YOUNG VOTERS INITIATIVE NETWORK

Mission, Vision, Objectives, and Activities

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Mission

• To gather young people and interest them in active participation in political processes

• To increase young people's knowledge about the functioning of representative and executive authorities at the local, regional, national, and European Union levels,

• To empower and train young people for critical thinking, to make judgments based on facts, to distinguish accurate information from misinformation.

The DECIDE network brings together young Europeans who have the right to vote in elections, with the aim of raising their political awareness and awareness of their personal responsibility for the political decisions they make.

Through its activities, the DECIDE network increases young people's familiarity with political processes (party association, policy making and elections) and the functioning of representative and executive authorities at the local, regional, national, and European Union levels.

The DECIDE network develops a greater interest in politics in young people and their active participation in political processes due to better familiarity with the impact of political processes on everyday life.

The DECIDE network empowers and trains young people for critical thinking, to use tools to distinguish truth from lies and to make judgments based on facts, as well as to distinguish accurate information from misinformation.

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Vision

• High percentage of young people who vote in elections at the local, regional, national,and European Union levels,

• Increasing the share of young people who use critical thinking to make sound decisions based on facts and their values - both as voters and as active citizens,

• Creating ideas for young people's personal engagement in social and political life (either as voters or as politicians).

The DECIDE network aims to contribute to young people's greater participation in elections at the local, regional, national, and European Union levels (as voters, members of electoral committees, observers, candidates).

The DECIDE network aims to contribute to a higher quality of decisions made by young people based on values and facts, and to ensure an informed choice of political parties, political programs, and politicians who implement these political programs.

The DECIDE network aims to ensure that, using critical thinking about political life and actions, young people communicate their views of politicians and parties. By actively seeking answers to their questions, young people can raise the quality of election campaigning and the quality of communication of the policies offered by candidates and political parties in elections.

The DECIDE network aims to encourage young people to participate as much as possible in political processes within their community: policy making, participation in elections (as voters, observers, candidates), and subsequently as decision makers, to be able to implement properly the policies they represent.



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Objectives of the DECIDE Network

The objectives of the DECIDE network are designed to align with its mission of fostering active political participation among young Europeans and promoting critical thinking. These objectives will provide a clear framework for the network's goals and desired outcomes.

Objective 1: Increase Youth Political Participation

- **Goal**: Foster active political engagement among young people by raising awareness about the importance of voting and participating in elections at the local, regional, national, and European levels.
- **Target Outcome**: A significant increase in voter turnout among youth in local, regional, national, and EU elections.

Objective 2: Improve Understanding of Political Processes

- **Goal**: Enhance young people's understanding of how representative and executive authorities function across different governance levels, including the creation of policies and the role of political parties.
- **Target Outcome**: Participants demonstrate an improved understanding of political systems, legislative processes, and the roles of elected officials.

Objective 3: Strengthen Critical Thinking and Media Literacy

- **Goal**: Equip young people with tools for critical thinking to evaluate political information, combat misinformation, and make informed decisions based on facts.
- **Target Outcome**: Increased number of participants capable of discerning accurate information from misinformation, especially during election periods.

Objective 4: Promote Leadership and Civic Responsibility

- **Goal**: Encourage youth to see themselves not only as voters but also as potential leaders and decision-makers who can influence policy development and political life.
- **Target Outcome**: The emergence of youth leaders who engage in policy-making processes, either as candidates, members of electoral committees, or active participants in political campaigns.

Objective 5: Foster Ongoing Engagement in Political Life

- **Goal**: Build a lasting community of young Europeans who continue to collaborate, share experiences, and advocate for civic participation beyond the project duration.
- **Target Outcome**: Establishment of an active and growing online network where members exchange resources, success stories, and strategies for engaging in political life.



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Activities of the DECIDE Network

Activity 1: Monthly Newsletters

- **Description**: Monthly newsletters will be distributed to all network members, featuring updates on political processes, tools for distinguishing misinformation, and opportunities for further engagement, such as upcoming elections or political events.
- **Impact**: The newsletters will keep participants informed and engaged, offering them a continuous flow of relevant and timely information.

Activity 2: Virtual Discussion Forums

- **Description**: The DECIDE network will establish virtual discussion forums where members can interact, share resources, discuss political issues, and collaborate on solutions. These forums will allow for peer-to-peer learning and provide a platform for youth to express their views.
- **Impact**: By engaging in discussions with peers from different countries, young people will broaden their perspectives on political processes and become more critically aware of the challenges and opportunities in EU democratic life.

Activity 3: Mentorship Programs

- **Description**: Experienced political activists, journalists, and professionals from various governance levels will mentor network participants. This program will connect young voters with professionals who can guide them through the complexities of political engagement and provide insights into real-world challenges and opportunities in politics.
- **Impact**: Participants will have the opportunity to receive guidance from experts, increasing their confidence and capacity to contribute to political discourse and possibly run for public office.

Activity 4: Election Monitoring and Volunteering Opportunities

- **Description**: The network will actively encourage and support young people to take part in election processes as observers, members of electoral committees, or volunteers for political campaigns. Training will be provided for these roles, emphasizing transparency and fair elections.
- **Impact**: Participants will gain firsthand experience in the electoral process, deepening their understanding of democratic systems and ensuring active involvement in the maintenance of democratic standards.



Activity 5: Expansion and Recruitment Campaigns

- **Description**: As part of the long-term growth plan, the DECIDE network will continually seek to expand its membership by running targeted recruitment campaigns across Europe, especially in underrepresented regions. This will be done through online campaigns, partnerships with educational institutions, and collaborations with youth organizations.
- **Impact**: By reaching new members and diversifying the participant base, the network will have a more significant and representative impact on European political life, ensuring a wider range of voices is heard in political discourse.

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