EU Engage

Promoting Civic and Democratic Engagement in Higher Education

Welcome Back | Day Two

Co-funded by the European Union

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps
National Agency, Poland
Education, Training, Youth

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frse
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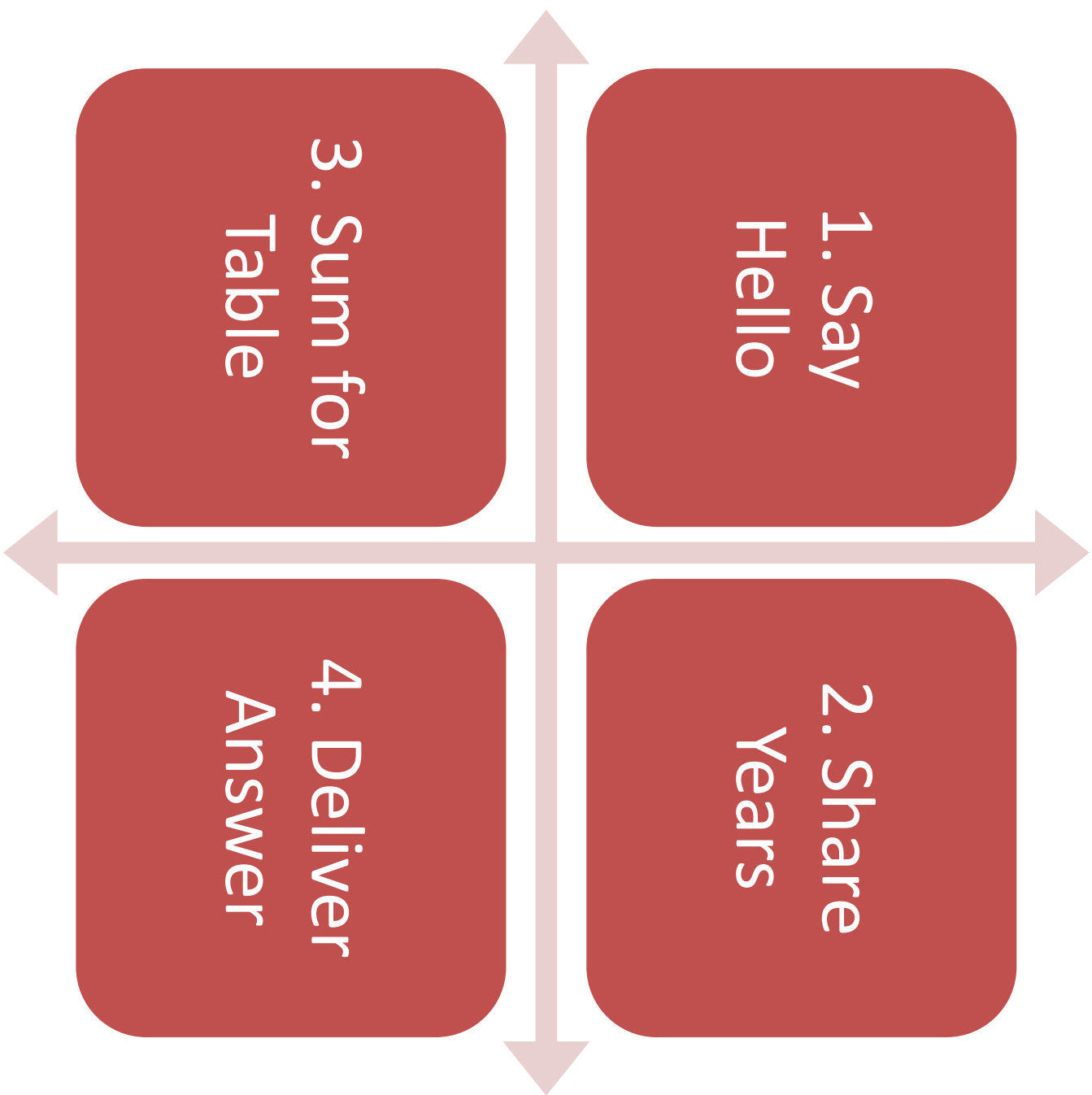
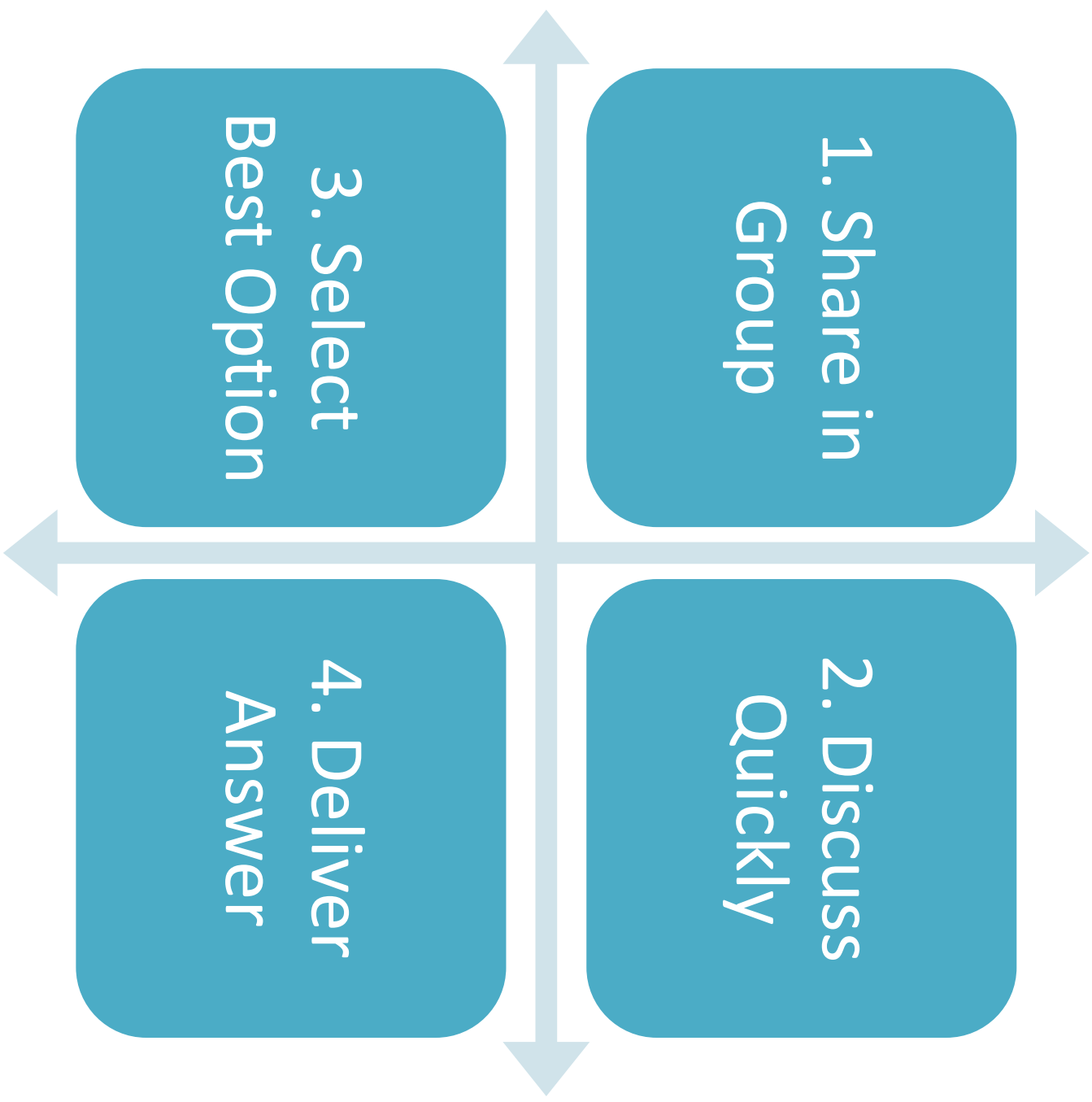
Recap

50 2740

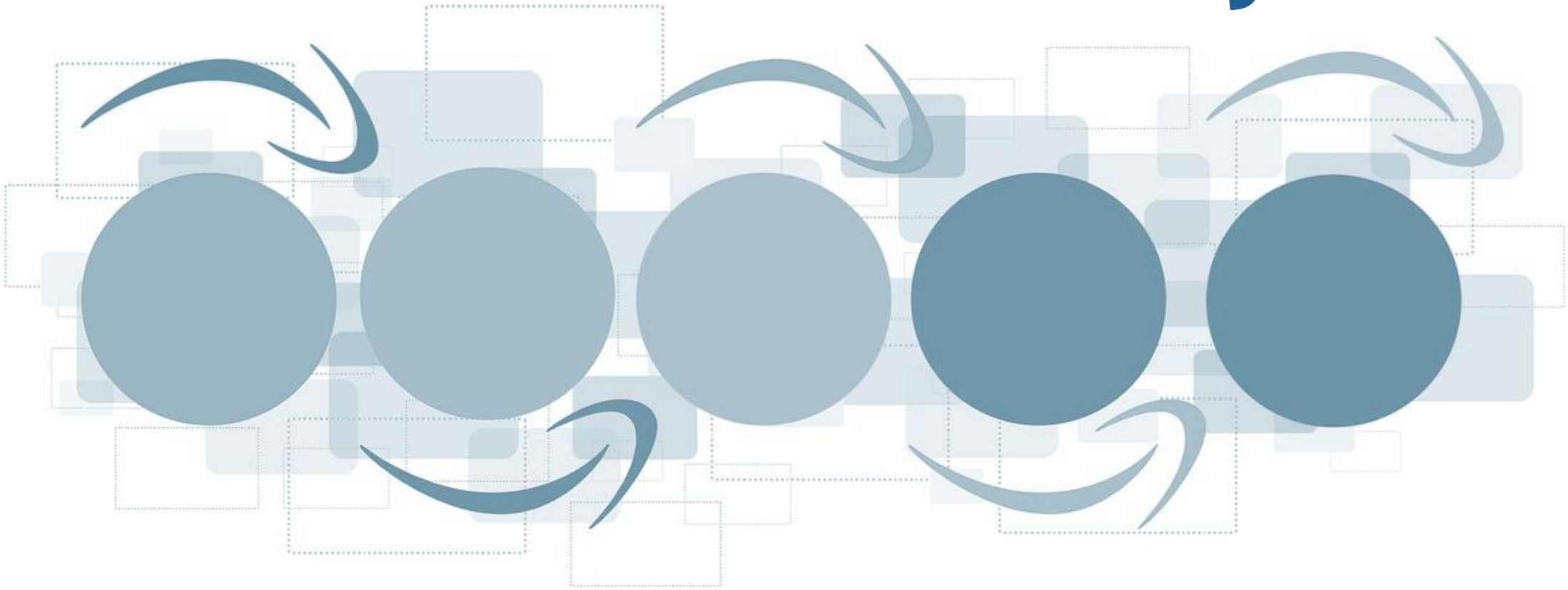
Years of E+ Experience



Most Exciting Hobby



Model of Delivery



INSPIRATION IDEATION COLLABORATION PREPARATION

Erasmus+ Programme Priorities

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Keynote

Opportunities, space, competencies and skills: democratic participation as a cross-sectoral priority for Erasmus+

Cristina Bacalso

Policy Analyst and Independent Research Consultant

Participation in Democratic Life, Common Values and Civic Engagement

… but what does it mean?

European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025

The European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025 seeks to enhance the visibility and influence of digital citizenship, encompassing **digital and AI literacy**, within educational institutions across all member states.

By reaffirming the importance of digital citizenship education in tackling the challenges and seizing the opportunities of the digital era in education systems, this initiative will further **empower students to navigate the digital world responsibly and ethically**.

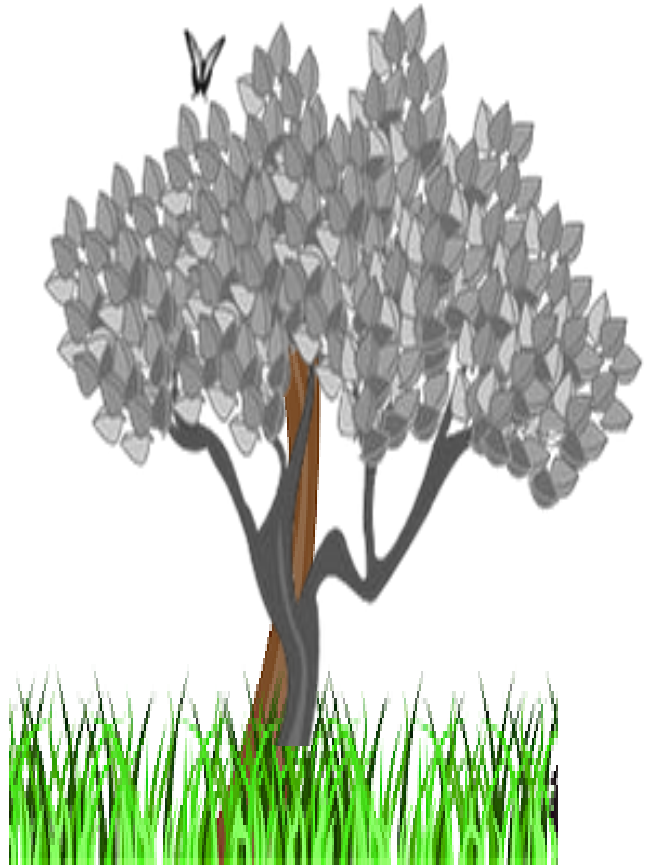
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

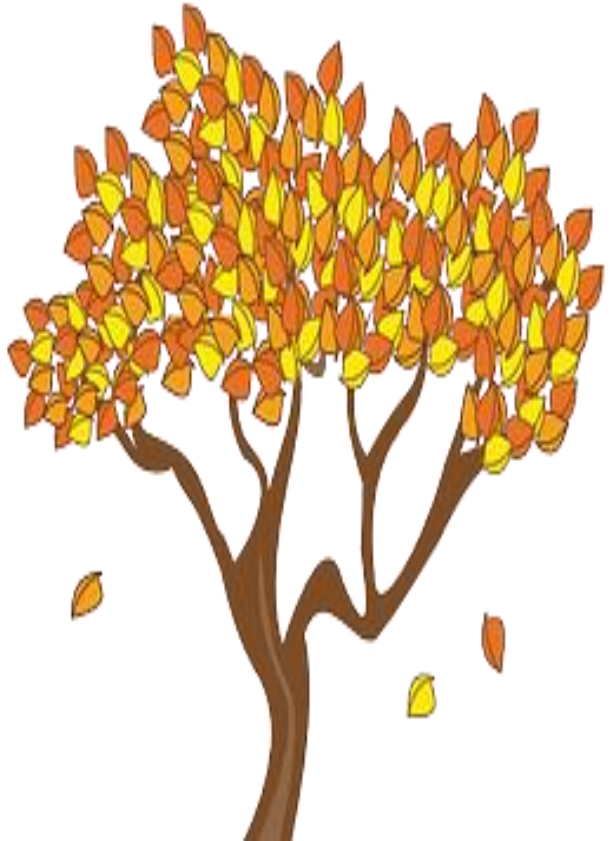
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Mapping Existing Practices

Strong Roots and Growth Areas related to Civic and Democratic Engagement

Add Strengths and Successes to Your Tree





Add Gaps and Growth Areas to Your Tree

Existing Policies and Priorities

18:30 Common Dinner

Agenda: Tuesday 30 September 2025

EU Engage
Promoting Civic and Democratic Engagement in Higher Education

09:00	WELCOME BACK, ENERGISER AND GOALS FOR THE DAY
09:30	Inspiration: Expert-Practitioner Input and Panel Discussion
10:15	Ideation and Open Space
10:45	COFFEE BREAK
11:15	Institutional Development Goals and Innovation
12:15	Plenary Review
12:45	LUNCH BREAK
14:15	Collaboration and Individual/Shared Responsibilities
15:30	COFFEE BREAK
16:30	Visit to Museum of Emigration
19:15	COMMON DINNER

Energiser

Usual
Unusual

1. Select One Item per Table
2. Confirm Everyday Name and Use
3. Agree on 3-5 Alternative Uses
4. Think ‘Out of the Box’ and Be Creative
5. Report Back

Inspiration

Inputs and Panel Discussion

Agata Komendant-Brodowska
University of Warsaw

Katarzyna Kucharska
University of Warsaw

Dorota Piotrowska
Lodz University of Technology

Piotr Wołejsza
Science4People

NAVIGATING SOCIAL POLARISATION

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR A RESILIENT DEMOCRACY

Agata Komendant-Brodowska

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

the WHY are we doing it?

the WHO

are we doing it for?

the HOW

are we collaborating?

We're combining know-how on:

+ social polarisation
+ social simulations of the process
+ transferring simulation models into games
+ educational instruction
+ online learning and teaching

And a bit of:

+ concern about what's going on around us
+ passion for education
+ belief that we can actually do something

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

university of groningen

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society

Co-funded by the European Union

NAVIGATING SOCIAL POLARISATION

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR A RESILIENT DEMOCRACY

Growing Apart.
What is polarisation and what can we do about it?
ONLINE COURSE(S)

NAVIGATING SOCIAL POLARISATION
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR A RESILIENT DEMOCRACY

socialpolarisation.eu

“The Paperclip Game of Opinions” - a face-to-face EDUCATIONAL GAME to be played in a classroom

the WHAT are we aiming for?

Katarzyna Kucharska, the Volunteer Centre of UW

UNICOMM Project - University Community Active Participation Project

Overview of the Project

Co-funded by the European Union

unicomm

UNICOMM PROJECT: WHY?

AIM: Identify factors supporting inclusive student participation, strengthen competences for active engagement, and create guidelines for higher education institutions in times of uncertainty and change.

IDEA: Higher education is more than courses and research. All members of the academic community should feel valued, motivated, and engaged in meaningful initiatives.

MOTIVATION: Restore students' sense of belonging and agency after long periods of online study and uncertainty about the future of education.

UNICOMM Project: WHO are the core beneficiaries?

- **Special Focus on:**
  (groups with fewer opportunities due to various obstacles)
  - International Students
  - Working Students

- **We aim at creating an inclusive and diverse community within all of the project activities.**
  - Students of all ages, genders, and majors.

- **Employees of the HEIs that support student participation.**

- **Institutions as systems that support student participation.**

UNICOMM PROJECT: HOW partners worked together to deliver change?

- Survey on the individual student perception of the participation and university support of participation
- Workshops for students aiming at enhancement the sense of belonging and practical skills development
- International peer-coaching group for European HEIs employees who support student participation
- Study Visit in the Palacky University to compare similarities and differences between partners' approach to student participation
- International Summer School on the topic of institutional support of student participation
- Online symposium focused on the student participation and sense of belonging beyond the consortium

UNICOMM PROJECT: WHAT?

- Report: *University as community: students' perceptions of participation, engagement and belonging at European higher education institutions*
- *"Come for Cookies. Stay for Community." A Toolbox for Community Building, Facilitating Participation, and Enhancing Belonging for Higher Education Communities*
- UNICOMM PODCAST SERIES – THE STUDENT VOICE
- Infographics for higher education professionals supporting student engagement
- UNICOMM PODCAST SERIES – VOICE OF THE EMPLOYEES
- Video Tutorials about students' motivations, cultural diversity, working students, and creating safer spaces for participation
- *UNICOMM HintBook: Building Stronger Communities in Higher Education. Tools and Ideas for Navigating Student Engagement in a Changing World*

Building a Comprehensive Educational Ecosystem for Sustainable Development Goals

#edu4sdgs

Dorota Piotrowska
Lodz University of Technology

Erasmus+

Call 2023 Round 1 KA2
KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education
Form ID KA220-HED-63B1408C Deadline (Brussels Time) 22 Mar 2023 12:00:00

Application

Programme	Erasmus+
Action Type	KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education
Call	2023
Round	Round 1

PROJECT PARTNERS

Collaborative Network

Our consortium brings together leading educational institutions,NGOs, institutions,NGOs, research organizations, and business partners committed committed to advancing sustainable development through innovative innovative educational approaches.

Shared Impact

Through strategic partnerships, we amplify our collective expertise to create to create scalable solutions that can be implemented across diverse educational contexts worldwide.

WHY the project was developed

The project was designed to strengthen the role of higher higher education in delivering the Sustainable Development Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering empathy, sensitivity, sensitivity, and responsibility for others. Disciplinary knowledge alone is not enough – universities must equip equip students with social and emotional (EQ) competences competences so that they can become conscious citizens citizens and leaders of change.

- **WP3 Emotional Intelligence for the SDGs** addresses this addresses this need by developing tools for teaching teaching empathy (trainings, a summer school, and the and the EQ board game).

WHO are the core beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries are university students, who will develop their social and emotional emotional competences and earn micro-credentials confirmed by digital badges. They are expected to expected to become **AGENTS OF CHANGE**, actively **co-creating a new university culture** based on based on empathy, shared responsibility, and genuine engagement with the SDGs.
Other beneficiaries include:

Academic & Administrative Staff

New competences, trainings, and support in support in implementing SDGs in institutional institutional practice

Universities as Institutions

Improved quality of education and strategic strategic planning

Society at large (including LIFELONG LEARNERS)

Gains empathetic, responsible, and engaged citizens

- **WP2 SDGs University Knowledge Hub** and **WP4 Micro-credentials for the SDGs** also provide tools for lifelong learners outside the learners outside the university.

HOW partners work together to deliver change

The consortium (universities, NGOs, training providers, accreditation bodies) brings together complementary expertise: emotional intelligence, social action, intelligence, social action, academic practices, and quality assurance.

WP1 Project Management

Joint planning, monitoring, and quality assurance. assurance.

WP2 Knowledge Hub

An online platform on SDGs developed by TUL and TUL and RTU, with visual identity by Team Coaching, Coaching, and NGO–HEI training coordinated by by ABD and UAB.

WP3 Emotional Intelligence for the SDGs

EQ-related activities coordinated by Team Coaching (board game, summer school hosted by RTU, awareness video led by ABD).

WP4 Micro-credentials for the SDGs

Micro-credential system and digital badges coordinated by UAB and ACEEU, with design by Team Coaching.

WP5 Dissemination

Webinars, publications, a final conference, and the "University Roadmap to SDGs", coordinated by ACEEU and ABD.

WHAT results or impact are expected

The project aims to transform the quality of studying – making it a **formative process of responsibility and action**, rather than just acquiring subject knowledge. Students, as **agents of change**, will not only participate in learning processes but will also **shape a new academic culture** – one based on empathy, responsibility, and collaboration for the SDGs. Their engagement will inspire both the academic community and wider society.

1K+

WP2 Knowledge Hub Users

Central resource on SDGs and EQ

EQ

200

EQ Board Game Copies

Plus 42+ summer school participants

60+

Pilot Participants

SDG learning pathways and micro-micro-credentials with digital badges

600+

Participants Reached

Through dissemination campaign, campaign, webinars, and final conference

#edu4sdgs

Students as Agents of Change:
SHAPING
A NEW UNIVERSITY CULTURE

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS
www.ouc.ac.cy

Tampere University of Applied Sciences

PJATK

Science4People

Piotr Wołejsza

Science4People

InfoTester

Co-funded by the European Union

Why (the project was developed)

Are you facing the problem of unverified or false information?

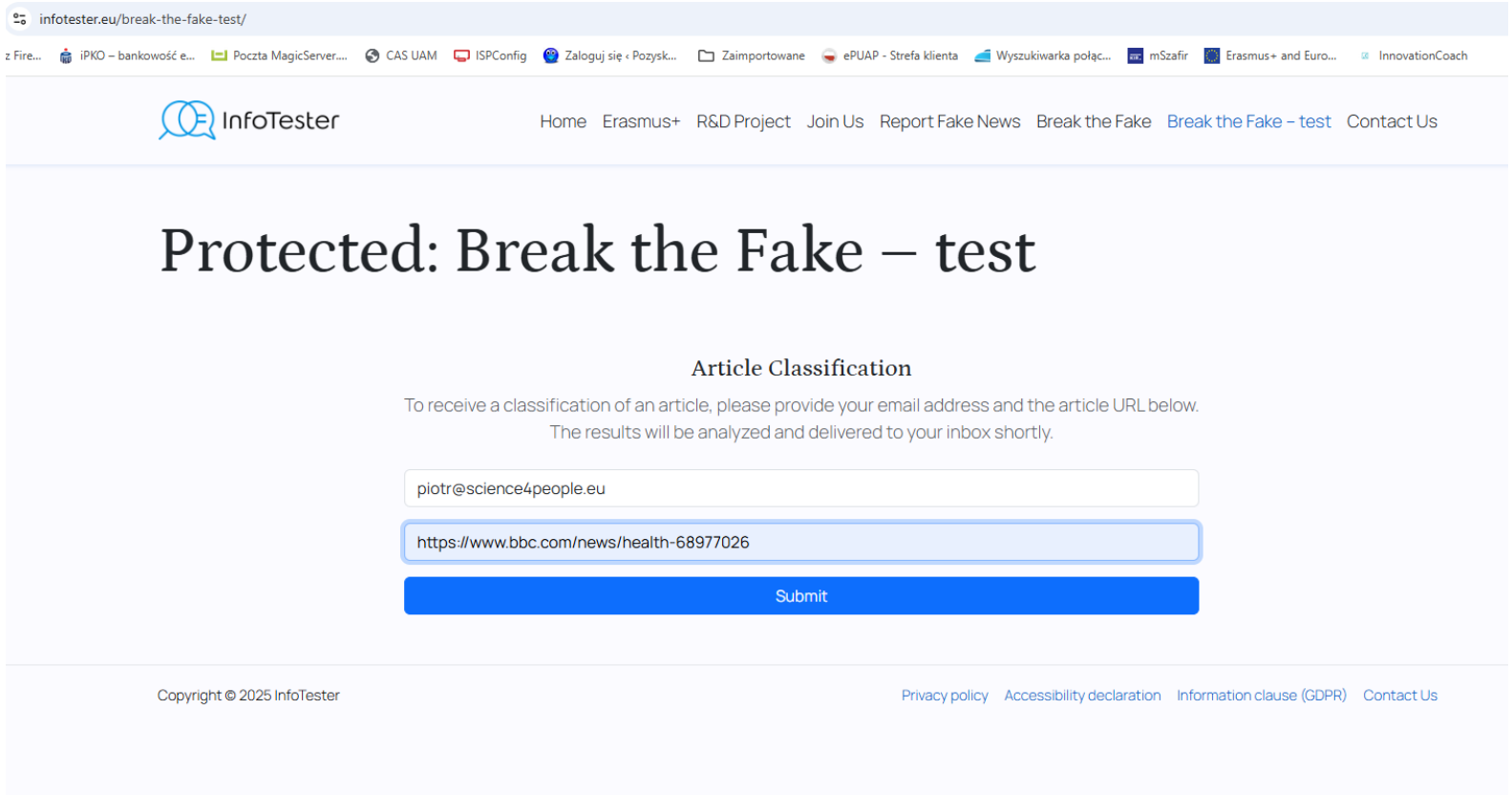
Do the facts presented in the media seem unreliable to you?

Who (are the core beneficiaries)?

How (partners work together to deliver change)**?**

1. **Media education/media literacy course**
2. **15.000 evaluations of articles** in the following topics:
   - Institutional distrust (public institutions)
   - Anti-Europeanism and anti-Atlanticism (EU, NATO)
   - Disinformation about LGBTQIA+
   - Health (including COVID-19 and vaccines)
   - Anti-migration and xenophobia
   - Gender-based disinformation
   - Ukraine war and refugees
   - Climate change and the energy crisis

What (results are expected)**?**



What (impact is expected)**?**

1. **increase the audience of reliable information,** to make the society aware of **how false information is spread** and **encourage them to verify the information before it is shared with others**,

2. **increase the awareness and practical skills in detecting disinformation** among EU citizens, to make the public aware of methods for detecting disinformation on the Web.

Why/How/What

We believe in a world where truth matters.

(This is why), **we create an info vaccine against disinformation on the Web.** We offer the best online course that helps to build a resilient society (to disinformation).

Break the fake!

Inspiration

Inputs and Panel Discussion

Agata Komendant-Brodowska
University of Warsaw

Katarzyna Kucharska
University of Warsaw

Dorota Piotrowska
Lodz University of Technology

Piotr Wołejsza
Science4People

Ideation

Time to Share Ideas

Open Space Method to Help Form Groups

IDEATION AND GROUP FORMATION

30

Promote Your Project Idea

Use this time to sell your future projects and ideas for collaboration on Civic and Democratic Engagement. What interests you? What do you offer? What do you need from others?

Open Space Approach

You decide which group you will join. Final decision required after the coffee break.

Rule of Two Feet

Use your time wisely. Go to discuss the idea and decide if this is really what interests you. If not, move to another table and speak to another person or group. Where you go is your decision!

Coffee Break

Beneficiaries, Needs, Innovation and European Added-Value

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Assessment Criteria for Relevance

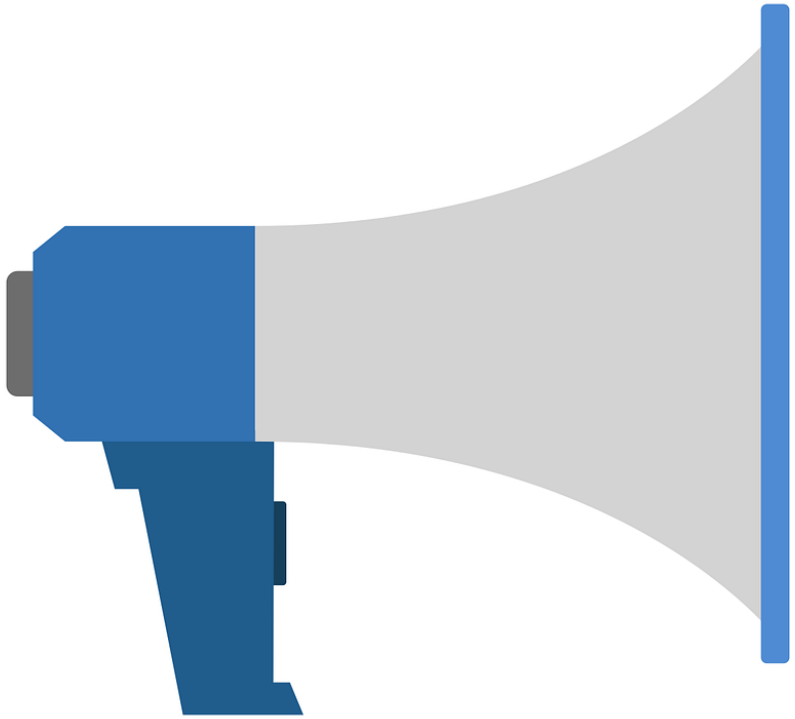
Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Extent to which…

- Proposal is relevant to the OBJECTIVES and PRIORITIES of the funding action: proposal will be considered highly relevant if it addresses the priority “inclusion and diversity”.
- Proposal is relevant for respect/promotion of EU VALUES and fighting discrimination.
- **PROFILE, EXPERIENCE and ACTIVITIES** of the participating organisations are relevant to the field of application.
- Proposal is based on a genuine and adequate **NEEDS ANALYSIS**.
- Proposal is suitable for creating SYNERGIES between different fields of education, training, youth and sport or has potential for strong impact on one of these fields.
- Proposal is **INNOVATIVE**.
- Proposal is COMPLEMENTARY to other initiatives already carried out by the participating organisations.
- Proposal brings **ADDED VALUE AT EU LEVEL** through results that would not be attained by activities carried out in a single country.

Arguments for Relevance: TEMPLATE

Beneficiaries	Needs	Innovation	European Added-Value

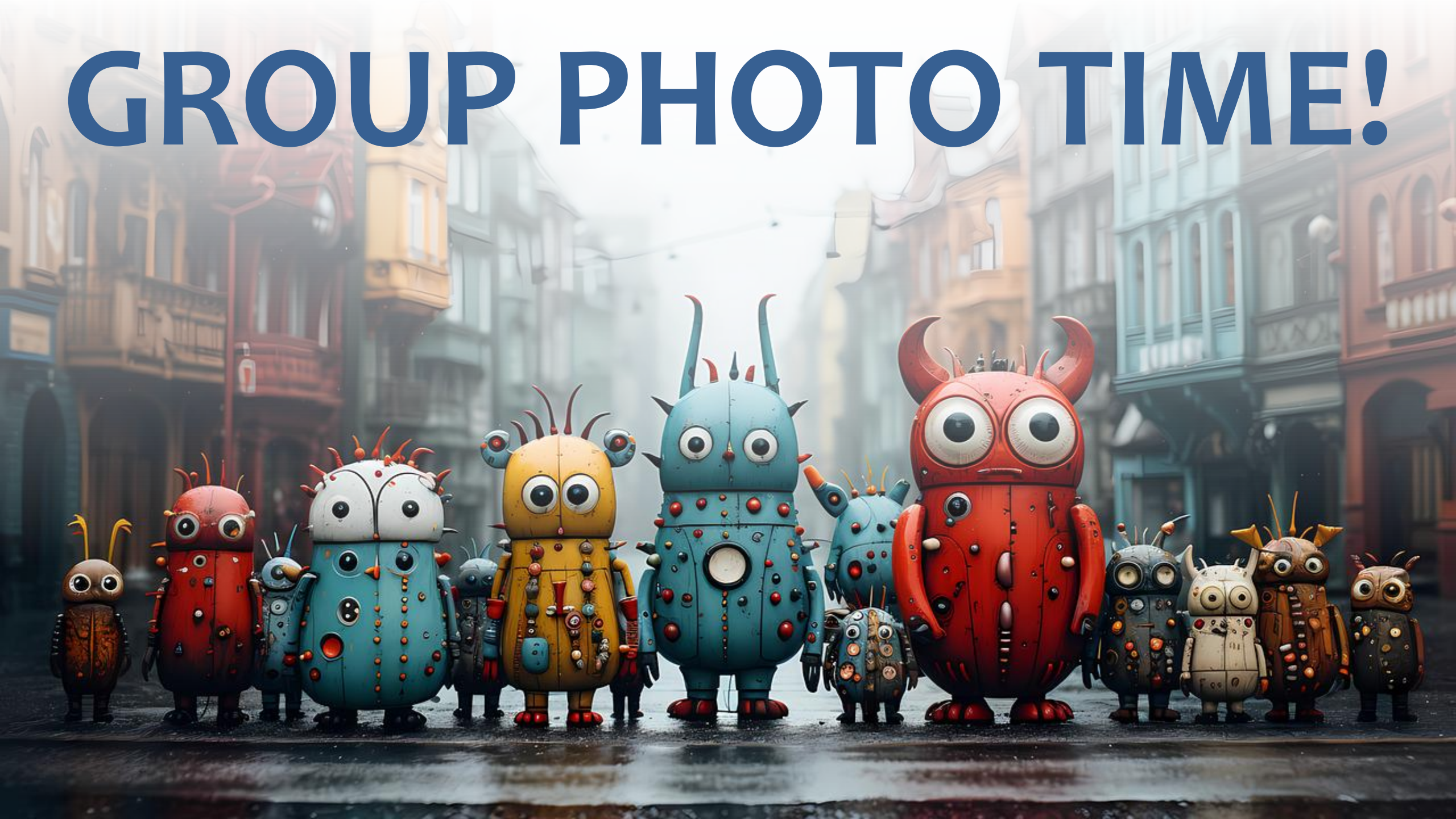


Plenary Review

The primary goal of **COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS** is to allow organisations to increase the **quality and relevance of their activities**, to develop and reinforce their **networks** of partners, to increase their capacity to operate jointly at transnational level, boosting **internationalisation** of their activities and through **exchanging or developing new practices and methods** as well as sharing and confronting ideas… results should be re-usable, transferable, upscalable and, if possible, have a strong transdisciplinary dimension.

Cooperation Partnerships are anchored to the p**riorities and policy frameworks of each Erasmus+ sector**, both at European and national level, while aiming at producing incentives for cross-sectoral and horizontal cooperation in thematic areas.

GROUP PHOTO TIME!



Lunch

12:45-14:15

Partners, Roles and Responsibilities

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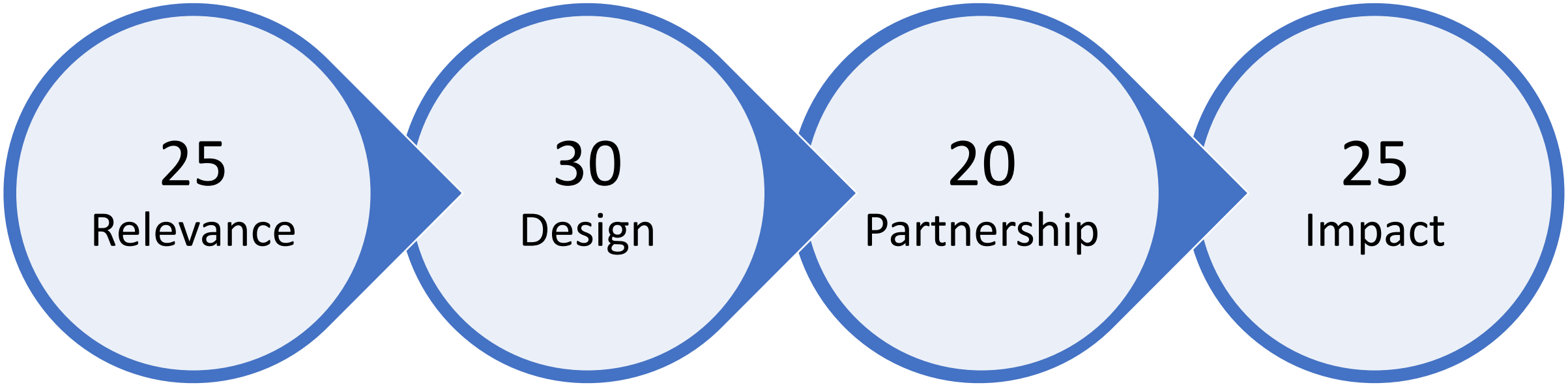

25
Relevance
30
Design
20
Partnership
25
Impact

Arguments for Relevance: ACTIVITY

- Beneficiaries
  - Who
  - How Accessed
- Needs
  - What
  - How Confirmed
- Innovation
  - Novelty
  - Additionality
- European Added-Value
  - Collaboration and Exchange
  - Wider Benefits

Assessment Criteria for Partnership

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Extent to which…

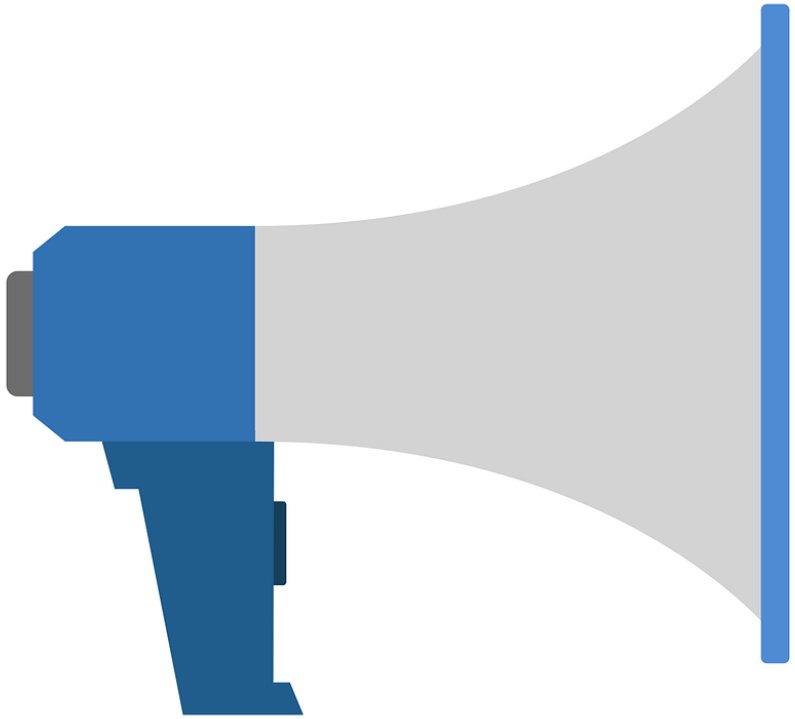
- Project involves **APPROPRIATE MIX** of participating organisations in terms of profile, past experience in the Programme, and expertise to successfully complete all project objectives.
- Project involves **NEWCOMERS** and less-experienced organisations to the action.
- Proposed allocation of tasks demonstrates the commitment and **ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION** of all participating organisations.
- Proposal includes effective mechanisms for **COORDINATION and COMMUNICATION** between participating organisations, and other relevant stakeholders.
- If applicable: involvement of organisation(s) from a **THIRD COUNTRY** not associated to the Programme brings ESSENTIAL ADDED-VALUE to the project.

Roles and Responsibilities: ACTIVITY

- Partner Mix
  - Who
  - Expertise
- Partner Roles
  - What
  - Capacity
- Collaboration and Outreach
  - Tools and Strategies: Internal
  - Tools and Strategies: External
- Consortium Composition
  - Newcomers
  - Third Countries

Roles and Responsibilities: TEMPLATE

- Partner Mix
- Partner Roles
- Collaboration and Outreach
- Newcomers and Third Countries



Plenary Review

Coffee Break

Close of Plenary

Tomorrow: 09:00 Start

frse_wydarzenia • 16h

EU-Engage: Promoting Civic and Democratic Engagement in Higher Education

We are very excited to welcome you to the TCA seminar! Date: 29/09/2025 – 01/10/2025

Venue and accommodation: Mercure Gdynia Centrum Hotel, Gdynia (Poland) During the event, we will discuss the topic of civic engagement that we can achieve thanks to KA2 Erasmus+ projects - in order to awake the desire for democratic participation in life, inspire as many people as possible and change the world for at least a little better. This Padlet is for you: it will allow you to meet new, fascinating people interested in similar topics, give you the chance to build new networks, and create opportunities for inspiration. Here, you'll find also some guidelines, and later, training materials.

Our event

Agenda

EU Engage Agenda-rev

Infopack

EU Engage infopack_v3

Speakers

Paul Guest

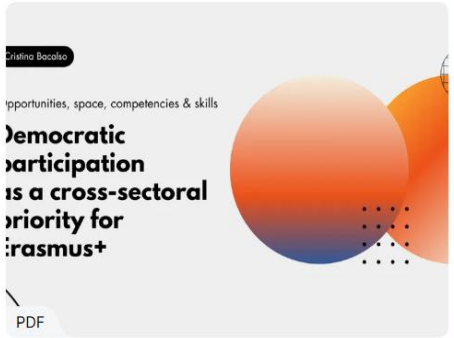
Paul has worked in national and European developments in education and training for more than 30 years, including five years helping to deliver the European Commission's higher education and vocational training funding programmes from a centralised base in Brussels. He continues to provide research, development, evaluation, training and consultancy services to a broad range of clients, including Scottish Government and the European Commission and has both specialised expertise, and a confirmed interest, in issues relating to learning and skills recognition. Moreover, working as an expert regularly delivers inputs on key aspects of Erasmus+ and works closely with many Erasmus+ National Agencies building the capacity of applicants, assessors and project managers.

Presentations

Day 1

EU-ENGAGE-Slides-Day1

Cristina Bacalso



Opportunities, space, competencies & skills Democratic participation as a cross-sectoral priority for Erasmus+

Day 1 Trees

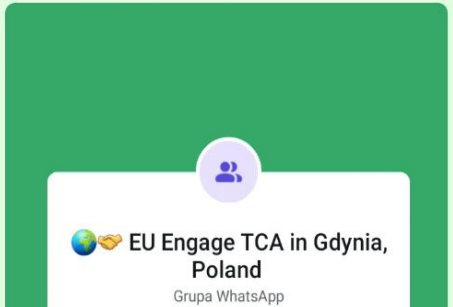
Let's connect!

Let's connect!

Padlet • frse_wydarzenia

To ensure you make the most of this enriching experience and in order to successfully complete the stage of contact making, we invite you to introduce yourself by marking the country you come from on a map. You may add:
- name of your institution,
- your contact details,
- what kind of inspiration are you looking for,
- and something interesting you are looking to find in Gdynia 😊

Whatsapp group - stay connected!



Erasmus+ guidelines

Erasmus+ Programme Guide

2025-01-20 erasmus-programme-guide-v2.2025_en

Unlock the power of priorities

UnlockThePowerOfPriorities

Sensible Footwear: we will WALK 2km to the Museum of Emigration

16:30
Departure

Be On
Time

19:30 Common Dinner

https://en.restauracjamojemiasto.pl/