


GIGGIN' POLICY


ENGAGING YOUTH IN POLICY MAKING

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TO THE SIXTH AND FINAL E-ZINE OF THE GIGGIN' POLICY PROJECT!

In this final edition of the Giggin' Policy E-Zine, we look back at the remarkable journey of our project. Over the course of the last two years, we have explored the intricacies of the Gig Economy and facilitated an important engagement between young giggers in European regions and a diverse group of stakeholders and key influencers. Our partnership has paved the way for a meaningful focus on young giggers in education programmes and economic development initiatives focused on the world of work.



A Giggin' Policy Co-Design Knowledge Exchange Workshop in Spain at a Biz Barcelona event

A MOMENT TO REFLECT...

In this the sixth and final Giggin' Policy E-Zine, we summarise the complexities of the Gig Economy in the context of rapid labour market change, and discuss how we engaged with stakeholders and key influencers in our regions to help increase their understanding of the challenges faced by young people trying to work and earn a living across the EU.

As we near the conclusion of this Giggin' Policy project, our team members, and some of their partner stakeholders share their reflections on the impact and significance of this endeavor. It has been a journey of discovery, collaboration, and advocacy for young gig workers' rights.



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"The Giggin' Policy project has opened our eyes to the challenges faced by gig workers and the importance of inclusive policy-making. It's been an eye-opener for all of us."

- Joe English, Head of Enterprise, Meath County Ireland, speaking at the global "University Industry Innovation Network" conference in Amsterdam in June 2022.





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Our project has identified those strategic national policy innovations which would improve the lives of young gig workers: fair labour practices, social security innovations, changes to further and higher education curricula and measures to enhance the economic resilience of young self-employed earners. Our bespoke Territorial Policy Pact model allows gig worker-friendly policy and practice change strategies to be developed which take account of the particular challenges and opportunities which prevail in different regions across the EU. We call upon policy-makers to take our recommendations seriously, adopt our proposed new Territorial Policy Pact approach to the making of policy and commit to creating a better future for our young gig workers, so many of whom live precarious lives. Not for nothing has that generation been labelled “the precariat”.

SIGNIFICANCE

The insights which our project’s research has yielded have the potential to shape labour market policy not just in our partner regions but across the EU. In our E-Zine series (see www.gigginpolicy.com) we have highlighted the key challenges, (as well as the opportunities) faced by young freelance workers and we have proposed an approach to generating realistic policy solutions, the *Territorial Policy Pact*, which has the potential to maximise the positive contribution that gig-working can make to society while minimising its negative impacts. From social protections to opening up access to economic opportunity, these pilot interventions deserve to be taken seriously by policy-makers and considered for wider application not just in the European Union but across the world. We have platformed this methodology, the experiences and recommendations of young gig workers gathered from a series of “policy labs”, good practices already being pursued in the EU and a series of policy proposals which we have concluded are essential in an online open-source set of experience exchange resources at www.gigginpolicy.com.

GIGGIN’ POLICY

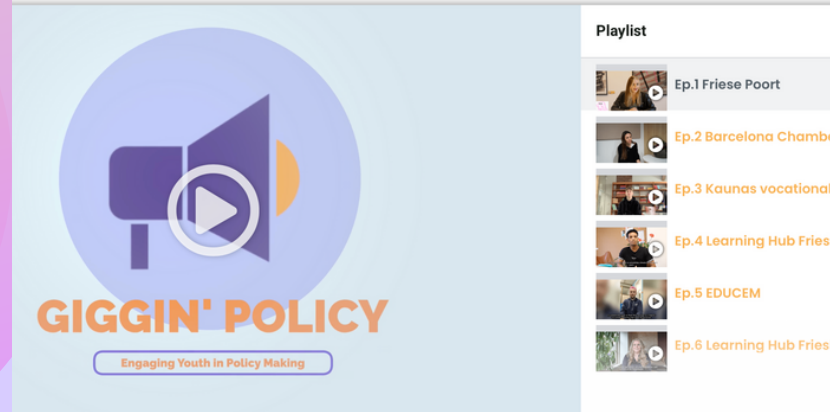


SUCCESS STORIES

Throughout our project, we've encountered inspiring success stories of young gig workers who have thrived in the Gig Economy. Our project has sought to showcase their resilience, adaptability, and entrepreneurial spirit. Their stories highlight the potential of gig work to allow young people to adapt their working lives to the complex realities of the 21st Century which demand a high level of flexibility and pragmatism – when supported by the right policies.

SUCCESS STORIES >

INTERVIEW WITH A GIGGER SERIES



You can view these stories on our home page under our "INTERVIEW WITH A GIGGER SERIES".



Policy Pact Event in Leeuwarden, Friesland, the Netherlands. 450 students worked in 40 groups discussing various topics relevant to young gig workers.

WHERE TO NOW?

As our project concludes we as stakeholders in our regions across the EU don't bid farewell to what has become a shared mission. We will continue to press those with the power to commit to a journey of sensitising policy (locally, nationally and at EU-level) to the needs of Europe's growing army of young freelancers. We (and you reader!) must keep advocating for young gig workers' rights and greater youth involvement in policy-making more generally. Together, we can shape a brighter future for Europe's young people.

PROJECT IMPACT

Let's take a moment to celebrate our project's reach and impact. We've signed four Territorial Policy Pacts, in Spain, Ireland, the Netherlands and Lithuania, we have conducted 18 workshops which brought together young giggers, policy makers and "change enablers" across the EU, and we have engaged with a diverse audience on social media reaching more than 100,000 individuals across the EU, all raising awareness of the needs of young people who work in the Gig Economy.



A "Giggin' Policy Lab" meeting in Newry, N.Ireland, which gave young freelance workers the opportunity to engage with key influencers in the policy-making arena. Among those pictured are a central government economy minister, member of parliament, a member of the regional assembly, county council decision-makers and a higher education course director.





A Territorial Employment Pact meeting in Dundalk, Ireland, March 2023.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Join the conversation which we have initiated on social media and in the many online communities which have emerged which are dedicated to gig/freelance worker advocacy and promoting policy change.

Thank you for being a part of the Giggin' Policy Project's journey! Together, we have made a small but important contribution to achieving a more inclusive, equitable and successful European Economy.



PROJECT LEGACY

We that believe through our freely available online toolkit, the collection of experience-sharing testimonials of young freelancers and the Territorial Policy Pact template, our project leaves a legacy that can positively shape the Gig Economy and make the policy landscape across the EU youth-friendly. We conclude the project as changed organisations who will now be using the principles and practice set out in those online resources.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all project partners, stakeholders, participants, and contributors. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind this project's success.

