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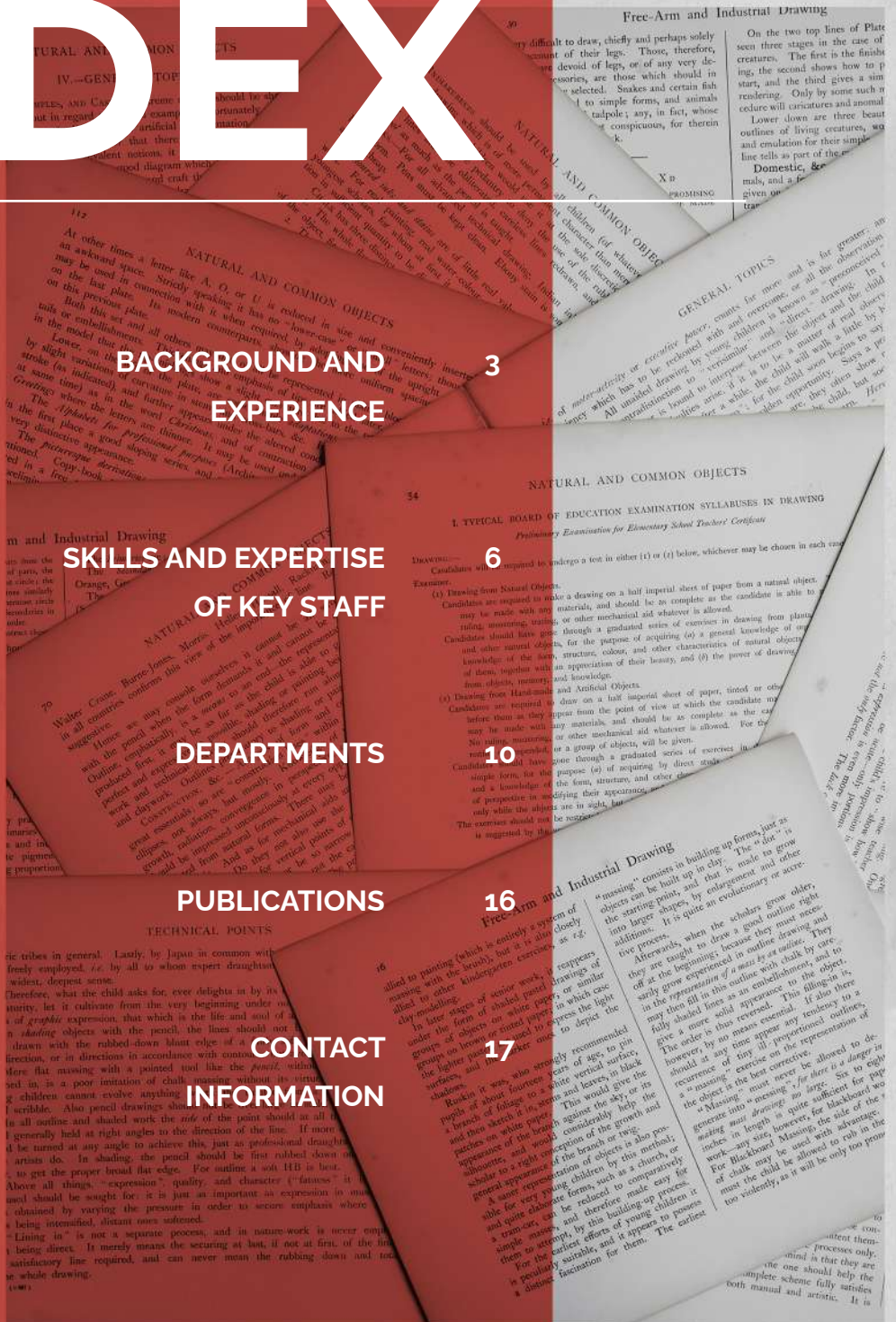
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BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

BACKSLASH is a non-governmental organization established in 2014 in Valencia, Spain, which aims at empowering youth and the promotion of social inclusion through assisting people in acquiring knowledge and developing their skills and competencies.

The mission of BACKSLASH is to foster and support the sustainable development of local communities and individuals' empowerment through education and training, human rights, democratic values, and international cooperation. For this, the organization is divided into the following departments and its key topics:



Entrepreneurship, on youth entrepreneurship, career orientation, mentoring and active youth participation.



Social Rights, on social inclusion, gender equality, European citizenship, youth and children's rights and migrant and refugees.



Culture, on contemporary culture, cultural democratization, cultural heritage, artistic expression and promotion of young artists



Environment, on environment protection, sustainability, climate, circular economy and environmental education.



Communication and IT, a transversal department on dissemination of project results, collaboration with relevant stakeholders and the creation of digital solutions (mobile apps, e-learning platforms, videos, etc).



Through its departments, BACKSLASH participated in projects under the following EU Programmes:

■ **Erasmus+**, in 20+ KA220 and 150+ KA1 projects in different sectors

■ **REC (Rights, Equality and Citizenship)**, with a project on combating online gender-based violence at schools.

■ **Europe for Citizens**, working on Network of European cities and active civic society projects.

■ **Creative Europe**, creating a new business model for the contemporary culture sector, to make it more accessible to youth and young creators

■ **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs**, being accredited as Host Entrepreneurs (HE) and hosting New Entrepreneurs (NE) from other countries, to mentor them in opening their businesses.

■ **European Solidarity Corps**, together with the former EVS, sending 20+ volunteers per year to collaborate with institutions all over Europe.

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE OF KEY STAFF



Our interdisciplinary staff are oriented both to their specialities and to managing and coordinating EU-funded projects. They are all certified youth workers with broad experience working in the youth field from different sectors, as NGO's, public and private sectors.



GILBERTO MARTINEZ
DIRECTOR OF BACKSLASH

He is a political scientist with 12 years of experience as a **European project manager** gathered in different kinds of organizations (coordinating the EU proposals in public administrations, NGOs and private companies) and working on different EU-funded Programmes (Horizon 2020, LIFE, Europe for Citizens, Creative Europe, JPI Urban Europe). He is also a **certified youth worker** with experience in the youth sector and youth policy modelling, contributing to the development of the youth legislation of the wider region of Valencia (Spain) through his participation as a member of the Regional Youth Council board. He also holds the **PRINCE2®** certificate for effective project management and is **SCRUM Master**, following the agile principles of project management. Since 2013, Gilberto Martínez has been a member of the **Pool of Trainers** of the Spanish National Agency, and participates as an external expert in different organizations.

His main fields of expertise are entrepreneurship, career orientation, IT tools, youth participation, youth policy, intercultural dialogue and working with youth with fewer opportunities.



CRISTINA MARTINEZ
PROJECT COORDINATOR

This position is backed by 7 years of experience coordinating projects on **youth and child** participation in the field of non-formal education. She was the president of the **Regional Federation of Youth Centres of Valencia** for 2 years, president of the Local Youth Council of Quart de Poblet and, since 2021, she is the current president of the **Valencian Youth Council**. The Youth Council represents all the young population in the Valencian Region, defending youth rights and associationism as a tool of empowerment and social development. Her main fields of expertise are **environmental issues** (being this her educational background) and **youth participation**.

Her journey in non-formal education also includes being an active trainer in the **Esplais Valencians** network for 4 years and working as a trainer in several non-formal education training centres. Furthermore, Cristina has carried on various projects as a trainer following **innovative methodologies** such as the "service-learning methodology". Her aim is to learn and train on **how the youth can empower themselves and make a better world**, becoming not only the future but also the present of society.



MONTSE LLINARES

PROJECT MANAGER

She started working in the youth field at the **Valencian Youth Council** in 2018, right after graduating in **Social and Cultural Management**. This diploma officially acknowledges Montse as a **youth worker and expert in civic participation**. Since then, she has participated in different ways within the council, among them as a **trainer** and **European project coordinator**, such as an Erasmus+ KA3 project focusing on simulating the dynamics of the Regional Parliament through role-playing and policy debate (Valencian Youth Parliament). She has also been a youth worker in the local youth council of Carcaixent where, among other functions, she developed projects to improve the quality of life of young people in Carcaixent.

Also, in the professional field, she graduated in **caregiving for people in situations of dependency** and has experience facilitating groups of **children and young people with disabilities**. She has also worked as a **music teacher** for children with disabilities in one of the cultural associations in which she participates.

Her aim is to promote change among young people, giving them a voice to fight for their rights and to achieve a fairer future for the next generations.



JOAN QUIXAL
PROJECT MANAGER

He is an educator with a background in youth work, having started his career in 2016 as a trainer and coordinator in a scout group. To further his expertise in formal and non-formal education, he completed the official qualification of Leisure Time Monitor, enabling him to engage with children and youth. Additionally, he holds a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Valencia and a Master's in E-Learning from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

During his academic journey, he was selected for an Erasmus+ grant and spent a semester at the University of South-Eastern Norway. This experience, known as "Friluftsliv" (outdoor learning), provided him with insights into youth participation and the significance of nature in European contexts.

In the professional realm, he actively participated in the European mobility project Adelante 2.0, where he acquired proficiency in the German language and worked at a German early school for almost two years.



MARIA CRUZ
PROJECT MANAGER

Maria, with an academic background in chemistry and a Master's degree in teaching, has found her calling in the social sphere. She transitioned from the laboratory to teaching, and then discovered a passion for volunteering and youth participation in her Valencia neighbourhood. Her journey began in 2019 with the conFusión festival, an art and expression event, where she explored cooperation, teamwork, and horizontal organization. Inspired, she joined the EnTàndem project, a social mentoring program for at-risk youth. This led her to the Mentor Up project, exposing her to European projects and non-formal education.

As a youth worker, Maria dedicated six months of her life to a European Solidarity Corps (ESC) project in Hungary. There, she worked closely with disadvantaged young people, fostering skills like cooperation, respect, and teamwork in summer camps, youth centres, and schools.

Maria's ultimate goal is to revolutionize education, promoting equal opportunities and non-formal learning. She envisions a shift away from traditional structures, encouraging active participation and valuing individual skills. Her aim is to build a vibrant and inclusive community through education.



DEPARTMENTS



ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT

The **Entrepreneurship Department** of Backslash works on projects and activities related to these topics:

- **Youth Entrepreneurship**
- **Career Orientation**
- **Mentoring**
- **Active youth participation**

During these years, we developed methodologies to promote entrepreneurship among youth and in collectives at risk of exclusion. Our collaboration with public authorities ensures the reach of our projects and the implementation of the materials created.

To promote the economic growth of the Region, we have **cooperation agreements** with the University of Valencia in order to mentor their students through internships in the organization. Furthermore, Backslash is an accredited hosting organization for the **Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs'** EU Programme, where we help new entrepreneurs plan and grow their businesses through **mentoring**.

As entrepreneurship is not only economic growth, we also promote the active participation of youth as a process of empowerment, expression and inclusion in the society.

The department has also a lot of experience in the use of **IT tools applied to entrepreneurship**, creating online learning courses (**VOCESS learning course**) and coordinating the creation of mobile applications (**VOCESS Career Orientation App**).



SOCIAL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

The Social Rights Department of Backslash works on projects and activities related to these topics:

- **Social Inclusion**, creating and publishing methodologies to facilitate the inclusion of collectives at risk of exclusion and their employability.
- **Gender Equality**, through training sessions, interventions in high schools, conducting research and the development of methodologies.
- **European Citizenship**, building networks of towns and spreading the work of the European Institutions.
- **Youth and Children's Rights**, developing a Child Protection Policy and through intervention in schools against hate speech and bullying.
- **Youth and Children's participation and empowerment**, promoting their access to participation through training and non-formal methods.
- **Digital Rights**, giving workshops on how NGOs can comply with the GDPR regulations.
- **Migrants and Refugees**, raising awareness and through training sessions.



CULTURE DEPARTMENT

The **Culture Department** of Backslash deals with projects and activities related to these topics:

- **Cultural Democratization**
- **Cultural Heritage Preservation**
- **Artistic Expression and promotion of young creators**
- **Contemporary Culture**

The **"BITE of Art"** project, supported by the **Creative Europe programme** of the EU, was ranked as **the best project at European level for its call**. It consists on the creation of an **innovative business model** in contemporary art, called BITE, which will ensure financial sustainability of the cultural operators in the field by using new management and marketing skills and tools in **attracting new young audience**.

We organized a **Call for Young Artists** to support the best unknown creators to develop their own pieces of art related to **European values**, assigning to them a mentor who will contribute to their learning.

The team is directed by a cultural manager certified in **intercultural mediation** and in **coaching**, with experience in the cultural sector. Among our stakeholders, we count with the **Regional Network of Museums of Valencia** and other international organizations.



ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

In 2016, Backslash opened its environmental department, following the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDG) of the United Nations. Through the environmental department, Backslash wants to make **every activity more sustainable**, aligning itself with principles such as **recycling, reducing, reusing**, protecting the nature, among others.

We believe in environmental values as something that should be **transversal** to all other topics because it is the key to continue keeping the world as we know it. The importance of **raising awareness** and sharing knowledge about the environment, as well as **understanding** the role we humans play in its equilibrium, are essential to be able to build a green horizon and a committed citizenship.

International projects build bridges among different realities and bring European environmental policies closer to the reality of young people, guaranteeing their assimilation of the **principles of sustainability** and environmentalism for their daily lives and for their future.

The team is composed by people coming from the field of environmental sciences, and works on the following topics:

- **Environment Protection**
- **Climate**
- **Sustainability**
- **Circular Economy**
- **Environmental education**



COMMUNICATION AND IT DEPARTMENT

Backslash strongly believes in **digitalization** and the **use of IT tools in the field of non-formal education** and its projects. To answer this need, a specialised communication and IT department was created in 2019.

Backslash has experience contributing to projects in the following areas:

- **Logo design**, identity and creation of the project's website, as in [this example](#).
- **Mobile APPs** as project results, like [this one](#) created on a career orientation project.
- **Creation of e-learning platforms**, like [this one](#) and [this one](#).
- **Creation of video animations**. Very visual and impactful tool to disseminate the projects, such as the [Climate Youths project!](#)
- **Dissemination and multiplication of results**, through:

• **Constant collaboration with relevant organizations**, such as 30+ Spanish municipalities, Regional Governments, Youth Councils, European networks and Universities, being very helpful to test and implement the project results and for dissemination purposes.

• Experience organising large **multiplier events** with 150+ participants.

• **Aprovecha Europa**, a leading Spanish platform in the dissemination of Erasmus+ projects for Spaniards with 4300+ followers in social networks

PUBLICATIONS

2021

BITE of Art, Contemporary Art Business Model

2021

Entrepreneurship training and evaluation Methodology

2021

Education for Gender Equality - Handbook for teachers and educators,

2020

Innovative methodology for Career Orientation and Career Education - **ASIN: B087NR93T3**

2020

Career orientation for youth – VOCESS Methodology: **ASIN: B087NR93T3**

2019

Metodología de evaluación para identificar jóvenes en riesgo de exclusión: **ISBN 978- 619-7534-09-2**

2019

Metodología de formación en emprendimiento juvenil: **ISBN 978- 619-7534-00-9**

2019

Evaluation methodology to identify youth at risk of exclusion: **ISBN 978- 619-7534-08-5**

2019

Training methodology for youth entrepreneurship: **ISBN 978- 619-7534-00-5**

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