IARS
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

2019 -2020

THE IARS IMPACT REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction from the Founder	3
Mission, Vision and Values	4
Our work in numbers	5
Director's Report	6
Trustees' Report	7
How we work	7
Making change happen	8
What we Do	9
High Quality Internships and Volunteering Opportunities	9
Research	10
Contributing to Social Policy	10
Evaluation projects	10
Thematic Review of the year: Speaking Up	11
99% Campaign	11
Latin Sounds	11
Thematic review of the year: Creating Economic Opportunities	12
Drop-In: Early School Leavers	12
PROMYSE	13
Ethics and Youth Entrepreneurs in Europe	14
Care 2 Entrepreneurship	14
Thematic review of the year: Combatting violence and discrimination	15
Youth Empowerment and Innovation Programme (YEIP)	15
PROCHILD	15
Children First and FREE – Tackling gender-based discrimination and violence	15
Youth Volunteering and Empowerment	16
Southwark Youth Services	17
Being Accountable	18
Our Team	19

INTRODUCTION
FROM THE FOUNDER

Next year, the IARS International Institute will be celebrating 20 years since I set it up in my kitchen. A young migrant then, I felt that with other young people we could, and should, come together to unite our voices and, through an international network, influence the laws, policies and practices that were about us, but without us.

It is, therefore, with great pride that I pass on the task to Dr. Claire Bonham, who has joined us in February 2020. As I handover the sailing of the IARS ship to a new captain, I sing Frank Sinatra's "the *best is yet to come. You think you've seen the sun. But you ain't seen it shine*". Stepping down was a conscious choice for the benefit of IARS, as I truly believe it will make it even stronger and more prepared for the future. No organisation should be attached to one person.

I am writing this foreword during unprecedented times. The socio-economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic can only be compared to what previous generations have experienced post World War II. The onus of those generations to create new infrastructures, such as the NHS, serving not the few but everyone is now on us.

IARS could not be in a stronger position. It is recognised as an international force for change, and has at least 20 live projects of local, national and international scope. Our finances have grown from the £500 that I donated when I set it up to almost £1m turnover, with secure funding for at least three years.

IARS is more than a charity and an institute. It is an idea and a paradigm for all those young people and individuals who have been told that they need to act and look in a certain way or be from a specific background to achieve in life. With no business plan, money, CEO training or indeed family in the UK, all I needed was passion, ideas, hard work and a lot of friends.

IARS' mission and visions are needed now more than ever. The attitudes that lead to divisions, the continuous manifestation of power and the disengagement of communities are all reasons to keep our doors open. As new policies and services are set up to respond to the long-term effects of the pandemic, communities must have a voice.

I have always said that I will close the IARS doors, go home and not push for more projects, when I know that we are living in a stronger and more inclusive society (hence IARS' strapline). We are not there yet! Thus, I intend to continue supporting IARS as its Founder and fundraiser.

We want to continue working with all the individuals and organisations that partnered with us, and indeed build more local, national and international allegiances to achieve our charitable aims.

IARS was set up and was run exclusively by volunteers for years. I can only say a huge thank you to all those who believed in my dream and supported me. I am extremely grateful to my team and the trustees who worked with me to achieve where we are today. The organisation is still very much reliant on our interns, volunteers, donors and funders, and will continue to do so. I ask that you trust and support the new Director, as much as you supported me. The best is yet to come!

Dr. Theo Gavrielides

OUR MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

A society in which everyone is given a chance to actively participate in social problem solving.

OUR MISSION

To give everyone a chance to forge a safer, fairer and more inclusive society. We do this by producing evidence-based solutions to current social problems, sharing best practice, and by supporting young people and the community to shape decision-making from the bottom-up.

OUR CORE ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

We were founded upon the three principles of:

- *user & civic participation*
- *restorative justice and dialogue*
- *individual empowerment and responsibility*

We act in the spirit of partnership, dignity, integrity and honesty and we remain independent, fearless and respectful of diversity and equality issues.

We are known for our:

- *Strong organisational ethos rooted in our founding values*
- *Professionalism and expertise driven by values, integrity, dedication and passion.*

OUR SERVICES

USER-LED RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

We offer a range of research and awareness raising user-led programmes that benefit and empower the most marginalised communities in the UK and beyond.

EVALUATION SERVICES

We support charitable organisations to develop their impact measurement systems and independently measure the impact they have.

ACCREDITED TRAINING (ONLINE AND FACE-TO-FACE)

The Institute is a Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training provider and all our training programmes are based on in-depth qualitative user-led research.

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS:

4

Youth Advisory Board meetings

546

young people took part in one of our activities

1

edition of the annual **99% Campaign magazine,** with **15** volunteers as editors and writers.

36

certified internships

68

young people engaged in our annual **Youth Awards Ceremony**

13

events and training opportunities on topics such as entrepreneurship, european citizenship, opportunities for young carers, gender-based violence and youth radicalisation

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Claire Bonham, June 2020

I am delighted to be writing my first Director's report, having joined the team in February 2020 at an exciting time in the organisation's development. It is fitting that the first big piece of work I am putting my name to is this impact report – as it is the values and the way they impact individuals and communities that first drew me to IARS. I believe in local, community-led solutions that start with the assets in that community and allow the marginalised to amplify their voice, and I hope in this report you will see evidence of this through the voices that you hear.

The work this year has been varied and contributed to some important and relevant themes – youth employment and entrepreneurial skills, gender-based discrimination and violence, amplifying the voices of the marginalised and youth radicalisation. Our biggest project this year was the Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project studying violent youth radicalisation across Europe, and I was privileged that my work with IARS started at the closing conference in January. The reach of the YEIP project was phenomenal – working with 18 partners across seven countries and producing what we believe is the largest scientific study on violent youth radicalisation in Europe. We engaged academics and policy makers; but more important than all this, was that young people designed and delivered this research, refusing to stay silent on an issue that affects them. Our final conference and report even made headlines in some parts of the UK press, featuring in the Guardian and the Observer.

As well as our impact on the marginalised, young people and our communities, at IARS we also take seriously our impact on the environment. We worked hard to strengthen our green credentials through a user-led revision of the environmental policy. As a result of this, IARS introduced a cycle to work scheme; partnered with FareShare to help reduce food waste and introduced a new online project management system to allow flexible and remote working for interns and associates to reduce their carbon footprint.

In August 2019 we launched our new logo and in December 2019 we launched our new website. Both processes were user-led; with the Youth Advisory Board and Women's Advisory Board being consulted in the selection of the new logo and actively involved in the design and production of the new website.

I would like to thank all those who contribute to IARS continuing commitment to provide user-led and evidence-based solutions to make our society a better place: to the staff for their tireless work ethic and the sense of fun that characterises our office; to the trustees who support in ways seen and unseen to ensure the organisation's success; to Founder and outgoing Director Theo Gavrielides for giving me a such a solid platform to build on; to our funders for their support both financial and also in wisdom and experience; and of course to our wonderful user-groups, volunteers and interns, without whom we wouldn't do what we do.

The end of the year was overtaken by coronavirus, and we still don't know how far reaching and seismic the effects will be. What is clear, however, is that marginalised and disadvantaged communities are those that are bearing the brunt of the crisis. BAME communities are disproportionately affected, and research suggests that young people are more likely to have lost their jobs than other groups. This fills me with renewed energy to lead IARS into the new year with a renewed commitment to forging a fairer, safer and more inclusive society. I hope that you share this vision and commitment, and I look forward to working with you to achieve it.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Simon Goldhill
IARS Trustee

This has been a year of transition. New trustees have been recruited, of which I am one, and the members of the previous board have, after long service, stepped down. I would like to thank James Lowe, Jerome Burke, Wendy Smith and Panagiotis Pentaris for their dedication and commitment to IARS during their times in office. Particular thanks go to James, our previous Treasurer, who stayed on to provide continuity and ensured that the financial reporting structure was in ship-shape condition when we finally allowed him to step away!

Perhaps more significantly, we also saw the stepping down of our Founder and CEO since IARS's inception, Theo Gavrielides. I am delighted, however, that Theo has agreed to remain part of IARS and has joined the board as a trustee, as well as continuing to develop and lead IARS's search for new funded projects. So, no need to say goodbye!

We also have a new Director, Claire Bonham, who joined from a national role at the Salvation Army, and we are delighted that she will be taking IARS forward into a new and exciting phase of its development.

We now, of course, have the unprecedented and unforeseeable effects of the Covid-19 crisis to contend with. If anything is certain at this time, it is that the communities that IARS is focused on will be the hardest hit. IARS's work through and beyond this period will be vital and even more important. We have every confidence that Claire and her team, supported by the Board of Trustees and all of our supporters, partners and other stakeholders, will not only survive this strangest of times, but continue to deliver IARS essential work as we come out of lockdown, and for many years into the future.

HOW WE WORK

IARS began as an informal, European-wide network of young people – set up to empower them to use their voices to influence policy and contribute positively to society. Although we have broadened our remit to work with marginalised communities and those who struggle to make their voices heard, our commitment to being user-led has never wavered.

To ensure this remains at the heart of our organisation, we have two standing Advisory Boards – a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and a Women's Advisory Board (WAB), as well as a number of ad hoc groups that come together to monitor and influence specific projects. The YAB consists of young people from different backgrounds and circumstances who are aware of the problems facing young people in society and who are interested in an opportunity to do something positive about these issues. One of the key principles of the WAB is to scrutinise the social impact of our projects from a gender perspective, ensuring that all outcomes are of high quality and responsive to the specific needs of its target groups.

The tasks of the Advisory Boards' include inspecting IARS' services and policies; monitoring the quality of its youth and gender led projects; carrying out research and responding to consultations; advising on specific youth and gender projects; reviewing and updating the volunteer and user engagement policies, the Equal Opportunities policies and any other IARS policy impacting on its users.

By participating in these activities, we hope that members of the group will be further empowered to speak out on issues that matter to them and will improve their communications skills in a professional environment.

MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN

Through our user-led programmes, every year we engage with hundreds of marginalised individuals including: young BAME people, migrants, refugee and asylum seeking women and victims of crime. With respect to their needs and barriers, we work directly with individuals to cultivate their strengths, and empower them to shape a fairer and inclusive society. Providing them with accredited training, mentoring, volunteering, and networking opportunities. IARS enables our beneficiaries develop self-awareness and skills required to participate as equal members of the society, influence decision-making and improve policy areas and services that are designed for them in most cases without their input.

STEP 1

RECRUITMENT

Online, referrals, partnerships, volunteer's hubs, outreach

User Groups

Youth Advisory Board
Women's Advisory Board
Victim's Adivisory Board
LGBT Advisory Board

STEP 2

EMPOWERMENT

Face-to-face training courses

e.g. Youth Empowerment, Rughts ans Responsabilities course and Entrepreneurship courses

Online training courses

e.g. Youth Empowerment, Rughts ans Responsabilities course and Entrepreneurship courses

STEP 3

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Media

Public Events

Public Awareness Campaigns

Social Policy Responses

Peer-research Projects

IARS Annual International Conference

WHAT WE DO

HIGH QUALITY INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

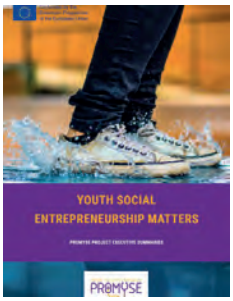
One of the main goals of IARS is to provide relevant work and office-based volunteering experiences to young people from all backgrounds to boost their confidence and increase their employability. Our priority is to support those who come from marginalised backgrounds and who might not otherwise be able to take advantage of an internship. We are committed to creating a wide range of opportunities, and to work with young people from across Europe. Now, more than ever, we try to engender a spirit of solidarity and mutual learning from citizens across the world – as we recognise there is more that unites us than divides us.

One way in which we have been able to do this is by successfully becoming part of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme for three years from January 2019 – December 2021. ESC is the new European Union initiative which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe.

We also work with a number of international sending organisations and have hosted 36 interns this year from our local borough of Southwark, across London and the UK; Spain; USA; Nigeria; Hungary; Italy; Germany; Russia; India; Indonesia; Cyprus and Greece.

IARS has very recently digitised its interns' evaluation forms and is proud to report that the feedback from interns who have finished their placements is positive. 100% of the interns have informed us that this placement has improved their communications skills, when asked if they feel their line manager was supportive 100 % answered 'yes, more than expected'. 100% considered that their placement has improved their employability.

RESEARCH

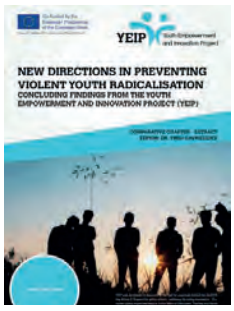


Youth Social Entrepreneurship Matters, Promyse Project Executive Summaries, IARS Publications, 2019

Youth Social Entrepreneurship Matters, Promyse Project National Chapters, IARS Publications, 2019

Towards social inclusion of early school leavers in Europe: Drop-In Project Executive Summaries, IARS Publications, 2019

Towards social inclusion of early school leavers in Europe: Drop-In Project National chapters from Greece, Cyprus the UK and Romania, IARS Publications, 2019



YEIP eBooks- New Directions In Preventing Violent Youth Radicalisation: Comparative And Summary Findings From The Youth Empowerment And Innovation Project (YEIP), IARS Publications, 2020

The Youth Empowerment And Innovation Project: Final Reports from the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Portugal, Sweden And Italy, IARS Publications, 2020

Violent Youth Radicalisation: Youth-led evidence from the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Portugal, Sweden and Italy, IARS Publications, 2019

Violent Youth Radicalisation: National reports from the UK, Greece, Cyprus, Romania, Portugal, Sweden and Italy, IARS Publications, 2019

99% campaign magazine (5th edition), IARS Publications, 2020

IARS PUBLICATIONS THIS YEAR

CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Community of Practice on Preventing Violent Extremism, Building Pathways: What works on developing young people's resilience to violent extremism, British Council, 2020

PROCHILD Handbook - European interdisciplinary and multi-professional model for detecting abuse and mistreatment and protecting minors in need of assistance, March 2020

CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIAL POLICY:

One project alone, the Youth Empowerment and Innovation Programme (YEIP) directly engaged with 3,540 individuals aged 16 to 78, leading us to conclude that YEIP is one of the largest scientific studies on violent youth radicalisation in Europe. The project has had an impact on policy makers Europe-wide. A number of partners have been invited to join national policy-making groups focused on the prevention of violent youth radicalisation, where the YEIP research have been discussed. YEIP aims to feed into EU policies and Youth Strategy for at least 3 years.

EVALUATION PROJECTS

This year we completed our two-year evaluation of the Restore: London (R:L) programme – a pan-London restorative justice service funded by The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). This led to the setting up of a steering group with victims and restorative justice practitioners.

IARS assessed the impact of the first-ever London-wide restorative justice service, and our independent evaluation aimed to measure how R:L is meeting victims' needs of accessing restorative justice services in London.

The evaluation was built up from a mixed methods research data and from the work undertaken by the Independent User Scrutiny Panel (IUSP) - a steering group consisting of key stakeholders. The research was based on six interviews with victims, eight interviews with R: L staff; one focus group with seven victims and practitioners; one survey with 65 victims and another survey with 63 offenders. The unique user-led element played a crucial role in understanding how the R:L service was received by its users.

THEMATIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR: SPEAKING UP

99% CAMPAIGN

The 99% Campaign is a youth-led initiative and digital participation programme aiming to make society more inclusive, fair and responsive to young people's views and realities. It achieves its mission by giving direct voice to the most marginalised young people. The 99% Campaign uses a dedicated website, social media channels and a printed magazine to promote positive stories and dispel negative stereotypes.

99% Campaign magazine is an excellent opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and to address issues that are important to them. Young people contributing to the magazine have reported feeling empowered and inspired to push themselves to produce the best work; learning to distinguish between opinions and facts, and developing empathy by making a conscious effort to see the same issue from a different perspective.

This year we focused on Youth Radicalisation and we have young contributors from all over the word who explored a broader spectrum of underlying issues that lead to violent radicalisation in youth forming a coalition of shared ideas that were presented at the Youth Panel on the 29th January 2020 at the IARS International Conference- University of East London. During the Youth Panel, the 99% Campaign Magazine was launched, showcasing peer reviewed articles from our young authors on topics that are important to them. They presented their articles to a wide audience consisting of their peers, decision makers and professionals across Europe. Their achievements and contributions were also rewarded with certificates and prizes.

The winner of the writing competition with an article titled 'The Role of YouTube Algorithms in Online Radicalisation', was Amanda Blackhurst.

When I look back on my time at the organization I feel lucky to have been part of IARS work and proud of my contributions.
Amanda Blackhurst

LATIN SOUNDS

The Latin sounds of Pueblito Paisa is a user-led, Heritage Lottery Funded project that is documenting, recording, archiving, preserving and widely disseminating the history of "the Latin Village" in Seven Sisters. The salsa beats that are heard at every turn of London's oldest Latin-run market, its traditional shops, salons and eateries are in danger of being silenced. There is an urgent need for the history of this unique area that has acted as a community hub to be captured and preserved.

This year, the IARS International Institute empowered some of the market's inhabitants through the use of oral history and photography to run the project to capture, celebrate and preserve the heritage of the market area. Participants will become part of the permanent record of their area's history and an inspiration for others. With strong community participation and the holding of public events, exhibitions, training and awareness raising workshops, the project is creating online material and a website as well as an archive with digitised and catalogued records that will be deposited with the Haringey Archive & Museum Service, ensuring a legacy.

THEMATIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR: CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

DROP-IN: EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS

The main aim of the **Drop-In project** was to provide alternative pathways into education and employment. The project aimed to do this by enhancing the basic and transversal skills and competences of young people, who have dropped out of the formal education system, (re)introducing them informal and non-formal learning based on an innovative, tailor-made capacity-building model, with the aim to ultimately facilitate their socio-economic (re)integration and employability. The EU Erasmus+ funded project was coordinated by the IARS International Institute (UK), and delivered in partnership with KMOP – Social Action and Innovation Center (Greece), InEuropa (Italy), Schottener Foundation (Romania) and CARDET (Cyprus).

WHAT WE DID:

- ☑ A needs identification and analysis on the current state of non-formal training provision for young drop-outs and ESLs and focus groups.
- ☑ A capacity-building course curriculum consisting of theoretical materials and interactive exercises to enhance the basic and transversal skills and competences of young people and to prepare them to secure a job and progress in their careers.
- ☑ An e-learning and networking platform to promote youth engagement and facilitate their learning and pilot testing with young people to evaluate the usefulness and user friendliness of the platform.
- ☑ A 5-day training event in November 2018 to strengthen the skills and competences of professionals who are working with young drop-outs and ESLs across Europe.
- ☑ A peer reviewed final e-book consisting of executive summaries and national chapters.
- ☑ Two CPD- accredited International conferences; an awareness raising conference in Greece and a closing conference in the UK.

IN NUMBERS

Needs analysis involving **86** participants;

57 young drop-outs, ESLs, and NEETs and **29** stakeholders (employers, NGOs, CSOs, professionals working with young people, training providers and policy makers), who took part in the focus group discussions.

9 multilingual e-platform modules covering topics, such as personal development, critical thinking, social skills, civic responsibility, career planning, basic project management, basic finance, digital literacy and enterprise.

Pilot testing involving a total of **62** participants; **10** project staff members and **52** ESLs and professionals directly working with disadvantaged youth.

14 professionals directly benefitted from the 5-day training event in Romania.

The two international conferences brought almost **200** direct and indirect beneficiaries together from across Europe.

21,000 individuals have directly or indirectly benefitted from the project through dissemination and promotion efforts.

Offering this E-book in more than one language is inspiring and speaks to the issue that this phenomenon of youth unemployment and early school leaving is not just a national issue, but a global one," one Youth Advisory Board Member writes.

PROMYSE

The objective of **PROMYSE** was to promote social entrepreneurship in the health/ social care sectors as an alternative pathway to youth self-sustainability, by developing the social entrepreneurship and business skills of unemployed youth and raising awareness on the benefits and added value of social enterprises to the community as a whole. The target audience of the project was not only limited to those who benefitted directly from the project's activities and outcomes, but also involved a vast range of stakeholders, actors, users and associations relevant to the subject field.

The Project was funded by the European Commission and was a partnership between The IARS International Institute (UK), Diesis Coop (Belgium), KMOP (Greece), Canary Wharf Consulting (UK), Diversity Development Group (Lithuania), Icse-Co (Italy). It ran for 24 months, concluding in August 2019.

WHAT WE DID:

- ☑ Analysed and reported on the current context of social entrepreneurship and the use of game-theory in online training.
- ☑ Produced a youth-led educational, training and skills development programme on social entrepreneurship.
- ☑ Trained, mentored and supported social entrepreneurship ambassadors to develop and promote the course through a series of targeted engagement campaigns.
- ☑ Set up a coaching and support hub to serve as a centre for further guidance and support for beneficiaries enrolled on the e-course.
- ☑ Brought together young people and professionals stakeholders at CPD and Youth Pass accredited conference.
- ☑ Delivered online awareness activities to relevant stakeholders.

IN NUMBERS

>150 Young People trained via an e-course, receiving accreditation and become ready to be social entrepreneurs.

75 Young people (15 per country) reporting being more confident and be knowledgeable in project management with increased employability potential.

A final e-book was produced for free use, users will report feeling more knowledgeable about the topic and able to continue networking via project website, personal contact and the Hub.

15 Trained face to face, mentored and supported young people to become ambassadors in each country who were linked in with local businesses, ready to start or have started their own business.

80 young people attended spread the word campaigns (20 per country) 20 social enterprises and organisation attended (5 per country)

84 stakeholders attended our international conference

ETHICS AND YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS IN EUROPE

The aim of the Erasmus+ funded **EYEE project** was to spread the entrepreneurial culture based on ethics among young people through the school, at European level, and to engage the educational community, non-profit organisations, public authorities or entrepreneurial organisations. By encouraging more people to become entrepreneurs, the EYEE project aimed to increase the development of entrepreneurial mind-sets and culture, to benefit individuals and society, create new jobs and improve Europe's economic performance. Matching solutions, good practices and needs from eight different European countries, the project intended to design the profile of the "European Ethical and Responsible Entrepreneur," using entrepreneurship education in formal and non-formal context and transforming the Secondary Schools into bridges between actors of the economic and educational world.

OUTCOMES

With our project we:

- ☑ Created an innovative format for ethical entrepreneurship education for the secondary schools of Europe.
- ☑ Supported young people to become successful entrepreneurs.
- ☑ Developed a strong community of aspiring, beginner and senior entrepreneurs.
- ☑ Spread the concept of "ethical entrepreneurship".

CARE 2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The C2E project is Erasmus+ funded and takes the approach of addressing the issues that young carers have little opportunity to improve their position in society through regular employment and so entrepreneurship is a real opportunity for them to overcome these hurdles. In fact, academic studies suggest, an entrepreneurial approach may help them accomplish several goals, such as increased self-worth and satisfaction by overcoming these barriers to entering the labour market. C2E aims to help this group of marginalised young people by offering accessible training that meets their needs and introduces them to the skills they need to start their own business.

ACTIVITIES

- ☑ Young people from 20 EU countries recruited onto the IARS youth network, increasing their employment opportunities.
- ☑ 30 local young carers received face-to-face training - this training will be broadcast via webinar allowing more people to get involved.
- ☑ 500 young carers/professionals accessing online training.
- ☑ 20 young carers and 20 professionals from each country directly involved with implementation and testing of the platform.

THEMATIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR: COMBATTING VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (YEIP)

YEIP is an Erasmus+ funded project, responding to the urgent need for effective youth policies that enhance young people's social inclusion and minimise violent radicalisation. As a youth-led project, YEIP trained 74 young people to carry out the research and the project was delivered across seven European countries (UK, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Sweden, Italy and Romania) with 18 partners. Partners included public authorities, universities, schools, prisons; and a wide range of stakeholders included policy makers at Council of Europe, NATO, ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), Radicalisation Awareness Network; youth workers, crime prevention agencies, Vocational Education and Training providers and the media.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- ☑ 133 participants in the fieldwork
- ☑ 10 eBooks.
- ☑ 2 training manuals.
- ☑ Engagement with 478 young people, 354 professionals, 195 policy makers.
- ☑ 1408 young participants and 517 professionals.
- ☑ 2 international conferences with over 160 delegates.
- ☑ 5850 Project website visitors.
- ☑ 6726 unique downloads of project publications

PROCHILD

The PROCHILD project seeks to create a multi-professional, integrated model of cooperation with stakeholders involved in response to violence against children. It is funded by the European Union Rights, Equalities and Citizenship programme (REC), and the project consortium has published a number of research reports on the causes of violence against children and the role of parental mental health, and a collection of good practices among others.

IN 2019-20 IARS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROCHILD PROJECT INCLUDED:

- ☑ Contacting over 150 relevant stakeholders to conduct the focus groups.
- ☑ Running two round table events with 12 professionals attending from various fields including front-line social workers, school head teachers, third sector professionals and safeguarding policy professionals.
- ☑ Holding face-to-face evaluation sessions with 31 young people to assess the quality of the awareness raising materials in the UK. Videos, websites and other material created by our partner organisations were assessed.
- ☑ Developing a European interdisciplinary and multi-professional model for detecting abuse and mistreatment and protecting minors in need of assistance by identifying risk factors of child physical abuse, child emotional abuse, child sexual abuse and child neglect with a particular focus on emotional abuse.
- ☑ Creating an online platform for collecting and exchanging material and presenting training content for professionals and university students.

CHILDREN FIRST AND FREE

TACKLING GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Gender-based discrimination and violence is the subject of two of our new projects, both of which started in September 2019.

Children First is funded by the European Union Rights, Equalities and Citizenship programme, and was set up to tackle dating violence in its early stage by educating children attending school accordingly. This is a European-wide project, of which the main objective is to tackle gender-based violence in relationships through combating stereotypes and norms fuelling dating violence.

FREE from Gender-based Discrimination: Children and Parents Together is an Erasmus+ funded project and seeks to create a system for parents and teachers to work together to counter sexism and gender-based discrimination in schools. This will be through the creation and dissemination of a number of e-books, courses, and other materials.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING AND EMPOWERMENT

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is the new European Union initiative, which creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people around Europe. IARS was successful in 2019 in entering into a framework agreement for three years from January 2019 – December 2021 through our Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). The programme brings together young people through the European Solidarity Corps partners, by offering long-term (2 month +) volunteer placements to young people from across Europe to empower and support the most marginalised communities by responding to societal challenges and needs. The project offers an empowering experience for young volunteers from ESC participating countries, and who want to help, learn and develop, while also allowing intercultural exchanges.

We believe that the opportunity to experience international volunteering should not be exclusive to those who already have the means and social capital to undertake such placements, and so we aim specifically to provide opportunities to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Volunteering placements are fully funded and there is an additional budget for social inclusion available for disadvantaged young people.

The YEP activities are structured within our well-tested and simple civic engagement model, which includes the following cycles:

1. Recruitment
2. Empowerment and bespoke, accredited training (face-to-face and/ or online)
3. Social action project
4. Evaluation, Certification and reward.

CASE STUDY

YOLANDA AND AEGEE/EUROPEAN STUDENTS' FORUM

Yolanda spent three months in Belgium with AEGEE via the Youth Empowerment Programme.

Her supervisor Álvaro González Pérez said: Hosting Yolanda in the AEGEE / European Students' Forum head office for three months has been a real pleasure. Yolanda arrived in Brussels and came into our team at a high time: we were one month away from a big statutory meeting that would take place in Barcelona.

After the first immersion week, Yolanda supported us in the content management of the event, particularly researching for and finding speakers for the 200 participants that would take part in the event.

Yolanda was also involved in the partnerships of AEGEE-Europe, mapping potential stakeholders of the organization and contacting them for potential collaborations, as well as in the organization of the 35th anniversary event of AEGEE (which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation).

We were very happy for hosting Yolanda and wish her the best for her future endeavours in life!

AN EXPERIENCE THAT I RECOMMEND TO ANYONE

I still remember a few months ago, when I was packing up all my stuff. I was full of fears and doubts about this new experience that I was about to take up. Now, six months later, I feel proud of my decision. In my volunteering experience with AEGEE-Europe and IARS, I learnt to set up events, monitoring EU-legislation and drafting statements, implementing documents for the external director of AEGEE. In addition, I took advantage of my location to attend some events where I raised my awareness about societal issues. All these tasks developed my skills as a social worker, enhancing my professional profile. Now that my volunteering is over, I have decided to stay in Brussels in order to pursue a career in political activism and human rights. I have learnt more than I had ever expected and I appreciate the IARS opportunity to take part in it.

This year we provided five 3-month placements for volunteers via our ESC programme, with four volunteers working with IARS in London from Italy, Greece and Cyprus, and two UK volunteers undertaking placements in Portugal and Belgium.

IARS is also a proud multiplier of Eurodesk UK. As a support organisation to Erasmus+, Eurodesk makes information on learning mobility comprehensive and accessible to young people and those who work with them. 2019-20 was an incredibly busy year. Apart from the regular publications of digital content, we engaged in many off-line activities to reach out to as many young people as possible.

In July 2019 we presented a workshop on Eurodesk and opportunities available in Europe at our seventh International Conference in Lewisham College to a young audience of over 100 participants.

In October 2019, during the Time to Move campaign, we mobilised all our resources to reach out as many young people not in Education, Employment or Training as possible. We believe that access to funded educational opportunities is the best way to empower a community, especially young people. Working with the Working with the Youth Advisory Board, we brainstormed places where deprived young Londoners would hang out and used an app to create routes to maps and reach as many of these places as possible. We researched deprivation indexes in London and we specifically targeted the most deprived areas. Within those areas, we specifically targeted libraries with many deprived young people hanging out since they have access to free ITCs and heating. We also targeted community centres and charity shops where young people spend their time.

SOUTHWARK YOUTH SERVICES

We continued to offer volunteering, training and work experience to young people in Southwark. Highlights included:

- ☑ Two youth-led "Involve Youth Southwark Citizenship and Youth Inclusion" trainings, where 49 children and young people aged 9 to 22 came together to break down stereotypes, build bridges, and form new friendships. The sessions involved local Southwark young residents from various social, economic, and racial backgrounds.
- ☑ Two face-to-face Entrepreneurship training sessions introducing young people to the key practices in running a research project and developing entrepreneurial skills
- ☑ 2 youth-led community awareness raising and learning local events attended by 140 young people themed "All things Europe"; promoting Erasmus+, learning, teaching and volunteering opportunities for young people.
- ☑ 1 CPD-accredited two-day conference: 'European Youth Leading the Way for Employment and Education', with 20 volunteers involved in outreach, registration and organisation of the event and five interns presenting at panels and workshops.
- ☑ IARS Conference including Youth Awards Ceremony - led by young people and bringing together decision makers and scholars from across Europe. In total, the conference was attended by over 120 participants, 68 of which were young people. Young people were rewarded and celebrated for their achievements and the work in the community. The conference hosted a Youth Panel, which consisted of seven young people who had contributed to the 99% Campaign Magazine, and they all received certification. The winner of the writing competition received a prize worth £200. All conference participants received CPD accreditation.

My time at IARS was amazing. There I learned written and communication skills through writing blog posts and reaching out to potential speakers at the annual conference.
Emma – IARS Volunteer

In three words I can sum up everything I've learnt at IARS: passion for work, being open minded and critical thinking.
Magda, volunteer

BEING ACCOUNTABLE

INCOME

EUROPEAN UNION
£520,091 | 83%

STATUTORY GRANTS
£95,696 | 15%

PUBLICATION/TRAINING/EVENTS
£10,643 | 1.5%

DONATIONS AND SPONSORS
£2,750 | 0.5%

TOTAL £629,180

100%

EXPENDITURE

GOVERNANCE
£5,791 | 1%

INDIRECT COST
£48,931 | 11%

PROGRAMMES
£374,545 | 82%

FUNDRAISING
£29,928 | 7%

TOTAL £459,196

100%

MEET THE IARS TEAM

PATRONS

Trevor Phillips OBE

Sir George Newman

Lord Charles Falconer of Thoroton

Simon Israel

TRUSTEES

Simon Goldhill

Jerome Burke

Dr. Theo Gavrielides
Founder

STAFF TEAM

Dr. Claire Bonham
Executive Director

Maija Linnala
User Engagement Lead

Romina Lopez
Communications Manager

Andrew Williams
Finance Manager

Felix Langley
Administrator and PA to the Director

PROJECT ASSOCIATES:

Arthur Peirce
Rita Seneca
Alex Goldhill
Sundus Abdullahi
Kolly Begum

INTERNS:

Victoria Perez Fernandez
Emma Pugh
Julia Patz
Dorothy Riley
Leigh Johnson
William Burge
Joshua Patterson
Calum Paton
Rebecca Rogers
Rosie Chalmers
James Myers-Antiaye
Alex Goldhill
Ekerette Sampson
Arthur Peirce
Agnes Miseta
Valentina Menicucci
Giorgia Menicucci
Daisy Nobes
Anna Person
Amanda Blackhurst
Sidrah Sethi
Nimo Muhamed
Sundus Abdullahi
Joshua Eden
Yewande Ogunjimi
Andrei Vokuev
Shanika Mathialagan
Priya Kang
Aditya Das
Maria Sobrino
Enda Yuliana
Roxy Orloff
Alexander Zavioli
Anastasia Papadopoulou Vaitsopoulou
Jaala Piloni
Emily Christoforou

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS:

AND TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED WITH
PRO BONO SUPPORT:

Morgan Lewis

The IARS International Institute
14 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road,
Canada Water, SE16 2XU, UK
T: +44(0)20 70644380
M: +44(0) 7833224442
E: contact@iars.org.uk

@_IARS

IARSCommunity

independent-academic-research-studies

www.youtube.com/user/IARSLondon