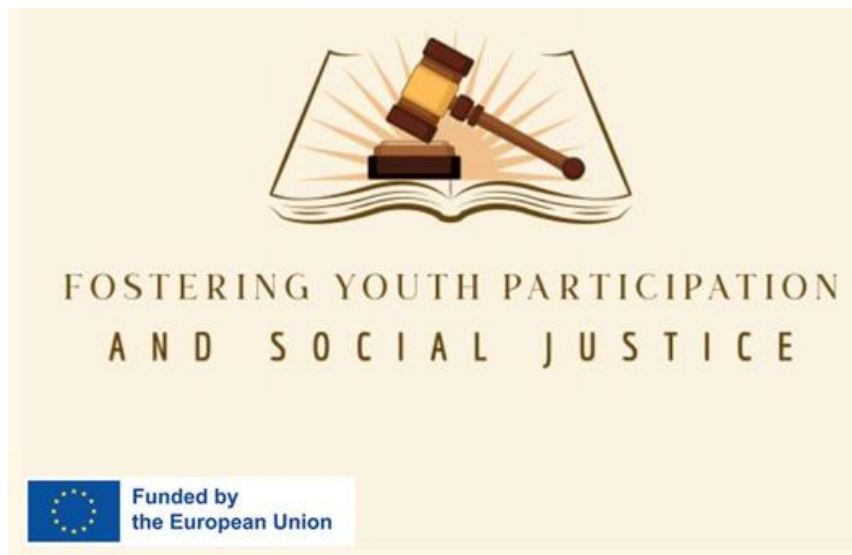


Fostering Youth Participation and Social Justice

Civic Engagement and Community Leadership in Germany - 29 March - 6 April 2026



The activity brought young people from Romania, Germany, Turkiye and Hungary into one shared space where social justice, civic voice and community leadership were practised through movement, dialogue and direct action.

A week built on action, trust and visible participation

The programme moved from identity and group building into advocacy, reflection, simulations and concrete follow-up.



Outdoor drama and creative group tasks helped participants enter the process with energy, humour and confidence before the programme moved into deeper civic themes.



Physical expression, observation and peer support made abstract ideas about courage, dignity and trust easier to test in a safe group setting.

Not a passive seminar

Participants did not simply sit, listen and receive information; they used identity painting, avatar creation, public speaking practice, metaphorical cards, role-play, outdoor exercises and reflection circles to turn social justice into something they could feel, discuss and act upon.

4

countries in one learning space

8

days from arrival to departure

1

shared civic theme

0

passive learning logic

Erasmus+ Street Action

Darmstadt - Frankfurt - Mainz - dissemination through real contact with young people in public spaces.

From explanation to conversation

Participants prepared questions, approached local youth and young foreign students respectfully, explained Erasmus+ in plain language, collected impressions and recorded short interviews, so dissemination became a real youth work exercise grounded in listening, clarity and trust.



Short public conversations required participants to adapt their language, read the situation and protect the dignity of the person they approached.



Later informal reflection helped the group connect the public action with memory, friendship and the question of what happens after the mobility ends.

37

young people introduced to the project and Erasmus+ opportunities

9

already knew about Erasmus+ before the action

3

cities used as living learning spaces

Why the numbers matter

The gap between the number of young people reached and the number who already knew about Erasmus+ gave participants a concrete reason to become multipliers, because visibility only becomes meaningful when it reaches people who were not already inside the European youth-work bubble.

Social justice through images, roles and country realities

Participants explored barriers, visibility and access to decision-making without reducing complex lived experience to a slogan.



Metaphorical cards opened space for stories about pressure, silence, hope, dignity, exclusion and courage, especially when direct debate would have been too narrow.



Circle-based reflection gave the group a calm structure for comparing realities from Romania, Germany, Türkiye and Hungary without turning difference into distance.

Country situations became project material

The group identified barriers connected with weak participation opportunities, limited access to decision-making, lack of institutional support, inequality and exclusion, then began to treat these realities not as complaints but as possible starting points for youth-led local action and future Erasmus+ ideas.

Identity

Voice

Access

Dignity

Action

Energy justice, youth work and responsibility under pressure

The Energy Shock Challenge turned public policy into a lived negotiation about mobility, budgets and fairness.

A crisis simulation with consequences

Participants represented young residents and commuters, municipal services, community solidarity networks, local businesses and transport voices, then had to negotiate priorities while rising fuel prices, transport difficulties, reduced budgets and public pressure showed how quickly participation becomes fragile when everyday stability disappears.



Movement-based tasks kept the group alert and helped participants practise response, presence and cooperation instead of only discussing them.



Reflection methods helped participants translate emotions and observations into more structured youth-project thinking.

The key learning point

Energy was treated not only as an economic topic but also as a social justice issue, because if young people cannot afford transport, heating or basic stability, their capacity to participate in education, community life and democratic processes is reduced long before formal exclusion becomes visible.

Fair access

Youth mobility

Local services

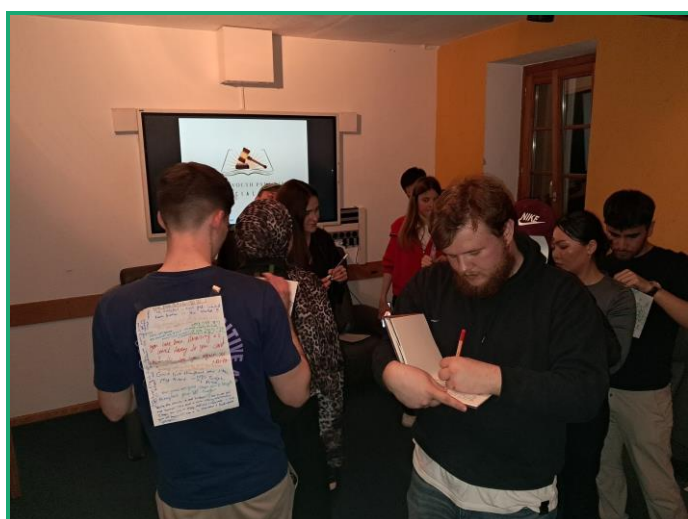
Shared decisions

Recognition, Youthpass and the memory of the group

The final days connected certificates, peer messages, dissemination and follow-up with the competences participants had actually practised.



The certificate ceremony worked because recognition was connected with visible effort, humour, gratitude and the shared ownership that had been built during the week.



Participants returned to the avatars created earlier and wrote good wishes to one another, closing the learning circle in a personal and memorable way.



The campfire gave the mobility a calm closing rhythm where impressions, hopes and promises for future cooperation could be shared without forcing a formal ending.

How the story keeps moving after Germany

A visibility and follow-up tool for participants, partner organisations and local youth groups.

Competences made visible

Youthpass reflection helped participants name learning outcomes in communication, cooperation, civic engagement, intercultural awareness, public speaking, initiative, project thinking and community leadership, which made the week easier to explain after returning home.

Share the experience clearly

Use the photos, short testimonies, local presentations, peer meetings and social media posts to show what participants actually did, while keeping the project number, Erasmus+ identity and EU funding visibility clear, accurate and visible.

Invite new young people in

The street action showed that many young people still do not know Erasmus+ well, so the strongest follow-up is not a polished announcement but a direct invitation that explains opportunities in accessible language and connects them with real stories from participants.

Reuse the methods locally

Identity painting, metaphorical cards, public speaking practice, role-play, simulations and reflection circles can be adapted by partner organisations, youth groups and local communities as low-cost activities that make civic engagement active, relational and easier to enter.



FOSTERING YOUTH PARTICIPATION
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



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