**Edu4Europe: Education for European democratic citizenship annual forum**

**1st edition**

**19 – 21 November 2019, Strasbourg, France**

***Concept note***

**Why Edu4Europe?**

All young people have the right to quality education, which, according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “should be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace”.

Related to this, the purpose of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education respectively has been defined as “education, training, awareness-raising, information, practices and activities which aim, by equipping learners with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviour, to empower” learners to

* “to exercise and defend their democratic rights and responsibilities in society, to value diversity and to play an active part in democratic life, with a view to the promotion and protection of democracy and the rule of law
* to contribute to the building and defence of a universal culture of human rights in society, with a view to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms” (Council of Europe’s CM Recommendation 2010/7).

Applied to the European context, and its particularities (, specific institutions related to organisms as the European Union and the Council of Europe, a shared history of both war and peace, multiple programmes support European integration and multilateral exchanges and peer learning, etc.), young people in Europe all have the right to learn about Europe, for Europe (in other words, to contribute to its development), to develop a sense of belonging and care towards this ongoing European construction.

In today’s world, the role of education is often discussed in relation to an eroding landscape for democracy and human rights, including in the European context. The development of nationalism and extremism, combined with the worsening of the situation of minorities and migrants, an always greater gap between the socially excluded and other groups, as well as less interest from citizens in European affairs or even sheer expressions of hostility towards Europe, cannot leave the worlds of education indifferent. Many practitioners of education for democratic citizenship understand that in this changing landscape, discussing the role of European democratic citizenship education, its challenges and its ways forward is necessary for both improving their practice and keeping it up to date as well as for contributing to policy change in this sector.

While formal education has a key role to play in European democratic citizenship education, non-formal education and, in particular, non-formal education in the context of youth work plays a very important role, being close to young people, engaging them in discussions about European topics, encouraging them to vote in European elections, campaigning for different topics of interest for young people, etc.

Given this context, there is a need for practitioners or multipliers from different field related to democratic citizenship education and European awareness to have opportunities to learn from each other, place the debates related to European democratic citizenship education in the social and political context of Europe today, and create new ideas and initiatives on this topic.

**What is Edu4Europe?**

Edu4Europe is an annual forum on European democratic citizenship education, bringing together up to 120 practitioners from the youth and education fields, researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations, and other entities involved in European democratic citizenship education.

Edu4Europe is a forum of exchange, mutual learning and joint exploration for 2 days and a half, on 19 to 21 November 2019, at the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, France.

In its first edition, Edu4Europe will be focusing on the topic of ***future visions of Europe***, looking at directions the European projects may take and how to involve young people in shaping this European future through educational processes. Keynote inputs, mutual learning, working groups and workshops will be included in the programme of this dynamic and participant-focused forum.

The Edu4Europe forum aims to:

* give an overview on existing experiences and networks related to education for European democratic citizenship (EEDC);
* offer a space for practitioners and active entities to discuss on meanings and tensions on EEDC ;
* explore the topic of visions for the future of Europe and the role of EEDC therein) ;
* strengthen youth work through sharing practices from several fields on EEDC ;
* connect to policy and policy makers on EEDC, by bringing current issues, practices, needs and debates to their attention.

**What to expect from Edu4Europe?**

The forum will bring opportunities to take home:

* more knowledge and understanding on education for European democratic citizenship;
* motivation, information, tools and contacts in order to change/improve participants’ daily work, to inspire, to think differently and do their work better ;
* answers to complex questions related to the role of education for European democratic citizenship and, possibly, also further dilemmas to still reflect upon after the forum;
* new ideas of initiatives, such as trainings of trainers, toolbox, curriculum for teachers or youth workers;
* a visual report of the forum to share with a wider audience.

**Organisers**

The first edition will be hosted by the French Agency for Erasmus + Youth and Sport in co-operation with: the French ministry of Education and Youth, the EU-CoE youth partnership, the Council of Europe, the German and Italian national Agencies (*Jugend für Europa* and *Agenzia Nazionale per Giovani*) and the SALTO South-East Europe.