



# IncludeYOU

## Inclusion of Vulnerable Social Groups

Project No: 2023-3-EL02-KA154-YOU-000184071

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# INTRODUCTION

Inclusion is at the heart of youth empowerment and democracy. Many young people across Europe face barriers due to their background, social status, or life circumstances. This module examines:

1. Barriers faced by marginalized youth.
2. Strategies for inclusive civic participation.
3. Case studies of successful initiatives.

## WHO ARE VULNERABLE YOUTH?

Vulnerable youth include:

- Migrants and refugees facing integration challenges.
- NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).
- Ethnic and cultural minorities facing discrimination.
- Young people with disabilities or socio-economic disadvantages.

Their voices are often underrepresented in civic and political life.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUSION

Inclusive participation ensures:

- Equal opportunities in education, work, and civic life.
- Stronger, more resilient democracies.
- Prevention of social exclusion, radicalization, and poverty.

Inclusion is not charity it is a right and a driver of social cohesion.





## BARRIERS FACED BY MARGINALIZED YOUTH

Common barriers include:

- Language and cultural barriers (especially for migrants).
- Economic hardship and lack of resources.
- Discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, or disability.
- Lack of access to education, digital tools, or networks.

These barriers often overlap, creating cycles of exclusion.

## MIGRANT YOUTH

Migrants and refugees face unique challenges:

- Interrupted education pathways.
- Limited recognition of qualifications.
- Prejudice and xenophobia.

Yet, they also bring resilience, skills, and diversity that enrich societies.





## NEET YOUTH

NEETs (young people neither in education, employment, nor training) are at risk of long-term exclusion. Causes include:

- School dropouts.
- Lack of vocational opportunities.
- Family responsibilities or health issues.

Addressing NEET status requires flexible, community-based support systems.

# MINORITIES AND DISCRIMINATION

Ethnic, religious, and cultural minorities often face systemic discrimination. This reduces access to jobs, education, and housing. Prejudice also discourages civic engagement. Promoting equal rights, intercultural dialogue, and anti-discrimination policies is essential for their inclusion.



# INTERSECTIONALITY

Many vulnerable youth face multiple barriers at once (e.g., a migrant young woman with a disability). Intersectional approaches recognize how overlapping inequalities intensify exclusion. Policies must be designed to respond to these complex, interconnected realities.





## STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION

Successful inclusion requires:

- Equal access to quality education and training.
- Targeted employment programs for disadvantaged groups.
- Mentorship and role models from within communities.
- Safe spaces for youth expression and participation.
- Active anti-discrimination measures at all levels.

# INCLUSIVE CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic life must be open to all youth. This can be achieved by:

- Lowering barriers to participation in youth councils.
- Offering translation and interpretation services.
- Supporting digital inclusion through training and equipment.
- Designing participatory processes where marginalized voices are prioritized.



## THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS

Schools are critical entry points for inclusion. Strategies include:

- Multicultural education.
- Anti-bullying programs.
- Language support for migrants.
- Accessible learning for students with disabilities.

Inclusive schools create inclusive societies.



## THE ROLE OF NGOS

NGOs complement schools and governments by:

- Offering non-formal education and skills training.
- Advocating for marginalized youth rights.
- Building safe, supportive networks.
- Acting as bridges between communities and policymakers.



# THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES

Communities promote inclusion by:

- Encouraging volunteering and peer-to-peer support.
- Hosting intercultural events to break stereotypes.
- Establishing youth centers in disadvantaged areas.

When local communities embrace diversity, young people feel empowered to belong.



# EU FRAMEWORKS FOR INCLUSION

The EU supports inclusion through:

- EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027: prioritizing engagement of disadvantaged youth.
- European Pillar of Social Rights: access to education, work, and housing.
- Erasmus+ Inclusion Strategy: funding projects for marginalized youth participation.

These frameworks guide national and local action.

## **CASE STUDY: DAPHNE YOUTH (TÜRKIYE)**

Daphne Youth works with refugees and disadvantaged groups in Hatay. Activities include:

- Language and skills training for Syrian refugees.
- Human rights education.
- Volunteering and intercultural events.

The initiative helps vulnerable youth integrate, learn, and participate in civic life.



## CASE STUDY: ASEID (SPAIN)

ASEID promotes inclusion and employability of young people in Alicante. Projects include:

- Non-formal training for NEETs.
- Intercultural learning workshops.
- Strategies for equal opportunities and social innovation.

It empowers youth to overcome barriers and become active citizens.

## CASE STUDY: YOUTH COUNCILS (EUROPE)

Across Europe, youth councils have been created to include underrepresented voices. These councils:

- Provide advisory input to local and national governments.
- Ensure that marginalized youth have a say in policies.
- Develop leadership and civic competences among participants.



# LONG-TERM IMPACT OF INCLUSION

Inclusive participation leads to:

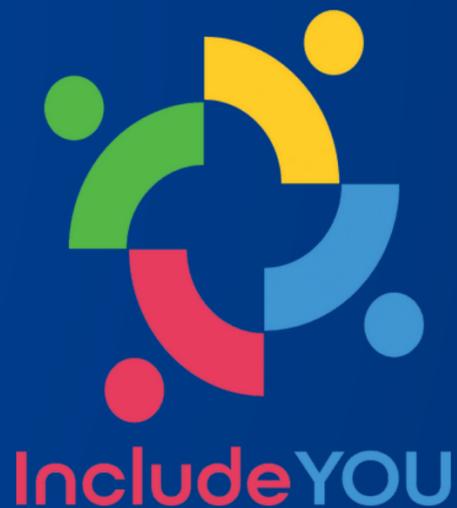
- More democratic, fair, and resilient societies.
- Stronger sense of belonging among all youth.
- Reduction of inequality, discrimination, and social exclusion.
- Empowered youth who contribute positively to communities and Europe as a whole.



# CONCLUSION

Inclusion of vulnerable youth is essential for both social justice and democracy. By removing barriers, promoting equal opportunities, and supporting civic participation, societies can unlock the potential of all young people. Successful initiatives in schools, NGOs, and communities show that inclusion is achievable and transformative.





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