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# My Story Map



## CREATING THE NARRATIVES OF OUR LIVES TO PREVENT EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

My Story Map pilot workshops were implemented in five partner countries (Italy, France, Spain, Austria and Belgium) and materials produced in previous phases of the project were tested. In this pilot research 75 youngsters participated with early school leavers and 8 trainers.

It was found that in general, satisfaction with participation in the workshop was estimated as medium - high in all five partner countries. This leads to the conclusion that the content of the workshops and its methodology were successfully designed for this target group. Trainers feedback on learning modules was positive in all five countries. The learning modules were described as very useful for preparation, offering a balance of theory and practical activities which can be transferred to different learning context and used with participants of different ages, as well as social and cultural backgrounds.

Establishing previous relationships with potential participants was found to be a key factor that can significantly contribute to raising the quality and dynamics of the workshop realization. Maintaining the motivation for participation turned out to be a common challenge in all partner countries.

Besides this, several other challenges were detected during this piloting phase as for example: language and understanding, lack of confidence with facilitators and the group (mostly due to an absence of a previous relationship), lack of capacity of self-analysis and self-reflection. The trainers also indicated the importance of preparing safe and comfortable spaces - environments where the workshops take place, and the importance of ratio of participants and facilitators for the learning process. Working with smaller groups is highly recommended.

The most valuable and significant learning outcomes were identified as stimulating reflection of past life choices and their consequences; reflecting on the future and setting goals; improving skills of public speaking and listening; gaining empathy; improving self-awareness and self-confidence and digital skills. In 9 of the 10 competence areas students improved their abilities.

The research collects realities from five different countries, and for that, it can be considered as a valuable resource of experiences and be used as a "basis for action" from all those who are likely to find My Story Map workshops as useful for its professional or personal environment.



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