HI TECH DEMOCRATS
Training course 19th March - 23rd March 2018
Brescia – Italy

PROJECT N. 2017-2-IT03-KA105-011234
ANG - AGENZIA NAZIONALE GIOVANI

HI TECH DEMOCRATS is a project that was held in March 2018 aimed at youth workers of organizations and associations involved in the youth world from 13 different European Countries. This project was funded by the Italian ANG, (the National Erasmus + Youth Agency) with funds from the European Community and organized by Mistral Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, which has been supporting and coordinating projects in the field of youth mobility for more than10 years. The project was the realization of a course to broaden and deepen the knowledge of democracy, providing youth workers with the skills and competencies necessary to face the democratic disconnection using innovative techniques and looking for those digital means that motivate young people to participate. actively online. Communication techniques combined with social media have been developed that inspire young people to be active citizens and to share effective online tools, trying to involve people in democratic processes as much as possible. During two intercultural evenings the participants deepened their knowledge of their respective countries, of the different traditions, proposed some national dishes, dances and songs. In their free time, the participants visited some places in Brescia, such as the historic center of Brescia, Lake Garda, Sirmione and the Moraine Hills of the lower Garda area and they also tasted wine and local products.

For further information and to deepen the themes of the project
facebook page of the project   https://www.facebook.com/hitechdemocrats/
Mistral's facebook page   https://www.facebook.com/mistralcoopbs/
and the following websites :

- http://www.mistralcoop.eu/
- http://www.iluoghidelsociale.it/
- https://issuu.com/mistralcoopsociale/docs/hi-tech_democrats
- http://www.youthpoint.eu/

- some results of the project -

DEMOCRATIC APPLICATION

Participants have prepared a presentation of one democratic application that has been created to engage young people in civic life.

Below the findings

DemocracyOS

DemocracyOS is an online space for deliberation and voting on political proposals. It is a platform for a more open and participatory government. The software aims to stimulate better arguments and come to better rulings, as peers.

http://democracyos.org

How it works: Propose Create your DemocracyOS in a click. Build proposals and be the change you want to see. Debate Debate in a platform that rewards the best arguments and filters that noise that usually ends up calling the trolls. Vote With a clear deadline, get everyone on board to reach a voted decision and avoid endless debates.

Change.org (Platform for change)

Change.org is the fastest growing social change platform in the world, empowering more than 100 million people to create change in their communities. The app wake up every day knowing that our work is changing lives – helping kids to stop bullying in schools, communities to protect wilderness from mining, and citizens to hold corrupt officials to account. On Change.org everyone from everywhere could start campaigns, mobilizing supporters, and working with decision makers to drive solutions. More than 100 million people in 196 countries are creating change in their communities throughChange.org.
https://www.change.org/about

E-residency platform

Become a citizen online! "e-Residency offers to every world citizen a government-issued
digital identity and the opportunity to run a trusted company online, unleashing the **world's entrepreneurial potential.**" **The Republic o**f Estonia is the first country to offer e-Residency — a transnational digital identity available to anyone in the world interested in administering a location-independent business online. e-Residency additionally enables secure and convenient digital services that facilitate credibility and trust online.

https://e-resident.gov.ee/become-an-e-resident/

Name of the application: Idea Prism

You are in need of taking a serious decision? Do you have more than one person who has an opinion about the issue you are discussing? Do you wish to engage your friends or whoever is a stakeholder in an open, structured, democratic deliberation to take together the more wise decision? Idea Prism was designed to harness the collective intelligence and collective wisdom of groups. It equips anyone with the ability to launch a virtual dialogue. All you need is to give your dialogue a name, enter a smart triggering question to stimulate the discussion, and invite others to participate. Members of your dialogue may contribute ideas in the form of single-sentence statements, and subsequently add one or two paragraphs as clarification. They can also shoot short videos right from their device and upload a lively clarification to the cloud for others to consider. The App allows participants to ask questions, request further clarifications, choose ideas according to perceived importance, desirability, feasibility etc. Furthermore, it applies interpretative structural modeling to support participants to compare their ideas according to the influence they exert on each other and thus collectively construct influence maps. More importantly, using patent-pending parallel interpretative structural modeling algorithms, it allows individual maps of ideas to be overlaid mathematically thus harnessing collective wisdom.

http://www.ekkotek.com/index.php/products/wisdom-tools/idea-prism

http://www.ekkotek.com/index.php/products/wisdom-tools/cogniscope3

LOOMIO App

https://www.loomio.org

App where groups practicing can be effective and inclusive decision-making can change organisational dynamics at a global scale. Loomio exists to make it easy for anyone, anywhere, to participate in decisions that affect their lives. With the right collaborative process, groups generate better ideas, decisions and actions than any individual would by themselves. The Loomio Co-operative aims to break down the barriers to participation in decision-making at every level: in neighbourhoods, community organisations, businesses, social movements, and local and national governance.

Idea Drop

About the app: Using this app, you can capture the brightest ideas from everyone and everywhere. Idea Drop makes it easier for all participants included in a discussion or lively interactive debate to share fresh insight, improvements and ideas of a given issue. Thanks to the comment function can anyone introduce his point of view, agree or disagree with certain problematic and/or drop his/her own idea. IDEA DROP is a simple mind sharing gadget that you will quickly find interesting and useful.

http://ideadrop.co/

Civic Alert

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ionicframework.ionic191885

Civic Alert was created to facilitate contact between citizens and public administrations. Whenever you want to refer any complaint, complaint, petition, complaint, proposal or initiative that is related to civic and public space, you can do this in less than 30 seconds, following three simple steps: 1) Take a picture of the problem 2) Specify the location of the problem 3) Select a relevant category for the situation

DemAlert

Democracy Alert (also DemAlert App) is an innovative smartphone/tablet application designed to identify and map breaches of democratic values in Europe, but also point out democratic progress. The application monitors the situation concerning democratic values and civil liberties, giving users the opportunity to report any breach they witness. All so-- called DemAlerts will be collected, organised and visualized through the application, mainly through the hashtag #DemAlert.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/detailsid=com.goodrequest.demalert&hl=lv

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDh8JyDDWo8/

Patch it

Application ZAKRPAJ.to (eng. PATCH.it) is a modern and effective tool for records/data management applications and utilities problems that works according to the principle: we hear our citizens, we listen to our citizens, we solve the problem. All requests (potholes, abandoned vehicles, broken lamps street lighting, graffiti, broken benches in the park, broken branches, etc.) are visible utilities and all visitors to the web service ZAKRPAJ.to can see them. The competent authorities may have a better record of all applications, and citizens have insight into the dynamics of solving their own, but also all other applications.

https://www.zakrpaj.to/

LiquidFeedback

LiquidFeedback is an open-source software, powering internet platforms for proposition development and decision making
http://www.liquidfeedback.org
Promo video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX_Ig0yYFcg/

iCitizen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BUI9KfqSgk/
iCitizen is one of the best app to keep track of political issues (elections, women rights, the economy, budget ceiling, and more) that matter to you and voice your opinions and thoughts directly to your elected officials.

Hi-Tech-Democrats TC Interviews

The participants of the training Hi-tech democrats have been interviewed by the end of the training, below you can find their responses, enjoy!

1.Which were, in your opinion, the three most attractive aspects of this training course? (in terms of activities, participants, trainers, environment). Please discuss.

-Firstly I would like to say thank you to the host organization and the trainer who is very good and friendly trainer.

Whole project was in a hotel in Brescia, where we enjoyed our time together (not only during activities but also during free time), and it made participant more close and open to each other.

We were really good group, we had a lot of fun during activities and during our whole stay in Brescia.
TC was made very good in a way, that we know already before TC, what kind ofactivities, sessions we will have and we were able to prepare for them already at home, and have then very good conversations during those activities.

The training session with Angelos - It was very active and efficient discussions about e-voting systems where we had to take sites and argument our point of view. 2. Discussions to various topics during the training. All participants were very active and eager to prove their opinion 3. Intercultural night which was full of fun and joys.

-The atmosphere participants and trainers were great, the dynamic of the group encouraged the working atmosphere and all the t.c. activities felt right and provoke a thinking process.

-Activities and workshops were very well planned and held, atmosphere was very relaxed but also very professional. The trainers were really into the topic, they had enough experience and knowledge to show us the key problems and reasons why the topic is important. I really liked that everybody from participants and also the trainers wanted to participate in discussion and they also had no problems with saying their opinions on topic.

-Trainings were not only theoretical, bet also practical, with the help of role plays and other games we managed to make wide discussions. All the participants and also trainers were open minded to discussions and expressing opinion that made parleys qualitative and active.

-Cultural night, the lesson about e-voting and the practical activities.

-The participation ladder helped me create a mental model of level of involvement in democratic processes and see at what step my home country is. 2. The Debate about voting because it created a real opportunity to think about this system and understand how we can improved it. 3. The participants which were actively involved and shared knowledge

-The group was really open-minded. Activities were well thought of Place of the training course

-1) Innovative ideas for promoting democracy 2) Opinions from different point of view since the participants were from different countries of the EU 3) Friendly environment and well-constructed brain storming situations

2.Do you believe the appropriate e-skills of youth workers could activate young people to involve in democratic matters? Please discuss.

-The great contribution to our training was the workshop focused on e-voting system. E-voting system is really easy to use and works already in Estonia. Many different e-skills can motivate young people to take part in democratic matters and transform them to active citizens using modern devices and technologies.

-Yes, because many youngsters prefer to do things online and if they master the e-skills it can enhance their concern for democratic matters.

-I strongly believe that current young people live in technological age, when everything is fast moving and youth workers need to be flexible to approach the needs of youth and to be on the same wake. That would make youngsters understand the importance and actuality of the topic.

-In my opinion, it is very important to activate youth workers with e-skills, because technologies make it much easier to bring the information for the youngsters and all other citizens, everything can be done faster and achieve more people with less resources.

-I surely do because having e-skills makes civic involvement almost friction less and this encourages participation

-Yes, I think most of the youth has the basics but they don't know about some specific tools that could help them

-This will be a must of every youth worker in the near future since the world is re-developed in an online form so as democracy. The reason of this world's transformation, is that as every element of the real world is reformed in a digital way, democracy has to be digitized too and the only way to be done is enriching e-skills of the new generation of work labor.

-I strongly believe that some ideas we have gained thru discussion could really help to activate young people and other citizens in politics, helping them to understand the real proper of democracy and to teach them how they can be active and to realize which rights they have.

3.Which were the main competences you have gained/improved during this training course?

-During this training course I have improved to express my opinion and find proper arguments. I have learned many new things about how to create an online petition, how to use various online apps (about many of them I did not even know they exist), which are friendly to use and can raise awareness of some issues/problems. I as well get to know how works e-voting system in practice in Estonia and for how many things citizens might use e-governmental portal.

-I managed to learn new online tools how to connect with youngsters, Learning the main steps of making a project and also analysing benefits, disadvantages and topicality of the project.

-Knowledge about online participation methods.

-The knowledge about democratic systems in other EU countries, new ways of taking action in political life, how to use e-apps and create online petitions.

-The most important take away is the connection how to promote democracy, which is pretty complicated and dry term with the help of digital media. That it can be easy and attractive for young people to participate and promote interest to this topic.

-Firstly, I've gained knowledge in how the EU sees participation of young people through the participation ladder which I found fascinating and particularly useful. Secondly, I improved my knowledge on how other EU countries areas dealing with democratic disconnect.

-Open mindedness, social activity, e-skills.

-Enriched my knowledge about the importance and how to use social and digital platforms today in a democratic way by using the freedom of the "online speech" and expressing opinions that can be spread through internet.

-I have improved my skills of thinking outside the box, also became more creative and objective in some points. My English has been improved and in some way I figured that I became more carefull when we are talking about other people opinions, in a way that I started to listen better and think about it.

4.Please name few online tools that impress you and which can be used to engage young people in democratic processes?

-Civic Alert, DemocracyOS and Change.org.

-change.org avaaz.org

-e-citizen

-E-voting system and e-governmental portal. As well I was impressed by many various Democratic Applications (Loomio, Alda etc) which can engage young people into democratic processes.

-Civic Alert - introduced by Sebastian - it deals with various, very specific problems which are going on in the town/city Osalusveeb - Where you can add your opinions to new laws, make suggestions, calls for action.

-E-voting system and e-governmental portal. As well I was impressed by many various Democratic Applications (Loomio, Alda etc) which can engage young people into democratic processes.

I didn't think before how social media challenges can so effectively make

people not only have fun, but also make a difference.

-Using social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), because it can achieve a lot of youngsters and is one of the most popular way to socialize nowadays. Making a WEB site in which people can directly communicate with government.

-change.org democracyos.org secure.avaaz.org Social Media networks Online petitions, online social and digital media interactive campaigns

-I was impressed a lot with the power of online petitions, government web pages and e-citizens stuff. Also, an important thing and tool which could improve active citizenship and youth participation is online voting.

5.Which are your future plans in relation to the training?

-I want to spend more time thinking about the current local situation relating to the participation ladder and come up with possible solutions to move people up the ladder

-Not sure yet, but for sure I will tell my organization about this training

-Understand and use the power of democracy and that democracy can be used as a "weapon" for any theoretical, social, emotional or professional opinion or belief to be expressed for radical changes.

-I would like to work much more on one idea we got during the training, I know it is hard to realize but I think this idea can change people and their participation in politics.

-I really liked the topic of TC. It is very relevant to nowadays situation. I would like to share ideas/things I have learned to other people, so the awareness about this topic would raise.

-To be engaged in political issues and raise awareness about democratic apps and e-elections

-To bring the knowledge and skills which I gained in training to my organization and to share the experiences in order not to let the ideas of the training to disappear.

-Be an active citizen and take part in as many politically and socially important activities in my country as I can, continue to fight for better future and rights

to live in democratic country.

-I am planning to enroll on the Election observation course.

6.Anything else you would like to tell us about this training?

-I would like to say thank you to all who made this TC for us. It was really great experience. I hope to see you again in some TC or youth exchange because you do your job very professionally and as well interesting for young people.

-The training was perfectly organised. Our trainer, Angelos, was always prepared and despite the serious topic of the training we also had some fun and good time together. Another advantage of the program was that it was held in non-formal education style, so rather than listening to some theory; we lively discussed the issue as a group.

-It was a great experience and a great time, thank you for allowing me to contribute to this topic.

-Although Hi-Tech Democrats is a very actual theme, it is also extensive and not that easy to talk through this period of time, but I had good insight of the processes we viewed in workshops.

-Please do not stop it, this training course must be extensively shared.

-Family environment, Friendly communication, Motivation and inspiration elements from the trainers.

-I am really happy that I participated on this training, I have learned a lot of new things and become much more interested in some topics that I have not been before.
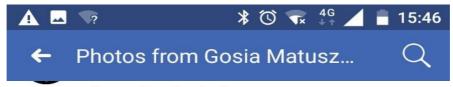
-Thank you

The involvement e-challenge

The involvement e-challenge activity
The challenges created by youth workers

1

Team "counting aka #byebyebureaucracy" e-challenge: our challenge aims to minimize the bureaucracy in public institutions by throwing a symbolic piece of paper in the garbage, recording and posting the clip on social media with the hashtag #byebyebureaucracy !

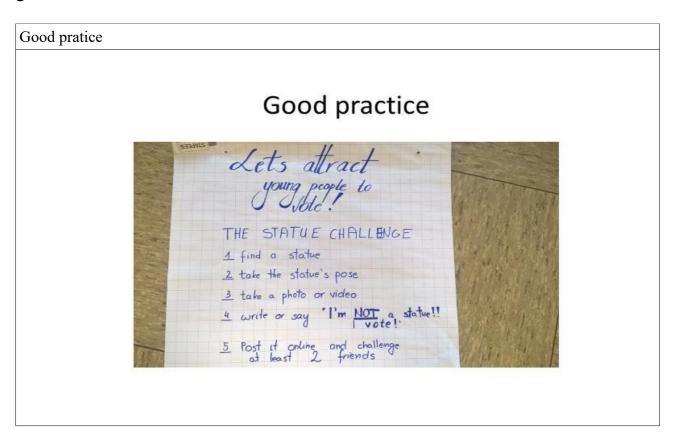https://www.facebook.com/simona.ioana.397/videos/1707241762667633/

2

3

Good pratice

We are not a statue, we Vote

I am not a monument I vote

PARTICIPANT REPORT

Hi-Tech Democrats
19-23 March 2018 | Brescia, Italy

Hi-Tech Democrats project was the first Erasmus+ program, I had participated and surely will not be my last. 12 countries (Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Czech Republic, Slovenia) with 2 representatives each participated in the project.

The main aspect of the project was to identify ways in order to make European youths to be more active in their society. Since young people spend most of their time on social media (facebook, instagram, snapchat etc), internet is the easiest and more powerful way to achieve that.

Active citizenship leads to fewer society problems, improved democratic procedures and higher standard of living.

The training included a lot of interesting discussions and exercises. In most of the activities we had to work in small groups, something that gave us the opportunity to improve our teamwork and communication skills and furthermore to build a better relationship with the other participants. Some of our activities were Democratic Applications, E-Bazaar, E-Elections, Online petitions and Campaigning.

Beside those activities two intercultural evenings were also organized with huge success. Participants brought traditional food and drinks from their home countries and a small party took place.

During our day off, the host organization arranged an amazing trip to Lake Garda; Italy's largest lake. We firstly visited a youth activity centre in Brescia; a place that youth can visit during the afternoon and spend their free time and afterwards we went for wine tasting in a local winery. Lake Garda was our final destination.

In conclusion, Hi-Tech Democrats training was a well organized and successful project; personally I gained and I learned a lot.

Nicolas Nicolaou - CIP member+

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