

From training activities to a structured European competence framework.

Over the past months, Youth Digital Leaders across Europe have been trained, connected and put to work — through local initiatives, transnational exchanges and hands-on activities.

But alongside all of that, something quieter has been taking shape.

As part of the project, the LED consortium has been building a competence framework for Youth Digital Leadership at European level — grounded in the logic of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Not a certification, not a label. Just a serious attempt to define what a Youth Digital Leader actually is: what they know, what they can do, and how that translates across different national contexts.

Partners worked together to map clear learning outcomes, structure competences coherently, align the profile across countries, and connect everything directly to the Open Educational Resources developed within the project. The goal was to make sure the training materials aren't isolated activities floating in a void — but steps in an actual educational pathway.

Why structure matters

Youth digital leadership is not just enthusiasm and screen time. It requires a specific set of competences — critical thinking, responsible engagement online, the ability to guide peers through complex digital situations ethically and safely. These competences exist. But without a common framework, they remain invisible, untranslatable, and difficult to build on.

That is exactly what this initiative set out to change.

Partners from across the consortium worked together to map clear learning outcomes, structure competences coherently, and align the Youth Digital Leader profile across different national contexts. Crucially, this framework was connected directly to the Open Educational Resources developed within the project — so that training materials are not isolated activities, but steps in a coherent educational pathway.

A foundation, not a ceiling

What this work produces is not a fixed definition. It is a starting point — a common reference that travels across borders, that can be adapted to local realities, and that gives the Youth Digital Leader role a credibility it can build on over time.



The “Youth Digital Leaders – European youth workers as active agents in the promotion of digital resilience and online safety of vulnerable adolescents” project (nr. 2024-1-IT03-KA220-YOU-000243926) is funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù. Neither the European Union nor the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù can be held responsible for them.

By grounding the framework in EQF logic, LED positions youth digital leadership within a European conversation already understood by institutions, educators and policymakers. That visibility matters if the role is to be recognised — and sustained — beyond the life of the project.

LED is moving from isolated training actions to a structured European vision. Not because frameworks are exciting in themselves. But because shared foundations are what allow impact to last.



The “Youth Digital Leaders – European youth workers as active agents in the promotion of digital resilience and online safety of vulnerable adolescents” project (nr. 2024-1-IT03-KA220-YOU-000243926) is funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù. Neither the European Union nor the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù can be held responsible for them.