

The voice of European Youths

The ultimate guide to youths success



Top tips

Make your Cv
exceptional

Get ready to learn

how to be a
young entrepreneur

WORKING OR OTHER EXPERIENCES THAT EU OFFERS

Nowadays, it has been observed that most of the youths give a lot of emphasis on the theoretical background of their studies and not on practicing their skills and gaining working or other experience. The reason behind is that some universities don't offer a lot of opportunities and they don't bring students into contact with the labor market. But the main reason is that a lot of youths are not aware of the opportunities they are given, not only in their country but general in Europe.

And so, this is how European Union plays a major role to this problem. In details, EU provides grants to youth organizations and other NGOs that help young people participate in projects such as youth exchanges, youth initiatives or the European Voluntary Service.



The aim of the program is to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among Europeans between the ages of 13 and 30, and to encourage their involvement in shaping the EU's future. This has been particularly crucial during the current economic crisis, which disproportionately affects young people.

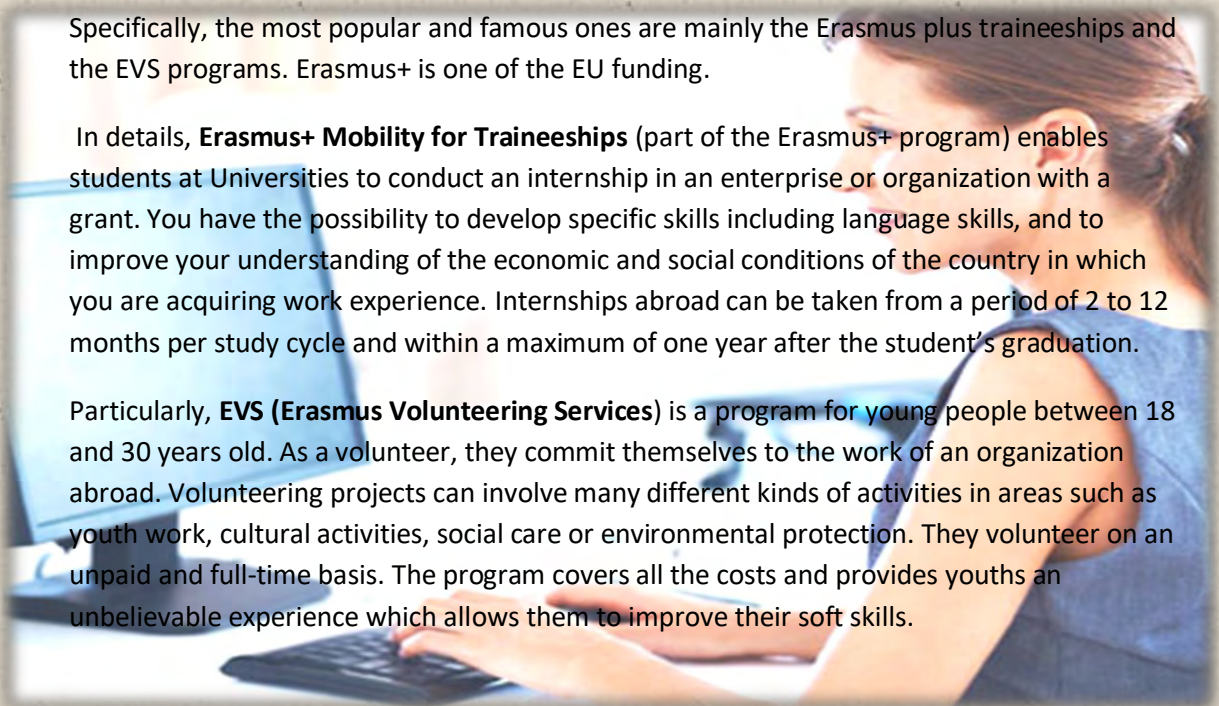
These organizations have helped to:

- Promote young people's non-formal learning mobility within and beyond the EU borders through educational activities outside schools;
- Develop young people's skills and foster their active participation in society;
- Give young people the chance to develop the sense of responsibility, self-sufficiency and confidence necessary for success, regardless of their educational, social and cultural backgrounds.
- Gain work experience either through volunteering programs or through internships/train ships.

Specifically, the most popular and famous ones are mainly the Erasmus plus traineeships and the EVS programs. Erasmus+ is one of the EU funding.

In details, **Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeships** (part of the Erasmus+ program) enables students at Universities to conduct an internship in an enterprise or organization with a grant. You have the possibility to develop specific skills including language skills, and to improve your understanding of the economic and social conditions of the country in which you are acquiring work experience. Internships abroad can be taken from a period of 2 to 12 months per study cycle and within a maximum of one year after the student's graduation.

Particularly, **EVS (Erasmus Volunteering Services)** is a program for young people between 18 and 30 years old. As a volunteer, they commit themselves to the work of an organization abroad. Volunteering projects can involve many different kinds of activities in areas such as youth work, cultural activities, social care or environmental protection. They volunteer on an unpaid and full-time basis. The program covers all the costs and provides youths an unbelievable experience which allows them to improve their soft skills.



CVITAL FOR YOUR CAREER

A good CV is the best way to make a first good impression on an employer. It is very important to prove to your possible employer that you have the required skills and competences and that you are the most suitable candidate for the job you apply. But which are the do's and don'ts of CV writing.

Do

Place the important information up-front: It would be better if you put your experience and achievements in a reverse chronological order, starting from the most recent jobs and education.

Keep it short: You should not exceed 2 pages. On these 1-2 pages you have to focus on most important points so as to be easy for the employer to read it.

Tailor your CV to the job: It's not necessary to present all your skills but you should focus on a specific skill, education and experience that match the role you are applying for.

Support claims with specific examples: Employers love specifics and not just saying that you are good at something. For instance you could say that you helped a company to raise its profits from 5000€ to 7000€ by using a concrete strategy.

Don'ts

Explain Gaps in Work History: You should avoid even try to explain work history gaps in your CV. The only things that will you achieve to discourage the employer to choose you.

Add Negative Information: You must not complain about a previous employer even your experience was the worst. You should also avoid any failed business start-up attempt.

Include irrelevant information: It is necessary to ask to yourself if what you are going to include to your CV will it help you get the role. If the answer is no, you should take it out. If for examples your hobbies and your interests are not relevant to the job don't waste valuable space.

Write that you have works as a volunteer: Although volunteering is very good for your experience you should not represent as volunteering as the employers tend to offer lowers salaries in these situation. It's good to include it as work experience.



ME, MYSELF, MY JOB

Imagine your dream job. Yes? Have it? Why do you think you chose it? What makes it so attractive to you? Are we talking a short-time fling or a life-long relationship with all its commitments?

Yes, you read right. A job is very much like a relationship. It can seem perfectly wonderful at first; it can sweep you off your feet and so on. But let's face it, the important things come later. Every honeymoon period must come to an end and we must face facts.

We have all dreamt of becoming astronauts, world-famous singers or actors when we were younger. You know that question... What do you want to be when you grow up? But there you have it, we grow up, we start using reason and reflection in our decisions instead of jumping to swift conclusions and only considering the "attractiveness" of things over practicality. When we're young we just want a cool job and barely stop to consider the time it takes to be prepared, if our ideal job can allow us to live comfortably, and last but not least, if us as the person we are with our own character, skills (innate or learned) and principles are apt for the career we aspire to conquer.



Let's consider character. It's vital for us to really know who we are, with our personal flaws or limitations, as well as our strengths and natural inclinations. Throughout our early life we notice what we are like, but it takes more time of reflection when thinking of what career you want to endure, being best to have everything crystal clear before making the wrong decision. For instance, if you don't have a vocation for teaching or a knack for public speaking, avoid jobs inside the education system and those that require you to regularly have to speak to large groups.

There's no point in forcing yourself into a career you know cannot work out in the long run. Obviously no job is 100% perfect 24/7, but however difficult it may seem to admit, it's better to be realistic and honest with yourself instead of throwing yourself into something you know you will probably want to quit in ten years

To sum up, we have to be truly intelligent in this particular decision. It's something that's going to determine the rest of our life, so if we can make the right step and be passionate, encouraged and fully committed to our career choice, the sooner we do it, the better.

I ♥ my job

Lauren McKinnon

THE NEW BUSINESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

WEB START-UP: A SUCCESS STORY

In Europe innovative ideas and business spirit are not lacking. Nowadays new web companies are the real movers of employment. Launched by young they earn lots of money.

Startups are generally small and initially financed and operated by several people or an individual. These companies offer a product or service that isn't currently available in the market or that the investors believe is offered in an inferior manner even though it can be very innovative. It's a risk, but it's worth it.

The European Commission is determined to help startups and to exploit their potential for innovation and at the same time to create jobs. The key action is to have better access to credit. With these aims Startup Europe Partnership was born. We are talking about the first European platform created to support the growth and development of startups in Europe.

Success stories are constantly emerging. A very interesting story comes from Italy. It is based on the story of eighteen year old Matteo, who after a school disappointment, gets to work inventing a social network capable of classifying applicants to each professional assignment based on merit, using a mathematical algorithm to evaluate the candidate's background on the basis of objective parameters. From his story a movie was born: "The startup - *Accendi il futuro*" made by Alessandro D'Alatri is one of many examples of young people's stories who have an idea that is worth millions.

Maria Cristina Bianca



Crossword

In this game we will give you some useful tips about opening a business in another country.

- 1 Don't let anything to turn your _____ down.
- 2 Decide if you need a _____ and which obligations he should have .
3. You need a counselor to give you the right _____.
- 4 Will your country have enough _____ which will satisfy your small-scale project?
5. You need to have guts and be ready for new _____.
6. You need to learn about business _____ and regulations.
7. You should know the _____ of the country. Don't ignore the cultural diversity and local traditions. Also you should launch your business in countries where you won't need large starting _____.
8. Which is the _____ you are going to choose? Should it be the capital or the suburb town?
9. Count your time. What are your _____? Will the delays be critical or your business can be flexible with that?
10. Having a _____ friend or hiring a cross-cultural business consultant can help you better understand the business environment of the country.
11. Don't rely on destiny and your _____ only.
12. You should get information about banking and _____.
13. Include any _____ and force-majeure to your startup business plan, so you can feel secure even if the worst things happen.
14. You should know the _____ situation of the country. It plays a major role.



Erasmus+

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

