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The workshop materials are divided into presentations and participatory activities, each designed to educate, inspire, and empower citizens to engage with democratic processes—especially within the European Union. Below is a breakdown of the content:

I. Presentations

1. Citizens' Participation Overview

Defines citizen participation and its importance in democratic processes.
Highlights key elements such as voice, involvement, and collaboration.
Introduces Arnstein's Ladder to illustrate varying degrees of citizen influence in decision-making.

2. Forms and Barriers of Participation

Explores different forms of participation, including electoral, deliberative, and digital engagement.
Identifies barriers such as lack of awareness, distrust in institutions, and socioeconomic disparities.

3. Promoting Participation and EU Public Consultations

Discusses strategies to enhance civic engagement, such as civic education and diverse participation channels.
Explains the role of EU public consultations in shaping policies and how citizens can contribute.

4. European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

Defines the ECI as a key EU democratic tool that enables citizens to propose legislation.
Explains the process: collecting 1 million signatures from at least 7 EU member states to submit a proposal to the European Commission.
Highlights real-world examples of ECIs and their impact, even when not adopted.
Includes a practical link to the official ECI portal for direct citizen engagement.

II. Interactive Activities

1. Citizen Concerns Mapping

- Objective: identify and prioritize community issues through collaborative brainstorming.
- Method:
 - participants write concerns on sticky notes (e.g., "poor public transport").
 - facilitators group notes by theme (e.g., infrastructure, environment).
 - group discussion and voting to highlight top priorities.
- Outcome: a visual "problem tree" to guide advocacy or policy recommendations.

2. Fake News Debunking Workshop

- Skills taught: source verification, reverse image search, bias detection.
- Activity: groups analyze real and fake headlines (e.g., manipulated images, clickbait).
- Goal: combat misinformation and promote media literacy.

3. European Union Trivia

- Format: quiz with categories like EU history, institutions (e.g., "What does the European Commission do?"), and symbols (e.g., "How many stars on the EU flag?").
- Engagement: teams compete using buzzers or apps, with prizes for winners.

4. EU Voices Community Forum

- Structure:
 - Small-group discussions on EU topics (e.g., Green Deal, youth programs).
 - Open forum with representatives (e.g., local MEPs) to share insights.
- Creative Elements: "Dear EU" letters, suggestion walls, and live polls.

5. ECI Simulation

- Hands-On Exercise:
 - Groups draft a mock ECI proposal (e.g., "Free Public Transport in the EU").
 - Practice steps: drafting, signature collection, and pitching to the "Commission."

III. Additional Resources

- Problem/Solution Trees: frameworks to analyze root causes of democratic gaps and brainstorm interventions.
- Mentimeter Word Cloud: live activity where participants share obstacles to participation (e.g., "lack of trust").

Key Themes

1. Empowerment: tools like the ECI and public consultations demystify EU engagement.
2. Inclusivity: activities address barriers faced by marginalized groups.
3. Action-oriented: from fact-checking to policy proposals, materials translate theory into practice.



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Citizens' Participation

Understanding, Promoting, and Facilitating Participation

Castellon de la Plana - 24-27/03/2025

WP3- International Workshop on Effective Participation

What is Citizen Participation?

Citizens' participation involves the active engagement of individuals in decision-making processes across different levels, including local, national, and international arenas. This participation can take various forms, such as voting in elections, attending town hall meetings, joining civic organizations, or participating in public consultations.



Key elements

Voice

Expressing opinions and concerns

Involvement

Taking part in community actions

Collaboration

Working with institutions and civil society

Why is Citizens' Participation Important?

Strengthens democratic values

Boosts transparency and accountability

Leads to better policies

Encourages active citizenship

Strengthens social cohesion

Makes citizens responsible

Arnstein's Ladder

Partnership, Delegated Power, Citizens' Control

Degrees of Citizens' Power

Informing, Consultation, Placation

Degrees of Tokenism

Manipulation and Therapy

Non-participation



Forms of citizens' participation

- **Electoral Participation:** Voting in elections, running for office
- **Deliberative Participation:** Public consultations, town hall meetings
- **Community Engagement:** Volunteering, local projects
- **Digital Participation:** Online petitions, e-participation platforms
- **Protest & Advocacy:** Demonstrations, activism, social movements

Barriers to participation



- **Lack of awareness:** People don't know their rights or how to participate
- **Distrust in institutions** Perception that participation won't make a difference
- **Social and economic barriers** Marginalized groups often excluded
- **Digital divide** Not everyone has access to online tools or know how to use them

How to Promote Citizens' Participation

Civic Education

Transparency & Accessibility

Diverse Participation Channels

Feedback Mechanisms

Inclusion and intergenerationality

Media Literacy

Thank



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A better Europe for and by its citizens
International Workshop
Capacity Building for Citizens Engagement

24th - 27th March 2025

Castellón de la Plana - Spain

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How can civic participation influence the future of Europe and the value of shared European heritage?

1. The fundamental role of civic participation in European democracy

Value of participation: The active engagement of citizens helps keep local and regional democracies alive, strengthening the democratic principle at the heart of the EU.

Inclusive decision-making processes: Participation allows citizens to influence decisions at different levels (local, national, European), ensuring that policies reflect the real needs of the population.



2. The importance of European cultural heritage in creating a common identity

Awareness and respect for diversity: European heritage is a unique combination of cultures, languages, traditions, and values. Participating in initiatives that promote understanding of this diversity helps build a stronger and more inclusive European identity.

Unity in diversity: Deepening knowledge of common heritage encourages a collective vision, reducing cultural and social barriers between EU citizens.



3. Civic participation tools to influence change

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_it

Public consultations:



**ECI -
European Citizens' Initiative**



Figures:

https://citizens-initiative-forum.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-07/ECI_Forum_Infographic_2024_FINAL.pdf



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4. Concrete benefits of civic participation in the territory

Promoting rights and opportunities: Citizens involved in decision-making can influence social inclusion projects, youth programs, funding for cultural infrastructure and digital initiatives, making Europe a fairer and more innovative environment.

Sustainability initiatives: the importance of civic participation in promoting sustainability initiatives at local and regional level, and how these can influence policies at European level.



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5. Create resilient and engaged communities through cultural heritage

Valuing shared history for a shared future: European cultural heritage can serve as a basis for educational programs and cultural exchanges, which increase awareness and civic engagement.

Building cohesive communities: Participating in local cultural events, workshops and discussions fosters intercultural dialogue, strengthening the sense of community and belonging to Europe.



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6. How civic engagement can strengthen European social cohesion

Reducing inequalities: Promoting participation among young people, women and ethnic minorities strengthens inclusivity and social equity, contributing to a more cohesive and supportive European society.

Promoting European solidarity: Actively participating in European events creates solidarity and awareness, which are essential for tackling common challenges such as unemployment, migration and the climate crisis together.



7. The impact of civic participation on the future of Europe

Influence on EU policies: Civic participation helps steer the EU's policy agenda towards issues that matter most to citizens, such as climate, digital inclusion, human rights and security.

Creating an active and aware citizenship: Actively participating in European civic life helps to develop citizens who are aware of their rights and duties, promoting an active, informed and involved society.



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Simulation of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)

Now, get involved! Form groups of 7 people each and follow the instructions on the sheet.



https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/how-it-works_it



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Word cloud – Mentimeter

What obstacles do you think citizens face in participating in European decision-making processes?



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Thank you for your attention!

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Castellon de la Plana – 24-27/03/2025

EU Public Consultations

Engaging Citizens in EU
Decision-Making



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What are EU Public Consultations?

A process where the European Commission seeks feedback from citizens, businesses, and organizations.

Helps shape EU policies, laws, and initiatives.

Part of the 'Better Regulation' approach.





Why P.C. Matter?



Increases
transparency



Favours citizens'
participation

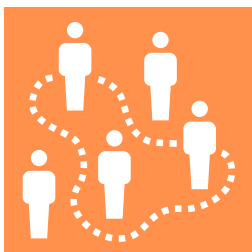


Ensures different
perspectives in
Policy-making



Helps the EU to
create fairer
policies

Who can participate?



Citizens of EU Member States



NGOs and interest groups



Business and organizations



Public authorities and experts

How to participate



Visit the official
EU portal:
'Have Your Say'

Choose an open
consultation
relevant to you

Read the
background
information

Submit your
opinion online

Follow updates
on how your
input is used

Examples of Recent Public Consultations

- 01 Climate Action & Green Deal Policies.
- 02 Digital Transformation & AI Regulation
- 03 Consumer Rights & Fair Trade Practices
- 04 Education & Youth Participation in the EU



Challenges in Public Consultations

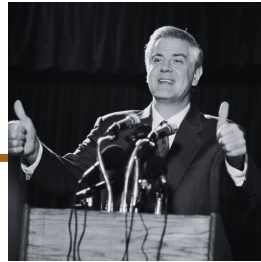
- Low awareness among citizens.
 - Technical or complex language.
 - Unequal access to digital tools.
 - Perception that feedback has limited impact.
- 

How to improve engagement



Media and Events

Promote consultations through social media and local events



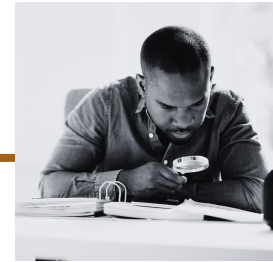
Language

Use clearer, more accessible language



Engage

Bring together community groups, interest groups, to analyze selected policies



Transparency

Ensure transparency in how input is used



Call to action



Visit the EU Public
Consultations
website

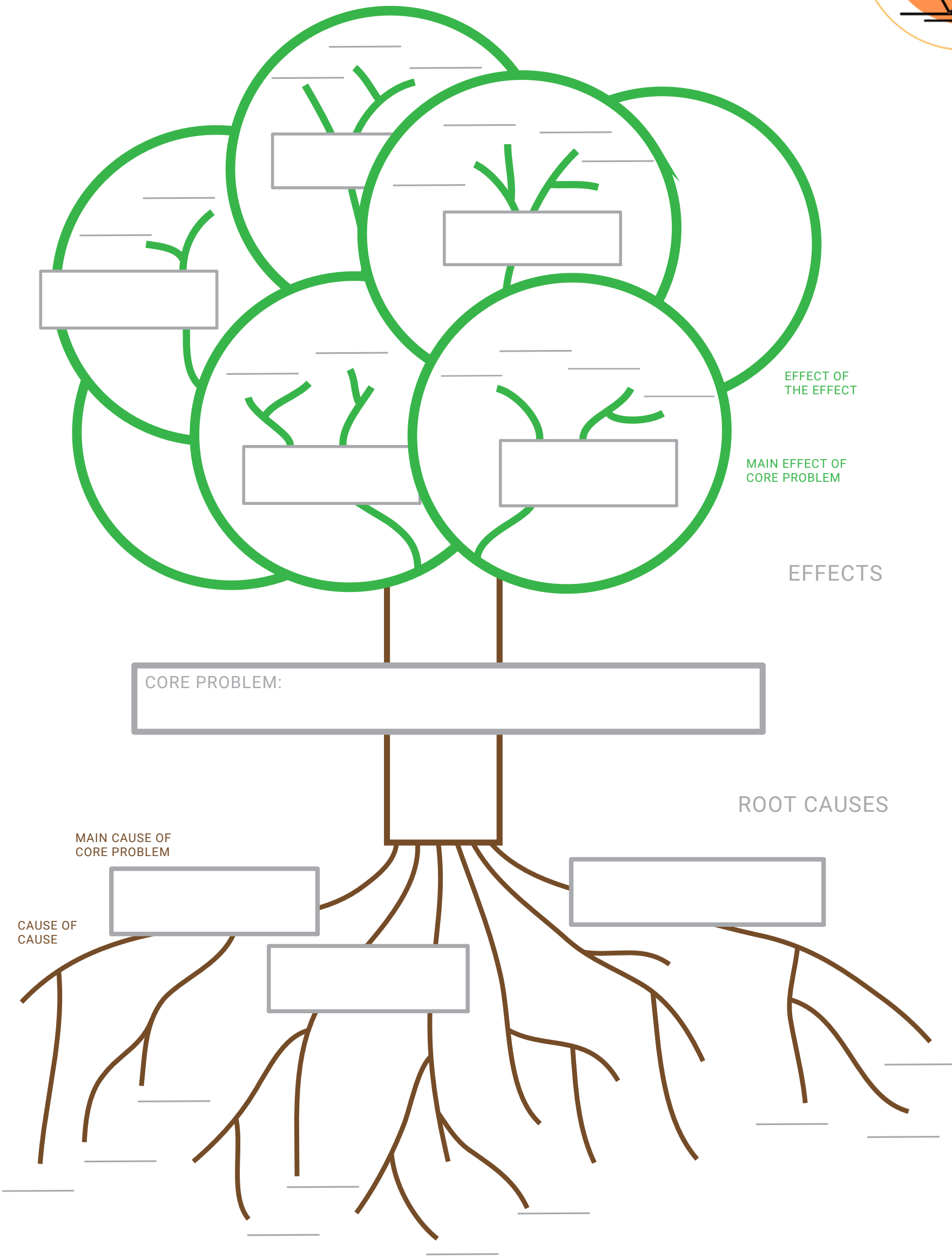
Find a topic you
care about

Share your opinion
and influence EU
policies!

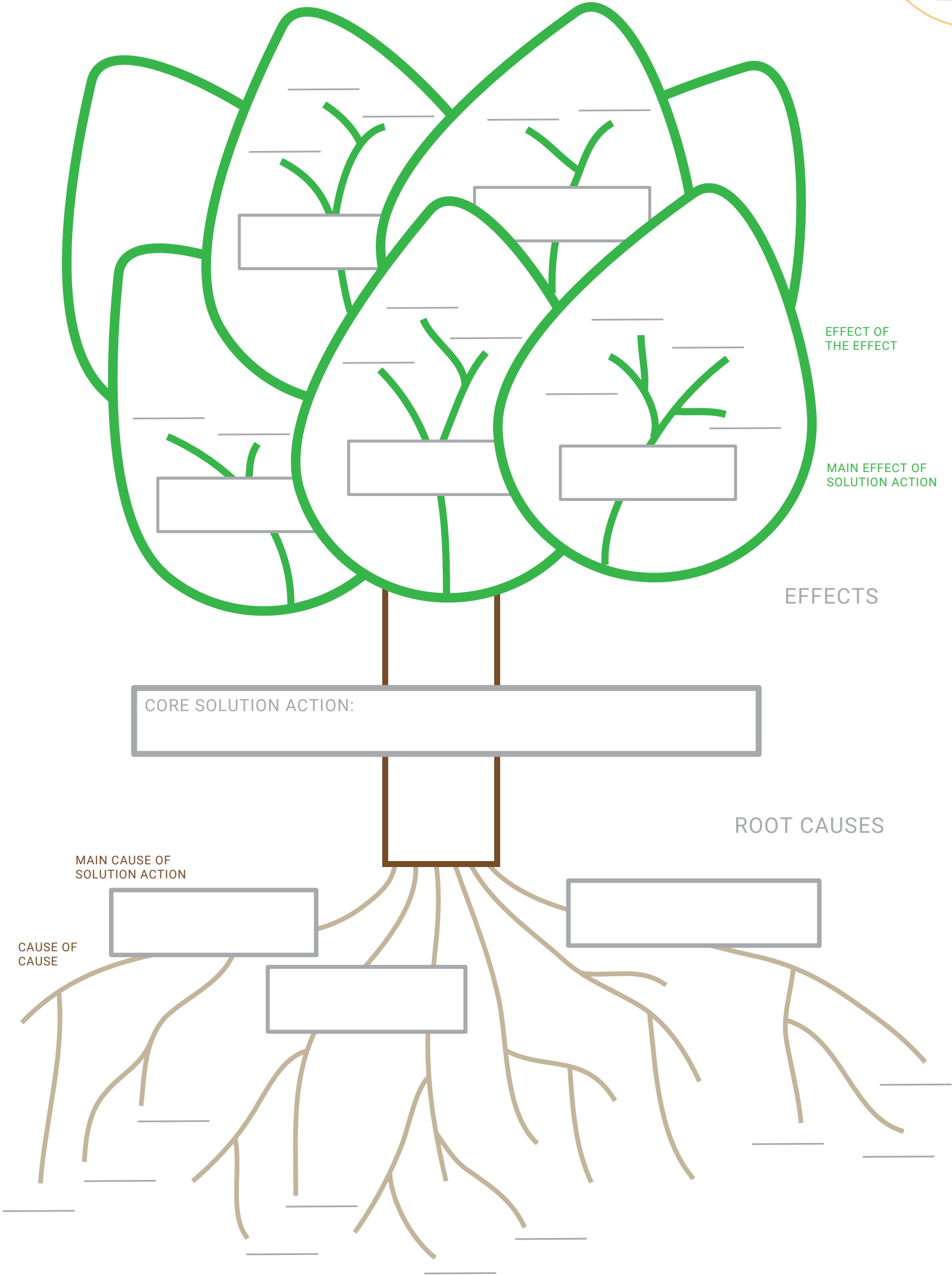
Encourage others
to participate

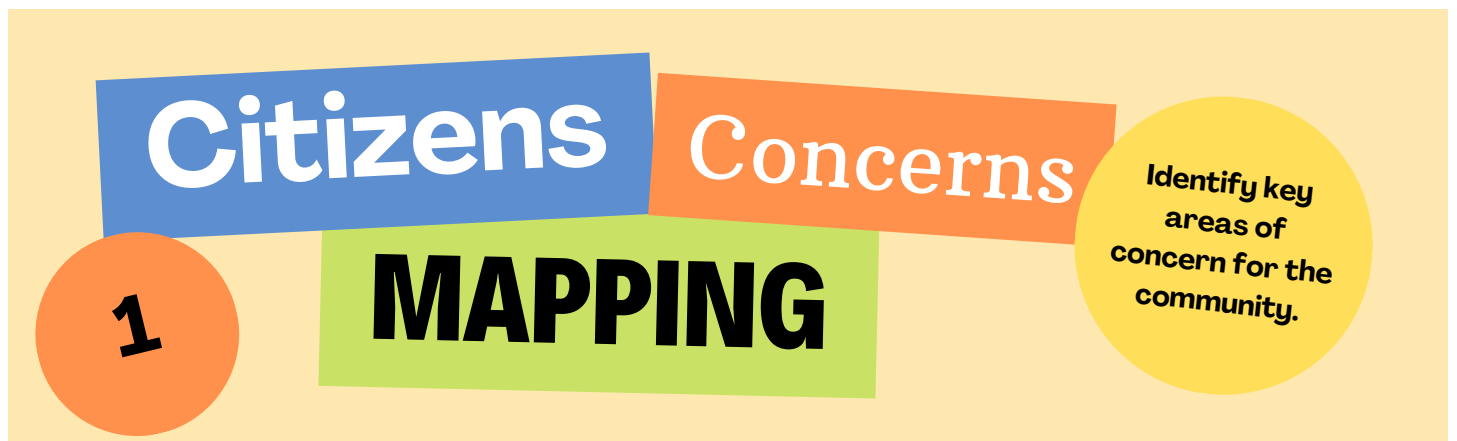


PROBLEM TREE



SOLUTION TREE





Objective:

The purpose of Citizen Concerns Mapping is to provide a structured and participatory way for community members to identify, share, and prioritize the issues that matter most to them. This activity fosters civic engagement by ensuring that every voice is heard and helps bridge the gap between citizens and decision-makers by presenting collective concerns in an organized manner.

Preparation

1. Materials Needed:
 - Sticky notes (different colors for different categories, e.g., social, environmental, economic issues).
 - Large sheets of paper, a whiteboard, or a wall for mapping.
 - Markers or pens.
 - Labels for categories or themes (optional but recommended to predefine broad themes).
2. Space Setup:
 - Arrange tables or create standing stations around the room with enough space for participants to interact.
 - Designate a central board or wall as the "mapping area."
3. Facilitators:
 - Assign one or more facilitators to guide the activity, answer questions, and ensure all voices are included.
 - The facilitators should have a brief understanding of potential categories and be able to cluster concerns dynamically.

Execution

1. Introduction (10 minutes):
 - Begin with a short welcome and introduction to the purpose of the activity.
 - Explain that the goal is to map out the community's concerns and identify shared priorities that can inform local decision-making or advocacy efforts.
 - Emphasize inclusivity and openness: "There are no wrong answers."
2. Brainstorming Session (15–20 minutes):

- Distribute sticky notes and markers to participants.
 - Invite them to write down their primary concerns, one per sticky note. Encourage clarity and brevity, e.g., “Lack of recycling facilities” or “Need for better public transport.”
 - Suggest they focus on issues they are passionate about or directly affect their community.
3. Clustering and Categorizing (15–20 minutes):
- Participants take turns placing their sticky notes on the central board or wall.
 - As notes are placed, facilitators or volunteers group similar concerns under common themes (e.g., environmental issues, social justice, infrastructure, misinformation).
 - If a note doesn’t fit into a category, it can stand alone or inspire a new category.
4. Discussion and Validation (20–30 minutes):
- Once all sticky notes are mapped and clustered, open the floor for discussion:
 - Are these groupings representative of the community’s concerns?
 - Are there overlapping themes that could be combined?
 - Which issues seem most urgent or widespread?
 - Facilitators can use a quick show of hands or colored stickers to let participants vote on the top 2–3 concerns in each category.

Follow-Up and Outputs

1. Document the Results:
 - Take a photo of the completed map or replicate it digitally.
 - Transcribe the sticky notes and categories into a summary document for analysis and sharing.
2. Actionable Steps:
 - Organize the top priorities into a report that can be presented to local officials or community leaders.
 - Suggest potential next steps, such as forming working groups or scheduling follow-up meetings.
3. Feedback and Reflection:
 - At the end of the session, ask participants for feedback:
 - Did they feel heard?
 - Are there concerns they believe were missed?
 - Collect ideas for how the community can take action on the mapped issues.

Why This Activity Reduces the Perceived Democratic Gap

- **Visibility:** It makes citizens’ concerns visible in a structured way, providing a sense of validation and recognition.
- **Accessibility:** The simple and open format ensures that everyone, regardless of age or educational background, can participate meaningfully.
- **Collaboration:** By grouping similar issues, it fosters a sense of shared challenges and collective ownership.
- **Action-Orientation:** The process naturally leads to prioritization and creates a basis for concrete action steps.

Optional Enhancements

1. Digital Mapping Tools:
 - Use online platforms like Padlet or Miro for a hybrid or fully digital version, allowing broader participation.
2. Guest Observers:
 - Invite local representatives or decision-makers to observe or participate in the activity to show institutional interest in citizen concerns.
3. Thematic Pre-Surveys:
 - Conduct a short survey beforehand to identify broad themes and prepare the mapping session accordingly.

Fake-news

Debunking

2

WORKSHOP

Build skills to
identify and
debunk
disinformation.

Objective

The aim of this workshop is to empower participants with the knowledge and skills needed to identify and debunk misinformation. By analyzing real-world examples and practicing fact-checking techniques, participants will become more critical consumers of information and better equipped to counteract the spread of fake news in their communities.

Preparation

1. Materials Needed:

- Examples of real-world news headlines (some true, some false), printed or displayed digitally. Include a mix of:
 - Obvious fake news (e.g., clickbait, sensationalist headlines).
 - Subtle misinformation (e.g., manipulated images, misleading statistics).
 - Verified, reliable news.
- Handouts or slides explaining basic fact-checking techniques.
- Smartphones or computers (optional, for live fact-checking).
- Flip charts, markers, or a digital collaboration tool like Padlet or Miro.
- Small prizes or incentives for participation (optional).

2. Space Setup:

- Arrange participants in small groups of 4–6 people to encourage collaboration.
- Provide a central area (physical or digital) for presenting examples and tracking group progress.

3. Facilitators:

- Prepare facilitators to guide discussions, clarify fact-checking techniques, and provide hints during the classification activity.

Execution

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin with a brief presentation:
 - Explain what fake news is, its impact on society, and why it is important to combat it.
 - Highlight how misinformation spreads (e.g., social media algorithms, echo chambers).
 - Emphasize the role of individual responsibility in verifying and sharing information.

2. Fact-Checking Basics (15 minutes):

- Teach participants simple techniques to verify information:

- **Check the source:** Look for established, credible outlets. Investigate unfamiliar websites.
 - **Reverse image search:** Use tools like Google Images to verify photos.
 - **Cross-reference facts:** Check multiple reputable sources for consistency.
 - **Analyze bias:** Identify emotionally charged language or selective presentation of facts.
 - Provide examples of reliable fact-checking platforms, such as Snopes, FactCheck.org, or EUvsDisinfo.
3. **Activity: Headline Analysis (30–40 minutes):**
- Distribute the prepared examples of news headlines to each group.
 - Challenge groups to classify the headlines as **true**, **false**, or **needs verification** using the techniques learned.
 - Ask groups to document their reasoning for each classification.
 - For additional engagement:
 - Include manipulated images or partial truths for discussion.
 - Set a time limit to encourage quick, yet thoughtful analysis.
 - Facilitators circulate, offering guidance and answering questions.
4. **Group Discussion and Review (20 minutes):**
- Gather everyone to review the results:
 - For each example, reveal whether it was true, false, or misleading.
 - Explain why, using evidence and fact-checking tools.
 - Discuss:
 - What made some headlines easier or harder to classify?
 - How did biases or assumptions affect their decisions?

Follow-Up and Outputs

1. **Document Key Takeaways:**
 - Summarize the group's findings and insights on a flip chart or digital tool.
 - Share a list of recommended fact-checking tools and resources with participants.
2. **Feedback and Reflection:**
 - Ask participants:
 - Did they feel more confident in identifying fake news?
 - What challenges did they face in fact-checking?
 - How might they apply these skills in their daily lives?
3. **Community Impact:**
 - Encourage participants to share what they learned with friends, family, or on social media.
 - Suggest organizing follow-up sessions or creating a local fact-checking group.

Why This Activity Reduces the Perceived Democratic Gap

- **Informed Citizenship:** By equipping individuals to identify misinformation, this activity empowers them to make better-informed decisions.
- **Collective Action:** The group format builds a sense of community and shared responsibility in combating disinformation.

- **Trust Building:** Highlighting reliable sources and transparent verification methods fosters trust in credible institutions and media outlets.

Optional Enhancements

1. **Live Fact-Checking Challenge:**

- Use trending news or social media posts for real-time verification (can be polarizing)
- Participants can work individually or in teams to apply what they've learned.

2. **Role-Playing:**

- Assign roles like "content creator," "journalist," and "fact-checker" for a simulation of how misinformation spreads and can be countered.

3. **Local Context:**

- Include examples of fake news specific to the region or community to make the activity more relevant and impactful.

Examples of News Headlines and Misinformation

When creating examples for the workshop, ensure they vary in complexity and context. Here's a breakdown:

1. Obvious fake-news:

- Headline: "Aliens Land in [Local City] and Offer Free Energy Solutions!"
 - Teaching Point: Sensational and unrealistic claims are often fake. Discuss how such headlines exploit curiosity to generate clicks.
- Headline: "[Celebrity Name] Endorses Miracle Weight Loss Pill!"
 - Teaching Point: Many false headlines use celebrities or shocking claims to gain traction.

2. Misleading or manipulated content:

- Example: A photo showing a shark swimming in a flooded highway after a natural disaster.
 - Teaching Point: Images can be edited or taken out of context. Use reverse image search to verify.
- Headline: "Crime Rates Double in [Community/City Name] Under New Leadership."
 - Teaching Point: Misleading headlines may present data without context. Discuss the importance of verifying statistics and understanding the full story.

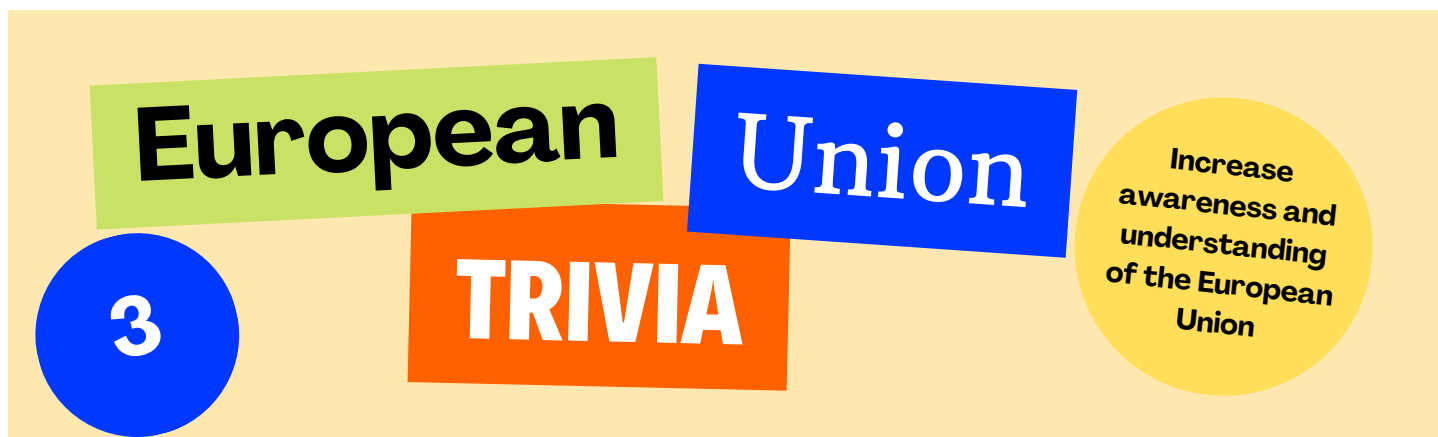
3. Subtle misinformation:

- Headline: "[Country Name] Bans Use of Renewable Energy to Protect Wildlife."
 - Teaching Point: Partial truths or framing bias—this might reference a single incident or policy interpreted broadly.
- Example: A social media post claiming a specific health remedy cures diseases, citing "scientific studies" without sources.
 - Teaching Point: Teach participants to look for source credibility and cross-reference claims.

4. True headlines:

- Include verified, credible news items to test participants' ability to discern legitimate stories. For example:
 - Headline: "Global Temperatures Reach New Record High in 2024."

- Source: Reputable organizations like NASA, the United Nations, or the BBC.
 - Teaching Point: Highlight characteristics of credible sources, such as transparency, citations, and established reputations.
-



Preparation

1. Select Categories for Trivia Questions

Choose categories to cover a wide range of topics about the EU. For example:

- EU Institutions and Roles: Questions about the European Parliament, Commission, Council, etc.
- History of the EU: Key dates, treaties, and milestones (e.g., Treaty of Rome, Maastricht Treaty).
- EU Policies and Programs: Questions on Erasmus+, the Green Deal, GDPR, etc.
- Current Events and Leadership: Recent EU actions or the rotating presidency.
- Culture and Symbols: The EU flag, anthem, member states, and famous EU landmarks.

2. Create Trivia Questions

Prepare questions with varying levels of difficulty. For example:

- Easy:
 - Question: "How many countries are in the European Union?"
 - Answer: 27.
 - Question: "What is the currency used by most EU countries?"
 - Answer: The Euro.
- Medium:
 - Question: "What is the name of the EU's environmental policy initiative aimed at making Europe climate-neutral by 2050?"
 - Answer: The Green Deal.
 - Question: "Which EU institution is directly elected by citizens?"
 - Answer: European Parliament.
- Hard:
 - Question: "Which treaty established the European Union?"
 - Answer: The Maastricht Treaty.
 - Question: "What year did Croatia join the EU?"
 - Answer: 2013.

3. Prepare Materials

- A projector or printed question sheets (if presenting visually).
- Buzzers, cards, or apps for answering questions.
- Scoreboard to track team points.

4. Set Up the Venue

- Arrange tables for teams to work collaboratively.
- Decorate with EU-themed elements (e.g., EU flag, map, symbols).

Activity Guide

1. Introduction (5-10 minutes)

- Welcome participants and briefly explain the objectives of the trivia.
- Provide a short overview of the EU for context, highlighting its role in promoting peace, economic collaboration, and cultural exchange.
- Explain the rules:
 - Teams answer questions from various categories.
 - Points are awarded for correct answers.
 - The team with the most points at the end wins.

2. Trivia Rounds (45-60 minutes)

Divide the trivia into rounds with 5-10 questions each:

- Round 1: EU Basics (easy questions to warm up).
- Round 2: EU Institutions and Roles.
- Round 3: History and Milestones.
- Round 4: Policies and Programs.
- Bonus Round: Lightning Round (speed-based questions where teams answer quickly).

Examples of Interactive Trivia Elements

- Picture round:
 - Show images of EU buildings (e.g., European Parliament in Brussels) and ask teams to identify them.
- Map challenge:
 - Provide a blank map of Europe and ask teams to label EU member states.
- True or false:
 - Statements like, "The EU anthem is based on Beethoven's Ninth Symphony."
 - Answer: True.

4. Closing and Prizes (10-15 minutes)

- Announce the winning team and distribute prizes (e.g., EU-themed items like tote bags, books, or certificates).
- Thank participants and encourage further learning about the EU.

Sample questions by category

EU Institutions and roles

1. Which EU institution proposes legislation?
 - Answer: European Commission.
2. What is the role of the European Central Bank?
 - Answer: Managing the euro and monetary policy in the Eurozone.

History of the EU

1. What year did the United Kingdom leave the EU?
 - Answer: 2020 (Brexit).
2. Who were the six founding members of the EU?
 - Answer: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands.

Policies and Programs

1. What is the Erasmus+ program?
 - Answer: An EU program supporting education, training, youth, and sport.
2. What is the EU's single market?
 - Answer: A system allowing the free movement of goods, services, people, and capital.

Culture and Symbols

1. How many stars are on the EU flag?
 - Answer: 12.
2. What is the EU's motto?
 - Answer: "United in Diversity."

Tips:

You can find a tool for EU related quiz at this link: [🌐 EU & ME Quiz](#)



Objective: Foster an open dialogue between citizens and representatives or facilitators about the EU's role in their daily lives. Gather local insights, concerns, and recommendations to create a bridge between the community and EU institutions, reducing the perceived democratic gap.

Preparation

1. Define Focus Areas

Decide on key topics relevant to the community and EU policies. Examples include:

- Climate action and the European Green Deal.
- Youth opportunities (e.g., Erasmus+, employment initiatives).
- Consumer rights and data protection (e.g., GDPR).
- Local benefits of EU funding and programs.

2. Invite Stakeholders

- Invite local representatives, educators, or NGO members with knowledge of EU policies.
- Include diverse community members to ensure representation across age, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- If possible, invite MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) or EU representatives virtually or in person.

3. Prepare Materials

- Create handouts or posters with simple overviews of EU institutions and their functions.
- Provide case studies of EU-funded local projects or policies that directly benefit the community.

4. Set Up the Venue

- Arrange a circle or semi-circle seating for inclusivity and better interaction.
- Provide a projector or flipcharts for visual aids.
- Create a designated area for written feedback or suggestions.

Activity Guide

1. Introduction (10-15 minutes)

- Welcome participants and introduce the purpose of the forum: to connect the community with the EU and gather their views on how it impacts their lives.
- Provide a brief explanation of the EU's role in areas like policy-making, funding, and citizen rights.
- Share examples of EU initiatives that have benefited the community (e.g., infrastructure improvements, scholarships, environmental programs).

2. Small Group Discussions (30-40 minutes)

- **Divide into thematic groups:** Each group tackles a specific topic (e.g., environment, youth programs, local development).
- **Facilitate discussions:**
 1. Ask participants to share personal experiences or perceptions related to the topic.
 2. Encourage them to identify challenges or areas where they feel disconnected from EU institutions.
 3. Gather suggestions for how the EU could better address their concerns or communicate policies.

3. Open Forum (20-30 minutes)

- Bring everyone back together and have a representative from each group present their key findings.
- Encourage audience questions or additional comments to build on the group discussions.

4. Creative Participation Activities (Optional)

- **Interactive Polls:** Use tools like Mentimeter or Slido to gather real-time opinions on EU-related topics.
 - Example: "Do you feel well-informed about EU programs available in your region? Yes/No."
- **Suggestion Wall:** Set up a board where participants can write down their ideas or feedback anonymously.
- **"Dear EU" Letters:** Provide templates for participants to write short letters to EU representatives expressing their views or concerns.

5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps (15 minutes)

- Summarize key insights gathered during the forum.
- Share how this input will be used (e.g., shared with local authorities or included in project recommendations for the Democracywise initiative).
- Provide resources for participants to stay engaged:
 - Information about how to contact local MEPs.
 - Websites or platforms for EU public consultations and feedback.
 - Opportunities to participate in EU-funded programs (e.g., training, grants).

Outputs and Impact

1. Civic Engagement and Inclusion:
 - Participants will feel heard and included in discussions about EU policies and their local impact.
 - The forum bridges the gap between EU institutions and citizens, fostering trust and understanding.
2. Informed Citizenry:
 - Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of how EU institutions function and how they can access resources or influence policies.
3. Actionable Feedback:
 - Facilitators will collect tangible suggestions and concerns to inform future initiatives or share with policymakers.
4. Community Connection:
 - The forum strengthens community bonds by encouraging open dialogue and collaboration on shared challenges.

Facilitator Tips

- Ensure the language used is accessible and jargon-free to avoid alienating participants unfamiliar with EU processes.
 - Actively encourage quieter participants to share their views.
 - Be prepared to address misconceptions about the EU with factual examples.
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