

Story 5

Name: Vasiliki Christidi

Age: 26

"Greece had been so badly affected by the economic crisis that jobs were limited," she explains. "Also employers required you to have years of work experience – which is impossible when you can't get your first job."

Vasiliki's experience isn't unique, but she refused to let it stop her. After learning that she qualified for the Youth Guarantee scheme, she decided to take advantage of the opportunities the scheme offered.

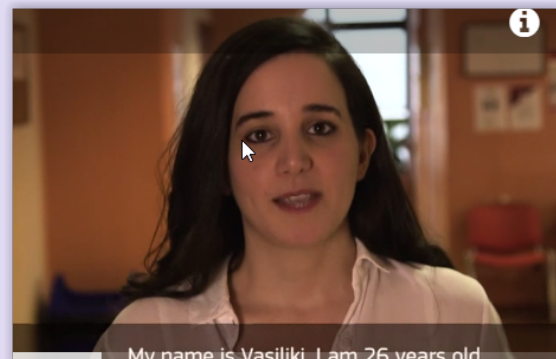
"I took part in the training voucher programme for access to the labour market for persons not in education, employment or training (NEETs) aged 18-24. The voucher combined a blend of theoretical learning and on-the-job training."

Her traineeship took place at TALIS Company, which specialises in human resources. The experience benefited her both professionally and personally, as Vasiliki describes. "I gained so much knowledge and it really improved my self-esteem. I was able to put what I learned during my studies into practice. I became more practical and more organised."

Vasiliki is now employed at MASTER, a vocational education and training provider that offered her a job one month after she'd completed her traineeship. As an Assistant Project Manager, she works on EU-funded projects that match unemployed young people with jobs – an area where her own experience is a real asset. "Having been in their position, I'm aware of young people's concerns and expectations. I want to consult with them, encourage them and help them to stay positive."

"As both a person and an employee, it's really satisfying when I can help them," she concludes. "It's a personal goal and it makes me really happy."

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1176&newsId=2632&furtherNews=yes>



Give a short account of the story



What pull or push factors are involved?



What are your feelings?