

Winter – Spring 2022

Newsletter

Vol.1

# The Young ArchHers Project

## Overview



### YoungArchHers





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## Disclaimer

The Young Archers project is co-financed by the ERASMUS+ program of the European Union and will be implemented from January 2022 to January 2024. Its publications reflect the views of the authors, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein (Project code: 2021-1-FR01-KA220-SCH-000034341).





# Contents

Disclaimer.....	2
Contents .....	3
About the Project .....	4
Project Overview .....	4
Name Inspiration.....	5
Main Goals.....	5
Methodology.....	6
Target Groups .....	7
Partners' Profile.....	8
Koena – Project Coordinator .....	9
C.I.P. CITIZENS IN POWER.....	9
Morningside Montessori Elementary Private School .....	9
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).....	10
MONUMENTA.....	10
22nd Elementary School of Athens.....	10
Young Archers Visual Identity .....	11
Logo.....	11
Colour choice .....	12
Kick-Off Meeting.....	12
Upcoming Issues .....	13



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# About the Project

## Project Overview

Young ArchHers is an Erasmus Plus project which targets primary school teachers and their students (9-12yo). The aim of the project is to promote the protection of heritage buildings in partner cities (Paris, Nicosia, Athens and Barcelona), by using digital tools for the development of educational materials.

The Young ArchHers project argues that European architectural heritage, which is present in our urban contexts, constitutes a common reference point for all people living in Europe. This heritage is capable of inspiring our young generations to reflect about 'what makes us European' and, also, about the privileges and responsibilities deriving from our shared values.

To achieve this, Young ArchHers focuses on providing primary school teachers with new thematics, materials and tools to support their diverse student groups in developing their cognitive, social and intercultural competences. Therefore, the project motivates children to assume an active role in democratic life from an early age.



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YoungArchers



## Name Inspiration

The project's name, Young Archers, captures the ultimate goal of the project: Learning to defend architectural heritage in primary schools.

## Main Goals

The project aims to protect and promote architectural heritage and the preservation of historical identity and memory. In parallel, the team's goal is for students to become aware of the architectural history timeline of each building and to compare it to the overall development of their respective city. This way, students are reinforced to understand the contribution of past generations in modern built environments and cultivate their social responsibility, their eye for detail, information extraction and processing. This way, Young Archers aims at guiding students into considering buildings as their "own" heritage.

Young Archers was originally conceived to also address community challenges related to the migrant crisis. Thus, considering the important role of the co-creation of



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campaigns for the promotion of the cultural value of heritage buildings, student participants from migrant and/or refugee backgrounds will be encouraged to consider their own role as members of local communities, and increase their sense of belonging to a common European space. Furthermore, connecting and exchanging with their peers at European level, will help teacher and student participants strengthen their bonds with the larger European edu-cultural community.

Young ArchHers acknowledges the necessity of advanced digital skills in our Digital Era. Therefore, it proposes to upgrade the digital proficiency level of primary school teachers by integrating the use of advanced digital tools (including accessible ones) in the proposed curricular and extracurricular activities.

## **Methodology**

To achieve its goals, the project introduces an enriched learning experience by leveraging the popularity of digital devices (PCs, tablets, mobile phones) among children 9-12, through innovative digitised games, and a wide range of audiovisual tools. It will also include examples of interactive accessible audio guides, around selected heritage buildings in the participating cities, and a list of digital media applications for the creation of audiovisual content.

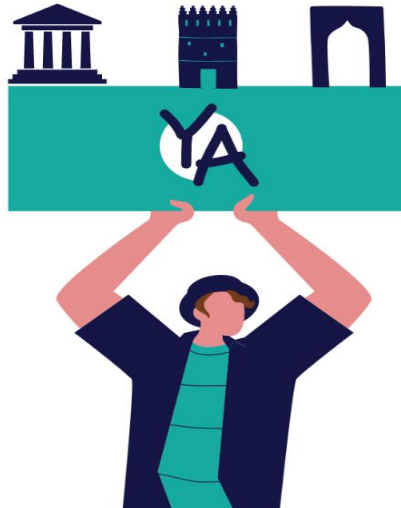
Moreover, Young ArchHers provides guidance for the creation of digital storytelling works, and videos that will become the core components of local and international awareness campaigns prepared by student participants. The campaigns will allow student participants to develop valuable soft skills while promoting the preservation of architectural heritage in their urban contexts. Additionally, the campaigns offer the opportunity to disseminate the key concepts and thematics among the participants' communities.



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Finally, the project aims to offer primary school teachers of various fields the opportunity to upgrade their digital know-how regarding the utility of digital media for the transmission of sociocultural concepts.



## Target Groups

Young Archers primarily targets elementary school educators from both the public and private sector and proposes a matrix of inclusive training materials and accessible extra-curricular activities that will support them in acquainting their students aged 9-12.

Additionally, Young Archers incorporates a strong inclusive approach by directly involving student participants from vulnerable groups, including children from diverse sociocultural backgrounds, and students with disabilities. Therefore, materials addressing children 9-12 will be designed to meet the needs of all types of students from a student-centric perspective.

Other stakeholders include staff from:

- The Architectural and relevant departments of Universities;



- Organisations specializing in the educational and cultural heritage sector;
- Civil society partners and social institutions;
- School policy makers and representatives from Research and Innovation Centers;
- Representatives of public authorities, municipalities and local government employees;
- Journalists, with the aim to present to the wide public the project results.

Conclusively, Young ArchHers proposes a mindset shift that advocates the use of cultural heritage as a valuable tool for teachers to efficiently mediate civic education, and regards school communities as ideal environments for promoting intercultural dialogue and social inclusion.

## Partners' Profile







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## **Koena – Project Coordinator**

Koena is a French social enterprise whose mission is to generalize digital accessibility to empower people with disabilities, especially through professional training. Koena's activities cover 3 fields of expertise relevant for the project:

1. Accessibility and e-inclusion
2. Strong network in social and cultural field
3. Training in digital accessibility

## **C.I.P. CITIZENS IN POWER**

C.I.P. Citizens in Power (CIP) is a non-profit, educational and research organization. CIP constitutes one of the leading organizations in Cyprus in the fields of global education, social innovation, entrepreneurship, STEM and sustainable growth.

CIP designs and implements cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary approaches, as a response to fundamental social, educational and environmental challenges and policy gaps, by employing technology transfer and operationalizing the research findings.

The organization is continuously developing its capacity to support the needs of society through utilizing all relevant opportunities provided by the EU. CIP has a wide experience of participation in projects related to education, including this project.

## **Morningside Montessori Elementary Private School**

Morningside Montessori Elementary is the first school in Cyprus that promotes sustainable changes through innovative, non-mainstream teaching that enhance values of peace, reconciliation, ecology and humanism, under the guiding principles of

the Montessori method. The objectives of the project Young Archers are in line with Morningside vision and mission.

## **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)**

UAB is a generalist campus-based University, hosting an overall amount of 36.000 students (2017-18) among graduate, master and doctorate students. The UAB plays a worldwide leading role in scientific research and its wide range of disciplines, in both education and research, indicates its multidisciplinary approach.

UAB will participate in the project via TransMedia Catalonia Research Group with experienced researchers on multimedia content, accessibility and technology the common meeting point producing, among others, multiplatform interactive channels with advanced multilingual capabilities.

## **MONUMENTA**

MONUMENTA is a team of Greek archaeologists and architects involved with the natural, architectural, and cultural heritage, who joined their forces and created a non-profit civil company aiming at the awareness, protection, proper management and enhancement of the natural and architectural heritage of Greece and Cyprus.

MONUMENTA considers Education, Knowledge, Cultural Capital, Sense of Place and Active Citizenship to be the overarching goals of its activities, which are also in line with the project's goals.

## **22nd Elementary School of Athens**

The 22nd Elementary School of Athens is a Greek public school with about 160 students, including multicultural students from varying ethnicities and socioeconomic



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backgrounds. The Teachers' Association consists of 20 teachers, and special education teachers. The school is very active in local and national projects from varying fields (including cultural heritage coming from the landscape) and wishes to advance its know-how, educational material and expertise via a European, strategic partnership.

## Young Archers Visual Identity

The project's visual identity was developed with digital accessibility as its guiding principle.



# YoungArchers

### Logo

The project's logo follows a minimal style with the initials of the project. The letters 'YA' are in dark blue and are placed in front of a light blue circle, underneath, the name of the project Young Archers is written.

The use of the letters 'YA' to symbolize the project ensures that the logo is easily recognizable, especially since the primary target group involves children 9-12. Adding



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the circle in the background is because typically circles tend to project a more positive emotional message, also unity, community and friendship.

## Colour choice

The brand colours consist of dark and light colours. The contrast between the background and the logo/text ensure that the logo is perceivable to a wide audience. Therefore, the logo meets digital accessibility criteria.

## Kick-Off Meeting

The kick-off meeting was set to take place in Paris, France in late January 2022. However, due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus and for the wellbeing of the participants, as well as for the viability of the whole project, the meeting was converted into frequent online meetings (video conferences).

Firstly, a pre-kick off meeting was held on the 12th of January 2022 for the partners to introduce their organizations and for the coordinator (Koena) to present the project.

The official kick-off took place from the 20th to the 21st of January via zoom. The agenda was structured in three main parts:

1. Project management,
2. Project result 1, 'the Young Archers educational toolkit'
3. Visual identity, dissemination and exploitation of the project.

The partners agreed to have monthly meetings to ensure the smooth implementation and maximize the potential of the project, especially due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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## Upcoming Issues

- July 2022 – Second Transnational Meeting
- November 2022 – The Young Archers educational toolkit and audio guides
- April 2023 – The Multiplex edu-game
- August 2023 – Built heritage awareness campaigns
- December 2023 – Multiplier events, project exploitation and sustainability.

