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Abstract	This document describes the objectives, the tools, the target groups and the activities of the Youth Integration Lab.
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Purpose of the document

The aim of this deliverable is to describe the objectives and the target group of the Youth Integration Lab (YIL) and list the activities that will be implemented as part of the YIL over the years 2023 - 2026.

This task is in line with the following EDUC ambition:

O8: An inter-campus that reflects the social, economic and cultural diversity

O12: Create innovative learning and training solutions

Introduction

EDUC is an alliance of 8 universities in Europe, each concerned with its role in and contribution to the local community. They wish to provide young people in their territory with the tools to make them active citizens, but also to give them a place to connect between young Europeans. The concept of the Youth Integration Lab emerged from this concern, which conditions the choice of the themes, the target group and activity formats.

In line with this, the 8 universities agreed on a framework for the YIL and its activities, validated with young people from each of them, to ensure the achievement of this ambition. Young people, as a target group, will also be involved in the elaboration and organisation of the YIL activities.

Additionally, the YIL wishes to gather various civil society actors from the territory of the 8 universities as local associations, governmental entities and public or private companies. One of the first steps in this task was to identify the actors and partners at each university involved in existing initiatives and policy for the local youth.

The Youth Integration Lab plans to set up 6 events with at least 40 participants each (including 15 young people) at the university of Paris Nanterre, the university of Potsdam, the

university of Cagliari, the university of Pècs, Jaume Primo University and Masaryk University.

I. The concept of the Youth Integration Lab (YIL)

The concept of the YIL reflects the shared vision of the alliance's universities, and its members define it as follows:

What is the YIL?

A space formed by 8 universities connected with their territory implementing activities for the meeting and exchange between young people to help them to develop their critical thinking and become active citizens on current challenges and armed against discrimination.

What is a YIL-event?

A YIL event is an event organized by a university of the alliance that will allow young people from its territory and students from EDUC universities to exchange and build together around a theme; on-site during three days, accompanied by researchers and partners identified by the organizing university who will provide them with the knowledge and tools necessary for their reflections.

According to this definition, a YIL event takes into account the following statements:

- **It is organised by one university of the alliance;**
 - The university that receives the event is in charge of creating the agenda of the event. However, the other EDUC universities will have the opportunity to comment and add suggestions to the agenda.

- The design of the agenda and its activities will take into account the feedback generated by the students' representatives for the action plan.
- **It takes place over 3 days at the organising university;**
 - Some activities of the event should be synchronously online transmitted.
 - Should include activities with different formats (roundtable, speeches).
 - The 3 days agenda can include arrivals and departures and cultural and informal activities.
 - The 3 days can also be extended with online activities (before and after the onsite event).
- **It allows young people to meet and exchange around a theme or several themes;**
 - The target audience of the event must be between 16 and 32 years old (Eurostat definition of youth).
 - 15 young people from the territory are expected to participate in the event as well as young people (students 18-32 years old) from the universities of the alliance.
 - The discussion between young people could be moderated by experts/researchers/partners. Young people could also moderate discussions between experts/researchers/partners.

- **It enables young people to develop ideas together with the support of the academic community as well as local organisations and associations to face current challenges;**
 - The organising university identifies researchers and academic staff who will accompany the young people in their reflection by providing them with knowledge and tools.
 - Within the framework of these activities, the young people will have to be brought to intervene as enlightened citizens (expert youth) around the themes.
 - In this task, the universities are connected with their territory and involve non-academic actors. Thus, the organising university will involve at least 2 partners from its territory. It will have the choice of its local partners and their degree of involvement in the event.
- **Its activities are based on themes anchored in the territory and current societal challenges;**
 - The activities of these events should enable young people to become active citizens aware of their rights, armed against discrimination.
 - The activities will empower young people as European citizens aware of their rights, trained for democratic participation and equipped against discrimination based on age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or economic background.
 - The activities provide youth with specific skills/knowledge/competences on the themes discussed and on how they can contribute to current challenges, in collaboration with experts/local partners/researchers.

- **It articulates with the other YIL events, with maybe a specific expected production from the students;**
 - Material of communication and dissemination can be created through task 6.1: Expand the EDUC dissemination plan and community building
 - The deliverable at the end of the 6 events will be the union of productions from each YIL event. The format of this production is not defined yet.
- **It integrates the multilingualism aspect;**
 - The activities take place in English and in the local language of the organising university with the possibility of interpreters (for local youth no English level is required and for incoming students B1 English or language of the organising university is required).
 - Funding for interpreters should be provided by the host university. As the hosting university may not have enough budget for interpreters for all activities, it has to be taken into account in the format of the activities.

Which are the thematics of the YIL event?

The choice of the thematics of the YIL events is directly linked to the main purpose of the Youth Integration Lab which is to help young people take a stand on current challenges and break down the discrimination they face. But also takes into account the forces and the specificities of the 8 universities local territory. For this reason, the universities first identified existing initiatives and policies in favour of local youth and cross-referenced them to agree on common thematics. Working on common themes highlights and makes visible the expertise of each region, but also encourages interconnections between partners and young people around these common topics.

The umbrella thematics for the YIL events are:

1. Digital Education for inclusion
2. Diversity and disability
3. Science for Children
4. Structures/Space for youth reflection and action
5. Gender Inequalities
6. European policies / Citizen rights

II. Planned activities of the Youth Integration Lab for 2024-2026

The six universities hosting a YIL event over the years 2024-2026 started to work on a suggested event according to the common framework. The universities of the alliance agreed on the elaboration of a common tool for the assessment of all the events. This will be important to ensure the quality of the YIL activities and the achievement of the qualitative objectives (especially the impact on youth).

Hosting University	Themes of the event	Date
University Paris Nanterre	Diversity and disability & Gender inequalities	2024, April 12th, 13th & 14th
University of Potsdam	youth participation in urban spaces, urban diversity	2024, Fall semester
University of Pécs	Active citizenship in underprivileged groups	2025, April
University of Cagliari	Empowering Youth through Education	2025, Fall semester
University Jaume I	Diversity and disability & Gender inequalities	2026, Spring semester
Masaryk University	How Artificial Are We?	2026, Fall semester

- **Event at UPN**

Paris Nanterre University is hosting an EDUC YIL event from April 12 to 14, 2024 around the themes of Diversity and Disability and Gender Inequality. The aim of the event is to invite young people from Nanterre and from universities in the EDUC alliance to take a stand on questions related to these themes, which will be put to them by experts and teacher-researchers. A range of activities will be proposed to the young people, enabling them to acquire elements of response and a methodology for carrying out their reflection, exchanging their ideas in an intercultural context and presenting them at the end of the 3 days. The event will close with a presentation by the young people in response to the questions posed. In addition, experts and teacher-researchers will have the opportunity during the event to share their experience and knowledge, and pool best practices to promote the inclusion of young people. All activities will be held in English and in French.

The event is designed for a total of 40 participants composed of young adults (not only students), department and academic staff from the EDUC Alliance and local external partners.

The event will invite 25 youths:

- 10 youth living in Nanterre,
- 11 regular students interested in the themes from the universities in EDUC (5 from UPN and 6 from the other EDUC universities)
- 3 expert students from the universities in EDUC working in projects in line with the themes
- 1 student representative (one from UPN).

The event will invite 5 university participants:

- 3 Academic staff and non academic staff from UPN who are experts in the themes and participate in the organization of the event
- 2 Academic staff and non academic staff from other universities of the alliance who are experts in the themes and participate in the organization of the event

The event will invite 5 associated EDUC partners experts:

- 4 local experts from UPN associated partners
- 2 local experts from other EDUC universities associated partners

- **Event at UP**

The University of Potsdam will organise an event on youth participation in urban spaces, urban diversity during the fall semester of 2024. The main aim of this event is to empower youths to stand up for free urban spaces that are becoming fewer and fewer, making them aware of their rights to claim free spaces as citizens and preserve urban diversity.

The event will be celebrated during 3 onsite consecutive days, receiving 40 participants for lectures and debates with experts on social sciences, local youth and students from all the EDUC Alliance. Activities will take place in German and in English.

In accordance with the framework note, several departments and academic staff from the university of Pécs will accompany the youth and animate the activities, as local external partners working on projects related to the same themes:

- Bürgerstiftung Potsdam (Civic foundation of Potsdam), will participate with 1 or 2 members of the foundation and identify 15 local youths.
- The Chair of Social Science Education Research will offer a one day-seminar/workshop on youth participation in urban spaces.
- The department of social sciences for students becoming school teachers at the University of Potsdam, will offer, with the students of the field, an excursion for/with the youth on "urban diversity".

- **Event at PTE**

The University of Pécs will organise an event on Active citizenship in underprivileged groups in April 2025. The main aim of this event is to discuss how young people can become active in democratic processes. What knowledge, skills, and attitudes are needed to be able to make the younger generation's voice heard, considered, and included in decision-making at general levels, especially when the advocating youth have disadvantaged backgrounds.

The event will be held during 3 onsite consecutive days (with possible online activities) through presentations, gamified workshops (on how to initiate and shape groups, on

understanding collective action mechanisms in local, national and international environments), roundtable discussions, and paintings. The variety of activity formats is designed to showcase the many dimensions of active citizenship.

The event is designed for a total of 40 participants involving youth who are and want to be active in forming their circumstances regardless of their current status of education, background.

In accordance with the framework note, several departments and academic staff from the university of Pécs will accompany the youth and animate the activities, as local external partners working on projects related to the same themes: the Youth for Participation Association (NGO), the Pécs Municipal Student Government (local organisation) and the Future visions in Baranya County (Youth Club in Kölked, local organisation), will bring their knowledge and experience in the learning process and benefiting from the vocational program. They will integrate the additional value brought by other participants. Additionally, the Fiatalok a részvételért Egyesület (Youth for Participation Association, local organisation) will lead a workshop or a presentation.

The event reach to:

- Inspire young people by the example and results of the external youth organisations. The participants will see the effects of the youth participation on the local communities and on the actors' own life. By examining the practices participants will find the way how they could use it in their own environments.
- Stimulate critical thinking by using models with moral, legal, and existential dilemmas that participants need to face and solve. They will be encouraged to approach many different aspects and measure their relevance by debating about them and evaluating the outcomes.
- Empower young people by the gained experience and knowledge. They will be helped to understand their roles, and responsibilities and it will give them the feeling that they are able to manage the community and personal challenges and be able to become active in public issues in an effective way.
- Create new collaborations by the diversity and activism of the Hungarian partners. In order to help the participants become active in the field in the future, the collaborations with active organisations.

- **Event at UNICA**

The University of Cagliari will organise an event focused on Empowering Youth through Education in the fall semester of 2025. This event aims to provide young individuals with critical thinking, problem solving and effective communication skills so they can be able to challenge societal norms constructively, voice their opinions, and actively participate in political decisions that impact their lives.

The event will take place over three onsite consecutive days (and possibly online activities) with workshops, discussions, and roundtables involving stakeholders, experts and academicians. The Workshops will emphasize the importance of critical thinking offering practical exercises to cultivate this skill and problem-solving techniques for real-world scenarios. The panel discussion will focus on Youth Activism and Civic Engagement:

- Roundtable 1 - Youth voices in policy-making. Bridging the gap.
- Roundtable 2 - Connecting with Stakeholders: Strategies for impactful advocacy throughout the event, there will be opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, and engaging with experts in various fields. This format allows participants to gain practical skills while also connecting with like-minded peers in the field of critical thinking, problem-solving, effective communication, and civic engagement

The event is designed for a total of 40 participants with different backgrounds. The event is tailored for young individuals aged 16 to 32 who aspire to have a meaningful impact on society. This includes students, recent graduates, young professionals, activists, and aspiring change-makers. Participants should have a keen interest in cultivating critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and effective communication skills to navigate and challenge political and social issues constructively. They should also be passionate about actively engaging in political discourse and decision-making processes that directly affect their lives. This event serves as a platform for motivated individuals to expand their knowledge, connect with experts, and develop the skills necessary to enact positive change in their communities and beyond.

In accordance with the framework note, several departments and academic staff from the University of Cagliari will support and lead the activities. Additionally, local external partners engaged in projects related to the same themes will also be involved.

The event reach to:

- Inspire young people by experts they will meet.
- Stimulate critical thinking by Gaining hands-on experience in critical thinking. The participants will feel more comfortable in expressing themselves and participating in the decision-making process.
- Empower the youth by learning how to advocate for positive change effectively.
- Create new collaborations to amplify impact and create a unified voice for a cause.

- **Event at UJI**

The University Jaume I will organise an event on diversity and disability & Gender inequalities during the spring semester in 2026. The main aim of this event is to promote tolerant and respectful behaviours towards diversities through experiential workshops and visits to NGOs and entities related to Jaume I University of Castelló.

The event will be celebrated during 3 consecutive days (morning and afternoon) through face to face workshops and visits in order to focus on enhancing the experiential part of these activities.

The event is designed for a total of 55 participants from a variety of backgrounds:

- 15 local youth (young people living in Castelló);
- 14 students, under 32 years old, from the universities of the EDUC Alliance, with curiosity for the themes (2 per partners);
- 8 staff members of the University of Jaume I;
- 8 volunteer students from the University of Jaume I;
- 10 staff members from external entities;

In accordance with the framework note, several departments and academic staff from the University Jaume I will accompany the youth and animate the activities:

- The Diversity and Disability Unit; whose mission is to develop the Inclusion Plan for Persons with Disabilities at the university. It is the point of reference in the university for issues of awareness, attention, support and accessibility for people with disabilities and specific educational support needs. It will approach the workshops and theoretical content related to diversity and disability within the event.
- The Equality Unit; whose main objective is to develop functions related to the principle of equality between women and men. Its experts will be leading the workshops related with gender inequalities and equality principles.
- The Development Cooperation and Solidarity Office; whose mission is disseminating and developing the principles of solidarity and cooperation among the university community, both locally and internationally, with the aim of making a university more humane and committed to the inequalities and injustices of the world around us. Its experts will be in charge of some of the workshops related with inclusion of minorities and diversity.

The event will also involve local external partners working on projects related to the same themes. They will participate presenting projects, animating experiential activities and dialoguing with the other attendees of the event.

Activities will take place in the local language with the support of simultaneous translation. The event will include workshops, presentations and theoretical framework concepts review. The participation of the students in the event will be mostly practical through participatory and experiential workshops. The event reach to:

- Inspire young people through the creation of scenarios in which plural and inclusive situations are visualised.
- Stimulate critical thinking as critical thinking will be a topic to work with through the analysis of situations based on real cases.
- Empower the youth offering tools to deal with situations through tolerance and inclusion
- Create new collaborations promoting personal links, between universities and between entities

- **Event at MU**

Masaryk University will organise an event entitled “How Artificial Are We?” during the fall semester of 2024. The event should include many current topics that resonate in the society covering 4 main fields:

1. Artificial Bodies (Plastics in our food, Artificial beautification);
2. Technologies and us - are we still natural?;
3. AI in everyday life (Phenomenon, history, where can we find it);
4. How sellable are you? (How does our brain react to marketing strategies - is it natural?).

The aim is to present these topics based on facts and science, show the pros and cons and let the audience create its own opinion thanks to the active discussion and workshops. The mentioned range of topics covered in this event enables it to catch the attention of a wide spectrum of audience.

The event will be celebrated during 3 consecutive days onsite with possible online streaming. The programme will include presentations, panel discussions, workshops and live demonstrations of discussed topics. After the presentations there will be a time block for questions and discussions. Workshops and live demonstrations encourage active participation of the audience.

The event is designed for a total of 50 participants composed of young adults (not only students), department and academic staff from the EDUC Alliance and local external partners.

Activities will be held in English and Czech. The event reach to:

- Inspire the audience as they would use the provided information in order to improve everyday life (avoiding the plastics in food, reducing the use of technologies in free time, using AI wisely and being able to reveal marketing strategies targeting us every day).

- Stimulate critical thinking as the provided information based on fact will support creation of own opinions and attitudes.
- Empower the audience as everybody will have a possibility to ask questions, participate in debates, be heard and express his/her own opinion.
- Create new collaborations as the workshops and debates will create space for creating new collaborations within the audience and also between presenters and audience.

Conclusion

The EDUC alliance aims to create spaces allowing European youth to become more visible and acquire skills to address current challenges by organising six events during the three following years (2024, 2025 and 2026). Each event aims to inspire, stimulate critical thinking and empower the youth through lectures, roundtables, workshops, visits, and debates. They also carry to create new collaborations to foster further activism among youth, inviting participants with a large diversity of backgrounds.

The University of Paris Nanterre and the University of Jaume I will organise an event focused on Diversity and disability & Gender inequalities to promote tolerant and respectful behaviours towards diversities. The University of Potsdam will organise an event on youth participation in urban spaces, urban diversity to empower youths to stand up for free in urban spaces that are becoming fewer and fewer, making them aware of their rights to claim free spaces as citizens and preserve urban diversity. Masaryk University will organise an event entitled “How Artificial Are We?” including many current topics that resonate in the society. The University of Pécs will organise an event on active citizenship in underprivileged groups to discuss how young people can become active in democratic processes. Finally, the University of Cagliari will organise a focused on Empowering Youth through Education. This event aims to provide young individuals with critical thinking, problem solving and effective communication skills, enabling them to constructively challenge societal norms, voice their opinions, and actively participate in political decisions that impact their lives.

In order to assess the achievement of the outputs, the EDUC alliance will develop a common framework to measure the impact among the audience of the event.