

New project for the Danube-Networkers: "Fit for Participation" – who is interested to join?

We are excited to announce the launch of the project **"Fit for Participation to foster Democracy in Europe"** funded by the State Ministry Baden-Württemberg, Germany, starting in January 2025. Aim is that young people and adults, especially older adults, reflect together where and how civic participation is needed and possible and what can be done to empower citizens to contribute actively to strengthen democracy and a peaceful and solidary Europe.

Who can join: The project will focus on two key groups: young people (ages 16-25) and adults, particularly older adults. In each participating country young and older individuals will form mixed-age groups to work together in analogue and online way. Each group will bring its own knowledge and experience, fostering intergenerational dialogue and active participation. We invite young and older individuals but also organizations from across the Danube region to take part in this exciting project and contribute to shaping the future of European democracy.

What is the project about: "Fit for Participation" is an innovative educational project designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of knowledge-based thinking, responsible actions, and the importance of media literacy, especially in combating disinformation. The project will explore civic participation, democracy, and how individuals can contribute to society at various levels—individually, institutionally, socially, and politically. It will support the development of key competencies, lifelong learning, and civic engagement.

It is a bottom-up project where participants will have the opportunity to learn about and experiment with various forms of civil society participation, both analog and digital, within the framework of the Danube-Networkers informal education network and develop and test project ideas. In light of current socio-political developments, this initiative is especially important for strengthening European awareness, community building, and networking within the Danube region and beyond.

Goal of the project: Through the project, we aim to raise awareness of available opportunities for participation, many of which are often underutilized or unknown. Through thematic online courses, participants will learn how to make the most of these opportunities using effective tools that will be provided. The project will bring together young and older individuals from different Danube countries to highlight the importance of participation—for the benefit of their own countries and a stronger Europe—encouraging them to get involved and utilize the opportunities they have.

Important to know: The project starts in January 2025 and will last until end of 2026. With online tools such as Zoom and ViMA danube the participants will meet regularly online but there will also be the opportunity for active participants to join in an international analogue meeting. A few of the project ideas developed by the participants will be supported by ILEU with a small sum of money in order to be able to implement them. Organizations who assemble a group in their city to work on the project will be supported with a small financial compensation.

Join us in this opportunity to learn, engage, and collaborate for a stronger, more inclusive Europe!

For more information and to sign up, please write us at info@ileu.net

Best regards

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