EUPHORIA

CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE

Afeji Hauts-de-France

TOUTES LES VIES ONT LA MÊME VALEUR

AFEJI

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Introduction

EUphoria is a 24-month Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in the youth field dedicated to supporting the civic, social, and educational integration of Ukrainian young people displaced by the war. The project responds to the urgent need to create inclusive spaces where displaced youth can rebuild a sense of belonging, develop new skills, and actively engage in their host communities.

Through non-formal learning activities and innovative digital tools, EUphoria promotes European civic values, intercultural dialogue, solidarity, and inclusion. The project creates opportunities for young people to reflect on democratic participation, cultural diversity, and shared European principles in a safe and empowering environment.

EUphoria brings together youth workers, vulnerable youths aged 15–18, and partner organisations across Europe. By fostering collaboration, peer learning, and active participation, the project strengthens mutual understanding and supports young people in becoming confident, engaged citizens who can actively contribute to democratic life.

EUPHORIA

Overall ↘

Objective of the Workshops

The workshops aimed to promote and actively share core EU civic values such as democracy, human rights, solidarity, equality, inclusion and respect for diversity. Through inclusive and participatory learning environments, the activities encouraged young people to explore what these values mean in their daily lives and how they can be applied within their communities.

A key objective was also to foster meaningful intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding through engaging, non-formal civic education methods. Through group discussions, collaborative tasks, games, creative exercises, slam, drawing, music and digital tools, participants were encouraged to exchange perspectives, challenge stereotypes and build respectful relationships across different backgrounds.

The workshops were initially designed for young people aged 15 to 18, with a specific focus on Ukrainian youth, in line with the overall objectives of the EUPHORIA project. However, in the local French context, it proved difficult to mobilise Ukrainian young people despite the efforts made. As a result, most of the activities were implemented with local young people supported by socio-educational structures. Nevertheless, one Ukrainian young participant took part in the intercultural music workshop, which helped maintain a direct link with the project's priority target group.

The workshops also aimed to empower young people to become active civic actors. By strengthening their confidence, critical thinking and communication skills, participants were supported in understanding their rights and responsibilities, expressing their views and reflecting on issues that matter to them at local, national and European levels.

Finally, the initiative contributed to strengthening the capacity of youth workers and professionals working with vulnerable young people. By equipping them with practical tools, participatory methods and intercultural approaches, the workshops supported more inclusive youth work practices and stronger community engagement.

CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE

Discovering and embracing the values of the European Union can inspire us to make better decisions, respect others, and contribute positively to our communities

WORKSHOP 1 – INTERCULTURAL MUSIC WORKSHOP

DATE: 18.02.2026 | DURATION: 4 HOUR | PARTICIPANTS: 44 INCLUDING 32 YOUNG PEOPLE | PLATFORM: IN PERSON

This workshop used music as a way to encourage intercultural dialogue and creative expression. Young people discovered French and international music, attended a short musical performance, and explored different instruments in a real music studio.
For many participants, it was their first time entering a studio and trying musical instruments. The activity created a friendly and inclusive space where young people could express themselves, listen to others, discover new cultural references and build confidence through a shared musical experience.
One Ukrainian young participant also took part in the workshop, helping to maintain a direct link with the project's priority target group.

"Music helped us discover new cultures, try new instruments, and share a moment together."





CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE





WORKSHOP 2 – INTERCULTURALITY AND EU VALUES

DATE: 19.02.2026 | DURATION: 2 HOURS | PARTICIPANTS: 8 | LOCATION: MECS OF DUNKERQUE

This workshop was designed to help young people discover the values of the European Union in a simple and accessible way. Values such as solidarity, equality, democracy, inclusion and respect for human rights were introduced through concrete examples and group discussions.

To make the activity more interactive, participants used a card game where they had to match each EU value with its definition. This helped them understand concepts that can sometimes feel distant or difficult to relate to.

Afterwards, the young people were invited to choose one value and represent it through a drawing. This creative moment allowed them to express what these values meant to them personally.

The workshop showed that EU values can be easier to understand when they are connected to young people's daily lives, experiences and own ways of expression.



Learning results achieved:

- Better understanding of the main EU values
- Ability to connect these values with everyday life
- More confidence in expressing ideas through discussion and drawing

"I didn't know that European values could be linked to everyday life.."



CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE

Active citizenship starts with small actions: when we share ideas, work together and take responsibility, we can create positive change in our communities.

WORKSHOP 3 - ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

DATE: 11.03.2026 | DURATION: 2 HOURS | PARTICIPANTS: 12 | LOCATION: DITEP OF LOUVROIL

During this workshop, the young people used slam to talk about who they are and how they see the world around them. It was a space where they could finally put words to what they feel, what they go through and sometimes to things that aren't so easy to say out loud.
Step by step, through writing and speaking, they found their own way to share something personal and real. But the workshop wasn't just about expressing yourself it was also about learning to truly listen to others, and realizing that even when everyone carries a different story, every voice is worth hearing.
What this experience showed, above all, is that civic engagement doesn't have to start with grand gestures. Sometimes it begins simply with speaking up, with sharing what you live, and with feeling maybe for the first time that what you say actually matters.

"It helped me say things that are not always easy to say.."







WORKSHOP 4 – ENVIRONMENT / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION 1

DATE: 14.04.2026 | DURATION: 2 HOURS | PARTICIPANTS: 6 | LOCATION: DITEP OF THE UNION IN TOURCOING

This workshop invited young people to take a step back and think about the environment not as an abstract issue, but as something directly connected to their everyday lives and choices. Through open discussions and the use of the Gagèn app, they explored topics that actually affect all of us: waste, recycling, responsible behaviour, and the idea that what we do individually has a collective impact.

The activity was kept intentionally simple and hands-on, so that participants could genuinely connect environmental questions to their own habits and experiences rather than feeling like they were sitting through a lecture. Because the goal wasn't just to inform, but to make young people feel concerned and empowered.

Along the way, they also came to see that caring for the environment isn't separate from being an engaged citizen. On the contrary ,it's one of the most concrete ways to live out values like responsibility, solidarity, and participation, values that sit at the very heart of what Europe stands for.





CIVIC EDUCATION WORKSHOPS IN FRANCE

The workshops aimed to empower young people to become active and responsible citizens by developing their understanding of civic engagement, democratic values and community involvement.

WORKSHOP 5 - ENVIRONMENT / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION 2

DATE: 15.04.2026 | DURATION: 2 HOURS | PARTICIPANTS: 10 | LOCATION: DITEP OF GRAVELINES

This second environmental workshop picked up where the first left off diving deeper into eco-citizenship, this time through practical examples and digital activities. The Gagèn app once again proved to be a great way to make the topic feel accessible and relevant, especially by drawing clear links between big environmental challenges and the small, everyday choices we all make.
What stood out about this workshop was its tone: playful, concrete, and never preachy. It showed that talking about the environment doesn't have to feel heavy or overwhelming. And naturally, those conversations opened the door to something bigger a reflection on what it means to be a citizen today, and on the values of responsibility and solidarity that we share as Europeans.

"I realised that small actions can also help protect the environment.."









WORKSHOP 6 – CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND COMPETENCES

DATE: 01.06.2026 | DURATION: 1 HOURS | PARTICIPANTS: 1 | LOCATION: ONLINE

This online workshop was built around a simple but important idea: the European Union isn't just a distant institution it can show up in very real, very practical ways in everyday professional life, particularly through the projects it supports at a local level.

To bring that idea to life, the session walked participants through what it actually means to work as a European project officer. Not in abstract terms, but concretely collaborating with partners, organising activities on the ground, staying aligned with project goals, writing reports, and sharing results with the wider community. The kind of work that quietly holds a lot of meaningful initiatives together.

By the end, the EU felt a little less abstract and a little more human something you can actually be part of, contribute to, and build a professional path around, right from where you are.

"I understood better how European projects can have an impact on local actions."

Conclusion ↘

The national workshops organised by AFEJI successfully promoted civic engagement, intercultural understanding and European values among young people. Through non-formal, experiential and participatory methods, participants developed key competences such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking and social responsibility. The activities created meaningful opportunities for dialogue, cultural exchange and reflection on topics such as democracy, human rights, environmental protection and active citizenship.
By mixing creative and participatory approaches with topics that actually matter to young people, the activities gave participants a space to speak freely, listen genuinely, and think about who they are and where they fit in the world. The results spoke for themselves young people left with more confidence, a stronger sense of belonging, and a clearer sense of what being an active citizen can mean in practice.

More broadly, the experience was a reminder that non-formal education is one of the most powerful tools we have for inclusion, intercultural dialogue and youth empowerment. And that making European citizenship feel real and meaningful starts with meeting young people exactly where they are.

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