

IDEA-C

Inter-cultural Dimension for European Active Citizenship (IDEA-C)

Funded by “Europe for Citizens” Programme 2014-2020

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The project „Inter-Cultural Dimension for European Active Citizenships” (IDEA-C) fosters the political education in Europe. It interconnects local and European dimensions, clarifies these links and provides experimental and participatory activities in the daily-life environment for the participants.

IDEA-C thus promotes a better understanding of the future of Europe, the institutions of the European Union and builds the foundation for a higher turnout, especially among young voters, at the EU parliament elections. IDEA-C addresses the main causes for low electoral participation:

- Lack of interest and of knowledge of the democratic workings of the EU
- Mistrust towards EU institutions
- Lack of information and sense of belonging to Europe

IDEA-C meets the following measures:

- Developing of participatory activities to influence and design real life environments
- Participation based on intrinsic motivations (e.g. in action-learning)
- Improving the perception by re-contextualization of local and European dimensions on site

- Education about Europe, the EU, the European Parliament according to political participation

The 13 international project partners will implement a series of workshops, in which different target groups, especially young and older people, will develop and use methods of political education and local participation:

Participation and democracy were the central topics of the kids workshop in Bremen hosted by the M2C Institute for Applied Media Technology and Culture and supported by the City University of Applied Sciences Bremen. Kids of the Gesamtschule Bremen Mitte (GSM) were invited to work and participate in topics of local participation and democracy. Around 80 children of the comprehensive school Bremen-Mitte (GSM) across the age between 10 and 12 started to work from February to March 2015 independently and active on issues of democracy in Europe as well as local and European participation. The GSM, arisen of a parents initiative in the 1980s is doing pioneer work in the areas of project related, self-organized and inter-year education and promotes a differentiated, group-learning, self-organized and self-reliant approach of education and cares about issues of participation, democracy, Europe and active citizenship. Thematic foundation for the kids workshop was the current creative lab development in the old post building near the Bremen Central Station. Soon here will emerge a creative hub in the heart of the city which links the FabLab Bremen e.V., the Mobile Game Lab of the City University of Applied Sciences Bremen and an indoor sports facility/skater hall of the Sportgarten e.V. under one roof: Experts of the three facilities attended the workshop to support with their professional input. All involved facilities work in European networks and are partly funded by the EU as well as the emerging city lab in Postamt 5.

We invited the GSM kids to think about new ways of civic and democratic participation. Focused on new approaches towards the creative city lab and of new concepts of its use for to influence urban and participative development in Bremen: How can children use the Fablab for to re-design the town? How can mobile games designed by kids change or influence social, ecological or other dimensions in the urban space? What kind of play can be combined with it? How are these creative labs part of a European network? How valuable are the things created in such a lab? And how can children design their creative lab or use the creative lab as “tool” for to change proactively their environment?

In addition the M2C Institute hosted the European Symposium about participation and active citizenship in Bremen in July 2015.

The aim of the symposium was to develop new approaches to participation and democracy, to present the best-practice results and to discuss with more than 35 European experts from academia, politics, business and culture and about 60 representatives of the target groups new perspectives for democracy and participation in Europe and continue to develop methods for promoting active citizenship.

The symposium started with a knowledge fair at which the target groups presented self-developed concepts and ideas for participatory applications, methods and games. The exhibited concepts initiated intensive discussions between the developers and experts and fostered a steady exchange of best practice examples and use cases for participative and democratic projects and developments. In the afternoon, the following expert lectures were presented:

- Martin Koplín, Director of M2C Institute for Applied Media Technology: *Participation as democratic tool*

- Thomas Lecke-Lopatta, Member of the Senator (State Ministry) for Environment, Construction, Transport and Europe, Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

:

Young people as urbanizers

- José Carlos Bronze, Project Manager, Piaget Institute Portugal: *Towards an increased sense of belonging: from local to European level*

- Saskia Edwards, Youth Mayor of Oldham and Mariam Waseem, British Youth Council Trustee

:
Youth Participation – Grass roots engagement to European democracy – A UK perspective

- Denise Kappe and Stephan Siegert, Researcher at M2C Institute for Applied Media
Technology: *Best practice of
participation and activation in Europe*

Other objectives of the symposium were the targeted exchange between scientists and experts in Europe as well as to provide a professional platform, where new impulses for participation and active citizenship could be discussed and further developed. With the integration of the presented user culture in the scientific discourse, the input of young creatives and the children expanded the perspectives on participation and citizenship and helped developing new ideas for future-orientated projects.

Results:

A summary of the project results can be found here: [IDEA-C Info.pdf](#)

Project partners:

M2C Institut für angewandte Medienforschung, Bremen, DE

Municipality Geraci Siculo, Province of Palermo, IT (Leadpartner)

EprojectConsult – European Institute for training and research, Messina, IT

University of Piraeus, Research Center, Piraeus, GR

MULTIKULTURA, Krakow PL

Mediter – Euro-Mediterranean network for co-operation, Brussels, BE

E-Juniors, Paris, FR

Municipality Kistarcsa, Province of Budapest, HU

Know and Can Association, Sofia, BG

Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Art, Ljubljana, SL

Universidad Catolica de Murcia, Murcia, ES

Youth in Science and Business Foundation, Tallinn, EE

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Oldham, GB

Associated partners:

City University of Applied Science Bremen

Gesamtschule Bremen-Mitte

Sportgarten e.V., Bremen

Mobile Game Lab, Bremen

FabLab Bremen e.V.





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