

# StayOn\_ A more inclusive, active and creative world!

1st Impact Assessment

# **PORTUGAL**

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Mine Tülü & Giulia Parola
European Center for Social Finance
Margarida Andrade & Lisandra Almeida
CRESAÇOR



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

StayOn is a transnational project coordinated through the cooperation of eight European partners whose ultimate objective is to create conditions that enable young people to "stay on" rural areas by ensuring access to opportunities, benefits, services, and jobs. With this impact assessment report, we intend to measure and assess CRESAÇOR's impact to improve it. This report is to be read as part of the project's "Impact management and research" work package, representing a systematic effort to provide credible evidence on the causal impact of interventions meant to integrate young adults, and NEETs¹ especially in the labor market.

The work package is managed by the European Center for Social Finance (ECSF). It encompasses a series of activities, including developing a Theory of Change and related impact management framework, creating periodic impact evaluations, and learning to inform decision-making within and among the organizations involved. This report proceeds as follows. After a brief introduction, Section 2 describes the interventions. In Section 3, the report focuses on detailing the methodology used to conduct the evaluation. Section 4 presents the results, while Section 5 interprets them and discusses the lessons learned to facilitate the translation of findings into practice for the project's partners.

#### 2. INTERVENTIONS

The project StayOn foresees the implementation of a four-stage community-based development approach (CBD) in five European countries. The first stage is called "community involvement" and includes the implementation of continuous life/career individual coaching support and a series of training courses on digital and environmental topics according to the local needs<sup>2</sup> aimed at developing soft and hard skills that are useful for personal development and facilitate entry to the labor market. This step includes creating a group of young local NEETs, the "community shapers", who are interested in the social and economic development of their community and will continue their StayOn path through the three following phases: "community catalysis", "community co-innovation labs", and "community entrustment".

#### **Training courses**

As of 30.06.2022, fifteen types of training courses were delivered and coordinated through CRESAÇOR Regional Cooperative for Solidarity Economy. The organization was founded in 2000 in the form of a Social Solidarity Cooperative. It is made of 30 cooperators and non-profit organizations spread across the entire territory of the Azores archipelago in Portugal. CRESAÇOR aims at increasing access to education, and job incubation within the social employment market, supporting the creation of solidarity economy initiatives, provide support and assistance to private individuals and community groups active at the local level through capital grant aid, technical assistance, guidance and mentoring, information and support, training opportunities,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Young persons not engaged in education, employment or training.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See the potentials assessment report for Portugal available at: https://www.stay-on.eu/impact-compass/

and development initiatives. Table 1 summarizes the primary information for all training courses.

Table 1. Summary of training courses

| # | Training course title   | Number of iterations | Number of hours | Objectives  | Modules   |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 1 | Entrepreneurial<br>Skills – How to<br>create your own<br>business | 11                   | 6               | For this training, it is expected that the participants understand the concept of entrepreneurship, find their entrepreneur's profile and identify their business idea, before settling its phases.   | 1-What is entrepreneurship? 2-Entrepreneur profile. 3-Factors that inhibit entrepreneurship. 4-Business idea and project. 5-Coherence of the personal/business project. 6-Project definition phases.  |
| 2 | Active Job Search<br>Techniques                                   | 40                   | 3.5             | For this training, the participants are meant to learn the process of creating their own CV, to prepare themselves for different kind of job interviews and to take action when it comes to job search.   | 1-Work categories. 2-Visible and hidden labor market. 3-Active employment and training measures. 4-Geographic mobility — identifying different levels of labor communities. 5-Networking. 6- Create a Curriculum vitae. 6- Submit spontaneous applications. 7- Practice a job interview.  |
| 3 | Health and Safety at<br>Work (HSW)                                | 3                    | 4               | For this training, we expect participants to be able to list the different factors that explain HSW's importance, whilst identifying their risks and prevention measures in association with its signage.   | 1-Basic concepts of HSW: recognize the importance of safety, hygiene and health at work. 2-Personal Protective Equipment: its importance and the associated biological, physical, chemical and ergonomic risks. 3-Identify the main risks present in the workplace and in professional activity. 4-Application of adequate prevention and protection measures. 5-Safety and health signage. |
| 4 | Graphic Design -<br>Introduction                                  | 2                    | 3.5             | The trainer intends that the participants get a sense of the Graphic Design field, by exploring some software and its main tools while creating a graphic design proposal that suits each participant's companies of interest and their personal style. | 1-Introduce participants to different software. 2- Understand the main requirements in the area. 3-Create a personalized graphic design proposal. 4-Identification and signage of companies and professionals in the area.  |
| 5 | Creativity in Digital<br>Marketing                                | 12                   | 4               | In this training course,<br>the participants learn<br>ways to highlight their<br>communication channels<br>in order to stand out. For   | 1-Creative Techniques for<br>Digital Marketing<br>2-Content management tools  |

| 6  | Basic Life Support                         | 6 | 3.5 | this purpose, they learn about different layers that constitute Digital Marketing by distinguishing between channels and contexts.  In this training course, the participants must understand the steps that need to be taken during an emergency care procedure, distinguishing the behavior to adopt between age groups and contexts. | 3-Innovation in Entrepreneurship and Social Media Management 4-Creative communication processes  1-Introduction to the emergency care procedure. 2-Learning to react in a life- threatening situation in the work context. 3-Know how to proceed during a heart attack (Automatic External Defibrillation). 4-Learn proper behavior in a choke. |
|----|--|---|-----|---|---|
| 7  | English – Work<br>Context<br>Conversations | 5 | 3.5 | For this training, it is important that the participants learn speak in different job market circumstances, adapting to a variety of situations and using the specific terms for each professional area of interest.  | 1-Stimulate conversations in English using vocabulary geared to the job market. 2-Identify different types of discourse (formal and informal). 3-Diversify the vocabulary of the English language. 4-Stimulate conversation in English.   |
| 8  | IT Validation                              | 6 | 2   | Learning the basic skills of<br>an IT with an IT<br>professional as<br>supervisor. Identifying<br>the problem and be able<br>to choose the most<br>adequate solution.   | 1-Validation of IT technician skills. 2-Windows Formatting and Installation. 3-Diagnosis. 4-Programing.   |
| 9  | Hygiene Care for the<br>Elderly            | 1 | 4   | In this training, the participants are encouraged to put care and empathy at the center of their hygiene care practice, whilst being aware of the surrounding environment of the elderly.   | 1-Address good practices and basic human care for the elderly person. 2-Identify basic hygiene care. 3-Recognize the effects of the environment on personal hygiene. 4-Adapt personal hygiene care to the needs of each person. 5-Determine the degree of dependence. 6-Anticipate possible risks associated with the tasks to be performed.    |
| 10 | Computer Basics for<br>Business            | 1 | 4   | The goal for this particular training is to know how to apply IT competencies within the SME contexts.  | 1-Promote the acquisition of basic computer skills for small businesses. 2-Mastering, at a fundamental and application level, the techniques associated with computer systems. 3-Identify the main IT tools from the user's perspective. 4-Identify advantages and risks of the internet. 5-Identify digital tools to support small businesses. |

|    |  |   |     |   | 6-Learn the General Data<br>Protection Law.   |
|----|--|---|-----|---|---|
| 11 | Learning How to<br>Write and Read                            | 5 | 3.5 | This training was specifically created for the participants who struggle with reading and writing. The trainer supports participants in their job applications and interview making, whilst assuring the acquisition of basic reading and writing skills.   | 1-Settle basic reading and writing skills; 2-Promote reading and writing autonomy; 3- Support with day-to-day reading and writing needs; 4- Encourage reading and writing habits in different contexts (personal finances, job search, mail and e-mail literacy, internet knowledge).   |
| 12 | Support Children in<br>Need (care and<br>social integration) | 3 | 8   | For this training, the trainees are meant to learn specific skills, techniques, tricks and games to apply within formal and informal educational environments with children with specific needs.  | 1-Promote the acquisition of specific skills needed when working with children with specific needs; 2-Encourage the integration and socialization of children with specific needs in the educational context. 3- Learn/create techniques and Games to be applied in situations of emotional instability. 4-Forecasting associated risks.  |
| 13 | Boat Maintenance   | 4 | 2   | This training is based on two main aspects: the Nautical Skills component (related to the sea and navigation, like coastal cleaning, meteorology, geography, physics and basic safety at sea), and the component of Professional Restoration and Maintenance Skills (practical and theoretical skills for restoration, maintenance and conservation processes). | 1-Use natural resources as a work base for the promotion of healthy lifestyles; 2-Promote alternative personal and professional paths; 3-Deepen nautical skills; 4-Gain professional Restoration and Maintenance skills; 5-Acquire knowledge in terms of nautical nomenclature and typologies.  |
| 14 | Child Development<br>and Parental<br>Education               | 2 | 9   | Knowing the importance of playing and promoting it in a therapeutic and/or educational context: Planning and developing educational activities in animation, using musical, dramatic, motor and plastic expressions.  | 1-Child Development: Theoretical Perspectives and Piaget's Approach; 2. Playing and Educator Planning: Benefits, strategies and activities to implement; 3. Parental Education: Parenting styles and practices and parental rights and duties 4. Parental Rules and Limits; 5. New Forms of Parenting: Strategies for positive education and intervening with parents and family. |
| 15 | Search Engine Marketing and Web Marketing and Analytics      | 1 | 16  | In this training course, participants learn how to identify different types of web campaigns and how to use some digital platforms/tools.   | 1-Understand clearly and distinctly the usefulness of advertising on Google AdWords and identify the various types of campaigns, namely in the search and display network;  |

|  |  | 2-Understand the advantages       |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
|  |  | of organic positioning of a       |
|  |  | website with SEO, and know        |
|  |  | the two kinds of optimization,    |
|  |  | on and off the page;              |
|  |  | 3-Explain why link building is so |
|  |  | essential for a good SEO          |
|  |  | strategy;                         |
|  |  | 4Learn why email marketing is     |
|  |  | one of the best ways to convert   |
|  |  | and what are the advantages of    |
|  |  | using Mailchimp as an email       |
|  |  | marketing platform;               |
|  |  | 5Recognize the importance of      |
|  |  | a well-optimized landing page     |
|  |  | to obtain previously              |
|  |  | established results;              |
|  |  | 6-Learn why analyzing results is  |
|  |  | essential and recognize the       |
|  |  | types of reports analytics        |
|  |  | provides us.                      |

# Coaching

The main goal of the coaching in the context of StayOn is to support participants on their journey through the whole StayOn process:

- training, where they gain new skills and knowledge to improve their future career options; and also
- community shaping process, where they further explore their ideas for developing opportunities for youth in their communities.

The StayOn coaching process is aimed at developing a goal-oriented mindset with participants. The suggested methods to be used by coaches range from SMART goal methodology to dialogue groups. All sessions have a suggested outline to follow. However, these guidelines can be adjusted according to the coach's judgment to best use the process for the participants. The coach's role is to support the participants to make a change, learn something new and/or achieve their goals. The essence of coaching is not giving answers to participants but instead guiding them with curiosity and empathy to help them find answers on their own. Coaches in the StayOn project lead participants through the process of training & community involvement, help them identify their potential, and support them in overcoming obstacles to their empowerment.

Through the StayOn project, participants receive, on average, four individual coaching hours, mainly over a series of four sessions with the coach. Coaching sessions are divided into three main categories: I) introductory / starting session; II) implementation support / intermediate session; and III) follow-up/closing session. The coaches and coachees meet preferably in person, but some meetings also take place online. In order to create a relationship and create a more substantial impact, the coachees are encouraged to meet regularly and with a defined development goal, which also supports their training in the context of the StayOn project (or further). Coaches in the StayOn project participate in individual and group supervisions to help them better address the

obstacles and opportunities of the coaching process. They help them be more flexible and open to opportunities in the process.

## Implementation figures

As of 30.06.2022, CRESAÇOR has trained 78 young people and coached 120 young people for a total of 474.38 hours in São Miguel and Terceira islands. Table 2 summarizes the number of participants in the training courses and coaching by month.

Table 2. Summary of implementation figures

| Туре     | March 2022 | April 2022 | May 2022 | June 2022 | Total |
|----------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Trainees | 2          | 26         | 48       |           | 78    |
| Coachees | 49         | 37         | 15       | 19        | 120   |

## 3. METHODS

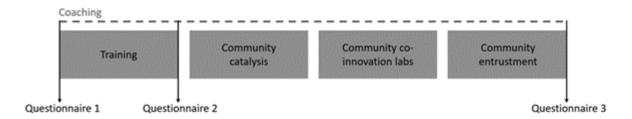
#### **Data collection**

StayOn's impact management system is made of three impact layers which, in turn, include six clusters (derived from StayOn Theory of Change).<sup>3</sup>

- Layer I Management of StayOn's impact on the participants (CLUSTERS 1, 3, and 4)
- Layer II Management of StayOn's impact on the project partner organizations in terms of capacity building (CLUSTERS 2 and 5)
- Layer III Management of StayOn's impact on society (CLUSTER 6)

This report covers clusters 1, 3, and 6. The output data presented in the previous sections make up Cluster 2. While data related to StayOn's outcomes and impact, clusters 3 and 6, respectively, were collected through a survey administered at the beginning and end of the training courses, as Figure 1 shows. All participants in the training courses were asked to fill out the same questionnaire on the day the intervention started and the day it ended.

Figure 1. Data collection timeline



We administered the survey to participants through an online questionnaire, which is available in full in the Appendix to this report. The questionnaire included the following groups of variables:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See pages 3-4 of the Impact Management Toolkit available at: https://www.stay-on.eu/impact-compass/

**Demographics** (*labor status, income, age, gender, belonging to a minority background*) were measured through multiple choice, checkboxes, and open-ended options (see questions 15-19).<sup>4</sup>

#### Social inclusion was measured by looking at:

- access to knowledge of resources in the community, see guestion 2;
- support from social networks, see questions 11-14 (Bernal et al., 2003);
- participation in labor markets, see questions 15-16.

#### Social benefits to rural areas were measured by looking at:

- common good, see questions 3-8 (Looman, 2006);
- participants' willingness to migrate, see questions 9-10.

#### **Data analysis**

72 beneficiaries completed pre/post-intervention questionnaires, and the data they provided was used for subsequent analysis. We first examined the distribution of differences between two sets of scores to analyze the pre-and post-test comparison. For the variables *common good, willingness to migrate, support* from social networks, and *access* to knowledge of resources in the community the differences between pre and post-test are normally distributed; hence, paired samples t-test was used to compare the two sets of scores. To compare paired proportions related to *participation* in labor markets, a McNemar test was used to assess the significance of the pre- and post-intervention differences in the variables 'employment status' and 'income'.

# 4. FINDINGS

## **Descriptive statistics: demographic variables**

Descriptive statistics of the pre- post-observations related to the sample of 72 participants are presented in Table 3. 42 people in the sample analyzed were women (58.33%), while 27 (37.50%) were men and three participants chose the option "Other" (4.17%). Most participants (65 people, 90.28%) were between 25 and 29 years old. 6 participants (8.33%) were between 18 and 24 years old, while one person (1.39%) constituted the remaining sample. Only three people (4.17%) were self/employed or students at the start of the intervention, while 69 people (95.83%) were unemployed or inactive and constituted the remainder of the sample. 72 participants in the sample analyzed completed the question inquiring about income: the great majority (70 out of 72, 97.22%) stated their income is less than or equal to the national minimum wage, while only two people (2.78%) reported having an income that is more than the national minimum wage. Finally, nine people answered the question about minority backgrounds: five out of seven (55.55%) reported belonging to the group of people with disabilities, one out of seven (14.28%) to a sexual minority, two to a racial, ethnic and linguistic minority (15.89%), and one (14.28%) to a religious minority group.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics

| Gender | n  | %     |
|--------|----|-------|
| Female | 42 | 58.33 |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The questions inquiring about income and belonging to a minority background were optional.

| D.dI  | 27 | 27.50  |
|---|----|--------|
| Male  | 27 | 37.50  |
| Other   | 3  | 4.17   |
| Total   | 72 | 100.00 |
|   |    |        |
| Age   | n  | %      |
| 18-24   | 6  | 8.33   |
| 25-29   | 65 | 90.28  |
| Other   | 1  | 1.39   |
| Total   | 72 | 100.00 |
|   |    |        |
| Labor status  | n  | %      |
| Employed, self-employed, enrolled in high school or university    | 3  | 4.17   |
| Other   | 69 | 95.83  |
| Total   | 72 | 100.00 |
| Income  |    |        |
| Less than or equal to the national minimum wage, i.e., EUR 740.25 | 70 | 97.22  |
| More than the national minimum wage, i.e., EUR 740.25             | 2  | 2.78   |
| Total   | 72 | 100.00 |
| Minority background   | n  | %      |
| People with disabilities  | 5  | 55.55  |
| Sexual minority   | 1  | 14.28  |
| Racial, ethnic, and linguistic minority                           | 2  | 15.89  |
| Religious minority group  | 1  | 14.28  |
| Total   | 9  | 100.00 |
|   |    |        |

## **Outcomes: evaluation of social inclusion**

Table 4 below shows the mean and median for pre- and post-observations, together with the related percentage change.

Table 4. Percentage change, pre/post mean and median for outcome variables

| Variables Mean         |       | Mean   | Mean %   | Median | Median | Median % |  |
|------------------------|-------|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--|
|                        | (Pre) | (Post) | change   | (Pre)  | (Post) | change   |  |
| Access to knowledge of | 3.88  | 4.89   | 26.03%   | 4.00   | 5.00   | 25.00%   |  |
| resources in the       |       |        | increase |        |        | increase |  |
| community              |       |        |          |        |        |          |  |
| Support from social    | 4.51  | 5.35   | 18.62%   | 4.63   | 5.50   | 18.79%   |  |
| networks               |       |        | increase |        |        | increase |  |

Regarding *access* to knowledge of resources in the community, a paired-samples t-test revealed that pre/post means of the variable were statistically significant, as shown in Table 5. This means that participants were more likely to know where to get the career development resources, they needed in their community after the interventions.

Table 5. T-test statistics table for the variable access to knowledge of resources in the community

|      | Paired Differences |                       |   |       |  | df | Signifi            | icance             |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-------|--|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mean | Std.<br>Deviation  | Std.<br>Error<br>Mean | 95% Confidence<br>Interval of the<br>Difference |       |  |    |                    |                    |
|      |                    |                       | Lower   | Upper |  |    | One-<br>Sided<br>p | Two-<br>Sided<br>p |

| Access to knowledge | -1.014 | 1.850 | .218 | -1.449 | 579 | -4.650 | 71 | <.001 | <.001 |
|---------------------|--------|-------|------|--------|-----|--------|----|-------|-------|
| of resources in the |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |
| community pre-test  |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |
| – Access to         |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |
| knowledge of        |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |
| resources in the    |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |
| community post-test |        |       |      |        |     |        |    |       |       |

Regarding *support* from social networks, a paired-samples t-test revealed that pre/post means of the variable were statistically significant, as shown in Table 6. This means that, after the interventions, participants felt they have been receiving more emotional, interpersonal, and material support than before joining the project StayOn.

Table 6. T-test statistics table for the variable support from social networks

|   | Paired Differences |                   |                       |             |   | t      | df | Signifi            | cance              |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|--------|----|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | Mean               | Std.<br>Deviation | Std.<br>Error<br>Mean | Interva     | 95% Confidence<br>Interval of the<br>Difference |        |    |                    |                    |
|   |                    |                   |                       | Lower Upper |   |        |    | One-<br>Sided<br>p | Two-<br>Sided<br>p |
| Social networks<br>support pre-test –<br>Social networks<br>support post-test | 83333              | 1.29599           | .15273                | -1.13787    | 52879   | -5.456 | 71 | <.001              | <.001              |

With respect to *participation* in markets, we analyzed data regarding income and employment status. The pre-and post-intervention proportions of individuals who were not in employment nor education (versus self/employed, student) and low-income earners (versus high) are shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Pre/post proportions for labor status and income

| Variables    |  | Pre-intervention |       |    |       |
|--------------|--|------------------|-------|----|-------|
| Labor status |  | n                | %     | n  | %     |
|              | Employed, self-employed, enrolled in high school or university | 3                | 4.17  | 7  | 9.72  |
|              | Other  | 69               | 95.83 | 62 | 86.11 |
| Income       |  | n                | %     | n  | %     |
|              | Less than or equal to the national minimum wage, i.e., EUR 663 | 70               | 97.22 | 70 | 97.22 |
|              | More than the national minimum wage, i.e., EUR 663             | 2                | 2.78  | 2  | 2.78  |

A McNemar's test determined that the differences in the proportion of employed, selfemployed, enrolled in high school or university and low-earners pre- and postintervention were not statistically significant, as reported in Table 8 and 9.

Table 8. McNemar test statistics for labor status<sup>a</sup>

|                         | Labor status pre & Labor status post |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| N                       | 72                                   |
| Exact Sig. (2 tailed)   | .344 <sup>b</sup>                    |
| a. McNemar Test         |                                      |
| b. Continuity Corrected |                                      |

Table 9. McNemar test statistics for labor status and income<sup>a</sup>

|                               | Income pre & Income post |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| N                             | 72                       |
| Exact Sig. (2 tailed)         | 1.000 <sup>b</sup>       |
| a. McNemar Test               |                          |
| b. Binomial distribution used |                          |

#### Impact: evaluation of social benefits to rural areas

Table 10 below shows the mean and median for pre- and post-observations, together with the related percentage change.

Table 10. Percentage change, pre/post mean and median for impact variables

| Variables              | Mean<br>(Pre) | Mean<br>(Post) | Mean % change | Median<br>(Pre) | Median<br>(Post) | Median % change |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Common good            | 4.79          | 5.01           | 4.59%         | 5.00            | 5.17             | 3.40%           |
|                        |               |                | increase      |                 |                  | increase        |
| Willingness to migrate | 3.05          | 2.98           | 2.34%         | 2.50            | 2.25             | 1.00%           |
|                        |               |                | decrease      |                 |                  | decrease        |

Regarding the variable *common good*, a paired-samples t-test revealed that pre/post means of the variable were not statistically significant, as shown in Table 11. This means that after the interventions, participants had not increased their contributions to the common good significantly by bringing more benefits to their community than before they joined the project StayOn.

Table 11. T-test statistics table for the variable common good

|   |       | Pa                | t                     | df  | Signif | icance |    |                 |                 |
|---|-------|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--------|--------|----|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | Mean  | Std.<br>Deviation | Std.<br>Error<br>Mean | 95% Confidence<br>Interval of the<br>Difference |        |        |    |                 |                 |
|   |       |                   |                       | Lower   | Upper  |        |    | One-<br>Sided p | Two-<br>Sided p |
| Common good pre-<br>test – Common<br>good post-test | 22000 | 1.12635           | .13274                | 48468   | 04468  | -1.657 | 71 | .051            | .102            |

Regarding participants' willingness to migrate, a paired-samples t-test revealed that pre/post means of the variable were not statistically significant, as shown in Table 12. This means that, after the interventions, participants were not less inclined to move elsewhere in the Azores or abroad for employment reasons.

Table 12. T-test statistics table for the variable willingness to migrate

|      | Pa                | aired Differe | t                                 | df | Significance |  |
|------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----|--------------|--|
| Mean | Std.<br>Deviation | Std.<br>Error | 95% Confidence<br>Interval of the |    |              |  |
|      |                   | Mean          | Difference                        |    |              |  |

|  |       |        |       | Lower | Upper |      |    | One-<br>Sided p | Two-<br>Sided p |
|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| Willingness to migrate pre-test – Willingness to | .0694 | 1.8372 | .2165 | 3623  | .5012 | .321 | 71 | .375            | .749            |
| migrate post-test                                |       |        |       |       |       |      |    |                 |                 |

# 5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This report leaves a positive overall impression on the work that CRESAÇOR and the participants in their interventions are doing in this first implementation phase. Regarding demographic variables, the participants' age and labor status align with the EEA & Norway Fund for Youth Employment's conditions and the specific objectives of the call for proposal. Additionally, the high share of female trainees and coachees (58.33%) gives evidence that the threshold required (50%) to assure the project's target values are met is far surpassed. The differences between post- and pre-intervention for the variables *access* to knowledge of resources in the community and *support* from social networks analyzed are statistically significant, while the differences between post- and pre-intervention for the variables *common good* and *willingness to migrate* analyzed are not statistically significant.

Regarding outcomes, this impact assessment evaluation reveals that young adults living in the Azores who have benefited from CRESAÇOR's training and/or coaching services from March to June 2022 were more likely to know where to get the career development resources they needed in their community after the interventions (+26.03 mean % change). Additionally, the data show they have been receiving more emotional, interpersonal, and material support than before joining the project StayOn (+18.62 mean % change). Overall, it can be deduced that participants have been experiencing more social inclusion. Results regarding *participation* in markets were not statistically significant suggesting that changes in labor status and income might need some more time to emerge.

Regarding impact, this report shows that participants have not increased their contributions to the common good by bringing more benefits to their community than before they joined the project StayOn nor were they less inclined to move elsewhere in the Azores or abroad for employment reasons since the results are not statistically significant. A representative from CRESAÇOR pointed out that the first finding is likely to be related to the low self-esteem of the participants, which requires more time to be developed. Regarding the variable *willingness to migrate*, we can see that the mean pre-intervention (3.05) is relatively low compared to the one in other countries where we conducted the same time of evaluation (Ireland 4.62, Greece 4.08, and Poland 4.73). The limited number of participants who want to migrate in the first place may be the source of the non-significant results, as the implementation-related difference cannot be particularly large.

The evaluation conducted has a few limitations. Firstly, the pre-test/post-test design impedes drawing rigorous causal inference between the project's activities and its results. Secondly, the lack of control groups also restricted the researchers' ability to control for other influential events. Although this type of design is often criticized for weakness in establishing a causal link between project activities and outcomes, the pre-

test/post-test design is the most useful in demonstrating the immediate impact of short-term interventions (Monsen, 2018). This design might prove less valid for long-term interventions because a higher amount of circumstances outside the project may arise and interfere with the effects of the project's activities over a more extended period of time. Finally, it would be helpful to collect and integrate qualitative data (such as interviews and focus groups) to validate and explore further the quantitative findings of this evaluation.

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# **APPENDIX**

5.

# Questionnaire

In the context of the StayOn project, we are conducting research on the effectiveness of our services. The survey should only take 5 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous. Thank you for agreeing to take part in it. We really appreciate your input!

|    | *Required   |
|----|---|
|    | Please, include the first 3 letters of your first and last name, and the day of birth (in English * ters) to allow for initial and final evaluations during the project. For example, the identifier for Mary nith born on 03.11.1995 would be MARSMI03. Thank you. |
|    | ease, rate each of the following statements on a rating scale of 1-7, where 1 is 'strongly disagree' d 7 is 'strongly agree'.   |
| 2. | I am aware where to get the career development resources I need in my community. *  |
|    | Mark only one oval.   |
|    | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7   |
|    | Strongly disagree Strongly agree  |
| 3. | I talk to others about ways to improve the community. *  Mark only one oval.  1 2 3 4 5 6 7   |
|    | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7  Strongly disagree Strongly agree   |
| 4. | I work with others in the community to make it a good place to live. *  Mark only one oval.  1 2 3 4 5 6 7  |
|    | Strongly disagree Strongly agree  |
|    | Strongly disagree Strongly agree  |

As a young person, I am contributing to the community's well-being. \*

| Mark   | only  | one  | oval |
|--------|-------|------|------|
| iviair | UIIIV | ULIC | Ovai |

| Strongly disagree  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         | Strongly agree                     |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------|------------------------------------|
|  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         |                                    |
| I work with ot   | her ped                    | ople like                | e me to       | help th     | e comm        | nunity u     | ndersta | and our needs. *                   |
| Mark only one  | oval.                      |                          |               |             |               |              |         |                                    |
|  | 1                          | 2                        | 3             | 4           | 5             | 6            | 7       |                                    |
| Strongly disagree  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         | Strongly agree                     |
| Varia in a sala  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         |                                    |
| Young people   | are im                     | portant                  | to this       | commu       | inity. "      |              |         |                                    |
| Mark only one  | oval.                      |                          |               |             |               |              |         |                                    |
|  | 1                          | 2                        | 3             | 4           | 5             | 6            | 7       |                                    |
| Strongly disagree  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         |                                    |
|  |                            |                          |               |             |               |              |         | Strongly agree                     |
| There are mai  |                            | gs I can                 | do to h       | elp othe    | ers in th     | ne comm      | nunity. |                                    |
| There are man  | oval.                      |                          |               |             |               |              |         | *                                  |
| There are man  Mark only one  Strongly disagree  ase, answer each of the strongly and 7 is 'extr | oval.  1  of the fo        | 2<br>Dllowing<br>ikely'. | 3<br>g questi | 4<br>ons on | 5<br>a rating | 6<br>scale o | 7<br>   | * Strongly agree where 1 is 'extre |
| There are man  Mark only one  Strongly disagree  ase, answer each of the strongly and 7 is 'extr | oval.  1  of the foemely l | 2<br>Dllowing<br>ikely'. | 3<br>g questi | 4<br>ons on | 5<br>a rating | 6<br>scale o | 7<br>   | *<br>Strongly agree                |

10. How likely is it that you will move abroad for employment reasons? \*

Mark only one oval.

|       | 1 2 0 1 0 7  |
|-------|--|
| Extre | emely unlikely Extremely likely  |
|       |  |
|       | answer each of the following questions on a rating scale of 1-7, where 1 is 'much I<br>d' and 7 is 'much more than expected'.      |
|       |  |
| 11.   | How much advice did you receive in the last month? (e.g., professionals, family, friends, * religious leaders, other groups, etc.) |
|       | railing, menus, religious leauers, other groups, etc.)   |
|       | Mark only one oval.  |
|       |  |
| Muc   | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 h less than Much more than   |
| expe  | ected expected   |
|       |  |
| 12.   | How much companionship from other persons did you receive in the last  |
| 12.   | month? (e.g., * professionals, family, friends, religious leaders, other   |
|       | groups, etc.)  |
|       |  |
|       | Mark only one oval.  |

13. How much material support did you receive in the last month? (e.g., professionals, family, \* friends, religious leaders, other groups, etc.)

Mark only one oval.

Much less than expected

|                | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |                |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| Much less than |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | Much more than |
| expected       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | expected       |

| 14.   | How satisfied are you with the support received? *   |
|-------|--|
|       | Mark only one oval.  |
|       | uch less than expected Much more than expected   |
| Pleas | se answer the following questions:   |
| 15.   | Which of the following categories best describes your employment status? *                                       |
|       | Mark only one oval.  Employed, self-employed, enrolled in high-school or university  Other                       |
| 16.   | What was your income last month?  Mark only one oval.  Less than or equal to € 740.25  More than € 740.25        |
| 17.   | How old are you? *   |
| 18.   | To which gender identity do you most identify? *  Mark only one oval.  |
|       | Male Female Other  |
| 19.   | Do you belong to or identify with any of these minority groups?  Tick all that apply.                            |
|       | Racial, ethnical and linguistic minority group Religious minority Sexual minority group People with disabilities |

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