



ART OF DEMOCRACY

in Euro-Med region



Anna Lindh
Foundation
EUROMED



HRVATSKA
MREŽA
ZA SURADNJU NA EURO-MEDITERANU



ZADARSKA
ŽUPANIJA

Art of Democracy in Euro-Med Region is a project that uses art and creative methodology to implement civic education in a multicultural context.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Art of Democracy in Euro-Med Region was created by the Association Petit Philosophy in 2012 as Art of Democracy Project. Imagined as a response to the lack of civic education content in Croatia's educational system, this project aimed to offer a platform for dialogue, creativity and civic participation. From the start, Art of Democracy Project developed a flexible basic structure that allows users to shape the content and adapt it to their own particular needs.

ART OF DEMOCRACY IN EURO-MED REGION

In 2017, Anna Lindh Foundation supported the implementation of the Art of Democracy in Euro-Med Region project in two countries in the Mediterranean: Croatia and Turkey. Managed by the Association Petit Philosophy, the project involved a diverse set of partnering organizations: three high schools Ortaköy 80.Yıl Mesleki ve Teknik Anadolu Lisesi, Obrovac High School, Dalj High School, another non-profit organization, Turkey Disable's Education and Solidarity Foundation – Özev, and local government, Keçiören Municipality.

Art of Democracy in Euro-Med Region aims to:

- extend democratic values and human rights by increasing the level of knowledge about democracy by developing critical thinking and intercultural dialogue
- encourage active citizenship
- spread knowledge of diverse, non-traditional educational methods among educators
- support non-formal education and development of new educational methods
- raise understanding and respect for cultural differences and equality

PARTICIPANTS

Art of Democracy is developed for youth aged 15 to 21, as well as teachers and educators. Through their participation in the project, participants develop critical thinking skills, visual literacy, advocacy, civic participation and community organization.

METHODS

The project is organized around various interactive methods. Youth participates in workshops that present contemporary and historic art forms (visual art, architecture, music, film, literature) on issues of democracy, human rights, and social justice. Socratic dialogue, discussions, Visual Thinking Strategy, Design Thinking, role-play, art making are some of the methods used in workshops and civic actions.

CIVIC ACTIONS

Participating youth develop and implement a civic action in their local communities. Over the course of three to four weeks, youth research their local communities' needs, identify relevant stakeholders, create a solution which meets the need, develop an implementation plan and facilitate the implementation of the civic action.

HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

The project consists of five main stages: preparation, outreach, workshops, civic action, evaluation. While these are formal titles to the project's stages, the basic principles of each of these stages can be adapted (and renamed) to fit the local needs. We hope you will use our guide to adapt this project so that it best suits the needs and style of your community's work.

STAGE

GOALS

ACTIVITIES

PREPARATION

- Identify stakeholders
- Identify potential partners
- Identify benefits and challenges
- Identify solutions to address challenges

- Developing project plan
- Conducting SWOT analysis
- Conducting informal interviews and conversations with local stakeholders

OUTREACH

- Find youth who are interested and motivated to participate in the project
- Share proposed timeline with the participants
- Share proposed work methods and project goals

- Reach out to local schools and community organizations
- Facilitate presentations for youth

WORKSHOPS

- Gain knowledge of civic society and its elements
- Learn how to advocate: present and argue a case
- Inspire youth participants to envision and implement change
- Empower youth through skill building and gaining knowledge

- Discussions
- Art activities
- Creative exercises
- Role-play
- Writing exercises

CIVIC ACTION

- Discover a need in the local community that needs to be fulfilled and that all participants care about
- Identify a solution to fulfill the need
- Identify stakeholders and potential partners
- Understand stakeholders: how can they help and what are their limitations?
- Identify roles and opportunities for other community members to contribute to the action
- Create a promotional plan to promote the action and involved partners
- Create a sustainability plan
- Plan for risk and flexibility: create solutions for potential challenges
- Create an implementation plan
- Create a documentation plan

- Conduct project SWOT analysis
- Conduct formal and informal conversations with local community members, businesses, and organizations
- Engage local government: present programs and invite relevant government representatives

EVALUATION

- Gain knowledge of civic society and its elements
- Learn how to advocate: present and argue a case
- Inspire youth participants to envision and implement change
- Empower youth through skill building and gaining knowledge

- Conduct formal and informal evaluation
- Include in evaluation both external stakeholders (youth participants, partners) and internal (staff)



This is a basic project layout developed for the Art of Democracy projects.

Please use this to adapt to the needs of your local community and relevant stakeholders.

Good luck and let us know how it goes! 😊



EXAMPLES OF CIVIC ACTIONS



Revitalization of a local park in Zadar, Croatia

While there are many beautiful parks and beaches in their hometown, youth in Zadar was particularly concerned about the state of the local Sfinga park, located next to their high school. Filled with garbage and forgotten by their neighbours, the park called for immediate attention. Youth developed a plan to revitalize the park. They presented the plan to the local government, obtained permissions of the government bodies, connected with local businesses and a local community organization, Brodarica Youth Association. Youth, with the help of neighbours and volunteers from the Brodarica Youth Association, equipped the park with outdoor furniture made out of materials donated by the local businesses: benches, tables, garbage bins, "little library" box with free books. Engaging the local retirement home and local children, youth also developed a plan for continuous upkeep of the park.

Street Workout, Obrovac, Croatia

Inspired by the civic action implemented by Dalj youth in 2014, street workout was also a solution for youth in Obrovac, who lacked year-round accessible and free workout opportunities. Obrovac youth, partnering with the local ecological organization Eko Zrmanja, helped build the workout area on the River Zrmanja shore, an area frequented by locals and tourists.



EXAMPLES OF CIVIC ACTIONS

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School Signage and Park, Dalj, Croatia

Dalj High School, serving the youth population in Dalj, a town with a population of only 4000 people, is a small school, but it is a local educational powerhouse. Participating in a range of national and international educational projects, Dalj High School creates engaging learning opportunities for its students. Youth decided to raise the school's visibility among local residents by putting up new signage and sitting areas around the school situated on the Danube River. The youth aimed to highlight school's international engagement and inspire future students by displaying some of the achievements on signs around the school building. Inspired by the youth effort, the school invested additional funds to extend and decorate the outdoor area for students to use.



March for rights of people with disabilities, Ankara, Turkey

Youth from the Keçiören Municipality partnered with Turkey Disable's Education and Solidarity Foundation (ÖZEV) to raise awareness of rights of people with disabilities. After months of collaboration with their teachers and local people with disabilities, youth decided that organizing a march would be the best strategy to fulfill their aim. They informed and obtained a permission from local authorities and created brochures and banners. Taking place at the busiest street in Keçiören, the march drew attention from local residents. For youth, this is a first step of their plan to further address issues that people with disabilities face in Keçiören on a daily basis.



EXAMPLES OF CIVIC ACTIONS

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Youth Influencers, Ankara, Turkey



Concerned with the lack of access to the decision-making process and the decision-makers, students at the Ortaköy 80.Yıl Mesleki ve Teknik Anadolu Lisesi high school, wanted to have the opportunity to have their opinion on current matters heard. Youth decided to use a headmasters' national educational conference as a place to bring their concerns and opinions to the attention of the decision-makers. The dialogue between the headmasters and the youth enabled both sides to see the needs and challenges they experience in the educational system. To help offset cost, youth also wanted to contribute to the renovation of their school. They painted classrooms and hallways, and fixed the benches.



QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS

"The major benefit of this project is raising awareness of the necessity and benefits of civic actions."

"Through participation in this project, students could develop democratic skills and critically reflect on human rights and democracy. Also, they will be involved in a civic action in their communities to get direct insight and feeling that they are the ones who can move and change things around."

"The workshops were fantastic. I liked the fact that all of those "works of art" inspired us to think and participate in discussions. In a way, we all got to know each other more and discovered the little philosophers in ourselves. (Vanessa, 17)"

"Music reminded me of loneliness and discrimination among the people so I drew that picture. More importantly, I wished to reflect my feelings that music loaded into my heart". (Suleyman Serhat AYTEM, Grade 9)"

QUOTES FROM CIVIC ACTIONS

"Changes are possible. It's hard to believe these days, but they are possible"

"It is magnificent to see what young people are able to create when you just give them the space to do it"

"It was only six girls who started this story. I'm humbled by the change they created"

"Young people started this and all we did as older ones, we sat and complained. We should learn from them!"

Slogan of civil action in Ankara: "If there is a support, there is no obstacles"

Art of Democracy in Euro-Med Region

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