



## Online Thematic Fora



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Online Thematic Fora

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# Summary of the Project

The COVID-19 pandemic has centrally affected all spheres of youth's mental, social and professional wellbeing. Despite this general sense of loss and hopelessness, young communities across Europe have once again proven their resilience and ability to create and to move on. The further engagement of youth is key to supporting the recovery after this unprecedented crisis.

With a view to enhance young people's preparedness to respond to such social emergencies as COVID-19 in the future, the project REBUILD addresses the challenges faced by youth communities with particular attention to those groups of young people who are most at risk of social marginalisation, or who have found themselves even more marginalised as a result of the pandemic.

The project REBUILD is a project co-funded by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission (Key Action 3 – European Youth Together) and the Erasmus+ program. Its aim is to empower youth organisations and informal groups of young people, especially underrepresented young people, and to enhance their democratic participation, dialogue, civic engagement, and networking at the local and the EU level in order to support the rebuilding of more inclusive and greener societies able to better adapt and respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 emergency.

The project's activities first mapped social solidarity, and environmental/green lifestyle initiatives carried out by youth organisations and informal groups in each country during and in the aftermath of the crisis in order to stimulate the exchange of good practices and to develop local and transnational networks. Later on, in the framework of the project, more than 168 underrepresented young people were trained in project design, project implementation and awareness-raising campaigning to foster innovative forms of civic participation. These young people, divided in teams and guided by Youth Ambassadors, implemented their own initiatives.

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# Executive summary

As part of the Rebuild project, two Online Thematic Forum were organized to engage Youth Ambassadors from all the partner countries. These virtual forums provided a platform for capacity building, project design, and campaign discussions, empowering youth to address challenges faced by their communities in the post-Covid-19 era.

The first Thematic Forum focused on fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among Youth Ambassadors. It provided an opportunity for participants to introduce themselves, present local project ideas, share progress, and discuss the transnational online campaign strategy. Additionally, ideas were exchanged on reaching underrepresented young people to ensure inclusivity within the REBUILD project.

The second Thematic Forum emphasized progress updates, improvement strategies, and policy recommendations. Youth Ambassadors reported on the implementation of their initiatives, reviewed Vlogs for enhancement, shared updates on youth team meetings, and discussed challenges and solutions. The forum concluded with an exchange of opinions on policy recommendations to foster young civic participation and encourage lifestyle changes.

The Online Thematic Fora served as dynamic platforms for Youth Ambassadors to connect, share experiences, and enhance the REBUILD campaign. Through these forums, participants gained valuable insights, developed collaborations, and discussed policy recommendations. The engagement and knowledge generated during these sessions contributed to the overall success of the REBUILD project in empowering underrepresented young people across partner countries.

# First Online Forum

## Overview and Agenda

On November 29, 2022, KMOP organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Online Forum in which 29 young people, mainly the Youth Ambassadors from youth teams, participated.

The agenda of the online forum was the following:

- 1. Initial to get to know each other**
- 2. Presentation of local project ideas and exchange of experience (Each youth ambassador should present a) their team's project idea b) the progress so far c) the campaign that the team has run**
- 3. Outline of transnational online campaign including strategy, contest, coherence and publishing schedule**
- 4. Exchange ideas on how to reach other young people.**
- 5. Final Evaluation of the Online Forum**

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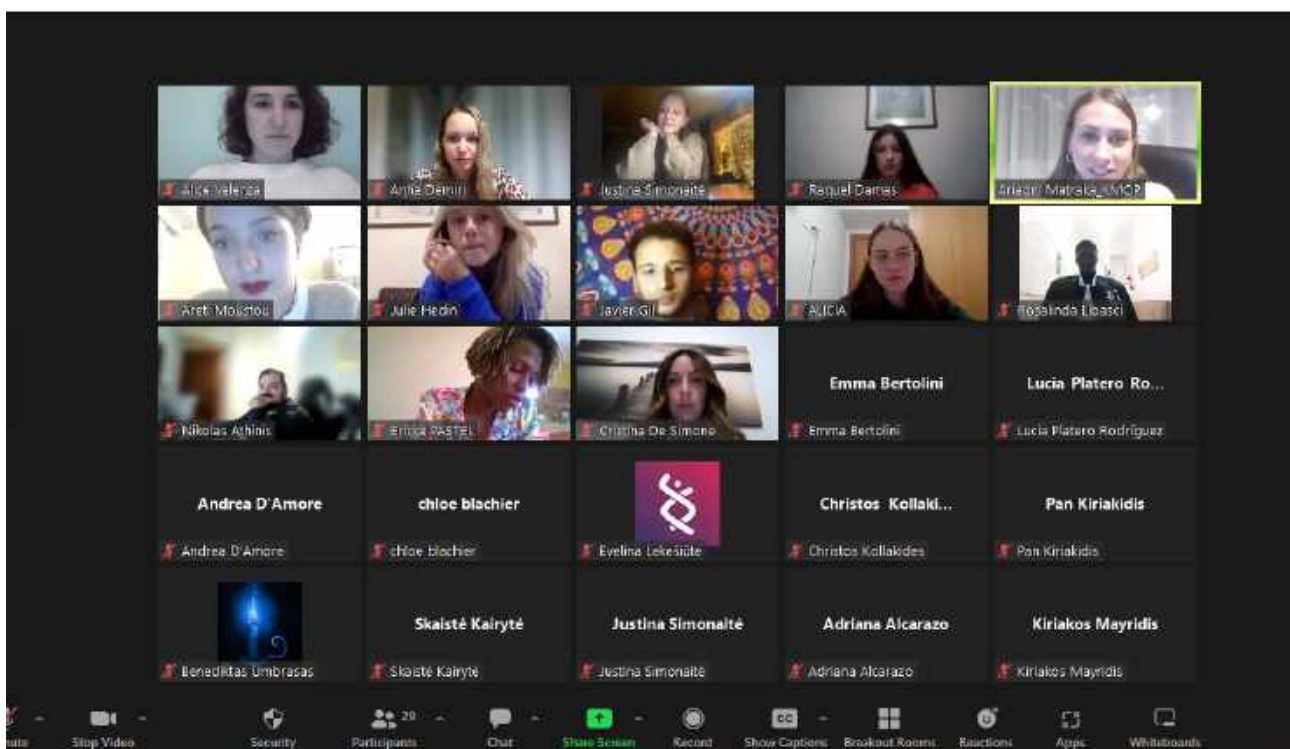
## Minutes

- The participants were divided into 4 breakout rooms and they had to share; a) what is the aim of the projects b) what are the skills that are required for a project to be successful? Some of the main project ideas that have been mentioned referred to the empowerment and inclusion of people with mental or physical disabilities through sport. Some of the teams are working on projects regarding the digital training of migrants as well as the promotion of a raising awareness campaign to recognize stereotypes and hate speech toward migrants. When it comes to the youth initiatives for a greener lifestyle, youth referred to ideas in composting, recycling, circular economy and zero waste. Some other ideas that have been presented are the development of an application to locate recycling bins, hiking trips and the creation of candles with the materials that they collected and activities to limit urban waste. The initiatives have different target groups, such as vulnerable groups, students, youth, and local authorities.
- The young people mentioned the main skills required for designing, implementing and disseminating a successful project are communication and managerial skills, cooperation,

teamwork, leadership skills, resilience, adaptability, and problem-solving.

- Then followed another session, where the participants were divided into 2 groups and they discussed a) what are the main challenges you have faced in the project design and implementation? b) what does it motivate you to be part of your team and implement this project?
- As the main challenges, the young participants mentioned the lack of experience and the need to pilot their initiatives in order to reach their goal, lack of financial resources, and lack of management and financial knowledge. They expressed their concerns regarding the sustainability of their initiatives and how they can reach it.
- The motivation of the young people comes from their willingness to contribute to the local society by cooperating with their friends. The initiatives are inspired by their personal experiences and their background. They are dedicated to their activities and happy to work with their peers.
- The young people presented their communication strategy and the social media that they use. They also presented the main target group of their initiatives and the timeline of their publications.

## Photos and relevant material





## How can you reach other young people through your local projects?



## What do young people need in order to be active in their local communities?

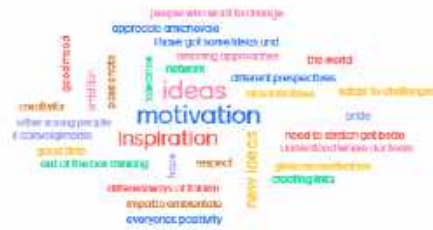




Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 2718 7386

## What do I keep from our First Online Forum?

Mentimeter



Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com) and use the code 2718 7386

## How confident do I feel to continue the activities with my team?

Mentimeter

The code lets you track responses for 24 hours



# Second Online Forum

## Overview and Agenda

On February 21, 2023, KMOP organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Online Forum in which 17 young people, mainly the Youth Ambassadors from youth teams, participated.

The agenda of the online forum was the following:

- 1. Update on initiatives implementation and REBUILD campaigns.**
- 2. Review of Vlogs and strategies for improvement.**
- 3. Update on Youth teams' meetings and progress.**
- 4. Discuss initiative's implementation challenges and solutions.**
- 5. Exchange opinions and ideas on policy recommendations to foster underrepresented young civic participation and encourage lifestyle changes.**
- 6. Further networking and ideas for future project implementation**

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## Minutes

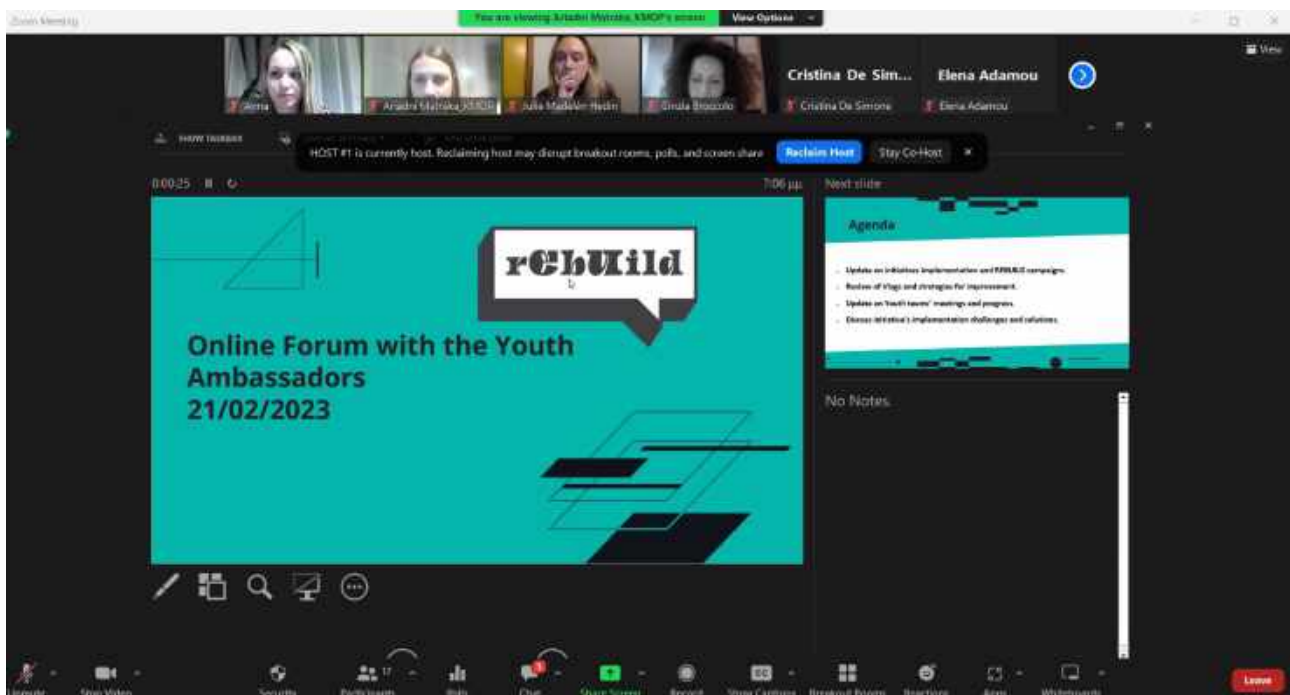
- The meeting began with an update on the progress of each team's initiatives and the ongoing REBUILD campaigns. Participants shared the latest developments, challenges faced, and successes achieved in their respective projects. It was noted that the local teams worked in various thematic areas such as art, migration, zero food waste, inclusion of young people with Down Syndrome through sports. Target groups for these initiatives included vulnerable groups, students, youth, and local authorities.
- Participants discussed the Vlogs created for their projects and shared what has worked well up until now and what are the next steps. Teams mentioned that a variety of strategies were used, some of them had the capacity to develop videos, and others selected to create Instagram reels. Some of the participants mentioned that due to lack of time they face difficulties in developing the VLOGs. Suggestions were made to enhance engagement, and clarity in promoting the project's message.
- The progress of Youth teams' meetings was discussed, highlighting the importance of regular communication and collaboration. Participants shared updates on the accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned from their team meetings. It was emphasized that effective

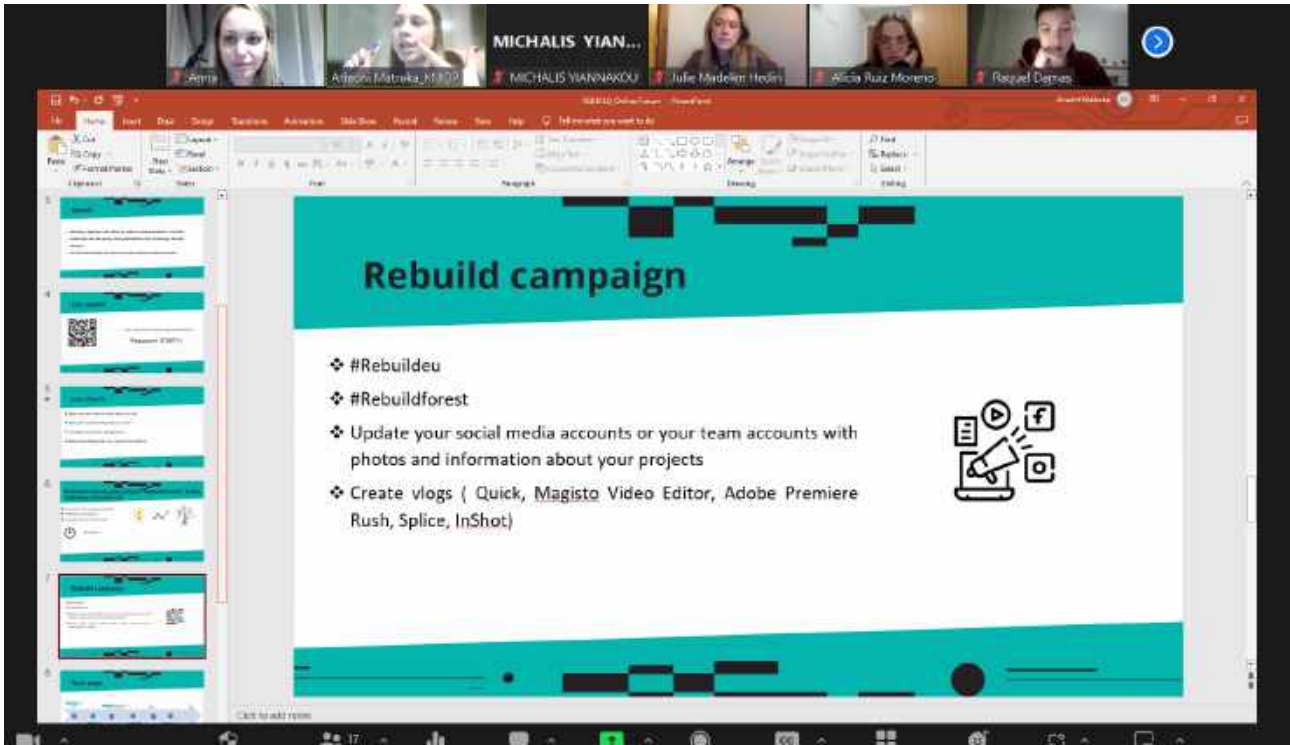
teamwork, coordination, and division of responsibilities were crucial for successful project implementation.

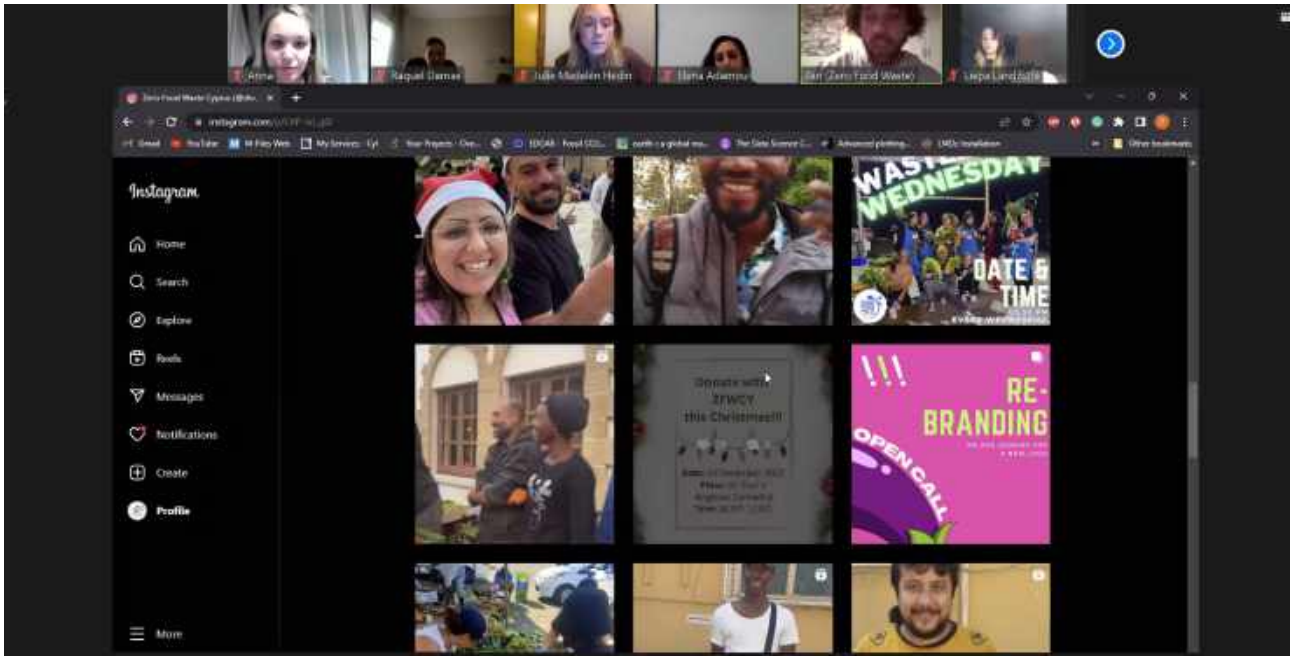
- Participants engaged in a discussion about the challenges they encountered during the implementation of their initiatives. Common challenges included lack of time and resources, all team members' frequent meetings, approach to external stakeholders. Concerns were expressed regarding the sustainability of the initiatives, prompting participants to brainstorm strategies to overcome these challenges. Solutions such as seeking partnerships, fundraising efforts, and capacity-building activities were proposed to overcome the challenges.
- Participants expressed their opinions and ideas on policy recommendations aimed at fostering underrepresented young civic participation and encouraging lifestyle changes. They utilized the Jamboard application as a platform for sharing their thoughts and suggestions. Suggestions included organizing inclusive events, advocating for inclusive policies, raising awareness about waste management, adopting green practices, providing support and resources for youth initiatives, and promoting education and awareness programs.
- The meeting concluded with participants engaging in networking activities and sharing ideas for future project implementation. Participants mentioned that they would like to work in the topic of sustainability and sports and environmental challenges.
- Participants expressed enthusiasm and commitment to continuing their local projects but also develop new initiatives.

## Photos and relevant material

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