Youth Digi-Citizens

DEBATE WITH DECISION MAKERS: ON THE ROAD TO STIMULATE ACTIVE DIGITAL YOUTH CITIZENS

PROJECT NUMBER:
2022-3-EL02-KA154-YOU-000103317

LATVIA

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YOUNG FOLKS

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YOUTH AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOUNDATION

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OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Youth Participation Event in Latvia is to provide a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue with decision makers about digital citizenship and its role in shaping the future of Europe. This event aims to bridge the gap between youth and policy makers by fostering discussions on how to stimulate active digital youth citizenship, thereby empowering young Europeans to become responsible and effective participants in both local and European contexts.

Goals:

The primary goal is to build a generation of young people who are well-equipped to succeed in their personal, academic, and professional lives as informed and engaged citizens. By focusing on digital citizenship, the event seeks to:

- Enhance understanding of digital tools and their responsible use.
- Encourage active participation in democratic processes.
- Foster a sense of European identity and collaboration among young people.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. **Promote Active Digital Citizenship:**
- Encourage responsible online behavior and engagement among youth.
2. **Develop Essential Skills:**
- Build skills in self-awareness, decision-making, relationship building, and social awareness.
3. **Foster European Identity:**
- Strengthen a sense of belonging to the European community and promote cross-border collaboration.
4. **Facilitate Youth-Decision Maker Dialogue:**
- Provide a platform for meaningful interactions between young people and decision makers.
5. **Generate Practical Recommendations:**
- Create actionable insights to inform policies on digital citizenship and youth participation.

IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

- **Digital Citizenship Defined:**

Digital citizenship refers to the responsible use of technology and the internet, encompassing online behavior, safety, and participation in digital communities. It is essential for navigating the modern world where digital interactions are integral to personal, academic, and professional life.

- **Current Relevance:**

In today's hyper-connected world, digital skills are crucial for success. Responsible digital citizenship helps individuals:

- Stay Safe Online: Understand privacy, security, and the implications of digital footprints.
- Engage Constructively: Participate positively in online communities and avoid harmful behaviors like cyberbullying.
- Be Informed: Access and critically evaluate vast amounts of information available online.
- **Youth and Digital Citizenship:**

For young people, mastering digital citizenship is vital for making informed decisions, building meaningful relationships, and contributing to society. It prepares them for future careers and civic responsibilities in an increasingly digital landscape.

FIT INTO THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK

- **EU Youth Dialogue Overview:**

The EU Youth Dialogue is a structured process that involves youth in shaping policies affecting them, with a focus on meaningful participation and representation.

- **Alignment with Youth Goals:**

This event supports the EU Youth Dialogue by directly addressing Youth Goal #9: Space and Participation for All. It aims to:

- Empower Youth: Enhance young people's ability to engage in democratic processes using digital tools.
- Foster Inclusion: Ensure diverse voices are heard and considered in policy discussions.
- Promote Active Participation: Create opportunities for young people to influence decision-making at both national and European levels.
- **Contribution to EU Objectives:**

By integrating digital citizenship into the dialogue, the event helps meet broader EU objectives of fostering active, informed, and responsible citizenship. It also reinforces the EU’s commitment to creating spaces where young people can contribute meaningfully to societal development.

EU YOUTH DIALOGUE FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW OF THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

- **EU Youth Dialogue Defined:**

The EU Youth Dialogue is a participatory process designed to involve young people in shaping policies and decisions that impact their lives. It provides a structured framework for engaging youth in dialogue with policymakers at various levels, from local to European.

- **Significance:**

Youth Empowerment: The Dialogue empowers young people by giving them a platform to express their views and influence policy-making.
Structured Participation: It offers a systematic approach to ensure that youth voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.
Policy Impact: Through regular consultations and conferences, it helps translate youth perspectives into actionable policies and initiatives.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

INCREASE AWARENESS

- Goal: Enhance understanding of digital citizenship among youth.
- Impact: Better navigation of online environments and recognition of their role in European contexts.

GENERATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Goal: Provide actionable insights for shaping policies on digital citizenship and youth participation.
- Impact: Ensure youth perspectives influence future policy development.

IMPROVE SKILLS

- Goal: Develop key skills: self-awareness, responsible decision-making, relationship building, social awareness, and self-management.
- Impact: Equip participants for active and responsible digital engagement.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

STRUCTURE

Event Format:
The event will include a structured debate and roundtable discussions to foster dialogue between youth and decision makers. The format encourages open participation, critical thinking, and collaborative problem-solving.

- Opening Session: Introduction and event overview.
- Debate Session: Groups debate key digital citizenship topics.
- Roundtable Discussions: Small groups discuss specific issues.
- Closing Session: Summary, feedback, and recommendations.

ACTIVITIES

- Icebreaker (10-15 min): Interactive activity to build rapport.
- Debate (30-40 min): Formal debate on digital citizenship topics.
- Roundtable Discussions (30-45 min): Focused small-group discussions.
- Q&A with Decision Makers (20-30 min): Direct dialogue with decision makers.
- Feedback & Wrap-Up (15-20 min): Gather feedback and network.

KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP PRINCIPLES

- **Self-Awareness:** Recognize one's digital footprint and online behavior.
- **Responsible Decision-Making:** Make ethical choices and foster safe online environments.
- **Relationship Building:** Develop respectful and meaningful online connections.
- **Social Awareness:** Appreciate diverse perspectives and promote inclusion online.
- **Self-Management:** Balance digital engagement with other life responsibilities.

EU INTEGRATION

Application in Europe:

- **Unified Standards:** Promote common digital citizenship values across Europe.
- **Cross-Cultural Collaboration:** Use digital tools to connect youth and foster a European identity.
- **Democratic Participation:** Enhance youth involvement in European democratic processes.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure accessible and diverse digital spaces for all.

ROLE OF DECISION MAKERS

ENGAGEMENT

Contribution to the Event:

- Active Participation: Decision makers are expected to actively engage in discussions with young participants, listen to their perspectives, and provide insights based on their experience and expertise.
- Facilitating Dialogue: They should help guide the conversation, ensuring a balanced and productive dialogue. Their role includes clarifying policies, explaining decision-making processes, and responding to youth concerns.
- Encouraging Collaboration: Decision makers should foster a collaborative environment where both youth and decision makers feel empowered to share their ideas and viewpoints.

ROLE OF DECISION MAKERS

EXPECTATIONS

Bring Knowledge and Expertise:

- Policy Insights: Share knowledge on current policies, legislative processes, and how youth can influence them, specifically in the context of digital citizenship and EU integration.
- Practical Experience: Provide real-life examples of how decisions are made and how youth can engage effectively in these processes.

Support Youth Participation:

- Encouragement and Validation: Encourage young people to actively participate and validate their contributions, fostering a sense of inclusion and importance.
- Commitment to Follow-Up: Show a commitment to taking youth input seriously and outline potential actions or next steps based on the discussion outcomes.

DEBATE DISCUSSION

PROCESS

Structure of the Debate:

- Opening Statements: Each participant or group (youth and decision makers) will give a brief opening statement outlining their perspective on digital citizenship and youth participation.
- Roundtable Discussion: A moderated discussion where participants share their views, respond to others, and discuss key topics. This allows for a balanced exchange of ideas between youth and decision makers.
- Interactive Q&A: A segment where participants ask questions to each other, fostering a deeper understanding and clarification of points.
- Conclusion and Recommendations: Summarize the key points discussed, with an emphasis on actionable recommendations that can be taken forward by decision makers.

COLLABORATION AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

Collaborative Problem-Solving:

- **Group Discussions:** Participants will engage in small, diverse groups to brainstorm ideas, share perspectives, and work together to develop solutions to issues related to digital citizenship and youth participation.
- **Debate Sessions:** Structured debates will allow participants to present arguments, defend positions, and engage in critical discussions with decision-makers, fostering a deeper understanding of the issues.
- **Scenario-Based Activities:** Participants may work through real-world scenarios or case studies related to digital challenges, encouraging practical problem-solving and the application of digital citizenship principles.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Participants will have opportunities to learn from each other's experiences and viewpoints, enhancing collaboration and mutual understanding across different cultures and backgrounds.

COLLABORATION AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

TOOLS

Digital Tools and Platforms:

- **Online Collaboration Tools:** Platforms like Google Docs or Miro for real-time collaborative brainstorming and sharing of ideas.
- **Voting/Polling Apps:** Tools like Mentimeter or Slido to collect feedback, rank ideas, and prioritize solutions during discussions and debates.
- **Virtual Discussion Forums:** If applicable, tools such as Zoom breakout rooms or Teams channels for smaller group discussions.
- **Interactive Whiteboards:** Digital whiteboards like Jamboard for participants to visually map out ideas, processes, or strategies for problem-solving.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

DELIVERABLES

Recommendations and Action Plans:
By the end of the event, participants and decision makers will have collectively developed concrete recommendations and action plans. These will be focused on:

- Strategies for promoting active digital citizenship among youth.
- Policy suggestions that enhance youth participation in democratic processes, particularly at the European level.
- Proposals for improving digital literacy, safety, and responsible use of technology.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

IMPACT

Influence on Future Youth Engagement Activities:
The outcomes of this event will serve as a foundation for future initiatives aimed at fostering youth participation in democratic life. This includes:

- **Policy Integration:** The recommendations could be adopted by local and EU-level policymakers, helping to shape youth-oriented digital policies.
- **Capacity Building:** The skills and knowledge gained by participants will enable them to continue advocating for and participating in civic society, both online and offline.
- **Replication of the Model:** The event can serve as a model for similar youth participation efforts across Europe, encouraging a broader movement of digitally engaged young citizens.

EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

ASSESSMENT

Event Evaluation:
The success of the Youth Participation Event will be evaluated through several key performance indicators (KPIs), including:

- Participant Engagement: The level of active participation during the debate and discussions (e.g., the number of contributions, quality of ideas shared).
- Achievement of Objectives: Whether the event's objectives, such as promoting digital citizenship and creating actionable recommendations, were met.
- Quality of Dialogue with Decision Makers: How well the discussions facilitated meaningful exchanges between youth and decision makers, with a focus on actionable outcomes.
- Skill Development: The extent to which participants gained new skills in digital citizenship, critical thinking, and civic engagement.

EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

Post-Event Surveys:
Participants will be asked to complete surveys after the event to share their thoughts on:

- The event's content and structure.
- The usefulness of the discussions in enhancing their understanding of digital citizenship.
- The quality of interactions with decision makers.

Live Feedback Sessions:

- To gather immediate impressions, there could be short feedback sessions during the event where participants can voice their opinions in real-time about what's working and what could be improved.

Anonymous Digital Feedback Tools:

- Digital platforms can be used to ensure anonymous feedback, making participants more comfortable sharing honest thoughts. Tools like online forms or mobile apps could be used for this purpose.

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