

Democracy Matters

Youth work addressing authoritarian discourse in Europe



Co-funded by
the European Union

Focus

Democracy Matters, is a training course supporting youth work promoting inclusive democracy and human rights in European contexts through various strategies involving **youth engagement, critical thinking** and **collaborative initiatives**.

Through the course, participants will:

- Explore the significance and the practice of **inclusive democracy** and **human rights** in the current European polarised context;
- Develop youth work competencies supporting **civic engagement** and inclusive democratic participation;
- Exchange youth work practices and plan **collaborative initiatives** that uphold democratic values, empower young people and promote dialogue with decision-makers;
- Establish support mechanisms to address burnout among activists and organisers, promoting mental health awareness and resilience-building strategies to sustain long-term engagement in democratic processes;
- Foster cooperation strategies within the Erasmus+ programme, creating synergies in areas such as social and political participation, and civic engagement.



Participants' profile

The project is designed for 30 youth leaders, trainers and youth workers who wish to develop competences and practices promoting democratic participation, based on the principles of intercultural democratic citizenship and human rights education.

The application is open to candidates from registered Erasmus+ organizations (with OID*) from the Erasmus+ programme countries.

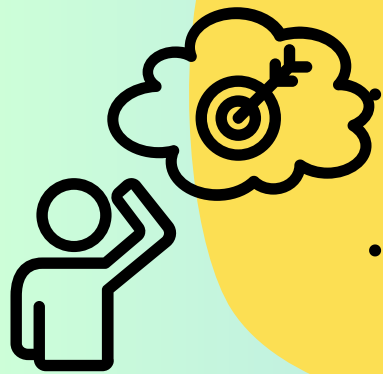
Selection of participants will be conducted by the coordination team based on the submitted Application form. Previous experience, youth work background and the potential to develop concrete follow-up will be specially taken into account.



* The Organization ID (OID) serves as a unique identifier for organizations/institutions participating in Erasmus+ projects. It is essential to obtain this code from your organization to support your participation in the programme.

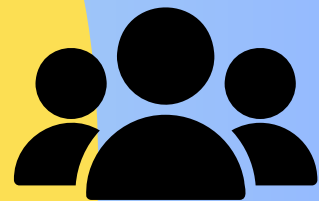
What to expect?

- To engage in a “brave space” to analyse current trends in European communities.
- To exchange and learn about diverse youth work practices that uphold democratic values and empower young people.
- To develop youth work competencies supporting civic engagement and inclusive democratic participation.
- To create synergies and youth work initiatives addressing authoritarian discourses in Europe.



Participants' profile

- Youth leaders, trainers and youth workers wishing to develop competences and practices promoting democratic participation.
- Part of a registered Erasmus+ organizations (with OI^D*) from the Erasmus+ programme countries.
- Able to communicate in English
- Motivated and ready to participate actively during all project phases



Methodological approach

The course is designed in ways that require active participation and exchange between participants. The methodology of the training is based on the main principles of experiential learning cycle and human rights education. It is grounded on participants' experiences and builds on concrete actions for future practice.

It is expected that the impact of the course will be translated by the participants in the use of these methodologies at local and regional level, as well as in the creation of synergies and the increase of cooperation among the youth work organisations.

This activity is prepared and implemented by an experienced team of trainers with expertise on democratic citizenship and human rights education. The course is logistically supported by AHEAD's staff.

Throughout the course, participants will be guided in developing their Youthpass to reflect their enhanced youth work competencies.



Dates and venue

Arrival day:

Friday the 21st March 2025 (evening)

Departure day:

Friday the 28th March 2025 (morning)



Venue:

Coma-ruga (Tarragona)

The Training Course will be hosted in Coma-ruga Youth Hostel named “Santa Maria del Mar”. We will be sharing big double rooms, each room with its own bathroom.

The village is a calm family summer resort next to the Mediterranean Sea with long and wide sandy beaches.

The selected participants will receive further details on how to reach the venue from Barcelona airport.

Financial arrangements

Full board and accommodation for the duration of the Training Course will be provided by the organisers.

There is an enrolment fee of 35€.

The travel costs will be reimbursed up to the Erasmus+ programme rules. Green travel is encouraged and economically supported.

Selected participants will receive an Infopack with further details

Visa Costs will be reimbursed at the 100%

Do not book your travel until your participation has been confirmed!

Application form

The application form contains three sections.

Before submitting your application, make sure that all the information is complete and correct.

1. Information on the Applicant;
2. Sending organisation and youth work experience;
3. Motivation and Follow-up.

Submit your form before the **3rd February 2025**

Selected participants are allowed to travel a couple of days earlier/later than the start/end of the training course, yet these extra days cannot be covered by the project budget.

<https://forms.gle/wJCpRr6hzFR6Lt9X9>



Dissemination and follow-up

After the completion of the course, all participants are expected to:

- Write at least one article summarizing the course outcomes, which will be published on the sending organisation's website.
- Plan and implement a youth work dissemination activity on Democracy Matters.



Hosting organization

Based in Barcelona, AHEAD supports since 2009 youth work, intercultural dialogue and human rights education as conditions to strengthen the commitment towards a culture of peace, environmental and global justice, democratic citizenship and solidarity among communities.

AHEAD holds the Erasmus+ Accreditation and the ESC Quality Label. It has a sound experience on youth workers' mobilities, youth participation activities and non-formal education tools and methodologies working on inclusion projects with young people from diverse cultural backgrounds, creating dialogue opportunities and synergies with Civil Society Organisations, and the public administration representatives.



Contact us!

democracy@aheadedu.org



Project realized with the support of the European Commission in the frames of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Its content does not necessarily reflect the position of the Commission in this issue, and does not compromise in any way the responsibility of the Commission.



Co-funded by
the European Union