

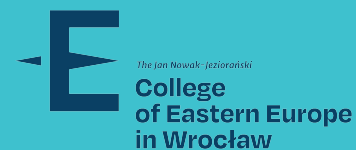
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European Youth Is Debating Y(Our) Issue

Overview of the project Debate Your Issue



Relevance



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Despite many differences between European countries, young people share substantial similarities concerning their worldview, experiences, fears and problems. A highly common issue is the fact that young Europeans' trust in mainstream media and public institutions at all levels is low. Youth in Europe distinguishes itself by a limited interest in politics, media literacy and political education. The voting turnout of young people is the lowest among all age categories. Young Europeans cope with a significantly higher level of unemployment than the countries' average, and due to the negative impact of pandemic it will most probably increase.





What?

The aim of the project Debate Your Issue is to strengthen the awareness of young Europeans (18–25 years old) on the topics of politics, democracy, tolerance and their threats – disinformation, intolerance, polarization and hate speech.

Why?



Every democracy needs citizens who ask critical questions and who are not afraid to express their views.




How?

Debate trainings and competitions, discussions and creating a unique methodological approach and publications in six European countries – Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Serbia, Poland and Belgium.





Method: Debating

- teaches how to listen to opinions of others
 - teaches how to respond to them in a matter-of-fact and fair way
 - is an easy and quick way to learn how to defend your position while understanding others' arguments
 - prepares you to stand up for your opinions and views in a well-founded and convincing manner
 - contributes to political education by dealing with relevant socio-political questions in a critical manner
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Structure of the training

DYI TRAINING / 55–65 hours

Virtual training

Debate Training / 20 hours

Debate with Opinion
Makers / 12 hours

Workshops / 20 hours

Self learning

Workshops

Podcasts

EU Competition: June – September, 2021

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The debates will be held in the *Jugend debattiert* format, focusing on current socio-political issues. Each mock involves four people – two on the *pro* and two on the *contra side*. The goal is to stand up for one's opinions and views in a well-founded and convincing manner, weight others' arguments and gain basics of a political education



Final conference: August, 2021



Final conference outlining project outcomes and results of debate training and EU competition.



Covid-19 factor



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During the pandemic, the implementation and transfer of an international project into the digital environment is challenging, but not impossible. Every virtual session and meeting with young people imparts energy and confirms the viability and mission of the idea behind this project – to help young people formulate and argue their position, as well as to accept the views of others, critically evaluate the information available and gain a grasp of Europe’s decision-making and policy-making processes. Generations, ideas and skills change, and it is the young people of today who will shape the Europe of the future.

Zuzana Hubková

leader of the Debate Your Issue project
Goethe-Institut Czech Republic





Project partners

Goethe-Institut (Czech Republic)

Jaunimo Debatai (Lithuanian International Association of Youth Debate Alumni; Lithuania)

National Library of Latvia (Latvia)

Novo kulturno naselje (New Cultural Society, Serbia)

Kolegium Europy Wschodniej (College of Eastern Europe, Poland)

Mediawijs (Flemish Digital and Media Literacy Centre, Belgium)

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Thank you!



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