



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



5.

Live Lessons in Democracy

Learning Democracy in Practice



PILL OF KNOWLEDGE





Live Democracy Lessons, implemented as part of the D-Effect project, allow young people to experience democracy in practice. They include meetings and discussions with adults who play an active role in democratic processes. They provide a space where young people can gain first-hand insight into how democratic states and their institutions function.

Live Democracy Lessons can take place at the following levels:

Local Level



Meetings in places where decisions are made closest to citizens – local government institutions. These may include meetings with representatives of local authorities and people holding public office, such as mayors, heads of municipalities, local councillors, local government officials or representatives of local public institutions.

National Level



Meetings in places where decisions affecting the entire country are made – national institutions and public authorities. These may include meetings with people involved in democratic processes at the national level, such as members of parliament, representatives of ministries, central government offices and public institutions, ombudspersons, or people involved in developing legislation and public policies.

International Level



Meetings in places where democracy intersects with cooperation between countries, organisations and communities – international and European institutions or organisations operating across borders. These may include meetings with representatives of European Union institutions, international organisations, embassies, non-governmental organisations, international partners or people involved in international cooperation.

What Should You Keep in Mind When Organising a Live Democracy Lesson?



Create a space for asking questions and talking with adult politicians. - It is worth meeting with the adults involved in advance, introducing them to the project and discussing how they envisage the meeting. Inform the young people beforehand who they will be meeting, what the person's role is, and encourage them to ask questions.



Show different approaches to democracy. - Invite politicians representing different political groups and viewpoints. Try to present democracy as it works in practice, rather than as we might wish it to be.



Be open to different levels of knowledge among young people. - Young people are not a homogeneous group. During the meetings, make sure that basic concepts and terms are explained. Use simple language and encourage the adults involved to do the same.

Examples of Live Democracy Lessons Conducted by the Polish Partner:

Study Visit to Warsaw – a one-day visit including a tour of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and a meeting with Members of Parliament on the functioning of democracy and the work of Parliament, a visit to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and meetings with representatives of non-governmental organisations working to strengthen civil society.

Study Visit to Brussels – a two-day visit during which participants learned about the functioning of the European Parliament and the European Commission, met with Members of the European Parliament and the Polish European Commissioner, and visited the Parliamentarium and the East Poland House. An important part of the visit was the exchange of experiences and integration with young people from the project partner countries.

LIVE DEMOCRACY LESSONS

EXPERIENCE. DISCUSS. ACT.



DIALOGUE



COOPERATION



ENGAGEMENT



DEMOCRACY
IN PRACTICE



MEETINGS AT THREE LEVELS

1

LOCAL LEVEL



LOCAL
AUTHORITIES



LOCAL
INSTITUTIONS



DECISIONS
CLOSE TO
CITIZENS

2

NATIONAL LEVEL



PARLIAMENT



NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS



LAW AND
POLICIES



EXPERTS AND
PRACTITIONERS

3

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL



EU
INSTITUTIONS



INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS



NGOS AND
INTERNATIONAL
PARTNERS



COOPERATION
BEYOND
BORDERS

WHAT IS WORTH REMEMBERING?



CREATE A SPACE
FOR QUESTIONS
AND CONVERSATION



SHOW DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVES
ON DEMOCRACY



BE OPEN-MINDED
AT EVERY LEVEL
OF KNOWLEDGE



BUILD TRUST
AND RELATIONSHIPS

EXAMPLES OF LIVE DEMOCRACY LESSONS



STUDY VISIT IN WARSAW



MEETING WITH
MPs AND SENATORS



MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION AND
SCIENCE



NGOs AND CIVIL
SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS



DISCUSSION ON
DEMOCRACY
IN PRACTICE



STUDY VISIT IN BRUSSELS



EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



MEETINGS WITH
MEPs AND THEIR
TEAMS



EXCHANGE OF
EXPERIENCES AND
YOUTH INTEGRATION



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 DEffect



 CENTRUM SPOTKAŃ
EUROPEJSKICH
ŚWIĄTOWID W ELBLĄGU

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