SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC UNION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN DIGITAL ERA

Online meeting, October 23 2019
13:00-14:15

Meeting agenda

1. Basic information
2. Project team and partners
3. Background
4. Aims and expected results
5. Project schedule
6. Formal arrangements - contracts, reimbursements (Jose)
7. Event in Penne, Italy 4-7 February 2020 (Aldo)
8. Questions and answers

1. Basic information

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1. Basic information

Programme: Europe for CItizens

Strand 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

Action: Network of Towns

Priority: Debating the future of Europe and challenging Euroscepticism

BASIC INFORMATION

2. Project team and partners

Partners list and contacts:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BMhJ2qjLn1aC7cAafHsXdb7sbRTZ_vhnftlqFciIOoY/edit#gid=0

3. Background

Democratic and civic participation of citizens are highly related with the rapid digital transformation. Why? New technologies, and especially social media, facilitate democratization by empowering citizens to express themselves directly towards policy makers. All this makes democracy more participatory empowering bottom-up mobilization of citizens (see: feminist movements across Europe, anti-corruption protests, refugee-welcome initiatives, etc).

There is no doubt that the online environment is becoming more and more powerful in setting up rules of political debate of the Union.

3. Background

However, it also has more negative aspects, as demonstrated by the rise of fake news and disinformation. Antidemocratic forces can easier than ever **distort information flows**, and tech giants can benefit from users' **data mining.** (see: Google search and Facebook newsfeed won't display the same information depending on your profile) Internet depends on our social and political views. That means that we see a different version of the Internet than our neighbor's.

All these phenomena will considerably shake democracy rules, and have a negative impact on the future of Europe.

Readings and texts

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/4/folders/1SI5TGvf_l_Pk DGUmLf39DrfzFxKcwiSI

4. Aims and expected results

The project seeks to provide European local and regional policy makers and citizens with tools to support active citizenship, and democratic Union in the era of digital culture.

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4. Aims and expected results

To engage 1400 policy makers and citizens from 15 countries directly, and 35000 indirectly in participation at Union level:
-organise **5 international events** where they reconnect with grass-roots and policy initiatives related to the project theme
-together with European colleagues learn on the implications for democracy of recent technological developments

4. Aims and expected results

-host an **online debate and a training session** to strengthen bottom-up engagement in shaping the EU agenda

-host **local activities** (workshop, debate, creative sessions) with the aim to engage a group scope of local people: policy makers, citizens, migrants, mobile citizens, educators, students, youth, activists - people from different social and professional backgrounds, **target: 45 persons per partner**

-produce **policy highlights and Policy papers**– Network's collective feedback on how public institutions in Europe (including the Union's institutions) can operate in face of digital transformation.

4. Aims and expected results

Better understanding of the implications of digital transformation on democracy rules in cities and regions, and in Union as a whole.

European local and regional policy makers and citizens provided with knowledge and tools to stimulate democratic and civic participation across Europe, and to support democratic Union in digital era.

5. Project schedule

Available here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BMhJ2qjLn1aC7cAafHsXdb7sbRTZ_vhnftIqFciIOoY/edit#gid=234828877

5. Project schedule - events 1 and 2

During the first two international events, to help policy makers and citizens **understand radical changes of digital transformation and its impact of technology on democracy rules**, such as the challenges for European and local elections in digital era.

The project partners will engage respective local partners to share best practice on media and information literacy which is a critical element of civic participation in digital era. The partners will collectively reflect, share experience and work out proposals on how to foster access to and use of IT tools in a more informed way.

5. Project schedule - event 3 and 4

During events 3 and 4, to learn how to i**ncrease societal resilience to propaganda and mobilise counter-forces**, which includes countering fake news and disinformation spread online, as well as mobilizing citizens - learning from experience of local public administrations, social movements, grass-roots level organisations and non-organised citizens.

5. Project schedule - event 5

The last event will stimulate democratic political engagement of citizens at local and EU level:
-New ways of participating in political processes, eg. digital communities
-Political participation in the future Union.

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Methods - facilitation techniques

- **training sessions** offline and online
- **public/street debates**
- **community workshops** based on non-formal education for better inclusion of citizens from diverse social backgrounds
- **creative sessions** based on design thinking method to collectively create tools to facilitate civic engagement and policy dialogue
- debates, expert panels

6. Formal arrangements (Jose)

1. Contracts: (1) **Memorandum of cooperation** and (2) specific **contracts for the Events' hosts**

2. **Travel reimbursements** - up to 200 EUR per person

3. **Local activities** will be reimbursed up to 900 euro per partner.

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7. Event in Penne, Italy 4-7 February 2020 (Aldo)

Topic: Is it already a digital democracy? On technological developments and how they shape democracy.

8. Questions and answers