

The Hub of Young Citizens: Enhancing Youth Active Participation

Program: Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity Building in the Field of Youth

Deadline for partnerships: 25.07.2017

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) has announced a new Call for Proposals for Capacity Building projects under the Education, Training and Youth Programme Erasmus+. Capacity Building projects are transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations active in the field of youth.

Motivation behind the project:

Young people across the world, specifically in the European Union and India are encouraged and have the right to take part as active citizens in creating the communities they belong to, locally and in society at large. **However young people are often referred and seen as “citizens in the making”, “future leaders” and are never fully integrated and actively engaged in solving socially relevant problems contributing in creating the society at large.** Putting youth at a distance from decision making relevant to a community fosters youth to become disengaged and/or disinterest in being active citizens. **Additionally, young people with fewer opportunities, specifically from migrant and refugee backgrounds and/or rural areas often experience further barriers that prevent their participation and contribution in solving community relevant issues and creating a youth-friendly community.**

Currently, mainstream academic education across Europe and Asia, specifically India, lack practical training and focus on creating actively engaged and entrepreneurial mindset among youth aged 13-19. Teachers of rural educational institutions often lack expertise, motivation and commitment to foster youth participation and/or to facilitate their idea execution to solve a socially relevant issue. **The Public Authorities governing the public schools often fail at creating nurturing support systems for educational institutions to create programs as part of the curriculum creating youth as problem solvers encouraging active participation.**

The project aims at connecting public authorities governing rural educational institutions across Europe and India to establish “The Hub of Young Citizens”. The Hub would serve as a physical and a virtual place aimed at actively engaging youth to become community problem solvers. The Hub builds capacities of youth, specifically focusing on practical training to identify a problem, to create a realistic, sustainable solution and to facilitate impactful execution.

Creating a nurturing environment offering possibilities for youth, specifically with fewer opportunities, to impactfully participate can build a strong sense of ownership and belonging of a community and foster active participation. Communities, society at large can greatly benefit from the rich diversity and creativity of today's youth.

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Innovations/Interventions to be developed during the project:

1. HUB OF YOUNG CITIZENS:

- A physical space within educational institutions building capacities of youth, facilitating to identify problems, create solutions, generate resources and execute the interventions
- A cooperative, inclusive model of collaboration between educational institutions, public authorities, private sector and the civil society in encouraging and supporting youth to actively engage in solving community relevant issues
- An ICT tool (online site/app) based on engaging gamification methods to encourage youth to become active problem solvers. The tool would be an interactive game allowing players to identify local problems, receive points, reach levels, interact with other players across the same or different communities, engage with public authorities and request support of resources to facilitate solution execution.

2. YOUTH WORK CURRICULA/TRAINING MODULES:

- Develop socially relevant and youth tailored practical training modules to build capacities of youth to be able to identify a problem, build solutions, generate resources, mobilize community, turn ideas into action
- Develop a curricula to build capacities of rural educational institution teachers to be able to facilitate youth actively engaging in community work

Objectives:

- Increase the capacity of rural educational institutions, enhance the management, governance, innovation capacity and internationalisation enabling schools to foster youth active participation;
- Promote strategic cooperation between schools and public authorities/bodies and foster collaboration between civil societies and educational institutions;
- Launch, test and implement youth work practices, such as: tools and methods for the socio-professional development of teachers and youth workers at rural schools;
- New forms of practical training schemes and simulation of real life cases in society;

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- New forms of youth work, virtual mobility, open educational resources (OER) and better exploitation of the ICT potential;
- Cooperation, networking and peer-learning activities fostering efficient management, internationalisation and leadership of rural schools.
- foster cooperation and exchanges in the field of youth between Programme Countries and Partner Countries from different regions of the world;
- improve the quality and recognition of youth work, non-formal learning and volunteering in Partner Countries and enhance their synergies and complementarities with other education systems, the labour market and society;
- promote transnational non-formal learning mobility between Programme and Partner Countries, especially targeting young people with fewer opportunities, with a view to improving participants' level of competences and fostering their active participation in society.

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Action Agenda for Change 2020

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