Youth Mobility PILOTS

VALUATION NOTEBOOK

A look at international mobility and the commitment of young Europeans
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International mobility is an extraordinary experience that cannot be replaced by local or national mobility. Mobility is not only a physical or geographical relocation, but also a cultural, linguistic, social and psychological change of scenery...

Mobility means a change in lifestyle and socialisation: young people leave their familiar surroundings and comfort zone, make new connections and create new networks outside familiar circles. The transnational character of the «Youth Mobility Pilots» project is essential for the development of this learning process. Young people and professionals accompany this mobility process not only as participants but also as hosts. It is important that mobility multipliers, both young people and professionals, are aware of and participate in this experience of exchange and departure in order to promote international mobility and relay it to their professional and personal environment.

The added value of educational mobility is now widely recognised: it enables young people to acquire new personal, social, intercultural and professional skills that enhance their opportunities and possibilities in both their social and professional life.
The «Youth Mobility Pilots» project is part of the development and partnership between Une Terre Culturelle and dock europe, head of the French-German network «PASSAGE!» that was created as part of the «Diversity and Participation» strategy of the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO), which aims to strengthen relations and cooperation between youth workers in France and Germany in order to support and develop international mobility projects for young people who are the furthest removed from these opportunities.

The Erasmus+ Program supported the project, the mobility of young people and professionals, and strengthened the partnership dimension of the project through Key Action 2 «Strategic partnership». The actions supported as part of this key-action contribute significantly to the Program priorities and have a positive, lasting impact on the participating organisations, on the political systems in which the actions take place, as well as on the organisations and individuals directly or indirectly linked to the activities organized.
The association Une Terre Culturelle (UTC) was founded in February 2002, but its origins go back to the early 1990s. For more than 25 years, its members, staff and volunteers have been organising international meetings for young people with fewer mobility opportunities.

The association relies on a solid network of local and international partners to develop intercultural youth exchanges, professional immersions, international volunteering projects, and intercultural training courses for socio-educational, cultural, sporting and youth workers.

Thanks to the development of a local network, particularly with the socio-cultural centres, high schools, universities and Missions locales (job centers for youth from 16 to 25 years old) from the region, Une Terre Culturelle has become a key association in the development of youth exchanges and in the training of international mobility actors and actresses.

The projects carried out over the years within the framework of European programmes and the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) support have enabled Une Terre Culturelle to develop projects based on long-term and valuable local and international partnerships.

UTC believes that international mobility of young people is essential today. It is a real tool for local social development and for professional and social integration of young people.

Indeed, the added value of educational mobility is now widely recognized: it enables the young generation to acquire new personal, social, intercultural and professional skills that enhance their personal development and employability. It is important to enhance the value of our partnerships with local actors and actresses in Marseille, in the region and well beyond in the European and Euro-Mediterranean area.

The association is also coordinator with dock europe e.V. of the network «PASSAGE! between Hamburg, the PACA region, during which several French-German projects were born to promote
In 2018, the association moved into a former bastide (typical house of Marseille) in Sainte-Marthe neighbourhood in Marseilles 14th district in order to carry out a major project: to create a resource and training center, to promote international mobility and interculturality, to welcome and host the local and international public in Marseilles northern neighbourhoods, called the House of Interculturality and Volunteering, House IV. It welcomes international and local young people and adults, providing them with accommodation, work rooms, intercultural training and qualified human resources.
Pangera e.V. is an association of committed social workers and experienced intercultural facilitators who came together to promote international youth mobility and intercultural dialogue. The main objective is to make offers accessible to a target group that is normally excluded from participating in individual or collective mobility experiences due to various obstacles.

The association develops mobility programmes for the youth: international youth exchange projects, intercultural trainings for professionals in the social field and future multipliers in youth work. Pangera e.V. stands for sustainable social development and works against prejudices and stigmatisation. Pangera e.V. is committed to promoting encounters between diverse target groups by enabling young people with fewer access to international mobility programmes to participate and organise such exchange projects independently. In addition, Pangera e.V. makes an important contribution to local youth work by accompanying and supporting young people in their commitment and volunteering in cultural, sporting and social institutions that are partners of the association.
dock europe e.V. is a German non-governmental organisation founded in 2005 and active in the fields of political education, further education and social work. The organisation develops international exchange projects and encounters using informal education methods and incorporating youth social work approaches.

Based in Hamburg, the organisation is a real interface between social work and education. Dock europe also organises international workshops and trainings, as well as seminars and courses for and between social and youth workers.

The organisation develops educational and social activities in line with the linguistic and cultural diversity of European societies. Solidarity, multilingualism and interculturality are important values for the organisation.

The organisation has also joined and developed international and European networks of institutions, associations, professionals and activists. Dock europe e.V. is co-coordinator of the «PASSAGE!» network between Hamburg and the PACA region in France, with Une Terre Culturelle and the support of the Franco-German Youth Office. The principles of dock europe e.V. are empowerment, informal knowledge, evaluation and continuous redefinition of its own methods, as well as the anchoring of the association values.

Individuals are not only seen as learners, but also as experts, and thus contribute to the building of shared knowledge and the exchange of knowledge with people who share the same ideas. The active participation of each individual is an important tool.

In addition, dock europe e.V. practices continuous evaluation and redefinition of its own methods. The organisation carries out work that is ‘bottom-up’, determined by the participants and the interactions between and with them.
For these reasons, it is important for dock europe e.V. to consider the evolution of cultures and societies in order to develop methods and pedagogical approaches that are most appropriate for today.

Dock europe is part of an international network and involved in local association life in Hamburg. It operates in urban environments characterised by cultural, social, religious and economic diversity, where it promotes tolerance, curiosity, integration and «transcultural openness».

Since 2016, dock europe e.V. has been running its own training centre with accommodation and equipped seminar rooms to host groups of young people and professionals during exchanges and trainings.
The project consisted in strengthening the partnership between 3 associations in France and Germany and involved a group of young people and professionals in these actions. These young people, who were initially far from opportunities of international mobility, had already benefitted from a mobility program (internship, intercultural exchange, volunteering) by the project partners. The aim was to encourage young people to pass on their own experience to their peers and closed one, encouraging them to “try out” international mobility, and so reach out to other young people who are far from opportunities. Young people are in the ideal position to reach other young people: they evolve in similar contexts, use the same language to encourage other young person to overcome their fears and get involved in an intercultural exchange, internship or volunteering project.

Une Terre Culturelle and dock europe e.V. began the « Youth Mobility Pilots » project in 2019 as a pilot project supported by the FGYO as part of the «Diversity and Participation» strategy (2015-2020). As the head of the «PASSAGE!» network, Une Terre Culturelle and dock europe e.V. regularly work together to set up and run the network and projects between the PACA region and the Land of Hamburg. The aim of this network is to bring together associations and professionals working with young people in the two regions, to give access to as many young people as possible, regardless of their profile, to Franco-German and European mobilities, and thus develop their intercultural learning, support their personal projects and encourage their involvement in the local community. In this context of need and desire to reach more young people, especially those who do not have easy access to international mobility projects, dock europe and Une Terre Culturelle have launched the «Youth Mobility Pilots» project, as an intercultural exchange in France and Germany, and local meetings of young mobility pilots.
In 2020-2021, against the backdrop of the health crisis, the need to continue mobility projects with young people, especially those facing the greatest obstacles to international mobility, was crucial. The project and partnership then grew to include a third partner, the Pangera e.V. association in Berlin, and also reached out to youth professionals and, more generally, strengthened the links between our structures. The aim of the project was to continue and grow the Young Mobility Relay group through local meetings in Marseille, Berlin and Hamburg to strengthen youth groups and promote international mobility in our areas of action; 2-month mobility and hostel stays for young people and professionals, with immersion at the partner’s premises to discover the Franco-German realities of youth work, and to promote mobility by living an international experience yourself.

This project creates a transversal approach to the day-to-day activities of the associations, allying strategic partnerships and exchanges of good practices, with training and skills enhancement, educational mobility and knowledge-sharing between young people and youth professionals.

Une Terre Culturelle, dock europe e.V. and Pangera e.V. carry out these activities on a daily basis and wanted to bring them together in a joint partnership project. With this common project we create bridges, while contributing to the cohesion of our teams and strengthening partnerships.
The young people strengthen their local and European commitment, acquire intercultural, interpersonal and communication skills, and live a new experience of local collective, binational tandem and international mobility. We support them in making the most of their intercultural experience. It’s vital that young people are actors and actresses in their own mobility, so that they can pass it on to others. They are both beneficiaries and multipliers of this mobility. Their active participation and commitment at local, national and European levels are then increased.

Young people contributed to the development of local activities that promote European openness, intercultural dialogue and access to educational mobility for all. Young people are «youth mobility pilots» for their region, city and country. They help to overcome the obstacles and impediments to young people’s active participation in civil society. To achieve this goal, we build on the positive experience of the pilot project «youth mobility pilots». In the long term, we promote the development of a network of «youth mobility pilots». It is therefore important to improve and consolidate the activity in order to establish it in the long term.

The mobility of professionals enables each of them to discover the day-to-day realities of a different working culture from their own. They strengthen their professional, linguistic and intercultural skills, and are more able to reach out to young people and support them towards European mobility. In addition, this experience is valued in their own professional paths.

The project aims to develop teleworking through virtual communication tools. It was important to think about new intercultural digital methods and to draw inspiration from those of our partners.
An important part of the project was dedicated to sharing experiences. The partners have been running projects with young people for a long time and are resource structures. Together we used this experience to improve the project and adapt it as much as possible to the needs of our target group. The project increases the value of each other’s experiences and promotes European mobility and stimulate the transfer of the model to other European partnerships.

During confinement, we realised that we need to adapt our actions and methods to the virtual world with our partners but also with the young people we want to reach. We used this project to familiarise ourselves with the tools of virtual exchange and to expand our intercultural working tools. The project partners are better trained in virtual methods and be able to develop new forms of mobility and exchange that complement their daily activities.

The knowledge gained by the participants is invested in local youth structures or in federative mobility projects that contribute to the creation of neighbourhood links. The project thus has an impact on local structures through the participants and strengthen social diversity, peaceful coexistence and dialogue between the different neighbourhoods. The young people participate in publicising the work of the local structures and changing their image.
Target groups and participants

Two groups of 12 young pilots have been formed in France and Germany (12 young people in Marseille, 6 young people in Berlin, 6 young people in Hamburg) to work together at local and French-German level on international mobility and the promotion of mobility projects to young people, with 2 to 4 professionals per group of young people.

At the end of the preparatory work, the young people were able to host young people from other groups or go on a mobility trip themselves:

- 6 young people and 2 professionals from Marseille hosted 6 young people from Berlin and Hamburg and 2 professionals from Berlin and Hamburg took part in a professional immersion programme at Une Terre Culturelle.
- 3 young people and 1 professional from Berlin hosted 4 young people from Marseille and 2 professionals from Marseille were welcomed for a professional immersion at Pangera e.V.
- 3 young people and 1 professional from Hamburg welcomed 2 young people from Marseille.

On the spot, the young people and professionals in mobility were welcomed by the young people of the local collective and professionals from partner organizations.

Une Terre Culturelle, Pangera e.V and dock europe e.V. have identified a common problem: too many young people who are far from European mobility do not dare to take part in our actions and/or do not know about international mobility schemes. These young people face economic, social, geographical or family obstacles... In 2019, Une Terre Culturelle and dock europe have developed a pilot project, with the support of the Franco-German Youth Office, to train young people who have already taken part in international mobility to become youth mobility pilots for other young people at a binational event. Today, we are expanding the project with our strategic partners. The first experiences have shown that helping young people to create a collective identity in order to develop local actions together has a positive effect.
International mobility is an experience that cannot be replaced: it is a change of scenery but also a cultural, linguistic and psychological change which implies a change of lifestyle and socialisation. Young people and professionals are involved in a mobility process as participants or hosts. It is important that the mobility «pilots», both young people and professionals, take part in this experience so they can promote it. The mobility is part of a principle of reciprocity: the change of perspective affects the youth arriving and hosting participants. The intercultural experience is thus shared by everyone, at both international and local level.

Thanks to its transnational nature, we are helping to promote a European identity, to create relations between European citizens who have the opportunity to work together, to get to know the “Other” and to share their shared realities.
Methodological and organisational approach

The Youth mobility pilots have benefited from local and French-German group training sessions, as well as mobility opportunities and hosting young people from France and Germany. Experience encourages the acquisition and reinforcement of skills. The skills acquired has become one of the elements to be evaluated to measure the positive impact of the project. In the context of our project, we feel it is important to measure which skills have been specifically mobilized by the experience of the mobility and hosting experience. This is no easy task, and assessing skills in this context requires us to break with our usual schema.

Right from the start of the project, we took into account the expectations and needs of the young people in order to adapt the project and support their involvement in achieving the project’s objectives. Thus, youngsters highlighted different needs, desires and expectations: Entspannte stimmung/Ambiance détente; learning French/German French/German; Teamarbeit/travail d’équipe; Spaß haben/s’amuser; Die verschiedenen Leute kennenlernen und die Sprachen lernen/Getting to know people and languages; Aufeinander zu gehen und sich gegenseitig zu hören/Aller les un-e-s vers les autres et s’écouter mutuellement; Gruppenaktivitäten -Group activities; sich engagieren/s’engager; Freundschaft - Friendship; Kooperation/Cooperation.

Youngsters were keen to get to know each other in a friendly environment, and to develop their linguistic, interpersonal and intercultural skills.
Properly evaluating these different levels of competency enhances the learning acquired through European mobility and hosting, by reinforcing the soft skills that are often overlooked in other educational experiences.

A personalized report was prepared with each participant, to mobilize them towards their mobility experience. The partners also provide post-mobility support to help them and enhance their employability as quickly as possible. Their involvement is voluntary and based on their motivation to commit to the project and the group.

We measured the development of the young people’s skills through regular individual interviews (before, during and after mobility), during which we measured autonomy, self-confidence, intercultural and language learning, for example. At the end of each period of activity, we realized evaluations. For example, the young people took tandem courses during the preparatory activities and were able to self-evaluate their progress.

“I learned a better knowledge of French thanks to the other participants.”

“It brought me a greater knowledge in terms of German language also it has helped me make new connections with my new German friends. It was good to be able to talk with them to learn.”

“It was very good. The idea of learning the other language with native speakers was great. Learning a language was great.”

“I was reluctant to take this course, but in the end I’m very satisfied”.

We were also able to measure the young people’s commitment through their participation in the activities throughout the project.

The project is based on constant, open and transparent communication between and among the “young mobility pilots”, the professionals and the participating organizations. Problems and needs were discussed to find a common solution. The wishes and desires are taken into account to build a common, inclusive project. All this forms the basis for respectful interaction, creating a pleasant foundation for the whole project.
Implementation of the project

The project relies on the commitment and active participation of the participants. Their participation in the project and activities was essential in achieving our goals. Our activities include, thanks to a transversal approach, shared moments in order to create a trustful framework for the participants and to develop relations.

Each phase of the project contributes to the achievement of the objectives and outcomes:

0 Conception, recruitment, feasibility, division of tasks between partners: The project was born out of consultation between the partner structures and the shared need to promote international mobility to more young people. As soon as it was launched, we brought the partners together to discuss each other’s desires, organize the pedagogical and logistical aspects and share tasks within the pedagogical team.

Concrete actions:

• On-line preparatory meetings with French and German partners to clarify the project objectives, define the precise timetable of the project, specify the target group, the selection and recruitment process, allocate tasks to each partner and involve local partners
• Collaboration agreements to formalize the elements exchanged during preparatory meetings
• Construction of shared tools to monitor the project on the pedagogical, financial and administrative aspects (Sharepoint platform, padlets)
• Contact with local partners in Hamburg, Berlin and Marseille to recruit young people.

1 Preparation: Preparatory activities help to mobilize participants towards the experience of educational mobility and towards a European, national and local commitment. A preparation and training schedule has been prepared altogether with the partners and implemented within the collective.

Concrete actions:

• Communication about the project with local partners and young people
• Recruitment and selection interviews for young people and youth professionals
• Definition of a common timetable for local and hybrid preparation with partners and young people
• Administrative and logistical preparations for the departure and arrival of young people and professionals on immersion programs: accommodation, travel, mobility and activity schedules, sign-in sheets and equipment loans, preparation of mobility and commitment contracts.
• Pedagogical preparation of preparation workshops: methods used and activities proposed
Training: The preparatory activities include training workshops for the collective. Young people and professionals broaden their engagement as well as their personal skills, improving their opportunities and possibilities at different levels and working together to implement activities that contribute to social-local development.

Concrete actions:

- Preparation time with young people including local and hybrid activities for meeting and tandems, communication workshops, intercultural activities, work on expectations and intercultural activities, work on expectations and fears in the form of weekly meetings and cohesion weekends.

Mobility: Young people and professionals benefit from this experience on different levels by strengthening their intercultural and linguistic skills, openness towards the «Other», self-confidence and autonomy, as well as through an awareness of their own learning process. These skills are acquired and strengthened thanks to the educational and professional mobility and are constantly reinvested throughout the participants’ personal and professional lives.

Concrete actions:

- Activities to bring together young people and professionals in mobility with local youth mobility pilots’ groups
- Immersion in the associative and professional world in the partner country
- Individualized follow-up of young people on mobility by professionnals at local and French-German scale (weekly group and individual interviews)

Transfer: Upon their return, participants share their discoveries and newly-acquired knowledge with their peers. Workshops, visits to local youth organizations and other experience-sharing activities contribute to reach young people who are the furthest from mobility opportunities and encourage them to engage in this experience. Young people are involved and committed in the local associative network, in their own environment. Professionals are more involved in their work with young people and better integrated into the associative network at European and local levels.

Concrete actions:

- Meetings with local collectives to define a calendar of local actions: participation in international mobility forums, meetings with young people from local organizations (social and youth centers, sport clubs, youth associations...), participation in workshops with young people to promote the experience of international mobility

Evaluation and capitalisation: In this last phase, the feedback and actions of the «youth mobility pilots» and professionals were evaluated, and the experiences and our practices in terms of mobility are capitalized. The experiences are acknowledged and promoted to the public, our networks and partners, thus encouraging the commitment of the participants. Active dissemination of the positive experiences by young people, professionals and project staff helped to raise awareness of the project, strengthen local engagement and share the common experiences with a wide audience.

Concrete actions:

- Collective local evaluation with young people from Marseille, Berlin and Hamburg upon their return from mobility
- French-German evaluation seminar in Berlin to assess the project and capitalize on experience: designing of a « Youth mobility pilots» poster to promote and present the project.
- Production of internship reports and videos to capitalize the youngsters experiences.
• Workshop on Youthpass certification for the youth

All the stages of the project, under different aspects and forms, contribute to the achievement of the expected results and thus of our overall objective: to encourage European mobility and the commitment of young people by helping them to become «young mobility pilots» for their peers while strengthening the cooperation links between mobility stakeholders and structures.
Evaluation and follow-up

The participants continue to be mobility «pilots» after the end of the project and thus make it sustainable. The end of the project does not mean the end of the «youth mobility pilots» collective, nor the end of the strategic partnership. The partners continue to actively promote the activities of the collective and thus the visibility of the project as well as the cooperation between Une Terre Culturelle, dock europe e.V. and Pangera. In their role as «multipliers», the «youth mobility pilots» inspire their peers for educational mobility and cooperation within European structures.

The results of the project are presented by the partners at local and regional events. At these events, interested young Europeans and organisations can contact the partners directly to exchange ideas, ask questions and initiate new partnerships and cooperation around this project.

In addition, the results of the project continue to be available on the internet: they can be found on our websites and blogs as well as on third party websites, such as the Salto Youth Net resource center. This allow youth workers and leaders to access our actions and share our experiences with a large community of European and international peers.

We would like to share this innovative experience with all interested people and structures at international, European and Euro-Mediterranean, national, regional and local level, so that they themselves can create similar projects to promote the international mobility of young people and youth workers and contribute to the development of European cooperation of structures.
Une Terre Culturelle, Pangera and dock europe e.V. regularly work together as partners, using communication tools. The preparation and implementation of various joint projects also makes it possible to meet in person several times a year.

Tools such as Google Forms and Mentimeter are used to conduct surveys and questionnaires with our partners and participants. These tools, which we continue to develop in this time of pandemic constraint, reduce the geographical distance and allow us to create a project together based on a shared vision of all partners.

It is important that despite the geographical distance between Berlin, Hamburg and Marseille, the partners are equally involved and can express their expectations and wishes regarding the project.

The partnership is based on the principle of horizontality: everyone can express themselves freely and make their opinions known; the team implements the principles of listening and active participation of all opinions. Everyone is equally involved in the project. The frequent discussions and exchanges between the three partners make it possible to jointly organise and accompany the preparation of the participants as well as their reception and posting in another organisation when they return to France or Germany.

At the end of the project, an evaluation meeting of the partners and participants took place in Marseille to share experiences and adapt the project in light of the lessons learned and to extend it to other European partnerships, and to pursue it with youngsters.

All partners share the results and experiences of the project with as many people as possible through websites, blogs and social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). These media reach a large and international audience.
The aims of this project are plurals. It is about supporting young adults and training professionals who work in the intercultural and social field and do not always have the opportunity to live abroad, but also about strengthening the links between our organisations.

We train multipliers and give them the tools to get involved at the local level and to initiate change in the places where they work by reflecting on needs and solutions and giving them an introduction to social work in an associative framework.

Each phase of our project is formative. It is a long process of non-formal and informal learning. The initial training phase is fundamental because we want all participants to trustfully approach mobility and engagement.

In addition, the development of social and communication skills is an asset for social and economic (re)integration, whether through training, return to study or employment. International mobility projects are approaches to non-formal education that consider the individuality of young people and provide them with the tools, framework and network they need for their personal and professional development.

These positive aspects are even more important if the European mobility project is carried out in the framework of a local, sustainable and fair partnership with a methodology based on the concept of intercultural learning.

If all people have the right to participate in democracy and in the life of the city, but not all have the means to exercise this right, then this is an obstacle halfway. We live in a society where equality exists in theory but less in practice. It is often easy to explain social imbalances by a certain inability or even laziness on the part of those who suffer and a great diligence on the part of those who benefit.

The young people we work with tend to resign themselves to this state. As intercultural associations with a lot of experience, who know both the institutions and the audience from the “prioritary” zones of the cities of Marseille, Hamburg and Berlin, we therefore want to build bridges.
In this context, young people gain self-confidence, know better who to turn to and are able to better assert themselves and engage in the best conditions for local initiatives as well as for their professional and educational projects. This learning, which can be applied concretely to daily life on the ground, is very helpful for the participants.

After their return, the young people share their experiences and invest what they have learned during the exchange at the local level. In this way, they participate in local social development and are better able to respond to the specific problems of cosmopolitan neighbourhoods. The experience of mobility is therefore an excellent tool for developing intercultural dialogue between local actors and actresses, residents and politicians.

The professionals who accompany the young people throughout the project, benefit from unprecedented practical training. Accompanying young people in their mobility, their daily problems and their initiatives is a daily learning process. In this project, we emphasise the importance of a horizontal learning process based on participation and exchange. Professionals and young people learn from each other and do not simply take the role of teacher or learner. The dual stance of the professionals have a strong added value.
Youth mobility pilots’ groups in Marseille, Hamburg and Berlin

structures strengthening their partnership and their team

committed young people promoting international mobility in France and Germany

young people on a 2-month mobility

professionals who supervised the young people, including 4 on mobility and immersion programs at partners

preparatory meetings at local scale and online between youth mobility relays from France and Germany

young people involved promoting international mobility in France and Germany

language online learning sessions with the Tandem method

evaluation meeting in Berlin

local initiatives and interventions auprès des jeunes de Marseille, Hambourg, Berlin

Key figures
As our project is part of a dynamic to professionalize young people and train professionals, it seemed essential to us that each participant leave this experience with solid personal and external recognition of what he or she has acquired during the project. The local training phase was an opportunity to reflect on each participant’s expectations, fears, know-how and interpersonal skills.

During the mobility phase, a weekly follow-up take place to reflect on the continuous development of all participants. These are organisational meetings as well as meetings between the young participants to work specifically on their role as «youth mobility pilots».

After the mobility, all these experiences were evaluated:

Firstly, by looking back over the weeks and months since the start of the project, participants gain a better understanding of how they have evolved. After the meeting, participants felt they had learned a lot and had a clear understanding of their experiences. This information can be used for events aimed at promoting youth mobility and the mobility projects of our organizations.

In terms of more official recognition, at the end of the project we delivered the Youthpass certificate to the participants. This certificate is a self-assessment, but it is sometimes useful to have an outside view of one’s own progress, so the evaluation interviews addressed these questions. This document, which formalizes the skills acquired throughout the project via an assessment that considers several key competencies, can be used when applying for a job or internship.

The evaluation of the «Youth Mobility Pilots» project has been completed with a capitalization of the result that are shared with our peers and also help us to continually improve our own practices. By developing a project at this level, we are also contributing to the promotion of the European identity. Participants can travel to another European country and get involved in Europe, not just at national or local level. In other words, not only do they pass on European identity, but also the European values that Pangera e.V., dock europe e.V. and Une Terre Culturelle have in common: exchange, tolerance, solidarity, non-discrimination.
Testimonies and recommendations from participants for continuing the project:

“What motivates me about the project? Encouraging young people who haven’t had mobility experiences mobility, encouraging them to do so. Also to establish a network with other people, to be in contact with people who already share similar experiences as me.”

Mariamu, a youth mobility pilot from Hamburg

“What do we need to continue the project? To be able to go door-to-door, to have more links with social and youth centers and structures, because from where I come from, people can’t afford to go on vacation. But we’re not in a “priority zone”, there aren’t any social centers or anything. Developing social media to show people more, it goes faster than word-of-mouth.”

Raïma, a youth mobility pilot from Marseille

Success factors

The project was developed by 3 partners who knew each other and had already worked on youth projects: intercultural youth exchanges, network meetings, volunteering and internships. This facilitated the implementation of the project and the fluidity of exchanges between our teams, most of whom already knew each other.

We were able to carry out similar online activities in parallel with the young people. Although sometimes overwhelming for youngsters, online encounters between France and Germany have been important for getting to know each other, as the young people themselves testify: «it was good to be able to talk to Germans to learn»; «it was good to get to know each other». 
Local and hybrid preparation was necessary before the young people left on mobility and were welcomed: the youth got to know each other before meeting on site, and to forge links more quickly when they arrived. It also enabled the young people to better prepare for their mobility and to be more active actors and actresses than participants.

We had originally planned a single «wave» of departures in 2021, but ended up sending out youngsters again in 2023. Looking back and talking to the young people, we realized that this enabled some of the young people involved in the project to leave at times to adapt the project to their professional and personal profiles and projects.

The project has made it possible to involve and valorise the commitment of young people who were most available (in terms of time) to go on a mobility trip such as young people in employment, study or training who could not leave Marseilles for such a long period but wanted to promote their mobility experience and get involved in the project.

Difficulties

The commitment of young people is not a stable constant, and this was sometimes difficult to address: within the collectives, we noticed that not all young people could be involved at the same time, depending on their professional obligations, studies or family constraints. It was therefore sometimes difficult to «catch» all the young people at the workshops, to find common dates for meetings or even for mobility, as they commented: «I would have liked more activities with the Germans and less visio activities, more concrete projects (management of the Instagram account, more visits to associations) but I know that it was also complicated to get us together, we couldn’t always commit to the project and be there every time because of work, studies.»

Raïma, youth mobility pilot from Marseille

Although online encounters enabled us to create an initial link, we realized that this was not enough. Digital technology can’t replace real encounters. The young people emphasized this aspect during the project evaluation: the need to meet each other more and to meet the German and French groups outside the screen.
Testimonies from young people:

“I learned a lot of new things as a participant and as an animator with other young people. I appreciated the arrival of the Germans here in Marseille. Being an animator taught me a lot.”

Nayer, a youth mobility pilot from Marseille who welcomed the youth pilot from Germany in Marseille

“I really enjoyed my stay at Lacordaire (the shared accommodation set aside for hosting youth exchanges), and the group spirit we developed there. I didn’t like the month of August, when we were less often together. The French group doesn’t speak German well enough.”

Zinedine, a youth mobility pilot from Marseille who welcomed the youth pilots from Germany in Marseille

“I liked the atmosphere and the work carried out by the team: the German lessons, the group cohesion exercise. I’d like to continue this project, because for me it’s a public utility project and it’s important for the young people of Marseille.”

Fatiha, a youth mobility pilot from Marseille who welcomed the youth pilots from Germany in Marseille

“I had a great time in Marseille. Especially the time I spent at Lacordaire with the youngsters. I’d really like to come back to Marseille and maybe study at Aix-Marseille University next year.”

Anonymous, youth mobility pilot from Germany who came for an internship at Une Terre Culturelle

“I’m very happy with my stay in Marseille, I spent two months there and learnt a lot.”

Carina, youth mobility pilot from Berlin on a mobility program in Marseille

“I’m very happy with my experience and I hope to be able to continue to take part in the evaluation when I get back, as I’m in the exam semester.”

Mariamu, a youth mobility pilot from Hamburg on a mobility program in Marseille

Testimonies from young people on a mobility project in Marseille in summer 2021:

https://uneterreculturelle.blogspot.com/2021/08/rire-lachen.html
https://uneterreculturelle.blogspot.com/2021/08/la-troisieme-semaine-de-change-die.html
The project enabled young people and professionals to get involved at local level and enjoy an international and intercultural experience. The young people and professionals were able to meet the challenges related to this experience: living in a group for a longer period of time, cooperation with new colleagues, the language barrier on a daily basis and many other aspects associated with international mobility.

All these experiences were new to many young people, for whom it was the first time they’d been on a mobility experience for such a long time. Indeed, the majority of young people had already had a short mobility experience, such as an intercultural exchange, but never such a long experience abroad in the context of an internship. With the help of partners and professionals, the young people were able to learn how to handle these situations responsibly. By overcoming the language barrier, it quickly became clear that communication is not just about words but also through non-verbal alternatives.

The youth mobility pilots have strengthened their self-confidence, their knowledge of European realities their commitment as «pilots» for their own mobility experience. Their interactions and communication skills have developed over the long term and are based on active listening and mutual understanding.
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Youth Mobility

PILOTS

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