



# GIGGIN' POLICY

ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLICY MAKING

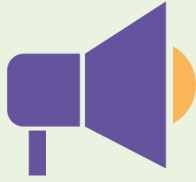
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**GIGGIN'  
POLICY**

engaging youth in policy making

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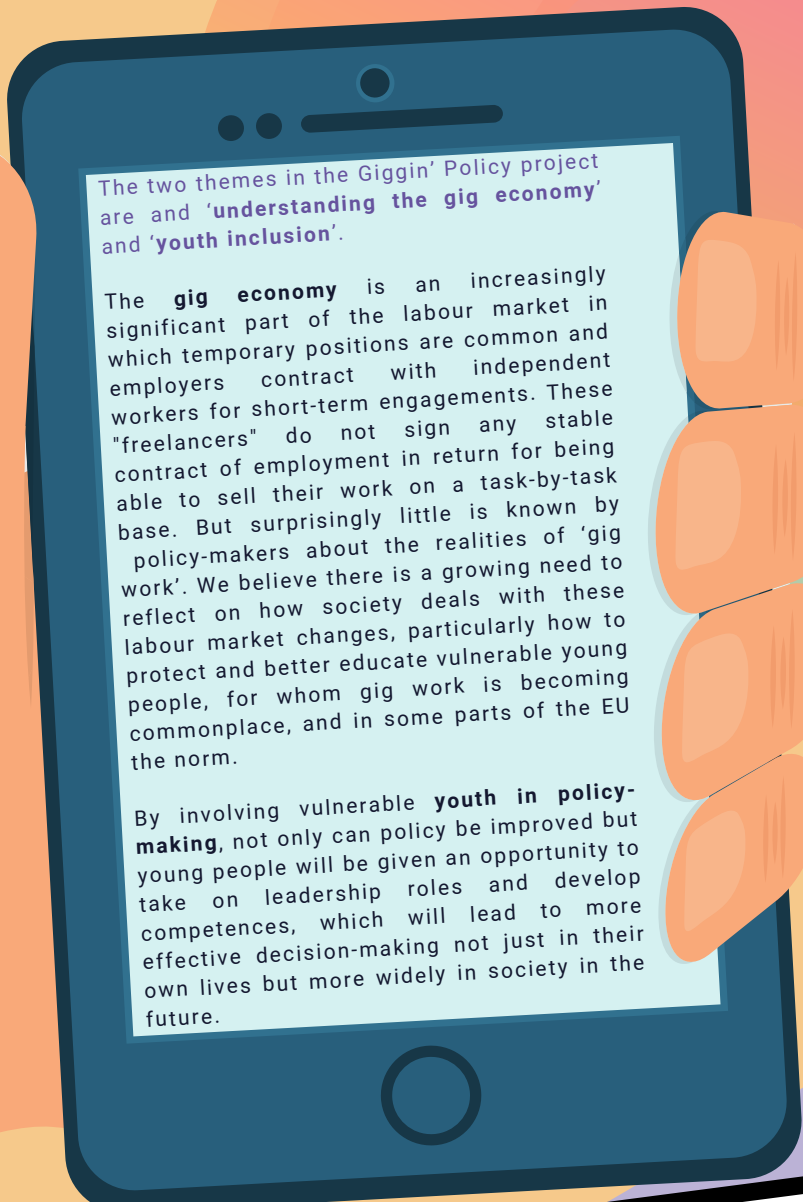
## **PROJECT PARTNERS**

Say hello to our project team and view their locations.



# WHY?

## Why we have undertaken this project?



The two themes in the Giggin' Policy project are and '**understanding the gig economy**' and '**youth inclusion**'.

The **gig economy** is an increasingly significant part of the labour market in which temporary positions are common and employers contract with independent workers for short-term engagements. These "freelancers" do not sign any stable contract of employment in return for being able to sell their work on a task-by-task base. But surprisingly little is known by policy-makers about the realities of 'gig work'. We believe there is a growing need to reflect on how society deals with these labour market changes, particularly how to protect and better educate vulnerable young people, for whom gig work is becoming commonplace, and in some parts of the EU the norm.

By involving vulnerable **youth in policy-making**, not only can policy be improved but young people will be given an opportunity to take on leadership roles and develop competences, which will lead to more effective decision-making not just in their own lives but more widely in society in the future.



The gig economy is a **spectrum**: at one end it can offer individuals working as freelancers an opportunity to secure significant rewards while blending work with other aspects of their lives. However, at the other end of the spectrum gig work can be insecure and poorly paid with workers having few rights and often being victims of exploitation.

The 'Monday-Friday 9-5 job for life' is increasingly uncommon. Much of the job growth in the EU over the last 10 years has occurred in non-traditional, alternative ways of working. Young people in the 2020's live complex lives, often working in more than one job while also learning, trying to find a balance between work, home life and educating themselves. Many do not want to be bound to rigid full-time employment contracts while more and more organisations want to put together flexible teams of workers to complete fixed term projects rather than take on permanent staff.

**Giggin' Policy** will gather the **latest knowledge** about the gig economy from across the EU and share it widely, focusing in particular on the risks and opportunities of the gig economy for young people preparing to enter the world of work.



## WHAT WE WILL DO...

Our objectives for the project.



As local economic development policy is re-drawn in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic the Giggin' Policy project will help young people to shape the change by sharing their perspectives on the gig economy.

## OUR MANIFESTO...

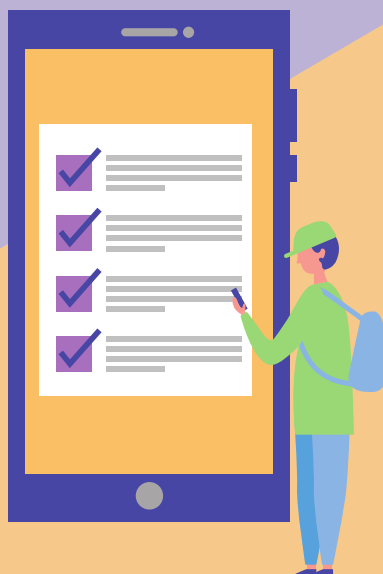
- ◊ We will foster environments where youngsters (including those facing adversity) are included in the design of future strategies for regions.
- ◊ We will validate the innovative method of 'youngsters in the lead' in the specific context of the gig economy.
- ◊ We will foster the education of youth (including those facing adversity) by connecting youth to leaders and decision makers from education and the world of work, creating a bridge between generations and socio-economic environments.
- ◊ We will offer role models to youth (including those facing adversity).
- ◊ We will support leaders of educational institutions, policy makers and decision makers from the world of work who are trying to promote socio-economic diversity in learning environments.
- ◊ We will raise awareness about the effects of the gig economy on young people.
- ◊ We will arm young people, especially those who are most vulnerable, against exploitation in the gig economy.

## What is the Gig Economy?



## GIGGERS

View short case studies of gig workers below:



[CASE STUDY 1](#)



[CASE STUDY 2](#)



# THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 2021

Transnational partners working together during the pandemic.



The rationale for the Giggin' Policy project was conceived in 2019 by a group of educators and economic development agencies from across the EU who were concerned about the implications of accelerating labour market change and growing uncertainty among young people about their future in work. (and This was before the Covid-19 pandemic destabilised economies across our world!). The project was submitted and approved by the European Commission in 2020, launching in February 2021 in the teeth of the intense wave of deaths and serious debilitating illness which swept the European Union requiring Member States to lockdown their societies and to limit international travel to emergency purposes only.

To date all of the knowledge exchange between our Giggin' Policy project partners has been via platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The face-to-face co-working which we all now recognise creates its own dynamic of *stream of consciousness* innovation hasn't been possible. We've had to adapt in common with households, workers, businesses and public service providers around the world. We have designed a **training programme** which we have been pilot-testing online with young people isolated in lockdowns across Europe rather than in live cross-national, cross-cultural classroom settings as originally intended. We have had to travel up our own steep learning curve with respect to deploying new tools for remote knowledge exchange. But we have learned a lot in the process. More of that and our new training programmes in our next e-zines!



Humans have a remarkable ability to find ways to communicate even when dispersed by force of circumstances. And yet what the pandemic has revealed is how important to the process of creativity and joint-working is the relationship-reinforcing nourishment of face-to-face interaction. Our prediction for the post-pandemic world? There will be much more human interaction than in the past and it will be appreciated more than ever before. There will be so much more produced from our joint-working and from our understanding of the challenges we all face together than we ever could have thought possible!



# YOU!

## How you can benefit/contribute...

### GIG ECONOMY AWARENESS RAISING...

Whether it's known as the 'sharing economy', 'gig economy', 'platform economy' or 'crowd work' there is no disputing the exponential growth of temporary/freelance work across Europe. Check out our Giggin' Policy website <https://gigginpolicy.com> where we will be posting material to raise awareness about the scale and implications of a phenomenon that remains unfamiliar to many policy makers.

### HELP US SET UP POLICY INNOVATION CO-DESIGN LABS...

We intend setting up a series of Policy Innovation Co-Design Labs initially in Friesland (NL), Meath (IE), Newry and Mourne (NI), Barcelona (ES) and Kaunos (LT), to facilitate youth involvement (and involvement of all relevant stakeholders) in the design of policy which will affect young people, including the emerging gig economy. We would welcome your ideas and experiences if you have tried to do something similar in seeking access for under-represented groups to policy making structures.

### SETTING UP GIGGIN' POLICY PACTS...

Help us to establish "Giggin' Policy Pacts" across the EU (or, even better join them when they are set up!). We envisage these as integrated regional networks of vulnerable youth and relevant (public/private) stakeholders across different sectors that are affected by the gig economy and that need to discuss the labour market dynamics.



# PROJECT PARTNERS




Say hello to our project team...


Giggin' Policy is an Erasmus + project it is led by **Friesland College** and brings together nine additional partners from four countries. We would love to hear from you!



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