

# 1st Newsletter

April 2024

## Trade Unions-New Impetus for Youth participation

TUNI 2023

### The project TUNI

The European Erasmus+ TUNI project is realized by the partners from 3 sectors - trade union, educational and youth, bringing together actors from 5 countries Europe-wide: North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye and Greece, also having in its informal partnership trade unions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in order to reach a wider regional spectrum. It is implemented in the period between January 2023 and December 2024 with the support of the European Commission.

### Objective of the TUNI

The overall objective of the TUNI project is to contribute to building a more democratic and inclusive Europe with genuine participation of youth, focusing on the involvement of young trade-union (TU) activists; the activists in question may be plenty, however they are indeed a neglected sub-category of youth within the society. The intention is to give a new impetus to strengthen the civic activism and participation among the youth all over Europe, engaging young TU members as a new force in articulating the needs and priorities of different youth categories, by empowering them to use their own well-developed organizational structures more actively.



## Activities

### 2-Research Phase (January 2023 – April 2023)

The project included research on the TU activists' participation, education (based on previous research conducted within the project) and information. After investigating the main challenges, it is showcased what young TU activists are facing, as well as the development of the new educational curriculum for working with young TU members, in relation to active citizenship. The TUNI project conducted a survey across seven countries targeting young union members aged 18–35. This survey aimed to gather insights about attitudes towards union organizing and social engagement. Using a Computer-Assisted Web Interview (CAWI) approach, 326 responses were collected. The survey questionnaire comprised 44 questions across seven sections, covering areas such as employment status, union membership, working rights, civic activism, and socio-demographic information. Data collection was commenced on March 20 and was concluded on April 8, following three reminder invitations due to a low response rate. The survey design adhered to ethical guidelines and received approval from the Ethical Board of the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. National partners facilitated data collection by sharing the survey link with union members via email, social media groups, and instant messaging platforms. Despite efforts made to extend the data collection period and increase response rates, the project was concluded with 326 responses.

After the data collection, the results of the national surveys were exported, were integrated into an SPSS database and labels were translated back into English. The survey findings were used to inform the focus group, which was the second phase of the study design.



### 3 Focus Groups in 5 Countries

The second stage of the study was designed as primarily online single-moderator focus groups with the possibility of in-person meetings. The planned number of participants was 10 to 12 per country (Greece, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey). Like in the survey, the participants were selected based on a convenient (non-probability) quota sample, intending to have respondents by each country adhering to the four predefined quotas (gender, age, regions, and education), having at most 70–30% ratios. The original focus group moderation guide was developed in English, based on survey findings, and approved after the necessary communication with the national partners. It consisted of 21 questions divided into four sections (Table 3), which were then translated into national languages. All focus groups were done online, except the one in North Macedonia. Each partner was responsible for organizing the focus group in their country. The national partners recruited moderators and participants based on the input provided by the Institute for Philosophy and

Social Theory. After the focus groups, all transcripts were translated into English and returned to the research team. Transcripts of the focus group and survey findings were used to prepare national reports and a comparative overview, which was the third phase of the study design.

See the results here <https://shorturl.at/FIRZ8>





THE INSTITUTE FOR PHILOSOPHY  
AND SOCIAL THEORY  
UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE

## TRADE UNIONS

NEW IMPETUS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

## INTEGRATED RESEARCH REPORT

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According to the research Where do trade unions stand with youth? trade unions are perceived quite positively – from 75% in Slovenia to 89% in Turkey considered unions as positive actions. This is also reflected on their own unions, with Serbia excelling in positive attitude towards their own trade union (92%) and Greece being at the lowest level despite the very promising 63.5% of members evaluating it positively. However, trade unions need to be more engaged to activate their members, as almost all countries except Turkey have close to half of the young membership passive. The worst situation is apparently in Serbia with only 8% of active members and the best one in North Macedonia with 55% of active members”

“Together we can do everything”  
is the message by which many  
trade unions are directly guided  
in their work, and now our goal  
is to jointly apply it and use the  
Trade Union Academy for young  
trade union leaders and activists  
as one of the most important instruments  
in creating new generations of trade union members  
ready to take important roles in  
the processes within the community”



## **Trade Union Academy for 35 young trade union leaders (Montenegro, September 2023)**

The Trade Union Academy was structured around four modules, consisting of two live sessions and two online ones. The inaugural session involved the participation of the first generation, comprising 35 young trade-union (TU) leaders, with seven representatives from each participating country. The overarching goal was to equip these emerging leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to foster active citizenship within their communities and effectively engage within trade union structures.

The Academy, conducted in English to facilitate cross-border communication and collaboration, served as a platform for capacity building among young TU leaders. Through a combination of theoretical insights and practical training, participants were empowered to leverage their roles within trade unions to enact positive societal change. Additionally, individualized action plans were developed to guide participants in implementing their newfound knowledge within their respective environments.

## **Study Visit in Slovenia (March, 2024)**

In March 2024, the educational component of the Trade Union Academy will be enhanced with a study visit to Slovenia. This visit served as a pivotal opportunity for participants to engage in an immersive experience, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices among peers. The primary objective was to deepen their understanding on effective strategies and approaches within the trade union activism sphere.

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More information: [www.tunieu.eu](http://www.tunieu.eu)