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**Mentoring Across Borders - MAB Project**  
**Kick-Off Partners' Meeting**  
**February 13, 2023**

With the kickoff meeting held in Brussels from January 25 to 27, the intergenerational, cross-border Mentoring Across Borders project (MAB), financed by the European Union Erasmus+ program, was officially launched.

MAB Project aims to develop mentoring hubs in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, which will organise and train accomplished professional senior adults as mentors, to volunteer their time to help young people, aged 18-30, including those at risk of marginalisation, to develop their professional skills and enter the labour markets.

The MAB Project builds on the successful results of the Erasmus+ EvolYou program, reinforcing its best practices and transferring its innovation to a pan-European level. EvolYou, in 28 months, mobilised 90 experienced senior people as mentors, from 6 countries, who helped 187 disadvantaged young people to access labour markets or Vocational Education and Training paths with the help and experience of their mentors.

Within MAB 13 partner organisations are involved from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Albania, Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Greece to set up the mentoring hubs. The MAB Project is coordinated by CESES, a European Confederation of Senior Expert Services which provides support from experts in their countries and abroad.

The project partners are 50plus Hellas (Greece), Auleda Local Economic Development Agency Vlore (Albania), Center of European Volunteering (Belgium), AGE Platform Europe (Belgium), Cyprus Third Age Observatory, Druzhestvo Znanie (Bulgaria), Onkentes Kozpont Alapitvany (Hungary), Senior Experten Services (Germany), Seniores Italia Lazio, Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wolontariatu (Poland), VOLONTARIATO TORINO (Italy), and Volontari Senior Professionali ODV (Italy).

The project will last for two years and focuses on three main activities, the shaping of a mentoring methodology towards the needs of the Eastern and South-Eastern countries, the development and implementation of an online platform to help match mentors and mentees across the border and the testing of this matchmaking tool for 120 mentors and 120 mentees in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries. The platform will be open to people over 50 years of age, who wish to offer their knowledge and experience, as well as to young people who need mentoring or coaching in their area of interest. In order to disseminate the project among stakeholders, workshops and public awareness campaigns will be organised.

The project also will include dissemination, quality control, and risk management activities in order to achieve the best possible results by bringing together Western, Eastern, and Southern European organisations, the project provides an excellent opportunity for the participating organisations to exchange experiences and best practices with their peers.

More details will be made public as the project develops.