



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Eurhope

EU as a solidarity's house for minors out of home
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Agenzia Italiana
per la Gioventù



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WP2. Training Toolkit

A5. EU Training



HELLENIC
AMERICAN
UNION



PROGETTO FAMIGLIA
CENTRO STUDI AFFIDO



**EU Training
Course
Structure**

Module 1:

The European Union's
Institutional Framework

Module 2:

Values and Objectives of
the EU

Module 3:

Key Policies and Programs
of the EU

Module 4:

Promoting European
Citizenship and
Participation



Learning Objectives

By the end of this training, participants will:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the European Union's institutional structure and decision-making processes.
- Understand the core values and objectives of the EU, and how they relate to promoting social cohesion and inclusion.
- Be familiar with key EU policies and programs, particularly those that impact youth and vulnerable groups.
- Learn strategies to effectively mentor and guide minors in understanding EU issues, empowering them to engage with European policies and discussions.
- Enhance their ability to foster active European citizenship and participation in solidarity projects, emphasizing shared values and community involvement.



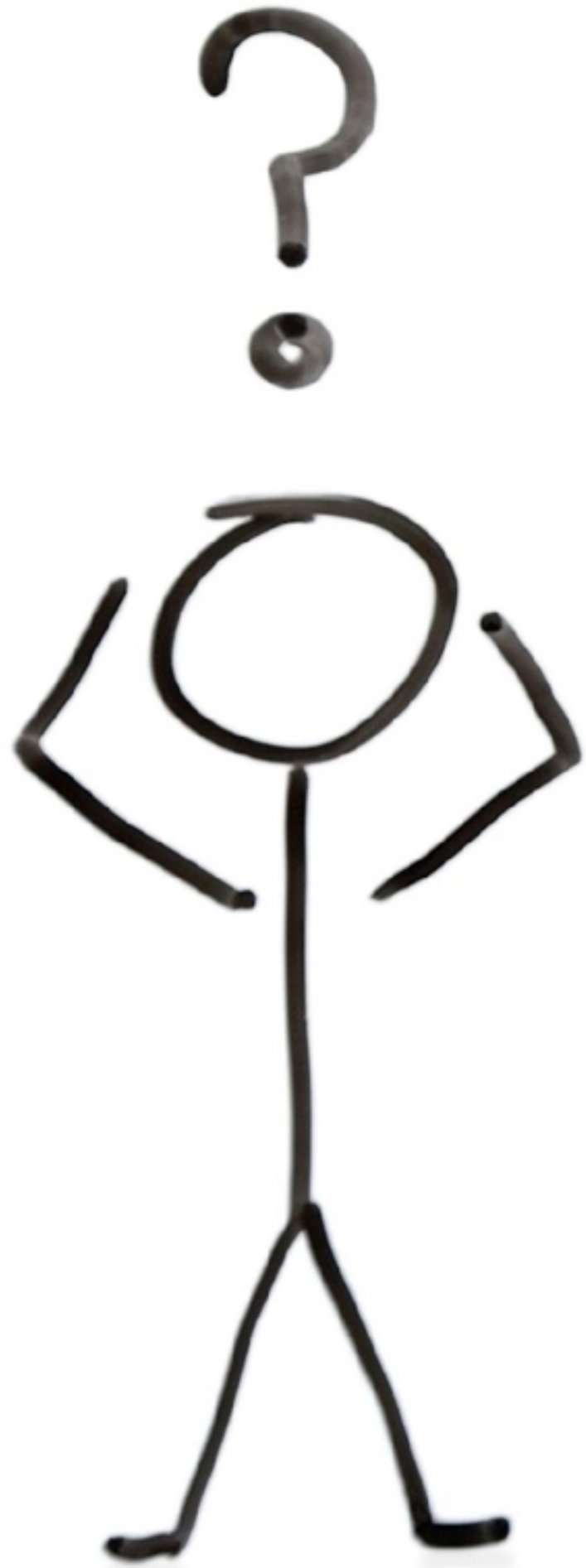
Module 1

The European Union's Institutional Framework



**What is the
European
Union?**





Understanding the EU's Key Institutions



**European
Commission**



**European
Council**



**European
Parliament**



**Court of
Justice
of the EU**



ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The European Parliament represents the citizens of the European Union and is directly elected by them every five years. Its role is to pass EU laws, together with the Council of the European Union, and to approve the EU budget.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND DECISION-MAKING

The Parliament shares legislative power with the Council of the EU, meaning both must agree for a law to pass. The Parliament also supervises other EU institutions, especially the Commission.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER EU INSTITUTIONS

The Parliament works in tandem with the European Commission and the Council, balancing the interests of EU citizens with those of national governments.

European Parliament

Voice of the People



European Commission

The Executive Body of the EU



ROLE AND RESPONSABILITIES

The European Commission is the EU's executive arm, responsible for proposing new legislation, enforcing EU laws, managing the budget, and representing the EU internationally.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS AND REGULATORY POWERS

The Commission's most important role is initiating new laws, which are then passed by the European Parliament and the Council. It also ensures that member states correctly apply EU laws and has the power to take legal action against countries that don't comply.

STRUCTURE AND JURISDICTION

The Court of Justice of the European Union is composed of one judge from each EU country, assisted by advocates general. It ensures that EU law is interpreted and applied uniformly across all member states.



ROLE IN ENSURING EU LAW COMPLIANCE

The CJEU can rule on disputes between EU member states, institutions, and even companies or individuals. It has the authority to declare national laws that conflict with EU law invalid.

Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)

Upholding EU Law

European Council

Setting the EU's Political Agenda

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS

The European Council is composed of the heads of state or government of each EU country, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission. It sets the EU's overall policy agenda and priorities.



KEY ROLES IN SETTING THE EU POLICY AGENDA

Although the European Council does not pass laws, its decisions shape EU policies. It provides political guidance to the EU and addresses complex or sensitive issues that the other institutions cannot resolve.

Attention!



Different Institutions



European Council



Political leadership of the EU. Sets the overall direction and priorities of the EU. Composed of heads of state/government from each EU member country.

Council of the EU



Co-legislative body. Represents the governments of EU member states. Works together with the European Parliament to adopt EU laws. Made up of ministers from each member state according to the specific policy.

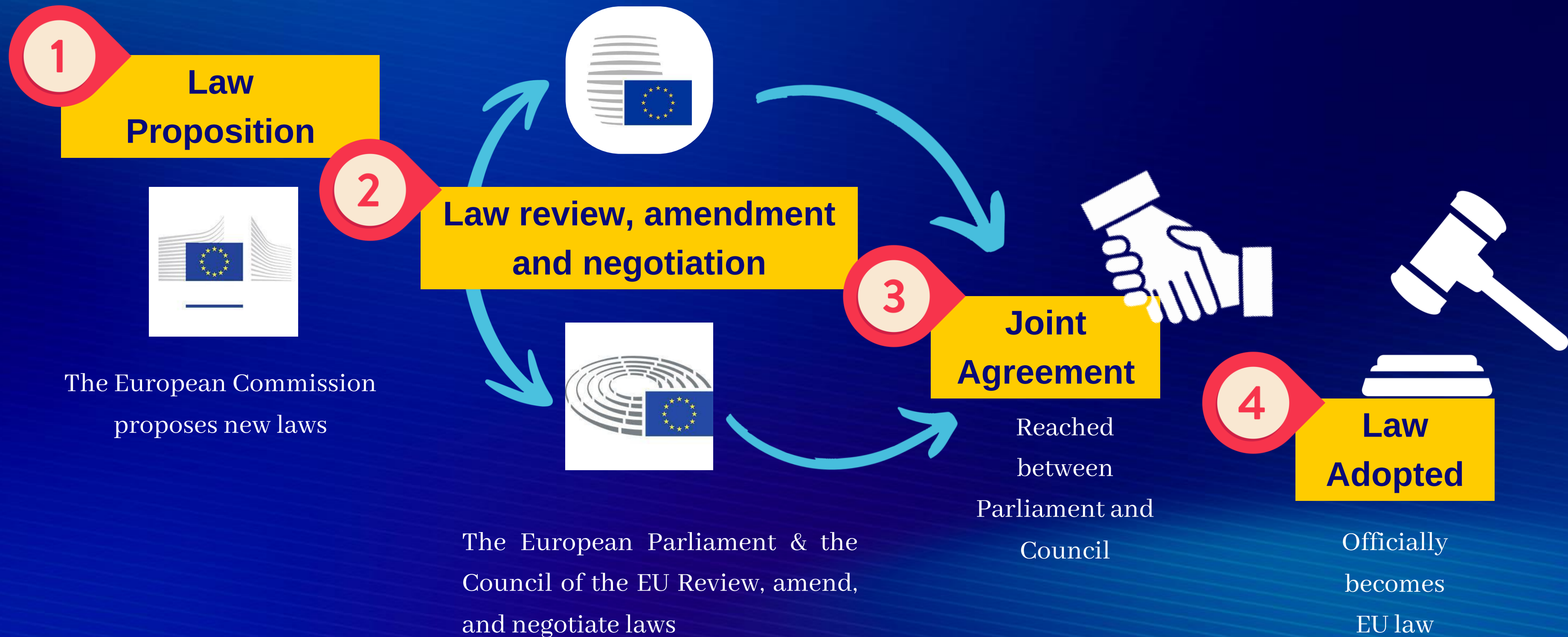
Council of Europe



Independent from the EU. Promotes democracy, human rights, and rule of law in Europe. Has 46 member states, including non-EU countries like Turkey and Ukraine.



Decision-Making Processes in the EU



Decision-Making Processes in the EU

Ordinary Legislative Procedure

The most common method for passing EU laws. In this process, both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU must approve a proposed law, with opportunities for amendments from both sides.

This process ensures that the interests of both EU citizens and national governments are considered in EU legislation.

In certain policy areas like taxation, competition law, or agriculture, the EU uses a different method where the European Parliament gives its opinion, but the Council of the EU has the final say.

Although Parliament's role is advisory, it still allows for the input of citizen representatives before decisions are finalized.

Consultation Procedure

Consent Procedure

Used for highly sensitive issues like international agreements or admitting new member states. In this process, the European Parliament must give its consent, but it cannot propose amendments.

This gives the Parliament significant influence while allowing for swift decision-making in critical areas.

Module 2

Values & Objectives of the EU



Fundamental Values of the EU

At the heart of the European Union are core values that define its identity and guide its policies. These values are enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and are reflected in everything the EU does.



Human
Dignity

Freedom

Democrac
y

Equality

Rule of
Law

Human
Rights

Fundamental Values of the EU

Human Dignity

Central to all EU actions and policies, the EU ensures respect for human rights and the inviolable dignity of every individual.

This value underpins EU social policies and human rights efforts, ensuring protection against exploitation and violence.

Freedom

The freedom of movement, expression, thought, and association are guaranteed to every EU citizen.

The EU champions individual freedoms, ensuring they are protected in every member state.

Democracy

The EU is based on representative democracy. Citizens directly elect the European Parliament, and their rights are defended by institutions that promote democratic governance.

The EU also supports democratic principles worldwide.

Fundamental Values of the EU

Equality

The EU strives to eliminate discrimination and promote equality among all citizens.

Gender equality, and equal access to employment, education, and political participation, are pillars of EU policy.

Rule of Law

Ensures that laws are applied equally and fairly across all member states.

The EU guarantees that legal processes are upheld, and that member states respect the judiciary's independence.

Human Rights

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights outlines the basic rights every citizen is entitled to.

The EU also promotes human rights globally through its foreign policy and development aid programs.

Objectives of the EU



The European Union was founded with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and prosperity among its member states and beyond. Its objectives are outlined in the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and guide all the policies and actions undertaken by the EU.



Can you name or guess any of the key objectives that guide the European Union? What do you think the EU seeks to achieve for its citizens and the world?



The European Union was established with the goal of ensuring lasting peace across its member states, particularly following the devastation of World War II. By fostering cooperation and unity, the EU aims to prevent conflicts through diplomacy, dialogue, and collective action, making peace one of its core objectives.

Peace

Justice is at the heart of the EU's mission to create a fair and equal society. The EU promotes the rule of law and protects fundamental rights through its legal frameworks. It also works to harmonize judicial systems across member states, ensuring that citizens have equal access to justice wherever they reside within the EU.

Justice

EU Objectives

The EU is committed to creating a secure environment for its citizens. Through its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the Union works on safeguarding member states from internal and external threats. This includes cooperation on border security, fighting terrorism, and addressing cyber threats.

Security

The well-being of citizens is central to the EU's social policies, which aim to enhance quality of life across the Union. This includes access to healthcare, education, social security, and labor rights. The EU ensures that all its citizens benefit from social services and protections, contributing to their overall welfare.

Well-Being

The EU is a global leader in promoting sustainable development. With the European Green Deal, it is committed to transforming Europe into the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The EU integrates environmental protection into all its policies, ensuring that economic and social progress are achieved in harmony with the planet's resources.

Sustainable Development

The EU strives to improve social standards and reduce inequalities across its member states. Through policies that promote social inclusion, equal opportunities, and cohesion, the Union aims to build a fair society where everyone has the chance to succeed. Social progress is seen as integral to the economic and political stability of the EU.

Social Progress

Economic stability and growth are essential goals for the EU. It supports innovation, investment, and job creation while ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are shared across all member states. The single market and the Euro are key tools in driving economic cooperation and fostering prosperity across Europe.

Economic Growth

EU Objectives



What about children-related objectives?





Module 3

Key Policies and Programs of the EU

Overview of Major EU Policies

Economic & Monetary Policy

The Eurozone and the European Central Bank (ECB): The Euro is the EU's common currency, used by 19 of the 27 member states. The ECB is responsible for managing the Euro and monetary policy across the Eurozone, with the goal of maintaining price stability and supporting the economy.



Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The CAP is one of the oldest and most important EU policies, aimed at ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers, improving agricultural productivity, and ensuring a stable supply of affordable food. It also focuses on sustainable farming practices.

Overview of Major EU Policies



Digital Single Market

The Digital Single Market aims to create an online space where citizens and businesses can access digital goods and services easily and fairly across the EU. It includes measures for data protection, cybersecurity, and building a competitive digital economy.

The EU is a global leader in environmental protection, and its policies focus on combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and promoting the sustainable use of resources. The European Green Deal is a key initiative aimed at making the EU climate-neutral by 2050.

Environmental Policy



EU Funding Programs & Initiatives



EU Funding Programs & Initiatives



Horizon Europe

Research and innovation funding, encouraging cutting-edge projects that enhance scientific knowledge and technological breakthroughs.

European Solidarity Corps

Volunteering and solidarity initiatives, giving young people and adults opportunities to contribute to community projects across Europe, with a particular emphasis on inclusion and social development.

Creative Europe

Supporting Europe's cultural and creative sectors, offering minors out of home exposure to arts and culture through various EU-funded cultural projects.

LIFE Programme

EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, offering opportunities for projects that foster sustainable development and green initiatives, an area that could engage both adults and minors.

EU Funding Programs & Initiatives



Education, training, youth, and sport programs. This is also a prime resource for minors out of home to access scholarships, exchange programs, and educational opportunities abroad.

Erasmus+

A program offering young Europeans (especially minors) the opportunity to explore Europe via travel passes, promoting intercultural exchange and learning experiences

DiscoverEU

Regional development projects that reduce economic and social disparities. Beneficial for local programs supporting minors through community initiatives.

**Cohesion Funds and
Structural Funds**

How to Find Volunteering Opportunities:

- **European Youth Portal:** A central platform for finding European volunteering opportunities, internships, and civic engagement options.
- **Eurodesk:** A free service offering advice and information to young people (including minors out of home) on European mobility and youth programs.
- **SALTO Youth:** A resource providing training, networking, and project-building opportunities for youth workers, ideal for adults supporting minors in finding relevant volunteer options.
- **Europass:** An online tool for developing and sharing CVs, showcasing skills, and searching for volunteering or professional opportunities within the EU.



people can search for specific p

social and solidarity actions.

Module 4

Promoting European Citizenship and Participation



Key Rights of EU Citizens

Freedom of Movement

EU citizens have the right to live, work, and study in any EU country without needing a visa. This freedom opens up opportunities for minors out of home as they grow older and explore employment or education abroad.

"Can you think of any challenges minors out of home might face in exercising their right to freedom of movement? Have you heard of any case where this right was violated?"

"Have you encountered any situations where minors out of home were unaware of their consumer rights or faced challenges accessing them? Can you think of any case where this right might have been violated?"

Consumer Protection

EU citizens are protected by a common set of consumer rights, ensuring fair treatment, product safety, and compensation for damages. Teaching minors about these rights helps them become aware consumers in the EU.

Voting Rights

EU citizens have the right to vote in European and local elections, and they can run as candidates. Educating minors about their voting rights is vital to encouraging future civic participation. In the 2024 European elections, voter turnout varied across member states but was approximately 51% on average.

"How many of you voted in the 2024 elections? Did your family or friends vote? What reasons do you think might prevent people, particularly minors out of home, from exercising their voting rights?"

Key Responsibilities of EU Citizens

Respect for EU Laws

All EU citizens must comply with both national laws and EU regulations. Helping minors understand their role in upholding and respecting these laws, as well as their right to challenge unfair laws, is essential for promoting justice and equality.

Civic Participation

Beyond voting, EU citizens have the responsibility to contribute to their community through civic participation. Encourage minors out of home to get involved in local projects, such as environmental or social initiatives.

Solidarity & Cooperation

EU citizenship comes with the duty to work together for the common good, both within one's country and across the EU. Teach minors the importance of solidarity, especially in cross-border cooperation and support for marginalized communities.

Civic Engagement and Participation

Ways to Engage in the EU

European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

A platform where EU citizens can propose new laws. With the support of one million signatures, the proposal must be considered by the European Commission. Adults can guide minors in understanding how civic initiatives work and how they can become involved in shaping EU policies.

Public Consultations

The EU frequently holds public consultations on major policies, inviting feedback from citizens. This is an opportunity to voice concerns or support for various initiatives.

Volunteering & Community Involvement

Both adults and minors can engage in solidarity activities through initiatives like the European Solidarity Corps, which provides opportunities to contribute to community projects across the EU.

Supporting Minors in Understanding and Engaging with EU Matters

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Mentoring and
Guiding Minors”

“

Educational
Resources for Youth”

“

Building a Culture
of Solidarity



”



Mentoring and Guiding Minors

MENTORING PROGRAM

Mentoring Europe:

Offers guidelines, tools, and resources for effective mentoring practices tailored for youth mentors.
(<https://mentoringeurope.eu>)

European Youth Portal:

A comprehensive platform providing information on youth rights, opportunities, and projects across Europe.
(https://europa.eu/youth/EU_en)

OPPORTUNITIES PLATFORMS

Eurodesk:

Provides a wealth of information regarding European funding, opportunities, and policies that can benefit young people and mentors.
(<https://eurodesk.eu/>)

Skills Recognition

Youthpass: A tool designed to document and recognize learning outcomes from participation in European youth projects.
(<https://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/>)

Virtual Exchange

Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange: Facilitates intercultural learning through virtual dialogues and exchanges among young people across Europe.
(https://europa.eu/youth/erasmusvirtual_en)

interactive LEARNING PLATFORMS

Kids' Corner: A fun and engaging online platform with games and resources specifically designed for young people to learn about the EU. (<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications/kids-corner>)

Learning Corner: An educational website offering resources such as quizzes, games, and informative articles tailored for youth. ([https://learning-](https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/index_en)

[corner.learning.europa.eu/index_en](https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/index_en))

**Educational
Resources for Youth**

Schuman Foundation: Offers various educational publications and resources that help youth understand the EU. (<https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/>)

EU Bookshop: A resource for accessing free EU publications tailored for different age groups, with materials suitable for educational settings. (<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications>)

educational materials

Europa Diary: Provides educational materials focused on citizenship, rights, and values relevant to the EU for young learners. (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/441bb7af-bcfb-44e9-9d4c-01841614cc15>)

cultural exploration

House of European History - Virtual Tours: An interactive way for minors to explore European history and its relation to modern Europe. (<https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/>)

Research & Publications

Building a Culture of Solidarity

project
creation
tools

Solidarity Projects Toolkit:

A comprehensive guide that helps to create and implement local solidarity projects that involve young people. (https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity/projects_en)

volunteering
opportunities

European Solidarity Corps: Engages young people in volunteering opportunities that promote solidarity across Europe. (https://europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en)

EU Aid Volunteers: Connects volunteers with humanitarian projects across Europe and beyond, allowing youth to engage in meaningful work. (<https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/young->

campaigns &
training

Time to Move Campaign: Encourages youth mobility through volunteering, internships, and other opportunities for young people to engage and learn. (<https://timetomove.eurodesk.eu/>)

SALTO-Youth Platform: Offers training, resources, and opportunities to support youth workers in building solidarity initiatives. (<https://www.salto-youth.net/>)

Final Activity:

Exploring EU Support for Minors

Think about how you, as mentors, educators, or youth workers, can incorporate these tools into your daily work to promote positive change.

Divide into 3 groups:

- Group 1: Mentoring and Guiding Minors
- Group 2: Educational Resources for Youth
- Group 3: Building a Culture of Solidarity

Steps:

- Explore the resources
- Discuss Impact
- Present Key Insights



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