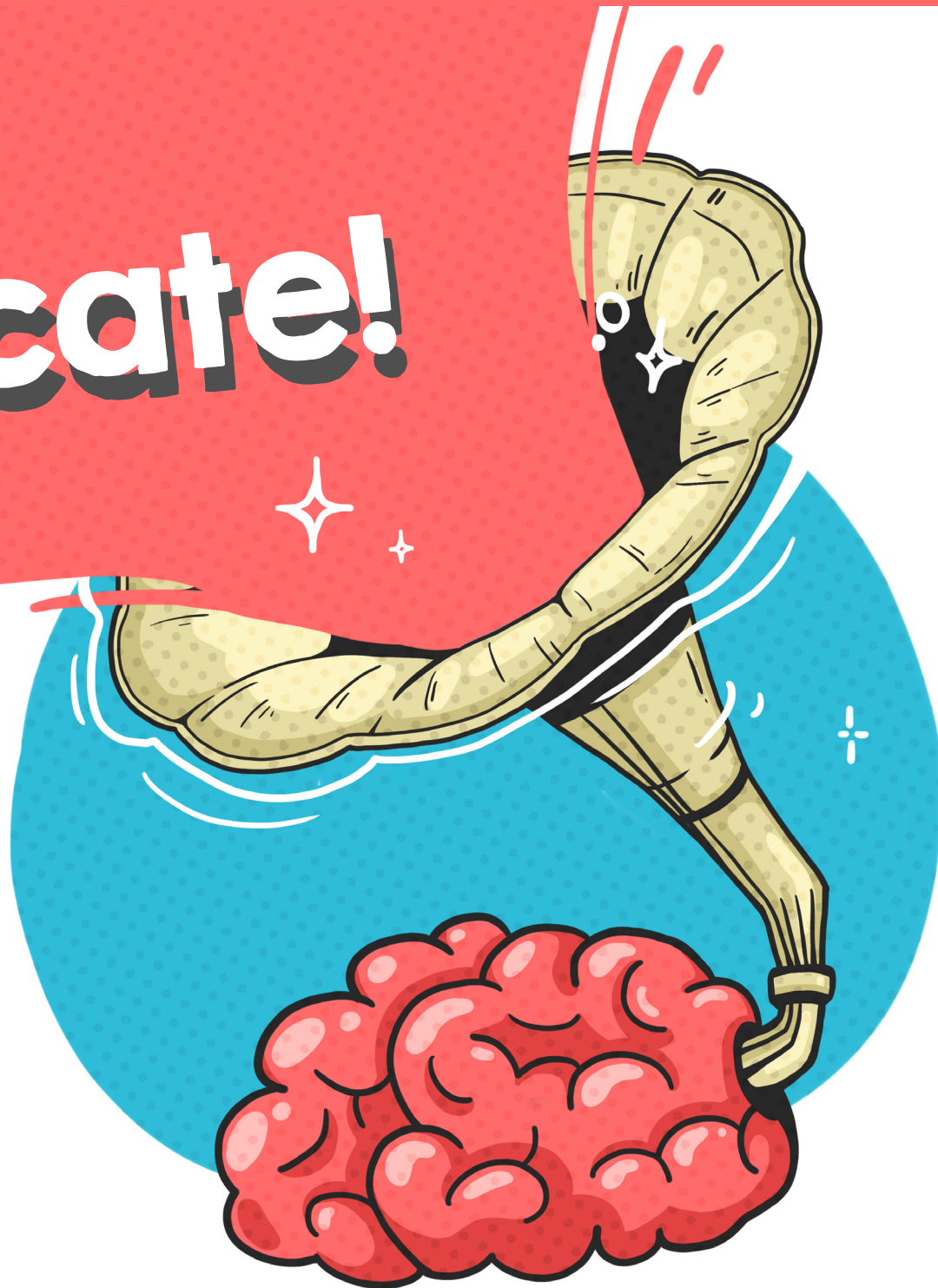


Time to advocate!

Erasmus+ Youth Exchange

11-19 December 2023
Weicherdange,
Luxembourg

coconutwork  



Context and objectives

Youth advocacy is an important and growing movement in Europe, as young people increasingly recognize the need to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives and communities.

Advocacy encompasses a range of activities aimed at influencing policies, practices, and attitudes. Youth advocacy includes anything from organizing protests and campaigns to lobbying politicians and decision-makers to using social media to raise awareness and build public support.

There are many different issues that young people in Europe are advocating for, including climate change, social justice, human rights, and access to education and employment. Young people are also increasingly involved in advocacy around issues that affect their mental health and well-being, such as cyber-bullying and online safety.

Young people need to use their collective power to raise awareness and demand action on issues they care about and are increasingly recognized as important agents of social change.

The European Union and many individual countries have policies and initiatives promoting youth participation and advocacy. For example, the EU's Youth Strategy 2019-2027 prioritizes the promotion of youth participation in democratic life and the empowerment of young people as agents of social change. The Eurobarometer survey on youth participation in democratic life, published in 2020, found that 50% of young people in the EU had participated in an election in the past two years, while 43% had signed a petition or taken part in a demonstration or march.

There's potential to involve more young people in advocacy through social media and online platforms, using their digital skills to raise awareness and mobilize support. By advocating for change, youth will contribute to a more inclusive and democratic society in Europe and beyond. Hence, the goal of the project is to empower young people to become effective advocates for change in their communities and Europe, this goal will be addressed through specific objectives:

- 01.** Assess the existing forms, strategies of advocacy practices, their EU/national realities, and ecosystem.
- 02.** Shed the light on how youth can shape their national and EU decision-making processes.

03. Level up the digital skills of young people by exploring innovative online participation tools and practices,

04. Entice young people to create and advocate for digital campaigns: Study cases for existing campaigns or causes.

05. Stimulate critical thinking, fostering the ability to read through online information.

Through the project 'Time to advocate!' we would like to untangle the connection between advocacy and youth participation, showcasing their complementarity. By participating in advocacy, young people can participate in civic life by contributing to the issues they care about and having a voice in shaping their communities and society as a whole.

For that matter, the project is focused on the usage of digital tools because we believe young people need opportunities to participate in the democratic processes, which go beyond the classical types of engagement. They need participation processes that are appropriate for their age group, their environment and lifestyle. Digital tools offer various innovative ways to connect, discuss issues and take part in decision-making. 'Time to advocate!' advocates for an inclusive digital education for youth in order to prevent their disengagement and turn online their participation.

Partner organizations

Name

Coconut Luxembourg

Euro-mediterranean association of
exchanges volunteering events Polska

Sdruzenie Alternativi International

Asociacion Mundus - Un mundo a tus pies

Youthfully Yours SK

Kulturális Kapcsolatokért Alapítvány

ANKA Gençlik Derneği

Asociatia GEYC

Country

Luxembourg

Poland

Bulgaria

Spain

Slovakia

Hungary

Türkiye

Romania

Accommodation and transportation

The youth exchange will take place in **SNJ Weicherdange** which is a youth centre in the north of Luxembourg. The participants will be in shared rooms. The venue has good standards ensuring quality delivery of our youth exchange, the meals will be prepared and taken in the same venue. Towels are provided. Toiletries are not provided.

We will hire a bus to **organise a pick-up from Charleroi Airport** (Brussels) to the venue and back for all the participants to arrive before dinner time on December 11th, and leave early on December 19th. This itinerary lasts 2 hours.





Accommodation and transportation

This gathering will be the opportunity not only to learn about the participation/democracy topics but also to meet other youngsters from 8 different countries and perhaps make long-lasting friendships. We believe we can create bonds and share an incredible experience of being together in a place that we will make our home for more than a week. Therefore, we expect everyone to contribute to making it a successful and lively experience; some cleaning is required for the common areas, and the dishes are expected. There will be a division where each group is responsible for a specific day's care tasks.

Our stance is that we can create the strongest bonds without the need for alcohol because what often can start as a pleasant evening may, unfortunately, end up in excess, which may harm the energy and the dynamics of our gathering. We plan to have fun, and count on each one's energy to contribute in lively evenings all together.



Travel, finances

health insurance

- ♦ The accommodation and meals are 100% covered by the coordinating organization.
- ♦ The participants are provided with flight proposals that are the most suitable to reach Charleroi airport. The participants shall book all tickets and be reimbursed up to 2 months after the youth exchange. This reimbursement is conditioned to active participation.
- ♦ Checked-in luggage and any other extra flight options are not reimbursed. When traveling with Ryanair or Wizzair, it is allowed to add the priority-boarding option.
- ♦ It is only allowed to book the airline tickets on the airline's own website, not through travel agencies or third-party websites. Plane tickets should always be accompanied by boarding passes. Consulting us is mandatory before booking any plane, train, or bus ticket.
- ♦ It is not possible to stay before and after the travel days unless more suitable transportation options are available one day before and/or after at the expense of the participant.
- ♦ The European Health Card is mandatory for all participants, or a private insurance if not the case (non-refundable).



Time to advocate!

Contact

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