

NAME: YouthStation

With this project we aim to empower young people, especially those from remote or rural areas, to take an active part in democratic life, in terms of active citizenship and engagement with decision-makers. This will be done on a local, national, and international level, creating a cross-border network with a foundation on an international digital platform, which will contribute to widening the outreach towards young people, ensuring diversity of voices, reaching young people within and beyond youth organizations.

Specific objectives of the project are:

1. To gather info on the involvement of young people in democratic life, in terms of active citizenship and engagement with decision-makers, through the international survey amongst young people from 5 different countries, especially those from remote or rural areas or belonging to vulnerable and socio-economic disadvantaged groups;
2. To raise the capacity of the youth sector in 5 partner countries, to reach youth both within their own nation and to work transnationally, while promoting learning and cooperation between young people and decision-makers;
3. To train at least 750 young people belonging to 50 remote, rural or disadvantaged areas across 5 partner countries in the skills of advocacy and mediation, which will incapacitate them to engage with local, national and regional decision-makers;
4. To promote the participation of under-represented groups of young people in politics, youth organizations and other civil society organizations from 50 different areas (ex. municipalities), by establishing a connection with local and national decision-makers and adding an international dimension through digital engagement;
5. To engage over 150 young people from 5 different countries in upscaling existing best practices and outreach beyond the regular network(s), by getting them familiarized with local politics in every partner country;
6. To create a unique digital *YouthStation* where young people can get informed about the possibilities of exchanges and youth participation on a local, regional and international level;
7. To set up a foundation for future cooperation.

The activities planned for this project will include:

1. Kick-off Meeting (**mobility 1**)
2. Research + publication
3. Training

- a. Online preparatory phase
- b. Capacity raising training (**mobility 2**)

Training will take place in one of the partner countries and will gather representatives of each participating organization, as well as at least 4 trainers/facilitators.

The goal of this event is to train representatives of each partner organization in advocacy basics, mediation, and workshop facilitation, as well as to suggest some tips and tricks for working directly with young people. The knowledge should then, combined with the existing expertise of the organization representatives, be applied to activities in their own country.
- c. Advocate! Workshops - 10 local training workshops per each participating country. Each partner will decide on 10 remote, rural, or "problematic" areas (in terms of socio-economic status) and arrange a workshop to be held there.

Each workshop will gather at least 15 participants, young people, of all genders, who have previously shown interest or initiative to engage in the democratic process and in society, whether through their school council or other youth organizations.

The theme of the workshops will be youth rights advocacy and the training will be adjusted accordingly.

Each workshop will last for 90 minutes - two sessions of 45 minutes.
4. Round tables - each partner organization will organize a round table in their own county, gathering decision-makers from areas visited before, perhaps some relevant decision-makers on a national level, and young people from the previously visited areas. The topics will be related to youth participation in the democratic life and will rely on suggestions young people have prepared previously. Each roundtable will be organized in the national language but also simultaneously translated to other 4 languages and English, and streamed online for other participants from partner countries.
5. Good practices tour (**mobility 3**) - a series of large scale exchanges between young people, focusing on the exchange of experience and good practice; networking and partnerships with other youth organizations.

The tour will consist of 5 different mini-events, each organized in a different partner country. The participants will be young people from 4 other countries (2 team leaders and 2 or 3 young people). Each event will include a different selection of participants. Each event will gather between 16 and 20 participants, plus an additional group from the host country, counting around 30 people in total. Each event will last for 5 days.
6. Digital platform - This platform will provide information and relevant content for youth to get engaged in processes of decision making and activism, where they will be able to transfer knowledge, exchange experiences and good practices

with others through this tool. The platform will also serve as an online meeting point, for youth to get informed about mobility opportunities.

a. Bootcamp (**mobility 4**)

Participants in the Bootcamp will have the opportunity to propose the platform's content and develop its design and interactive elements.

b. Setting up and launching the platform

7. Final conference (**mobility 5**) - this activity will gather: 5 representatives from each of the participating organizations, 10 young people from each participating country (who took part in the local training and round tables), local and national decision-makers, relevant stakeholders and members of the press. The estimated number of participants is around 250.

This will be the summarizing event of the project and will include the following:

- a. International round table - a real-life/digital mashup activity, where all of the participants from the previous round tables will be taking part to discuss relevant topics;
- b. Research report presentation;
- c. Presentations of improvements made in local areas through initiatives
- d. Training for youth on mediation and advanced advocacy;
- e. "Speed dating" with local decision-makers - where young people can get quick input on the changes they want to make;
- f. Intensive workshops on creating a real-life version of *YouthStation* as a foundation for future collaboration.