



Municipality of Alimos



Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

The Municipality of Alimos, Lead Partner in the project entitled “Encouraging young people to build a better Europe – IN NEET” at the 7th Project Meeting in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

The Municipality of Alimos, in the framework of the European project “IN NEET: Encouraging young people to build a better Europe”, which holds the position of Lead Partner, participated in the seventh project meeting in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria during the period of March 29th - 31st.

The project is implemented within the framework of the “Europe for Citizens” Programme and its main goal is to combat unemployment faced by the young generation, to promote the active participation of youth in social activities and to enhance their role in European society.

This particular meeting, which was organized by our Bulgarian partners, Association Euni Partners, was entitled “NEETs and Young Social Inclusion: Taking the Initiatives”. During the first day, the Municipality’s representatives, Georgia Papas, City Council Member and Anna Ampelioti, City Employee in charge of this European Programme, attended a meeting filled with informative presentations.

In the morning of the first day the Director of the Regional Employment Service, Stanislava Popovska, presented the case of how the state’s employment agency can serve as an instrument of the state in creating new employment opportunities for self-realization. This was followed by a further presentation of the employment programmes available to young people through qualification courses, which are provided by Blagoevgrad’s Youth Employment Services. The focus was on how to create opportunities for interaction among all stakeholders for attracting young people in the civic, economic and political life.





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The first day continued in the afternoon with a presentation and an interactive role play and workshop. To begin with, Miglena Mihailova, Lawyer representing the Association L.I.D.E.R. presented the case of the Roma in Bulgaria. The focus was on Roma Entrepreneurship and Employment with an emphasis on the potential of the Roma community in the labour market and the best interest of the state in the inclusion of Roma in civil service positions. This followed with a role play led by Ilina Yakova, President of the Association Euni Partners, where the youth perspective through the entrepreneurship lab was discussed enabling the participants to discuss a bottom-up initiation leading to youth empowerment. Finally, a workshop was organized with the participation of students from the American University in Bulgaria. The workshop focused on good practices initiated in the entrepreneurship-oriented educational programs provided by the American University.

During the second day, onsite visits were organized to neighbouring municipalities. In the morning, a meeting with the Mayor of the Municipality of Sadinski, Atanas Stoyanov was arranged, where the participants learned about the good practices for attracting young people in the labor market and opportunities for realization of positions in a municipality oriented towards tourism and agriculture.





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In the afternoon, a visit to the smallest museum-town in Bulgaria, Melnik, followed, where the participants were welcomed by the town's mayor. He coordinated a visit to the largest renaissance house on the Balkan Peninsula the Kordopoulou House, and explained the inspiration behind the young entrepreneur's success story in creating the Melnik Family Wine Cellar and Vineyards, which has participated in numerous world-wide wine competitions and has been awarded for the quality of their production.



The Municipality of Alimos, having adopted an outward-focused profile, participates in innovative initiatives undertaken at the European level with the aim of exchanging good practices and optimizing the standard of living and quality of life of its residents at a social, economic and cultural level.