



Officina Educazione Futuri 2022

Description of the practice/project related to the topic "Spaces of inclusion and democracy" you are sharing with the community of Officine

Name of the people /person involved	Elena Locatelli, UNICEF Education in Emergency Specialist Sophia Benassila, UNICEF Skills Building Programme Consultant
Affiliation	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO), out-posted office in Italy
Title and practice/project short description (max 1000 characters)	<p>UPSHIFT</p> <p>UPSHIFT is UNICEF's programme for 21st century skills building, school-to-work transition and social inclusion of adolescents and young people, including students with Italian and migration background, unaccompanied minors, young migrants and refugees. Piloted in 40 countries, UPSHIFT is part of the World Bank's Solutions for Youth Employment Impact Portfolio. Launched in Italy in 2018 in partnership with Junior Achievement Italia, it is active in Latium, Lombardy and Sicily. By combining social innovation paths, training and mentoring by young volunteers from the private sector, universities and business start-ups, UPSHIFT provides young people with the key-competencies needed to identify local problems and create innovative solutions with social impact. Since 2020, UPSHIFT is part of the models piloted in the framework of the Child Guarantee, the European Commission's initiative aimed at combating child poverty and social exclusion.</p>
Notes on didactical /methodological innovation introduced (max 1000 characters)	<p>UPSHIFT is implemented in the formal education system (lower and upper secondary schools and catch-up schools) and in non-formal education contexts (including reception facilities for unaccompanied minors, young migrants and refugees). It is based on the learning-by-doing approach social innovation and design thinking methods. Through workshop activities and teamwork, students are supported by expert trainers and mentors in the analysis of concrete social challenges and in the creation of innovative solutions in the form of products or services with a social impact. Students enhance 21st century skills such as: spirit of initiative, creativity, negotiation, teamwork, decision making and problem solving. By building a fertile ecosystem made up of teachers, trainers from the third sector, volunteer</p>

	mentors from the private sector and the university, UPSHIFT has an impact on the wider community and facilitates the intercultural exchange and the active participation of young people in their local contexts.
Key words (max 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21st century skills - School-to-work transition - Social inclusion - Disadvantaged adolescents
Short biography of the people /person involved (max 900 characters)	<p>Elena Locatelli</p> <p>Strong of 25 years of professional experience in the Education sector, Elena Locatelli is the Education in Emergency Specialist for UNICEF – Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in Italy. Always passionate about education, she truly believes that the development of a country passes through the opportunities given to the youngest generation to discover, know, and learn. After working for 9 years in NGOs, she yearned to be able to influence governments on Education Policy and decided to join UNICEF in 2009. Prior to Italy, Elena served as chief Education in Mali for 3 and a half years and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for 7 years as Education Specialist.</p> <p>Sophia Benassila</p> <p>Firm believer in the power of education and empowerment of young people for global positive change, Sophia Benassila is a Skills Building Programme Consultant for UNICEF – Europe and Central Asia Regional Office in Italy. After a master’s degree in International Cooperation, she followed her interest in migration studies and children’s rights. She worked in this field within NGOs and the Ministry of Interior, then joining UNICEF in 2019, where she now deals with skills building programmes for children and youth in disadvantaged situations.</p>