

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

D.1. Why does your organization wish to undertake this Action?

- Brief write-up of the key points.
- Background and rationale of the proposal.
- Objectives, activities, main outputs, outcomes, and impact, including indicators of achievement

Introduction:

In the last elections to the EU parliament Slovakia ended up among the countries with the lowest turnout, and the participation of young people was relatively poor. Since joining the EU, turnout stayed low compared to the EU average. In the last election in 2019 the turnout in Slovakia was 22,7%, while the EU average was more than two times higher – 50,6%. We consider it essential for young people to have significantly higher knowledge about the EU as we are part of it, and European policies influence our daily life. We believe that the EU project guarantees us security, prosperity, cooperation, well-being, and human rights protection, and therefore it is necessary to strengthen its values among the future generation.

Objectives:

Educate young people and enhance their knowledge about EU affairs by making a space for discussion with university teachers and experts from the field, such as official representatives. Through the discussion, we would like to debunk famous hoaxes and disinformation which has been circulating in the Slovak space since we entered the EU. We want to highlight the pros related to young people, such as Erasmus+, freedom of speech, free traveling, working, and studying abroad, especially in regions with the lowest turnout.

Activities:

Our project comprises twenty high school activities, notably seminars and quiz competitions. We are about to organize these activities in regions outside of the capital city of Bratislava, such as Banská Bystrica, Košice, and Prešov. Our focusing group is not only grammar school students but also technical school students. The seminar consists of 40 minutes lecture taught by two university teachers from the department of European Studies based at the Comenius University and the University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, the Department of International Relations based at the University of Economics. Skilled youth workers also participate in seminars as they create a non-formal environment and share their experiences by storytelling about internships and the Erasmus+ exchange study program, which supports ongoing meetings. Ten minutes are always reserved for open discussion, and the last ten minutes are supposed to be used for a Kahoot quiz which would consist of questions provided mainly during the seminar. The quiz winner will be able to visit the EU institutions in Brussels. In total, we will have a group of 20 high school students from the various environment, and our youth workers will lead them. Students who end up in the 2nd and the 3rd place will win prizes such as power banks, T-shirts, intelligent pens, hats with an EU logo, etc.

The main contribution:

Such activities will have a significant impact mainly in 3 areas. Firstly, the students will obtain high-quality knowledge provided by well-educated university teachers. Secondly, through the storytelling of young youth workers, the students will get not only the practical

experience but also motivation to take part in youth projects, i.e. short Erasmus+ projects and regular Erasmus exchange program, European Solidarity Corps, and traineeships abroad. Last but not least, the winners of each quiz will have an opportunity to visit EU institutions which will provide them with on-ground experiences about decision-making and EU structures. We believe all these three areas will lead to a chain effect when the students spread positive enlightenment about the EU among its relatives, friends, and in their social bubble.

Impact:

We believe that the contribution of these projects is mutual as such activities will have an impact not only on their knowledge but also on higher participation linked with the upcoming EU elections in 2024. Another positive impact of this project will be the increase of other indicators such as the perception of the EU in the eyes of young people, higher numbers of Erasmus students, and higher numbers of internships abroad. By doing this, we believe that we can strengthen EU pillars in Slovakia.

Work program:

Our project is divided into 3 phases. The first is networking, which means getting in touch with school principals and university teachers and arranging meetings and dates. The second is organizing training for our youth workers participating in seminars provided by coaches with a vision to provide them with specific skills such as public speaking, presenting skills, and working with an audience. The third phase is scheduled planning in Brussels, including hotel bookings, study visits, and informal activities.

Budget planning:

Each seminar will cost us 100 euros that will be paid to university teachers. Training provided by coaches costs 200 euros. Travel cost and accommodation for youth workers and university teachers will cost us (including ten nights) in case of distant places would be 1 500 euros. Flying and public transportation tickets to Brussels for 23 people will cost us 1 500 euros. An accommodation (with breakfast included) will cost us 4 600 euros. Launches and dinners will cost about 2500 euros. In total, we require 10 400 euros.

Quality and control monitoring:

Quality monitoring will be ensured by anonymous feedback in electronic form. Forms will always be sent after the sessions. At each seminar, there will be a coordinator who will oversee the progress. There will also be an opportunity where participants can express their thoughts and perceptions about each activity.