

DIGIPATH: YOUTH UP 4 POSSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE 14.02.2025, BREZOVICA, KOSOVO



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DIGIPATH

YOUTH UP 4 POSSIBILITIES

“DIGIPATH: Youth Up 4 Possibilities”

ROUND TABLE

14.02.2025

Brezovica, Kosovo



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Summary of the National Round Table

PROJECT	DigiPath - Youth Up 4 Possibilities
SUPPORTED BY	Erasmus + Programme Key Action 2, Capacity Building in the Field of Youth.
PARTNERS	Youth Alliance Krusevo, Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation, Croatian Youth Network, NGO Aktiv, Kongresi Rinor Kombetar, Udruženje Proni centar za omladinski razvoj, Unija mladih preduzetnika Crne Gore, N.K.L. Inženiring, svetovanje in storitve d.o.o.
Project description	'DigiPath - Youth Up 4 Possibilities' addresses youth unemployment by enabling shared digital youth work in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. Unsustainable youth brain drain is a big risk. Trends show young people migrating from WB6 economies to Croatia and Slovenia, there is a lack of shared data on flows and quality opportunities. Four urgent concerns contribute to young people living in precarious conditions: unemployment, repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, sluggish transition to digital youth work, and absence of inter-sectoral collaboration. In the 24-month project, partners will collaborate to develop a digital tool that connects education, labor market and the youth sector to each other and young people. Enabling visibility about decent personal and professional development opportunities in home and destination countries.
ACTIVITY TYPE	National Round Table
DATE	14.02.2025.
VENUE	Brezovica, Kosovo
THE MAIN AIM OF THE ROUND TABLE	On February 14th, NGO Aktiv implemented a Round table activity as part of Work Package 2: CROSS-SECTORAL & CROSS BORDER CAPACITY BUILDING (Deliverable no D2.7). The activity was implemented in Brezovica and lasted for four hours. It consisted of two main components: a formal gathering of youth and stakeholders to exchange perspectives and discuss the development of the app, as well as a presentation of current progress and research findings. Participants actively contributed to the discussion by sharing their own insights and ideas. The second component of the activity was the launch, followed by informal discussions covering a range of topics. The primary focus was on youth employment, education, and business opportunities in Kosovo, providing participants with a platform to exchange experiences and insights.
PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS	The event gathered a significant number of participants, including members of the Aktiv team. Approximately half of the attendees were young people, while the remaining participants represented a diverse group of relevant stakeholders. These included representatives from the National Employment Agency, Kosovo Employment Service, the Counseling Center, the Institute for Labor Market Development, the Institute for Social Research Association, youth-focused NGOs, and two high schools.

SCOPE OF WORK AND METHODOLOGIES	The primary objective of the activity was to introduce the program to individuals who could benefit from its services, including those seeking job opportunities, educational advancement, or volunteering placements within the region. Additionally, the event aimed to connect these individuals with relevant service providers, such as organizations offering employment support, educational institutions, and initiatives focused on skill development and career guidance. By fostering dialogue between youth, stakeholders, and service providers, the activity sought to create a platform for collaboration, information exchange, and capacity building. A structured methodology was employed to ensure the effectiveness of the event. The session commenced with a formal presentation of the program, outlining its purpose, scope, and intended impact. This was followed by a detailed progress report, providing an overview of research findings, current developments, and key insights gathered during the program's implementation phase. The presentation served to inform participants of the challenges, opportunities, and trends related to youth employment, education, and business prospects in Kosovo. Subsequently, an open discussion was facilitated, focusing on education-related opportunities both within Kosovo and in the wider region. This segment allowed participants to share their perspectives, ask questions, and exchange information on available resources, potential career pathways, and avenues for further learning and professional growth. A structured brainstorming session followed, during which participants and stakeholders engaged in dialogue to explore potential improvements, innovative solutions, and collaborative efforts that could enhance the effectiveness of the program. The event concluded with a networking session over lunch, providing an informal setting for continued discussions. This allowed participants to establish connections, engage in one-on-one conversations, and further explore potential collaborations. By combining formal presentations, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities, the activity successfully fostered meaningful engagement and facilitated the exchange of valuable insights among all involved stakeholders.
Preparation Activities	As part of the preparations for the national roundtable, a comprehensive outreach process was conducted, inviting representatives from various sectors to participate. The event focused on data-driven approaches and cross-sector collaboration to improve youth access to education, internships, and employment. The venue has been secured, and logistical and technical arrangements are in place. A structured methodology has been developed to facilitate discussions on data collection challenges, regional cooperation, and solutions for connecting education, labor markets, and youth organizations through a digital platform. Key presentations and printed materials have been

	prepared to guide discussions, and feedback tools will be used to gather insights. The roundtable aims to foster meaningful dialogue and collaborative solutions for youth empowerment in the region.
DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSIONS	
SESSION TITLE	Registration and welcome
SESSION OVERVIEW	The session served as the formal beginning of the roundtable, allowing participants to check in, receive materials, and get acquainted with the agenda. It emphasized creating a welcoming environment to set the tone for productive discussions and collaborative activities throughout the day. Organizers shared introductory remarks, highlighting the importance of digital platforms in empowering youth and enhancing regional cooperation. Participants were introduced to the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop, creating a shared sense of purpose.
ACTIVITIES	• Introduction of the event
KEY OUTCOME	Enhanced participant understanding of the role digital platforms play in youth empowerment and mobility and the project itself.
SESSION TITLE	Presentation of results
SESSION OVERVIEW	After greeting the public, the project itself and the research results on laws in Kosovo about/for foreigners and regional development were presented. The results were shortly presented as an introduction to the round tables, specifically highlighting their impact on various aspects of regional growth, youth development, and community integration. The results were summarized to set the context for the upcoming round tables. Presentation emphasized the importance of understanding these laws in fostering an inclusive environment for foreigners, which is crucial for enhancing regional development. The presentation aimed to stimulate discussion among experts during the round tables, encouraging them to explore innovative and digital solutions to optimize the integration of (young) foreigners into local communities and economies.
ACTIVITIES	• Short introduction to the DigiPath project • Research presentation
KEY OUTCOME	The introduction activity successfully highlighted key objectives of the DigiPath project and specifically research outcomes. This introduction has set the stage for stimulating discussions among experts in the round tables, encouraging the exploration of innovative and digital solutions to enhance. On the other hand, the introduction also added to the positive overall atmosphere of the all-day event.
SESSION TITLE	Youth skills for the modern labor market
SESSION OVERVIEW	The aim of the first Round table was to stimulate discussion about the currently most sought-after skills needed to enter the labor market, adaptation of young people to the labor market, and the role of institutions in supporting young people. Another aim was to establish inter-sectorial cooperation with

	the representatives of other sectors, especially education and the labor market, and to share good practices that young people can learn from.
ACTIVITIES	Discussion and presentation by participants
KEY OUTCOME	Participants first emphasized the increasing importance of soft skills, such as effective communication, teamwork, and adaptability. These competencies are becoming more sought after by employers and are considered essential alongside technical knowledge. Additionally, the concept of lifelong learning was identified as a key element, highlighting the necessity of ongoing education and skill enhancement. Given the rapid changes in the labor market, young individuals must be prepared to adjust their career paths accordingly. The discussions also underscored the value of collaboration between different sectors, including educational institutions, businesses, and governmental bodies. Such partnerships are crucial in establishing a well-integrated system that fosters youth employment and professional development. Moreover, practical experience gained through internships, apprenticeships, and hands-on training was recognized as an essential component in bridging the gap between formal education and the workforce. A representative from the Central Office of the Croatian Employment Service highlighted various opportunities, including education vouchers for unemployed youth and state-funded financial assistance for those looking to start their own businesses. Another key topic was the growing necessity for digital literacy and technological skills among young people. As many contemporary jobs demand these capabilities, it is critical for educational curricula to adapt accordingly. Additionally, career counseling and mentorship programs were identified as vital resources in helping young people navigate the labor market and make informed career decisions. The conversation further addressed the importance of engaging inactive youth to ensure equal opportunities for all, particularly marginalized communities. Establishing a continuous dialogue between employers and educational institutions was considered essential to aligning academic programs with industry requirements and emerging trends. Participants also acknowledged the advantages of international programs like Erasmus+, which equip young individuals with valuable global experiences and diverse skill sets relevant to the evolving job market. Lastly, the discussion highlighted the significance of community engagement, encouraging young people to participate in volunteer work and local initiatives. This not only strengthens their skills and sense of responsibility but also contributes positively to society. Overall, these insights offer a strategic approach to tackling the challenges young people face in the modern labor market while reinforcing the need for cooperation among key stakeholders
SESSION TITLE	The future of work - what awaits us in the next decade
SESSION OVERVIEW	The second part of the roundtable discussion aimed to foster a dynamic and forward-thinking conversation on the anticipated changes and evolving

	expectations in the job market over the next decade, particularly from the perspective of young people. As industries continue to adapt to technological advancements, demographic changes, and shifting societal values, it is essential to examine how these factors will shape future employment opportunities. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration in supporting youth as they navigate these changes. Key topics included the role of artificial intelligence and digital tools in education and the workforce, emphasizing how technological advancements can enhance learning and job opportunities. The conversation also explored the growing influence of media, public relations, and creative industries in shaping career paths for young professionals. Furthermore, the discussion addressed labor market innovations, focusing on how better integration between employment systems, education, and social welfare can economically empower vulnerable groups, particularly young individuals not engaged in education, employment, or training (NEET). Another major focus was the digital transformation of industries, including the impact of automation and AI on job availability and workplace structures. The importance of adapting to these trends, as well as the need for policies that balance technological progress with worker protection, was emphasized. Finally, the discussion reinforced the necessity of fostering collaboration between different sectors to ensure that young people are equipped with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in an evolving job market.
ACTIVITIES	• Hands-on activity to brainstorm platform features and functions • Feedback sessions
KEY OUTCOME	A key takeaway from the discussion was the critical importance of lifelong learning in an increasingly digital and rapidly changing job market. As technology continues to redefine professional roles, continuous education and skill development were recognized as essential. Participants agreed that young individuals must adopt a mindset of ongoing learning to stay competitive. Educational programs should evolve to include both technical competencies and soft skills, ensuring that graduates are prepared to meet the diverse demands of future employers. The integration of technology was another central theme. The discussion highlighted the transformative impact of artificial intelligence, data analysis, and digital tools in the workforce. Equipping young professionals with these skills is crucial for their ability to thrive in a technology-driven environment. Additionally, businesses should invest in training initiatives that enhance employees' digital literacy and adaptability. The need for strong cooperation across different sectors was also emphasized. Aligning educational systems with labor market demands requires close collaboration between academic institutions, businesses, and policymakers. This approach helps bridge the gap between education and employment,

	providing young people with clearer career pathways and better opportunities for professional growth. The discussion also addressed the issue of inclusion, particularly for individuals facing barriers to employment, such as those not engaged in formal education, work, or training. Participants stressed the importance of targeted support programs that offer these individuals access to skill-building initiatives, mentorship, and job opportunities, ultimately fostering economic independence. Changes in work dynamics were another significant topic. The growing prevalence of remote work and flexible employment arrangements is reshaping job expectations, particularly for younger workers who prioritize work-life balance and purpose-driven careers. Organizations must adapt to these evolving preferences by creating environments that promote flexibility while maintaining productivity and engagement. Finally, the conversation highlighted the importance of workplace well-being. Fostering a positive work culture that supports mental health, inclusivity, and employee engagement was identified as a key factor in retaining and motivating young professionals. In conclusion, the discussion reinforced the need for proactive strategies to equip young people for the evolving labor market. By prioritizing continuous learning, strengthening collaboration between key sectors, embracing technological advancements, and promoting inclusivity, stakeholders can better support youth in building sustainable careers in an ever-changing professional landscape
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE	
RECOMMENDATIONS	Improve Accessibility – Simplify visa processes and recognition of qualifications. EU Role – Expand funding for mobility programs and strengthen labor protections. Civil Sector Role – Provide career guidance, training, and advocacy for fair work conditions. Bridging Gaps – Enhance cooperation between education systems and labor markets.

EVALUATION REPORT

The evaluation process was conducted through direct face-to-face feedback during the final segment of the program. Participants shared their thoughts in an informal group discussion, following a general framework that covered key aspects such as the relevance of topics, the quality of speakers, and the effectiveness of interactive activities. Both quantitative impressions, such as overall satisfaction, and qualitative insights, including specific suggestions for improvement, were gathered and analyzed to identify recurring themes for future enhancements.

Overall, participants expressed a high level of satisfaction, appreciating the relevance of the discussions and the engaging delivery of the speakers. Many highlighted the value of expert insights and practical advice shared throughout the sessions. However, feedback on the workplace negotiation simulation was more varied. While some found it insightful and realistic, others felt the time allocated was too short. A common suggestion was to provide more detailed preparatory materials and to include a structured debriefing session afterward to further explore the outcomes of the exercise.

Additionally, participants expressed a desire for more interactive elements within the discussions. Suggestions included incorporating Q&A segments after each presentation and creating smaller breakout groups for more focused conversations. Some also proposed introducing a networking tool to facilitate connections beyond the scheduled breaks.

In conclusion, the feedback process played a crucial role in evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the discussions. The insights gathered will be used to refine future events, ensuring that they continue to address participants' needs while enhancing engagement and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Event Agenda

Title: National Roundtable - DigiPath: Youth Up 4 Possibilities

Date: February 14th, 2025

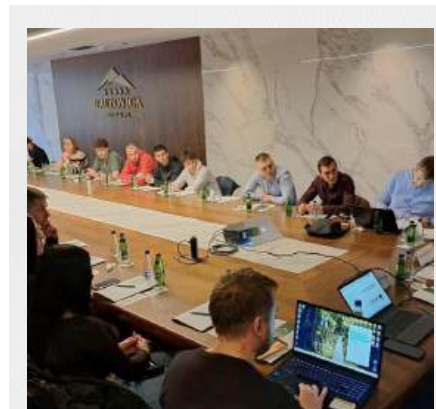
Duration: 10:00-16:00 (4 hours + breaks)

Location: Brezovica, Kosovo

Organized by: NGO Aktiv

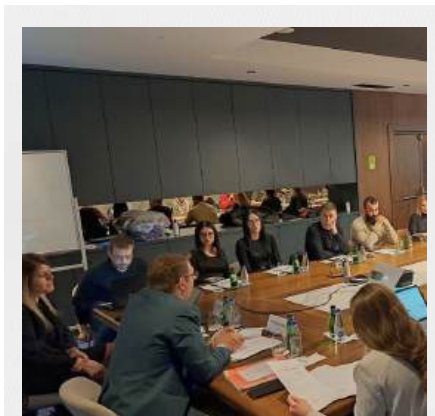
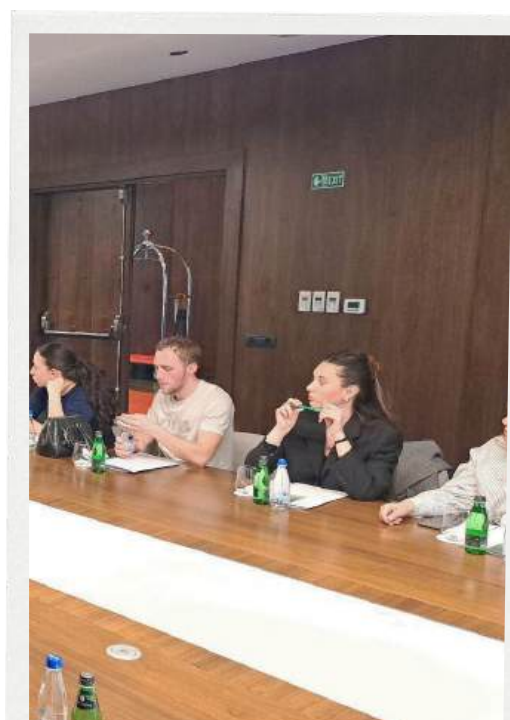
Supported by: Erasmus+ Programme, European Union

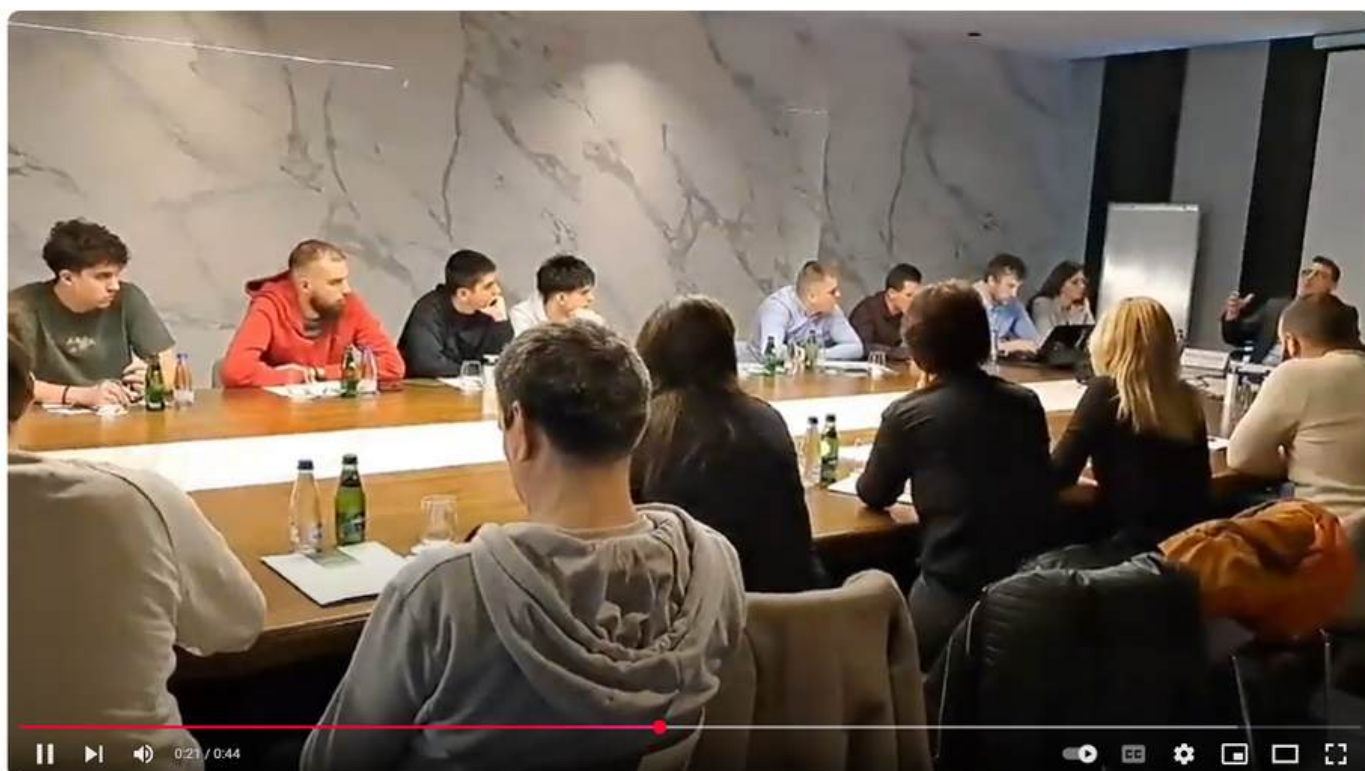
Time	Session
10:00 - 10:30	Participant Registration & Welcome Coffee
10:30 - 10:45	Opening Remarks and Project Overview
10:45 - 11:30	Presentation of Research Findings
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break & Networking
12:00 - 13:00	Panel I: Youth Skills for the Modern Labor Market (Discussion + Q&A)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break & Informal Networking
14:00 - 15:00	Panel II: The Future of Work - What Awaits Us in the Next Decade (Discussion + Q&A)
15:00 - 15:30	Key Recommendations from the National Roundtable (Summary & Way Forward)
15:30 - 16:00	Closing Remarks & Next Steps



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DigiPath: Youth UP 4 possibilities | Cross-sectorial National Round Table, Brezovica | 14.02.2025

Video material from the Round Table

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