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Tomorrow's European Leaders: Citizenship education and social action

Person in charge	Andrew Mycock
Time frame	4 th February 2021 – 31 st December 2023
Capacity	10 persons
Description	<p>This working group will explore the role of citizenship education in formal (school, college, and higher education) and informal (community, family and peer group) environments, which can encourage social action and leadership. Young people, when they have the opportunity, can make a real, tangible difference to their communities through social action such as volunteering. Active citizenship also benefits young people by creating a feeling of agency and value as citizens, teamwork and collaborative skills, public speaking, project planning, empathy, and improved self-esteem and self-efficacy. These benefits can also encourage young people to be inspired to undertake leadership roles amongst their peer groups and within formal and informal organisational environments. While the benefits of social action for young people and their communities are clear, formal citizenship education programmes sometimes fail to support it, even when teachers and school leaders are enthusiastic about the concept. The working group will undertake research activities to develop understanding of how, when, and where citizenship education programmes can instil the knowledge, skills, and opportunities for young people to encourage social action and youth leadership. It will work in the collaboration with a range of national and European youth organisations, including the European Youth Forum, to chart how the 'civic journey' develops for young people from different countries and diverse backgrounds, and informs their experiences of both being and becoming an active citizen prepared to lead their peers in undertaking social action.</p>
Specialisation	pedagogy, sociology, critical youth studies, political sciences, youth work
Methodology	A mixed methods approach will be adopted by the working group, who will work with the group leader to create an innovative research framework to deliver the aims and objectives.
Tasks	The working group will establish the schedule of work. As part of this process, it will identify a range of tasks to be undertaken.
Work plan	The WG work plan will be collectively created by its members after the groups are established.
Outputs	The working group will establish the dissemination strategies to be adopted, including the identification of appropriate outputs. These will include meeting the outputs identified in the Network application.
Rationale	The working group will engage with the ambition of the network to build a community of practitioners and researchers engaged in developing interactive learning opportunities, gathering information and creating new knowledge addressing citizenship learning across societies and sectors. The working group will work with NGOs and civil society organisations in their own countries and at a European level in order to develop in-depth national case studies that explore the active citizenship experiences of young people, including normally hard-to-reach groups. They will research young people's willingness to participate in societal life and spread democratic ideas, Europeanism and global responsibility as well as their willingness in regards to various forms and methods of this participation.

NOTES & REMARKS