# Consortium



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INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH & TRAINING ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS



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YSD Project

**f** Young Service Designers - YSD Project

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# YOUNG SERVICE DESIGNERS



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YOUNG SERVICE DESIGNERS YSD Project

## **Description of the Project**

YSD is a European Youth Together funded project coordinated by Consorzio Comunità Brianza in Italy and involves partners from Finland, Germany, Greece, Poland and Slovakia. In each country, one partner youth organization liaises with one Municipality, which serves as the local site for experimentation of YSD activities.

The YSD project aims to support young people (16-21 y.o.) through a civic education and engagement approach, fostering their competences and offering them the opportunity to experience real participation in local decision-making to rethink their cities and public spaces.

This will be achieved through a heterogeneous set of activities, including the delivery of a Capacity Building Programme for Youth Activation targeting 20 young people (the Young Service Designers) in each country, focused on service design, especially on the generation of services in the post-Covid society.

After attending the Capacity Building Programme, the Young Service Designers will activate the Youth Public Innovation Labs, starting from September 2022, where they will liaise with local Municipalities in order to bring their designed services to life. Designated staff and the project's Youth Workers will support young participants during the entire project's lifespan.

### This project is inspired by UNICEF'S UPSHIFT methodology.

Main structure of the programme:

- Design thinking: a brief theoretical overview of design thinking and its application for policies and services.
- Conducting Design Research: introduction to design research methods and principles, a brief overview of ethnographic, user, and market research techniques and their application.
- Interviewing and Observing: guided practice in conducting interviews and making observations.
- Mapping Ideas to Needs guided practice
- Modeling, Experimentation and Rapid Prototyping: guided practices to put into practice ideas and solutions

## The Project So Far

Capacity Building Programme: Focusing on the new generation of post-COVID services, the training course, facilitated by experienced trainers, taught the YSDs the methodology behind designing a successful, useful and feasible service. In addition, it helped them develop invaluable soft skills, such as teamwork, leadership and creative thinking. The CBP fosters a new generation of change-makers, putting young people in the center of the decision-making process.

1st Peer-to-Peer Training Event: Set in the European Youth Capital of 2023, Lublin, the project's 1st peer-to-peer event offered many interactive activities and workshops, as well as chances for networking and intercultural exchange among the Young Service Designers.

#### **Next Steps**

- Public Innovation Labs: The YSDs collaborate with local Municipalities in order to implement their finalized services. Using all the knowledge acquired during the CBP but also utilizing the feedback received from the Municipality representatives, the YSDs will overlook the implementation process and be an integral part of making their designed services a reality on the selected sites. These services will help the local Municipalities become more socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.
- 2nd Peer-to-Peer Training Event: The YSDs from all the participating countries will move once again in December 2022, at Tampere, Finland, to discuss their progress and engage in fruitful cultural exchange.
- LEVER UP Certification: After completing the CBP, the YSDs are eligible for the prestigious LEVER UP certificate, which officially acknowledges their soft skills and competences cultivated during the project.
- Online Public Voting: Held on the project's website, the voting will determine which teams will ultimately come together.
- Final Event: The project's final event will take place in Milan, Italy, in the Spring of 2023