European Citizenship in Youth Work

Concepts and Practices of Citizenship Education in Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme

INFO PACK FOR APPLICANTS

Co-ordinated and monitored by the
SALTO Training and Co-operation Resource Centre

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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 «Erasmus+: Youth in Action» Programme of the European Union.

Participants

Committed youth workers, youth leaders and other multipliers from programme and non-programme countries from extended Europe – isn't it a unique opportunity to share experiences and visions of the future of Europe?

Aim and objectives

The European Union support and organise a great variety of different educational activities, publications and websites on European Citizenship through instruments like the Erasmus+: Youth in Action or the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union.

Some activities are run by the institution 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 Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme.

It aims 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 Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme;

- experience 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.

Main themes

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 specific Programmes for Youth and other European programmes support youth work on European Citizenship?

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.**

Non-formal 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.

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

Programme

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.

Arrival Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Morning Session	Introduction to the ECTC	Europe and Identity	Citizenship Practices and Concepts	The futures of Europe and my youth work	European Citizenship in our youth work Future steps
Afternoon Session	Europe	Complexity and ambiguity of the European Citizenship	Local reality experience	How to be Erasmus+: Youth in Action? Intro to Erasmus+: Youth in Action	Youth pass Evaluation closing
Welcome evening	European Evening	Organisations Agora	Open evening	Dinner out	Farewell Evening