

Il giornalino del Centro Nanà

European Youth Programmes, and Youth Organisations

Ema Sao-Payo

Youth organizations and European youth programmes are designed for young people and intend to promote their active role and voice in the society and the full participation in social exchanges and activities that are pleasurable to them and to which, otherwise, they might not have access to. Yet, the abundance of the projects that every year are carried out is not equivalent to the abundance of reachable information that there is about them. In fact, even the teenagers that grow up in more developed countries aren't very often aware of the possibility of doing these programmes and neither of its conditions, such as the fact that many offer grants that can be the financial help that for some is needed to embark in this kind of adventure.



Since in this global and technological era, the means to find youth organizations and programmes are infinite (social media, school, social services, through a friend, etc.), one can feel overwhelmed and fear he or she might not be doing the right research when choosing a programme. For that reason, there should be some universal steps mandatorily followed by the formal educational system to ensure the



Il giornalino del Centro Nanà



visibility and publicity of youth programmes and to reduce its dispersion. Therefore, this task of getting to know and applying for Erasmus+ shouldn't be only partaken by the youths (making it very vulnerable to decrease the adhesion) but should be, instead, a responsibility of the schools and student counselors. Besides that, it is also important to start broadening the scope of the programmes, turning them into real opportunities for every young citizen, even the ones who have less opportunities (financial, physical, psychological, geographic) or that are marginalized. Only then, the great EU project envisioned might really work.

