

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	SOCIACT SOCIAL INNOVATION HUB NGO - (SOCIACT)
PIC number:	882727258
Project name and acronym:	NETWORK FOR QUALITY YOUTH WORK IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES — NQYWC

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP5
Event name:	Transnational Workshop on Quality Youth Work in Communities 4
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Greece, Patras
Date(s):	27th and 28th of May, 2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://bairrobenfica.pt/nqywc/
Participants	
Female:	51
Male:	34
Non-binary:	1
From country 1 [Greece]:	48
From country 2 [Latvia]:	1
From country 3 [Spain]:	3
From country 4 [Portugal]	8
From country 5 [Italy]	7
From country 6 [Estonia]	5
From country 7 [Germany]	3
From country 8 [Poland]	1

From country 9 [Tunisia]	1		
From country 10 [Bulgaria]	1		
From country 11 [France]	2		
From country 12 [Cyprus]	1		
From country 13 [Albania]	2		
From country 14 [Malta]	1		
From country 15 [Croatia]	1		
From country 16 [Netherlands]	1		
Total number of participants:	86	From total number of countries:	15 programme countries

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The WP5 Transnational Workshop on Quality Youth Work in Communities took place in Patras, Greece, on 27 and 28 May 2026, within the framework of the European project NQYWSC – Network for Quality Youth Work in Schools and Communities, co-funded by the European Union under the CERV (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) programme (Project No. 101249718). The event was hosted at the Commercial Association of Patras and brought together 86 participants from 15 countries from the consortium and invited countries, including young people, youth workers, municipal representatives, regional development actors, researchers, and civil society members. The project is coordinated by the Municipality of Benfica (Portugal), and the Greek partner responsible for organising this edition was SOCIACT, a Patras-based social innovation non-profit organisation.

The event centred on two overarching questions: how cities can create better opportunities for young people, and how local authorities, organisations, and innovation ecosystems can function as catalysts for youth social entrepreneurship. Across two days, the programme combined consortium work, knowledge exchange, local ecosystem immersion, and participatory co-creation, creating a rich multi-stakeholder environment for dialogue and learning.

The first day, 27 May, was designed around direct engagement with the local innovation and social enterprise landscape. After a welcome gathering, participants visited InterMediaKT NGO, where the featured best practice was Social Bus-iness — an educational programme open to anyone interested in youth social entrepreneurship and innovation. Built on four pillars (technology, entrepreneurship, equality, and environment), Social Bus-iness supports participants in developing socially oriented ventures by strengthening local ecosystems and connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with mentors, tools, and networks. The programme demonstrated how non-formal education methodologies, when combined with digital tools, can lower the barriers to social enterprise creation for young people. The second study visit brought participants to MOSAIC Hub, a culture and creativity social enterprise established in Patras in 2018. The best practice showcased here was "Markatia", an initiative developed by MOSAIC that uses cultural and creative industries as the foundation of a broader social enterprise ecosystem model. By supporting cultural producers, start-ups, and creative entrepreneurs through mentoring, co-working, and network-building, Markatia illustrates how culture can serve as both a driver of social cohesion and a vehicle for sustainable local economic development. Both visits underlined the strength of Patras as a living laboratory for community-centred innovation. The day concluded with a Q&A and summary session, a guided walking tour through the Roman Odeon, Saint George Square, the Old City Hospital, and the Saint Nicolas Stairs, and a partners social dinner hosted by SOCIACT.

The second day, 28 May, started with the European Best Practices – Spotlight session, opened by the President of the Commercial Association of Patras. Each of the six partner organisations presented one best practice from their respective country, contributing a total of six examples of innovative approaches to youth social entrepreneurship from across Europe. A Facilitated Cross-Learning Q&A followed, enabling participants to explore points of convergence and identify opportunities for adaptation across different national contexts.

The afternoon featured the Local Stakeholder Roundtable, organised around the question of what local authorities need in order to effectively support youth social entrepreneurship, bringing together a diverse group of institutional actors across three thematic sections.

The first, on supporting young and social entrepreneurs, opened with **Mrs. Maria Vasileia Antonopoulou** from the **Patras Science Park**, who presented the Park's role as a Business Incubation Centre in bridging the gap between academic research and the market — supporting students and young researchers through innovation events, tech competitions, webinars, and direct interaction with entrepreneurs and industry stakeholders, while also promoting gender equality in STEM as a pathway to a more inclusive innovation ecosystem. The section continued with **Dr. Dimitris Karagiannis, General Manager of ACHADE — the development arm of the Chamber of Achaia** — who framed youth social entrepreneurship as not merely a social activity but a driver of sustainable local economic development, and walked participants through the journey "from ideation to creation." He presented the free-of-charge services ACHADE offers to young people — including mentoring, training, advisory support, and access to European funding and international networks — and showcased EU-funded projects that have directly supported young entrepreneurs in the region, including INTECMED (bridging research and entrepreneurship with sub-grants), TRACES (a transnational accelerator for creative industries), MED ST@RTS (microfinance for startups), and MARKATO (leveraging traditional professions and cultural heritage as vehicles for community-based entrepreneurship).

The second section, on financing, featured **Mr. Lykourgos Stavroulopoulos (Region of Western Greece)**, who outlined funding opportunities under the Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) for young entrepreneurs and social enterprises, and **Mr. Panagiotis Boutopoulos from Achaia Development Agency S.A.** — a Local Action Group active in the rural development of Achaia for 29 years and co-founder of the European LEADER Network (ELARD) — who presented the CLLD/LEADER programme as a community-led, bottom-up EU financing tool covering the rural areas of all five municipalities of Achaia, with young people and women treated as a horizontal priority throughout. He also highlighted results from interregional cooperation actions, including a Hackathon in Patras that engaged 63 participants and incubated 8 innovative concepts led by local youth, one of which won the national competition of the cooperation.

The third section, dedicated to youth entrepreneurship policies, brought together **Mr Sakis Andrikopoulos (Municipality of Erymanthos)**, who addressed local policies supporting agriculture and youth initiatives in rural and mountainous communities; **Mr. Dimitris Karampoulas (Municipality of West Achaia)**, who presented the municipality's Operational Plan 2024–2028 and its participation in the FARMIN – Social Farming Erasmus+ project, through which a young farmer from West Achaia is being trained in sustainable agricultural models and will in turn train other farmers and social enterprises in the region; and **Spyros Krotsis (Municipality of Patras)**, who outlined the city's urban youth policies, including the Patras Youth Council and co-working space initiatives. In parallel, a dedicated Study Visit to the Municipality of Patras was organised exclusively for legal authority delegates. The roundtable demonstrated a clear and shared institutional will to build more responsive governance frameworks for youth social entrepreneurship, providing partner organisations with concrete evidence of how multi-level cooperation — from development agencies and chambers to regional authorities and municipalities — can create genuinely enabling ecosystems for young people.

The afternoon's centrepiece was the World Café Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship, facilitated by MPDO across three thematic stations: Idea (from ideation to creation, defining social problems and co-designing solutions), Finance (identifying and accessing funding for young social entrepreneurs), and Support (examining how municipalities and local authorities can provide structural backing). The rotating format enabled cross-sector dialogue between youth workers, young participants, municipal representatives, and development agency staff. The session divided the participants into groups in order to start creating their social solutions/ideas for social challenges/problems. For each thematic station there was a rotation between the groups, so each group structured and developed each idea, which help to improve the communication and cooperation between the participants. The session closed with a Gallery Walk and Pitching moment, during which groups shared their proposals with the wider room. The outputs of this co-creation exercise will be incorporated into the project's Toolkit for Quality Youth Work, contributing directly to the dissemination and policy impact objectives of the NQYWSC project.

The two-day event closed with a formal Closing Session (Evaluation Surveys, Next Steps, and Farewell), followed by a guided walking tour through the city of Patras and a partners farewell social dinner organised by SOCIACT.

The Patras workshop successfully fulfilled its role as a knowledge-exchange, capacity-building, and stakeholder engagement event. With 86 participants and a total of 9 European best practices highlighted across the two days — of which 4 best practices were documented from Greece, drawn from local civil society organisations, innovation structures, and regional development bodies — the event made a meaningful contribution to the NQYWC project's core objective of developing more inclusive, innovative, and territorially grounded youth policies across Europe.

The 4 Selected Good Practices from Greece:

1. Social Bus-iness – InterMediaKT NGO

Social Bus-iness is an educational programme developed by InterMediaKT NGO and open to anyone with an interest in youth social entrepreneurship and innovation. Built on four interconnected pillars — technology, entrepreneurship, equality, and environment — the programme supports participants in developing socially oriented ventures by strengthening local ecosystems and connecting aspiring entrepreneurs with mentors, tools, and networks. Its strength lies in the combination of non-formal education methodologies with digital tools, which together lower the barriers to social enterprise creation for young people and make entrepreneurial pathways more accessible and inclusive.

2. Markatia – MOSAIC Hub

Markatia is an initiative developed by MOSAIC Hub, a culture and creativity social enterprise established in Patras in 2018. The practice uses cultural and creative industries as the foundation of a broader social enterprise ecosystem model, supporting cultural producers, start-ups, and creative entrepreneurs through mentoring, co-working spaces, and network-building activities. Markatia illustrates how culture can function as both a driver of social cohesion and a vehicle for sustainable local economic development, offering a replicable model for cities seeking to leverage their creative ecosystems in support of youth entrepreneurship.

3. Innovation and Start-up Support – Patras Science Park

The Patras Science Park contributes to youth social entrepreneurship through its innovation and technology transfer structures, which create pathways for students and young researchers to develop and launch start-ups. By bridging the gap between academic knowledge and market application, the Science Park provides young people with access to infrastructure, expertise, and institutional support that would otherwise be difficult to access independently. This model demonstrates how science and technology parks can play a proactive role in building local youth entrepreneurship ecosystems.

4. Mentoring and Business Support – Chamber of Achaia

The Chamber of Achaia offers a structured range of mentoring and consulting services specifically designed to support young social entrepreneurs in the region. Through its business support networks, the Chamber connects emerging entrepreneurs with experienced mentors, practical advisory services, and professional networks that strengthen their capacity to launch and sustain socially oriented ventures. This practice highlights the role that traditional business representative bodies can play in fostering a new generation of social entrepreneurs when their services are intentionally oriented towards youth and social innovation.

These practices were identified on the basis of their relevance, transferability, and alignment with the project's core objectives around youth social entrepreneurship, quality youth work, and community-based innovation. The full write-ups are currently being prepared by the consortium and will be published as part of the Toolkit in a forthcoming project output.

Concrete co-created proposals generated through participatory workshops further enriched the project's Toolkit for Quality Youth Work. The active involvement of local authorities — from the Municipalities of Patras, West Achaia, and Erymanthos, alongside the Region of Western Greece and Achaia S.A. — confirmed the institutional engagement necessary to translate European project goals into sustainable local action. The workshop reinforced the project's central thesis: that when municipalities, civil society organisations, young people, and development actors co-create solutions together, more effective and lasting youth policies become possible.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).