

SALTO-YOUTH
TRAINING AND COOPERATION
RESOURCE CENTRE



European Citizenship

Intercultural Training Course



Info Pack

for
Participants

Info Pack for Participants
European Citizenship – Intercultural Training Course

European Citizenship – Intercultural Training Courses
Co-ordinated and monitored by the
SALTO-YOUTH Training and Co-operation Resource Centre
in co-operation with the
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a few words of welcome...

Congratulations! You have applied to participate in the intercultural training course «European Citizenship», for which we are really grateful - and you have indeed been selected as a participant, for which you are allowed to be really grateful for a moment, too.

You were selected because we believe that you can learn something at the course for yourself and your organisation, association, company, group or movement at home. But there is more to it: We also believe that you have something to offer to the «Youth in Action» Programme and that the other participants can learn something from you as well.

Most importantly, we consider your work as an excellent way to put the ideas of European Citizenship into reality, especially within the «Youth in Action» Programme – and with this training course we hope to make doing that a little bit easier, better and faster.

For this reason and many many more we, and we can surely speak on behalf of all other participants, are looking forward to meeting you soon. Please be prepared for a demanding training course; but it will also be lots of fun, we promise! The course is not gonna end at the time of sunset, not at all. There will be time as well to talk, discuss, debate as well as dance, watch videos, sing, go out and party. Please note that there will be no time for shopping or sightseeing during the days of the course.

Some of the following information gives you information on the aims and objectives, the programme flow, the structure of the programme and our educational approach. Next to this we have also included some essential organisational information.

Please make sure to read this information carefully before you come!

A few items that we are asking you to prepare and bring along to the course will help to facilitate our joint intercultural experience.

Should you have any questions, suggestions, problems or proposals - please do not hesitate to contact us at any time. We will respond as quickly as we can!

Looking forward to meeting you soon,

[name of the team members]

[name of the hosting NA]

european citizenship: *an intercultural training course*

Why European Citizenship?!

There are many ways to look at and think about European Citizenship. Would you like to explore some of them? Then you have chosen the right course to exchange and further develop your ideas together with your fellow participants, trainers and resource persons!

This training course was developed to encourage the development of a critical, democratic and creative European Citizenship as an **active social, political and cultural role to construct a shared Europe** and in doing so, to support the implementation and quality of the «Youth in Action» Programme of the European Union.

The promotion of European Citizenship has been a longstanding priority of the Council of Europe and European Union alike. Violations of human rights within and outside the EU and the increasing change of patterns of political participation all over Europe are only two of many developments that have brought the two big European institutions together to work on European Citizenship.

This co-operation between the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports on the one hand and the European Union's European Commission on the other hand happens in the framework of a partnership with the following aims:

- ⊙ to make young people and multipliers aware of human rights and the common values European citizens share and to provide them with the skills and tools to enhance their activities in this context,
- ⊙ to train, at transnational level, youth workers and youth leaders as well as other multipliers in the youth field, as well as to develop and consolidate innovative training approaches in this context, and
- ⊙ to sustain and widen existing networks of youth workers and youth leaders; to promote the understanding of and respect for cultural diversity and intercultural co-operation.

The «Youth in Action» programme of the European Union has now made «European Citizenship» a key priority by aiming to **"promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular."**

aim and objectives

The European Union and the Council of Europe support and organise a great variety of different educational activities, publications and websites on European Citizenship through instruments like the «Youth in Action» programme or the «European Youth Foundation».

Some activities are run by the institutions or their partnership directly, but the majority is implemented in co-operation with partners such as non-governmental organisations. All of these activities are developed and put into practice with the vision for participants

«to develop a sense of time, space and place in contemporary Europe, the skills and motivation required to be active agents for democratic change while participating in the building of Europe and to provide the knowledge to make informed and future-minded choices within this context.»

Among the entire variety of courses, workshops, training days and courses all over Europe, this course has a particular role to play as the central training course on «European Citizenship» by the network of national agencies of the «Youth in Action» programme. It puts into practice «Priority 1) – European Citizenship» of the «Youth in Action» Programme by aiming to

«support the professional development of youth workers and youth leaders by extending their critical understanding of European Citizenship, by exploring and experiencing the potential of the notion of European Citizenship, and by enabling them to recognise and integrate European Citizenship in their youth work.»

The training course has **five objectives to realise this aim**, namely to:

- ⊙ critically explore the meaning relevance and implications European citizenship in youth work in all its dimensions;
- ⊙ promote and facilitate the active use of programmes and structures in support of youth work on European Citizenship, including the «Youth in Action» programme;
- ⊙ experiment and explore the potential of European Citizenship for active democratic change in society;
- ⊙ associate the participants with the current discourse on European Citizenship (its concepts, formal meanings and expressions);
- ⊙ exemplify the connection between European Citizenship, Human Rights, Democracy and Intercultural Learning and the underlying values.

target group

The course is intended for 25-30 individuals who

- ⊙ are working with young people in a professional capacity on a paid or voluntary basis (e.g. youth workers, youth leaders, community and social workers, teachers);
- ⊙ have experience in developing and managing projects with and for young people;
- ⊙ have organised at least one youth project with a European dimension;
- ⊙ are committed to work with young people on issues related to European Citizenship;
- ⊙ are supported by their organisation in their current and future work;
- ⊙ have knowledge of youth and youth work realities in their contexts;
- ⊙ are motivated to undergo training and able to attend the course for its full duration;
- ⊙ are able to work in English and
- ⊙ are resident in a Member State of the Council of Europe or in another country signatory to the ECC.

main themes

The main themes are reflecting the aim and objectives of the training course. They are:

What is European Citizenship? How can it be used in youth work? What is the political relevance of the concept?

Europe and European identity: What does it mean to be European? How European are young people today? Where does Europe come from? How does European citizenship relate to other transnational identities, such as global citizenship?

European Citizenship in Action: What does it mean to be an active citizen at local, national or international level? Are young people active citizens? How can youth work encourage active citizenship of young people?

Dilemmas around European Citizenship: Why and how should someone be a critical European citizen? What about the world? How can European citizenship become reality under different social, political and economical circumstances?

European Citizenship and Democracy, Youth Participation, Human Rights and Intercultural Learning: What are the connections between these themes, practices and concepts and European citizenship?

And most importantly:

How to be youth in Action: How can European Citizenship be approached in youth work? How can the «Youth in Action» Programme and other European programmes support youth work on European Citizenship?

programme flow



programme structure

On the next page you can see how the programme flow translates into a structure for the training course. If necessary and adequate, this structure might be adapted by the team of your course – dependent on your learning needs.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
<i>Breakfast</i>							
Morning session <i>coffee and tea break included</i>	A R R I V A L	Introduction and group building	Europe and European identity What should Europe be?	Key aspects of European Citizenship: Human Rights Interculturality Participation	How to be youth in action?	Future plans for youth work on European citizenship	D E P A R T U R E
<i>Lunch break</i>							
Afternoon session <i>coffee and tea break included</i>		European Citizenship and other transnational citizenships	European Citizenship & local action NGO Agora	Dilemmas around European Citizenship	How to be youth in action?	Final session with evaluation	
<i>Dinner</i>							
Evening	Welcome evening		Dinner in town			Farewell Party	

our educational approach

Our training will address European Citizenship in youth work and all connected issues by means of non-formal learning, **based on your experience, your motivation, your needs and your own learning objectives.**

Nonformal education and learning is different from formal education or spontaneous informal learning. It means for instance, that you are at the training course because you wanted to yourself, and not because anyone told you that you have to be there. It also means that you are responsible for your own learning, while the team and the group support you. And it certainly means that your feedback is valid and important and will be used to improve future training courses.

It definitely means that we do not control what you have learned by means of any sort of test. We will not award you a diploma stating that you have completed the training with an average grade of 1,3. You will decide what to learn and which key competences you intend to develop through active participation in the training.

It means that this will not be a series of serious lectures on the European institutions. If you need to know basic information on the European Union and the Council of Europe, use the time until the course to get familiar with their tasks, policies and structures.

This course is not a training of/for trainers on European citizenship! Nevertheless, the team is open to share their experiences in training on/for/through European citizenship should you be interested in methodological aspects or curriculum development.

And, let's not forget that nonformal learning also means facing a challenge, experiencing and learning to cope with quite a bit of stress, but also – lots of fun!

finances

This course is financed by the «Youth in Action» Programme – more specifically, by the network of National Agencies. The agency hosting this course makes a major financial contribution and covers the expenses of the course together with the agencies sending participants to the course – thank you very much!

Your travel expenses would usually be covered by the National Agency of your own country, while accommodation and lodging will be covered by the National Agency of the country where the course takes place.

certificate and youthpass

This is an introduction – there is more on <http://www.youthpass.eu>.

Youthpass is a newly developed European instrument of validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme. Participants of specific training activities, including this training course, have the right to receive a Youthpass Certificate.

This certificate records your learning achievements and consists of two parts:

- ⊙ a descriptive one, presenting the objectives and main activities of the European training course you attend,
- ⊙ a self-assessment one, completed by you yourself, usually with the benefit of feedback from other participants.

You can freely decide if you like to receive an individualised Youthpass, including a self-assessment part. Participation in the self-assessment process is based on your voluntary commitment.

Nevertheless, we would like to encourage you to try it! What is there to lose? What you can gain is a new experience in planning and assessing your competence development during the course.

Competence is defined here as a combination of attitudes, knowledge and skills transferable and applicable in many situations and contexts. 'Key competences' are meant to support personal fulfilment, social inclusion, active citizenship and employment throughout our lives in the 21st century.

The European Reference Framework sets out **eight key competence areas**: Communication in the mother tongue; Communication in a foreign language; Mathematical literacy and basic competence in science and technology; Digital competence; Learning to learn; Interpersonal, intercultural, social and civic competences; Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship; Cultural awareness and expression.

Support for your personal and professional development will be provided in a differentiated way by the trainers as well as your fellow participants and peer support groups as needed. Therefore **we would like to kindly ask you to indicate in the pre-course questionnaire which competencies you intend to develop during this training.** It will also help you to evaluate the training in comparison to your needs.

Enjoy planning and assessing your learning!

what to bring

There are a number of things we would like you to bring along for the training programme as well as the informal moments of our week. They are all equally important and we would like to ask you to **not only read through the list but to also bring the stuff along:**

- a)** some **examples of your youth work** and materials (posters, leaflets, photos, magazines, podcasts, videos, CDs...) for a small and humble exhibition during the NGO Agora. This **Agora** should express and visualise how your work is connected to **European citizenship**. Please focus on good practice (actions, projects), obstacles or unresolved problems, and future plans or offers for co-operation of your organisation in relation to the key aspects of European Citizenship, such as participation or citizenship actions.
- b)** a typical taste of your region or country for a common **European breakfast** on our second day. Please don't bring too much and note that it is not possible to cook or heat food at the training centre!
- c)** your artistic skills! Can you play the guitar, sing, dance? Have you got any hidden talents? Impress us!
- d)** some cool pieces of music and games from your country or region or anywhere else. Imagine 30 people from all over Europe, a stereo, a room, the need to dance, and a long night ahead... You see?
- e)** endless amounts of good mood and motivation for work and leisure!
- f)** any dictionaries you might require;
- g)** an alarm clock and the loading cable of your mobile;
- h)** any insurance you might consider good to have (health insurance for a foreign country for instance or a luggage loss insurance or third liability or or). Unfortunately we cannot provide any of these.
- i)** a swimsuit and a huge, nice and fluffy towel – just in case!

Thank you! Very much indeed :)

Again: should you have any questions, suggestions, problems or proposals - please do not hesitate to contact us at any time (simply use the email address from which you have received this infopack!). We will respond as quickly as we can!

We wish you nice preparations, nice travels and are looking forward to meeting you soon – *your hosting agency and your trainers' team* :)

youth in action

From the «Programme Guide», Version January 2008:

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States of the European Union have agreed to establish the «Youth in Action» Programme. It will run from 2007 to the end of 2013.



The «Youth in Action» Programme makes an important contribution to the acquisition of competences and is therefore a key instrument in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension. It contributes to the fulfilment of the aims set out in the revised Lisbon Strategy¹, the European Youth Pact², the framework of European Cooperation in the youth field³ and the Commission's Plan D for democracy, dialogue and debate⁴, and aims to respond at European level to the needs of young people from adolescence to adulthood.

The «Youth in Action» Programme builds on the experience of the previous Programme "Youth for Europe" (1989-1999), the European Voluntary Service and the YOUTH Programme (2000-2006).

The general objectives stated in the legal basis of the «Youth in Action» Programme are the following:

- ⊙ Promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular;
- ⊙ Develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union;
- ⊙ Foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries;
- ⊙ Contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field;
- ⊙ Promote European cooperation in the youth field.

These general objectives shall be implemented at project level taking into consideration the following permanent priorities:

¹ Working together for growth and jobs. A new start for the Lisbon Strategy, COM (2005) 24 of 2 February 2005.

² Annex 1 of Presidency Conclusions of the European Council, Brussels, 22 and 23 March 2005

³ Council Resolution (2002/C 168/02) of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European co-operation in the youth field, OJ C 168 of 13/7/2002, pp. 2-5.

⁴ COM (2005) 494 final of 13 October 2005

1) European citizenship

Making young people aware that they are European citizens is a priority of the «Youth in Action» Programme. The objective is to encourage young people to reflect upon European topics including European citizenship and to involve them in the discussion on the construction and the future of the European Union.

On this basis, projects should have a strong European dimension and stimulate reflection on the emerging European society and its values.

2) Participation of young people

A main priority of the «Youth in Action» Programme is the participation of young people in democratic life. The overall objective for participation is to encourage young people to be active citizens. This objective has the three following dimensions, laid down in the Council resolution on the common objectives for participation by and information for young people⁵:

- ⊙ to increase the participation by young people in the civic life of their community;
- ⊙ to increase participation by young people in the system of representative democracy;
- ⊙ greater support for various forms of learning to participate.

Projects funded under the «Youth in Action» Programme should reflect these three dimensions by using participation as a pedagogical principle for project implementation.

3) Cultural Diversity

The respect for cultural diversity together with the fight against racism and xenophobia are priorities of the «Youth in Action» Programme. By facilitating joint activities of young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, the Programme aims to develop the intercultural learning of young people.

As far as the development and implementation of projects are concerned, this means that young people participating in a project should become aware of its intercultural dimension. Intercultural working methods should be used to enable project participants to participate on an equal basis.

4) Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

An important priority for the European Commission is to give young people with fewer opportunities access to the «Youth in Action» Programme.

⁵ Council Resolution (2003/C 295/04) of 25 November 2003, OJ C 295 of 5.12.2003, pp. 6-8.

Youth groups and organisations should take appropriate measures to avoid exclusion of specific target groups. The «Youth in Action» Programme is a Programme for all, and efforts should be made to include young people with special needs.

In close cooperation with the National Agencies and the SALTO Resource Centres, the European Commission has established a strategy for the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the «Youth in Action» Programme, targeting in particular young people from a less-privileged educational, socio-economic, cultural or geographical background, or with disabilities.

Structure of the Youth in Action Programme

In order to achieve its objectives, the «Youth in Action» Programme foresees five operational Actions.

Action 1 – Youth for Europe

The aims of this action are:

- ⊙ to increase mobility of young people by supporting Youth Exchanges ;
- ⊙ to develop young people's citizenship and mutual understanding by supporting Youth Initiatives, projects and activities concerning their participation in democratic life.

Action 1 supports the following measures.

1.1 Youth Exchanges

Youth Exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people (in principle aged 13 to 25) from different countries to meet and learn about each other's cultures. The groups plan together their Youth Exchange around a theme of mutual interest.

1.2 Youth Initiatives

This sub-action supports group projects designed at local, regional and national level. It also supports the networking of similar projects between different countries, in order to strengthen their European aspect and to enhance cooperation and exchanges of experiences between young people. Youth Initiatives address mainly young people between 18 and 30. Young people from the age of 15 may be admitted if accompanied by a youth worker or coach.

1.3 Youth Democracy Projects

This sub-action supports young people's participation in the democratic life of their local, regional or national community and at international level. It is open to young people between 13 and 30.

Action 2 – European Voluntary Service

The aim of the European Voluntary Service is to support young people's participation in various forms of voluntary activities, both within and outside the European Union.

Under this Action, young people (aged 18 to 30) take part individually or in groups in non-profit, unpaid activities. The service may last up to twelve months. In exceptional cases, young people from 16 years old may participate in European Voluntary Service.

Action 3 – Youth in the World

The aim of this action is to support projects with the Partner Countries, in particular exchanges of young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations and the development of partnerships and networks of youth organisations.

Action 4 – Youth Support Systems

The aim of this action is to support bodies active at European level in the field of youth, in particular the operation of youth NGOs, their networking, advice for people developing projects, ensuring quality by means of the exchange, training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations, encouraging innovation and quality, providing young people with information, developing the structures and activities needed for the Programme to meet these goals and encouraging partnerships with local and regional authorities.

4.3. Training and networking of those active in youth work and youth organisations

This sub-action supports the training of those active in youth work and youth organisations, in particular the exchange of experiences, expertise and good practice between them as well as activities that may lead to long-lasting quality projects and partnerships and networks.

Action 5 – Support for European cooperation in the youth field

The aims of this action are:

- ⊙ to organise structured dialogue between the various actors in the field of youth, in particular the young people themselves, those active in youth work and youth organisations and policymakers;
- ⊙ to support Youth Seminars and National Transnational Youth Seminars;
- ⊙ to contribute to the development of policy cooperation in the youth field;
- ⊙ to facilitate the development of networks in order to improve a better understanding of youth;
- ⊙ to support cooperation with international organisations.

* * *

european citizenship:

entry points for reading and discovering more...

Our own web-portal for all things European Citizenship

<http://www.european-citizenship.org>

Perspectives of the European Union

General presentation of the policy concerning the citizenship of the European Union, established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992, can be found here:

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s18000.htm>

The «White Paper on Youth», followed by common objectives for several policy areas, is an important document for the future of young people and their citizenship in the European Union. It was published in 2001 and can be downloaded at:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-policies/doc26_en.htm

<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s19003.htm>

In July 2006, the Commission adopted a communication on youth participation and information in view of promoting young people's active citizenship. It is available at:

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14471.en06.pdf>

The Commission has established a website to debate the future of the European Union as part of their «Plan D – Democracy, Dialogue and Debate» at:

http://europa.eu/debateeurope/index_en.htm

And the European Youth Portal – including information on active citizenship:

http://europa.eu/youth/index.cfm?l_id=en

Programmes of the European Union

The European Union runs a programme to bring Europe closer to its citizens called «Europe for Citizens». More information about the programme is available at:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm

The «Youth in Action» Programme addresses young people specifically. One of its thematic priorities is European Citizenship. More here:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/youth/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html

Perspectives of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has gathered extensive experience through its programme on «Education for Democratic Citizenship». More information is available at:

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/edc/>

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe (CLRAE) has adopted a resolution on the role of young people as citizens as well as a «European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life», introduced here:

<http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/BGKNGE/Participation>

«Making democratic institutions work» is a project of the Council of Europe that has developed proposals on reforming democracies throughout Europe. Read more at:

http://www.coe.int/t/e/Integrated_Projects/democracy/

European Citizenship through diversity, human rights and participation – that was the claim of the Council of Europe's campaign «All different all equal». Find out more at:

<http://alldifferent-allequal.info/>

Programmes of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport offers youth NGOs the possibility to hold residential educational activities at their European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest. The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. Discover possibilities at:

<http://www.coe.int/youth/>

Perspectives of youth researchers

One good place to start exploring the findings of (youth) researchers is the «European Knowledge Centre», a virtual platform gathering plenty of research documents on European Citizenship. To receive the latest documents and most recent research, use the search engine to look for documents on citizenship and European Citizenship:

<http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index>

Perspectives of practitioners

A good place to start reading about European Citizenship in youth work practice is the Partnership's T-Kit «Under construction – European Citizenship» that brings together historical contexts, political discourses and theoretical models with European youth work.

You can download the T-Kit from:

<http://www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/Publications/tkits/tkit7/index.html>

Perspectives of civil society

There are many non-governmental organisations that have contributed to the discussions on European Citizenship through their work and their discourses, their thinking and their practice. Our selection is limited and not more than an entry-point – please explore further! Search engines will overwhelm you when entering «European Citizenship»... Enjoy!

Speak out! on European Citizenship

<http://www.citizen.org.uk/speakout/about.html>

Networking European Citizenship Education – NECE

www.bpb.de/nece

European Citizens' Initiative

<http://www.citizens-initiative.eu/>

European Youth Forum

<http://www.youthforum.org/>

European Citizen Action Service – ECAS

<http://www.ecas.org/>

Active Citizenship Network

<http://www.activecitizenship.net/>

Civil Society Network

<http://csn.uni-muenster.de/civil-society-network/english/index.htm>

World Alliance for Citizen Participation

<http://www.civicus.org/>

Civil Society and the Making of European Citizenship

<http://www.cinefogo.org/>

Involve – The Participation Organisation

<http://www.involve.org.uk/>