

INTERNATIONAL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

“YOUNG LEADERS UNITED FOR DEMOCRACY”

The programme consists of a series of online workshops and individual assignments that focus on critical thinking and promoting European values such as democracy and human rights. The mentor will be [Ciprian Cucu](#), a university lecturer, activist, and countering-disinformation expert from Romania. German contact points will be Moritz Borchardt, educator and organiser in formal and non-formal education, and Vladislav Artiukhov, international youth worker. The program be [12 months long](#), with breaks during the summer and winter holidays. Each workshop will be [two hours long](#) and will be restricted to a maximum of [40 participants](#). Outside of the online mentorship program, there will as well be the chance to participate in [two study visits](#) to the heart of Europe in [Brussels](#).



Your Profile

- You are [12-26 years old](#);
- You have the ability to support your ideas with arguments;
- You have the ability to understand and communicate in [English](#);
- You are eager and curious to learn more about [European values and roles](#);
- Demonstrate an interest in promoting the rights of young people;
- You are creative and eager to transform ideas into facts and actions;
- You are responsible and eager to [coordinate various activities & initiatives](#)

Your Commitment

- You commit to participating in the Online Mentoring Program, respectively at least in [8 workshops out of 12](#)
- You commit to participating in at least [2 advocacy actions](#).
- You commit to participating in the [online debates](#) organized internationally
- You are willing to be involved in the [local events](#) in Germany



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[Application form](#)



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND TOPICS OF THE MENTORING PROGRAM

1. Who runs a country?

A civics workshop about the way power is split among government branches, citizens, NGOs, and political parties.

By the end of the workshop, participants should:

- Understand the importance of separation of power and protecting human rights.
- Be able to list at least 5 human rights and describe the mechanisms of governing a democratic country.

3. Act for change: campaigning and advocacy

Civics workshop focused on understanding and planning awareness and advocacy campaigns. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Define the concept of advocacy, and give examples of effective advocacy campaigns.
- Plan an advocacy campaign on a topic of interest.

5. Fake news and how to spot them

Introductory media literacy workshop, dealing with main concepts and models to evaluate the quality of information. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Define main concepts such as misinformation, disinformation, and fake news.
- Verify if a new article or social media post is "fake news".

2. Left, right, and other directions in politics

A civics workshop, introduction to political ideologies. We will discuss, without favouring one particular ideology, what the basic distinctions between "left" and "right" mean in politics, what are other ways of looking at political ideologies, and why it matters. By the end of the workshop, participants should:

- Be able to describe the main political ideologies and why they are important.
- Understand the limitations of political ideologies and their implementation in practice.

4. I'm a European citizen and I have rights

Workshop on the functioning of European institutions and what it means to be a European citizen. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe the main European institutions and their connections.
- List some benefits of being a citizen of a member state of the European Union and the possibilities to act on a European level.

6. What is media and when should we trust it?

Media literacy workshop focused on understanding the role and forms of media, as well as evaluation methods for media quality. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe various forms of media.
- Analyze information sources in terms of reliability/quality.

Obs: this workshop is a continuation of "Fake news and how to spot them".

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND TOPICS OF THE MENTORING PROGRAM

7. How do we know what we know? Stories and reality

Workshop in countering disinformation focusing on techniques used in spreading false narratives. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe the main false narratives being spread in Europe.
- Discover key points in subtle messaging that supports false narratives.

Obs: this workshop is a continuation of "Fake news and how to spot them"

8. Listen to reason: argumentation and logical fallacies

Workshop on critical thinking, starting from the theory of argumentation and focusing on common logical fallacies. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe the standard structure of an argument.
- Recognize 3-5 common logical fallacies in written texts.

9. Building argument maps

Workshop on critical thinking focused on building visual representations of complex arguments. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Understand the need to engage critically with statements and to view both sides of a debate.
- Represent the pros/cons of a proposed statement in a visual form to foster understanding.

10. Activism: using art for good

A civics workshop centred around the importance of art as a means to promote social change. We will use examples of art being used to support social movements or promote positive values. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Understand the role art has in promoting positive values.
- Understand some of the ways art can be used in connection to activism.

11. Technology for active citizens

A technical / technology-focused workshop to present some tools that can be of use to activists. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Use applications such as Google Drive, Google Spreadsheets, Google Documents, Google Presentation, Slack, and Miro to better coordinate inside groups and engage with communities.

12. Less is more: introduction to graphic design

The technical workshop focused on design principles and specialized applications that can help in building attractive campaigns. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Define 3 – 5 principles of good design.
- Use Canva and other applications to create simple but effective designs.