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**CAMILO
CASTELO
BRANCO**
agrupamento de escolas



RECOMMENDATION PROJECT

WE, the students identified below, from Portugal, Lithuania and Spain, of the Erasmus+ project "More Participatory Democracy, More Active Citizenship", gathered in committees and in general assembly, approve and present to school, municipal, national and European authorities this RECOMMENDATION PROJECT for

**FOSTER THE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG
PEOPLE AND CITIZENS IN GENERAL.**

GROUP I

Álvaro Castro (PT), Hugo Silva (PT), Iraia Solas (SP), Simão Costa (PT)

PREAMBLE

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 friendly, ally, democratic, european countries. This takes into account the need of young people among the decision makers all around the world, including our own schools, fostering the political participation of young people and citizens in general is absolutely necessary, and a responsibility of the EU, the Member-States, the Local Governements and the Schools.

Bearing in mind:

- a) The scarce participation of all students in schools in their civic, political or associative projects;
- b) The non-participation of students in much of the decision-making process about school activities;
- c) Excessive budgetary constraints on school clubs and associations composed exclusively of students;
- d) The lack of young people in local government bodies in the municipalities;
- e) The difficulty of older leaders to understand and, above all, to give priority to the problems of the young population and the non-resolution of which creates political apathy among the youth;
- f) The lack of young people in national government bodies and in advisory councils to the governments, legislative assemblies and heads of state;
- g) The political abstention of youth, especially in active participation in national political parties, where real change is most possible;
- h) The poor communication and its outreach between the European institutions, European political parties, and European youth, as reflected in youth apathy in the elections to the European Parliament;
- I) The lack of young people in european government bodies.

WE RECOMMEND:

- 1) The creation a common European Union school subject on politics, citizenship and associativism, taking into account values and with interactivity, with a common discussion forum platform where we could work together, debate and share experiences;

- 2) The establishment of a minimum amount per student to be converted into a budget for student associations;
 - 3) The promotion of internal referenda for students on matters of fractious decisions concerning them;
 - 4) The creation of minimum quotas in non-unipersonal political candidacies for young people (under 30), in local, national and european levels;
 - 5) The frequent listening to young people at municipal level, through joint meetings of the municipalities with youth associations, school and academic associations, and the youth political structures of the political parties;
 - 6) The implementation of compulsory voting throughout the European Union, with common penalties for those who unjustifiably fail to fulfil this civic duty;
 - 7) The creation of campaigns at national level to encourage political participation by creating or signing petitions;
 - 8) The creation of an elected European Youth Parliament, parallel to the European Parliament and with advisory status;
 - 9) The development of interactive programmes and games to encourage youth political learning and practice.
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GROUP II

Eduardo Domingos (PT), Janire Lezameta (SP), Beatriz Faria (PT)

PREAMBLE

Europe has been, for the past few centuries, a center of innovation and culture. We have represented what mankind should aim for, in so being, the closest to a modern Utopia. But how are we supposed to innovate, to move forward as a society, if it's always the same people and ideals who define our future? We usually say "Oh, this country doesn't change." or "It's always the same political party who's winning". That happens because it's always the same people who vote. Normally elder generations who, for one reason or another, identify with what some politician defends or used to. Our youth lacks the notion of how important politics are. They are our future so, how can we help them understand how dangerously closer we are to a Dystopia than to a Utopia?

WE RECOMMEND:

Our youth lacks, mainly, knowledge. So, let's start with schools, a place where they can get the knowledge they need. Students could have a more defined and regularized political education project. Portugal, for example, has the PRESSE project (a project that aims to teach teens more about their health and bodies), our schools could implement a similar project related to politics and their importance. And, for those who want to learn more, schools could organize some lectures with local politicians, or representatives of political parties where they would explain what ideologies they defend. Besides knowledge, students lack responsibility. One way for them to develop that responsibility is through small voting's like "what will next week's food be" or "what activities will next term have". Small voting's without any major consequences can improve our sense of responsibility and get students used with the idea of voting.

After learning everything necessary for their democratic lives, students should have the opportunities to actually feel involved in politics, and there's nowhere better for it than our local political associations. Every city has monthly assemblies, if a section of that assembly were open to public, our youth could have a sense of what actually happens with our country and society. There could also be public debates, in the middle of local parks or important locations, so not only our youth, but the population in general could experience firsthand what happens in the parliament.

Having contacted democracy teens could get the chance to participate in national debate competitions. By winning there, they would get the chance to move to an

European competition, where the winner gets a travel around Europe. But we must also remember that our youth is not just teens. Small children are, like our teens, the future of our nations. So, we should demystify politics, show younger generations that politics aren't necessarily adult-only things. One way to do this would be to create some sort of TV show where kids get their first contact with basic political concepts.

Europe itself could create some activities or projects for our youth. Besides that European debate competition, E.U. could fund some sort of game where the main character is a starting politician, the game could be voiced by actual politicians and based on their lives. This could help our youth understand that politicians are like us. Even though some are born with titles, like kings and queens, most of them aren't.

By implementing some of these ideas our youth could understand the importance of democracy and politics in our lives and keep Europe as a global standard for innovation and culture.

GROUP III

Ane Larrañaga (SP), Inês Gonçalves (PT), Ana Correia (PT), João Campos (PT), Filipa Silva (PT)

PREAMBLE

Do teenagers, actually, care about politics and participating on it? Since they can't actually participate in our countries and European elections, they have been trying to find ways to feel like they are listened, even if it's only at school. In Camilo Castelo Branco High School, per example, there were elections for the Students Association and the percentage of participation was around 70%, which proves that the majority of the students do actually show interest in voting and standing up for what they believe it's better. In contrast, Urbi BHI High School does not have any elections or a council that represents the students at the school so, we believe that this has some relation to teenagers not showing interest in voting in the future. School should teach us the importance of democracy and the importance of suffrage.

WE RECOMMEND:

PROPOSALS

In order to make the teenagers recognize the importance of the democratic value that is the universal suffrage, we are going to present proposals for schools, on a local level, a national level and, last but not least, on an European level.

IN SCHOOL

- Having debates at school about political and social issues;
- Election simulations when there are elections on the country, following the official procedures so students can learn what to do and what to bring once they are old enough to vote;
- Create a club where the students can learn and discuss about politics since a lot of this students don't learn important aspects and the differences of the political parties that are available.

LOCALLY

- Create an assembly for younger people;
- Workshops about politics with the city mayor;
- Political parades.

NATIONALLY

- Allowing 16 years old vote in local elections;
- Youth political campaigns;
- Electing a teen representative nationally.

IN EUROPE

- Create an universal educational plan about politics that all countries must follow;
- More projects such as Erasmus, Euroscola and Youth Parliament;
- Make a programme that allows other countries to learn about each political system.

GROUP IV

Irati Vela Barragán (SP), Urté Pauliukėnaitė (LT), Ana Beatriz Teixeira (PT)

PREAMBLE

In the XXIst century, many teenagers have lost interest in politics, and are not motivated to do such thing. The majority of young people do not know the importance of politics and the impact it has on the community. Not everybody can distinguish the difference between different regimes and political parties, and as we know they do not keep up with the news and do not know what is happening in the political world. That is something we all must work on and change the perspective of youth to create a better future. To make a difference in the longer term, it is essential that young people are engaged in formal political processes and have a say in formulating today's and tomorrow's politics. Inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but also is crucial to build stable and peaceful societies.

WE RECOMMEND:

Our proposals to promote political participation in youth:

A. IN SCHOOL

- We suggest creating clubs about politics in school. Students could express their opinions and learn about different political topics.
- Schools should promote voting for school elections more. This way students would learn about the responsibility of voting for the candidates.
- History lessons should be established for everybody, focusing on the politics. If the students learn about what happened in the past, they could avoid making the same mistakes in the political world.

B. LOCAL LEVEL

- We should create interschool debates where students from different schools' debate with the other school from the town.
- Our recommendation is to create events about politics for youth, this way they can participate and contribute in politics while they also learn about it.

- Make monthly meetings to discuss and to present ideas about what we should change in our town, this way we can come up with solutions to the problems.

C. NATIONAL LEVEL

- We recommend creating an event for students who are the most interested in political life to talk about some subjects that are important in our country.
- Select the best students in the local debates to compete nationally.
- Organize meetings with the president of each country to discuss different political topics.

D. EUROPEAN LEVEL

- The trips should be organized to different countries' political institutions to learn about their system (eg. European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, etc.)
- To make international meetings with youth from different countries to discuss controversial issues.
- To organize assemblies with young representatives of each European country to discuss problems and give solutions for them.

GROUP V

Leire Crespo Barrena (SP), Gerda Andriulytė (LT), Rita Silva (PT)

PREAMBLE

It's each day more important for young people to be involved in politics because they are the future, so the laws being created influence them even more than they influence older people, who have new and better ideas about the political matters of the world from the younger side of the population.

WE RECOMMEND:

The main issues surrounding the lack of participation of young people in politics are:

1. In the schools, not enough information is given to the students to serve as motivation to start being active in the political life.

2. When the students do speak on important matters, they are not heard by the administration or the teachers, most times.
3. There are not enough resources for students to express their thoughts about politics and to learn more about the political parties that exist in their countries.
4. On a local level, it's very difficult to be in contact with powerful people, even if they aren't from far away.
5. Young people are not invited to political events.
6. The government doesn't give financial support to youth politics and ideas.
7. Not enough countries have clubs to discuss political ideas among young people.
8. In politics programmes the collaborators are always old people, so they do not consider young people opinion.

2A

1. They should give us more information about the political things and do tests about that.
2. Need to create a 15-minute break between lessons and during that time at school talk about politics, play games related to politics.
3. Include a lesson on political affairs and teach the students.

2B

4. Promote more events and invite a young people there.
5. The city council should promote political experiences to the youngest, such as the experience of being "president for a day" and provide visits.
6. Disseminating information about the policy on social networks, as this will make more people aware of it.

2C

7. Clubs need to be set up in each country to tell young people about politics and allow them to interact.
8. Government should promote young participation in political programmes on the TV and radio.
9. Must allow young people to observe all elections.

2D

10. Europe should fund and promote visits to the European Parliament, and other parliaments in Europe, to instill a taste for politics.
11. Must involve as many countries as possible through Erasmus+.
12. People belonging to the European assembly should visit different countries and give lectures to young people on how European politics works.

GRUPO VI

João Cunha (PT), Nerija Ričkutė (LT), Aitor Muñoz (SP)

PREAMBLE

Nowadays, the government and the politics don't integrate youth in important political matters. Because of that, the young absence is getting very high. Young generation doesn't have access to information about how politics works. This topic is important because through active participation, young people are empowered to play a vital role in their own development as well as in that of their communities, helping them to learn vital life-skills, develop knowledge on human rights and citizenship and to promote positive civic action. In this way, we are presenting solutions to this problem.

WE RECOMMEND:

IN SCHOOL:

1. Integrate a school council once a week mandatory in every European school
2. Integrate a mandatory subject for every high school student regarding human rights, law, economics, and political matters worldwide.
3. Creating Erasmus+ projects that involves politicians instead of teachers.

LOCAL LEVEL:

1. "I know what I am voting for" where politicians introduce themselves to young s of people and present the differences between the EU parties.
2. Creating an association where people can propose their ideas to eventually be discussed in the local assembly.
3. In each city, there should be created an assembly made of parties with young people.

NACIONAL LEVEL:

1. To approve the access to youth to create a petition to approve or disapprove controversial matters regarding young people.
2. To have access to volunteer in political programmes, organizations, helping youth to learn new skills, gain political responsibility, to develop appropriate attitudes and values and to develop knowledge of citizenship and democracy.
3. Broadcast live meetings of politicians, so the young would gain access to be involved in the political matters.

EUROPEAN LEVEL:

1. Creating more Erasmus+ projects regarding countries with different political regimes.
2. School trips to the EU parliaments (Brussels and Strasbourg) to talk to deputies.
3. Creating online meetings for students to discuss problems that Europe is facing nowadays.

With this recommendation we hope to have more students involved in European political matters and help the EU assembly to fight these problems.

GROUP VII

Letícia Ferreira (PT), Carolina Gonçalves (PT), Viktorija Jonuskaite (LT), Alan Rodero (SP)

PREAMBLE

Is there the death of politics among young people?

It's not always easy for young people to take part in the political life of their city, country or the world. There are some reasons for that. For instance, the lack of information, the age difference between politicians and youngsters. Moreover, young people do not believe in politicians, they all look the same and politics looks too boring. They do not see the point because they should be active in political life. A great example of this was the fact that this week, less people attended to the debate than to the party, which proves that young people are not interested in politics and prefer to do other things.

Our goal is to change this situation. That's why we are presenting some measures that might mitigate this problem.

WE RECOMMEND:

2 A. What do schools can do to improve the youngster participation in politics?

- There should be more debates during our lessons. As a result, students will be involved in discussing about important problems and they will be a part of political life.
- The civic education program should be improved. There should be more political topics so students would be informed about politics
- Create a new subject only for political matters "History and politician"

2 B. WHAT CAN BE DONE IN LOCAL LEVEL?

- There should be more debates of politicians and also of usual people
- Political topics should be brought in daily life
- Better marketing of politicians

2 C. WHAT CAN BE DONE NATIONALLY?

- The government should give more opportunities to young politicians, so the age gap decreases
- Lower the age for those who can be in the parliament, be president of the republic, prime minister, etc
- Politicians should be more worried about the young people opinion and listen to them since they are a part of the society and have some great and innovative ideas

2 D. WHAT CAN BE DONE IN EUROPE?

- More Erasmus+ projects focusing on political topics
- European parliament members should give more attention to young people
- Visiting European political institutions should be available for more people

GROUP VIII

Eduardo Miguel da Costa Pereira de Sousa (PT), Nicole Vaz Kohn (PT), Ehari Rodríguez Cearence (SP), Aida Ridikaitė (LT)

PREAMBULE

Nowadays, youth is not invested in politics as they should be and unfortunately for many reasons, such as: the complexity of politics and the many concepts that are in the middle, it makes hard to instigate curiosity. We need to understand that young minds need some sort of stimulation, being it a reward or just a fun environment.

Having people about the same age in one project is more interesting than only adults because it gives the idea that is fun, easy, and not intimidating. Thinking about it, we suggest some solutions for it: government meetings and legislation, voting and etc.

WE RECOMMEND:

PROPOSALS

SCHOOLS

- Improvement of civic education, not only in the social subjects but in politics as well. Can give youth awareness from local, national, and worldwide situations, improve the knowledge of how politics work:
- Creation of contests, projects, political clubs that includes quizzes, contests, debates, and other activities

CITY

- Organizations/projects that turn politics into something interesting for young people, because as said, noting that don't seem appealing it won't catch young's
- Having political parties explaining what they represent, what they fight for and what they want to change. Could be trough media like Instagram or twitter in an accessible language that can still transmit the message.

NATIONAL

- National channels that broadcast debates, political parties objectives, etc. In many countries this type of thing doesn't exist at all, and this leads to dangerous governments, like dictatorships.

- National contests that gives the chance to the winners to go the capital with at least the tickets paid, work or doing activities that instigate political critical thinking amongst youth. Not only gives knowledge but also allows people to create memories and bonds.

EUROPE

- Erasmus+ European Union should sponsor more Erasmus+ projects, so more youth can have the chances to participate. Having a chance to meet other people that share different ideas, have other ideologies and provisions can encourage others to participate in political activities and be more interested in democracy.

GROUP IX

Clara Martins (PT), Emilija Najulytė (LT), Sara Pereira (PT)

PREAMBLE

Nowadays, the topic of youth participation in politics is controversial on whether it is decreasing a lot or still active. Nevertheless, we are all living difficult times, where there is still so much to change in the world and the future is upon young people. To assure that "The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow", it is preponderant to develop and figure out ways of improving and upgrading youth participation in politics and active citizenship. Hence, we seek to propose measures to reach the goal above not only school wise, but also locally, nationally and in Europe.

WE RECOMMEND:

In School

Firstly, as education is key whenever a problem is to be fought, we recommend schools to organize discussions and debates with a certain frequency about several themes. There are a lot of topics where young people can have a powerful opinion on and interest in, topics that affect them directly or indirectly on daily basis, and youth perspectives might change the government way of perceiving those problematics. Furthermore, debates help people to be more open and understanding to other people's opinion.

In addition, it would be important for schools to give a big recognition to students who take part in projects such as Erasmus+, eTwinning or Euroscola, which are international projects which require a great deal of research, individual effort, and teamwork. Moreover, students gain a lot of knowledge and a more valid and solid opinion about their surroundings. With an important recognition, youth would be more motivated to participate in these non-formal curriculum activities, developing their critical sense.

Lastly, organizing regular workshops with active citizens would make students with a better perception on how politics is actually in practice, and it would help them to create basis on an upcoming political life, and they would widen their horizons.

Locally

It would be interesting for city councils to encourage and let young people organize their own political events making them get out of their comfort zones when independently organizing it and not feel pressured to please any political party while stating their opinion.

Also, there could be monthly political summits in the city, each time a different main topic, where there would be workshops and lectures with national and international politicians or active citizens and experts on that topic. This would strengthen the relationship between active adult citizens and the youth that are part of those summits, persuading them to keep concerned about political issues long term.

Lastly, we recommend city radios to create regular programs featuring local young people, talking about current issues and concerns, about their achievements in active citizenship and goals for the future as part of their country and Europe. This would encourage listeners to be as active as these figures and start a bigger role in political life from a tender age.

National

Nationwide, we would like to see periodical organization of councils in national assemblies composed of national students' body's representatives, in which youth can expose problems and possible solutions to the government and give feedback in how laws affect the youth.

Additionally, organizing yearly manifestations about a nationwide dedicated topic of discussion that youth want to bring attention to would be really helpful. The organizing city should rotate each year to give opportunity to all the young people of the country participate and express their thoughts in a more social way.

Lastly, instead of sharing basically all information on the internet, there could be the increase of billboards created and designed about political events in each country. This

would lead to reaching a bigger audience of people, specifically older generations who are not so active on social platforms and who could be interested in helping youth understand the topics they are discussing.

European

As Europeans, it is really important for the countries to take the chance of growing together in politics. Therefore, we recommend the European Union to organize weekly online meetings that would consist of interviews of people part of the European Commission, European Parliament and the European Council, as well as from other EU structures. Encouraging the countries to disclose these initiatives, there would be a lot of adhesion and an increase in the interest of students to even work in these facilities, developing active citizenship.

Furthermore, another idea would also be creating a TV European channel where the scheduled programs would not only be managed by youth interested in active citizenship and politics but also the people shown in TV would be young. This would raise the active young people's exposure in the world, motivating the youth watching it to be as active as them and form opinions on the issues discussed.

Lastly, we recommend the EU to create a permanent network for students who get integrated in projects like Erasmus+, to keep them exchanging information on political topics and keep them up with each other's countries measures and events, even after months and years of their mobilities. That way, they would not stop their work and concerns after the year they started the project but could voluntarily attend the events this online network would provide and share their opinions and views on the themes of them.

GROUP X

Maria Barbosa (PT), Smiltė Gesaitytė (LT), João Pedro Teles (PT)

PREAMBLE

The Europe is a place fulfilled with respect and union. All member states should proportionate perfect conditions to their population. Young people are the future of European democracy, and they are not being enough heard. Our wants to provide a better future for Europe and that must start with our youth.

Having in mind that political participation among young people is getting less common due to:

- a. Lack of interest since politicians are directing their ideas to older people and forgetting about modern politics.
- a. Lack of information because fake news are getting more and more usual and young people don't have much access to what's currently happening around the political world.
- a. Young people not being heard when they want to give their opinion about political issues.
- a. Not having enough funds for clubs, organizations, and associations to help them have more conditions to improve active citizenship.
- a. Not having young people on governmental bodies.

WE RECOMMEND:

Regarding these issues and aiming to improve the conditions previously said, our team recomend:

2a) Calls upon the schools to create more interactive activities to catch the student's attention and increase their participation; Spread those activities in a more attractive way and give their students the opportunity to organize events, workshops or interviews and help them with what they need.

2b) Urges Local municipalities to promote events with the city administrators; use social media in a more proper way to reach more young people and give them the chance to achieve information and give their opinion when participation in local meetings.

2c) Appeals to the National government to decrease traditional politics and make them more appealing to youth; Broadcast events that occur in the Assembly so that people can get informed and see what they are discussing; During Assembly meetings, have

special places for young people so in that way they can express their opinions about the discussed topics.

2d) Proposes European Commission to create and improve organizations that would work with politics among young people; create a hashtag that young people could use to discuss politics; create a direct bond between the organizations and the EU where the conclusions and concerns of young people could get to someone that could try to fix them.

Vila Nova de Famalicão, 14 May 2022
The students from the Erasmus+ project

Euromus + CS - More Participatory Democracy, More active citizenship

Signatures:

Simas Azevedo Costa

Hugo Joel Monteiro da Silva

Alvaro Gil Azevedo Veiros de Castro

Iraia Solas Perez

Maria Carolina Nunes Gonçalves

Leícia Pinto Ferreira

Viktorija Jonuškaitė

Abm Rodrigo Pardo

Beatriz Azevedo Faria

Eduardo de Sousa e Proel Domingos

Janire Lezameta Pozo

Filipa Araújo da Silva

Ana Rafaela Oliveira Correia

João Pedro Costa Campos

Aue Larrañaga Cereceda

Imês Rodrigues Gomesalves

Irati Vela Barragán

Ute Pauliukinaite

Ama Beatriz Timoco Cardoso Teixeira

Leire Ciespo Barriena

Geeda Andriulyte

Rita Costa Da Silva

Ana Margarida Silva Martins

João Pedro Silva

Smilte Gesaityte

Barbosa

Beatriz Oliveira da Silva

Elara Sofia Fernandes Martins

Emilija Najulytė

Sara Faria Pereira

Edvardo Miguel do Costo Perceiro do Sousa

Aida Ridičaitė

Elari Rodriguez Cearense

Nicole Vaz Kohn

AITOR MONTE VEGA

Merija Rikūtė

João Carlos Correia de Vasconcelos Campos Cunha

Mariana Pereira da Costa