



Moving Democracy Online

How to Improve the Dialogue Between Youngsters and Policy Makers?

A Guide with Scenarios for E-democracy Tools



Table of Contents

About Moving Democracy Online.....	3
Ideas participants came up with, working in multicultural teams	6
Presenting the main ideas of the Guide during a meeting with MP Thom van Campen at Parliament...11	
How does connectivity enable youngsters to participate in the democratic society?	13
What did you learn about Democracy in the European Union?.....	14
Democracy and Differences perceived by participants between Eastern and Western parts of Europe...15	
Lessons learnt about moving democracy online.....	17
How could young people help policymakers in the online environment, using the following tools	18
The most important lesson at the end of the project.....	20
Experiences to take home	21
How will the project influence you in the future?	23
What to do further with the Guide?.....	24
Slogans to inspire the awareness campaign.....	25
From e-digitalisation to e-planet: main actions, suggestions and conclusions	26
A description of the project in ten words.....	27
Thoughts from participants.....	28

About Moving Democracy Online

This ERASMUS+ Youth Participation project was developed in line with the priorities of the European Youth Strategy, promoting the active participation of young people in democratic life and fostering debate around the major issues affecting youth. The initiative encouraged discussions between youngsters, decision makers and other experts on democracy and e-democracy issues, on how to stimulate young people's involvement in rethinking democracy digitally. By doing this, it supported the Youth participation in the development of democratic societies, as one main principle of Youth Dialogue.

In order to be motivated to actively take part in shaping the decision-making process, young Europeans need to see that their opinions are taken into account.

The project aimed at providing a platform for young people to get in dialogue with representatives of The Hague politics, policy makers and other stakeholders. By taking stock of the present situation regarding the dynamics of the democratic processes, youngsters collected new approaches, learnt how to make their voices heard and discovered new things about each other's cultures. As a result of their interaction, participants came up with scenarios on how to better connect young people with the European policies, by improving online dialogue between them and policy makers, within a growing process of moving democracy online.



Dealing with the corona crisis has been one additional challenge to those the EU was already facing: geopolitical tensions at the external borders, the migration issue, Euroscepticism and populism or problems connected to rule of law and democratic rights. This project “Moving Democracy Online” has been one direct consequence of these crises, being executed as a combination of online and physical meetings. Young people should be able to get in dialogue with policy makers also in times of crisis. Furthermore, they should be stimulated to have a direct say in the process of stepping to e-democracy.

The concrete proposals to help improve the e-democracy tools enabling youngsters to voice their opinions are gathered in this “Moving Democracy Online” Guide.

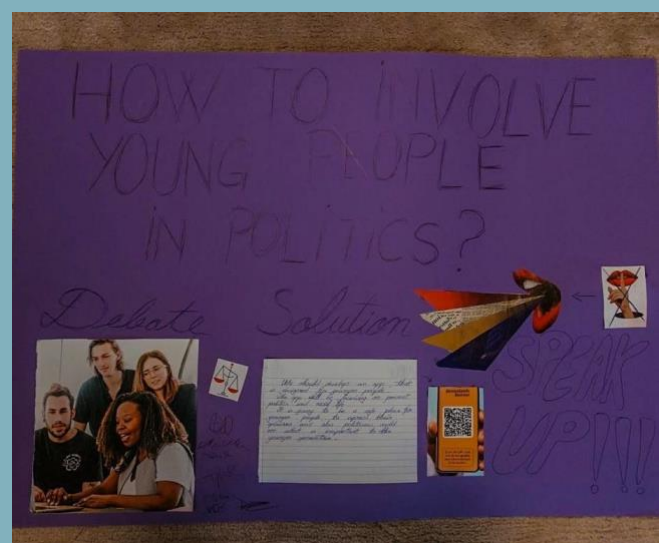
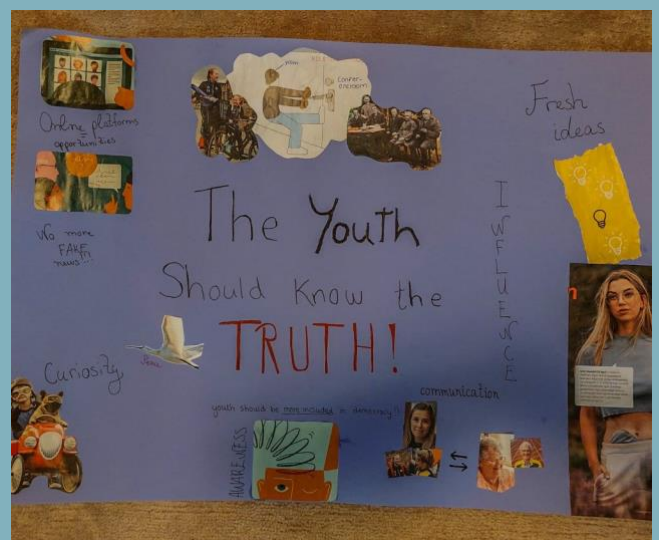
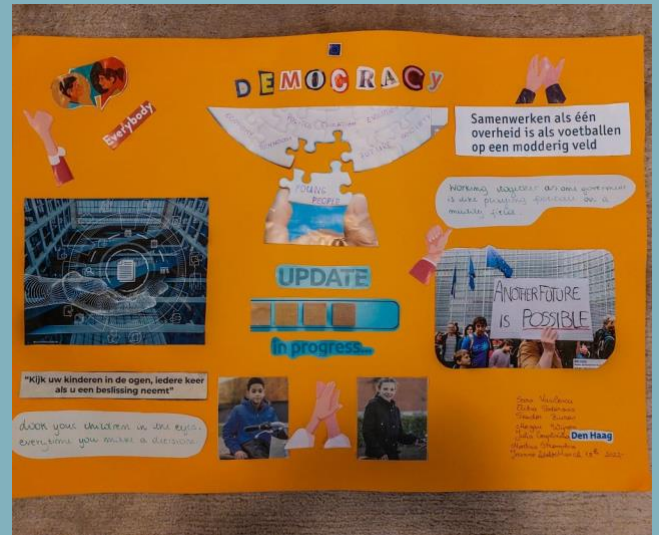
By putting together various learning outcomes, we wanted to create a concrete model showing how youngsters can have a say in the decisions that affect their life.

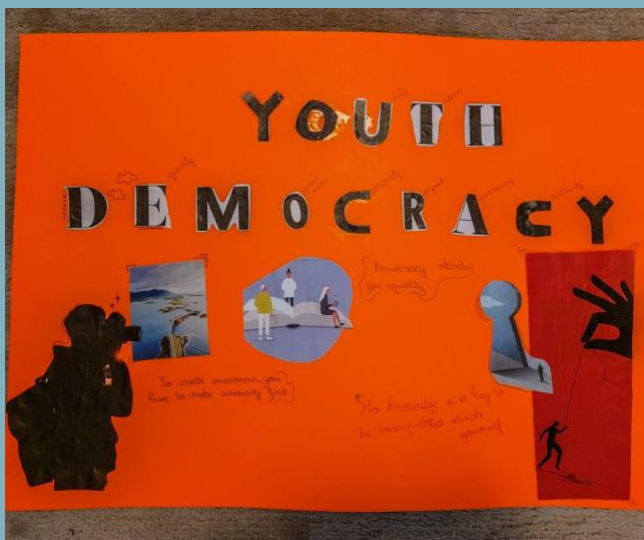
Youth participation to dialogue in the digital age allows those responsible for youth policies at local and European levels to listen to the voice of young people, finding out their needs to participate to the democratic life and taking them into account.

Participants learnt about democracy through active engagement. Through non-formal learning activities and discussions, the project enabled young people to acquire competences contributing to their personal development and foster their active participation in society.

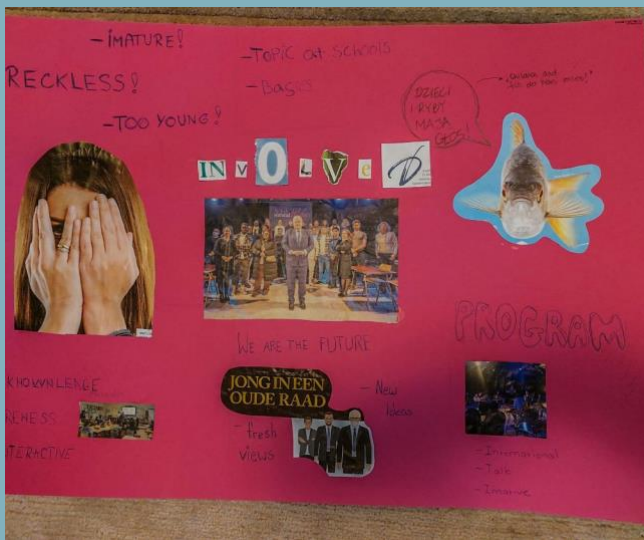
Engaging in dialogue with each other and with various policy makers, young people got more interested in the European Union, learning new things about its democratic processes and forming a critical opinion. Taking then a step further, they got actively involved in designing concrete solutions for moving democracy online. Their conclusions were presented and discussed during a meeting at the Dutch Parliament.

The project had a cultural dimension as well. It allowed participants to get to know each other while exchanging cultural information, by presenting their countries and traditions and by enabling youngsters with fewer opportunities to present their local circumstances. Youngsters enriched their horizons by spending time together with people from other countries. They learnt more about Europe, gained a wider sense of respecting other cultures and opinions, developed new skills for better communicating in an international atmosphere and expressing their opinions. They developed skills on how to interact with experts and authorities and how to work in multi-cultural teams. By creating the scenarios for the Guide, the PowerPoints about their countries and other materials during the project tasks, how learnt how to better structure the information.





The main activity of the project took place in The Hague in March 2022 and it was attended by 50 participants. The initiative was implemented by Foundation Netherlands-Romania in The Hague and its partners in Bulgaria (EUYouth), Iceland (Vopnafjörður), Poland (II Liceum Adama Mickiewicza Gdynia) and Romania (National Pedagogical College Carol I). Each partner sent a delegation of 10 people.



They became more aware of the importance of digitalisation, of the advantages and disadvantages of the e-democracy, of the decision-making process at European level and of the tools available for making their voice heard. They will know where to look for the right information, how to use the tools that are there for them or how to better engage in dialogue with the decision makers. They learnt how to cooperate in the digital age, erasing borders and getting closer to each other in order to shape together their common future.



As a long-term benefit, we expect participants to further act as multipliers of the programme values in their direct environment: home, school, clubs, friends, local organisations or local authorities. They brought the knowledge acquired in The Hague to their local communities, where it is shared with many others and it will also be used in the future. This way, the project is expected to create a multiplying effect in the communities where the participants came from.

Ideas Participants Came up with, Working in Multicultural Teams

STIMULATING MORE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES / NEW YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

- Create a hierarchy where students can share their opinions with people above them, with - at the top of that hierarchy - a person that has the necessary position to make the requested changes a reality
- A Parliament (European Youth Parliament, Mock Parliament), for the ages 16 to 21, where to discuss about problems concerning young people directly and have the opportunity to solve them.
- Youth parties
- Youth representatives in political parties
- Influencers (Political influencers) – government interns who would serve as means of communication between the youth and the government. They will also have social media platforms where they will answer questions and gather ideas and show what is happening behind the scenes
- Online Youth Government body to be asked questions and feedback the rulers directly





ONLINE ACTIVITIES

- Online newspaper for youth about politics
- More international online projects and debates
- Online safe space for sharing ideas and opinions
- Broadcasting official politics meetings
- More online surveys about how they feel about small local issues and about politicians
- Online meetings with politicians which is an easy way of communicating, and there youth can explain how they see things in the world. We believe that they have a fresh view when it comes to politics
- Online webinars
- Open chat for questions from everyone, moderators from all political sides, available on all platforms, recorded so that you can watch it again

DIALOGUE BETWEEN POLITICIANS/GOVERNMENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- More attention to be given to the younger people, because when politicians are advertising they are mostly focused on middle-aged people, while they need to get young people to participate at their events (youngsters will be able to vote in a few years)
- The language should be less formal, and more accessible so it is easier to understand for young people and they will not get bored easily
- Try to change the stigma: “Politics is nerdy and boring”, make it more fun so it attracts more young people (fun ads etc.)



SOCIAL MEDIA

- An app on your phone for free, no age limits, and available on all devices (phones, laptops). To be a safe place where young people can express their opinions and if majority agrees, to share them with politicians, to take surveys and present the results in the media, to have chats channels that are open to all, a filter for fake news and moderators
- Social media groups - social media is easily accessible and students can express opinions on groups created and constantly updated by the government for instance

NON-FORMAL ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL

- Politics as an optional school subject which will inform young people about politics and how it all works. We can make students more aware of the things that are going on in the world, because many young people do not know a lot about politics and democracy, which determines our future a lot. We think the youth is the future and they have to learn more about politics
- Parties should send deputies to the schools to promote their party and give presentations
- Educate youth in schools more about their rights and actual political life (not suggesting any particular views, only presenting facts and give them opportunity to decide and make them curious)
- Debating groups
- Regular visits of politicians to schools to answer questions, to describe their job and debate with the students
- Tea party with politicians
- Workshops
- Politics Meme Contest
- Meeting with parents - let parents know that they have the biggest influence in their child's life and they should give their child information about politics as well
- Organize campaigns at schools
- More international programs like this- a good way to get to know international politics by visiting other countries (like this project). Students can get to know other people, young people and decision makers can talk about the things going on in the world, and then they can keep contact virtually
- Give youngsters projects and assignments to generate ideas and help them form opinions
- Recommend informational sources so that we could use them to educate ourselves
- Make sure young people know why they should get involved
- Make it clear to young people that we are heard, make everybody realize that we have a voice, and it will be taken into account





YOUTH ACTIVITIES GENERATED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

- Advertising campaigns to promote using our voice / to promote the app
- Campaigns to raise awareness of the ability of youth to make useful decisions
- **More attention to the minorities in society**
- help government to identify problems of the minority youngsters in your community and to develop their passions and interests as well
- **Prevention of false information**

Problem: radicalization – everyone is currently having opposing opinions and they cannot get to a compromise, which is important for creating policies

Our suggestion to solve it: if we catch this in an early stage, we can prevent it easier. If we start debating with people responsible, we can start agreeing with people more

- **Informing the senior population**

Problem: they are less active online, so we need other ways to reach and influence them

Our suggestions: The best way to reach the elderly is through their family members (grandchildren). That is why informing the youth is very important. Also, through TV news programs which older people like to watch, where youth can talk to them

Presentation of the Main Ideas of the Guide During a Meeting with MP Thom Van Campen at The Dutch Parliament

Because the youngsters collected too many ideas for the Guide, it was not possible to present them all at the Parliament. Each team selected three ideas to be discussed during the meeting.

**The ideas the teams selected to discuss with Thom van Campen,
Member of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands (from VVD - Liberal Party)**

TEAM 1

1. Meeting with politicians at schools, for example in workshops
2. Politics should be a subject at school that you can choose
3. Online webinars to get to know better the politicians' points of view

TEAM 2

1. Broadcasting Parliamentary sessions online so the people can form their own opinion
2. Governments should hire influencers elected by schools
3. Organising school debates and discussions bringing different subjects, making research, educating

TEAM 3

1. Educating young people at school about their rights and to be more curious about politics, and encouraging them to participate more actively in the political life of their countries
2. Creating a Youth Parliament at school
3. Creating safe online space for young people, where they can express their own opinions, talk to other young people and feel heard and understood

TEAM 4

1. Educational activities
 2. Creating of social media groups. Thinking about politics not only nationally but internationally as well
 3. Creating a youth organization in each school to present the youth ideas about democracy to local authorities and to the government representatives
-

TEAM 5

1. Creating special politics class in school to debate democracy issues (like Model United Nations) and how to move it online
2. To learn to research issues and recognize real news from fake news, better understanding other points of view
3. To facilitate meetings with politicians, like this one, so young people get more involved and members of Parliament will take on board their ideas and interests



How does Connectivity Enable Youngsters to Participate in the Democratic Society?

Exploring useful concepts: e-democracy, democratic society, digitalisation, digital decision-making process, active engagement

During this session, we summed-up the results of the online dialogue during the webinars.

Connected to that, participants, divided in smaller groups, were asked to discuss with each other and formulate their own definitions for the terms, based on what they have learnt.

Democratic process:

- a process in which everyone is allowed to have an influence
- people are involved in making political decisions
- a process in which citizens get to participate so that they can collectively decide what is best for the people
- involving the people in decision-making

E-democracy:

- a democracy which is online
- the use of technological tools to help carry out democratic processes in an easier manner
- European youth parliament, online lessons and meetings
- involve young people in decision-making

Digital decision-making process:

- being able to do important decisions by using technology
- more convenient and attainable for younger generations
- decision making processes that are digitalized and supported by technology
- actions and decisions are made by everyone and they are a good representation of society, and the Internet will help to make them faster.

What Did You Learn About Democracy in the European Union?

That the EU is willing to help young people and that we have a voice

If you want to change something, and make it a reality, you have to get involved and active because otherwise it will not happen

The European Parliament has the final vote

Communication (at EU level) is very complex process

The EU countries help each other



We learnt how the decision-making process is taking place

We all feel like European citizens. We all feel connected and everybody is able to talk to each other

In the chocolate workshop we understood the way the laws are made by the EU and that is the key to a democratic process

EU is offering young people a lot of internships once you graduate university

Things are fair for all people and nobody is left out

European Union ensures freedom for its citizens to live, study or work anywhere in the EU, stability, democracy, security and prosperity

The new thing that we learned about the EU is that it is a closer intergovernmental organisation than we expected. We did not expect that democracy takes such a big role on taking decisions.

Whether we feel like a part of it is a different question. On one side, we are aware of the fact that our countries are part of the union and that this makes us European Citizens. On the other side, if we do not take part or are not interested in the decisions that are made and we do not know of the functions of this union, then it is hard to fully accept that we are a part of it. We are all connected in some way or another and we think that this is what makes us Europeans

The importance of the European Union helping each other out and cooperation between all the countries

Democracy And Differences Perceived by Participants Between Eastern and Western Parts of Europe



- in Eastern Europe we have a lack of tolerance and working democracy. The infrastructure is extremely different as well.
- East and West of Europe have similarities but also a lot of differences. People found architecture and city organization quite different. Moreover, the lifestyle in terms of transportation and shopping differentiates. Speaking of politics and democracy the difference gets even bigger. In the West people and government are far more connected, every person has a voice, they have live broadcasts, it is more open, while in the Eastern countries politics is not so available to common people and the main decisions are not discussed in front of the public.

- in Western countries they feel free to talk about politics, while in Bulgaria for instance they are not even allowed to talk about politics in schools, the focus is more on different subjects: science, everyday life etc.
- we found differences in the salaries that people receive, which leads to a difference in living standards, which also influences the economy and the democracy.
- Eastern Europe tends to stick to their traditions a lot more, maybe having a more conservative approach in that regard, while the Netherlands is constantly modernizing and open to more change - which we think are the first steps to move democratic process online.



Lessons Learnt About Moving Democracy Online

Participants formulated lessons learnt about e-democracy, after interacting with politicians and other decision makers, finding together answers to the question: how can decision-makers provide equal opportunities to young people, while Moving Democracy Online?

Some results as expressed by the youngsters:

- ◇ Listen to every voice
- ◇ Stimulate people to speak up their minds
- ◇ We should make better use of the internet
- ◇ You have to start small and make an impact
- ◇ Involve yourselves in politics
- ◇ It is a lot more complicated than it seems; it needs lots of communication and team work
- ◇ Politicians should listen to youngsters and discuss their ideas. They want to listen to us and they also stimulate us to continue to be active in politics
- ◇ It is much harder to get the democracy online, there are way more factors involved than we firstly were thinking
- ◇ Time and place do not matter in e-democracy
- ◇ What did we learn? That the future is online
- ◇ Just like us – organize more projects like this one
- ◇ Do not think, but act
- ◇ We are the ones to decide our own fate because we are the future
- ◇ Democracy should be an open topic
- ◇ Our voice must be louder
- ◇ Youth can have a positive impact on Democracy

How Could Young People Help Policymakers in The Online Environment, Using the Following Tools:

E-campaigning

E-voting

E-petition

E-consultations

E-democracy

SOME SUGGESTIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS WORKING IN MIXED GROUPS

Group 1

E-campaigning - sharing their opinion on politics on social media

E-voting - make e-voting accessible to

everyone E-petition - use them for e-democracy

E-consultation - Zoom meetings with politicians

E-democracy - Make e-petitions available for everyone

Group 2

E-campaigning – use social media

E-voting – vote via an app

E-petition- petitions that people can sign online

E-consultations - podcasts

E-democracy - the Youth European Parliament

Group 3

E-campaigning: more are getting to know about politics

E-voting: more people can vote because they just stay at work or at home

E-petition: it is easy to get results

E-consultations: you can reach more people

E-democracy: it could be easier to learn about your country



Group 4

E-campaigning - sharing the comparisons online

E-voting - post on social media about why is important to vote

E-petition - promote the petition with things they care for

E-consultation - to join the online meetings and ask questions

E-democracy - to spread online the information posted by the policy makers

Group 5

E-campaigning - sharing political information online

E-voting - participating

E-petition - organizing, taking the initiative

E-consultations - participating, asking questions, giving opinions

E-democracy - making the first step to a new world of opportunities



The Most Important Lesson at The End of The Project:

Try to be more open to the world around you

Let people hear your voice and listen to the voice of the other

Always be creative and open to other people, no matter how your idea might sound, it must and can be heard

People can be often more open than you think

That our point of view can be taken into account

You do not have to be shy

All the English we learnt

Be honest with each other, be open with each other

Spend time with each other if you want to know them better

Nobody is the same and each one of the young people should try to understand each other and think about the fact that we all have our differences, but in the end we are all beautiful souls that matter

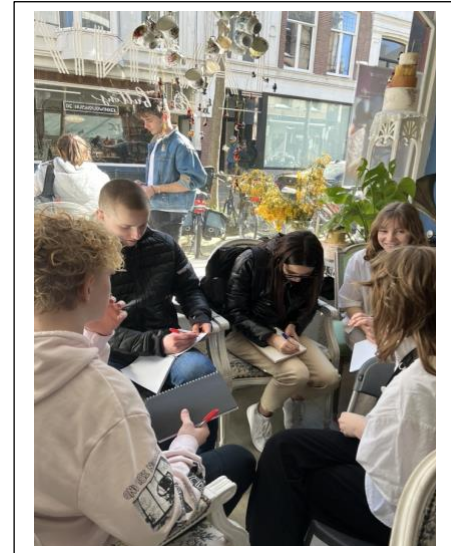
I learnt to value diversity and to celebrate different cultures

That democracy also means to include people that are different

Communication is the only solution to misunderstanding and misjudging

Be open-minded and welcoming to people different from you

We can learn a lot from different views



EXPERIENCES TO TAKE HOME

- The traditional nights
- Everything we learnt about the other cultures
- The Bulgarian traditional evening, the Icelandic desert and the time we all spent on the beach
- To break stereotypes, we have to socialize and be open to other points of view
- The whole experience and meeting other people
- Making memories and friendships
- My opinion was listened to
- New fresh ideas and exchange of the most positive traits of every culture and nations
- Memories and further contacts and friendships





WHAT MADE THE BIGGEST IMPACT

- Cultural evenings (mentioned many times)
- Speaking with the Member of Parliament
- Interacting with people from other countries
- The group activities and tasks we did together (collages, roleplay)
- Traditional dancing during the cultural evenings
- Discussing for real with the member of Parliament
- So many different cultures
- Going to Parliament and seeing it all in actions

How Will the Project Influence You in The Future?

More motivated to participate in policymaking and improving language skills

Making me more open toward other nationalities, ideas, ways of life, communicative, a better public speaker

I became more interested in politics

We learnt that our voice is more important than we think

We got more aware of how people live in other countries

We became more confident in ourselves

I want to go to all countries to learn more about them

I will promote the idea that every school should have a representative person from the youth who can present our ideas to important institutions



What To Do Further with The Guide?

Suggestions for disseminating and exploiting the project results

Motivate others to take action through launching awareness campaigns

Participants worked in multicultural teams and each team was asked to come up with three suggestions on how to make the Guide known to others, in order to generate more attention for the project results and also to encourage more people to get actively involved in the democratic process.

These were the suggestions from the teams:

- 1) Talk further with young people about our different visions of the Guide
- 2) Make our ideas visible in newspapers, put them in the news
- 3) Discuss the scenarios with other politicians

- 1) We could try contacting policy makers and politicians on a wide scale and present the Guide to them, that way it might get mentioned at a higher level
- 2) We could make social media pages presenting our ideas through different posts, trying to rack up as many followers and reach as many people as possible
- 3) We can promote the guide through public advertising such as flyers & billboards

- 1) Share it through different media, schools, public debates
- 2) Present it to other politicians, moving things to higher level where change can be actually made
- 3) Share and communicate about it through media, reach more people in power

- 1) Spread the guides among other people
- 2) Get more people to give their advice for Moving Democracy Online, present them ours, put them together and make an even better version
- 3) Send the Guide to schools

- 1) There should be more promotion of democracy and digitalization in schools
- 2) Send the results to the people we have spoken to, so they know how we think about the topics we discussed
- 3) Organize more projects like this and keep the activities where we meet people like the ambassador, the politician and all the other experts

- 1) Talk to younger generations at school about democracy and use our Guide as an example
- 2) Another tool that could help promote our work might be influencers, because our generation is inclined to listen to them - so they could get more people involved if they spoke positively about these projects, creating an optimistic perception of what we achieved
- 3) Distributing it through multiple online canals

- 1) Posting our stories on social media
- 2) Talking with other people in person and stimulating them to read and further promote our ideas
- 3) Give opportunities to more people to learn through organizing other gatherings like this. To create awareness, you need to create curiosity first.

Slogans to Inspire the Awareness Campaign:

"Online platforms = opportunities".

"The youth should know the truth."

"We are the Future!
Inform the elderly
about the struggles of
the new generation.

"Democracy...update in progress"

"Make politics
more accessible
to young people!"

"How to involve young
people in politics?
Debate solutions,
speak up"

**"YOUNG PEOPLE DO NOT
THINK THEY HAVE THE
POWER TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE. SHOW
THEM THEY CAN!"**

"Young people have the
power to make the
difference!"

From e-Digitalisation to e-Planet

Main Actions, Suggestions and Conclusions

More online meetings mean less trips by planes and that means less pollution

We can use more often bikes during youth meetings. We can organize more online meetings and assignments that can be made during an online meeting

Riding bicycles

Recycling the plastic plates

More online, less paper and traveling

Balance between online and in person communication

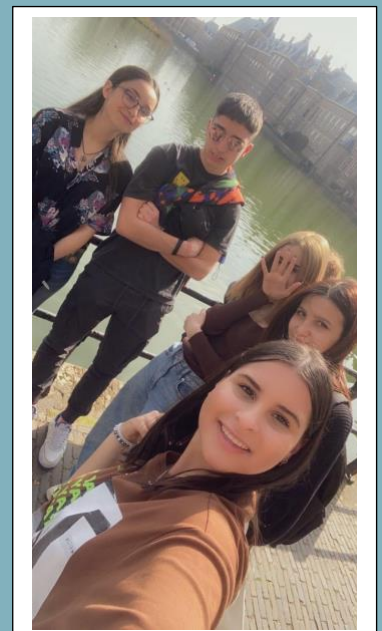
Bikes instead of cars

Reusable energy

What we learned: the wealthier the country, the more environmentally friendly it becomes

Give us the tasks online

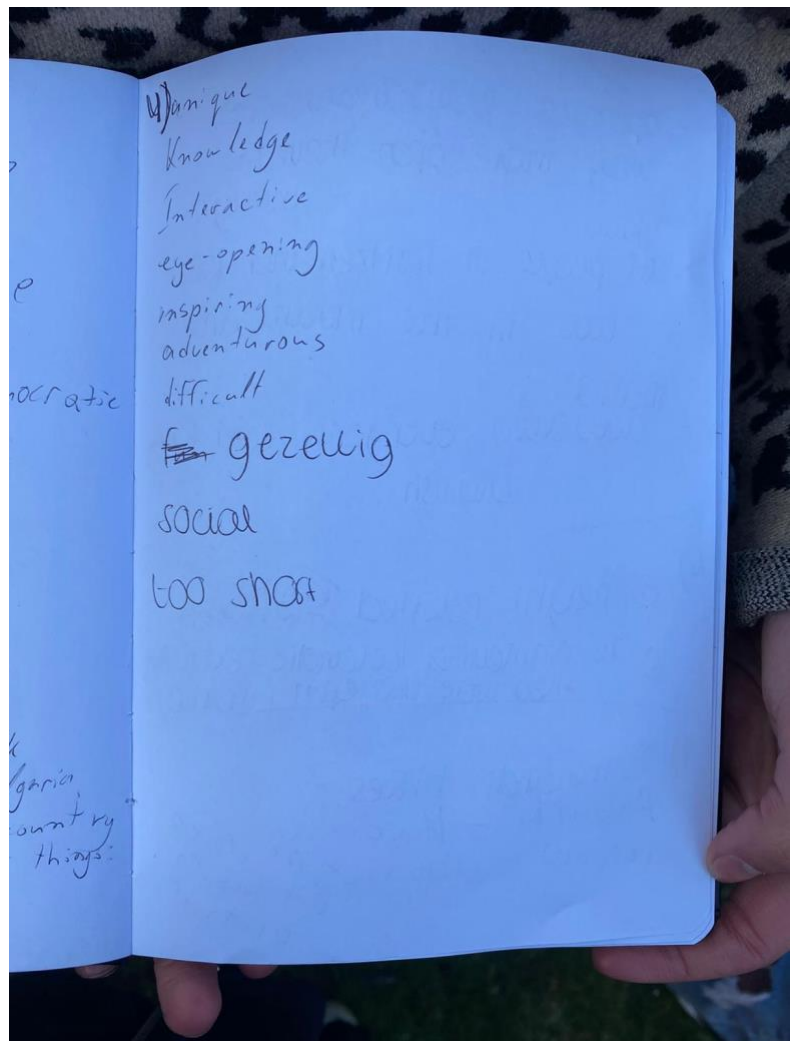
We can all contribute to raise awareness around us on a sustainable environment: do activities with children in elementary school, talk and explain more to elderly



A Description of The Project in Ten Words:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Informative | 1. Unique | 1. Friends |
| 2. Refreshing | 2. Knowledge | 2. Delicious |
| 3. Fun | 3. Interactive | 3. Funny |
| 4. Tiring | 4. Eye-opening | 4. Memories |
| 5. Enjoyable | 5. Inspiring | 5. Experience |
| 6. Different | 6. Adventurous | 6. Education |
| 7. Interesting | 7. Difficult | 7. International |
| 8. Versatile | 8. Gezellig | 8. Exchange |
| 9. Tasty | 9. Social | 9. Perspective |
| 10. Energizing | 10. Too short | 10. Socialisation |

1. Friendships
2. Unique
3. Memories
4. Beach
5. Sunny
6. Inspiring
7. Traditional evenings
8. Souvenirs
9. Learning
10. Cristina



Some Thoughts from Participants:



"This trip had a very strong impact for me. It gave me a new perspective on the world and brought me one step closer to achieving a dream. I met new, different and very special people who helped me add unforgettable memories to my own life story. " (**Sara Vasilescu**)

"A unique, unforgettable experience! It raised my interest on issues related to democracy and developed my civic engagement." (**Nicola Tămas**)

"Thank you for this amazing chance to go out to The Hague and meet so many new people. I learnt a lot about politics, European Union and socialising. I do not think that any of us really cared about the European Union or politics until we went on this trip. We learnt a lot from it. We definitely appreciated the friends we made along the way, that we still keep in touch with. We absolutely adored it and we would love to go again. You should do this more often; it was amazing and young people around the world should have the chance to do this more often". (**Bödvar Ingi Gudjonsson**)

"We had the opportunity to socialize with teenagers from other countries, exchanging ideas and impressions, and to get to know each other better, to see who we really are, to analyze ourselves and develop in the best direction." (**Antonia Dobrinoiu**)



“A huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this project happen and for teaching us about the importance of our voice. You showed us that we can change something in this world and that our voice can be heard by people who are interested in that. We had the opportunity to make new friendships, to meet new wonderful people. We learnt so much that I cannot count all the things that I learnt during this week. For sure, this project will be something that we will remember for the rest of our lives. I am crossing my fingers that we will meet again. During the meeting at the Dutch Parliament I broke my stage fright and was the one speaking for the entire group. It was an amazing opportunity to improve skills like that and solve problems with performing in public.” **(Emilia Hyzy)**

"A truly unforgettable experience with some wonderful people who I have been lucky to meet. Together we created memories that will last forever. Teamwork was the key for everything. This has been one of the best weeks of my life." **(Diana Smadea)**

“We experienced new things, faced unusual situations and discovered new dimensions in ourselves.” **(Maria Stoica)**

“We learnt a lot about how to involve young people in democracy and we made new friends. We overcame our insecurities, we learnt to stand in front of many people and improved our English, talking without fears. It was really inspiring. Everybody had good ideas and we got motivated to make more out of them. You should definitely make more projects like this.”

"In this project I learned how to define a concrete and concise point of view. Regarding the topic of democracy, I understood that the opinion of young people also matters and can have a positive impact on society. I learnt so many useful lessons for my future." (**Nariana Stefania**)

"I am extremely grateful for this week, which definitely changed the way I think. I am proud that now I have friends in all corners of Europe and I hope to meet them again some day. From all the people we talked with, I learnt that my opinion really matters, if I have the courage to express it." (**Malina Gidoiu**)

"We made connections in less than one week. You learn from other countries and other personalities and you match them and see the differences between them and, at the end, you made some strong connections with youngsters from other places where you have never been and did not know much about - like Iceland and Romania. I think it is really beautiful that you can create something like that". (**Tsovinar Davtjan**)

"It has been a unique and beneficial experience for my personal development, with lots of lessons through the debates and the interactions with all participating countries. I learnt the importance of communication and teamwork and discovered wonderful things about every culture. The project has given me new perspectives on my future." (**Mares Elissa**)

"It was an amazing experience. We learnt a lot about others and about ourselves. Spending time in an international atmosphere taught me how to overcome barriers and communicate easier." (**Alexandra Sultana**)





"For me, this experience was an explosion of emotions, moments that I will never forget, people from whom I learnt so much. The project has been like a sort of guide who supported me and made me see the world differently; who helped me get mature and manage to find a solution to every problem." (**Andrada Buzatu**)

"The whole atmosphere, the help and feedback we received and all the different cultures coming together created a unique setting. The project has also developed an equally important aspect: the friendship between the participants, who shared their traditions and values."
(**Roberta Tabacu**)

"For us, coming from small schools in Iceland, these projects are extremely important. Creating a connection between young people is so precious. My students got to see the Palace of Peace, the ministries, the House of the European Union and everywhere they were welcomed and listened to. The organisation was great. Helping students grow and develop is essential, and that is what this project did. It strengthened once again ties between different countries."
(**Maria Gudmundsdottir, group leader**)

"Through this project, young people became aware of the importance of their involvement in the democratic process. They represent the future. Through their active involvement, they can determine, but also anticipate the needs of the future. To achieve this, they need to participate in discussions with decision makers. To support the creation of an online environment, through which they can directly communicate with politicians. The virtual space is an easy way to communicate, and young people can better explain how they see their own future. We know they have a new vision when it comes to political decisions.

A strong point in this project - besides the knowledge transmitted by experts and competencies acquired by students - I think it was the lesson of teamwork, which created openness to your discussion partners, your roommate, how to help colleagues that find themselves in a deadlock, and how to develop the ability of expressing your ideas – and all in English."
(**Marian Tuta, group leader**).



"Speaking on behalf of the whole Bulgarian group, I want to thank everyone who made this project possible. It was a very well organised project, and I know this is a thing hard to be done, because we were so many people from different nations, from different age groups, people with different interests, and somehow you broke the ice between us, you made us friends and at the same time you helped us improve some of our skills - important skills such as presentation, social and decision-making skills. Also, our English has improved quite a lot. I want to encourage everybody to organise more projects like this for us, the youngsters, because we need more of that. We had so much fun and it was such a fruitful project, I am extremely happy I got the chance to participate. I hope our paths will meet once again in the future" (**Teodor Plamenov**)





Foundation Netherlands-Romania Moving Democracy Online

The Hague, March 2022

Project Co-founded by the Erasmus+ Youth Programme
of the European Union

