

A background image showing two young people, a woman and a man, looking at a laptop. The image is faded and overlaid with a large, thin, curved arrow pointing from the social media icons towards the newsletter title.

Newsletter Issue #2 – June 2026

From Skills to Action: YouthPioneer Moves into Work-Based Learning

Explore our second Newsletter to discover how YouthPioneer is moving from preparation and training to hands-on experience, local engagement and future impact.

YouthPioneer is moving forward!

The YouthPioneer project has now entered one of its most practical and dynamic phases. After the first months of networking, awareness raising, skills assessment, training and mentoring, young NEETs across the partner countries are now connecting their learning journey with real workplace environments.

Implemented in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Spain and Bulgaria, YouthPioneer continues to support young people who are not in employment, education or training by strengthening their soft and entrepreneurial skills, encouraging active participation, and building bridges between young people, youth workers, companies, local authorities and community organisations.

The project's approach combines mentoring, project design, work-based learning and stakeholder cooperation. In this way, YouthPioneer does not only support individual skills development; it also contributes to stronger local ecosystems for youth employability and social innovation.

Where We Are Now

Work-Based Learning is now in progress

YouthPioneer has entered the Work-Based Learning phase, where young NEETs are engaging with companies, organisations and local working environments in their countries.

During this phase, participants have the opportunity to observe everyday professional practices, understand real needs and challenges, and start connecting their project design skills with practical situations. With the support of youth workers, mentors, companies and local stakeholders, they are encouraged to explore how their ideas can respond to concrete workplace or community needs.

This is a key moment in the YouthPioneer journey: young people are moving from reflection and preparation to action, experience and participation.

Skills Assessment Tool: the journey starts with self-awareness

One of the important milestones of the project has been the launch and use of the YouthPioneer Skills Assessment Tool.

The tool supports young NEETs in reflecting on their current skills, identifying strengths and recognising areas for improvement. It focuses on key soft skills that are essential for personal development, employability and entrepreneurship.

Through this process, participants are not simply assessed; they are encouraged to better understand themselves, their potential and the next steps in their learning pathway.

The Skills Assessment Tool also helps youth workers and mentors provide more targeted guidance, linking the results of the assessment with training, mentoring and work-based learning activities.

[Try the Skills Assessment Tool →](#)

The YouthPioneer Skills Campaign: soft skills in focus

The YouthPioneer Skills Online Campaign successfully highlighted the importance of soft skills for young people's personal and professional development.

Through a series of digital visuals and messages shared on the project's social media channels, the campaign focused on eight key skills:

Problem Solving

Communication

Teamwork

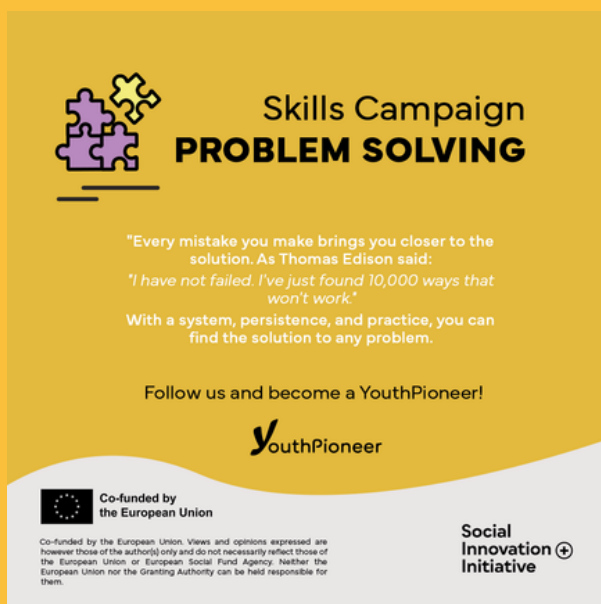
Time Management

Stress Management

Critical Thinking

Adaptability

Autonomy



The campaign aimed to inspire young people, raise awareness about the skills needed in today's labour market, and connect the project's communication activities with the Skills Assessment Tool and the training journey of participants.

YouthPioneer across Europe: six countries, one shared mission

Across the six YouthPioneer countries, young NEETs have moved from individual planning and training to Work-Based Learning experiences. Each partner has supported participants in exploring their skills, clarifying their goals and connecting with local organisations, companies and community actors.



Italy | Building confidence for the future

In Italy, CESIE created 15 Individual Plans between November 2025 and April 2026. Two rounds of training took place in Palermo from February to April 2026, followed by Work-Based Learning experiences with NGOs, non-profit organisations, companies, business associations and specialised companies. Participants have reported increased confidence and self-esteem, while companies have shared positive feedback on their commitment and work.

Greece | From learning to real opportunities

In Greece, iED created 19 Individual Plans between October and December 2025, with national training taking place at JOIST Innovation Park in Larissa from December 2025 to March 2026. Work-Based Learning involves small, social and community-oriented organisations active in fields such as eco-communities, culture, performing arts and health services. Two promising success stories have already emerged: one participant is expected to be hired by the social enterprise where she completed her training, while another decided to start his own business.



Cyprus | Personalised pathways into practice

In Cyprus, GrantXpert created 24 Individual Development Plans, highlighting the importance of personalised and trust-based support. Eight training sessions were held in Nicosia between February and March 2026. Work-Based Learning involves SMEs, local businesses and organisations from sectors such as innovation and consulting, health services, media, hospitality and tourism, food and beverage, leisure, education and creative arts.



Romania | Flexible support for changing aspirations

In Romania, EaSI created 19 Individual Plans between August 2025 and June 2026. The process showed that young people's needs and aspirations can be diverse and evolving, requiring flexible and personalised guidance. Training activities took place in Bucharest between March and April 2026, while Work-Based Learning is being implemented with NGOs and youth organisations.



Spain | Turning experience into next steps

In Spain, INCOMA created 23 Individual Plans between November 2025 and March 2026, helping participants reflect on their interests, transferable skills and next steps after training and WBL. Two rounds of training and mentoring took place in Seville between January and February 2026. Work-Based Learning involves 13 host organisations from sectors including elderly care, hospitality, restaurants, automotive services, agriculture, horticulture, beauty therapy, childcare, sports centres and swimming lessons.



Bulgaria | Individual planning as a tool for progress

In Bulgaria, the Municipality of Botevgrad created 18 Individual Plans between September 2025 and January 2026. Training took place in Botevgrad in February 2026, with additional individual meetings in March. Work-Based Learning involves local companies and organisations, including a restaurant, a photography studio, a garden centre, an IT company, a cake production company, NGOs, a social service provider for children with disabilities and the Municipal Enterprise for Public Works and Utilities.



New article on the YouthPioneer website

Understanding young people's pathways towards skills, confidence and participation



A new article will soon be available on the YouthPioneer website, offering a broader reflection on the challenges faced by young NEETs and the importance of creating meaningful support pathways for their personal and professional development.

The article connects closely with the current phase of the project, where young people are moving through skills assessment, training, mentoring and work-based learning. It highlights why soft skills, self-confidence, guidance, cooperation with local stakeholders and access to real opportunities are essential for supporting young people in their transition towards the labour market.

Through this publication, YouthPioneer continues to contribute to the wider discussion on youth employability, social inclusion and the need to recognise the potential of young people who are often not sufficiently heard or represented.

[Read and share the full article on the YouthPioneer website in 6 different languages](#)

Share →

Campaign Corner

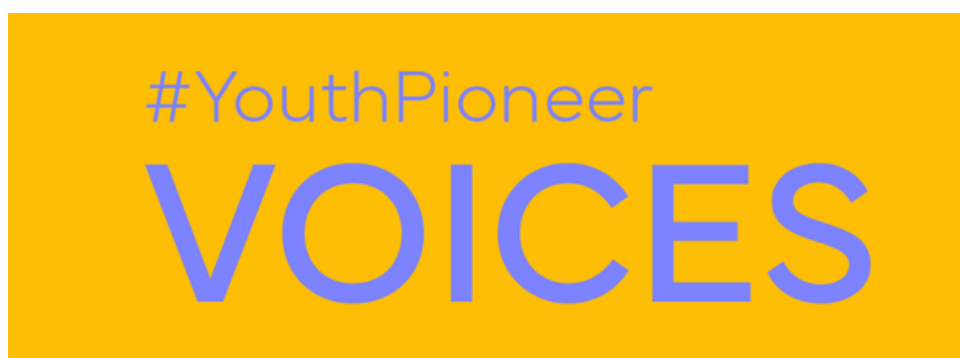
#YouthPioneer VOICES: young people take the spotlight

This summer, the #YouthPioneer VOICES campaign brings forward the voices of young people from the six countries of the YouthPioneer consortium.

Through more than 70 short videos, subtitled in English, young participants will share their personal experiences, reflections and the benefits they gained through their involvement in the project.

The campaign highlights dreams, doubts, hopes, learning moments and personal growth, showing how young people can build confidence, cooperate, develop skills and feel recognised when they are given the space to be seen, heard and valued.

Stay tuned throughout the summer and follow the voices shaping tomorrow.



Partners met in Bucharest to coordinate the next steps

In early December 2025, the YouthPioneer consortium met in Bucharest for the project's next Transnational Project Meeting, hosted by EaSI.

The meeting offered partners the opportunity to review the progress achieved during the first year of implementation, discuss the transition from training and mentoring to Work-Based Learning, and coordinate the next project activities.

Special attention was given to the implementation of Work-Based Learning, the preparation of the Pitch Presentation Training, the upcoming communication and awareness-raising actions, and the next steps related to exploitation, sustainability and stakeholder engagement.

The Bucharest meeting strengthened coordination among partners and helped ensure that YouthPioneer continues moving forward with a shared vision: supporting young NEETs to develop skills, gain practical experience and connect with real opportunities.



What's Happening Now and What Comes Next

Work-Based Learning: turning ideas into real experience

Work-Based Learning is currently at the heart of YouthPioneer implementation.

Young NEETs are engaging with workplace environments and observing how organisations, companies and local actors operate in practice. This experience helps them understand professional realities, identify challenges and start shaping ideas that could respond to real needs.

The Work-Based Learning phase is not only about observation. It is also about empowerment: helping young people see themselves as active contributors who can analyse situations, propose solutions and build confidence through experience.

Getting ready to pitch ideas

The next step focuses on Pitch Presentation Training, supporting young NEETs to organise their ideas, communicate them clearly and present them in a structured and convincing way.

Across the consortium, the pitch presentation activities are being implemented progressively, according to each country's project timeline. In Spain, the first pitch presentation workshops already took place on 25, 26 and 27 May 2026, with another round planned for June. In Greece, the workshops are expected to start in mid-July, while in Bulgaria they are planned for the second half of July or the beginning of August. In Italy, the activities are expected between late July and early September. In Romania, they are expected to start in September, and in Cyprus between September and October 2026.

Through these workshops, participants will be supported to transform what they have learned through project design, mentoring and work-based learning into meaningful proposals. Pitch presentation skills are essential for helping young people express their ideas, build confidence and prepare for future opportunities in employment, entrepreneurship or further learning.

Preparing for dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders

The consortium is also preparing the next strategic steps linked to the Dialogue with policymakers and the transfer of the YouthPioneer strategy to stakeholders.

This upcoming phase will focus on sharing the YouthPioneer Model, the project's results and the experience gained through its implementation with local authorities, decision-makers and organisations active in the youth field.

The aim is to support the wider use and transfer of the YouthPioneer approach, helping more young NEETs benefit from the project's methodology beyond the direct group of participants.



From project results to long-term impact

The next steps are also closely connected with the project's Exploitation and Sustainability Strategy.

This strategy will support the long-term use of YouthPioneer results, the continuation of partnerships, the engagement of stakeholders, and the transfer of the project's methods and tools to organisations and actors that can continue supporting young NEETs after the project ends.

In this way, YouthPioneer is not only implementing activities during the project lifetime. It is also preparing the ground for lasting impact, stronger cooperation and future opportunities for young people and local communities.

Partners meet online on 30 June

The YouthPioneer consortium will meet online on 30 June for the next Transnational Project Meeting.

This meeting will provide an important opportunity to review the progress of Work-Based Learning, coordinate the upcoming Pitch Presentation Training, and prepare the next dissemination, exploitation and stakeholder engagement activities.

As YouthPioneer moves forward, the focus becomes even clearer: supporting young people to develop skills, express their ideas, connect with real opportunities and contribute to more inclusive local labour markets.

Stay connected

Follow the YouthPioneer journey through our website and social media channels.

Visit the project website to explore the project results, use the Skills Assessment Tool, follow the #YouthPioneer VOICES campaign, and stay updated on the next activities.

Visit our website →



Let's keep building pathways to labour market integration through project design, mentoring and professional experience.

Meet our partners



CESIE ETS

Italy



iED

Greece



GrantXpert Consulting LTD

Cyprus



EaSI

Romania



International Consulting
& Mobility Agency SL

Spain



Municipality of Botevgrad

Bulgaria



Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Social Fund Agency. Neither the European Union nor the Granting Authority can be held responsible for them.

ESF-SI-2023-SKILLS-01-0018

Social
Innovation 
Initiative