



Youth for  
Equality



citizen crossroads



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YOUTH  
DEMOCRAID

DATE:

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

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PROJECT 101147712 – YOUTH DEMOCRAID: EDUCATION, DEBATE, ACTION

# INTRODUCTION TO THE CERV PROGRAM

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- The Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values (CERV) programme is a major European Union initiative aimed at **protecting and promoting the fundamental rights and values** enshrined in the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- The programme supports projects operating at local, regional, national and transnational levels, with the aim of building open, inclusive and rights-based societies founded on the principles of democracy, equality and the rule of law.
- These projects focus on promoting social inclusion, combating discrimination and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, such as minorities and migrants. The programme also addresses issues such as racism and xenophobia, encouraging respect for diversity across Europe.

# PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT YOUTH DEMOCRACY

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**Youth Democracy** is a project created within the framework of the CERV programme. Its main objective is to support and promote democracy, particularly with regard to the involvement of young people.

They represent the emerging generation of citizens whose active engagement is essential to strengthen democracy and make the European Union more inclusive and united.

It aims to prepare engaging learning materials using non-formal education methods, offer workshops specifically designed for young people and connect them with their peers in partner countries by organising an international youth forum.

# YOUTH DEMOCRAID

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## METHODS

- Working methods based on non-formal education and active participation: workshops, debates, video interviews, world cafès, gamification activities

## COUNTRIES

- Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Greece, Portugal

## TIME

- 24 months, 01/06/2024 - 31/05/2026

## TARGET

- Young people (15-25 years old)



# INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKSHOP

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How can young people, aged between 15 and 25, not only actively participate in political and civic life, but also become leaders in their communities?

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# WHAT IS YOUTH EMPOWERMENT?

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- Young people often face social, cultural and economic barriers that limit their full involvement. This is why it is crucial to talk about **youth empowerment**.
- The term 'empowerment' refers to the process by which people gain more control over their lives, develop critical awareness and increase their ability to make decisions. For young people, this means acquiring skills, knowledge and confidence to influence decision-making processes in their communities, politics and institutions.
- Empowerment is not only individual, but also collective: through active participation, young people can unite, support each other and build movements capable of generating concrete change.

# WHAT IS YOUTH LEADERSHIP?

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- Youth leadership is based on the idea that young people are key players who can drive change. Being a leader means taking responsibility for influencing and inspiring others, promoting dialogue and actively contributing to problem solving.
- In a democratic context, leadership is not just about power, but about service and vision: young leaders must be able to listen, facilitate participation, build consensus and promote values of equity, inclusion and justice.

# THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

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- Part of our goal today is to understand how young people can be an integral part of **political life and active citizenship**.
- Youth political participation is not limited to voting, but includes a range of activities, such as volunteering, involvement in local associations, participation in social movements and the use of digital platforms to influence public debate.
- Being active citizens also means developing a critical awareness of the power dynamics and inequalities that characterise society. This workshop aims to provide practical and theoretical tools so that you can acquire the necessary skills to become protagonists of this change.

# **THE GOALS OF THE WORKSHOP**

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- **Developing leadership skills**
- **Promoting active citizenship**
- **Empowerment through awareness**
- **Networking and intergenerational collaboration**

# YOUTH DEMOCRAID ONLINE



**On Facebook:**



**Website:**



# EU SURVEY

[https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CERV\\_2021-2027](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CERV_2021-2027)



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