**Title of BIP:** Interdisciplinary perspectives on youth identities and political- social participation (BIPIP)

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| **General information** |
| **Objectives and Description:**  Youth has been a contested life stage in biographical, as well as cultural, social, economic and political terms at least since the onset of modernities. Studies of youth bring into focus both the participatory and creative potential of young people, as well as the systematic processes of their exclusion and marginalization. Youth is constructed as the age of the future which in the contemporary world is associated with uncertainties regarding environment and social crises. This implies a political and social responsibility placed on youth in relation to conditions of possibility built up by previous generations that now need to be rethought and acted upon. At the same time, in biographical terms the age of youth seems to have been gradually expanding from a relatively brief period of adolescence at the onset of the 20th century to contemporary perspectives on emerging adulthood as a relatively open-ended life stage.  In this Blended Intensive Program (responding to the Erasmus+ call), we seek to co-investigate what youth means today and what it means to be young in the contemporary world. We aim at taking stalk of interdisciplinary perspectives to these questions so as to maximize dialogue between understandings that favor a focus on contextualized lived experience and those that engage in studying the practices and systems that shape the social, economic and political infrastructures that shape these experiences. As such, students participating in the program will gain an in-depth understanding of recent research and research methodologies in youth studies from an interdisciplinary perspective, as well as in youth work practices from an international and local perspective. The program entails both virtual and face-to-face training and mentoring activities. Face-to-face activities will be conducted at UVT, in Timișoara, Romania.  The Interdisciplinary perspectives on youth identities and political-social participation Blended Intensive Program seeks to create a learning context for students that will enhance their awareness of challenges and opportunities of social and political participation of youth with a special focus on marginalized youth and processes of identity building. As a byproduct of the program, we expect to create a network of interested researchers, practitioners, students and young people focusing on youth related issues within or connected to the UNITA European consortium, as well as beyond. |
| **Methods and outcomes:**  **Learning outcomes:**   * Participants will gain an overview over the interdisciplinary field of youth studies, on the political and social participation of youth in the European Union today with a special focus on marginalized youth. * Participants will learn how to work with young people to foster active, dialogic learning and youth social and political participation. * Participants will gain an overview over contexts of youth participation (NGOs, youth centers, social centers) and the present challenges and opportunities these contexts face.   Methods:   * The BIP seeks to create an active learning context that will embed experiential, exploratory, collaborative and reflective learning activities with ‘classic’ lectures. * Field visits to local NGOs and other social actors (socio-educational centers, etc) will be a key part of activities. These will be complemented with informative lectures that will seek to give an overview of the situation of youth in Europe and globally. * Young people will engage in project based learning through working collaboratively in mixed teams on a common message encouraging/about young people’s social and political participation. They will create a common product (podcast, poster, video) that will be used to voice their message. |
| **Field of Education:** This is an interdisciplinary program loosely based in the field of youth studies, it is combining insights from educational sciences, sociology, political science, psychology and computer science among other disciplines. |
| **Target audience / Participants profile:**   * The program is open to BA, MA and PhD level students with an interest in youth studies. |
| **No of ECTS issued:** 6 ECTS |
| **Language of instruction and requirements:**   * Good command of the English language * Interest in youth studies * Media editing skills are an advantage but not a prerequisite |
| **Dates for physical activity:** 10-15.07.2024 (activity days); 8/9.07-16.06 (travel dates) |
| **Location of physical activity:** Timișoara, Romania |
| **Dates for virtual component:** May- July 2024 |
| **Virtual Component Description:**   * One or two introductory webinar(s) will take place vis videoconferencing software (google meet OR Zoom) in May/ June. The program’s expected outcomes, aims, faculty and curriculum will be introduced. Students will get a chance to introduce themselves and have a short collaborative task in breakout rooms. At this webinar preparatory tasks and readings will be discussed. These will then be uploaded to a common course platform (Google Classroom, GDrive or Microsoft Teams). * During the physical activity teams will be formed of students working together on a common project. This work will continue in July and be concluded through a team presentation in the final project webinar at the end of July 2024. * After the program, students will have the opportunity to evaluate the program through googleforms or mentimeter administered online. |
| **Organizing Board**  Leyla Safta-Zecheria (UVT)  Marius Matichescu (UVT)  Mugur Ciumăgeanu (UVT)  Roberta Ricucci (UNITO)  Viviana Patti (UNITO)  Anna Miglietta (UNITO)  Stella Pinna Pintor (UNITO)  Sotiris Petropoulus (University of Peloponese)  Asteris Hulyas (University of Peloponese)  Viviana Premazzi (Global Mindset Development/ University of Malta)  Bruno Ferreira Costa (UBI)  Pilar Rivero (UNIZAR) |
| **Receiving/Host university:**  ***Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara***, Romania (name of coordinator and email)  **Sending/Partner universities:**  ***P1. University of Torino***, Viviana Patti ( [viviana.patti@unito.it](mailto:viviana.patti@unito.it) );  ***P2. University of the Peloponese***, Sotiris Petropolos ( petropouloss@yahoo.gr );  ***P3. University of Beirra Interior, Bruno Ferreira Costa (***[***bruno.dfcosta@gmail***](mailto:bruno.dfcosta@gmail)***.com ).........***  ***P4. University of the Peloponnese, Pilar Rivero (***[privero@unizar.es](mailto:privero@unizar.es));  ***P5. .............***, ..................... (...........). |
| **Detailed programme** |
| 1. **Planned activities during virtual component:**   Introductory webinar & Final webinar + student team meetings to finalize group projects.   1. **Planned activities during physical component:**   1st day:  - Official opening;  2nd day:   * Youth Identities, Cultural Diversity and Cultural Heritage: lectures + reflective exercises * Field visits to NGOs and social services working with young people surrounding issues of cultural diversity and intercultural education   3rd day:   * Youth and political participation: lectures + reflective exercises * European Identity and youth political participation (Lecture 1) * Computational linguistics perspectives for studying populism and artificial intelligence (Lecture 2) * Field visit to local NGOs working to increase the political participation and promote civic education of young people   4th day:   * Youth, marginalization and the contemporary perma-crisis: lecture 1 + reflective exercise * Field visit to NGOs working with marginalized youth   5th day:   * Research Methodologies in Youth Studies * Application surrounding the use of research methodologies + city tour   6th day   * Group work and mentoring activities: what message of social/political participation would you like to send to young people and in which way (poster, podcast, video etc) * Final feedback |
| **Application procedure** |
| fill in application form available here: <https://forms.gle/fJKPuiPxkYwkEbvt8> |