

Project 2025-1-BG01-KAI21-ADU-000307560, Erasmus +  
Sending organisation: Association of Psychologists in Bulgaria



# Course 6: Civic Education & Democracy

Hosting Organisation: Akademie für Politische Bildung und demokratiefördernde Maßnahmen  
2-11.09.2025, Linz, Austria



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



# Course Introduction

## Course focus

- Civic education as a foundation of democratic societies
- Participation, inclusion, and active citizenship
- Role of adult educators in strengthening democracy

## Learning outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Design civic education activities for adult learners
- Facilitate democratic dialogue and participation
- Use digital and experiential tools for civic engagement
- Transfer democratic practices to their professional contexts

# Whats Civic Education in Adult Learning

Civic education beyond  
formal schooling

Democracy as a lived  
practice, not only  
knowledge

Adult learners as  
active citizens

**Reflection question** Where do adults experience democracy in everyday life?

# Core Democratic Values & Principles

Participation

Inclusion and  
equity

Dialogue and  
respect

Shared  
responsibility

## Mini-reflection:

Which value is most challenging to implement in practice?

# Student Voice & Participation

- Learner councils and participatory structures
- Co-creation of learning processes
- Power-sharing in adult education

## Exercise:

Map decision-making power in your current practice.



# Facilitating Democratic Dialogue

*(Practice)*

Moderating discussions and debates  
Managing disagreement and conflict  
Creating safe spaces for diverse opinions

Role-play:  
Facilitator in a polarised group discussion

# MiniCividProjects

*(Practice)*

Task:

Participants design a small civic participation project:

- target group
- local issue
- participation methods

Peer feedback round

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

# Simulation of Community Decision Making

*(Practice)*

Simulation scenario:

Community meeting on a local issue

Roles: citizens, facilitators, decision-makers

Debrief:

What dynamics influenced participation?

# Inclusion & Ethics in Civic Education

(Practice oriented)

Who is excluded and why?

Accessibility and representation

Ethical responsibilities of facilitators

Case discussion: Inclusive vs symbolic participation

# ShareModule(4): CivicTech&DigitalDemocracyAEC

## Group Exploration Task

Explore civic technology tools at AEC

Identify:

- opportunities for participation
- risks and limitations

## Group output:

Mapping tools to civic learning goals

# Shared Module (5): E-Participation & Media Literacy - AEC

Hands-on Group Activity

Practice using e-participation platforms

Analyse:

- accessibility
- transparency
- potential manipulation

Reflection questions:

- Who benefits from digital participation?
- Who might be excluded?

# Designing Civid Learning Project

*(Practice)*

Individual work

Participants develop a civic education project including:

- learning objectives
- participation methods
- evaluation indicators

Focus:

Empowerment, not indoctrination

# Preparing for Outdoor Ecosystem Simulation (Practice)

Why use outdoor and public spaces?

Authenticity and visibility

Facilitation and safety considerations



Planning task:  
Define scenario, roles, and rules.

# Shared Module (9): Outdoor Civic Simulation

---

## Group Role-Play

### Task:

Simulate resolving a local public issue

Practice negotiation, consensus, and decision-making

### Observation focus:

- power dynamics
- inclusion
- communication styles

# Reflection on Democratic Practice

---

*((Shared reflection))*

How did participation feel?  
What barriers emerged?  
What supports democratic engagement?

---

**Transfer discussion:**  
Applying insights to adult education practice

# ShareModule10: Democratic Showcas&WrapUp

---

Final Group Activity

Presentation of civic learning projects

Peer feedback

Personal commitments to democratic practice

Closing question:

How will you strengthen democracy through your work?