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Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

**Network of Towns
Project 101091344**

**“Youth Over Pandemic: A New Idea of Civic Participation for the
Future”**



Final Dossier - Permanent Working Group



Summary of the Project

The project “Youth Over Pandemic: A New Idea of Civic Participation for the Future” was promoted by Union of Municipalities Valli del Patri (Italy) with the aim to create a thematic Network of Towns for raising awareness about priority matters linked to the impact of COVID-19 on the future of EU by encouraging citizens, and particularly young people, to participate actively by helping them, to find their place in society and to contribute to build the new European Deal.

The project aimed to strengthen a strong fruitful cooperation between partner from Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Slovakia, Malta, Sweden, Czech Republic, Spain, Latvia and Bulgaria, with a huge European representativeness and a big geographical dimension.

The project involved 635 direct and 600 indirect participants, allowing them to meaningfully relate European policies to their social life and reality. Young people are important catalysts for the future of our continent and are a vulnerable part of societies in times of crisis.

The main objective of the project was to involve Municipalities, local realities and CSOs, in a permanent consultation, which used effective, innovative and appropriate tools and approaches. Each participant during the conferences scheduled in 6 different Events around EU, discussed together the priorities of the new CERV Program, the main points of the European political agenda, animating the European debate in relation to the Digital Era, Green Deal, Europe more powerful in the world.

The meetings were scheduled with the organization of public Agora, diffusion and exchange of best practices, comparison, round table, case studies, permanent working group and interactive workshops.

During the last meeting scheduled in Prague it was presented the results of the permanent working group of the project summarized in a Final Dossier, in which there are the ideas and suggestion collected.

The project previous 6 Work Program:

WP1 - Siggiewi/Valletta (Malta) from 15 to 18 March 2023

WP2 - Posesti/Bucharest (Romania) from 15 to 18 june 2023

WP3 - Italy from 20 to 23 september 2023

WP4 - Holloko/Budapest (Hungary) from 22 to 25 november 2023

WP5 - Zagreb (Croatia) from 15 to 18 january 2024

WP6 - Prague (Czech Republic) from 21 to 24 April 2024





Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme provides funding for citizens engagement, equality for all and the implementation of rights and EU values. The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (hereafter 'the programme') brings together the former Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme³ and the former Europe for Citizens programme.

The programme promotes exchanges between people of different countries, reinforces mutual understanding and tolerance and gives them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity through the town- twinning and networks of towns.

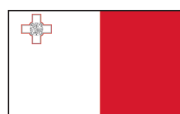
While maintaining a bottom-up approach, the programme also provides, in particular to networks of towns, an opportunity to focus on EU priorities. This means, for example, improving local knowledge on the rights deriving from EU citizenship or building knowledge and sharing best practices on the benefits of diversity, including expertise on gender and intersectionality, as well as effective measures on how to tackle discrimination and racism at local level.

The work programme will also enable towns to engage citizens and communities in discussions and actions on the climate and the environment, including energy-related issues, and on solidarity and migration. Finally, the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity award will recognise the role that cities and local authorities play in fostering diversity, gender equality and inclusion.

Objectives

- To promote exchanges between citizens of different countries, to reinforce mutual understanding and tolerance and give them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity;
- To enable towns to engage citizens and communities in discussions and actions on the climate and the environment, including energy-related issues, and on solidarity and migration. To give citizens the opportunity to discover the cultural diversity of the European Union and to make them aware that European values and cultural heritage constitute the foundation for a common future;
- To encourage cooperation between municipalities and the exchange of best practices;
- To support good local governance and reinforce the role of local and regional authorities in the European integration process.

It is expected that Networks of Towns projects reflect on a holistic narrative for Europe, one that is citizen-oriented, equality promoting, forward-looking and constructive that would be more engaging for the younger generation in particular. Projects may be based on the outcome of citizens' consultations and may lead to debates about concrete ways to create a more democratic Union, to





enable citizens to re-engage with the EU and to develop a stronger sense of ownership of the European project.

Networks of Towns should provide towns and municipalities the possibility to deepen and intensify their cooperation and debate in a long-term perspective, to develop sustainable networks and to outline their long-term vision for the future of European integration.

Expected impact

- An opportunity for towns and municipalities to develop larger-scale projects in order to increase their projects’ impact and sustainability;
- Possibility for beneficiaries to develop more thematic and policy-related projects;
- Greater citizens’ engagement in society and ultimately a more active involvement of citizens in the democratic life of the Union;
- Lasting links with partner organisations;
- Greater awareness of the benefits of diversity, gender equality and the tackling of discrimination and racism;
- Increase in and encouragement of mutual understanding and acceptance of European minorities, such as Roma;
- Better information on the rights conferred by EU citizenship and their improved implementation in Member States.

Permanent Working Group

The permanent working groups were configured as permanent tables with the aim of working, throughout the life of the project, on the creation of a Final Dossier which collects the ideas, proposals and actions to identify and trace the lines of intervention by a Europe attentive to the needs of the society of the future.

The Final Dossier is a tangible starting point for the network's cooperation.

To create further future collaborations in the planning field but also in the economic field. Guarantee the continuity of projects and activities so as not to interrupt the path undertaken.

This work was configured like a Final Dossier which collects the ideas, proposals and actions to identify and trace the lines of intervention by a Europe attentive to the needs of the society of the future.

Each Partner Propose models and Future Scenarios of an Inclusive and Sustainable Europe that citizens want to help to build.

Implementation of Proposals and Actions Strategies and measures to be adopted, about these Topics:

- "New Digital Citizenship"***
- "New Media Education"***
- "Europe and Sustainable Development"***





Castoreale



Fondachelli Fantina



Rodi Milici



Terme Vigliatore

ITALY

**Antares
Onlus**



"New Digital Citizenship"

Digital Citizenship - Rights and duties in the internet age.

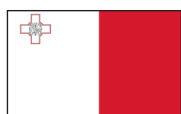
These models and scenarios outline a vision of an inclusive and sustainable Europe in the internet age, where citizens actively contribute to shaping a digital future that prioritizes individual rights, collective responsibilities, and the common good. By embracing principles of digital citizenship and fostering collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society, Europe can pave the way for a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable digital society.

- ◆ Develop a comprehensive Digital Rights Charter that outlines the fundamental rights of citizens in the digital realm, including privacy, freedom of expression, access to information, and digital literacy. This model emphasizes the importance of upholding these rights while also acknowledging the duties of citizens to use digital technologies responsibly, combat misinformation, and contribute positively to digital communities.
- ◆ Imagine a future where Europe's digital ecosystem is designed to be regenerative, fostering sustainable practices that minimize environmental impact and promote social equity. Citizens actively participate in shaping this ecosystem by supporting initiatives such as renewable energy-powered data centers, sustainable e-waste management programs, and digital inclusion efforts for marginalized communities.
- ◆ Envision a governance framework where citizens play a central role in decision-making processes related to digital policies and initiatives. Through participatory platforms and deliberative processes, individuals contribute ideas, feedback, and expertise to co-create solutions that address emerging challenges in the digital landscape. This model emphasizes the importance of citizen engagement and collaboration in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable digital future.
- ◆ Prioritize digital literacy and education as key components of a sustainable Europe in the digital age. Invest in initiatives that equip citizens with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of the internet responsibly, critically evaluate information, and engage in constructive online dialogue. By empowering individuals to be informed and engaged digital citizens, this model fosters a culture of digital responsibility and collective action.
- ◆ Foster an ecosystem of innovation that prioritizes technology for social good and sustainability. Support the development of ethical and inclusive technologies that address societal challenges, enhance civic engagement, and promote environmental stewardship. Encourage collaboration between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society to leverage technology as a force for positive change in Europe and beyond.

"New Media Education"

Experimentation of new models, which see young people as proactive and active protagonists for the construction of a healthy and sustainable virtual world, and the activation of tools to prevent antisocial behavior and reduce risks related to the internet.

- *Conduct regular workshops to enhance digital literacy skills, covering topics such as online safety, fact-checking, and responsible social media use.*
- *Develop campaigns to raise awareness about cyberbullying, its impact, and strategies to prevent and address it.*
- *Organize sessions for parents to educate them on monitoring online activities, setting boundaries, and fostering open communication with their children regarding online experiences.*





- *Create engaging online modules that teach essential skills like critical thinking, effective communication, and ethical behavior in the digital realm.*
- *Partner with schools to integrate digital literacy into the curriculum, ensuring that students receive consistent and structured education on being smart online.*
- *Produce comprehensive guides and resources on online safety practices, disseminating them through various channels such as social media, websites, and community centers.*
- *Establish a youth ambassador program to empower students as advocates for smart online behavior, encouraging them to share knowledge and resources within their peer networks.*
- *Launch public awareness campaigns through media channels, emphasizing the importance of responsible online behavior and the potential risks associated with digital activities.*
- *partner with companies to promote responsible product design, advocating for features that enhance user privacy and reduce potential harm.*
- *Stay current with evolving online trends and threats, providing regular updates and resources to keep the community informed about the latest digital challenges and solutions.*
- *Host community events, webinars, or panel discussions to facilitate dialogue on digital issues, encouraging a collaborative approach to addressing challenges in the online space.*
- *Establish a feedback mechanism to gather input from the community, adapting and improving the project based on the evolving needs and concerns of the target audience.*

“Europe and Sustainable Development”

Induce to reflect the European environmental heritage, considered a common good safeguarded for future generations, all stakeholders must take care of the cultural heritage.

1. Individual Level

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Encourage individuals to minimize waste by adopting the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle in their daily lives.

Educate about proper waste disposal and the environmental impact of different materials.

Energy Conservation

Promote energy-efficient practices such as using energy-efficient appliances, turning off lights and electronics when not in use, and using public transportation.

Water Conservation

Encourage responsible water use by fixing leaks, using water-saving appliances, and practicing water conservation habits.

Sustainable Lifestyle

Advocate for sustainable and eco-friendly products and lifestyles, including choosing locally sourced and organic products.

2. Community Level

Community Clean-Up Initiatives

Organize regular community clean-up events to address litter and pollution issues in local areas.

Education and Awareness Programs

Conduct workshops and awareness campaigns on environmental issues to inform and involve the community in conservation efforts.

Green Spaces

Advocate for and contribute to the creation and maintenance of green spaces within the community.

3. Business Level

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Encourage businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices and incorporate sustainability into their CSR initiatives.

Green Supply Chain

Implement sustainable and ethical sourcing practices throughout the supply chain.

Energy Efficiency





Invest in renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies to reduce the environmental impact of operations.

4. Governmental Level

Policy Development

Develop and enforce strict environmental regulations and policies to govern industries, waste disposal, and natural resource management.

Incentives for Sustainability

Provide incentives for businesses and individuals to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as tax breaks for green initiatives.

Investment in Renewable Energy

Allocate resources and funding for the development and implementation of renewable energy projects.

International Collaboration

Engage in international collaborations to address global environmental issues, sharing best practices and technologies.

5. Technology and Innovation

Research and Development

Invest in research and development of new technologies that promote environmental sustainability.

Innovation Challenges

Encourage innovation through challenges and competitions focused on finding solutions to environmental problems.

Technological Solutions

Explore and implement technological solutions for waste management, pollution control, and conservation efforts.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

Environmental Monitoring Systems

Implement monitoring systems to track environmental indicators and assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

Transparency and Reporting

Establish transparent reporting mechanisms for businesses and government agencies to publicly disclose their environmental impact.

7. Education and Advocacy

Environmental Education in Schools

Integrate environmental education into school curricula to raise awareness and infuse a sense of responsibility from a young age.

Advocacy Groups

Support and collaborate with environmental advocacy groups to amplify the impact of conservation efforts.





LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

LATVIA

New Digital Citizenship in Latvia

Digital Citizenship Education in Schools: Integrate digital citizenship education into the school curriculum at all levels, with a focus on critical thinking, online safety, and responsible social media usage. Educate students about online safety, privacy protection, and cybersecurity threats. Organize interactive workshops led by youth mentors to empower students to become responsible digital citizens and advocates for positive online behavior.

Youth-Led Online Civic Engagement Platform: Develop an online platform specifically designed and managed by youth organizations in Latvia. This platform will serve as a space for young people to engage in discussions, propose initiatives, and collaborate with policymakers on issues that matter to them, such as education reform, environmental sustainability, and youth entrepreneurship.

Youth Digital Empowerment Hubs: Establish digital empowerment hubs in urban and rural areas across Latvia, specifically targeting youth. These hubs will offer free access to technology, coding workshops, and mentorship programs to equip young people with digital skills and promote innovation.

New Media Education Initiatives in Latvia:

Community Media Grants Program: Launch a community media grants program to support the development of local news outlets, citizen journalism initiatives, and community radio stations in Latvia. Provide funding, technical assistance, and capacity-building resources to empower grassroots media organizations and amplify diverse voices.

Media Literacy Curriculum in Latvian Schools: Integrate media literacy education into the national curriculum in Latvian schools, starting from primary education onwards. Develop educational materials and teacher training programs to equip students with critical thinking skills necessary to navigate the media landscape effectively. Collaborate with influencers, educators, and cultural institutions to raise awareness about the importance of critical media consumption and digital citizenship.

Youth Media Literacy Workshops: Organize media literacy workshops specifically tailored to the interests and needs of Latvian youth. These workshops will cover topics such as media bias, fake news detection, and ethical journalism practices, empowering young people to critically analyze media content and become media-savvy consumers.

Youth-Led Fact-Checking Campaigns: Engage youth volunteers to lead fact-checking campaigns targeting misinformation and disinformation circulating on social media platforms in Latvia. Provide training and resources to equip young fact-checkers with the skills and tools necessary to verify information and combat online misinformation effectively.

Youth Media Creation Labs: Establish media creation labs in schools and community centers where young people can learn digital storytelling skills, produce their own media content, and amplify their voices on issues they care about. Encourage collaboration and peer-to-peer learning among youth media creators to foster creativity and expression.

Latvia and Sustainable Development in Europe:

Sustainable Tourism Initiatives in Latvia: Promote sustainable tourism practices and ecotourism opportunities in Latvia's rural regions and national parks. Develop eco-friendly accommodation options, nature-based activities, and cultural experiences that support local communities and preserve natural ecosystems.

Climate Education in Latvian Schools: Integrate climate change education into the national curriculum in Latvian schools, with a focus on environmental science, ecology, and sustainability. Organize field trips, outdoor learning experiences, and environmental awareness campaigns to engage students in hands-on learning about climate issues.





Youth-Led Sustainable Development Projects: Empower youth-led organizations and initiatives to lead sustainable development projects in their communities, focusing on areas such as renewable energy, waste management, sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism. Provide funding, training, and networking opportunities to support youth-driven initiatives for positive environmental change.

Youth Green Innovation Challenge: Launch a nationwide green innovation challenge targeting youth in Latvia, inviting them to develop innovative solutions to environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Provide mentorship, funding, and incubation support to help young entrepreneurs turn their ideas into impactful sustainability projects.

Youth Climate Action Summit: Organize a youth-led climate action summit in Latvia, bringing together young activists, scientists, policymakers, and community leaders to discuss climate-related issues and develop actionable solutions. Encourage intergenerational dialogue and collaboration to ensure that youth voices are heard and valued in decision-making processes related to sustainable development.





HUNGARY

1. "New Digital Citizenship"

In the third decade of the 21st century the most important tool in digitalization is smartphones. Recognizing this a new system called Digital Citizenship (DÁP) will bring an unprecedented transformation for Hungarian citizens in the field of digital data management at the end of next year. The programme will allow citizens to conduct their businesses, manage administrative tasks, show IDs and provide e-signatures using their mobile phones. With the help of a central mobile application, Hungarian people can manage their affairs easier and faster than ever before. With the help of the mobile application, they will be able to prove their identity and arrange their payments to the state with the push of a button.

The scheme has been developed in line with the EU's new Electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services (eIDAS) regulatory framework.

During the implementation of the National Digital Citizenship Program, one of the most important principles is that the user decides whether to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digital citizenship. We consider it necessary that, with the help of local governments, citizens receive adequate information about the intended use of the application and possible security risks.

2. "New Media Education"

Governments have an important role in raising awareness about the risks of using the new media. Promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning is essential. It is necessary to carry out a community campaign in order to call not only young people, but also parents and teachers to the dangers of the new media. The main message should be that parents should start the conversation about online media consumption habits and children's positive and negative experiences with online media.

3. "Europe and Sustainable Development"

We have to make an eco-friendly attitude of all ages and groups, we have to pay attention of the rules of the selective waste collection and the economy of drinking water. In Hungary, the PET bottle and glass recycling system was introduced, which helps to reduce the amount of communal waste. We see a campaign about this on television and social media also. Educational films have been made for the younger age group, about how we can economize drinking water. These short films were used in schools and kindergartens.

Give more motivation to use public transport insted of cars.

The national pass system was introduced in Hungary. With one pass, you can travel as much as you like on public transport, buses and trains throughout the country, as well as on all vehicles, buses, trams, trams and metros in the capital: Budapest. The price of this is very reasonable, 47 euros for 1 month for adults, 4.7 euros for 1 month for students.





BULGARIA

"New Digital Citizenship"- this meaning encompasses the responsible use of technology, online etiquette and the promotion of positive digital behaviors. Technology continues to evolve, new aspects of digital citizenship emerge to address the changing digital landscape. As example, we can say that critical digital literacy is more important in these days. In the age of misinformation and fake news, new digital citizenship concepts emphasize the importance of critical digital literacy. This includes teaching individuals how to evaluate online information critically and distinguish credible sources from misinformation and navigate the digital landscape with a discerning eye. In our Municipalities we offer digital service to citizens for free- it is co-working space in the city centre. Where citizens can work out of office.

"New Media Education" is essential to navigate the digital space, engage with media content and become responsible digital citizens. As example we think that is better to have courses in which people can learn how to critically evaluate and analyze digital content for accuracy and credibility. By integrating new media education into the universities or schools for example, students can develop the skills, knowledge and awareness, which is needed to inform effectively with media content

"Europe and Sustainable Development" – The European union has more sustainable practices such as sustainable transportation, renewable energy, waste management, sustainable agriculture and etc. These initiatives involve achieving a balance between economic growth, social progress and environmental protection. Making Europe more sustainable and promoting development in the coming years requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach across various sectors – entrepreneurs and countries. Europe can make significant progress towards more sustainable and prosperous future, because no matter where we are living, in the center are people and their problems. In that line we must be adequate and adaptable to changing conditions (climate, demographics, constantly developing technologies), by connecting global challenges with local solutions.





ESTONIA

"New Digital Citizenship"

The concept of European Digital Citizenship is evolving to address digital age challenges. Citizens seek inclusivity, security, and empowerment in online spaces. Proposed aspects of this New Digital Citizenship include:

Rights and Responsibilities, Balancing digital rights (privacy, data protection, freedom of expression) with combating hate speech, misinformation, and cyberbullying.

Empowering Participation, Designing platforms to encourage civic engagement through citizen-led initiatives, online consultations, and secure e-voting systems.

Scenarios: Enabling active democracy through e-participation platforms and facilitating seamless cross-border access to medical data for informed healthcare decisions.

Implementation, Setting EU standards via legislation for digital rights, data protection (e.g., GDPR), and platform accountability (e.g., Digital Services Act), alongside integrating digital literacy into education.

Multi-stakeholder Cooperation: Collaboration among governments, tech firms, and civil society to fund research on online safety tools and promote responsible platform design.

Actions and Measures, Introducing a secure EU Digital Identity Wallet for streamlined online interactions and launching public awareness campaigns on responsible online behavior and critical thinking.

Through collective efforts, Europeans aim to establish a New Digital Citizenship that ensures a secure, inclusive, and empowered online environment for everyone.

"New Media Education"

At first, we have to define what is new media. In our perspective, new media is defined by all the opportunities our technology offers us today. Primarily electronic communication through computers and mobile devices. New media is a branch of communication, which includes everything related to “smart” technologies.

Our primary task should be to adapt with the new media, which contains a lot of dangers. We have to learn how to adjust with all the information we receive today. Since a big part of our lives is connected to technology today, we should really be careful with all the information we’re getting.

One big lesson we all must learn is how to manage the information war we’re in today. We must be able to separate the information we need for our essential daily life from the information, somebody wants us to read/see. That’s why we must educate ourselves during this era of new media.

One does not have to be Einstein to realize, that also AI has come to stay. It doesn’t matter what any of us thinks about AI, but we know it for a fact that already today a regular person can’t separate the information given us by people or made by AI. That is why new media education is even more important – we have to adapt to this new world we’re in. We also have a big part in this new media ourselves. By photographing, recording everything we see, hear or experience. We post it to social media, which is also a part of new media. At this very moment when each one of us clicks “post”, we ourselves are giving information to the whole world to see. Sometimes we don’t think about it so much but a part of new media education should also be, how much should we share with the world. Is the picture of our balcony really necessary to the world or are we giving a free pass to people with bad intentions?

New media education should most definitely be a part of our education system for youth. And for those, who already have school behind them, we should find another ways – through campaigns, through ads, through talk shows, podcasts, whatever works – to bring the crucial knowledge to.

"Europe and Sustainable Development"

Europe - Building a Sustainable Future Together





Europe has long been a champion of sustainability, but citizen engagement is crucial to take it to the next level. Here are some proposals and scenarios for a more sustainable Europe that citizens can actively support:

1. A Circular Economy Europeans want to see less waste and more efficient use of resources. A circular economy model focuses on designing products for repair, reuse, and recycling. Citizens can support this by demanding eco-friendly products, participating in repair cafes, and advocating for legislation that promotes circularity. Businesses can adopt sustainable design principles and develop take-back programs.

2. Renewable Energy Revolution Fossil fuels must be phased out to combat climate change. Citizens can invest in renewable energy sources like solar panels or community wind farms. Governments can incentivize renewable energy production by offering tax breaks and feed-in tariffs. Increased funding for research and development of renewable technologies is also crucial.

3. Sustainable Cities Healthy, walkable cities with efficient public transportation are a priority for many Europeans. Citizens can advocate for more bike lanes, pedestrian zones, and green spaces. City authorities can invest in public transport, create car-free zones, and retrofit buildings for energy efficiency.

4. Empowering Communities Sustainability requires active participation from all levels of society. Citizen science projects can engage communities in monitoring environmental issues. Educational programs can foster a culture of sustainability from a young age. Empowering local NGOs and cooperatives allows communities to develop solutions tailored to their needs.

Implementing these proposals will require a multi-pronged approach:

Legislation Governments can enact stricter environmental regulations and set ambitious sustainability targets.

Funding Investments in green infrastructure, renewable energy, and innovation are essential.

Education and Awareness Public education campaigns and skills training can empower citizens to make sustainable choices.

By working together, citizens, central governments and regional/local governments, and businesses can build a more sustainable Europe. This future requires a shift in mindset, with sustainability becoming the core principle guiding all decisions. With active participation and a commitment to long-term change, Europe can become a model region for a thriving and sustainable future.





PORTUGAL

New Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is the ability of people to use information and communication technologies in a conscious, critical and responsible way to participate in society, make informed decisions, solve problems and fully exercise their civic rights and duties.

Therefore, it is necessary:

- Ensure that everyone has access to government information and digital public services, essential for the growth and adoption of digital government;
- Define strategies aligned with the government's digital agenda, identifying digital gaps and prioritizing actions with the most vulnerable groups of the population;
- Establish common structures at national level on digital citizenship that allow us to develop coordinated and aligned strategies with different actors, for example, NGOs, technology companies and the private sector;
- Promote digital literacy (ability to read, write, understand and produce digital content) among citizens;
- Incorporate digital citizenship into formal and non-formal education through teacher training and the continuous development of teaching materials. Digital citizenship has become a priority in portuguese schools, especially cybersecurity, given the risk of cyberbullying and sexting and all types of threats that students are exposed to when surfing the internet, such as data theft, fake profiles, speech online hate, fake news, among others;
- Continuously measure and evaluate citizens' behavior in relation to digital government as a key factor for strategy feedback.

Portugal has been working in this direction for some years, with its pillars being the digital training of people, the digital transformation of companies and the digitalization of the State.

Measures are underway, such as:

- Digital Mobile Key, allowing citizens, nationals or foreigners not resident in the country, to use Portuguese public services in their online version.
- Digitalization of the 25 public services most used by citizens and companies
- Increased supply and translation of digital services of interest to internationalization on the ePortugal portal
- Cloud strategy for Public Administration
- Simplification of contracting information and communication technology services by the Public Administration
- Digitalization Program for Schools
- Intensive and specialized training program in the digital area for 3,000 professionals – UpSkill
- Digital Inclusion Program for 1 million adults
- Social tariff for access to Internet services
- Promotion of Technological Free Zones through the creation of special regulatory regimes
- Digital Training Program for SMEs in the Interior +CO3SO Digital
- Digital Innovation Hubs for Entrepreneurship.

New Media Education

Media Education aims to encourage students to use and interpret the media, particularly in accessing and using information and communication technologies, aiming to adopt behaviors and attitudes appropriate to a critical and safe use of digital technologies. Values such as impartiality, truth, commitment to ethics must be grasped. It is urgent to respond to the informed use of different sources of information and also of information and communication technologies. It is not enough to have information, you need to know how to think about it to distinguish it from misinformation.

In Portugal, Media Education is part of the National Citizenship Education Strategy.





This topic is covered in all years of schooling and there is a Citizenship and Development subject. The school as a whole must base its daily practices on values and principles of citizenship, in order to create an open and free climate for active discussion of decisions that affect the lives of all members of the school community.

The more pronounced presence of citizenship in education thus configures the intention of ensuring “a set of rights and duties that must be conveyed in the training of Portuguese children and young people so that in the future they will be adults with civic conduct that privileges equality in interpersonal relationships, the integration of difference, respect for Human Rights and the appreciation of values and concepts of national citizenship.”

Europe and Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Sustainable development is a fundamental principle of the Treaty on European Union and a priority objective of the EU's internal and external policies.

Portugal played an active role in the preparation and consequent implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, it reinforced its commitment, by being one of the countries that voluntarily presented a “National report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development”, in which it was possible to demonstrate the actions carried out at national level in relation to each of the SDGs. In 2022, the UN report on sustainable development, conducted by independent scientists, highlighted Portugal as one of the most sustainable countries in the world.

Still, to achieve sustainable development, there is a lot to do, which involves changing our behavior in relation to the environment and reevaluating our position in relation to consumer relations.

Some measures already being implemented:

- Significantly increase the weight of urban rehabilitation in the volume of civil construction;
- Promote the sustainable valorization of metallic mineral resources;
- Promote electric mobility;
- Reduce the landfilling of biodegradable urban waste;
- Increase the production of renewable energy and encourage self-consumption of energy,
- Promote renewable energy export projects
- End single-use plastics

There is, however, still a lot to be done, essentially in terms of eradicating hunger and poverty.

Everyone must be involved: individuals, civil society, governments and companies. Only by alerting all stakeholders to these issues, increasing participation and mobilizing people can we leverage the ethical leadership we need to bring about the systemic change that Europe and the world are calling for.

Portugal was the first country in the world to officially celebrate sustainability, which it did on September 25th.





KUNSILL LOKALI
IS-SIGĠIEWI
Città Ferdinand

MALTA

Navigating the Digital Seas - New Frontiers of Digital Citizenship in Malta

The concept of citizenship has transcended traditional borders to encompass digital realms. Malta, a small but progressive nation nestled in the heart of the Mediterranean, has recognized the imperative to redefine citizenship in the digital age. With the proliferation of online platforms, social media, and digital transactions, Malta has embarked on a journey to cultivate a new paradigm of digital citizenship, one that emphasizes rights, responsibilities, and inclusivity in the virtual landscape.

The evolution of digital citizenship in Malta mirrors the global trajectory towards a more interconnected and technologically driven society. As the internet permeates all aspects of daily life, from education to commerce, Malta has acknowledged the need to empower its citizens with digital literacy skills and foster a culture of responsible online behaviour. This evolution entails not only understanding how to navigate the digital realm but also actively participating in shaping its norms and governance structures.

Central to Malta's approach to digital citizenship is the empowerment of its citizens to harness the opportunities afforded by the digital age while mitigating its risks. Through initiatives such as digital literacy programs in schools, workshops for adults, and public awareness campaigns, Malta aims to equip its population with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the digital ecosystem. Moreover, efforts to bridge the digital divide ensure that all citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographical location, can access and benefit from digital resources.

In tandem with empowerment, Malta places great emphasis on promoting digital rights and responsibilities among its citizens. This entails not only safeguarding individuals' rights to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information online but also fostering a culture of ethical and respectful behaviour in digital interactions. Through legislation such as the Data Protection Act and initiatives to combat cyberbullying and online harassment, Malta seeks to create a digital environment that upholds fundamental human rights and values.

At the heart of Malta's vision for digital citizenship lies the concept of building inclusive and cohesive digital communities. Recognizing the transformative power of digital platforms to connect individuals across boundaries of geography and culture, Malta endeavours to foster online communities that are diverse, tolerant, and supportive. Whether through online forums, social media groups, or virtual events, Malta encourages its citizens to actively engage with one another, share knowledge and experiences, and collaborate towards common goals.

As Malta navigates the uncharted waters of the digital age, the concept of citizenship expands beyond physical borders to encompass virtual realms. Through initiatives to empower, promote rights and responsibilities, and build inclusive communities, Malta is laying the foundation for a new era of digital citizenship, one characterized by participation, empowerment, and inclusivity. By embracing the opportunities and challenges of the digital age, Malta is not only shaping its own future but also contributing to the global conversation on what it means to be a citizen in the 21st century.

Proposal for Advancing New Media Education in Malta

The importance of media literacy and education cannot be overstated. Recognizing the transformative power of media in shaping perceptions, influencing decisions, and fostering civic engagement, we propose a comprehensive initiative to advance new media education in Malta. Through strategic partnerships, curriculum development, teacher training, and community engagement, this proposal aims to equip Maltese citizens with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in the digital age.





To leverage resources, expertise, and best practices, we propose establishing strategic partnerships with government agencies, educational institutions, media organizations, tech companies, and non-profit organizations. These partnerships will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources, enable collaborative initiatives, and ensure alignment with national priorities and goals. By engaging a diverse array of stakeholders, we can harness collective wisdom and foster a holistic approach to new media education in Malta. Building upon existing frameworks and standards, we propose developing interdisciplinary curricula that integrate media literacy across various subject areas, including language arts, social studies, science, and technology. These curricula will emphasize critical thinking, digital citizenship, information literacy, and media production skills. By embedding media literacy within existing educational structures, we ensure that all students receive comprehensive and equitable access to essential digital competencies.

Recognizing the pivotal role of educators in fostering media literacy skills, we propose implementing comprehensive training programs and professional development opportunities for teachers. These programs will provide educators with the knowledge, tools, and strategies necessary to effectively integrate media literacy into their instruction. Through workshops, seminars, mentorships, and online resources, we empower educators to serve as guides and mentors in navigating the complexities of the digital landscape. To foster a culture of media literacy and digital citizenship beyond the classroom, we propose engaging parents, caregivers, community leaders, and media professionals in collaborative initiatives and outreach efforts. By raising awareness, providing resources, and facilitating dialogue, we empower individuals and communities to critically evaluate media messages, navigate digital platforms responsibly, and advocate for positive change. Through community partnerships and grassroots initiatives, we cultivate a shared commitment to media literacy and democratic values. To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of our efforts, we propose implementing a comprehensive evaluation framework to assess the impact of new media education initiatives. This framework will include both qualitative and quantitative measures, such as student assessments, teacher feedback, community surveys, and longitudinal studies. By collecting data, soliciting feedback, and analyzing outcomes, we can identify strengths, address challenges, and refine our approach over time.

Advancing new media education in Malta is essential to empower citizens with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in the digital age. Through strategic partnerships, curriculum development, teacher training, community engagement, and continuous improvement, we can build a resilient and inclusive educational ecosystem that prepares Maltese citizens to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape, critically evaluate media messages, and contribute to a vibrant and democratic society. Together, let us embark on this transformative journey towards a future where media literacy is not just a skill, but a fundamental human right.

Promoting Sustainable Development in Malta - A Proposal for European Collaboration

As a member of the European Union, Malta is committed to advancing sustainable development goals that promote economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship. To maximize the impact of our efforts and address complex challenges, we propose a collaborative initiative that leverages the resources, expertise, and networks of both Malta and the broader European community. Through strategic partnerships, policy alignment, capacity building, and innovation, this proposal seeks to position Malta as a leader in sustainable development within the European context. Central to our proposal is the establishment of strategic partnerships with EU institutions, member states, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector stakeholders. These partnerships will facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and coordinated action on key sustainable development priorities, such as climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, and circular economy initiatives. By leveraging the collective expertise and networks of our partners, we can amplify our impact and accelerate progress towards shared goals. Building upon existing EU frameworks and initiatives, we propose aligning Malta's national policies and strategies with European priorities for sustainable development. This includes integrating sustainable





development goals into national development plans, sectoral policies, and regulatory frameworks. By harmonizing our approach with European standards and best practices, we ensure coherence, consistency, and effectiveness in our efforts to promote sustainability across multiple sectors and levels of governance. To strengthen Malta's capacity to implement and monitor sustainable development initiatives, we propose investing in education, training, and research programs that build skills, knowledge, and institutional capacity. This includes supporting academic institutions, research centres, and vocational training facilities to develop curricula, conduct research, and deliver training programs on topics such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and green entrepreneurship. By investing in human capital development, we empower individuals and institutions to drive innovation and transformative change. Recognizing the importance of innovation in addressing complex sustainability challenges, we propose fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in Malta. This includes supporting research and development projects, incubating sustainable startups, and incentivizing private sector investment in green technologies and solutions. By nurturing a thriving ecosystem of innovation, we unlock new opportunities for sustainable growth, job creation, and social impact while positioning Malta as a hub for green innovation within the European marketplace.

To ensure accountability and transparency in our sustainable development efforts, we propose establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress, measure impact, and identify areas for improvement. This includes developing indicators, benchmarks, and reporting frameworks that enable stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of our interventions and make data-driven decisions. By promoting evidence-based policymaking and continuous learning, we can adapt and refine our strategies to maximize their effectiveness over time. By harnessing the collective resources, expertise, and networks of Malta and the broader European community, we can accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals that benefit both present and future generations. Through strategic partnerships, policy alignment, capacity building, innovation, and monitoring, we can position Malta as a leader in sustainable development within the European context while contributing to a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous future for all. Together, let us seize this





New Digital Citizenship

In a future scenario of an inclusive and sustainable Europe, citizens are actively engaged in shaping their digital environment and participating in decision-making processes. New Digital Citizenship entails empowering individuals to navigate the digital realm responsibly, ethically, and inclusively. Here's how this future scenario could be implemented:

1. Digital Literacy Education

Implement comprehensive digital literacy programs in schools, community centers, and workplaces to equip citizens with the skills needed to navigate the digital world effectively. Provide training on critical thinking, online safety, data privacy, and responsible use of technology to promote informed digital citizenship.

2. Access to Technology

Ensure equitable access to digital technologies and internet connectivity for all citizens, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic location.

Invest in infrastructure development to bridge the digital divide and provide affordable internet access in rural and underserved areas.

3. Digital Inclusion Initiatives

Establish community centers and public libraries as hubs for digital inclusion, offering access to computers, internet, and technology training programs for marginalized groups. Partner with non-profit organizations and private sector companies to provide subsidized or free technology devices and internet services to low-income households.

4. Promotion of Digital Rights and Ethics

Enact legislation and policies to protect digital rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information.

Educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities in the digital space, emphasizing the ethical use of technology and respect for diverse perspectives.

5. Citizen Participation Platforms

Develop online platforms and tools for citizen engagement and participatory democracy, allowing individuals to contribute ideas, provide feedback, and collaborate on decision-making processes. Ensure transparency and accountability in government by making data and information accessible to the public through open data initiatives and digital governance mechanisms.

6. Promotion of Digital Diversity and Inclusion

Foster a diverse and inclusive digital ecosystem that reflects the perspectives and experiences of all citizens, including women, minorities, and marginalized communities. Support initiatives to promote digital entrepreneurship and innovation among underrepresented groups, such as women in tech and minority-owned businesses.

7. Digital Sustainability Practices

Encourage sustainable use of digital technologies through initiatives such as e-waste recycling programs, energy-efficient computing, and responsible consumption of digital resources. Promote the development and adoption of green technologies and renewable energy sources to power digital infrastructure.

8. International Collaboration

Collaborate with other countries and international organizations to develop common standards and guidelines for digital citizenship and online behavior. Exchange best practices and lessons learned in digital inclusion and sustainability to promote global cooperation and collective action.

New Media Education

To create a model of an inclusive and sustainable Europe that citizens want to help build, it's crucial to incorporate New Media Education as a foundational element. New Media Education refers to the





integration of digital literacy, critical thinking, and ethical engagement with media and technology. Here's a proposed model along with implementation strategies and action measures:

1. Model of New Media Education

- a. Curriculum Integration: Integrate New Media Education into formal education systems from primary to higher education levels. This curriculum should cover topics such as digital literacy, online safety, media production, fact-checking, critical analysis of media content, and ethical considerations in digital communication.
- b. Community Engagement: Offer community-based programs and workshops to educate citizens of all ages about New Media Education. Partner with local organizations, libraries, and community centers to reach diverse populations and promote digital literacy skills.
- c. Online Platforms: Develop user-friendly online platforms and resources where citizens can access information, tutorials, and tools related to New Media Education. These platforms should be interactive and engaging, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among users.
- d. Teacher Training: Provide professional development and training for educators to effectively incorporate New Media Education into their teaching practices. This training should emphasize pedagogical approaches that promote critical thinking, creativity, and responsible use of digital media.
- e. Media Literacy Campaigns: Launch public awareness campaigns to promote media literacy and digital citizenship. These campaigns should raise awareness about the importance of critical media consumption and empower citizens to question, analyze, and evaluate media content.

2. Implementation Strategies and Action Measures

- a. Policy Development: Advocate for policies at the national and European levels that support the integration of New Media Education into educational systems. This may include curriculum standards, funding initiatives, and teacher training programs.
- b. Partnerships: Forge partnerships with educational institutions, government agencies, non-profit organizations, tech companies, and media outlets to collaborate on New Media Education initiatives. Pool resources, expertise, and networks to maximize impact and reach.
- c. Research and Evaluation: Conduct research to assess the effectiveness of New Media Education programs and interventions. Evaluate outcomes such as digital literacy skills, critical thinking abilities, and attitudes towards media consumption. Use findings to refine and improve educational strategies.
- d. Community Empowerment: Empower communities to take ownership of New Media Education initiatives through participatory approaches. Involve citizens in program design, implementation, and evaluation to ensure relevance and responsiveness to local needs.
- e. Inclusive Access: Ensure equitable access to New Media Education resources and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of socio-economic status, geographic location, or demographic background. Address digital divides and provide support for underserved communities to participate fully in the digital age.

Europe and Sustainable Development

To create a vision of an inclusive and sustainable Europe that citizens want to help build, we need to consider both the aspirations of the people and the challenges facing the continent. Here are some proposals, actions, and strategies for achieving sustainable development in Europe:

1) Education and Awareness

- *Proposal* Implement comprehensive education programs on sustainability and environmental stewardship from an early age.
- *Action* Integrate sustainability into school curricula at all levels and provide training for educators on sustainability topics.
- *Strategy* Foster a culture of environmental consciousness and responsible citizenship through public awareness campaigns, community engagement initiatives, and partnerships with educational





institutions and civil society organizations.

2) Green Economy and Innovation

- *Proposal* Transition to a green economy by investing in renewable energy, clean technologies, and sustainable industries.

- *Action* Provide incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices, support research and development of green technologies, and create green jobs.

- *Strategy* Develop policies and regulations that promote sustainable production and consumption patterns, encourage eco-friendly innovation, and facilitate the transition to a circular economy.

3) Climate Action and Resilience

- *Proposal* Take ambitious action to mitigate climate change and build resilience to its impacts.

- *Action* Set and achieve carbon neutrality targets, invest in climate adaptation measures, and support vulnerable communities affected by climate change.

- *Strategy* Implement policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, enhance climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness efforts, and collaborate with international partners to address global climate challenges.

4) Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration

Proposal Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity to safeguard the planet's natural heritage.

Action Expand protected areas, conserve endangered species, restore degraded habitats, and promote sustainable land and marine management practices.

Strategy Enforce environmental laws and regulations, incentivize conservation efforts through financial mechanisms and incentives, engage local communities in conservation initiatives, and support scientific research on biodiversity conservation.

5) Social Equity and Inclusion

Proposal Promote social equity and inclusion to ensure that all citizens benefit from sustainable development.

Action Address inequalities in access to resources, opportunities, and services, empower marginalized communities, and promote social cohesion and solidarity.

Strategy Implement policies to reduce poverty and inequality, improve access to education, healthcare, and social services, promote gender equality and diversity, and engage marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

6) Collaborative Governance and Participation:

Proposal Foster collaborative governance and citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Action Establish platforms for public dialogue, consultation, and engagement, involve citizens in policy development and implementation, and promote transparency and accountability in government.

Strategy Strengthen democratic institutions and civil society organizations, support grassroots initiatives and community-led projects, and foster partnerships between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society to address sustainability challenges collaboratively.





SLOVAKIA

New Digital Citizenship

In today's digital age, citizenship extends beyond physical borders, with digital technologies shaping our societal fabric. New digital citizenship emphasizes three key aspects:

Easy Access to Information, Digital platforms provide unprecedented insight into government processes and services, fostering transparency and citizen engagement.

Fast Administration, Streamlining Citizen Services, Online platforms enable swift access to governmental services, eliminating bureaucratic hurdles and enhancing efficiency.

Comprehensive Guide to Digital Rights, Understanding digital rights is crucial for navigating cyberspace safely. From data privacy to freedom of expression, digital citizenship entails a robust framework of rights and responsibilities.

New Media Education

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, integrating new media education into school programs is of paramount importance. As the internet becomes an increasingly integral part of our daily lives, it's crucial for students to develop digital literacy skills to navigate this complex environment responsibly. Teaching responsible internet use not only fosters a well-rounded knowledge of the digital space but also equips students with the critical thinking skills necessary to discern reliable information from misinformation. Moreover, educating students about online safety ensures they understand the importance of safeguarding their personal information in an era where data privacy is paramount.

1. **Media Literacy - Recognizing Fake News and Evaluating Online Sources.** It's an essential component of new media education. In today's digital age, misinformation and fake news proliferate across online platforms, making it challenging to discern fact from fiction. Teaching students how to recognize the hallmarks of fake news, such as sensational headlines and lack of credible sources, is imperative. Furthermore, educating students on how to evaluate the credibility of online sources is essential. They must understand the difference between reputable sources, such as peer-reviewed journals and established news outlets, and unreliable sources that lack credibility.

2. **Teaching Internet Safety and Safeguarding Personal Information,** with the proliferation of social media platforms and online services, students must understand how their personal information is processed and used by different platforms. Educators can teach students about the importance of safeguarding their personal information, such as avoiding oversharing and being cautious about what they post online.

3. **Comprehensive Guide to the Benefits of the Digital Space**

Despite its risks, the digital space offers numerous benefits that enrich our lives in various ways. One of the most significant advantages is the ease of communication afforded by digital platforms. Whether connecting with friends and family or collaborating with peers on projects, the internet facilitates seamless communication across geographical boundaries.

Europe and Sustainable Development

Central to this endeavour is the integration of digital technologies and the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in identifying issues and crafting innovative solutions. By leveraging these tools, we can enhance our understanding of sustainability issues, devise effective strategies, and empower individuals and organizations to make a meaningful impact.

1. **Encouraging Sustainability on a Personal Level, Fostering sustainability begins with individual actions.** It involves conscious efforts to reduce overconsumption, minimize waste, and adopt eco-friendly practices. Digital platforms and AI can play a pivotal role in this process by providing personalized insights and resources tailored to specific locations and opportunities. Through apps,





websites, and social media channels, individuals can access information on sustainable living, eco-friendly products, recycling options, and renewable energy sources.

2. Spreading Awareness on the Bigger Picture, While personal initiatives are commendable, the scale of environmental challenges demands systemic change, particularly from large corporations. It's imperative to raise awareness about the significant environmental footprint of many industries and advocate for more strict regulations and sustainable practices. Digital platforms serve as powerful tools for sharing information, organizing campaigns, and mobilizing public support.

3. Advocating for Sustainability, this involves engaging with policymakers and stakeholders at various levels of governance to promote sustainability initiatives and influence decision-making processes. In Europe, numerous representatives hold key roles in shaping environmental policies and regulations. From local councils to the European Parliament, individuals can advocate for sustainability by lobbying for environmentally friendly policies, supporting green initiatives, and holding elected officials accountable for their actions. Digital platforms facilitate communication and collaboration, enabling citizens to connect with like-minded advocates, share information, and coordinate advocacy campaigns effectively.





SOCIAL
INCLUSION

GREECE

New Digital Citizenship in Greece

- Digital Skills Training Programs - Develop digital literacy initiatives targeting citizens of all ages, particularly focusing on rural and underserved communities.
- Online Safety Campaigns - Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about online threats, such as cyberbullying, scams, and identity theft.
- E-Government Services Expansion - Expand and improve e-government services to enhance accessibility and efficiency in public service delivery, promoting digital engagement among citizens.
- Foster partnerships between government, industry, and academia to strengthen Greece's cybersecurity capabilities and address emerging cyber threats.
- Digital Rights Advocacy - Advocate for legislation and policies that protect digital rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information, ensuring alignment with European Union directives.

New Media Education in Greece

- Media Literacy in Schools - Integrate media literacy education into the national curriculum, empowering students to critically evaluate media content and navigate the digital landscape responsibly.
- Journalism Ethics Training - Provide training and resources for journalists to uphold ethical standards, combat disinformation, and maintain journalistic integrity.
- Community Media Support - Support community media initiatives that amplify diverse voices and perspectives, fostering a vibrant media ecosystem beyond mainstream outlets.
- Digital Media Literacy for Seniors - Offer digital media literacy programs specifically tailored to senior citizens to bridge the digital divide and empower them to engage with digital platforms safely.
- Establish fact-checking organizations or collaborate with existing initiatives to verify information and combat the spread of false narratives online.

Europe and Sustainable Development in Greece

- Renewable Energy Investments - Accelerate investments in renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar and wind power, to reduce Greece's dependence on fossil fuels and promote energy independence.
- Sustainable Tourism Promotion that prioritize environmental conservation, cultural preservation, and community engagement to promote responsible tourism practices.
- Implement measures to protect Greece's rich marine biodiversity, including marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries management, and plastic pollution reduction initiatives.
- Rural Development Programs - Support rural communities through sustainable agriculture initiatives, eco-tourism development, and access to funding for small-scale sustainable businesses.
- Develop and implement climate resilience strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on Greece's vulnerable ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities.





LUENDA
ASOCIACIÓN SOCIOCULTURAL

SPAIN

New Digital Citizenship

This proposal is built on the pillars of inclusivity, digital literacy, and conscientious digital interaction. It calls for the creation of digital spaces that are accessible to everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, physical abilities, or geographic location. This includes making the internet affordable, websites accessible, and digital services available in various languages. An emphasis is placed on integrating digital literacy into educational systems and community programs, covering critical online thinking, understanding digital rights, and leveraging digital tools for creativity. Furthermore, it advocates for fostering a culture of respect, privacy, and security online, underpinned by ethical behaviour and clear consequences for digital misconduct. Envisioning future scenarios under this model reveals a society where digital inclusion is not an aspiration but a reality, with all individuals having equal opportunities to access and benefit from digital advancements. Citizens are envisioned as well-informed and adept at navigating digital content, actively engaging in digital governance. Moreover, a digital community that values ethical behavior online contributes to a safer and more secure digital environment for all.

To bring this vision to fruition, a collaborative effort involving technology companies, NGOs, and government bodies is essential to bridge the digital divide and enforce digital ethics standards and privacy regulations. This approach aims to cultivate a digital landscape where every citizen can thrive.

New Media Education

"New Media Education" proposes a paradigm where individuals are empowered with the knowledge and skills to navigate the ever-changing media environment effectively. This proposition underscores the importance of critical media literacy, ethical content creation, and dynamic learning settings. It suggests an educational shift towards teaching students to critically evaluate media sources, understand the mechanisms of media production, and recognize the influence media has on society and personal perspectives. The model also encourages responsible content creation by imparting knowledge on ethical guidelines, copyright norms, and the implications of digital footprints. Furthermore, it advocates for the utilization of new media technologies in education, such as online platforms, virtual reality, and AI-driven personalized learning experiences, to create adaptive and engaging learning environments.

Imagining future scenarios within this framework leads to a digitally literate populace adept at discerning the reliability and quality of online information. It foresees a generation of ethical content creators who contribute positively to the digital realm, enhancing the diversity and innovation of media. Additionally, it projects an educational landscape that is flexible and inclusive, preparing students for the digital future with agility.

The implementation of this vision requires forging partnerships between educational institutions, media companies, and technology providers. Establishing national media literacy standards and supporting educators with the necessary training and resources are crucial steps. By promoting a culture of lifelong learning and adaptation, the proposal aims to keep pace with technological and media developments.

Europe and Sustainable Development

The vision for "Europe and Sustainable Development" charts a course for the continent to become a beacon of sustainability, led by innovation, collaborative governance, and active citizen participation. It emphasizes fostering sustainable business models and green technologies, supporting startups, and SMEs in adopting sustainable practices. The model advocates for enhanced cooperation among EU member states, local governments, NGOs, and the private sector to harmonize sustainability objectives and share successful strategies. It also seeks to mobilize citizens by educating them on sustainability issues, involving them in community projects, and offering incentives for sustainable living practices.





The envisioned future depicts Europe as a leader in green technology, underpinned by an economy that thrives on sustainable practices and innovations. It foresees a unified Europe where sustainability goals are not only shared but actively pursued across national borders. Citizens are empowered as crucial drivers of sustainability, actively contributing to making Europe greener and more inclusive. Realizing this vision entails setting up financial mechanisms and incentives to promote green innovation, establishing a European sustainability framework to facilitate cross-border collaboration, and launching awareness campaigns to cultivate a culture of sustainability among European citizens. Through these efforts, the proposal aims to forge a sustainable, prosperous, and resilient European future





ROMANIA

New Digital Citizenship

- Implement comprehensive digital literacy programs in schools to educate citizens on online safety, critical thinking, and responsible digital citizenship (Educational programs)
- Formulate legislation to regulate digital platforms, protect privacy, and combat online harassment, ensuring a safe online environment (Policy development)
- Provide accessible resources such as online tutorials and workshops for adults to enhance their digital skills and awareness (Accessible resources)
- Launch public awareness campaigns to promote ethical online behavior, respect for diversity, and the consequences of cyberbullying (Public awareness campaigns)
- Collaborate with technology companies to develop tools and resources that promote positive online interactions and combat misinformation (Collaboration with tech industry)

New Media Education

- Incorporate media literacy education into school curricula at all levels to equip students with critical thinking skills and awareness of media influence.
- Provide training programs for educators to effectively teach media literacy, including strategies for analyzing media content and promoting responsible media consumption.
- Organize workshops and seminars for parents, teachers, and community members to enhance their understanding of media literacy and strategies for guiding children's media use.
- Collaborate with media outlets to develop educational materials, guest speakers, and internship opportunities to expose students to various aspects of media production and consumption.
- Integrate media literacy education with digital citizenship initiatives to foster responsible online behavior and awareness of digital media's impact on society.

Europe and Sustainable Development

- Align national policies with the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to prioritize environmental protection, social equity, and economic prosperity.
- Increase investment in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change effects.
- Promote sustainable infrastructure development including public transportation, green buildings, and waste management systems to enhance resilience and reduce environmental impact.
- Implement educational campaigns to raise awareness about sustainable development principles among citizens, businesses, and policymakers, fostering a culture of sustainability.
- Foster collaboration between government, private sector, civil society, and local communities to develop and implement sustainable development initiatives, ensuring inclusivity and diverse perspectives.





SWEDEN

New Digital Citizenship

It refers to the rights, behaviour and responsibilities of the youth on the internet. It involves understanding the ethical, legal, and social implications of digital tech and it wants us to promote positive online behaviour, digital literacy and rights.

Let us explain: The youth need to understand how to use digital tools, platforms and protect digital data. They have to learn how to use freedom of expression, but also what it means doing so. The youth need to be responsible, informed and engaged participants in promoting positive online culture.

New Media Education

First of all, we have to understand the difference between old and new media! Our parents have grown up with the old media and that is newspapers, magazines and TV. People born in the 70-90-s have parents that did not have internet when they grew up! The youth of today have parents and teachers that were born in the 70-90-s and they have grown up with the new media! The fact that they have, makes it easier to make sure that the young people learn how to separate the information that they get through internet 24h. Young people are nowadays influenced by social media, sometimes in a bad way. We have a strong belief that it all comes down to what we hear and learn at home and in school. Parents should communicate about the online experiences that they have, be an example for positive online behavior, show the youth how to use the internet in a safe way and learn how to use the information that they get.

School should address cyberbullying, ethical behaviors online, digital literacy education so the youths have a greater skill online, educate privacy and responsibility.

Europe and Sustainable Development

It is all about the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations and their own needs.

Sweden for example is widely recognized as a global leader in "SD", known for its ambitious policies, innovative practices and commitment to environmental stewardship. The key factors are, protecting natural habitats, reducing pollution, greenhouse gas and renewable energy that in fact accounts for a large proportion of the country's electricity production. Renewable energy reduces climate changes! Getting from one place to another in the country is very simple. The government helps people invest in electric cars, bikes and the cost of public transportation.

Nowadays if you need to sort every single garbage in your home, before dumping it in the containers! We have 6-8 containers outside the buildings, and it works well. We can say that Sweden has a strong commitment to create a more sustainable and equitable future for its citizens and the global community





CZECH REPUBLIC

New Digital Citizenship

In today's interconnected world, fostering digital citizenship among Czech youngsters is paramount. Our Final Dossier presents actionable strategies to cultivate responsible digital behavior and empower the youth for a digitally inclusive future.

Understanding the Landscape:

Czech Youth Demographics and information of usage the technologies

Digital Natives: Growing up in a digital age, Czech youngsters are deeply immersed in technology, what are their most popular activities on digital platforms?

Digital Divide: Disparities in access and digital literacy exist, affecting opportunities for all = youngsters teach digital dinos and vice versa

Key Proposals:

1. Digital Literacy Initiatives

Curriculum Integration: Embed digital literacy into formal education to ensure all youngsters receive foundational digital skills, not only gaming and social networking.

Online Safety Programs: Develop resources and workshops to educate youth on safe online practices, including cyberbullying prevention and privacy protection.

Study of AI and implementing the tool in daily routine work.

2. Accessible Technology

Infrastructure Improvement: Expand access to high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas to bridge the digital divide and also provide affordable or subsidized devices to low-income families to ensure equal access to digital tools. Digital wellbeing = digital breaks.

3. Youth Engagement

Youth-Led Initiatives: Support youth-led projects that promote positive online engagement and usage of digital devices and online space, such as digital activism and community building.

Digital Mentorship: Establish mentorship programs connecting experienced professionals (youth or adults) to guide them in navigating digital spaces responsibly.

Breaking the age gap and knowledge gap.

Action Plan

Collaborative Partnerships to forge partnerships with educational institutions, NGOs, and tech companies to implement comprehensive digital citizenship initiatives and also sharing those knowledge among the EU states.

Engage with community leaders and parents to involve them in promoting responsible digital behavior among youngsters and use the digi tools to connect and create communities, not to divide opinions, people and nations. Is needed to establish metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of digital citizenship interventions.

New Media Education

Empowering Czech youngsters and inhabitants with critical media literacy skills is crucial in navigating the complexities of today's digital landscape. It is needed to create a roadmap for concrete future steps, but more likely than new media education is to create 3 main routes, how to influence the future media impacts:

Creating the informatio

Sharing the information

Consumption the information





CREATING - WE ALL CREATE THE CONTENT TODAY

One word said today, creates the future reality. We need to understand that creating the information has got the rules. Youngsters should be provided hands-on training in digital media production, including video editing, podcasting, and social media content creation, to empower youngsters to become active contributors to digital discourse in the name of future reality.

Partnering with media organizations and tech companies to offer internship opportunities and apprenticeships for aspiring journalists and content creators are more than welcome. It is needed to develop online platforms and resources, such as interactive websites or mobile apps, that offer interactive media literacy modules, fact-checking tools, and guides for responsible online behavior, transparency and safety.

SHARE 2 INFLUENCE THE WORLD

Choose WHERE you share and WHAT is “your” channel. There are plenty of possibilities where to share your created content. Less is more, quality is more than quantity. Foster collaboration with existing online communities and influencers to disseminate accurate information and promote media literacy initiatives.

For a fairer world we need to push and encourage dialogue between generations to foster mutual understanding of media consumption habits and techniques for discerning credible sources.

CONSUMPTION alias BELIEVE OR NOT

Not only youngsters, but also organizations and states need to cooperate closely with regulatory bodies and media industry stakeholders to promote transparency and accountability in media content dissemination and consumption.

Empower youngsters to critically evaluate media content, discern misinformation, and demand transparency from media outlets and platforms. Implement those basic knowledge in the formal educational system.

Knowing when to take a break from consumption of media content and using digital media is crucial for maintaining mental well-being and achieving a healthy balance in life. Recognition of physical symptoms, emotional signs, behavioral patterns - like for example constantly checking digital devices or feeling the urge to respond immediately to notifications, can affect relationships, productivity and creativity. By recognizing the signs indicating the need for a digital break, distance and taking proactive steps to disconnect and recharge, individuals can maintain a healthier relationship with technology and improve their overall well-being.

By prioritizing New Media Education initiatives, we can equip Czech youngsters and inhabitants with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the digital media landscape confidently, responsibly and sustainably! Through collaborative efforts across educational, community, and policy domains, we can build a more media-literate society prepared to critically engage with the vast array of information and communication channels available in the digital age.

Europe and Sustainable Development

In an era where digital technologies and media are shaping our world at an unprecedented pace, envisioning a future for Europe that is both inclusive and sustainable is paramount. Our proposal delves into the integration of digital and media advancements to pave the way for such a future, with citizens at the forefront of the transformation.

At its core, our vision for Europe is one where digital innovation drives sustainability across all sectors. This entails fostering green technologies, embracing circular economy models, and ensuring efficient resource management through digital solutions. From smart energy systems to waste management and sustainable transportation, digital innovations hold the key to mitigating environmental impact and building a greener future. Yet, alongside technological progress, media literacy and awareness are essential. We advocate for robust media literacy programs that equip citizens with the critical thinking skills needed to navigate the digital landscape responsibly. By promoting responsible consumption of digital content and combating misinformation, we can foster informed dialogue and empower citizens to engage meaningfully with sustainability issues.





Moreover, citizen engagement and participation are crucial elements in realizing our vision. Digital platforms offer unprecedented opportunities for citizens to contribute to sustainable initiatives and participate in decision-making processes. Empowering citizens to co-create solutions and advocate for policy changes ensures that sustainability efforts reflect the needs and aspirations of the people. Policy integration and regulation are also key pillars of our proposal. We advocate for the integration of sustainability considerations into digital and media policies, promoting environmentally friendly practices and ethical use of data. Enforcing regulations that hold corporations accountable for their environmental impact is essential for creating a level playing field and ensuring that digital advancements align with sustainability goals.

Central to our approach is the importance of partnerships and collaboration. By forging alliances between governments, businesses, civil society, and research institutions, we can leverage collective expertise and resources to drive sustainable development. Cross-sectoral collaboration is essential for harnessing the full potential of digital technologies for social innovation and environmental stewardship. Looking ahead, we envision a Europe where citizens actively shape sustainable policies, digital innovation drives green growth, and media serves as a catalyst for awareness and accountability. By embracing digital and media advancements, Europe can lead the way in realizing an inclusive and sustainable future that meets the aspirations of its citizens. Through collaborative efforts, we can ensure that technology serves both people and the planet, paving the way for a brighter tomorrow.





POLAND

New Digital Citizenship

On the Human capital dimension in the 2022 edition of the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), Poland ranks 24th among the 27 EU member states, placing it below the EU average. Only 43% of people between the ages of 16 and 74 have at least basic digital skills, compared to 54% in the EU, and only 21% have digital skills above the basic level. Poland scores 57% on fundamental digital content creation skills, below the EU average of 66%.

In February 2023, the Council of Ministers in Poland adopted a resolution on the establishment of a government program called Digital Competence Development Program (Program Rozwoju Kompetencji Cyfrowych). The main objective of the Program is to constantly increase the level of digital competences by providing everyone with the opportunity to develop them according to their needs, taking into account all stages of life, both among ordinary users of digital technologies and ICT specialists. The Digital Competences Development Program consists of activities that we have assigned to five priorities for the development of digital competencies: (i) development of digital education; (ii) providing everyone with the opportunity to develop digital competences; (iii) support for digital competences of working people; (iv) development of advanced digital competences; (v) strengthening the management and coordination of activities in the field of digital competence development.

"New Media Education"

There's no denying that, ever since social networks and social media made way into our lives, everything is different. Beginning with the way we socialize, interact, plan for parties or even how often we go out. We won't go into a debate regarding the ethical aspects of the way social media is influencing our lives. Instead, this article proposes to focus on the numerous ways in which social media is changing the way the education system works. So, stay tuned to find out what effects does social networking have on the way our children are educated both at school and outside of it.

When it comes to social media, schools tend to adopt different positions. It's a general consensus that they're useful when it comes to sharing information or organizing the school tasks. And at the same time, the social networking is blamed for the lack of attention in students during classes.

But an increasing trend of adopting social media in school is starting to show. And since students already devote a lot of time for social media and connecting with others outside school hours, why not do it during school as well?

How Can Teachers Penetrate the Online World? Moodle and Blackboard are just two examples of learning management system that involves online learning for more than 10 years now. Slowly but steady, such systems will lead to the actual implementation of social media within classrooms. And the best tool available for teachers is social media itself. Only by being open-minded and using the technology themselves will they be able to really reach out to students.

"Europe and Sustainable Development"

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were established in 2015 by the international community as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through which countries of the world collectively pledged to eradicate poverty, find sustainable and inclusive development solutions, ensure everyone's human rights, and generally make sure that no one is left behind by 2030. The EU made a positive and constructive contribution to the development of the 2030 Agenda. We are committed to implementing the SDGs in all our policies and encourage EU countries to do the same.





17 SDGs have been defined, with 169 associated targets, to be reached by 2030. They address the global challenges the world faces and tackle all dimensions of sustainable development, in a balanced and integrated manner.

The fifth edition of the ESDR, which includes the SDG Index and Dashboards, tracks progress on the SDGs of the EU, its Member States, and partner countries in Europe. The report highlights that at the current rate, a third of the SDG targets will not be achieved by the EU by 2030, with significant differences across European countries; these range from a quarter in Northern and Western Europe to around half in Southern Europe and Central and Eastern Europe on average. In particular, the report underlines stagnation and reversal in progress in many European countries on social targets with growing issues around access to and quality of services for all, as well as poverty and material deprivation driven at least partly by multiple crises since 2020. Globally, the international financial architecture is failing to channel global savings to SDG investments at the needed pace and scale which leads to a reversal in SDG progress in many parts of the world, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

In June 2024, the citizens of the EU will elect the new European Parliament. The EU's incoming leaders will be responsible for agreeing to the next EU seven-year budget (2028-2035) and negotiating the next global agenda for sustainable development to continue the SDGs beyond 2030. In the current fragmented and multipolar world, the EU's leadership must adopt a more ambitious, integrated, and coherent approach to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs at home and internationally.



Partnership



Castoreale



Fondachelli Fantina



Rodì Milici



Terme Vigliatore

Unione dei Comuni "Valle del Patrì" Italy



Troyan Municipality
Bulgaria



Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos e São Julião
Portugal



KUNSILL LOKALI
IS-SIĠĠIEWI
Città Ferdinand

Siggiewi Local Council
Malta



Gmina Przygodzice
Poland



Holloko Municipality
Hungary



Posesti Municipality
Romania



SOCIAL
INCLUSION
Greece



udruuga za promicanje aktivnog gradanstva
Croatia



LUENDA
ASOCIACIÓN SOCIOCULTURAL
Spain



BUSINESS &
PROFESSIONAL
WOMEN CR
PRODUCTION,
Z. U.
Czech Republic



Instítucia Regionalnych Aktivít Novohradu
Slovakia



Antares
Onlus
Italy



EESTI LINNADE JA VALDADE LIIT
ASSOCIATION OF ESTONIAN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES
Estonia



Sverigeungerska
Kvinnoförening "Sissi"
Sweden

Sweden



LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

Latvia

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