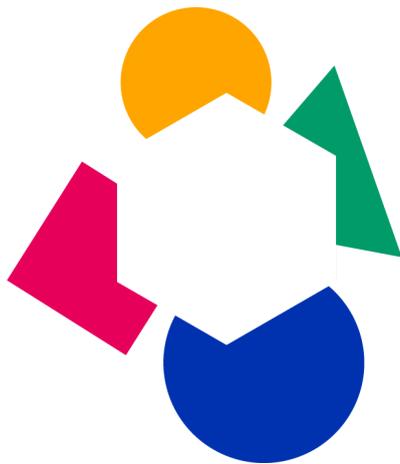




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UP2YOU

Bottom-up sustainable
and inclusive development

Newsletter #2

Living Community Labs:

where communities shape sustainable futures

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Living Community Labs: where communities shape sustainable futures

What if local communities had their own creative space to dream up and test new ideas for sustainable development?

That's exactly what **Living Community Labs (LCLs)** are all about!

As part of the Up2You Erasmus+ project, we're creating **five LCLs** across partner countries – Italy, Spain, Cyprus, Turkey, Macedonia and France – where **young people, educators, CSO professionals, and local authorities** come together to co-create solutions for real-life challenges in rural and semi-rural areas.

What is a Living Community Lab?

Think of it as a local innovation hub: a space (physical, digital, or both!) where people collaborate to improve their communities – with a focus on sustainability, social inclusion, and the SDGs. Each Lab uses a **bottom-up approach**, meaning the ideas and needs come directly from the people who live there.

What's happening now?

We're currently setting up the first Labs! Here's what's going on:

- Each partner has **mapped key local stakeholders** (youth, schools, public bodies, NGOs, etc.)
- We're building local networks to **foster collaboration and participation**
- Together with communities, we are **co-designing the Labs' models and tools** that will be tested in the next months
- A **Toolkit** on how to create and run LCLs is also in the making!

Stay tuned — the next updates will feature our pilot Labs in action and the first results of this exciting bottom-up journey! 

A Snapshot of Local Action – LCLs in Progress

 **Italy** - Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani (FCAT) has actively advanced the co-design of the Italian Living Community Lab through two participatory workshops. The first workshop mapped local needs and identified "social inclusion"—with a strong emphasis on intergenerational dialogue—as the central thematic focus. The second workshop refined this into a pilot action: a collaborative initiative engaging youth and seniors in digital fabrication and traditional crafts. The LCL is now working on finalizing the pilot workshop, engaging youth and seniors, and securing expert

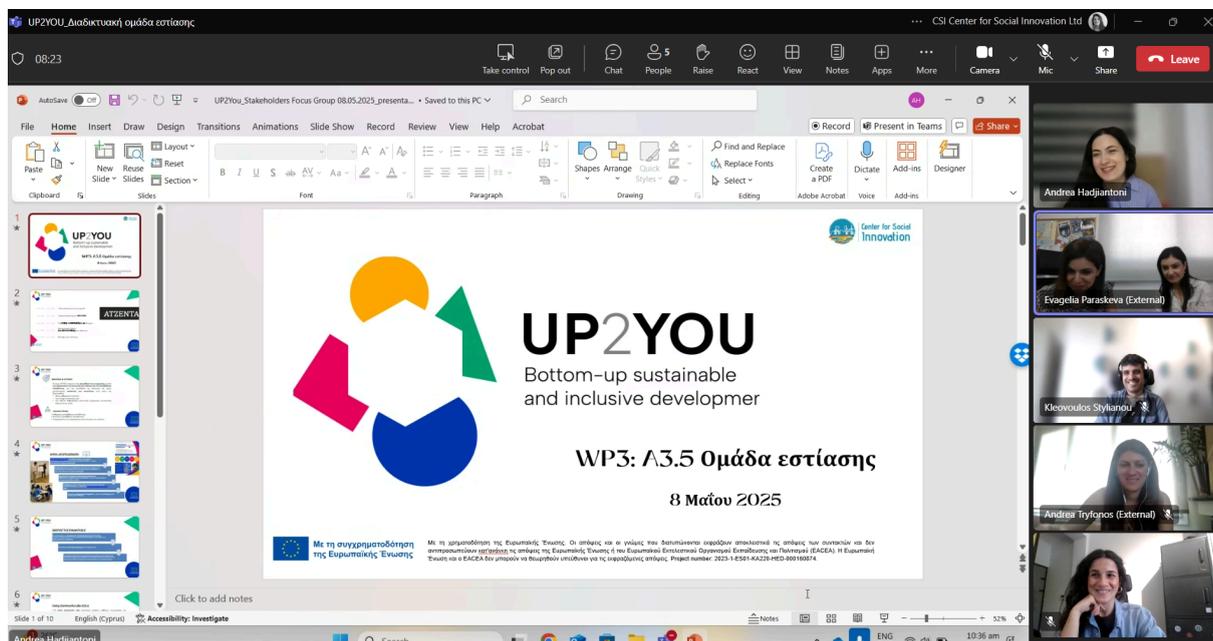
facilitators. Monitoring tools will be deployed with Link Campus University to assess impact, ensuring the initiative delivers lasting value and can be scaled or replicated in the future.



Spain - Over the past month, Universidade de Vigo hosted two collaborative Living Lab workshops in Vigo, bringing together students, educators, and civil society organizations to address the gap between education and labour market needs. The first session identified key challenges and ideas, while the second focused on refining them into concrete actions, paving the way for a pilot training program.



Cyprus - As part of the UP2YOU project, a dynamic online focus group was held in Cyprus with key stakeholders from the youth sector. Participants included representatives from the Youth Board of Cyprus, academia, and youth organisations. The session focused on presenting the Local Collaborative Lab (LCL) platform, gathering feedback, and co-exploring potential actions to pilot in the coming months. Ideas such as a digital awareness campaign, an informal networking event with civil society organisations, and an outdoor activity involving water sports were discussed. The participants showed strong interest and a collaborative spirit, laying the groundwork for impactful youth engagement initiatives.



Turkiye - As part of the UP2YOU project, a Local Collaborative Lab (LCL) session was hosted by CEKDEV Academy in Antalya with the participation of youth workers, local NGOs, and university students. The session focused on addressing youth unemployment through collaborative education models and community-based micro-learning. Participants co-identified the pilot concept titled "Antalya Youth Skills Studio", which will deliver flexible training modules in digital tools, civic engagement, and career readiness for NEET youth. The initiative, co-designed with local CSOs, will be monitored in partnership with MEF University and Link Campus University to assess its scalability and social impact.



📍 **North Macedonia** - As part of the UP2YOU project, SEGA hosted a webinar on 15.11.2024 to introduce the Living Communities Labs (LCL) model to stakeholders. Three workshops followed: on 07.02.2025, solutions targeted education-labor market alignment and brain drain; on 28.02.2025, proposals included updated curricula and entrepreneurial support; on 09.04.2025, participants planned pilot actions using co-design. Two Pilot actions were realised, one career guidance workshop on 16.04.2025 in Bitola for university students and an Public Educational-career fair in Youth center in Ohrid on 30.04.2025, fostering networking. These efforts promoted collaboration among universities, businesses, and authorities to enhance youth opportunities.



Spread the word!

Let's grow this movement together. Share this newsletter with friends, educators, community leaders, and anyone eager to build a better future from the ground up.

Stay connected for stories, updates, and new opportunities to get involved.

 up2youerasmus.com

 [Instagram: @up2you_project](https://www.instagram.com/up2you_project)

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Warm regards,

The Up2You Team

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