



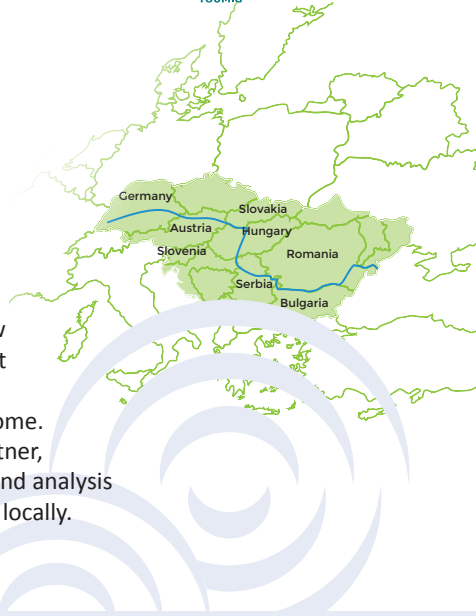
YOUMIG

A PROJECT TO HELP CITIES ADDRESS
THE TOPIC OF YOUTH MIGRATION
IN THE DANUBE REGION

YOUNIG

– YOUTH MIGRATION IN THE DANUBE REGION

Young people are mobile. At certain turning points of their lives they are more likely to make big changes, even move from one country to another, for a shorter or longer period. It all depends on how you look at it: the same person can be an immigrant of one country, an emigrant of another, or even a return migrant, once they decide to move back home. The Hungarian Central Statistical Office, as lead partner, designed a project where research, data evidence and analysis support administrators in handling youth migration locally.



YOUNIG at a glance

FULL NAME: YOUNIG – Improving institutional capacities and fostering cooperation to tackle the impacts of transnational youth migration

(A project of the Danube Transnational Programme)

START DATE: 01-01-2017

END DATE: 30-06-2019

BUDGET: 2,718,853 EUR

(ERDF Contribution: 2,055,179 EUR,

IPA Contribution: 255,846 EUR)

CALL NUMBER: Call 1 **PRIORITY:** 4. *(Well-governed Danube region)*

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE: 4.1.

(Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges)

PROJECT PARTNERS: **Lead partner:** Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HU)

Work package leaders: University of Vienna (AT), Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (DE), Maribor Development Agency (SI), INFOSTAT – Institute of Informatics and Statistics (SK)

ERDF partners: Municipality of Szeged (HU), City of Graz (AT), Institute for Economic Research (SI), Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (RO), Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe (RO), National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria (BG), Burgas Municipality (BG), Municipality of the City district of Bratislava- Rača (SK)

IPA partners: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (RS), Institute of Social Sciences (RS), Municipality of Kanjiža (RS)

Associated Strategic Partners: Statistics Austria (AT), City of Karlsruhe (DE), Federal Institute for Population Research (DE)

YOUMIG, in which 19 partners from 8 countries worked together, strived to support local governments in using the developmental potential of youth migration, which is to lead to a better governed and more competitive Danube region. The project boosted their institutional capacities to enhance the scarce local evidence on youth migration and to contribute to improved policymaking with a focus on human capital. Statistical offices and academic organizations teamed up with local governments in a complex and customized multi-level and transnational cooperation to create local developmental strategies based on improved impact indicators of youth migration and to introduce transnationally tested tools for managing local challenges. As a result, institutions and stakeholders obtained increased capacities through an intensified cooperation



YOUMIG's work produced the following outputs:

Fassmann et al. (2018)	Conceptual framework in Working Paper 1
Kiss (2019)	Youth migration and development in Working Paper 2
Skoglund–Csányi (2019)	Quantitative analysis in Working Paper 3
Soltész (2019)	Policy analysis in Working Paper 4
Stropnik–Kump (2018)	Good practice collection
Skoglund–Csányi (2018)	Evaluation report of youth migration indicators
Németh–Gruber (2019)	Comparative migration profiles
Potočnik–Blažič (2019)	One-stop-shop reports
YOUMIG local experts	7 Local status quo analyses
YOUMIG local experts	7 Pilot action reports
YOUMIG partnership	7 Local strategies and Data Toolkit
YOUMIG researchers	7 National policy recommendations

“All partners contributed to the development of improved evidence of youth migration and its developmental impacts with a focus on the local level.”

Marcell Kovács,
Project Manager



ANALYSIS

The countries of the Danube region differ in their migration patterns. There are typical sending or host countries, while some places are mixed, and many countries see their natives coming home, too. A lot of information is already known about migration and population change and stories circulate about favourite destinations. But these are rarely collected on the local, city level. YOUMIG researchers prepared local analyses for each of the seven partnering localities involved as project partners to see how local communities are affected by the movements of their youth.

BETTER DATA

Statisticians are working hard to provide ever more accurate data on people's movements. But they need local information, local data sources and even the expertise of locals themselves to understand how to best measure such a complex topic as youth migration. YOUMIG brought statisticians and researchers together to select and in some cases redesign indicators – tools by which migration is measured.

BETTER LOCAL SERVICES

Cities are often judged by the services they provide to their residents. Migration puts administrative burdens on young people, who often don't know where to turn to with their questions. YOUMIG identified local stakeholders – administrators, teachers, politicians, concerned citizens – who each hold a piece of the puzzle with their knowledge about the needs of young people in different areas. Putting the puzzle pieces together, filling the gaps where necessary, means services can improve for the whole community.

“Through a comprehensive evaluation of the locally available indicators of youth migration, the project identified the shortfalls of measuring local challenges and designed and tested new or improved indicators of youth migration.”

Zoltán Csányi,
Thematic Expert

TESTING WITH PILOTS

YOUMIG gave each partner municipality the chance to test an idea that stakeholders expected to be helpful in managing youth migration locally. With the aid of a Good Practices Guide offering examples which were successful elsewhere, YOUMIG partners each designed their pilot action.

Some of the ideas tested were:

- a virtual business incubator (Burgas),
- a mentoring programme for migrant girls who choose technical careers (Graz),
- co-working spaces and programmes boosting telework and creative entrepreneurship (Maribor and Kanjiža),
- an online platform to address potential returnees and their interests (Sfântu Gheorghe),
- sensitisation and multicultural trainings for preschool teachers (Szeged) and
- language courses for migrant communities (Bratislava-Rača).

“On the local level, the project improved capacities to manage related processes by jointly testing and introducing good practices and institutional units, tailored to local needs.”

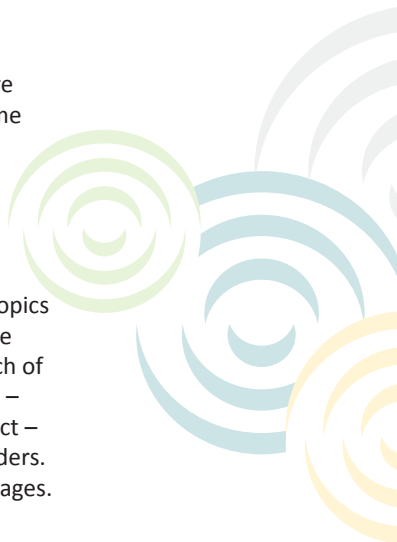
Béla Soltész,
Deputy Project Manager

INFORMATION AS ONE-STOP-SHOP

Young migrants are gravely lacking practical information. Once you are no longer a tourist, but need to integrate more into the life of a new community, information is hard to come by. YOUMIG's one-stop-shop was designed to collect all the information they need in one place.

STRATEGIES

YOUMIG believes youth migration is one of the important topics for any municipality in the 21st century. Strategies should be created, ideas mulled over and good solutions adopted. Each of the seven YOUMIG municipalities prepared a Local Strategy – collecting the most important lessons learnt from our project – into a practical handbook for decision-makers and stakeholders. The Local strategies were translated into several local languages.





DATA TOOLKIT

Each Local strategy comes complete with a DATA TOOLKIT – an Excel-based app that’s easy to use and gives users quick information about migration in their locality with graphs, ready-to-print reports and more. YOUNIG held trainings for local council staff to make sure they understand how to use the data and how to update it in future to enhance the conversation and policy agenda on youth migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

Different branches of government and administration find it hard to communicate, especially when coordination on data or registers are involved. YOUNIG held several workshops to see where coordination could be improved and published some country-specific recommendations on how to improve the information flow.

NETWORKS OF KNOWLEDGE

– THE YOUNIG PARTNERSHIP

More than 100 people took part in YOUNIG and even more people got involved indirectly in its activities. YOUNIG hopes this network of knowledge will stay alive after the days of the project, as a reliable source of information to ensure more evidence-based decision making for youth migration in the Danube region.

“The project concludes in transnationally tested tools for all governance levels contributing to better strategies, policies and services related to the issue of youth migration.”

Béla Soltész,
Deputy Project Manager





PROJECT PARTNERS

LEAD PARTNER:

- Hungarian Central Statistical Office

WORK PACKAGE LEADERS:

- University of Vienna, Austria
- Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Germany
- Maribor Development Agency, Slovenia
- INFOSTAT, Slovakia

PARTNERS:

- Municipality of Szeged, Hungary
- City of Graz, Austria
- Institute for Economic Research, Slovenia
- Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities
- Municipality of Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania
- National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria
- Burgas Municipality, Bulgaria
- Municipality of the City district of Bratislava–Rača, Slovakia
- Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
- Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia
- Municipality of Kanjiza, Serbia

ASSOCIATED STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

- Statistics Austria
- City of Karlsruhe, Germany
- Federal Institute for Population Research, Germany



WELL-GOVERNED DANUBE
REGION



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