



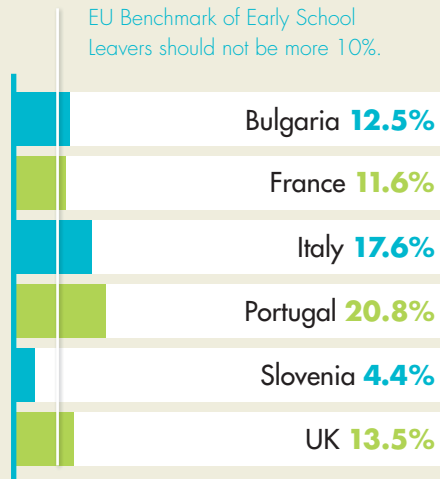
*Re-engaging young  
people in education  
through volunteering*

# The Project

## Background: building a better future for young people in Europe

The SAS project is part of a much wider European Union framework to ensure young people's future and economic success. At the 2000 European Council in Lisbon, the Union defined young people's non-participation in education as the number of 18 to 24 years old youngsters with only lower-secondary level education who are not in further education and training. Reducing early school leavers (ESL) to less than 10% by 2020 is a target for achieving a number of key objectives in the Europe 2020 strategy. Amongst the countries collaborating in the project there is great variation.

The recent economic crisis has worsen these issues and has motivated people to find different solutions to meet the needs and aspirations of our young people who have found traditional schooling challenging and unrewarding.



Source: Eurostat (2012)

## Overview

The Success At School (SAS) is a 2 year project (December 2012 – November 2014) which aims to address young people (ages 14-19) who have left or are at risk of leaving school to keep being engaged with education. The project will do this by using volunteering as an approach to engage young people and provide them with skills and competences useful to their education.

Through volunteering and a focused mentoring process, the SAS project aims to bring together voluntary associations, youth groups, schools, teachers, mentors, and above all young people to apply their knowledge, skills and aspirations in developing innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to address disengagement and non-participation in education.



## Why Volunteering?

Volunteering is part of non-formal and informal learning supported by the Copenhagen process. Volunteering involves helping other people or worthy causes by offering unpaid time. Being involved in volunteering rewards the volunteer by:

- Teaching new skills
- Developing competences through direct and practical activities
- Increasing one's confidence
- Building social networks



## Volunteering: The SAS approach

The project proposes to achieve this by using a combined approach including:

- 1. An innovative pedagogical approach:** Volunteering, offers professionals and young people the opportunity to develop and experiment new teaching practices while simultaneously enabling ongoing collaboration with traditional schooling objectives and learning outcomes
- 2. A mentoring programme:** The project acknowledges and values the role mentors play in supporting young people who find traditional education challenging. The mentoring programme aims to support young people and adults to build links between the volunteering activities developed by the associations and the skills and competences required to be successful within education.

# Who are the Partners?



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