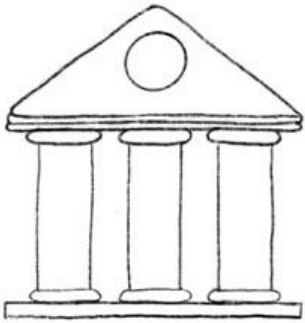




INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH
& TRAINING
ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DEMOCRART

E-Booklet



DEMOCR

Art



DEMOCR

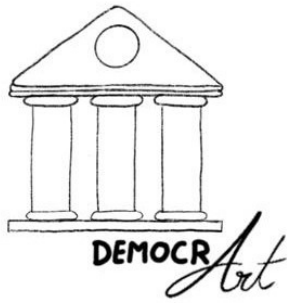
Art



Erasmus+



YOUTH
AND LIFELONG
LEARNING
FOUNDATION



Introduction

DemocrART is a Project organized by the Institute of Research & Training on European Affairs - I.R.T.E.A. under the funding of the Key Action 1 of the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union on Youth via the Hellenic National Agency, INEDIVIM.

In the framework of this project, a Youth Exchange mobility for Young People took place at Chania, Crete from May 1st to May 6th 2023. 45 young people from Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Latvia & Portugal, gathered and engaged in a series of non-formal learning activities to address topics around democracy, values and participation under the scope of artistic expression.

DemocrArt sought to delve deep into topics such as democratic participation and European identity, using non-formal learning methods that will educate, entertain and motivate the young participants to actively take part in workshops, conversations and group activities that help them seek out these subjects and be more conscious.

In the following pages, you will find out more about the activities implemented during our 6 days of Youth Exchange as well as some testimonials by participants of the Project.

We hope you find the following pages enlightening and inspiring for you to be active, engaged and expressive in your daily lives!

Enjoy!



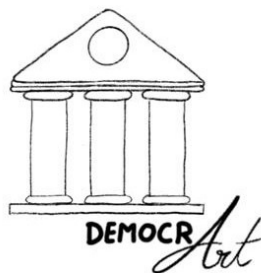
Day
1

ERASMUS+ & Youthpass

Our first day started with some energizer games and activities that helped us to get to know one another, before moving on to understanding the framework before this Youth Exchange and the "DemocrART" project. In order to do this we dove into the ERASMUS+ World...

The ERASMUS+ Programme is a funding tool of the European Union facilitating opportunities for education, training, sports, academic excellence and intercultural exchange around the world. Erasmus + for young people is an amazing opportunity.

In youth opinion it helps with being more open minded and aware of a lot of issues. While taking part in projects like this we can also break stereotypes about other nationalities and other people in general.



After every Erasmus+ project you can get a Youth Pass. This certificate is a perfect proof and summary of workshops and gained skills in the projects.

It's based on the "learning to learn" value, thus helping in understanding how you learn, develop knowledge or your skills in a specific part (social, intercultural etc.)

ERASMUS+ & Youthpass



Art as a tool for exploring different topics

Later on, we had a workshop and learnt that freedom of speech is an important part of democracy, and the importance of striking to in others countries our feelings about democracy. With the workshop, the groups were able to show part of their point of view about their country and which event made a turn around in democracy, whether by singing anthems, showing drawings or acting a play.

- **Main idea:** Express with/by art how democracy looks in each country through youth eyes.
- **Art used:** Poem, music, theater, drawing.
- Each national group was given one type of art, through which they must describe an aspect of Democracy in their country

Latvian team - Poem,
Portuguese team – Song/Drawing,
Lithuanian team – Debate simulation,
Greek team – Dialogue/Theatrical production,
Polish team – Drawing



Exchange of Ideas & Situation Awareness at National Level

Our third activity aimed at discussing democracy in our countries while also at the European level and seeing the different opinions and points of view we had based on our backgrounds and different experiences.

We noticed that a discussion is an important part of learning about democracy and representing one of the main values of democracy, pluralism.



We were given various statements pertinent to democracy, active citizenship, politics and European policies and identity as well as artistic expression and we had to choose if we agree or disagree in a spectrum, while supporting our opinions.

- **Main idea:** Express our opinions on various statements about democracy in our countries active citizenship, european identity, artistic expression etc.





DAY
2

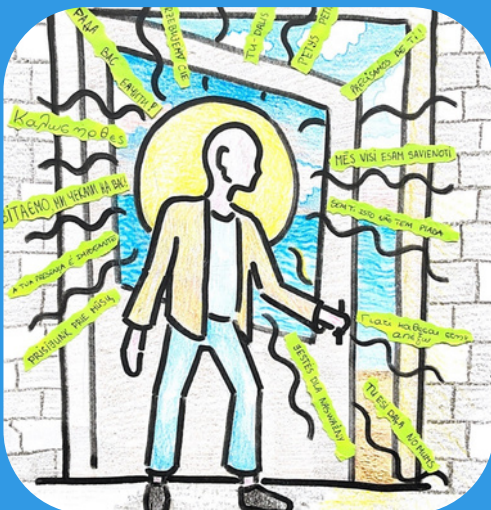
Democracy Through ART - Collaborative Mural

As part of our artistic engagement, we had the chance to design and develop a series of posters which would be connected in a collaborative mural, representing the core values of the European Union and how we view them!

- **Main idea:** Express main values of Democracy through drawings and learn how to express those values in group.
- **Art used:** Sketching/Drawings.
- People were divided into five international groups, and each group had to choose one of the values (equality, solidarity, justice, diversity, inclusion, freedom of speech) and express it in group drawings which later should be connected all together.



In this activity we have to communicate and cooperate to create not only group drawing, but something that can be connected together.



Democracy Through ART - TikTok Videos Production

As the last activity, participants had to create TikTok videos about one of the democratic values. The videos were diverse and had the groups had very different approaches to creating them as a way of being youth-friendly & interactive!

- **Main idea:** Share awareness through one of the most popular social media platforms – TikTok, highlighting values of democracy in each video.
- **Art used:** Video making.
- **Things done:** Participants were divided into 5 teams and each group had to choose one value (equality, solidarity, justice, diversity, inclusion, no hate speech, freedom of speech) and create a video about one of the topics.



Nowadays TikTok has a lot of users, and using this application to promote ideas, we can share our knowledge, to larger audience. That can make a bigger impact on society.



Not everybody knew how to create TikTok videos, but that didn't stop the production and at the end each group presented a video. We had to learn how to share serious topics in humorous way.

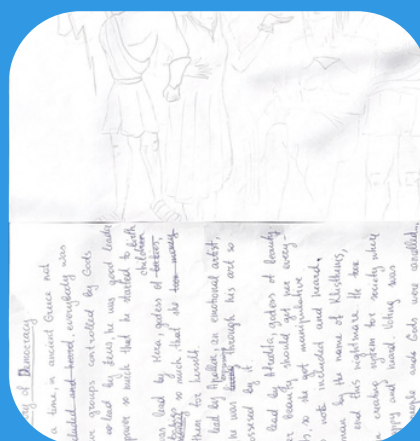


DAY
3

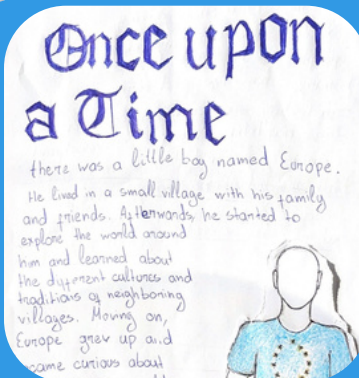
Storytelling Activity on Democratic values & Social Justice

Next, up we approached storytelling! We tried to express our discussion on the history, the the present, the future and the core factors of democracy in a fun way, easily communicated and comprehended. Creativity took place because we also had the chance to express ourselves through arts. They were easily accessible for kids .

- **Main idea:** To create a material about Democracy, that could be useful for kids and teenagers to understand Democracy better. Setting values
- **Art used:** Writing a story
- **Things done:** Participants were divided into five groups and each group had to write a story for kids about each topic. Topics were – History of Democracy, History of Arts, History of Europe, Democracy through arts. Not only the stories had to be written but also a visualization of some kind. Each group drew something connected to their story.



It was something new how we could express ourselves connecting to the topic – other activities were more connected with drawing something and in this activity we needed to figure out a way how to express our thoughts through words. It was fun and creative experience.



Theater Production Activity

Following storytelling, came Theatre! Some stories are told in paper while others are said in movement! Here we tried to see how we can craft our own scenaria based on different genres of plays. In theater plays people can open up more and feel freely to show their emotions. It is a way for group to connect closely with each other creating small play.

- **Main idea:** Create short play including Democracy, using given words and genres. Express ourselves through movement and acting.
- **Art used:** Theater.
- **Things done:** Participants were divided into five international groups. Each group got envelope with genre (such as thriller, comedy, horror, romance etc.) and words (democracy, inclusion, coffee, beach. Words connected with Democracy and other things) that they must use in the play. Groups had to create a play about something that relates to democracy, each participant had to be involved in the play.

It was something that everybody enjoyed and this experience brought groups together.





4

Film Screening and Discussion on Democratic Values & Citizenship

In this workshop we watched a set of videos and mini films around democracy over the years as well as the evolution of the European Union.

We started off the discussion about ancient democracy in Greece and we compared with nowadays' situation. Moreover, we found out that there are more differences than similarities. What we felt was that our type and system of democracy is much better. Now we do not have discriminations such as women, or poor people denied the right of voting to elections.

Next video was related to European democratic values and way of working, the extreme lack of participation in European elections. The main reasons behind it and the way we could change this, were also discussed. Most people do not feel like their voice is being heard and they have not created the feeling of the whole. Not to mention that an important factor behind the lacking is due to the fact that many countries entered the EU. That means that a multicultural environment brings out more and multiple, different opinions and way of working.



Finally, we also saw a video about the European Citizens' Initiative, which serves as a bottom-up democratic tool for EU citizens to actively engage themselves by proposing legislation issues to the European Commission and the European Parliament. Not everyone was aware about this and found it very interested how they could also affect directly legislation in the EU!

Podcasts Development

Finally, we had to also develop our Podcasts, as part of expressing our experience on the Youth Exchange and also address the topics that we discussed and express through our arts in the past days.

- **Main idea:** Work in national teams to create a podcast, where everybody discussed their experience on this Erasmus+ project and talk about how democracy can be related with art.
- **Art used:** Podcast.
- **Things done:** Participants were divided into national teams, each team got questions to follow, but no strict structure, everybody could follow the flow and talk about other things as well relating to the main topic of project.



Podcasts, much like TikToks are a modern art and currently on the rise as they are easily accessible are getting more popular every day, because they are easy to access and listen to.



It was really easy working in national teams and express their experiences about Erasmus+ and Democracy through art, conversation was flowing and everyone felt open and free to talk. The fact that podcast was made in national teams, means, that it will have bigger impact on the results of this DemocrArt project.



Day
5

Street Performance

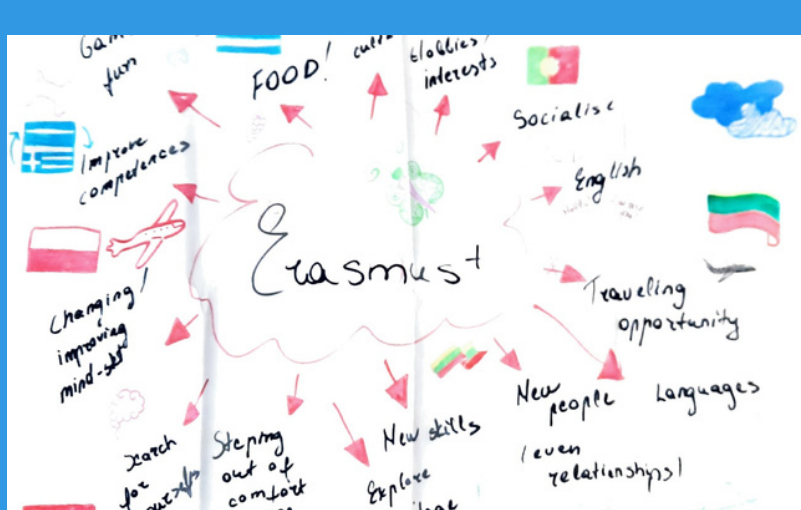
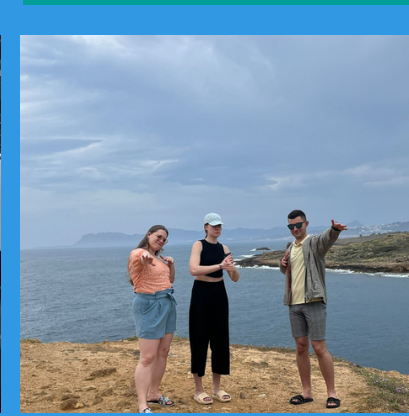
We spend the day at Chania and wanted to show our work to the locals. We started by showing the art pieces by gathering all together and taking pictures for memories. Later we did some interviews, with some locals and talked to them about European identity. But it was a good chance to get into touch with the original Cretans and discuss important topics for us.

- **Main idea:** For the participants to visit city of Chania and present and disseminate the outcomes of the project – Mural, creative writing, creations about Democracy. Participants interacted with locals and recorded their opinions on European identity and EU values.
- **Art used:** Street performance
- **Things done:** Participants gathered in the center of Chania, and presented the results of the activities. Got interviews from locals.




It was amazing to share with locals our experience, see their reactions and learn about their point of view.





Once upon a Time

there was a little boy named Europe. He lived in a small village with his family and friends. Afterwards, he started to explore the world around him and learned about the different cultures and traditions of neighboring villages. Moving on, Europe grew up and became curious about






Consortium



Do Great Things.
Latvia





FOR MORE ...

Check out our social media

Website: www.irtea.gr

Facebook: [@I.R.T.E.Agr](https://www.facebook.com/I.R.T.E.Agr)

Instagram: [@irtea.eu](https://www.instagram.com/irtea.eu)



Check out our LinkTree

