

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	3 - Youth for Equality
PIC number:	922551287
Project name and acronym:	Youth DemocrAID: Education, Debate, Action — Youth DemocrAID

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP1		
Event name:	International Seminar and Training		
Type:	seminar, training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Trnava, Slovakia		
Date(s):	19 – 20.09.2024, 12.11.2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://youthdemocraid.weebly.com/		
Participants			
Female:	49		
Male:	25		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Slovakia]:	56		
From country 2 [Greece]:	2		
From country 3 [Italy]:	2		
From country 4 [Portugal]:	3		
From country 5 [Poland]:	2		
From country 6 [Ukraine]:	7		
From country 7 [Germany]:	1		
From country 8 [Serbia]:	1		
Total number of participants:	74	From total number of countries:	8
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			

The **WP1 International Seminar and Training** activities under the Youth DemocrAID project focused on strengthening youth participation in democratic processes, promoting media literacy, and enhancing citizenship education through the international seminars and training of trainers. These activities were hosted by **Youth for Equality**, the Slovak partner of the project, and took place across two key moments in **Trnava, Slovakia**, on **September 19-20, 2024**, followed by a second seminar on **November 12, 2024**, held at Trnava University.

The organized events included:

- **International Seminar: “Youth, Democracy, and Europe: Shaping Our Future Together”** (September 19, 2024)
- **Training of Trainers on Non-Formal Education and Gamification** (September 20, 2024)
- **Follow-Up Seminar: “Youth, Democracy, and Active Participation: Strengthening Our Voices”** (November 12, 2024)

These events brought together youth representatives, volunteers, and experts from across Europe to exchange ideas and build practical tools aimed at fostering youth engagement in democratic life. The activities combined structured discussions, interactive sessions, and skill-building workshops designed to inspire and empower participants to take an active role in shaping the future of their communities and the European Union.

International Seminar – Youth, Democracy, and Europe: Shaping Our Future Together

The international seminar on 19.09.2024 brought together **26 participants** from Slovakia, Poland, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Germany, Ukraine, Turkey (1 participant), and Serbia, including international volunteers, representatives from the partner organizations, and special guests from Slovak and European institutions. The aim was to explore crucial topics related to democracy, youth participation, and media literacy education.

The day began with a presentation of the Youth DemocrAID project and the CERV programme, followed by a two-part panel discussion:

- **The Importance of Voting and Representation**
Participants discussed the responsibility associated with voting in democratic societies, particularly in the context of European elections. It was emphasized that the European Parliament plays a pivotal role in shaping both national laws and local decision-making processes. Discussions also highlighted challenges faced by young people in feeling represented by politicians, with the average age of EU Parliament members being a potential factor. The topic of voting age across Europe was also addressed.
- **Media Literacy and Democracy**
The second part focused on the role of media literacy in safeguarding democratic values. Participants explored the importance of teaching media literacy in schools, enabling young people to critically evaluate information and combat disinformation. It was noted that these skills could also empower younger generations to support older ones in navigating the challenges of the digital age.

The panel discussions of the international seminar featured three distinguished speakers with diverse backgrounds:

- **Young Political Science Enthusiast and Community Organizer**
A political science student with hands-on experience in organizing public debates featuring politicians, attorneys, and other civic leaders. Actively engaged in non-formal education and youth-focused initiatives, they bring insights into bridging generational and regional social disparities, fostering dialogue between youth and older generations.
- **Expert in Media Literacy and Active Citizenship**
A dedicated youth worker and project manager with a strong background in promoting media

literacy and active civic participation. With experience in facilitating international projects and a PhD in European Studies, this speaker combines academic expertise with practical application, particularly in empowering young people to contribute to democratic societies.

- **Youth Program Coordinator for the European Parliament**

A professional coordinating youth programs such as the Ambassador Schools and the European Charlemagne Youth Prize for the European Parliament Liaison Office. With a background in international affairs and education, this speaker focuses on engaging young people in understanding and actively participating in EU-related initiatives, merging policy communication with innovative educational methods.

Participants engaged in vivid and thought-provoking discussions, sharing insights about youth engagement and the challenges faced in their respective countries. The international yet intimate setting of the seminar created a space where everyone, particularly young attendees, could actively contribute their perspectives. This inclusive environment gave a strong voice to youth, ensuring their thoughts and concerns were heard and considered.

The seminar was streamed live, extending its reach to a broader audience beyond the physical attendees. Participants were also encouraged to provide feedback through the EUSurvey platform, offering valuable reflections on the event's content and impact.

Training of Trainers on Non-Formal Education and Gamification

The second day (20.09.2024) focused on building the capacities of 10 representatives from partner organizations (YouNet APS, Youth for Equality, Klaster Innowacji Społecznych, Citizen Crossroads, and GloUni) through an intensive Training of Trainers session. The training was facilitated by an expert with experience in non-formal education and innovative methodologies.

The session covered:

- **Principles and best practices in non-formal education:** introduction to flexible, learner-centered approaches.
- **Non-formal methodologies in citizenship education:** sharing examples and strategies from participants' experiences.
- **Gamification in citizenship education:** tools and techniques to make learning engaging and interactive.
- **Leading a debate:** structuring and moderating meaningful discussions.
- **Effective workshop design:** guidelines for creating impactful local workshops.
- **Podcast production:** best practices for developing podcasts as part of the project's outreach initiatives.
- **Toolkit production:** planning and preparation for creating educational resources to be used in subsequent project phases.

The training aimed to prepare participants to create workshop materials and a podcast series, furthering the project's mission to foster active citizenship and youth engagement.

Follow-Up Seminar: Youth, Democracy, and Active Participation: Strengthening Our Voices

On November 12, 2024, Trnava University hosted the follow-up seminar within the Youth DemocrAID project, titled "*Youth, Democracy, and Active Participation: Strengthening Our Voices.*" Organized by Youth for Equality the event brought together 51 participants from Slovakia, Ukraine, and Russia (2 participants), including students, young people, and civic enthusiasts. The seminar provided a platform to explore the role of youth in democratic processes, with a particular focus on addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age.

The seminar commenced with an introduction to the Youth DemocrAID project, delivered by a representative of Youth for Equality. The speaker emphasized the project's mission of empowering

young people to actively participate in democratic decision-making, fostering inclusivity, and building resilience against modern societal challenges.

The keynote speaker, a political scientist and expert in combating online disinformation, delivered an engaging presentation that explored the intersection of democracy, youth engagement, and the Internet. With extensive experience in addressing misinformation and hoaxes, the speaker highlighted:

- The transformative impact of digital tools on political systems and youth engagement.
- The power of social media as a platform for advocacy and activism.
- The importance of media literacy in combating the spread of disinformation.

The address provided actionable strategies for young people to navigate the challenges of the digital age, equipping them with tools to strengthen democratic participation, foster inclusive dialogue, and advocate for their rights.

The seminar also featured interactive discussions and group activities. Participants shared personal experiences and practical ideas for strengthening democratic engagement within their communities. The exchange of perspectives enriched the discussion and underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing shared challenges.

The seminar concluded with a networking session, encouraging participants to forge connections, discuss collaborative initiatives, and exchange insights on their roles in shaping democratic societies.

Following each event, all participants were promptly provided with essential project data and a link to access the EUSurvey platform.

Social media posts about the training and seminar:

[Facebook Youth DemocrAID](#) - 1st seminar and training

[Facebook YouNet APS](#) - 1st seminar and training

[Instagram YouNet APS](#) - 1st seminar and training

[Facebook Youth DemocrAID](#) - 2nd seminar

[Streaming of the 1st seminar in Slovakia on Facebook YouNet APS](#)

[Recording of the 1st seminar in Slovakia on YouTube](#)

Website articles:

[Youth DemocrAID website - 1st seminar and training in Slovakia](#)

[Youth DemocrAID website - 2nd seminar in Slovakia](#)

EDS publication links:

<https://www.you-net.eu/youth-democraid.html>

<https://youthdemocraid.weebly.com/news>

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).