The EU collaborative project SocIEtY provides an analysis and evaluation of inequality amongst young people in Europe and recommends how to enhance their common good in the future.

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Young people are a social group at great risk of becoming socially vulnerable. A considerable number of young people in Europe are increasingly exposed to social exclusion and poverty. Thus, improving the social conditions of disadvantaged young people, and providing opportunities for more social cohesion and inclusion are some of the main big challenges for Europe. SocIEtY will provide new perspectives for youth policies in Europe to successfully fight inequalities and disadvantages.

**TOPICS & OBJECTIVES**

SocIEtY proposes a radical shift in the conception of how young people’s inequality and ensuing disadvantages can be tackled. Instead of having employment as the exclusive end for policies and the sesame of programs for youth, SocIEtY brings in the idea of focusing also on well-being and the flourishing of young people in their respective lifeworlds.

Main objectives:

- Broadening the existing informational basis for policymaking to tackle inequalities and foster social innovation by looking at different policy fields through a combination of bottom-up and top-down perspectives.

- Empowering young people to bring in their voices, aspirations and engagements to enhance their options for participation and social inclusion.

- Developing a unique methodology of participation that links different stakeholders and status groups to create innovative partnerships to initiate new and innovative forms of deliberative processes for making and implementing policy.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

An interdisciplinary collaboration of 13 partners from 11 European countries combines quantitative and qualitative methods and focuses on young people facing multifaceted inequalities while living in deprived city districts:

- **UNDERSTANDING AND ASSESSING INEQUALITIES**
  - that disadvantaged young people are currently facing through a coherent and holistic theoretical underpinning

- **MAPPING AND ANALYSING YOUTH POLICIES**
  - towards inequalities on local, regional and national levels extended by a longitudinal analysis of EU-SILC data

- **ANALYSES OF LOCAL SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS**
  - of young people living in the selected city districts to identify the main stakeholders, their interplay and key factors of social deprivation

- **DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH**
  - bringing in the voices of researchers, practitioners, policy makers and young people regarding the common good

**IMPACT**

- Provision of new perspectives for youth policies in Europe to successfully fight inequalities and disadvantage

- Promotion of young people’s participation as citizens in society as a whole

- Provision of opportunity spaces where young people can develop their ability for articulating their own aspirations and needs

- Transfer of findings to stakeholders, politicians and various sectors of civil society with respect to enhancing young people’s opportunities for voice and capabilities to aspire

**Primary concern of the project:**

Improving the quality of life of socially vulnerable young people through social innovation