SITUATION
In the world today there are now 1.2 billion young people aged between 15 and 24. Of these, 550 million, that is nearly half, suffer from malnutrition, illness and violence. It is calculated that in 2025, 1 billion Young People will be living below the poverty line of $US1.90 per day.

THE LP4Y PROJECT
In response to this desperate situation, a group of friends, entrepreneurs and young people in Europe and the US decided to create Life Project 4 Youth, an organization 100% dedicated to the integration of Young Adults living in extreme poverty and exclusion. The challenge was to set up “Life Project Centers” near slum areas. By means of entrepreneurial projects operated from these LPCs, LP4Y would accompany the Young Adults towards social and professional inclusion.

WHO ARE THESE YOUNG ADULTS?
LP4Y has chosen to accompany Young Adults living in extreme poverty (less than $US1.90 per day) who are victims of exclusion (disabled, orphans, victims of domestic violence, prisoners or ex-prisoners, young unmarried mothers, migrants …). The most important criteria for acceptance to an LP4Y program are demonstration of serious commitment and motivation on the part of the Young Adult.

PROPOSAL
Once a Young Adult has been accepted by the coach, he or she will be invited to join a team of 15 others (+2 to 6 Entrepreneurs), working together on a micro-economic activity (generally referred to as a program). By means of the micro-economic activities developed by each LPC, combined with a specially adapted pedagogy, the Young Adults work as a team on the creation, development and management of a business. This apprenticeship, called “Professional Training for Entrepreneurs” (PTE), gives them the keys to managing their own lives and escaping exclusion to achieve a decent existence (employment, accommodation, good health and nutrition, education).

THE PTE
The “Professional Training for Entrepreneurs” is a pedagogical journey lasting 18 months on average, 5 days a week, 8 hours a day and is structured around 3 pillars:

- WORK (2 and a half days per week): creation, development and management of a micro economic activity.
- LEARN (1 and a half days per week): English, IT, communication training and catch up education.
- GUIDE (1 day per week): coaching to further their personal skills and build their Life Project Plan.

The PTE is broken into 4 successive stages of about 4 months each: Autonomy, Responsibility, Management (all of which take place in the LPC), and Entrepreneurship, which is an internship or first job.
THE LIFE PROJECT MONEY

Following the initial Discovery Week each Young Adult receives a weekly allowance, the Life Project Money (LPM) sufficient to supply the basic needs of food, hygiene, clothing, accommodation and health, and to contribute to the financial security of their biological or adopted family. It also allows them to start saving for the development of their future Life Project. The amount of the allowance increases as they complete successive levels of the PTE. At its lowest it is equivalent to twice the poverty level of $US1.90 per day. It is always below the minimum local wage so as not to discourage the Young Adults from seeking work. The Young Adults are assisted with the management of their savings by the coach at the LPC.

A LIFE PROJECT PLAN

Before they join LP4Y the Young Adults are accustomed to just surviving day to day, trying to fulfill their most basic needs. Once they join a team and participate in the Discovery Week they are asked to look ahead, to image a future, and to voice their dreams and ambitions. This is a challenge, which becomes easier as they progress through the Life Project Book, a file designed to guide them through the development of a personal project by means of alternate individual work sessions and group meetings.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Each team of 15 Young Adults (+2 to 6 Entrepreneurs) is accompanied by a coach-coordinator, an LP4Y volunteer on a 1–2 year mission. In addition, volunteer professionals work with the Young Adults to help them develop their skills according to their specific needs. It is central to the LP4Y philosophy that the Young Adults have only affirmative experiences. While the accommodation is by necessity demanding, all communication must be 100% positive. Team spirit is actively encouraged.

RESULTS 2009-2015

998 Youth accompanied
31 programs
17 Life Project Centers
352 Youth integrated in professional world
12 organizations worldwide
9 countries
67 Professionnels in the field (end of march 2017)

9 - 18 months after joining the program:
-85% are entrepreneurs of their Life Project
-80% have found decent employment
-15% leave the PTE before completing the program, but more than half of those ask to come back within 6 months

KEY DATES

July 4th, 2009 - LP4Y is founded in France and Belgium
Dec 2009 - The first Life Project Center opens in Manila
2011 - 5th LPC in the Philippines opens
Launch of the Action Tank “Youth 4 Change”
Development of “Portraits”: a book + an exhibition + a web TV
2013 – LP4Y expands to Indonesia and Vietnam
Publication of the 3rd study on Youth exclusion worldwide
2015 - LP4Y programs kick off in India (New Delhi and Kolkata) in partnership with Tomorrow’s Foundation
2016 - Youth Inclusion Network launched in the Philippines
Youth 4 Change Network is launched
Publication of “Marqués à vie, sortir de l’exclusion” ("Marked for Life; Escaping Exclusion”) by Lucie Taurines

LP4Y ALLIANCE : PHILIPPINES - INDONESIA - INDIA - VIETNAM - USA - FRANCE - BELGIUM – Luxembourg - UK


LP4Y is member of Youth 4 Change Network - www.y4cn.org
The LP4Y Alliance is an international movement of autonomous local humanitarian organizations which oversee the LP4Y project in 9 countries (US, Luxembourg, Belgium, Philippines, Vietnam, India, France, UK and Indonesia) and conduct the 3 following missions:

1. Advocate the cause of the very excluded Youth in these 9 countries
3. Train the trainers for Youth integration

The Alliance is LP4Y’s guiding arm, directing, arbitrating and authorizing the foundation of new LP4Y organizations. The Alliance is managed by a Board made up of the presidents, vice-presidents of the LP4Y organizations, and the co-founders.

STATUS OF THE LP4Y ORGANIZATIONS

In each of the countries where LP4Y has a presence, the LP4Y organization is created as a not for profit organization according to local law and registered with the local administration. Depending on local legislation the LP4Y organizations are either Not for Profit Associations (France, Belgium, Luxembourg), Foundations (USA, The Philippines), International NGO (Vietnam), or under the umbrella of a local Foundation (Tomorrow’s Foundation in India, Indonesia). Each LP4Y organization is managed by a volunteer board: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer. The LP4Y organizations ensure that donors benefit from the local tax incentives applicable in the US, France, Belgium and Luxembourg. Certification is in process in the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam.

THE PERMANENT TEAM

Professional volunteering is one of LP4Y’s founding principles. Since LP4Y’s creation in 2009 the permanent team has been entirely made up of professional volunteers who take on missions of 1, 2, 3 years or more. The volunteers’ contracts are typically VSI (International Solidarity Volunteers through the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Service Civique, also through some major college internships. The permanent team receives free accommodation, reimbursement of mission expenses, and a monthly allowance (€200/m for a 1 year mission, €240/m for a 2 year mission, €600/m for missions of 3 years or more). LP4Y has no paid employees. On March 31st 2017, LP4Y counted:

THE STARS CLUBS

The STARS Clubs are clubs for Young Adults who have already completed an LP4Y program and who wish to give back to their community by helping other excluded Young Adults to achieve inclusion. These clubs are autonomous organizations which offer services to the LPC coaches. The STARS Club’s managing committee is elected by the club’s members.

BUDGET

Total expenditure for 2016 was € 850 000 (for 998 Young Adults supported).
- 398 Young Adults following the PTE in Life Project Centers;
- 188 Young Adults already at Entrepreneur level, already in the process of acquiring decent work;
- 352 “STARS” who are already integrated.

8% of the budget is covered by the micro-economic activities and by local partners, while 92% is covered by donations from companies, private foundations and individuals.

Program costs account for 93% of all expenditure. Administrative and communication costs account for just 7%.

The global budget for LP4Y in 2017 is €1,2 million. The budget of the development plan is 700 000€ for 2017 and 2018.