



Interreg
South Baltic



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**D-EFFECT - CIVIC SOCIETY DEMOCRACY LESSONS,
bringing a youth perspective in the EU policymaking
at all levels in line with Youth Strategy 2022-2027**



D-EFFECT PROJECT



OBJECTIVES – ACTIVITIES – RESULTS



A programme co-financing activities under the project: Interreg South Baltic

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<https://eurobalt.org.pl/en/euroregion-baltic-ongoing-projects/d-effect>

PROJECT PARTNERS:

/ Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic (PL) – Lead Partner

/ European Meetings Centre “Światowid” in Elbląg (PL)

/ Media Dizajn Association (PL)

/ Olsztynek Municipality (PL)

/ Municipality of Västervik (SE)

/ Hochschule Wismar (DE)

/ Scout Association MV (DE)

/ Klaipeda University (LT)

/ Kretinga District Municipality M. Valančius Public Library (LT)

/ Guldborgsund Kommune (DK)

/ Odsherred Municipality (DK)





D-Effect is an international project implemented under the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021–2027. Its aim is to strengthen democracy and civil society by increasing young people's engagement in local community life. The project addresses the need for greater youth participation in decision-making processes and for building lasting dialogue between young people and representatives of local authorities, public institutions and civil society organisations. Its underlying principle is that young people are not merely recipients of activities, but can be active partners, co-creators and initiators of change.

D-Effect is implemented by partners from Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, including local authorities, non-governmental organisations, cultural institutions and universities. The project is led by the Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic. International cooperation enables the exchange of experience, exploration of different approaches to youth engagement, and joint development of solutions that support the growth of civil society in the Baltic Sea Region.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the project is to develop young people's civic and democratic competences, increase their participation in public life, and create spaces for dialogue and shared decision-making. D-Effect supports young people in gaining the knowledge and practical skills needed to develop their own initiatives and actively influence their communities.

METHOD

The project is based on an experiential learning approach. Participants progress from learning about the principles of democracy and discussing local challenges to independently planning and implementing social initiatives.

The key elements of the project include:

Round Tables – meetings between young people and representatives of local authorities, institutions and civil society organisations, during which young people's needs are discussed and activities are planned together;

Youth Democratic Festivals – events created by young people, combining civic education, debates, workshops, and artistic and social activities;

Live Democracy Lessons – direct meetings with people involved in public life, providing a better understanding of how democracy works;

International Cooperation – the exchange of experiences and good practices between young people and organisations from partner countries.

RESULT

The project will result in the development of practical methods, educational materials and recommendations to support organisations and local authorities in engaging young people. A particularly important outcome will be the Youth Democratic Festivals methodology, which can continue to be used after the project ends. D-Effect demonstrates that democracy begins at the local level – with dialogue, cooperation and a genuine sense of having an impact. The project empowers the younger generation and lays the foundations for an active civil society of the future.



OBJECTIVES



Strengthening civil society

by actively involving young people in democratic processes and the life of local communities.



Democracy through action

cooperation, dialogue and a real impact on the world around us.



Young people as co-creators

involving young people in planning initiatives and co-deciding on the direction of activities.



Cross-border cooperation

exchanging experiences and exploring different models of democracy.



ACTIVITIES



ROUND TABLES

Identifying needs and jointly designing initiatives.



YOUTH DEMOCRATIC FESTIVALS (YDF)

Events co-created by young people – a space for dialogue, education and active participation.



LIVE DEMOCRACY LESSONS

Direct meetings with representatives of public administration, European institutions and civil society organisations.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Exchange of experience among partners from Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania and Germany.



RESULTS



PRACTICAL MATERIALS

AND TOOLS supporting the effective engagement of young people.



RECOMMENDATIONS

for local governments, organisations and institutions.



YOUTH DEMOCRATIC FESTIVAL METHOD

A practical model for engaging young people based on dialogue, co-creation and active participation. A tool that can be used by local governments, organisations and institutions.



GREATER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

developing civic competences, a sense of agency and active participation.



LASTING PARTNERSHIPS

cooperation between young people, local governments, organisations and institutions.









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D Effect



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