

INCLUSIVE EVOLUTION 2024



ACTIVITY REPORT DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY



INEVO
2024



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.





Content

Introduction.....	2
About partners.....	3
Obiectives and results.....	5
Timetable for Workshop and Awareness Campaign.....	6
Democratic Society Workshop.....	7
Activities.....	7
Online Meeting.....	11
Awareness Campaign.....	12
Conclusion.....	13



Introduction

Over the years we have carried out numerous issue tree analyzes to identify and address the complex challenges facing young and marginalized young people in our communities and across the European network. Through these analyzes, we obtained valuable information about the common needs and barriers encountered by our main target groups. Marginalized youth often face discrimination and barriers to social integration, which prevent them from accessing opportunities and participating fully in society. Recognizing the importance of addressing these challenges, our organization has prioritized initiatives aimed at empowering youth and marginalized youth through non-formal learning experiences.

Our analyzes have frequently shown that groups of young people and marginalized young people do not participate enough in political activities, which makes them feel excluded and powerless. This goes against democratic principles and perpetuates inequality. In addition, people with visual impairments still face difficulties in voting. Fixing these issues is essential to ensure a fair democratic process where every person has a voice. Young people are also underrepresented in democratic processes across Europe, underscoring the need for increased engagement and inclusion efforts.

Furthermore, our findings revealed gaps in communication skills and awareness of social and political issues among young and marginalized youth. Effective communication is a fundamental skill for civic participation and advocacy, but many individuals lack the training and resources to effectively express their perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogue. Youth workers also require specialized training to support and include marginalized young people, equipping them with the skills to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Recognizing the interconnected nature of these challenges, our organization emphasized the importance of building local and international partnerships to comprehensively address the needs of marginalized youth. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, we can develop more inclusive youth policies and initiatives that resonate across our European network.

The Democratic Society Workshop and Awareness Campaign is an initiative within the Inclusive Evolution 2024 project, which aims to address the immediate need to promote democratic engagement and civic responsibility among young and marginalized youth in Europe. The methodology describes the comprehensive approach that was used to conduct the workshop and subsequent awareness campaign in three partner countries: Babilon Travel Association in Romania, Eesti People to People in Estonia and MYARTIST in Greece.

The implementation of these workshops was crucial to educate and empower young people, giving them the necessary tools to participate actively and responsibly in democratic society. Thus, we have contributed to reducing inequalities and creating a more inclusive and fair society.



About partners

Asociația Babilon Travel

Association Babilon Travel (ABT) is dedicated to promoting social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and adaptive sports and outdoor activities for young people, including those with special needs or fewer opportunities. Through training programs for youth workers, educators and volunteers, ABT equips individuals to engage marginalized youth in various activities, including sports, educational programs and international exchanges. In particular, ABT provides accessibility support for the visually impaired through adapted tourist routes and Braille guides. Since 2016, ABT has also worked on social inclusion programs for immigrants in local communities.

Acting as a coordinating organization for local and international projects, ABT facilitates youth exchanges, trainings and events focused on non-formal education, inclusion, entrepreneurship and intercultural learning.

Supported by strategic partners such as City Hall, schools for the visually and hearing impaired and various organisations, ABT's staff of youth workers, trainers, teachers and volunteers have extensive experience in youth engagement, sports training, language competence, design web and project management. They are committed to prepare participants for international activities and effectively promote project results.

EESTI People for people

Eesti People to People is a non-profit organization registered in 1997 and with activities since 1993 as a chapter of the NGO People to People International (PTPI).

The purpose of People to People International (PTPI) aims to increase international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities that involve the exchange of ideas and experiences directly between peoples of different countries and diverse cultures. PTPI is committed to improving intercultural communication within each community and between communities and nations. Tolerance and mutual understanding are central themes. While a non-governmental organization, PTPI supports the core values and goals of its founder, President Dwight D. Eisenhower. PTPI is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

There are PTPI chapters in more than 50 countries around the world. Two of them are in Estonia - in Tallinn and Viljandi, with more than 20 members and 100 volunteers. There are currently three members on the board of Eesti People to People.



About partners

MYARTIST

MYARTIST is a social cooperative, founded in 2018, specialized in the provision of services of general interest or in the reintegration, through work/coaching/counseling and mentoring services, of disadvantaged and marginalized artists (disabled, long-term unemployed, ex-prisoners, addicts, etc.).

MYARTIST offers management, coaching, mentoring and advisory services to artists, while inviting companies to "adopt" an artist and take on running costs (to create a painting, a sculpture, to organize a photography exhibition), etc.). MYARTIST brings creative talents in contact with companies of excellence.

From the synergy between the company and the artist is born an unprecedented art collection, an exceptional and innovative testimony of an entrepreneurial artist identity.



Objectives and Results

Objectives:

- Educating participants about European citizenship, the role of the EU Parliament and human rights, with a focus on the right to vote.
- Increasing participants' understanding of youth participation in democratic processes and the significance of the European Youth Year.
- Equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to engage in informed discussions and initiatives on democratic issues.
- Empowering participants to become ambassadors of democratic engagement in their communities.
- Promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange between participants and partner organizations.

Results:

- Increasing awareness and understanding of democratic principles and European citizenship among participants.
- Increasing participants' confidence and motivation to actively engage in democratic processes.
- Initiating meaningful discussions and initiatives in communities on democratic participation and civic responsibility.



Timetable for Workshop and Awareness Campaign

009:00 - 09:15 - Registration of participants and Welcome

09:15 - 09:30 - Presentation of Babilon Travel NGO

09:30 - 10:00 - Logistics: How the activities will be carried out

10:00 - 10:45 - Presentation of the Democratic Society activity

10:45 - 11:00 - Coffee break

11:00 - 11:30 - Activity I: "What does today's society mean to you?"

11:30 - 12:00 - Introduction to the topic of democracy

12:00 - 12:30 - Interactive quiz on democracy (using the Quizzes platform)

12:30 - 13:00 - Practical workshop: Working in groups on case studies

13:00 - 14:00 - Online meeting with participants from Romania, Estonia and Greece

14:00 - 15:00 - Lunch break

15:15 - 16:45 - Awareness campaign in the center of Cluj

16:45 - 17:00 - Conclusions and reflections on the day



Democratic Society Workshop

Participants:

36 participants from different schools and universities in Cluj-Napoca (e.g. Special Technological High School for the Hearing Impaired, Samus Special High School Cluj-Napoca, Emanuel High School, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca) including young teachers and educators, and other people, aged between 18-30 years.

Location:

Department for Teaching Staff Training, Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Date:

25.05.2024

Activities

1. Welcome

The event started with a welcome session, during which the participants were welcomed by the organizers. This included a brief introduction of the purpose of the workshop and its importance in promoting democratic values.





2. Presentation of the Babilon Travel NGO

Representatives from Babilon Travel NGO gave a detailed presentation of the organization, emphasizing their previous projects and how they contributed to youth development and democratic education. The presentation included examples of success and highlighted opportunities for collaboration for the future.

3. Logistics

The coordinators explained how the activities of the workshop and the awareness campaign were carried out. The detailed schedule, required resources and objectives of each session were discussed.

4. Presentation of Democratic Society activity

The importance of homework today

Elections and civic participation

Issues facing young people and encouraging them to get involved and defend their democratic rights

5. Activity I: The vision of society

The question for the participants: What does today's society mean to you? How do you see today's society?

Participants were invited to choose a Dixit book (complex illustrations) that best describes their vision of today's society. Those who wanted had the chance to explain the choices made and discussed their perspectives. At the end of the activity, the participants were invited to a debriefing.

Debriefing questions:

Was it difficult to choose a book? Why or why not?

Identifying common themes in participants' choices and explanations (technology, social change, inequality, etc.).

Aspects of society that influenced the view of the participants.

Learning from the perspectives of other participants.





6. Activity II: Introduction to the topic

Using Jamboard, participants discussed what democracy meant to them. The complexity and diversity of today's society and the importance of everyone's participation in the democratic process were emphasized.



7. Activity III: Quiz



The participants were divided into groups and took part in a quiz on the topic of democracy, using the Quizzes platform. After each answer, the topic was discussed in detail and the necessary information was transmitted to the participants regarding that topic.

The questions were the following:

- What does European citizenship mean?
- What is the main role of the European Parliament?
- What specific human rights right is essential to democracy?
- How can young people actively participate in democratic society?
- What impact did the European Youth Year have on youth participation?
- What impact did the European Youth Year have on youth participation?
- Why is it important to exercise the right to vote?
- What does it mean to vote informed?

Cetățenia europeană le oferă cetățenilor UE o serie de drepturi. De asemenea, cetățenii europeni au dreptul de a participa la alegerile pentru Parlamentul European și de a beneficia de protecție consulară din partea ambasadelor altor state membre..





8. Activity IV Case studies:

Participants, divided into groups, analyzed conflicting or controversial case studies and proposed solutions. This activity was designed to stimulate critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving skills, as well as to give participants a deeper understanding of how they can approach and manage real-life democratic issues.

Each group drew a fictional case study.

Examples of case studies included:

- Electoral Reform in Crisis: The Impact on Electoral Participation and Integrity
- Electronic voting: Advantages, risks and dilemmas in modernizing the electoral process
- Manipulation by deterring voting: Tactics and consequences for democracy
- Challenging electoral results: Political and social tensions following the refusal of validation
- Excluding groups from voting: Balancing electoral integrity and fundamental rights

The groups had 30 minutes to analyze the case study, identifying the stakeholders, their interests and possible solutions. Participants were encouraged to use critical thinking techniques and collaborate to find the most effective solutions.

After internal analysis and discussion, each group presented their proposed solutions to all participants. Each presentation was followed by a question and answer session where the other groups could provide feedback and suggestions.



Debriefing questions:

How did you feel working in a group to analyze and solve the case study?

What were the main challenges encountered during the analysis of the case study?

Did you identify different viewpoints or perspectives within the group? How did you handle these differences?



Online Meeting

All participants from the three countries connected online to present the workshops, discuss the voting rights situation and present statistical data. This session was a crucial component of the project, providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences between participants from Romania, Estonia and Greece.



Conduct of the meeting:

1. Presentation of the workshops: Each partner country presented the summary of the activities carried out in the local workshops. Participants shared the methods and techniques used. These presentations provided an overview of the diversity of approaches used to promote democratic participation and civic engagement.
2. Discussion of the situation of the right to vote: The participants discussed the situation of the right to vote in each partner country. Legislative aspects, the challenges faced by young people in exercising this right and national initiatives to facilitate access to voting were addressed. This discussion enabled the identification of similarities and differences between electoral systems and promoted the exchange of good practices.
3. Discussion of the situation of the right to vote: The participants discussed the situation of the right to vote in each partner country. Legislative aspects, the challenges encountered by young people in exercising this right and national initiatives to facilitate access to voting were addressed. This discussion enabled the identification of similarities and differences between electoral systems and promoted the exchange of good practices.



Ideas for increasing democratic participation:

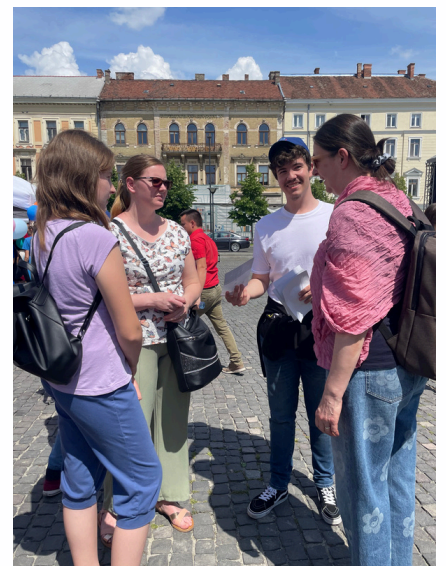
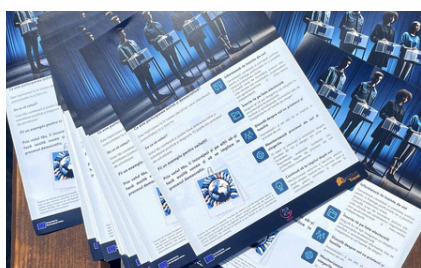
During the discussions, the participants explored various ideas and initiatives to increase the democratic participation of young people.

Among the ideas discussed were:

- Development of information and awareness campaigns on democratic issues.
- Organization of workshops and in-service training sessions for young people and youth workers.
- Creating online platforms for debate and civic engagement.
- Promoting collaboration between youth organizations and public institutions to facilitate young people's access to decision-making processes.
- Increasing civic education in schools.

Awareness Campaign

In the afternoon, the participants went to the center of Cluj to distribute informative leaflets and to encourage responsible and informed voting. They approached passers-by, explaining the importance of voting and involvement in democratic processes. Participants had the opportunity to socialize with various people, answer their questions and promote the benefits of an informed vote. They also discussed how every vote counts and the impact it can have on the community. The campaign was an excellent opportunity for participants to practice their communication skills and actively contribute to the awareness of civic importance among citizens.





Conclusions

The detailed report on the Democratic Society Workshop and Awareness Campaign served as an important reference for future initiatives in this area. Careful documentation of activities and feedback from participants contributed to the continuous improvement of democratic education efforts. In conclusion, the event was a success, managing to involve and inspire young teachers, educators and students from Cluj-Napoca.