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FUTURE CITIZENS
MANIFESTO

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Introduction

The European Future Citizens Manifesto represents the collective vision of young people across Europe, developed through an inclusive and participatory process. This document embodies the aspirations, ideas, and practical recommendations that emerged from collaborative efforts involving local teams, project partners, and young participants who have taken part in previous project phases.

The manifesto aims to guide local stakeholders towards actionable strategies that address critical contemporary challenges in social inclusion, environmental sustainability, digital transformation, and the fight against misinformation. By creating a platform where youth voices are heard and valued, this manifesto wants to foster a more cohesive and forward-thinking Europe, empowering local stakeholders to act on the needs and proposals of its future citizens.

Through this collective endeavour, we seek not just to highlight the challenges but to illuminate pathways for progress and inspire policy-driven solutions that resonate with the needs of European youth.

Future Citizens project

European Future Citizens is an Erasmus+ project that promotes active citizenship and sense of initiative through game design for more sustainable cities all over Europe.

The project **aims** to:

- Identify local challenges in the cities involved
- Understanding the skills needed to solve those challenges
- Train those skills to develop solutions to challenges
- Co-design an urban game
- Activate and engage the local communities, public and policy actors

Partners

The European Future Citizens project is built upon the collaboration of a dedicated consortium of partners. Each partner brings unique expertise, perspectives, and resources to ensure the project's objectives are met. Below is the list of the partners that have contributed to making this project a reality:

FO-Aarhus
Denmark

Fundatia Centrul Educational Spektrum
Romania

Consorzio MaterHub
Italy

Pot in Pot
Italy

Ettevõtluskõrgkool Mainor/EUAS
Estonia

DYPALL Network
Portugal

Recommendation

This section of the European Future Citizens Manifesto contains the recommendations developed through a collaborative co-design process that engaged young people, local teams, and project partners in addressing the core challenges faced by our society today.

Each recommendation reflects the insights and innovative ideas born out of workshops and discussions focused on the four main areas of concern: social inclusion, environmental sustainability, digital transformation, and misinformation. These recommendations are meant to serve as practical guides for educators, policy-makers, youth organisations and young people providing clear and actionable steps that align with the values and vision of Europe's youth.

1

Social inclusion

Social and economic inequalities emerged as a central issue, exacerbating inequalities in access to opportunities and resources. Participants also emphasised the challenges faced by people with disabilities, highlighting the need for greater accessibility and empowerment. Increased government suppression and the influence of right-wing or conservative parties were identified as significant factors in systemic discrimination against minorities. This includes discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, race and religion, which participants recognised as a factor undermining efforts towards equitable and inclusive societies.

Based on these challenges mapped, the participants proposed the following recommendations

1. Promote greater involvement of people with disabilities in community and policy discussions to enhance accessibility awareness.

2. Integrate education on democratic participation and civic responsibilities within educational institutions.

3. Support the creation and maintenance of inclusive and safe public spaces for the marginalised community and disseminate their presence on the territory.

4. Integrate education on democratic participation and civic responsibilities within educational institutions.

5. Foster intercultural dialogue and empathy-based initiatives to build mutual understanding and awareness.

6. Prioritize including the perspectives of those impacted by policy changes in decision-making processes.

7. Reinforce awareness and protection of the right to peaceful assembly at local and community levels.

2

Digital transformation

In exploring digital transformation, participants identified both the opportunities and challenges of the rapidly changing technology landscape. The physical and mental impacts of technology were of great concern, particularly in terms of time spent in front of the screen, digital fatigue and technology-induced stress. The lack of effective regulations and the limited spread of accessible digital resources have further exacerbated inequalities in access to technological advances. Data privacy emerged as a critical issue, with participants expressing concern about the increasing dependence on digital platforms and their implications for individual security.

Based on these challenges mapped, the participants proposed the following recommendations

1. Emphasize the importance of media literacy in educational settings to foster informed digital interactions.

2. Increase awareness of the health implications associated with prolonged digital device use.

3. Advocate for reliable and accessible information across digital platforms.

4. Highlight the environmental impact of digital technology and encourage responsible usage.

5. Promote critical thinking and community engagement in navigating technological advances.

6. Support cohesive educational frameworks that address misinformation and responsible use of AI.

7. Encourage the adoption of quality and sustainability principles in digital product development.

3

Environment

The process also revealed urgent environmental challenges that require attention, with pollution and ineffective waste management systems identified as critical concerns. Participants pointed out that these issues are exacerbated by poor urban design, which often fails to prioritize green spaces, sustainable transportation, and energy-efficient infrastructure. Overconsumption, fueled by unsustainable production and consumer habits, was also highlighted as a root cause of environmental degradation.

Based on these challenges mapped, the participants proposed the following recommendations

1. Raise awareness of environmental issues through age-appropriate and engaging educational initiatives.

2. Encourage sustainable city planning that reduces pollution and promotes eco-friendly transportation.

3. Strengthen efforts to improve waste management and promote recycling practices.

4. Involve communities in discussions on urban development to align design with their needs.

5. Promote sustainable consumption habits by supporting local products and practices.

6. Encourage businesses to adopt and share sustainable practices to minimise waste.

7. Support initiatives that promote sustainable practices in everyday activities, such as commuting.

4

Misinformation

Misinformation was identified as a pervasive problem with far-reaching consequences for societies. Participants emphasised the lack of effective moderation against bots and artificial intelligence systems that spread false information. Fake news was identified as a divisive force, eroding trust in institutions and polarising communities. The influence of individuals and billionaires in controlling the news narrative was another key concern, as it undermines media independence and diversity.

Based on these challenges mapped, the participants proposed the following recommendations

1. Enhance critical thinking and media literacy for all age groups to navigate digital content mindfully.

2. Advocate for clear labeling of content created or supported by AI tools.

3. Support empathy-driven approaches that encourage thoughtful sharing and discussion of information.

4. Promote accountability and accuracy standards for content shared by news sources.

5. Strengthen identity verification processes for content contributors on digital platforms.

6. Advocate for transparency in data and usage policies for digital services.

7. Introduce consistent education on the responsible use of social media and technology from a young age.

8. Promote energy-efficient digital practices and awareness of their environmental implications.

Conclusion

The European Future Citizens Manifesto is more than a document—it is a symbol of teamwork and hope. It reflects the ideas and energy of young Europeans who want to shape a better future. The principles and suggestions in this manifesto offer a clear path for creating a fairer, greener, and more inclusive Europe.

We invite educators, youth organizations, decision-makers, and young people to listen to these ideas and take action. By working together, we can ensure the voices of the next generation are heard and included in decisions that shape our future.

Together, we can build a stronger, more active and united Europe.

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