

Kick-off in Konya: the MAYA partnership sets out

In February 2024, five organisations from Türkiye, Austria, Portugal and Italy met for the first time, united by a shared question: how can learning help young women who have stepped away from education and work to find their way back?



Kick-off meeting hosted by Selçuk University, Konya, 26 and 27 February 2024.

A project for young women outside education and work

MAYA (*Mainstreaming Actions to reinforce professional dimension and emotional side of Young Adult NEET women in Europe*) is an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in the field of youth, coordinated by **Selçuk University**. It starts from a simple observation: re-entering education or employment is rarely a matter of skills alone.

Drawing on the Montessori tradition, with its respect for the individual, careful observation, a prepared learning environment and self-directed activity, the project seeks to strengthen employability while nurturing the confidence, relationships and emotional resources that make change possible.

30

months

Dec 2023 to Jun 2026

4

countries

4

work packages

4

transnational
meetings

Two target groups

Young adult NEET women

Young women outside employment, education or training, whose paths are often shaped by social, emotional and practical barriers rather than by a lack of ability.

Youth workers and trainers

The professionals who accompany these women every day, and who will use the MAYA curriculum, mentoring programme and tools in their own practice.

Two days to build a common plan

The first transnational meeting took place on **26 and 27 February 2024** in Konya, hosted by Selçuk University. Representatives of all five partner organisations took part: Selçuk University, Canik Public Education Centre, Compass GmbH, Amadora Inova and Associazione San Giuseppe.

Over two days the partners agreed on how they would work together, examined each work package in detail and designed the first research phase. The aim was to listen before designing: surveys, national case studies and literature reviews would come first.

Meeting programme

26 Feb	Opening and presentation of Selçuk University
26 Feb	WP1 • Project management
26 Feb	WP2 • Studies and programmes
26 Feb	WP3 • Open interactive education resources
27 Feb	WP4 • Actions and experiences collection



Partners working on the project plan during the kick-off meeting.



The four work packages agreed in Konya

WP1 • Project management

Coordination, quality assurance, reporting and four transnational meetings.

WP2 • Studies and programmes

Surveys, case studies, literature reviews and the MAYA Handbook.

WP3 • Open education resources

Seven-module curriculum, mentoring programme and interactive tools.

WP4 • Actions and experiences

National pilots, local events and a collection of experiences.

What happened next

- Research in four countries reached 103 young NEET women and 84 professionals.
- The findings became the MAYA Handbook, published in five languages.
- The next partner meeting took place in Lisbon, Portugal, in February 2025.



Co-funded by
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