

1st News Letter

September 2026



The journey started in Bitonto

The Civic Voices partnership officially came together in Bitonto, Italy, on May 11-12th, where Sinergia partner hosted the project's kick-off meeting.

Partners from all four countries met to exchange ideas, discuss objectives, agree on the next steps, and began co-designing the Voices into Action Toolkit. The meeting created a strong foundation for cooperation and the intensive work that followed.

A special moment was the exchange with Bitonto's Youth Policies Councilor, Dalilla Cariello, who brought a local perspective to the international discussion about meaningful youth participation.

From Civic Voices to Action: Our Journey Has Begun

How can we help young people become more confident, active and responsible citizens?

This is the question at the heart of the Civic Voices – Youth Engagement for Peace and Democracy project.

Over the coming two years, partners from Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Czechia are working together to strengthen young people's civic competences, critical thinking, leadership and participation in democratic life. The project combines education, practical activities, international cooperation and youth-led initiatives to help young people move from having a voice to using it.

What are we going to create ?

The project brings together several interconnected activities designed to support young people and youth workers and other professionals who work with them.

One of the first major results will be the **Voices into Action educational Toolkit** – a multilingual practical resource designed to strengthen democratic citizenship and youth leadership.

The project will also include **Democratic Labs**, a **Local Incubation Programme**, transnational cooperation and youth-led initiatives, culminating in the creation of “**Peace in Action: A Youth Manifesto**”, which will bring together young people’s ideas and recommendations on civic engagement and media literacy.

The aim is not simply to create theoretical materials. Each module is being designed as a **practical learning resource**, combining a short theoretical introduction with activities that youth workers and educators can directly use with young people – including practical tasks, scenarios, instructions, lesson plans and case studies.

What comes next ?

The development of the Toolkit continues, with partners working together to **finalize the modules** and prepare the materials for the **upcoming piloting phase**. In the months ahead, we will put these tools into practice through democratic labs, local activities, and international exchanges.

Stay with us as we move from Civic Voices to Civic Action!

Visit Civic Voices website !

www.civic-voices.eu

The Voices into Action Toolkit is taking shape

Since the kick-off meeting, partners have been working intensively on the **development of the five Toolkit modules**:

1. Understanding Civic Engagement
2. Critical Thinking & Media Literacy
3. Human Rights & Democratic Values
4. Youth Participation & Leadership
5. Intercultural Dialogue & European Identity

Five modules. One shared goal: turning young people’s voices into action.