



Co-funded by the Erasmus  
+ Programme  
of the European Union



*SPEECHLESS IN EUROPE*

# SPEECHLESS IN EUROPE PROJECT CURRICULUM

Innovative forms of dialogue  
on the topic of Europe  
and the EU created for young  
people unacquainted  
with the concept  
of European citizenship



**EUROSOC#DIGITAL**  
Rethinking future society



<b>Content</b>	<b>Page</b>	
The project's 4 dimensions	3	This «hands-on» practical curriculum comes as a guide to all those who want to effectively engage young Europeans alienated from traditional forms and ways of political debate, in engaging formats of (e-) participation. It serves as a guideline for those wanting to get active in this field but have either very little knowledge or confined expertise in only one specific area.
1. European citizenship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Categories</li> </ul>	4	
2. E-participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can I activate young people for EU- topics online?</li> </ul>	6	
3. Creative forms of expression: the SPEECHLESS-approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main advantages of the approach</li> </ul>	8	
4. Storytelling as a method for activating young people for EU- topics through creative forms of expression	10	
Attachments	11	

# THE PROJECT'S 4 DIMENSIONS







## 1. EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

Today, young people in Europe have enjoyed the advantages of European citizenship throughout their whole lives. Yet, to a certain extent, there seems to be a lack of awareness of what exactly European citizenship is able to provide them with. As European citizens, young people today have the right to vote and the opportunity to play a role in shaping EU-policies – policies that affect them in their everyday lives. European citizenship implies that the EU belongs to its people, in the best case, to the active and informed citizens upon which European democracy is built. Promoting European citizenship and involving the youth is a matter of utmost importance – after all it is the youth that represents the future of the Union and that is the backbone of European society.

It seems that an increasing number of young people tend to consider themselves apolitical and EU-sceptical. At the same time, some might perceive the European Union as mainly addressing informed, interested and well-educated young people. The EU is a complex organism as such. Adding to that the context-knowledge and language skills needed, in order to understand and be able to

participate, can prove a highly discouraging task for some young people and discourage them in actually doing so. These discouraging factors are often accompanied by the impression that the main issues in political communication do not reflect their needs and ways of expression and interest.

That is why we developed the Storytelling Project Speechless in Europe. Our aim is to engage young people for European matters in a creative way!

The main idea consists of the presumption that, in order to activate young people for European matters, we need topics connected to their everyday lives. Therefore, we have developed 5 relevant and prevailing topic-categories<sup>1</sup>. These categories allow a bottom-up as well as a top-down approach to political issues. Talking from one's experience and a subjective perspective can engage young people and empower them to tell their story, and to exchange, explore and shape common ideas.

1. For the 5 categories and further information visit:

<https://speechless.ypart.eu/category>

## Categories for contributing a story



### Culture and Creativity

Cultural diversity enriches our life in Europe, shapes our ever day experiences and our perspectives on things. Are you influenced by different cultures?



### Working and Learning

Despite great opportunities, it is still the youth who is struggling to find a job, as youth unemployment rates are high. What is your story on this matter?



### Home and Community

In our globalised world, home can be anywhere. People can live far away from the places they were born. But what is home?



### Frontiers and Freedom

What can we do to make refugees feel welcome? What are you doing or how do you want to get involved?



Future  
Forward

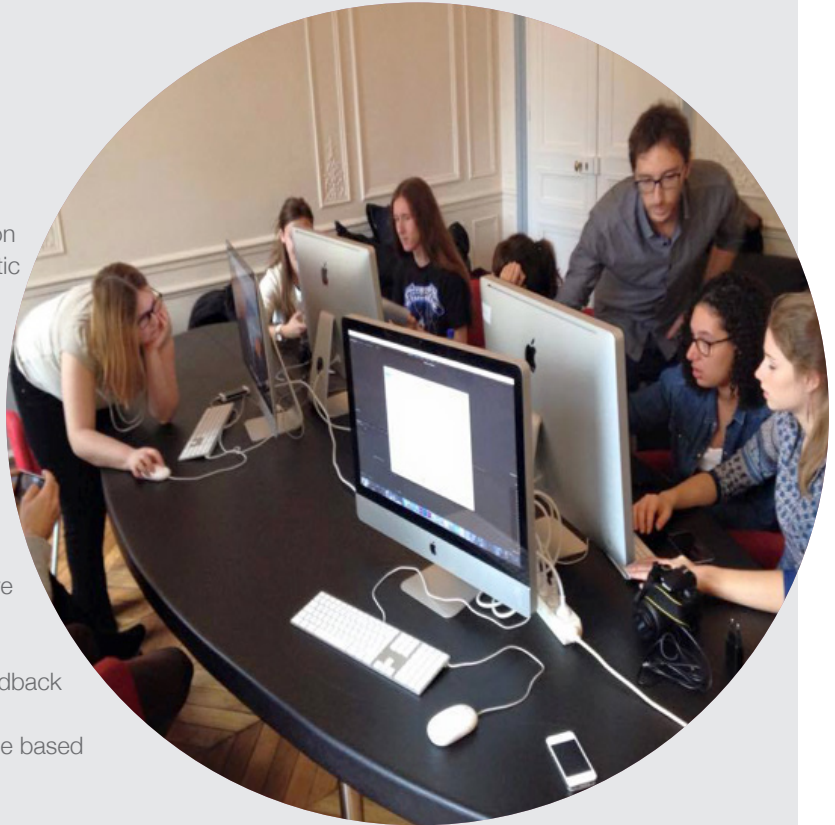
### Future and Innovation

What we do today influences our future opportunities. But how can we ensure solidarity and responsibility for future generations? How do you envision achieving this?

## 2. E-PARTICIPATION

In an increasingly globalized world e-participation plays a progressively important role in democratic societies. E-participation enables us to inform ourselves, to discuss and to exchange ideas worldwide, while being at home in front of our computer or using our smartphone.

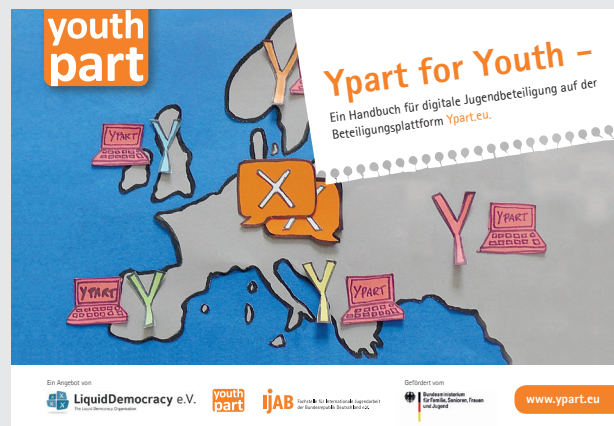
E-participation comes in all shapes and sizes and offers great opportunities for increasing political participation and providing relevant information. There are more and more successful projects - the positive impact is often clearly visible. Furthermore, E-participation can improve transparency in the political process and simplify the process of feedback collection for civil service administrations<sup>2</sup>. How can we use E-participation in non-language based dialogue project?



### YPART

In Speechless in Europe, we used the online participation platform [Ypart](http://Ypart). Ypart<sup>3</sup> enables its users to discuss new ideas and vote for them. In the Speechless-Project the participants uploaded their stories, exchanged their ideas and visions about Europe, voted for the videos they wanted to support and discussed topics they were concerned about. In that way they started engaging themselves towards shaping an idea of how their EU looks like.

Ypart was founded by the organisation [Liquid Democracy](http://LiquidDemocracy) e.V., whose main aim is to activate and promote youth participation through the use of digital media.



2. You can find further information on e-participation on a political level in this handbook, provided by IJAB [https://www.ijab.de/uploads/tx\\_ttproducts/datasheet/Guidelines\\_eParticipation\\_engl.pdf](https://www.ijab.de/uploads/tx_ttproducts/datasheet/Guidelines_eParticipation_engl.pdf)
3. Blog article comparing Ypart (adhocracy) with Facebook <https://liqd.net/en/blog/adhocracy-vs-facebook/>

# How can I activate young people online for EU-topics? Checklist for online political education<sup>4 5</sup>

## Target group

Does the program fit the target group?  
Language, style, content?

## Topic

Which perspectives are new and important for the participants?  
Which are the participants' opinions on the topics?  
Does the program help them engage directly with the chosen issues?

## Learning goals

What are the results I want to achieve?  
What is the aim of the project? (Interest, participation...)

## Political education

In which way does the program engage young people in the ability to judge, to reflect and to act?  
In which way does it work on a multi-perspective approach?

## Relevance

How are the topics related to current political, social or environmental issues?

## Participation

Which forms of participation are involved in the contribution?

## Transparency

In which way is the article's background transparent for the user?  
Do clear rules for understanding and participation exist?

## Sustainability

Do the perspectives play a role in a bigger context?  
Is it possible to relate to it in the future?

## Potential

Are there any other external contents you can relate to?

4. Source: Related to BESAND, BORKENHAUER, LANGE (2014): Politische Bildung in digitalen Umgebungen. Ein Fallstudie zum Projekt DU HAST DIE MACHT, 197f

5. Planet Europe study on e-participation: The study on the challenges of e-participation for young people contains a lot of useful information of everyone who plans an e-participation project:

[http://www.speechlesseurope.org/uploads/4/4/0/9/44098161/peu\\_study\\_final.pdf](http://www.speechlesseurope.org/uploads/4/4/0/9/44098161/peu_study_final.pdf)





### 3. CREATIVE FORMS OF EXPRESSION: THE SPEECHLESS-APPROACH

#### **Why communication without language?**

At times, the cultural, linguistic and political diversity of Europe seems to make Europe to a very elitist project. Not only language skills, but also a certain use of vocabulary and an interest in political issues is necessary to be able to participate in a European society.

SPEECHLESS IN EUROPE changes that! Our goal is to open up the linguistic barriers in Europe and enable young people from different linguistic, cultural and educational backgrounds to communicate non-verbally and exchange stories of their everyday life by using an open approach that does not focus on language.





There are **two main advantages** in using creative forms of expression:

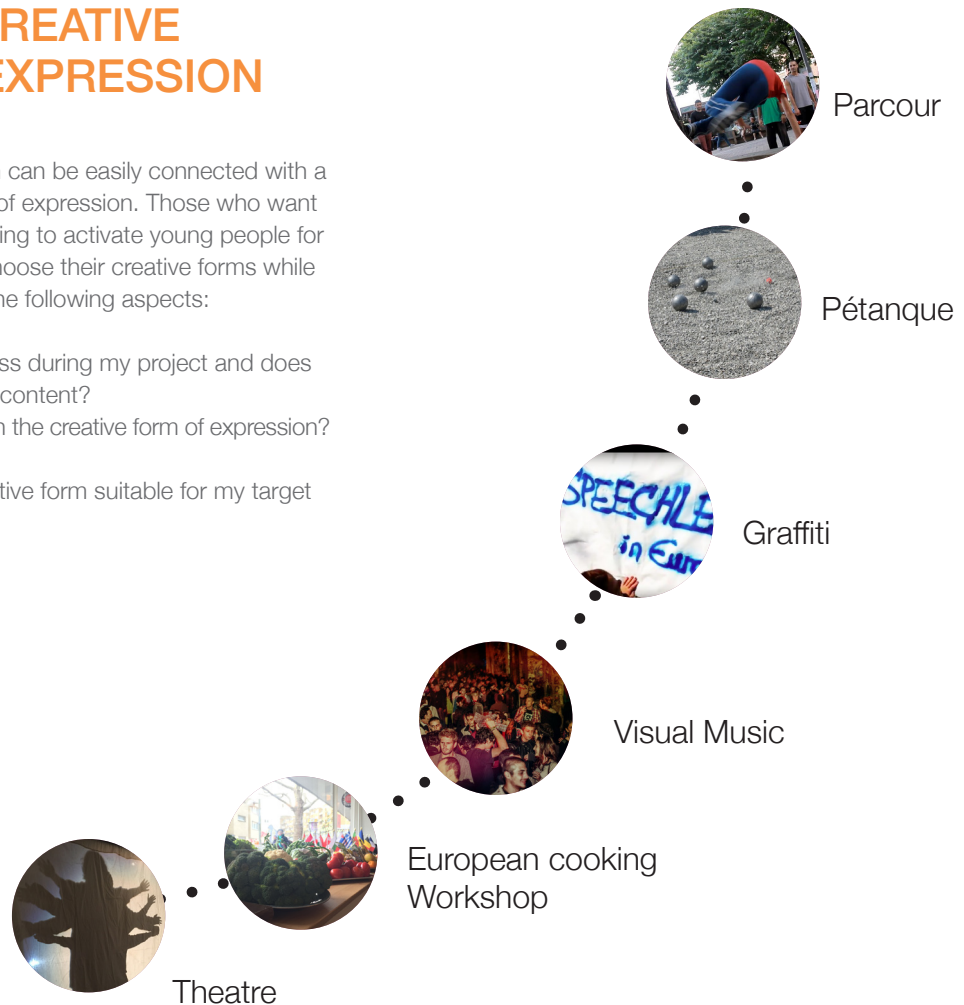
- The participants are enabled to actively participate and interact, albeit linguistic borders. This active empowerment has the aim to hinder language-related concerns, restraints and frustration. In youth work especially, the use of English language can become an emotional topic, if participants get the feeling that their language skills are not sufficient.
- Speechless and creative forms of expression can often reveal emotions and issues from deep down. Furthermore, thinking about how to express one's own thoughts engages a form of reflection. Developing a collective presentation can be a way to adjust and re-reflect one's own thoughts while cooperating with the other participants.



## 4. STORYTELLING AS A METHOD FOR ACTIVATING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR EU-TOPICS THROUGH CREATIVE FORMS OF EXPRESSION

The Speechless-Approach can be easily connected with a plethora of creative forms of expression. Those who want to use speechless storytelling to activate young people for European topics should choose their creative forms while taking into consideration the following aspects:

- What do I want to discuss during my project and does the creative form fits the content?
- Do I feel comfortable with the creative form of expression? (Theatre, painting...)
- In which way is the creative form suitable for my target group?





## ATTACHMENTS

1. Tips for Multipliers: A series of video-storybooks with tips for your own project
2. Collaboration: Tools for working together in an international team
3. Funding: Sources for funding a European project
4. Team: The project partners



# THE EUROPEAN STORYBOOKS: TIPS AND TRICKS FOR MULTIPLIERS ABOUT THE SPEECHLESS PROJECT, YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ONLINE COLLABORATION



## #1 WHAT DOES SPEECHLESS MEAN?

What does Speechless mean? In which situations do we feel Speechless and what can we do against it? We asked young people what Speechless means to them and found out, it is a lot more than we thought!



## #2 INTERVIEWS WITH YOUNG EUROPEANS

We interviewed young people on the street to get a better perspective on what they think about Europe, what they already know and how European they feel.



## #3 HOW TO WORKSHOP

During Speechless in Europe, we did more than 12 workshops with youngsters from 5 different countries. Every single workshop was with a different creative method.



## #4 INTERVIEW WITH LEONI, PROJECT COORDINATOR

Leoni is the project coordinator of the Speechless in Europe project. Watch this video to find out, what was the motivation behind the project, the idea behind all the different activities involved, and how future perspectives look like!



## #5 THE YPART PLATFORM

In our project Speechless in Europe, we used the Ypart Platform as a means for our young participants to share, engage and interact. Ypart offers loads of options to organize youth e-participation.



## #6 THE STORYTELLING FESTIVAL IN ROME

The final stage of our Speechless in Europe project was the Storytelling Festival in Rome: 4 days with more than 50 young people from all over Europe - we had a great time!

There are plenty of platforms out there that can help you manage projects and coordinate with your partners, especially when you all are not in the same office. The internet is full of options, below we present you our favourites.

To start with a new tool is always a challenge. Our advice to you: Don't give up too easily, we're sure you'll notice the benefit soon!

### Trello (free basic version)

<https://trello.com>

Trello is a free online collaboration platform with great visualization. It is organized in boards and shows the progress of your work within the team.

### Basecamp (starting from €18 a month)

<https://basecamp.com/>

Basecamp has a lot of useful functions. You can make to-do lists, start a discussion, create text documents, forward emails, upload files, share calendars, etc. It is a great tool to put and keep your chaos in order.

### Moodle

[www.moodle.de](http://www.moodle.de)

Known primarily as an e-Learning platform, Moodle can also serve as a project management tool with basic functions. You can organize your files in folders and use the forum for discussions. If you are enrolled at a university, ask if they can give you a Moodle platform for your project.

### Planio (starting from €19 a month)

<https://plan.io>

Planio is new on the market but has a lot to offer, such as Task and File Management, integrated chat function and tracking of workflow. If you are working on a big project and deadlines are crucial, this might be the right platform for you.

### Skype Conferences

You probably already know Skype, the great tool to talk for free with up to 10 persons all over the world. A fantastic tool if you keep some things in mind:

1. Prepare well – if you are skyping with more than 2 people at the same time and you are the one coordinating it, be well prepared. Make an agenda, share it with your partners in advance and set a time limit.
2. No video – It might be to face your partners, but at times the connection will not be stable enough to support a video. So turn it off – same goes for the microphone, when you don't speak (and make everyone do the same). Nobody needs to hear all the background noises from each partner.
3. Schedule well ahead – It can be challenging to find a date where all partners have time. Schedule your skype-conferences well ahead or set a fix date, like every first Tuesday of the month at 3pm.

## FUNDING

To have a great idea is one thing, to find funding for it is another. There are a lot of different programmes that can help you get the needed money for your ideas, some of them are listed below.

### Some crucial tips up front:

1. Study the application form well: Different programmes expect different project concepts. Make sure your idea fits the programme, or alternatively make it fit by adjusting minor aspects.
2. Choose your partners wisely: Make sure you find partners you trust and who are committed to bring the project to success with you.
3. Don't give up: If you don't get funded in the first round, try again. The funders are often happy to see you improving your application!

### European programmes:

#### Erasmus+ (plus)

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node\\_de](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_de)

Most of us know Erasmus as the university exchange programme. However, Erasmus+ offers a lot more! Besides the mobility opportunities for pupils, students, youth workers and volunteers, it offers development and networking activities for organisations, as well as funding for civic education projects. Read the programme guide well, to make sure, you got everything right for the application.

#### Advocate Europe

[www.advocate-europe.eu](http://www.advocate-europe.eu)

Advocate Europe is an annual idea challenge for European projects and the only one providing an online listing of all the submitted proposals, giving everyone a chance to interact. There are up to 12 winners annually receiving financing with up to 50.000 Euros to win per proposal.

### Creative Europe

Creative Europe is a framework programme of the EU in supporting cultural and audio-visual sectors. There are specific calls for proposal for cultural organisations that are worth checking out. The programme runs until 2020.

### National foundations

Many national foundations support European projects. It usually makes sense to get in contact with them before sending the complete application, in order to see if your project idea fits their programme.



## PARTNERS

### GERMANY - EUROSOC#DIGITAL

Developing fresh formats of political education, explaining EU decision-making procedures and communicating EU politics and policies - it has been our mission to involve, inform and activate citizens for the European project for nearly a decade now. Our projects, events and services inspire participants and benefactors for the European idea and enable them to better understand and comprehend European matters.



### FRANCE - ALL CONTENTS

All Contents Press is a for-profit company involved in the creation of European print-magazines. All Contents Press works very closely together with the main group, All Contents Group. It is nevertheless independent and works for a European sphere in the print. Our specific expertise deals generally with media and dissemination: creating European content and disseminating it through Europe. Our focus lays, therefore, on the awareness of and around Europe and the dissemination of knowledge about European facts and news in as many countries as possible.



### HUNGARY- SOLUTION4.ORG

Solution4.org was created in Hungary in 1998 to work for, support and counsel non-profit organizations acting for the European integration and to bring forward the European citizenship aspects. Main fields of work are research in the field of labour relations and conditions, providing adults trainings, lifelong learning opportunities, meetings, conferences or media-training with a focus on transnational and European dimensions. Target groups are disadvantaged people especially in the field of work places and unemployed, often either part of the Roma minority or other marginalized youth.



### ITALY - IMPULSI ONLUS

IMPULSI Onlus is a small non-profit association. Young professionals and students founded it in 2003 with the aim of promoting personal, social and environmental welfare and to prevent individual and psychic distress. The recipients of the activities are pre-adolescents and adolescents with mental, behavioural or social unease; young people from the suburbs. The aim is to produce knowledge, awareness and instruments to increase individual and social development, sustainability and critical use of material, environmental and human resources within and between the participants.



### GERMANY - LIQUID DEMOCRACY E.V.

The Liquid Democracy Association is a Berlin-based non-profit organisation that works on innovative ideas and projects for digital democratic participation. LIQD concentrates its work in three connected areas: theory building, the development of the free Open Source software Adhocracy and the maintenance of Adhocracy platforms such as Ypart. Ypart is a Europe-wide e-participation platform especially designed for young people.

