

Manifesto of the 'Youth on a Caravan' Project

Introduction

Youth on a Caravan, an Erasmus+ project, **enhances socio-political engagement among young Europeans** and fosters intercultural exchange and dialogue. The project aims to empower young individuals and enhance political awareness across Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Romania, and Croatia through dynamic activities that address environmental sustainability, immigration law, and education.

Youth Engagement and Political Participation Through Real-Life Experiences

The **Social Summer School** in Fitta, Italy brought together 25 young individuals who immersed themselves in communal living and engaged in discussions with local and international experts on topics such as immigration, human rights, fighting against the mafia, politics, etc. The focus of these interactions was on social justice and inclusion, providing insights into local politics. The **Caravan trip**, a 14-day journey, was built upon these experiences, fostering dialogues with local representatives and deepening understanding of political topics.

Key Findings and Recommendations for Policymakers

Partner countries' roundtable discussions demonstrated the **transformative power of hands-on political experiences**. The development of inclusive and youth-friendly policies was recommended as essential for fostering political involvement among young people through educational programs. The role of communal living in enhancing political awareness was highlighted by youth in Italy, while Romanian youth focused on the need for young people to take part in active policymaking. In Lithuania, the discussion focused on the significant obstacles to accessing political platforms. In Spain, the importance of skill-building workshops was emphasized, and in Croatia, the need for policies focused on the interests of youth was stressed.

Policymakers are advised to develop educational programs that increase political literacy, create inclusive platforms for policy discussions, foster environments that encourage youth participation, and promote digital tools for political engagement.

The Role of the 'Forum' in Advancing the Project

The **'Forum'** is a dynamic virtual space that fosters **continuous connection and engagement**, serving as a knowledge repository and a platform for concept creation. By facilitating interaction between participants, policymakers, and organizations, it contributes to a living agenda that reflects the evolving needs of European youth.

Innovative Approaches and Digital Engagement

The project emphasizes the importance of innovative approaches in engaging young people. These methods are essential in connecting young individuals, facilitating the tackling common challenges, and fostering shared goals. Integrating digital tools is crucial in enhancing community participation and reflecting the contemporary digitally-oriented landscape in which today's youth navigate. This approach ensures that young people are **engaged in a dynamic, inclusive, and relevant way**.

Closing Remarks

Our core belief is in the **power of active, informed youth** to shape their communities and nations. We value diversity, open dialogue, and the transformative potential of education in creating a more just and sustainable future.

The project confronts critical issues such as human rights, social inequality, and challenges in the political representation of youth. Our mission is founded on these concerns because they have a direct impact on the current and future well-being of young Europeans.

European policymakers, educators, and community leaders are invited to join us in this effort. Your support and collaboration are essential in achieving the vision of a politically active and empowered youth.

Together, we can build a future where **the voices of youth are not only heard but also instrumental in shaping the socio-political landscape of Europe**. Let us commit to this cause with unwavering dedication and hope.