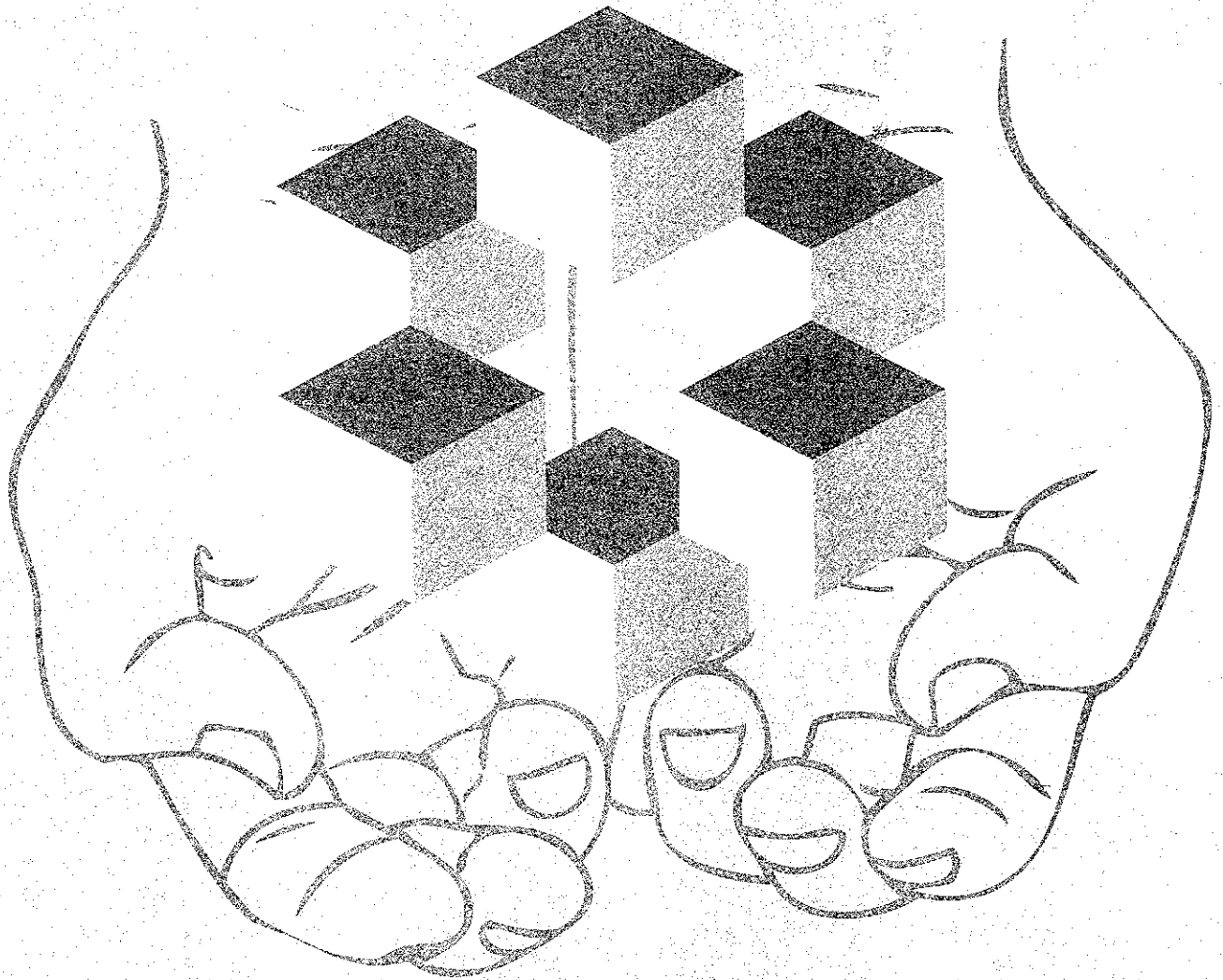


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Addressing Wicked Competencies: Co-Creation of a Learning Module Among Marginalized Youth, Stakeholders and Future Social Workers/Pedagogues



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ABSTRACT

Dans cet article, nous allons décrire un Projet Erasmus financé par l'Union européenne entre 2014 et 2016. Le projet parle de la création d'une formation qui promeut l'innovation dans les HEI et dans les Services sociaux. Le fait que les Services sociaux, pédagogiques, les utilisateurs de services et les étudiants travaillent ensemble pour créer le module, apporte des idées novatrices à la fois aux étudiants et aux Services sociaux sur la manière de lutter contre les "wicked problems" des jeunes marginalisés dans la pratique. C'est également une nouvelle façon d'offrir de la formation continue pour les Services sociaux.

I like to think that I'm quite involved in the Social Education world of the city of Valencia, although from a glocal perspective: it is a field of growing initiatives, and a fruitful place to think about the pedagogical relations, in times of Capitalism, in order to connect the effects of this practices in our daily live, paying special attention to those effects in us as trainers, educators, coaches, or tutors.

That's why I was thrilled when I first heard about the project I'm presenting here. *HEI Inter-Professional module - co-created by marginalized youth, practitioners and students* is a three years project (2013-2016) funded under the Lifelong Learning Programme,

ACTION ERASMUS MULTILATERAL PROJECTS (*Project Number - 540613-LLP-12013-1-DK-ERASMUS-EQR // Agreement Number - 2013-3855/001-001*).

The project will be developed by 5 higher education institutions in collaboration with 5 universities of applied sciences (HEIs) from five different countries:

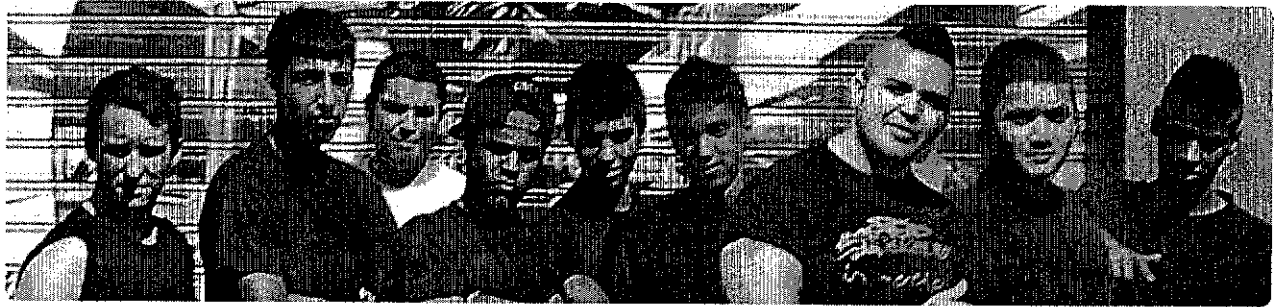
- VIA University College – Denmark;
- Institute of Technology Sligo – Ireland;
- University of Bucharest – Romania;
- Hogeschoolvram Amsterdam, Uni-

versity of Applied Sciences – Netherlands,

- University of Valencia (Estudi General) – Spain.

Higher education institutions will work with local practitioners from each country with vast expertise in working with marginalized youth in practice.

- ASV Horsens – Denmark,
- North Connaught – Ireland,
- General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection – Romania,



- BOOT, Community Store for education, research and talent develop – Netherlands,
- IniciativesSolidàries – Spain

Furthermore, marginalized youth from these institutions will be involved in the development as well.

At the core of this Project it is the worrying fact that the number of marginalized youth is growing in Europe. The aim of the project is, with a consortium including all relevant stakeholders, to develop a flexible Module Concept to qualify students and staff to work innovatively, inter-professionally and inter-organisationally with “wicked problems” for the benefit of social work with marginalized youth. This project promotes the active inclusion in society and the labour market of a very vulnerable group of marginalized youth. It increases the integration of youth with disabilities, ethnic minorities, immigrants and other vulnerable groups. The module reinforces social cohesion by giving the marginalized youth a voice. They have an opportunity to influence what social workers and social pedagogues learn during their education. The active participation of marginalized youth in the module promotes their active citizenship, as they will be able to improve the situation for other young people. Intercultural dialogue is promoted via partner/Skype meetings and by bringing together different professions, educations and sectors.

European partner countries despite having different welfare systems they have the same problems finding solutions to “wicked problems” involving marginalized youth. Much research shows that “wicked problems” need to be solved by engaging all stakeholders: social workers and social pedagogues, students of social work/pedagogy and marginalized youth. It is therefore necessary for the students to practice collaborating with the other professions and engage with both marginalized youth and practitioners during their education.

Expected outcome of this project are that both HEI’s of the consortium and other HEI’s all over Europe will receive a well-tested inter-professional and inter-sectoral module easy to implement in different systems. This will benefit students all over Europe. Social Services of the consortium and other Social Services in Europe will be able to decide on what their future staff (current students) will learn during their education and current staff will develop new competences and skills and learn new solutions to wicked problems. Marginalized youth participating in the consortium and from other Social Service institutions will have direct influence on what future social workers/pedagogues learn during their studies and assure that the learning fits the needs of marginalized youth. The project will qualify social workers and social pedagogues to be able to work across sectors and professions as a team.

This project will improve the quality and increase the volume of co-operation between HEI and Social Services by including the enterprises in defining the learning room for students. Likewise both professionals and service users from these enterprises will participate in the finished modules when they are delivered at the HEI. This will make the educations more relevant in the Social Service and will develop competence and thereby increase the quality of the staff in Social Services.

This project improves the quality and efficiency of education as it makes the educations more efficient and more attractive because they fit better into the world of work. It enhances innovation and entrepreneurship of social educations and the partnerships between enterprises and education institutions. It works with broad learning communities, with civil society and with other relevant stakeholders, and it develops new synergies between the different sectors.

On the 6th of November 2014, at the University of Valencia, we will be developing part of our module in a jointly way: students, youth, practitioners and researchers will work together in order to address wicked problems and wicked competencies. Those students participating on the day, from September on, will receive 2ECTS on their European Diploma; they will be asked to be involved in designing, developing and evaluating the training module that needs to be built at the end of the project.