



REPORT

Seminar on Youth Inclusion. The Role of Social Entrepreneurship 14 – 15 November 2016, Madrid

On 14-15 November, over 20 participants from Eurodiaconia member organizations and partners gathered to discuss youth inclusion with particular focus on the role that social entrepreneurship can play towards that aim. The conference was organized by Eurodiaconia and hosted by its two Spanish members -Diaconia Spain and the Spanish Evangelical Church- in Madrid.

14 November 2016



Enrique del Árbol, President of Diaconia Spain, welcomed participants and underlined some of the main challenges faced by young people in Europe today. In this context, he stressed the importance of holding a discussion on such issues in Spain, where young people have been severely hit by the unemployment crisis and other difficulties impairing their participation in society. **Jonathan Abad**, from the Spanish Evangelical Church, also welcomed the audience and mentioned some flagship projects with youth run by the organisation.

On behalf of Eurodiaconia, **Alexander Elu** (Eurodiaconia) stressed the overarching nature of the youth topic, which spreads across several work areas within the organization, such as work inclusion services, social innovation, social investment and, also, social enterprise. Whilst social enterprise should not be looked at as the only solution to the massive challenges faced by young people -and unemployment in particular-, social enterprise and social entrepreneurship can be an adequate instrument to improve the lives of younger people, especially of the most vulnerable ones. For this reason, Eurodiaconia expects a discussion on the conditions needed for social enterprise to thrive, the set of skills and attitudes needed and, crucially, the purpose and mission of social enterprises within diaconal organizations.

Next, **Manuel Cerezo**, Executive Secretary of the Evangelical Council of Madrid, conducted a devotion touching on service & youth, and Diaconia as an act and a pillar of being Church.

The opening panel offered an overview on the situation of young people in Spain. **Marcelo Segalés**, researcher at the Fundación Tomillo, presented the main challenges faced by young people in the Spanish





labour market since the onset of the crisis. Mr Segalés also presented the implications of this in terms of social inclusion and increased vulnerability faced by this group.

Mr Segalés stressed some key features of the Spanish labour market and its differences with EU standards. First, the Spanish labour market is determined by the productive structure of the economy, with a very strong weight of services (low to medium value added). Secondly, education is featured by a high polarization (whilst there is a very high share of young people with tertiary education, there is also a relatively high share of early drop-outs); such polarization leads to significant mismatch between education and labour markets and creates difficulties for the transition from school to work.



The employment of young people is featured by low salaries (more than 30% below the national average) and a disproportionately high share of temporary work contracts (58% of contracts for young people are less than one month long).

Activity rates among young people have fallen dramatically during the crisis. In turn, the number of young people in education or training has increased. The overall number of young people in Spain has decreased; this is both due to a structural process of population ageing and, importantly, an increasing number of young people leaving the country searching for better job prospects. Such features have put young people (15 to 29 years) at relatively higher risk of poverty and social exclusion rates. Mr Segalés stressed the growing disconnect between employment and social inclusion, and the difficulty this represents to provide coherence to individual histories and be an instrument for personal fulfilment.

Mr Segalés next presented the quantitative results of a study carried out by the Foundation on vulnerability among younger people in Spain. According to it, *young vulnerable people* may be defined as those young people (16-29) at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with low education levels who are unemployed or trapped in temporary and part-time jobs and those who are inactive due to discouragement and household chores. These categories account up to two thirds of the whole age group in Spain.

Carla Millán, Head of Equal Opportunities and Rights at the Spanish Youth Council, offered an additional insight into some of the issues addressed in the previous presentation. In particular, she stressed the problems associated to temporary jobs and the related difficulties in terms of personal planning, emancipation and family formation for young people. Ms Millán offered some concrete examples of temporary work arrangements and growing disconnects between contract agreements and actual work conditions. Ms Millán also stressed issues related to housing. During the boom years, the rise of housing prices created great difficulties of access to housing for young people. The end of the housing bubble, however, has not translated into better housing opportunities for young people. Some struggle, on one hand, to face the pre-crisis lending conditions; others have incomes which are not enough to access housing at affordable prices.



During the afternoon, the group made a study visit to [Basurama](#) in the periphery of Madrid. Basurama is an artist collective dedicated to research, cultural and environmental creation and production whose practice revolves around the reflection of trash, waste and reuse in all its formats and possible meanings. Basurama acts like a creative linking platform where different agents of the same social network, especially at the local level, come together. It has created more than 100 projects in the four continents. Its base is in Madrid,

where it has carried out several projects in peripheral areas with participation of the community and young people, in particular.

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In his keynote address, **Dr Brendan Burchell** (University of Cambridge) explored the role of self-employment among young people as a lever of social inclusion for this group. His presentation built upon his work for the ILO¹ on the context, policies and evidence available on the topic. Dr Burchell stressed the disruptive effect of unemployment for young people in their transition to adulthood. He clarified the definition of self-employment as those jobs where the remuneration is directly dependent upon the profits derived from the goods and services produced. This includes diverse categories as employers, own-account workers, members of producers' cooperatives and contributing family workers. However, new professional categories associated to new forms of employment (e.g. Uber drivers, Deliveroo...) would not necessarily fit in these definitions.

The ILO School to Work Transition Survey contains over 100.000 responses of people below 30 years of age across 28 countries. According to its results, self-employed (SE) workers are featured by lower levels of job satisfaction than waged employees. A quarter of SE workers belong to this status because they could not find a waged job, whilst almost 40% pointed at greater independence as the primary driver of their choice and 13% mentioned family tradition as the main reason. Among the main problems identified are the lack of financial resources to start-up a SE project and the competition of other self-employed persons and enterprises. According to his results,



¹ B. Burchell *et al*, '[Self-employment programmes for young people: a review of the context, policies and evidence](#)', ILO, Employment working paper 198, Geneva.



youth self-employment is more prevalent in harsher economic climates, such as poorer countries and in times of higher unemployment. Job quality is also more heterogeneous among SE than among waged employment.

Dr Burchell mentioned the wide range of interventions available to encourage self-employment: educate for an entrepreneurial mindset, receive adequate training and mentoring which is specific for self-employment purposes and provision of practical help (especially, financial). Dr Burchell also stressed that active labour market policies work for self-employed people too. Accordingly, the group should be targeted on equal terms than dependent workers. He also underlined the need to take more notice of long-term and also non-economic outcomes of self-employment (e.g. wellbeing, social mobility).

Project Presentations of Eurodiaconia members

After the keynote speech, Eurodiaconia members presented successful projects on youth inclusion from their home countries and discussed them with the participants.

This best practice sharing started off with **Petra Feller-Stanieková** (*Slezská Diakonie, Czech Republic*), who presented the “[Renewal Project](#)” through which young people at the risk of social exclusion get the chance to renovate classic American cars and gain important and useful skills that help them to find back into employment. The youngsters are supervised by professional staff of the US Car Friends Club in the Czech Republic and Slezská Diakonie. The goal is to improve the skills of young people, their chances to succeed on the labour market and to learn social skills (successful communication, self-confidence, finding solutions etc.). One benefit of working with American Old-/Youngtimers is the media attraction Slezská Diakonie usually does not have for other relevant projects. This media visibility has a positive impact on attracting private donors. So far, however, the project is mainly financed by Slezská Diakonie itself (purchase of cars, provision of temporary car-workshop etc.).



Next, **Samuele Pigoni** (*Diaconia Valdese, Italy*) presented the project “*Seminiamo Cambiamenti. A social entrepreneurship programme for social inclusion*”. Firstly, he gave a brief overview on the situation of young people in Italy and the big challenge of youth unemployment that amounts to 37%; mostly affected are rural and post-industrial areas that leave youngsters with few perspectives and reduced service provisions. Secondly, Mr Pigoni introduced the Youth Inclusion agenda of

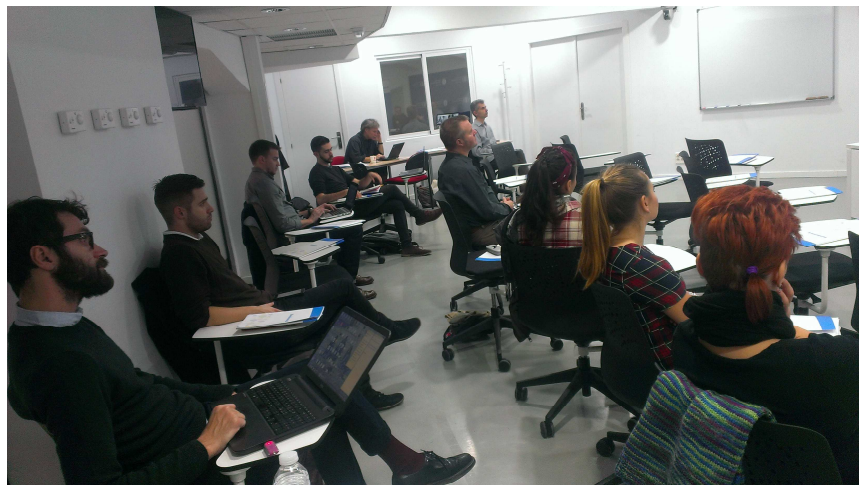
Diaconia Valdese with its focusses on (1) social skills empowerment, education and participation, (2) an unemployment service for young people called “Casa del Lavoro”, and (3) the improvement of youth entrepreneurship in rural areas through the project “*seminiamo cambiamenti*”. This project contains two major steps: (1) In 2012 the project took off with a [social farming start-up](#) leading to two social farms in 2016 with a revenue of EUR 55.000 and three employees under 29. They produce honey, fruit juices, jams etc. and offer 10 internships for disadvantaged youngsters, and 400 pupils are involved in green education initiatives. (2) Diaconia Valdese established the restaurant “[Cose Buone](#)”, where the products of the social farms are used and sold; it also includes an info point for Diaconia Valdese. Four employees (incl. one person with disabilities) work there, also three internships for people with disabilities are offered. The restaurant is actively



working with asylum seekers and raises the awareness of clients towards social needs and social entrepreneurship.

After a break, **Jonathan Kinross** (*Grassmarket Community Project / Greyfriars Kirk, United Kingdom*) began his presentation with an introduction about the social situation of young people in Scotland, introducing the challenges they face, e.g. unemployment, early school leaving, high level of anti-social behaviour etc. The [Grassmarket Community Project \(GCP\)](#), run by Mr Kinross, is an innovative approach creating community and providing sanctuary and support to the most vulnerable young people; It focusses on mentoring, social enterprise, training and education in a nurturing environment to develop skills which enable participants to develop to their full potential and move away from cycles of failure. The GCP includes four social enterprises: a Café, a conference and a community centre, a furniture workshop that produces wooden furniture from old church benches etc., and textile workshop producing tartan items. Due to the self-sufficiency of those social enterprises the dependence on grants could be reduced from 66% in 2014 to 49% in 2015. Within the GCP 10 full-time and 12 part-time professional staff are employed, and over 120 volunteers are contributing to the project. As well as operating social enterprises, the GCP offers also a range of social integration and educational activities for members aimed at enhancing their life skills and developing confidence. These include: cookery and baking classes, music, choir, art, drama, IT, reading and writing, sewing and photography. Recognising that health and lack of physical activity are vital in people's recovery and wellbeing - GCP also delivers a wide range of physical activities and therapies.

The last project presentation was given by **Timo Estola** (*Helsinki Deaconess Institute, Finland*) and introduced the participants to the [Vamos! Project](#). Mr Estola gave a brief overview of the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, founded in 1867 as an eight bed hospital in Helsinki, now being an organisation of 1600 employees and an annual size of operations of about EUR 150 million. The Vamos Project, i.a. successfully funded by the European Social Fund, provides a holistic service concept for 16 to 29-year-olds



NEETs. The young people are supported according to their own strengths and needs regarding education and employment or other meaningful activities. Individual support/coaching and group activities are offered as well, and it is voluntary and free of charge. There is no referral or diagnosis needed in order to take part. The project began as outreach youth work in Helsinki, certain group activities were established later; all activities are tailored and designed service concepts from the needs of the municipalities. Today, Vamos has over 50 employees in five different Vamos centers around Finland. Every year over 1000 young people practice their life management skills in groups and receive strong individual support and personal coaching aiming towards work or education. Within a year, 65% of the youth are (back) in education, employment or to activities that lead to either. The Vamos working method has been modelled and proved cost-effective.

In addition to the project presentations, **Florian Tuder** (*Eurodiaconia*), gave an introduction to EU funding possibilities for youth inclusion. In his presentation he highlighted a selection of programmes used by Eurodiaconia members like Erasmus+, the European Social Fund, the Youth Employment Initiative, and the Rights Equality and Citizenship programme. Tuder also introduced the European Programme of Integration



and Migrations (EPIM). Each programme was presented looking at the budget lines, specific target groups and accessibility for social organisations working with young people. Special attention was given to the recently published Erasmus+ programme guide 2017, but also to EPIM as a funding opportunity outside the EU framework through a network of foundations. In a last section Tuder gave an outlook about what to expect in 2017 regarding developments in the area of funding and gave some insights about the mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework and stressed the importance of projects in the area of integration of refugees and in the area of radicalisation prevention among young people, which are topics likely to be funded by the European Commission.

At the end of the seminar, **Florian Tuder** (*Eurodiaconia*) summarised the meeting. On behalf of Eurodiaconia he thanked the hosts of the event: Diaconia Spain and the Evangelical Church of Spain, and also all participants and speakers. With a brief evaluation exercise the seminar ended.

For the content of the speeches and presentations, please contact Florian Tuder (florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org) & Alexander Elu (alexander.elu@eurodiaconia.org).