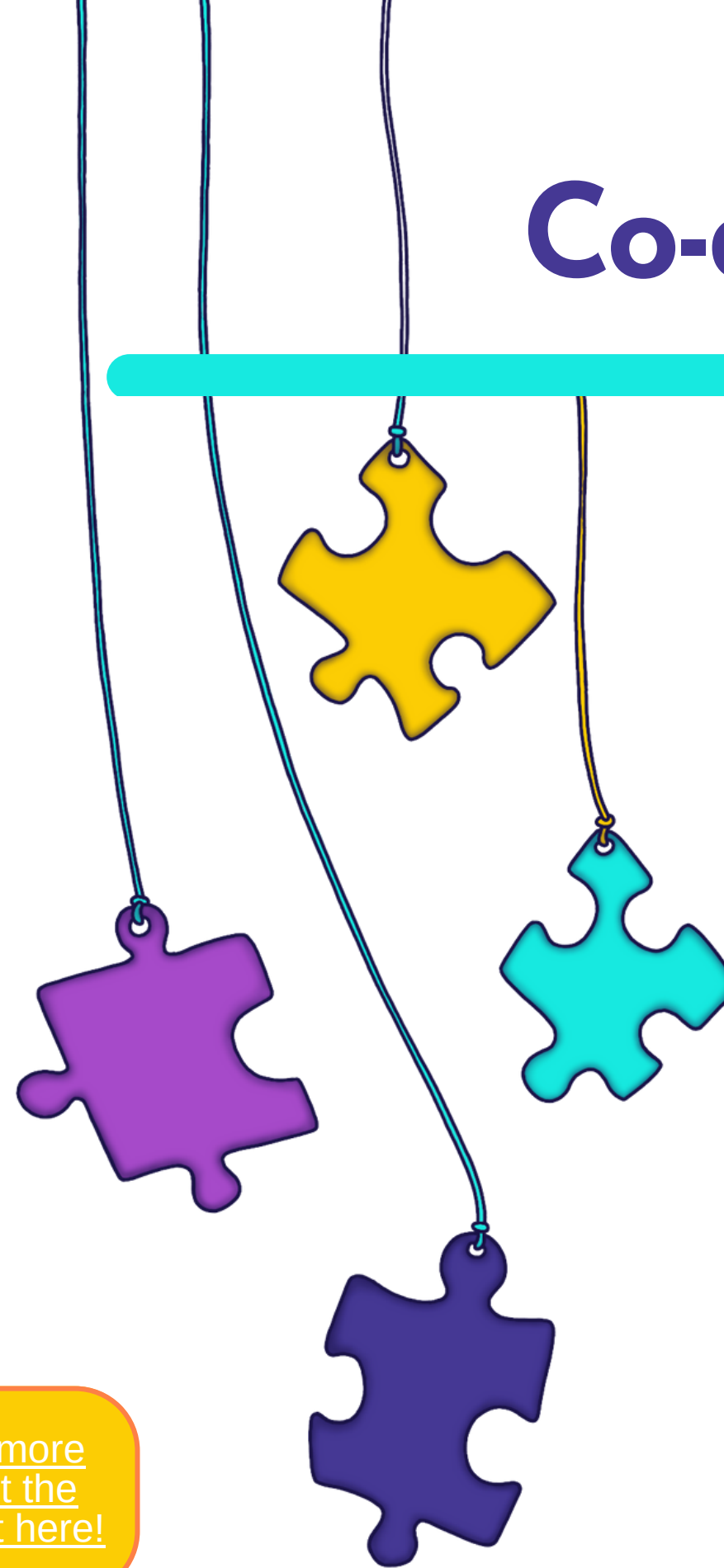
**Co-design Studio** is a long-term, non-traditional university program encouraging young people to sign in and work alongside designers in order to develop sustainable, life-changing healthcare solutions and social innovation solutions that impact the entire society.

## Project coordinator

University of Applied Sciences,  
Utrecht, Netherlands



[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)



## How is Youth involved?

The 40 hours per week, one semester-long program immerses students in a co-design experience for real problems, with real clients and long-lasting solutions, addressing issues related to mobility, sustainability, social innovation, and health care. Through multiple methods such as war room, workshops, international exchanges, real projects and challenges, the participants enrolled in the program work collaboratively with experts in product design, user-experience, entrepreneurship, early prototyping and organizational development to create a product that is adapted to the market and user needs.

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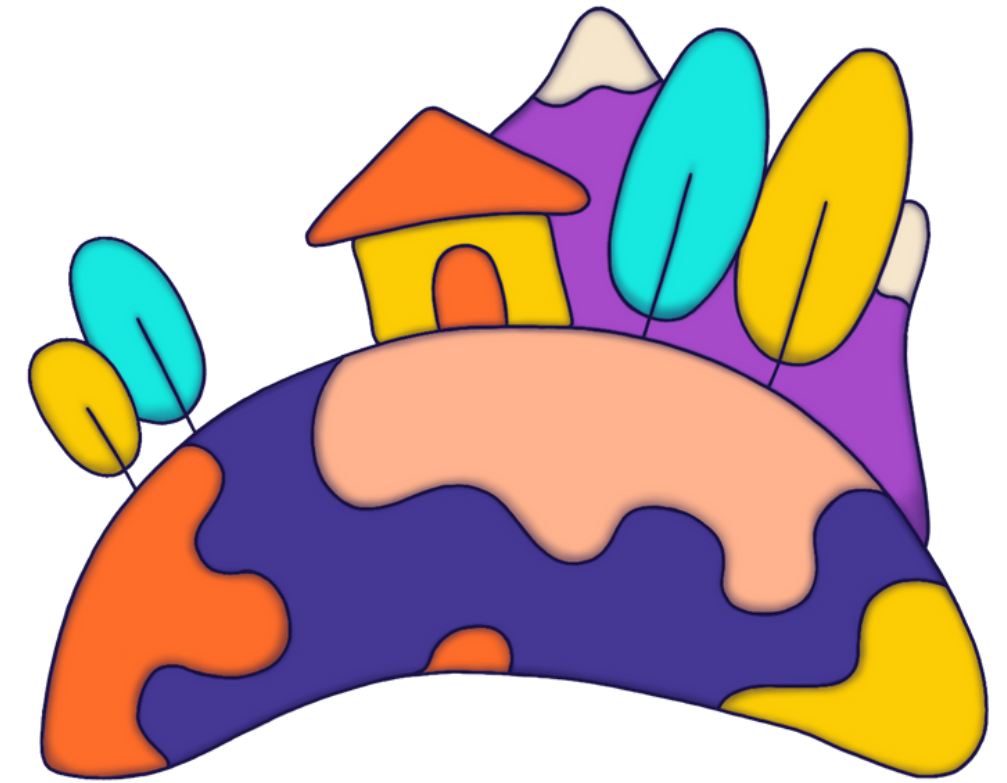
# Youth Environmental Service (UK)

## What is the project about?

The Youth Environmental Service empowers a range of different nature-focused environmental organizations to create paid, one-year work opportunities for young people. This is done by creating a framework around which employers could confidently create successful work placements for young people with limited real-world experience, and give them a chance to experience different roles across the organization, in the environmental sector.

## How is Youth involved?

By giving the youth access to real jobs related to the environment, the aim is to transform young people into agents of change. Facilitating hands-on experience in green organizations, educating young people about such initiatives and the issues they are working to solve is one path to spark interest of the new generation in developing community-led initiatives for the environment and understand first-hand how the fight against climate crisis can contribute from their own involvement.



## Project coordinator

Youth  
Environmental  
Service, UK



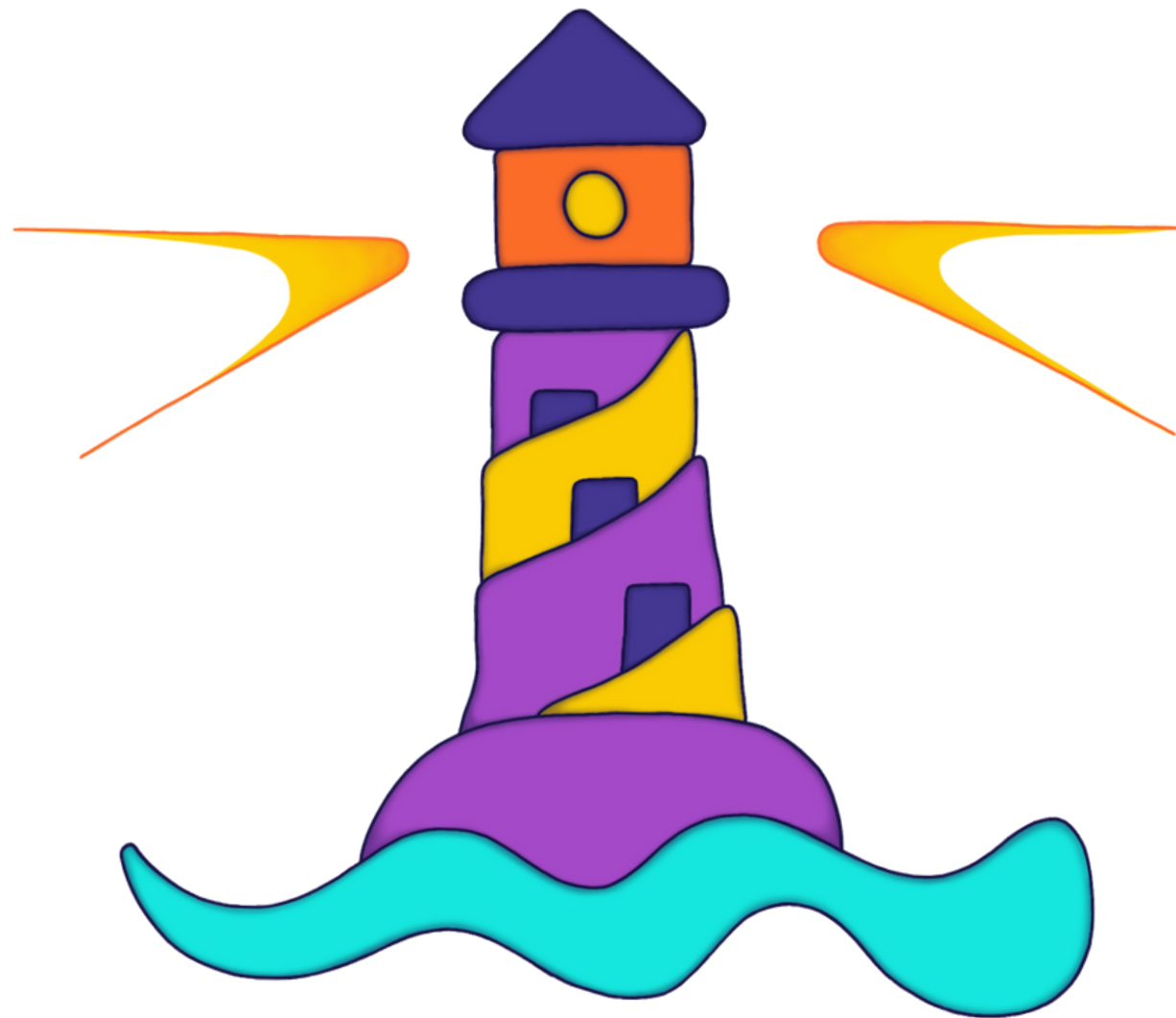
**Youth  
Environmental  
Service**

[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)

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# Imagine If... (EU)



Project coordinator

EvoCariera  
Association,  
Romania.

**evo**cariera

[read more  
about the  
project here!](#)

## What is the project about?

Imagine if... is our own approach to co-designing a program with youth, that is ultimately meant to support them. This was a series of workshops that EvoCariera, Stowarzyszenie EDUQ and the Cluj-Napoca Volunteering Center led in Romania and Poland, with the purpose of investigating the needs and wishes of the young people, in relation with career guidance. Young people, from highschool pupils, university students and even school counselors were invited to pitch in with their own vision on what are the systems and support mechanisms that they need to be put in place in order for them to feel they make the right choices for their professional life.

## How is Youth involved?

Through group discussions, concept posters, group work and debate, the participating young people at the sessions were encouraged to express their ideas, their fears, their concerns related to how the adults around them create a safe environment for them to make career choices.

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**CareerGRIT** is our aim at supporting the teachers, headmasters, volunteers and youth workers in their path to guiding youth in their professional and academic life.

**It is a project co-financed by the European Commission, through Erasmus+ program, where three organizations have collaborated:**

- **EvoCariera (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)**
- **Cluj-Napoca Volunteering Center (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)**
- **Stowarzyszenie EDUQ (Lebork, Poland)**

We all hope to support youth in their development and to help them in making the right decisions related to their future and we acknowledge that it is only with the help of the significant adults in their life that they will be able to receive the proper guidance, hence we put our hearts and heads together to design this project - with youth and for youth, as our end beneficiaries.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



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In order to build the program, our organizations have gone through some critical and very important steps:

- documentation of good practices across the globe related to career guidance
- documentation of good practices and programs that involve youth in their decision making and program design process
- co-design workshops with youth, in both Romania and Poland

The training comprises 40 hours of learning in group or individually, and it's structured based on a series of objectives and behaviors that we have understood are relevant in order to facilitate a career guiding session for youth. Practice and experiential learning are at the core of the sessions. And most importantly, we put faith in the participants' desire to be partners of the young people they guide in their endeavor to prepare for their adult life.

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