DEMOCRACY TREE

Youth Workers Manual

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Introduction:

Welcome to the **Youth Workers Manual** for the *DEMOCRACY TREE* app—your practical guide to engaging young people in meaningful learning experiences that promote democratic values and active citizenship. This manual has been designed to support youth workers in using the app effectively while applying non-formal education (NFE) approaches to inspire participation, reflection, and dialogue among young people.

The goal of this manual is threefold:

1. **To introduce the concept of non-formal education** – This manual offers an overview of what NFE is, how it can be applied, and how it can be a powerful tool for youth empowerment. You'll discover the benefits of NFE, such as fostering critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and active participation.
2. **To explain how to use the DEMOCRACY TREE app** – You'll find clear instructions on how to navigate the app, explore its features, and use its content in your sessions with young people. The app is a flexible tool designed to encourage youth engagement with democracy-related topics in an interactive and accessible way.
3. **To guide you in implementing the app's activities** – You'll learn how to facilitate the educational activities offered in the app, all rooted in NFE principles. This includes tips for preparation, adapting to different youth group contexts, and creating a safe, inclusive, and participatory learning environment.

This manual is here to help you bring democratic learning to life—through creative facilitation, meaningful conversations, and youth-led exploration. We hope it inspires you to use *DEMOCRACY TREE* not just as an app, but as a starting point for empowering young people to become active and informed citizens in their communities.

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Understanding non-formal education and its use in youth work

What is Non-Formal Education?

Non-formal education (NFE) refers to structured educational activities that occur outside the traditional school or university system. It is intentional and organised but does not usually lead to formal certification or diplomas. Instead, it focuses on developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values through participatory and learner-centred approaches. NFE is widely used in youth work, adult learning, and community development.

Unlike formal education, which is typically classroom-based, teacher-led, and curriculum-driven, non-formal education offers greater flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of individuals and groups. It empowers participants to learn at their own pace, often through real-life experiences, group work, and reflective practices.

Key characteristics:
- **Voluntary participation:** Learners choose to take part.
- **Learner-centred:** Adapted to the needs, interests, and abilities of participants.
- **Flexible and inclusive:** Easily adapted to different contexts and participants' backgrounds.
- **Participatory and experiential:** Learning through doing, reflection, discussion, and collaboration.
- **Non-hierarchical relationship:** Facilitators guide rather than dictate learning.

Examples of non-formal education activities:
- Workshops and training courses
- Outdoor education and nature-based learning
- Peer-to-peer education
- Theatre and role-play activities
- Youth exchanges and cultural immersion programmes
- Community service and volunteering projects

Non-formal education is a central methodology in European youth work, often supported by the Erasmus+ programme and other educational initiatives. It plays a crucial role in lifelong learning and supports the acquisition of transversal skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, empathy, and digital literacy.

How youth workers can use non-formal education with young people?

Youth workers play a key role in delivering non-formal education to support young people's personal, social, and professional development. Through a variety of activities and methodologies, they create learning environments that are safe, engaging, and responsive to young people's realities.

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Steps to using NFE effectively as a youth worker:

1. Needs assessment
   - Conduct informal surveys or group discussions to understand young people's interests, challenges, and aspirations.
   - Identify topics that matter to them—mental health, digital wellbeing, environmental awareness, inclusion, etc.

2. Create a safe, inclusive space
   - Establish trust, respect, and open communication.
   - Use ice-breakers and team-building activities to create group cohesion.

3. Design participatory activities
Use methods such as:
   - Role plays and simulations to explore real-world scenarios.
   - Storytelling to build empathy and reflection.
   - Workshops for skill-building (e.g., leadership, communication).
   - Games and outdoor activities to promote physical and emotional wellbeing.

4. Encourage reflection
   - After each activity, organise reflection sessions (e.g., group talks, journaling) to help participants internalise their learning.
   - Use the "Experiential Learning Cycle" (experience – reflection – conceptualisation – application).

5. Empower youth leadership
   - Involve young people in planning and facilitating activities.
   - Support peer-to-peer learning and collaborative problem solving.

6. Evaluate and adapt
   - Collect feedback from participants and adjust future sessions.
   - Use simple tools like feedback forms, group discussions, or creative evaluations (e.g., drawing, "mood meters").

Tips for Success:
   - Be flexible: adapt to different learning styles and group dynamics.
   - Foster inclusion: ensure activities are accessible for all, regardless of background or ability.
   - Celebrate achievements: recognise personal growth and group successes, even informally.
   - Through non-formal education, youth workers help young people become more confident, resilient, and active members of their communities.

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Benefits of Non-Formal Education

Non-formal education offers a wide range of benefits, both for individual participants and for society as a whole. By focusing on experiential, participatory, and reflective methods, it helps young people and adults acquire essential life skills and attitudes that are often neglected in formal schooling.

Personal benefits:
- **Self-awareness & confidence:** NFE fosters personal growth through self-expression, group interaction, and reflective learning. Participants often discover strengths, values, and aspirations they were not aware of.
- **Life skills development:** Critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, empathy, adaptability, and leadership are nurtured.
- **Improved mental health and wellbeing:** Activities that encourage expression, mindfulness, and social connection reduce anxiety and isolation.

Social benefits:
- **Civic engagement:** Promotes active citizenship and community involvement through volunteering and advocacy. Encourages awareness of social justice, equality, and sustainability.
- **Intercultural understanding:** Exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives fosters tolerance and reduces discrimination.
- **Social inclusion:** Engages marginalised or vulnerable youth by offering accessible, meaningful learning experiences.

Educational benefits:
- **Motivation to learn:** Non-formal methods re-engage learners who struggled in formal education by offering more relevant and enjoyable content.
- **Bridge to formal education or employment:** Participants gain soft skills and confidence that help them return to school, pursue training, or succeed in the workplace.

Community and system-level benefits:
- **Stronger communities:** Youth and adult learners become more empowered to contribute to social cohesion and innovation.
- **Complement to formal education:** Fills gaps left by formal systems, particularly in areas like emotional intelligence, entrepreneurship, digital citizenship, and sustainability.
- **Flexibility for lifelong learning:** NFE supports continuous learning across ages and life situations, adapting to rapid societal changes.
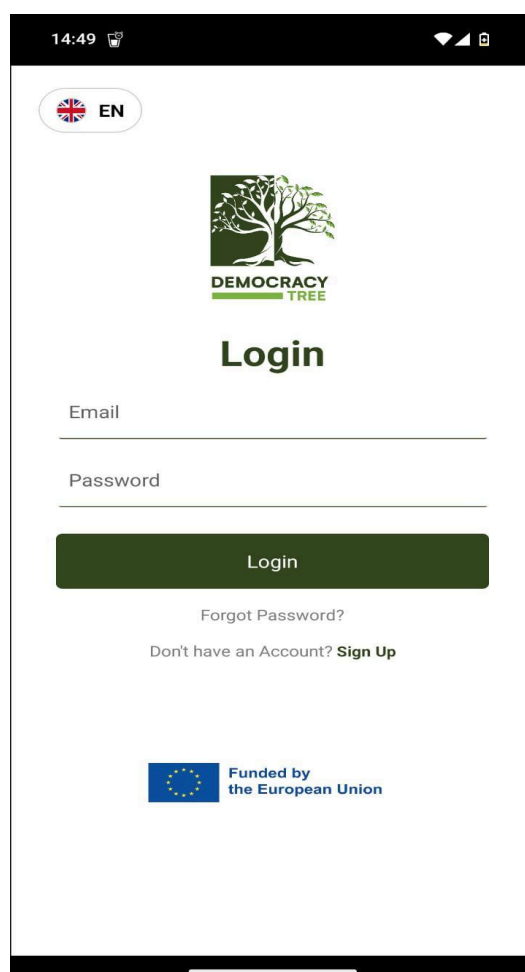
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How to use the DEMOCRACY TREE app:

The **DEMOCRACY TREE APP** is a user-friendly digital platform designed to support youth education and engagement through interactive learning materials, social features, and progress tracking. This guide will walk you through each step of using the app—from logging in and setting up your profile to navigating the tree of learning content, connecting with others, and managing groups. The following instructions will help you make the most of the app's features.
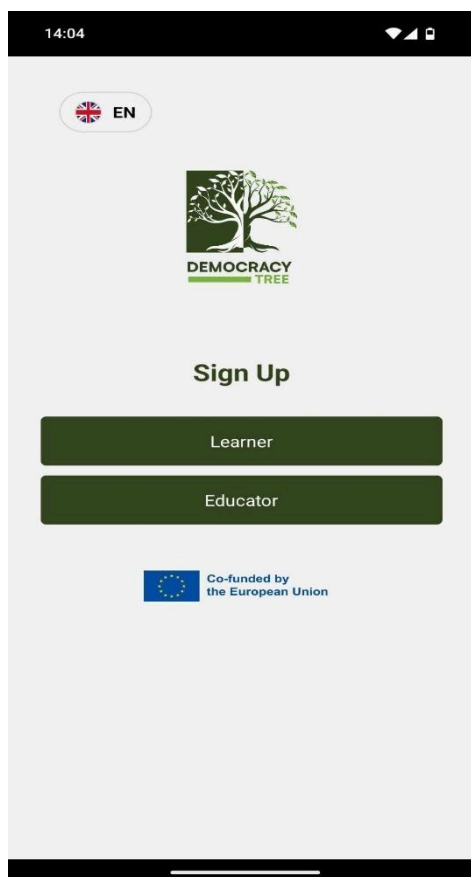
1. Login Screen / Language Selection

- Enter your existing username and password to log in.
    - To reset your password, click **"Forgot Password"**.
    - If you don't have an account, select **"Sign Up"** (see next step).
- To change the app's language, use the language selector (usually at the top left corner).

2. Sign Up – Step 1: Choose User Type
- Select whether you are registering as a **"Learner"** or an **"Educator"**.

3. Sign Up – Step 2: Account Details
- Enter the required personal information to complete your account creation.
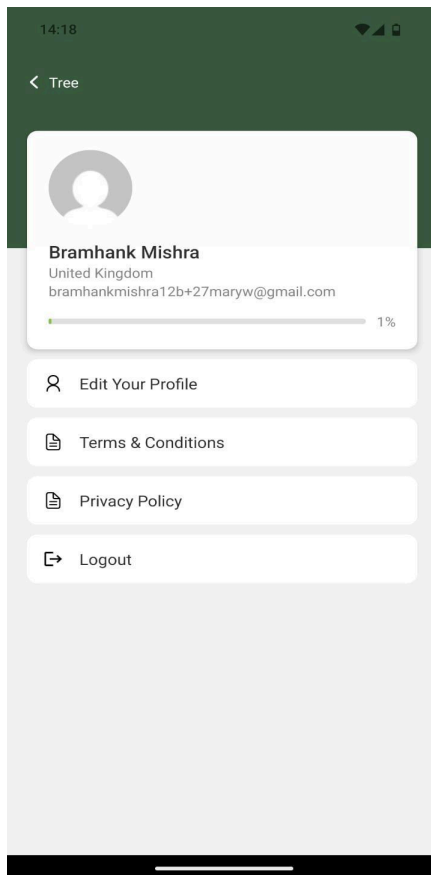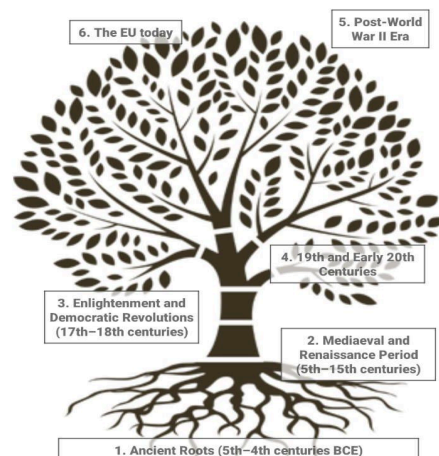
4. Your Profile

- **Access the Tree:** Click the **"< Tree"** icon to return to the main tree screen.
- **Profile Information:** View your profile picture, full name, country, and email.
- **Edit Profile:**
  - Change your profile picture.
  - Update your full name.
- **App Policies:**
  - Read the Terms & Conditions.
  - Review the Privacy Policy.
- **Logout: Select "Logout" to safely exit your account.**
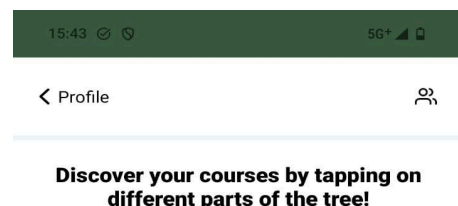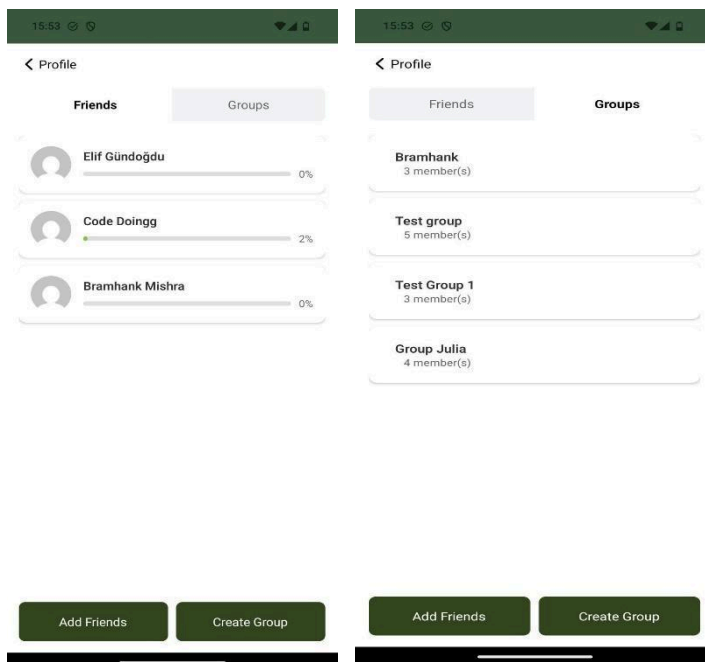
5. Navigating the Tree

- Click **"Profile"** to return to your profile.
- Use the appropriate icon to access **Friends** and **Groups** (see Section 6).
- Tap different parts of the tree to explore learning content (see Section 7).

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6. Connecting with Others: Friends and Groups

- Navigate to the **Profile** section (see Section 4).
- **Friends:** View your current friends and their progress.
- **Groups:** See the groups you've joined or created.
- **Add Friends:** Tap **"Add Friends"** to search for and follow other users.
- **Create Group:** Tap **"Create Group"** to start a new group.

6.1 Adding Friends

- Tap **"Follow"** to send a friend request.
- Wait briefly—no need to tap multiple times.
- To remove someone, tap **"Unfollow"**.
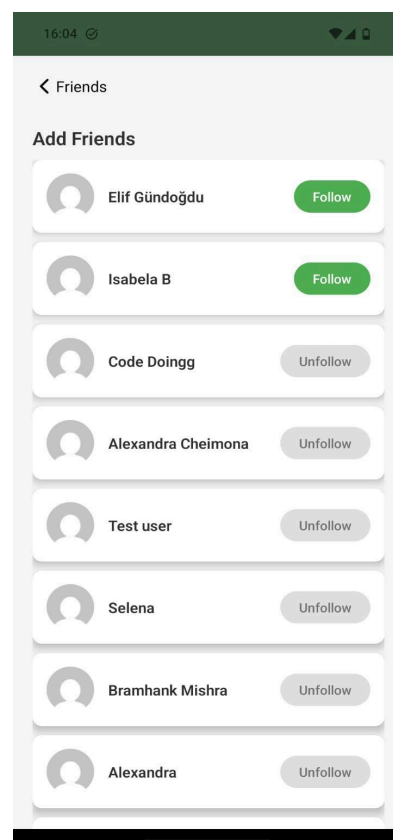
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6.2 Creating Groups
- Enter a group name (e.g., "Youth Leaders").
- Select members from the user list.
- Tap **"Create Group"** to confirm.
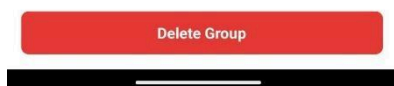
6.3 Managing Groups
- View all joined and created groups.
- Remove members or delete groups you created.
- To leave a group created by someone else, tap **"Leave Group"**.
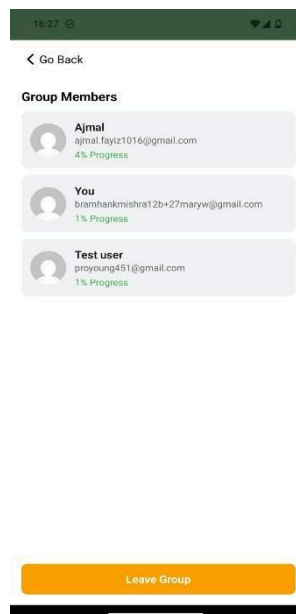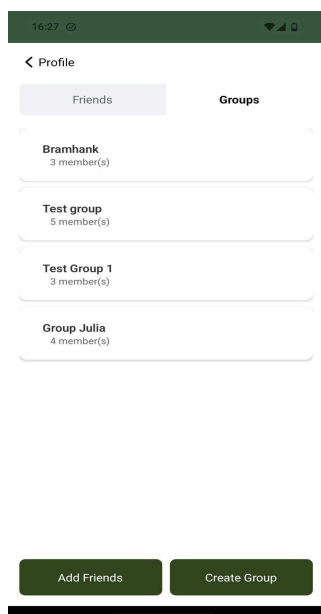
7. Tree Content: Learning Materials

- **For Educators/Youth Workers:**
  - o **"Read" Section:** Access interactive activities, infographics, and mini-games.
  - o **"Watch" Section:** View educational videos.
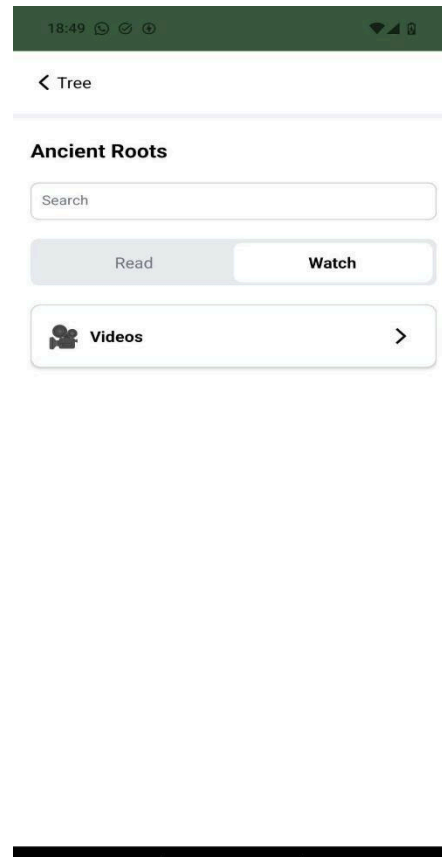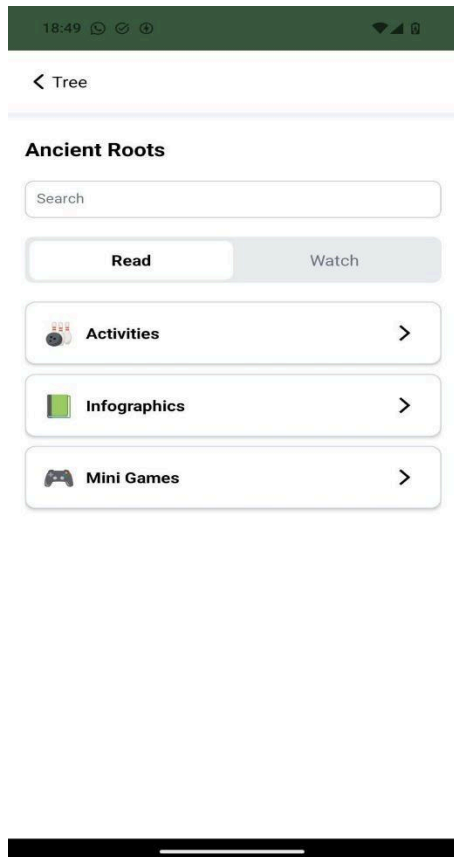
How to use the NFE activities on the app:

All of these engaging non-formal education (NFE) activities are available on the app and are thoughtfully organised by key democratic historical periods to help youth connect past developments with today's democratic values. The periods include Ancient Roots (5th–4th centuries BCE); Mediaeval and Renaissance (5th–15th centuries); Enlightenment and Democratic Revolutions (17th–18th centuries); 19th and Early 20th Centuries; Post-World War II Era; and The EU Today. Each historical period features five tailored NFE activities, designed to bring democratic concepts to life through debate, role-play, creative expression, and critical thinking. Below each activity, you will find clear instructions on when to use them, how to facilitate them, and practical tips to ensure effective implementation and meaningful learning experiences.

Ancient Roots (5th–4th centuries BCE):

ACTIVITY 1: Direct vs Indirect Democracy
- **Use it to**: Explain different governance models and stimulate debate.
- **How**: After group work, moderate a short structured debate where each team defends their preferred form of democracy.
- **Tip**: Ask them to imagine how a direct democracy would work today via technology (e.g., apps, e-voting).

ACTIVITY 2: Democracy and Its Values
- **Use it to**: Explore the core values of democracy (freedom, equality, rule of law, etc.).
- **How**: Assign each group a specific value. Encourage them to find news stories or personal experiences to illustrate its presence or absence.
- **Tip**: Encourage empathy by asking how they'd feel if that value didn't exist in their lives.

ACTIVITY 3: Isonomia
- **Use it to**: Dive deeper into the concept of equality before the law.
- **How**: Focus on discussion rather than just definition. Have them bring real-world examples of where isonomia is or isn't applied today.
- **Tip**: Ask them: "Does everyone in your country really have equal access to justice? Why or why not?"

ACTIVITY 4: Political Participation
- **Use it to**: Simulate the real-world political landscape and show how different ideologies approach issues.
- **How**: Act as a moderator for the debate. Remind participants they are representing a party's view, not their own.
- **Tip**: After the debate, ask them to "step out of character" and share their real opinion.

ACTIVITY 5: Democracy Then vs Now
- **Use it to**: Help participants compare ancient and modern democratic structures.

- **How**: Gamify the learning with flashcards, then have them match ancient institutions to modern ones in their own country.
- **Tip**: Let **them co-create** their own "modern version" of an Athenian institution at the end.

Mediaeval and Renaissance Period (5th–15th centuries):

ACTIVITY 1: Debate Like a Council (Mediaeval Town Hall Simulation)
- **Use it to:** Help young people understand early forms of democratic governance by role-playing decision-making in a mediaeval town council.
- **How:** Assign participants historical roles (e.g., noble, merchant) with specific interests. Present a community issue, facilitate a structured debate, and hold a vote to simulate council governance. Focus on respecting roles, encouraging participation, and managing speaking time.
- **Tip:** Remind participants to stay in character to enrich the historical realism. Use a talking object (e.g., a gavel or wooden spoon) to manage turn-taking.

ACTIVITY 2: Renaissance Civic Art Contest
- **Use it to:** Encourage youth to creatively express democratic ideals and explore how art has historically communicated civic values.
- **How:** After a short discussion on Renaissance civic art, invite participants to create original artworks based on themes like freedom or justice. End with a showcase and group discussion on how visuals influence public opinion.
- **Tip:** Allow freedom of expression in both style and message. If needed, offer optional prompts to get hesitant participants started.

ACTIVITY 3: Magna Carta Escape Room
- **Use it to:** Teach key concepts of constitutional democracy and the Magna Carta's historical role through hands-on teamwork and problem-solving.
- **How:** Set up a room with puzzles and hidden clues linked to the Magna Carta. Divide youth into small groups and task them with solving the clues to unlock the "freedom scroll." Debrief to reinforce the importance of the Magna Carta.
- **Tip:** Offer subtle hints if groups get stuck to maintain momentum. Highlight how each solved puzzle connects to historical principles.

ACTIVITY 4: Democracy Timeline Relay
- **Use it to:** Help participants visually connect major historical milestones that contributed to the development of democracy.
- **How:** Create a timeline game where teams race to place historical event cards in chronological order. Follow with a guided review of how each event influenced modern democracy.
- **Tip:** Encourage friendly competition but emphasise accuracy. Use the final timeline as a reference point in later sessions.

ACTIVITY 5: Write a Petition (Mediaeval Civic Participation Simulation)

- **Use it to:** Demonstrate how public advocacy and collective voice evolved through petitions, linking past civic action to modern democratic tools.
- **How:** Provide historical context and sample petitions. Let groups draft their own based on a fictional issue. Have them present to a mock authority figure and reflect on the process as early democratic engagement.
- **Tip:** Encourage a persuasive yet respectful tone in writing. Add creative touches (like mediaeval-style signatures) to make the activity more engaging and historically immersive.

Enlightenment and Democratic Revolutions (17th–18th centuries):

ACTIVITY 1: Famous Enlightenment Thinkers Debate
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand and compare the key political and philosophical ideas of major Enlightenment thinkers.
- **How:** Divide participants into 5 groups, assigning each a philosopher (John Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire, or Mary Wollstonecraft). Groups research and prepare to role-play their philosopher in a structured debate focused on government, rights, and society.
- **Tip:** Encourage first-person role-play (e.g. "I, John Locke, believe..."). Support groups struggling with complex texts using simplified summaries or guided questions. Use a timer to keep research, prep, debate, and rebuttal sections on track.

ACTIVITY 2: Reenacting the Continental Congress
- **Use it to:** Immerse participants in the decision-making process that led to the American Revolution and foster an understanding of democratic debate and consensus.
- **How:** Assign roles (e.g. John Adams, Loyalists, colonists). Simulate a Continental Congress session where participants debate independence, taxation, and self-governance. Vote on resolutions and reflect on outcomes.
- **Tip:** Use brief role cards to help participants stay in character. Provide enough historical background beforehand to support informed discussion. Moderate calmly if debates become too heated.

ACTIVITY 3: The Estates-General Assembly
- **Use it to:** Explore the social and political structures of pre-revolutionary France and the ideals that sparked the French Revolution.
- **How:** Assign roles from the First, Second, and Third Estates. Recreate a mock Estates-General session where grievances are shared and reforms proposed. Groups collaborate to draft their own "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen."
- **Tip:** Use costumes or visual aids (e.g. estate symbols) to enhance immersion. Allocate separate time for grievances, draughting, and presentation. Ensure balanced participation across all estates.

ACTIVITY 4: Enlightenment Impact Gallery Walk
- **Use it to:** Connect Enlightenment thinkers to the revolutions they influenced and modern democratic values.

- **How:** Set up 5 stations with posters or visual info on Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Voltaire, and Wollstonecraft. Participants rotate, taking notes and reflecting on each thinker's impact on American and French revolutions.
- **Tip:** Add photographs, quotes, and colourful visuals to each station to aid memory. Give each group a reflection sheet or question guide to stay focused during the walk.

ACTIVITY 5: Enlightenment Ideas in Today's Democracy
- **Use it to:** Encourage critical thinking by connecting Enlightenment principles with current democratic challenges and opportunities.
- **How:** Present real-life case studies (e.g. surveillance vs. civil liberties, populism vs. rule of law). In groups, participants identify Enlightenment values at stake and draft action plans to defend or promote them in their communities.
- **Tip:** Provide a short summary of Enlightenment values before starting. Support creativity in presentations (e.g. posters, role-play, storytelling). Keep discussion focused on relevance and realistic solutions.

19th and Early 20th Centuries:

ACTIVITY 1: Women's Suffrage Role-Play
- **Use it to:** Explore the arguments, emotions, and social dynamics surrounding the women's suffrage movement.
- **How**: Group size should be 10–15 participants. The activity lasts 40–60 minutes and requires scenario cards and, optionally, props. Participants are divided into small groups of five. Each group selects one scenario and assigns character roles among the members. They then prepare arguments and strategies before performing the role-play in character. After presenting, groups reflect on how they felt and what outcomes were achieved.
- **Tip**: Set clear boundaries for dialogue, encourage respectful interaction, and guide participants to empathise with differing historical perspectives.

ACTIVITY 2: Industrial Revolution Simulation
- **Use it to**: Help participants experience the impact of industrialisation and evaluate both its challenges and possible solutions.
- **How**: Best for 6–10 participants and runs for 45–60 minutes. You'll need scenario cards and optional props. Divide participants into two sides for each scenario—one in favour of the statement and one against it. Present one card at a time, prompting each group to debate, negotiate, and suggest solutions from their assigned viewpoint.
- **Tip**: Promote empathy and creative problem-solving while encouraging participants to consider real-life reforms and stakeholder interests.

ACTIVITY 3: Democratic Reforms Debate
- **Use it to:** Develop critical thinking and public speaking skills while examining complex democratic reforms.
- **How**: Suitable for 10–20 participants and takes 45–60 minutes. You'll need printed topic cards and a timer. Form groups of 4 to 6, assign each group a topic, and split

them internally into pro and con teams. Give time to prepare arguments and conduct a timed debate with each side presenting and responding to the other.
- **Tip**: Foster evidence-based argumentation, maintain respectful discourse, and manage time to ensure everyone can contribute.

ACTIVITY 4: Labour Movement Icebreaker
- **Use it to**: Introduce the topic of labour movements in a fun and active way while building group cohesion.
- **How**: Works well with 10–20 participants and lasts 15–20 minutes. No materials are needed, but a clear open space is essential. Lead participants in acting out different labour roles (like miners or factory workers), then shift to movements such as strikes or protests, using physical gestures as a group.
- **Tip**: Encourage high-energy participation and creativity to break the ice and connect participants to historical content through movement.

ACTIVITY 5: Historical Timeline Challenge
- **Use it to**: Reinforce understanding of the chronology and context of key historical moments in democracy and industrialisation.
- **How**: Designed for 15–25 participants over 30–45 minutes. You'll need event cards, tape or Blu-Tack, and a timer. Print and mix up historical moment cards, then distribute them so each participant holds one. In teams, participants work together to place the events in correct chronological order on a wall or floor timeline. Review the completed timeline as a group and correct errors together.
- **Tip**: Support collaboration and dialogue within teams, offer contextual hints when needed, and ensure all voices are included in the decision-making process.

Post-World War II Era:

ACTIVITY 1: Understanding the Pre-World War II World: Colonies, Monarchies, and Change
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand how colonial powers and monarchies shaped the world before World War II and how cultural changes started to challenge these systems.
- **How:** Start by introducing the historical context of colonialism and monarchy before WWII. Then, divide participants into small groups, providing them with printed summaries of colonial systems and monarchies. Each group uses sticky notes and markers to label major empires and monarchies on a world map. Afterward, they discuss the cultural changes that began to challenge these systems and present their findings.
- **Tip:** Encourage participants to think critically about the geographical and political dominance of colonial powers and monarchies, and how these systems began to be questioned in the face of rising democratic ideas.

ACTIVITY 2: Rebuilding after World War II
- **Use it to:** Teach participants about post-WWII reconstruction, the rise of democracy, and the creation of the United Nations through an interactive card-matching activity.

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- **How:** Introduce the concept of post-war reconstruction and democratisation. Divide participants into small groups and provide them with printed cards. Each card represents a key concept related to post-WWII rebuilding. Groups will pick cards, discuss their meanings, and then match them to explain how these concepts contributed to rebuilding efforts. Afterwards, groups will share their insights with the larger group.
- **Tip:** Keep the tone light and engaging. Use the cards as a visual tool to break down complex concepts, and encourage participants to think about how each piece fits into the larger puzzle of post-war recovery.

ACTIVITY 3: Democracy vs. Dictatorship Debate
- **Use it to:** Help participants explore and compare the ideological differences between democracy and dictatorship.
- **How:** Organise a debate between two teams—one supporting democracy and the other supporting dictatorship. Give each team time to prepare their arguments based on statements related to the effectiveness of these two systems. Once the debate starts, allow each team to present their arguments and counterarguments. Conclude with a Q&A from the audience and a vote on the best argument.
- **Tip:** Ensure a respectful and balanced debate environment, where both sides get equal time to present their ideas. Use real-world historical examples to strengthen arguments and make the debate more engaging.

ACTIVITY 4: Cold War Card Match
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand the key differences between the USA and the Soviet Union during the Cold War by matching terms and concepts with their respective sides.
- **How:** Provide participants with two sets of cards—one representing the USA and its democratic, capitalist values, and the other representing the Soviet Union and its communist values. In small groups, participants will match the cards with the appropriate side (USA or Soviet Union) and discuss why each card belongs to that side. Afterwards, groups will present their findings.
- **Tip:** Encourage participants to discuss the implications of the Cold War ideologies and think about how these differences influenced global politics during the Cold War.

ACTIVITY 5: Post-War Changes
- **Use it to:** Teach participants about the ideologies that emerged after World War II, such as democracy, communism, capitalism, and socialism, through a collaborative group activity.
- **How:** Introduce the four main ideologies and their significance in the post-WWII world. Divide participants into small groups and assign each group an ideology. Each group will write down key ideas related to their assigned ideology on strips of paper or sticky notes, then form a "human chain" by linking their ideas in a logical sequence. Groups will then present their chains and explain the connections between their ideas.
- **Tip:** Encourage creativity in how participants link their ideas, and use guiding questions to help them think about how each ideology shaped the post-WWII world.

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ACTIVITY 1: EU Values Role-Play
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand and empathise with core EU values such as democracy, human rights, equality, rule of law, and human dignity. Foster critical thinking about how these values are relevant in everyday life. Encourage teamwork, creativity, and communication skills.
- **How:** Divide participants into small groups (3-5 people) and assign each group one EU value. Ask groups to brainstorm scenarios where their assigned value is either challenged or upheld. Have each group develop a short role-play performance (3 minutes) to demonstrate their chosen value. After each performance, hold a brief Q&A session and reflect on how each value was portrayed.
- **Tip:** Encourage creativity and allow groups to explore historical, contemporary, or imagined scenarios. Manage time carefully to ensure all groups present their scenarios and there's time for reflection.

ACTIVITY 2: Model European Council Simulation
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand the role of the European Council in shaping EU decisions. Develop skills in negotiation, diplomacy, and consensus-building. Explore real-life EU issues like migration from different national perspectives.
- **How:** Assign each participant a country to represent and provide them with the country's position and background information. Let each participant prepare a 1-minute opening statement outlining their country's stance on the issue. Facilitate a negotiation where participants debate, negotiate, and build alliances to reach a consensus on the issue. End with a final statement that reflects the agreement or lack thereof.
- **Tip:** Encourage participants to stay true to their assigned country's interests, even if it's not their personal stance. Ensure balanced participation by involving quieter participants.

ACTIVITY 3: Debate on the EU's Future – For and Against EU Enlargement
- **Use it to:** Explore the implications of EU enlargement from a political, economic, and social perspective. Develop the ability to analyse arguments both for and against EU enlargement. Practice articulating and defending positions on EU enlargement.
- **How:** Divide participants into two teams: one for EU enlargement and one against it. Have each team prepare arguments based on historical context and current challenges. Facilitate a debate where each side presents opening statements, challenges each other's points, and provides evidence. After the debate, each team presents a closing statement summarising their arguments.
- **Tip:** Encourage evidence-based arguments using past enlargement examples. Ensure equal participation during the debate and avoid dominance by one side.

ACTIVITY 4: EU History Timeline
- **Use it to:** Help participants understand key events in EU history and their significance. Develop research skills and encourage teamwork in creating a visual representation of EU history. Foster creativity in presenting the timeline.

- **How:** Divide participants into small groups and assign them to research key events in EU history (e.g., founding of the European Communities, signing of the Maastricht Treaty). Each group selects 5 events and creates a visual timeline on flipchart paper or digitally. Groups present their timeline to the larger group and explain the significance of their selected events.
- **Tip:** Encourage groups to use visuals and colours to make their timelines engaging and informative. Ensure that participants stay on track with time management to allow for presentations and reflection.

ACTIVITY 5: Agree-Disagree Exercise on the Topic of EU Values
- **Use it to:** Help participants explore their opinions on core EU values and engage in critical reflection. Foster dialogue and mutual understanding on controversial EU topics.
- **How:** Present a series of statements related to EU values (e.g., "The EU should prioritise environmental sustainability over economic growth"). Ask participants to move to one side of the room if they agree, or the other side if they disagree. After each statement, facilitate a discussion where participants explain their positions and hear opposing views.
- **Tip:** Encourage respectful listening and ensure everyone has the chance to share their perspectives. Use follow-up questions to deepen the discussion and encourage reflection on how EU values impact decisions.

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Conclusion:

As a youth worker, you play a crucial role in shaping the values, skills, and attitudes of young people. Through the *DEMOCRACY TREE* app and the principles of non-formal education, you are empowered to guide youth on a journey of discovery, dialogue, and democratic engagement. This manual has equipped you with the tools to:
- Confidently navigate and use the app to introduce key democratic concepts;
- Understand and apply non-formal education methodologies that promote active participation and experiential learning;
- Effectively implement the app's activities in diverse youth settings, adapting them to meet the needs of different groups and fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment.

By combining digital tools with interactive, human-centred learning, you create space for young people to express themselves, build critical thinking skills, and explore their roles as active citizens. The *DEMOCRACY TREE* app is not just a resource—it is a catalyst for learning, reflection, and community impact.

We encourage you to continue experimenting, adapting, and evolving your practice. Every session you facilitate contributes to a generation of young people who are more informed, more engaged, and more ready to participate in democratic life. Thank you for your commitment to youth empowerment and to nurturing the democratic spirit in your community.

Let the tree of democracy grow—rooted in knowledge, nourished by dialogue, and flourishing through action.

DEMOCRACY
TREE