



Welcome to the fourth edition of the **You.Change.Com** newsletter! — JULY 2018

**You.Change.Com project will reach its end in August 2018 and all 6 project partners have accumulated valuable experience for promoting the empowerment, participation and active citizenship of young people at local level and for giving the opportunity to young people to change their communities and to offer to the community actions that have made a significant impact.**

## Community Intervention Guide

The project partners have created a Community Intervention Guide, a transferable and adaptable Methodological tool that can serve as a manual/ reference book on how other local communities can design and implement community development and intervention programmes with the support of young prospective change makers, as well as by exploiting local unused spaces or other local resources. In this guide, You.Change.com partners have presented an overview of the implementation of community Actions in Spain, Greece and Cyprus and have compiled useful information on the methodology used to empower young people in the design, implementation and further exploitation of local projects. The lessons learned presented in the Guide proved that the You.Change.com Methodology is a successful tool for building confidence of young people, transferring skills and promoting the “ownership” of projects of young people within their local communities. The Community Intervention Guide can be downloaded from the following [link](#).



## Lessons learned from completed Community Actions Plans

**The 6 partners of the project gained valuable experience from the completion of the 3 Community Action Plans implemented during the period January 2018 – April 2018 in Spain, Greece and Cyprus, which can be capitalized upon for transferring the Actions to other contexts.**

### Lessons learned from Spain

- For the implementation of the 5 workshops (Empower Yourself, Hip Hop, Mechanics, Sexual Health, Hairdressing) there was a need to count on the support of professionals from the community, allowing better problem-solving (e.g. work counselors, trainers specialized in particular fields, etc.)
- In order to reach the target of disadvantaged youth, it was important to create synergies with Stakeholders that are aware of the real needs of the community (e.g. Associations of Civil Society), facilitating thus the implementation of the Community Action.
- The target group of disadvantaged Youth was hyperactive and due to the difficulty of keeping young people calm and attentive during the trainings, the Spanish Partners came up with new ideas for workshops that would allow young people to express their inner energy with more dynamic trainings, such as Hip Hop, which proved to be really popular for young people.

**5 Workshops for the empowerment of young people in the neighbourhood of “Los Almendros”, a ghetto area of Almeria (Spain) with a large population of roma youth**



### Lessons learned from Greece

- The innovative educational drama touched a large number of the spectators and has made a significant impact on the local community thanks to the high quality artistic result and the innovative educational design.
- A small group of young people with such a tight budget has managed to create such a big impact at the local community and the local media.
- The spectators have shown great interest in the topic of trafficking of women and has actively participated in all group educational activities, having shown great enthusiasm, creativity and talent.
- The audience has expressed its deep reflection and concern at the sensitization group discussions held at the end of the play.
- A large number of additional volunteers has been more than eager to actively participate in the action.

**8 educational theatrical workshops with the aim to sensitise the public on issues related to the Trafficking of Human Beings and the sexual exploitation of women.**



### Lessons learned from Cyprus

- The success of the project lies in the fact that it was selected to be implemented on a consistent basis rather than as a one-off event. This was important to sustain the engagement and enthusiasm by the community.
- The intervention aimed at community togetherness through fun and recreational activities that broke down barriers of age, gender and ethnic background.
- The project was greatly embraced by the young community as it has been promoted from its early stages to the community to ensure community engagement.

**Human Scale Park: Competitions of large-scale board games (e.g. chess, backgammon, etc.) in order to reinforce the interaction of citizens from various social groups.**



## Potential of transferability to other contexts

The partners are in the process of implementing a set of exploitation and marketing activities, including specific external partnerships helping to support the project results and methodology after its completion engaging relevant target groups. In this frame, the partners are seeking for new collaboration experiences focusing on further mainstreaming this experience with young prospective change makers by exploiting local unused spaces in Europe. With the adequate support of sponsors, all 3 actions can be easily transferred to other contexts across Spain, Greece and Cyprus as well as to other countries of the European Union with some local adaptations in the national languages of the additional countries to adopt the Actions.



## Final conference of the You.Change.Com project organised in Almeria (Spain)

The project's final Conference was organized on the 3rd of May 2018 at the Auditorium of the Almeria Museum in Spain. 136 participants attended the Conference, most of them aged 19-24, interested in finding out more information on the You.Change.com youth participation Methodology, as well as interested in learning more about the community actions implemented in Spain, Cyprus and Greece. The working language of the conference was Spanish with facilitation of the presentation in English for international participants, while its duration was 4 hours.

All the participants were very satisfied with the conference. Some of their comments are presented below and they were based on the Conference's Evaluation Questionnaires:

**“Very interesting and engaging”**

**“I loved it. We need to find the way to replicate these projects”**

**“A new way of thinking to get more engaged in our communities”**

**“An eye-opener”**

**“Interesting examples to engage us in our communities!”**

The experience of the conference confirmed that the You.change.com methodology proposed is useful and was the perfect opportunity to exchange and learn together in a participative and cooperative way.

