

5/June/2015

Report period:  
March to May 31<sup>st</sup>2015

## Progress report

### 1. Executive Summary

#### 1.1 Introduction

This is the period when the MWL Foundation is beginning to implement the YEP project guided by youth through the needs assessment realized in its first year. The project aims to facilitate the difficult path that the youth have to go through from unemployment to the Labour market. Its strategy starts with the identification of their individual needs and potential which are discovered through the personal interviews. This document is going to be even an educative plan which leads to work designed by each young person included in the project.

During this period the work has focused on building the 3 Focus Groups in the selected areas. After signing the collaboration contracts with the Local partners and presenting to them the YEP Project, the selection process of young people started. Our local partners made the starting of the project public and invited the young people to join in. After the group was gathered we had group sessions to establish the timetable of individual interviews. According to the collaboration contracts, the Local Partners offered us their premises for the activities with the youth.

#### 1.2 Objectives.

- To form 3 groups of 15 young people in 3 areas (Lushnja, Tirana and Puka).The group of Lushnja and Tirana are completed with 15 young people each. In Puka we are still working to ensure that there will be 15 people committed to working for the aim of economic empowerment.
- To know the individual young people's trends on vocational trainings and to build a relationship based on trust. We think we gained this objective through the realization of the interviews. Doing it personally with every young person, the YEP Manager had the opportunity to know a lot about the young person and at the same time to strengthen the relationship with them.
- To create and consolidate partnerships for the development of the project and to serve the young people in a stronger manner. We signed two contracts with two Parishes (Lushnja and Puka) and to have the Bishop's permission to use the Cathedral's premises for the activities.

## 2. General information about the main activities

### 2.1 The identification process, group sessions and the interviews of the 15 young people for each focus group.

#### 2.1.1 YEP Tirana

The young people have been invited to join the project, mainly from the sisters of Mother Teresa, as they are closer to the communities in most needs. One young man was proposed by Bishop George Frenndo.



18 young people were interested initially and 15 of them decided to go on with the project. The other 3 withdrew from the project.

13 personal meeting and interviews have been realized and the other 2 are going to be realized in the first week of June.

Mons. George Frenndo has offered the project spaces in the Cathedral, to be used for the meetings and the project's activity.

During this period of time four group sessions took place. **The first** meeting was an introduction to MWL and the Youth Project YEP. It took place at the Sisters of Mother Teresa's house and 11 young people were present. **The second** meeting took place at the Cathedral and 18 young people were present, so we made again an explanation of the project and of the MWL Foundation for the young people who couldn't be present in the first meeting. We did made a presentation with the group when one of our main donors was present in the group session. **The third** meeting was realized also in the Cathedral and in this meeting we fixed the time table for the personal interviews for the 15 young people present at the meeting. At the **forth** meeting we gathered to share the information about the statutory Vocational Training Centres, which will facilitate their training programme in September. During this meeting the youth gave their opinion on the topics which they would like to choose for the subjects relating to human development and psychology. Their opinions are included in the Training Proposal and are going to be considered by the Ad Hoc trainer who will be in charge of this training. Also in this meeting they decided about the recreational activity. The Young people decided the place and the date. Than we have shared tasks and we established that two young people will be part of the organizing team to choose the activities with the YEP Manager and other 2 young people will find the tools we need for the day out and another one will be the cook.

The weekly meetings are established on Fridays, but in the last group session we decided that once a month, when there will be a staff meeting or staff training in MWL (...as usually the staff meetings or trainings are on Fridays), we will meet on Tuesdays.

### 2.1.2 YEP Lushnja

The Young people were invited by the parish of Lushnja and led by Shahin Petritaj, who is a co-worker of the Lushnja's Parish and has worked since 1998 with children and young people. It has been an open and democratic call and the 20 young people who were interested have signed their names. 15 of them are going to be part of the YEP project and the other 5 are ready to come on board if any young people leave the project at an early stage. There have been realized 14 personal meetings and interviews with young people and 2 group sessions. **The first** meeting was realized to inform the young people about the intervention of the YEP Project and to invite them to join in.



**The second** one was made to fix the timetable for realizing the personal meetings. The meetings and the group sessions took place in the Parish premises as agreed in the Collaboration Contract between MWL and the Parish as the Local Partner<sup>2</sup>. The weekly meetings are established on Mondays.

### 2.1.3 YEP Puka

#### 2.1.4

The parish of Puka and MWL Foundation according to the Collaboration contract signed between Don Giovanni Fiocchi and MWL, invited the young people to be part of the YEP project. 16 young people came to the first group session, only 11 of them decided to go on and make the interviews. Don Giovanni Fiocchi has been in Italy for 2 weeks and he couldn't make the call for other youth who might be interested to join the project. The first week of June is planned as a second group session to share the information about the vocational Centre of Shkodra and to decide about the recreational activity with the youth of Puka. The meetings (personal and group session) are established on Thursdays. For three young people of the Puka's group, we realized the interviews in their villages.



Illustrative Table of the Focus Groups

Focus Groups	Nu. Interviews realized/to be realized	Nu. of group sessions	Contacts and meetings with Local Partner Representatives	Vocational training preferences		Notes
Tirana	13/2	4	4	Male 6	3 Cooks 1 Waiter 1 Electro auto 1 Mechanic	Autocad and Public relation are the only training course which are not offered by the Statutory Vocational Centres. We have to make a decision with the young girl who selected; to do the Course in a private Vocational Centre or to go on with the second selection which is Social Operator.
				Female 7	3 Secretary 1 Public relation. 1 English language 1 Tailoring 1 AutoCAD	
Puka	11/4	1	3	Male 4	1 Mechanic 1 Hydraulic 2 Electro auto	The Electro auto course has 3 levels with 3 months each. We should think and take a decision if we can support the following of this course till the end because this is longer than the others.
				Female 7	1 informatics 3 Cook 1 Secretary 1 Marketing/Design 1 English	
Lushnja	14/1	2	3	Male 8	3 Mechanic 1 Megatronich/Alarm Systems 1 Hydraulic 1 Informatics 1 Business management 1 Barber	There are not Vocational Trainings offered for: <b>Megatronichs or Alarm System, Business Management,</b>

				Female 6	1 Economics 1 Hairdressing 1 Physiotherapy 1 Educator 1 Esthetics 1 Tourist Guide	<b>Physiotherapy and Economics.</b> With the young people who selected these Trainings we will negotiate for the second Training they listed during the Interview.
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**2.4 Meetings with third parties**

**Statutory Vocational Centres.** Meetings have taken place in the Statutory Vocational Centre in Fier, Shkodra, and in the two Vocational Centres of Tirana (QFPP number 1 and QFPP number 4).

**First Board meeting was realized** with the members from the outreach, from the Ministry of Youth and Welfare (National Youth Service director), Social Science Statutory Faculty, Different and Equal NGO and youth representative.

**Private vocational centre** Murialdo in Fier.

**A meeting with Bishop George Frendo** took place to explain about the YEP Project and to ask for premises. He was pleased to offer the premises for the development of the project.

**3 meetings with sisters of Mother Teresa** for inviting the youth of Tirana to be part of YEP.

**3 meetings with Don Giuseppe Sgarbossa (Lushnja’s Parish Priest).** One for signing the contract and other 2 about the Parish’s situation

**3 meetings with Don Giovanni Fiocchi (Puka’s Parish Priest).**The first meeting was organised to introduce the project and the MWL Foundation. The second was made to sign the Collaboration Contract and the third to ask him if he could invite other interested young people to join the YEP Project.

**Meeting with Shkelzen Marku, Altin Nika, Marina Ndrio and Fatmir Gjoni** for the Training Proposal for the 3 Focus Groups of youth. These well-known personalities have accepted to be the team of Trainers for the YEP project and they will develop with the 3 groups, the trainings listed in the Training proposal attached on the Index section of this report.

**Meeting with Ervis Koci,** who works for the MERIDIA NGO. This is an NGO who assists young people who had been convicted or are at risk of being involved in delinquent behaviour. We talked about the possibility of collaboration on referring to them any young people who might be in need of their assistance.

**Meeting with the executive director of OMSA** (Open Mind Spectrum Albania), Arber Kodra. We had a meeting about a possible collaboration for supporting the theatre developed by a group of children on the theme of Human Trafficking.

**2.5. Meetings in MWL Foundation.** The YEP Manager participated in every meeting which was held for the MWL Foundation staff (staff meetings and staff trainings). The manager participated in the RENATE Board Meeting and in the Staff Retreat. Also, the YEP manager was present at the Coordinating Meeting.

## **2.6 Guitar Course in DE Education centre for Trafficked Victims**

During this period 12 sessions have been conducted with the victims of trafficking to enable them to follow a guitar course. The girls look very happy participating in the lessons, but this group doesn't like to exercise the guitar. They ask me just to start singing together and I found it difficult to make them try any simple exercise.

They use to say that they have no patience in practicing the guitar, and they told me that they need this time just for relaxation and to express themselves through singing.

There are usually 4 girls who come regularly and two other ones cannot frequent it every time we meet, because one of them is pregnant and the other one has started a vocational training which she has to follow at the same time when she could follow the guitar course.

The technical achievement of the girls in learning the guitar is at a level that doesn't satisfy me, but they seem relaxed and entertained after every session.

## **2.7 Work in office**

- Writing the YEP Annual Report
- Writing the 3 year Budget and Action Plan
- Compiling the interview format for youth
- Preparing the meetings
- Planning and reporting
- Participating in the Coordinating meetings.
- SACP Application
- Contract with Young people (Format)

## **2.8 Participating in events organized by MWL Foundation**

- URAT Event (Mary Ward Loreto Foundation)
- RENATE Board Meeting (Organized by RENATE in collaboration with MWL Foundation)
- Assessment of organized Crime (Soros)
- Youth week (Ministry of Welfare and Youth)
- Informing Session on ERASMUS + programme (Beyond Barriers)
- Consultation about the creation and the functioning of the National Council of Civil Society ((Ministry of Welfare and Youth and AMSHC, translated: The Civil Society's Supporting Agency).
- Swiss Contact Event (C4EE)





### 3. Results in numbers

1 Advisory Board meeting realized

38 interviews realized

A format for the interview is made

7 group session realized in the 3 areas.

5 Vocational Training Centres contacted, four of them statutory ones and another private one.

4 meetings realized with the team of Trainers.

6 Events participated.

A three year Budget and Action Plan compiled

A project proposal was made and sent to SACP (Swedish Support to the Ministry of Interior/Albanian State Police on Community Policing Programme) run by SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency for the SGS (Small Grant Scheme), to realize an intervention in Tropoja's area with youth in partnership with the schools and the Police.

**12** sessions of guitar class accomplished in the Educational Centre of D&E NGO

**10** meetings with the responsible persons from the local partners

#### **4. Challenges**

- To make decision about Lushnja's Focus Group. The parish of Lushnja is facing big difficulties. The Congregation who run the activities in the parish till now cannot support the on-going activities financially, so they are making redundant every employee and the Parish Priest will remain only to say the weekly Mass until another Congregation will take charge of the Parish. Another issue within this situation, is that even Shahin Petritaj, who helped us voluntarily, is going to be unemployed.

#### **5. Steps and future progress**

- To realize 3 social, recreational and animated activities with each focus group till the end of July.
- To finish the registration progress in the vocational training courses before September.
- To start the Human Development Training Programme before middle July, and to finish it till December.
- To follow up with the young people the opportunities provided at the Vocational Training Centre where they will be studying.
- To visit the 10 areas to make the timetable for the organization of the Training Programme on "Self Awareness", "Conflict Resolution" and "Human Anti-Trafficking" till the end of August and to start it in October.





## YEP Project

### Report's Author

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