

# “all on board –next stop CitizenSHIP!”

**Youth in Action Programme**

**Action 4.5 — Support to information activities for young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations**

## Project proposal



Youth  
in Action  
Programme



# Foreword

The legal concept of citizenship of the (European) Union was formally introduced into the EC Treaty in 1993 by the Treaty of Maastricht. EU citizenship comprises a limited bundle of legal rights which citizens can exercise vis-à-vis other Member States and the institutions of the EU and, less often, vis-à-vis their own Member State. Many EU citizenship rights are focused on mobile EU citizens, who have exercised rights of free movement and reside in a Member State other than the one of which they are nationals, e.g. as workers, students or retired persons. The legal status of EU citizenship is derived from Member State citizenship. Only the nationals of the Member States are EU citizens. The Member States have largely unfettered power to determine the scope of their own nationality law, and therefore also who are the citizens of the European Union. However, through the common citizenship of the Union and its core right of free movement, each Member State's citizenship policies impact on the other Member States.

## According to European statistics...

*As of 1 January 2012, the population of the EU is about 503.5 million people*

- “Citizenship is the practice of a moral code – a code that has concern for the interest of others – grounded in personal self-development and voluntary co-operation rather than the repressive compulsive power of state intervention.”
- (Hayek, 1967)
- “Citizenship is a status bestowed on all those who are full members of a community. All who possess the status are equal with respect to the rights and duties with which the status is endowed. There are not universal principles that determine what those rights and duties shall be, but societies in which citizenship is a developing institution create an image of ideal citizenship ... Citizenship requires a direct sense of community membership based on loyalty to a civilization which is a common possession. It is a loyalty of free men endowed with rights and protected by a common law.”
- (Marshall, 1973)

## About the project

Citizenship no longer refers just to the status conferred to individuals by their place of birth and/or residence. Citizenship has more to do with being a part of society; it involves our sense of identity, as well as our rights, duties/roles and responsibilities as members of communities. Now, when we think of citizenship, notions of civic engagement, democracy, diversity, equity, identity, inclusion, globalization and rights come to mind. Essentially, citizenship is more about the qualities and characteristics required for individuals to be active and engaged members of communities.

Citizenship is the legal status of belonging to a state, but equally important citizenship also is about how we live together in our communities and the larger society. Young people are essential to the ongoing development of democratic ways of life. As concerns arise about important societal issues – for example, racism, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, inclusion, political participation, gay rights – we look to educate the young people in ways that will strengthen their participation into the public life.

**“all on board –next stop CitizenSHIP!”** aims at bringing Europe closer to young people and young workers through an improved and active access to information on European issues through effective Europe-wide information campaigns and the development of youth media on this topic.

The goal of this project is to create a self-sustainable multinational and multilingual information network by young people and for young people based on a bottom-up model. To achieve, the project wishes to provide the tools to young citizens of different geographical, social, and cultural backgrounds to gather, analyze, and exchange news, ideas, and stories on European topics.

The core part of the project will be a series of events lasting four days to be held in different European countries in order to develop skills and exchange experiences on how to present the European Union and discuss on its current challenges in a fair, transparent and plural way. These events will include a preparatory meeting with the local partners/contact persons, an information campaign, a workshop on youth journalism and training in European active citizenship.

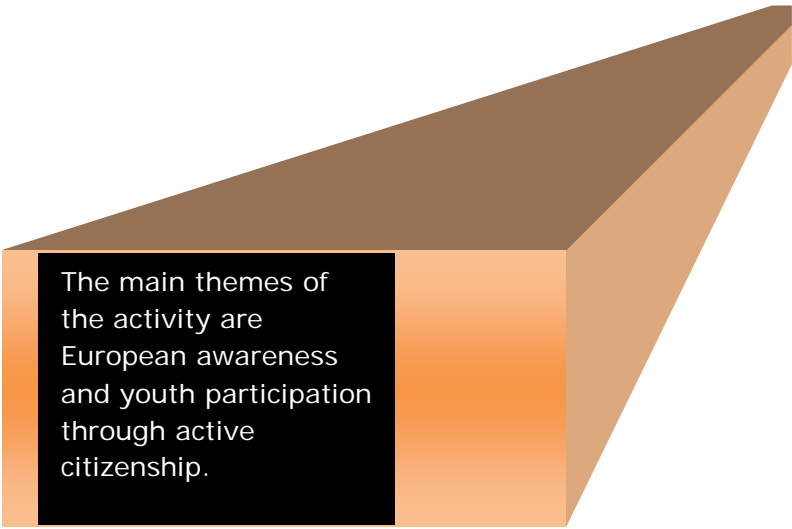
**“all on board –next stop CitizenSHIP!”** project is also about helping youth workers to develop long-term sustainable youth work programs directed towards developing the competencies, young people need for active participation and citizenship in society. It is about creating direction for youth work more clearly, strategically planned and based on the needs of young people.

## Project aims & objectives

The **general aim** of the project is to create sustainable ways of youth empowerment through participation and practicing democratic citizenship at local level through various youth activities;

The following **objectives** will ensure the achievement of the main aim:

- To increase understanding of youth about active youth participation both in youth work and in decision making processes;
- To learn how youth critical thinking can be developed through youth projects;
- To develop awareness about democratic citizenship as a meaningful direction for young people participating in youth activities;
- To explore the nature of youth participation and instruments for its promotion among groups of young people who usually have fewer opportunities to be active in civil society or youth activities at local and regional level;
- To develop creative and attractive ways of citizenship education through youth work



The main themes of the activity are European awareness and youth participation through active citizenship.

## Target group

. Beneficiaries of the project are young people aged 16 – 28 years old from different European countries in need of a support in order to encourage their personal growth as citizens, to increase their development opportunities, to strengthen their active participation to the civil society. Groups of young people from each project areas are actively involved within the project, as direct beneficiaries of the main actions of the project.

Their involvement is possible through the “peer education and good practice transfer”: the young individuals benefit directly of the project actions (workshops and international seminars), being able, then, to transfer their experience to the people of their age within their communities, so to enlarge the impact of the project and to offer the positive results and the improvement of opportunities to a wider audience.

## Involvement of young participants

Project activities are based on the principles of non-formal education, such as active participation, expression and personal development of life skills, reduction of the distance between trainer and learners/trainees, empowerment of young people as active subjects and protagonists. The activities are designed to reinforce in young people a sense of belonging to their socio-cultural context, encouraging them to become active participants in their own lives and in their social context.

Young people are encouraged to understand and communicate effectively with the specific needs of their communities and become active promoters of proposals and solutions. Furthermore, the development of an intercultural dialogue and a sense of belonging to a global community, together with the ability to “export” and communicate in an “other” personal issues and local, represent key elements of a process aimed at overcoming the social marginalization and youth empowerment.

## Methodology

Through non-formal education activities during local and international events (meetings, workshops, role playing, seminars, etc..) the project promotes and raises awareness of youth about European citizenship, as well as their awareness of life skills (social and transversal skills), ideas, goals and potentialities. The project path enables young people to become protagonists of their own social context, developing a strong sense of belonging to the local community, as well as to the European community.

The opportunity of visibility that project offers to young people allows considering them not only as target group but also as multipliers, facilitators, and peer educators of the topics of the project. The project allows participants to become more skilled and motivated to further participate in local and national initiatives in the youth field. Also, the participants will become capable to develop long-term sustainable work programs directed towards developing the competencies, young people need for active participation and citizenship in their societies.

## Themes, issues and arguments

***“all on board –next stop CitizenSHIP!”*** project stimulates young beneficiaries to discuss, compare, get a knowledge and an opinion about some relevant issues, such as:

- Knowledge, awareness, belonging/membership, relationships towards the communities, the local networks, the social contexts they live in;
- Life skills and participative attitudes needed for the processes of social relationships, communication and active citizenship: decision making, self-awareness, self-confidence, communication, etc.,
- ICT competences and the new communication channels, as a means of accessibility, visibility, inclusion;

## Project activities

	What	Where
1	Local preparatory meetings	All countries
2	Kick-off meeting	Romania
3	Creation of promotional materials	All countries
4	Web page creation & social media	Romania
5	Local workshops and discussions which involve young people, aimed at developing a greater knowledge and awareness on the topic European citizenship	All countries
6	European level campaign during European Youth Week to promote active European citizenship at local and national level;	All countries
7	Good practices manual and multimedia DVD creation;	To be decided
8	Dissemination and valorization activities;	All countries
9	Evaluation meeting	To be decided

## Results & impact

Concrete results of the project are: meetings and workshops, international mobility, video-interviews, ICT tools (web site, Facebook page) European level campaign and the final publication.

The impact achieved by project is the increase of awareness and knowledge of young people about their community, as well as their participation as local and global active citizens, able to involve and sensitize other young people, ensuring the project valorization and multiplication.

As a result of their participation in project activities, participants are expected to develop:

- a critical understanding of the tensions, opportunities and challenges arising from an enlarging Europe;
- the capacity to debate ideas of European citizenship;
- the potential to integrate European dimensions into their work with young people, particularly “cascading” these capabilities to young people.
- reflections on experiences and stimuli on how to deal with the topic of European citizenship, both in non-formal and formal learning environments;
- the skills and abilities necessary in order to set up a project on European citizenship with young people and the tools to benefit from the gained experience (increased visibility and evaluation possibilities);
- their understanding of intercultural learning and its relation to European citizenship;
- their motivation and capacity to enrich and contribute to conceptual developments and debates on European Youth Policy and on European level youth worker and youth leader training;
- a broader and clearer understanding of European citizenship deriving from the institutional cooperation in this particular area;
- a clearer and extended knowledge of European youth programs and the possibilities these programs offer to support local projects for European citizenship;
- a network of contacts and potential partners in Europe.

## Project dates:

November 1th 2013 –October 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

## Partner countries

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom,

Interested organizations should send attached „Identification of the promoter.doc” document, Part II.doc dully signed, stamped (as scan copy) together with a CV (in Europass format) of the person in charge of the project to:

[office@modoflife.ro](mailto:office@modoflife.ro)

with a subject line “*all on board –next stop CitizenSHIP!*”

**no later than May 30<sup>th</sup> 2013**