



Erasmus+ Programme – KA3, Support to policy development and cooperation –
European Youth Together

Project title: Strengthening the civic commitment of young people through Peer led initiative
community

Acronym: PeerCivic

Project n° 101131845

Evaluation and Sustainability Strategy

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Introduction

A European project and its results are only successful when they are of sustainable value. For this reason, it is necessary to provide a sustainability strategy. The further use of the project outcomes is basically dependent upon successful projects results and exploitation activities.

The sustainability strategy constitutes the Work Packages and has been written for the *PeerCivic* project. The main aim of the sustainability strategy is to discuss and develop ways how the project outputs can be led to a further sustainable use. The sustainability strategy does not focus only on the individual suggestions of each partner, but also provides some general information and suggestions on how to use the results of the *PeerCivic* project after the end of the funding period.

Key factors for the sustainability of EU project results

The successful exploitation of project results in terms of sustainable use and the permanent further development of results and outputs, especially after the funding for the development and pilot implementation of the outputs has ended, is highly dependent upon a number of crucial key factors and criteria, which should be presented as the basis for the sustainability strategy. We consider the following key factors to be relevant:

a) Output quality: To achieve a certain degree of value for sustainability and further use, the outputs produced need to be of very high quality. It is important to pay considerable attention to the output quality during the entire project development, and therefore it is always advisable to introduce procedures and responsibilities for quality management in project processes in order to guarantee a high quality final output. Outputs must be up-to-date and appealing to the target group, otherwise exploitation and further use cannot be expected.

b) Adaptability of outputs to the specific target group of the countries and organizations involved: From our point of view it is an important precondition that the results and outputs of the project are highly adaptable to the circumstances of different countries and their target group. This is particularly important as the developed materials and approaches should be relevant to different types of organisations and target groups. We need to be aware that the results must have the necessary methodological and content flexibility to be adaptable to different backgrounds.

c) Clear definition of advantages for users: A high degree of usability is, in our opinion, mainly dependent upon the capacity of the project and the partnership to clearly show the advantages of using the instruments and outputs for the final target group. For this reason, all the partner institutions should always try to make the advantages of the project and its results

transparent and evident, in relation to all events and possibilities. The project platform in particular should express very clearly the added value of the outputs and its use to the final users.

d) Early identification of stakeholders and potential users: It is vital that relevant stakeholders and potential users (customers) of the project results are clearly identified and defined at a very early stage in the project's life. It is not advisable to change user groups when the project is already in process. Identified stakeholders were contacted and kept informed throughout the whole project process in order to ensure the sustainable use of the results after the project ends.

Background, objectives and aims of the PeerCivic project

The project aims to bring progress in the youth led development process, pursuing the development of skills among young people from Romania, Italy, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain and Ireland to intervene in the decision-making process through appropriate information and intervention in the dynamics of the candidacy program of future candidates for the European elections of 2024 and continue cooperating with them during the mandate in order to approach direct needs of young people, expressed by them.

Through the project, we are pursuing the civic responsibility of young people not only by reaching a level up of young people's participation in voting, but especially by getting involved in the public consultation actions initiated by the candidates for the European elections and during their mandate when they put in practice actions directed to support youth sector development. Through a methodology of the peer led initiative type, it is aimed to assume the role of participatory intervention in the debates regarding the development plan of the European youth sector, the young people going to provide a cooperation framework between themselves and the future decision-makers, regarding the youth policies assumed by the European Strategy of Youth 2019-2027.

Through the project, both youth workers and young people (especially those from disadvantaged groups with limited access to civic opportunities) will become its active component, through commitment in developing activities and assuming responsibility for civic intervention, but also through mobilization in the monitoring stage of the progress of their actions in the coming years, with the support of the public debates platform.

Project Work Plan

- WP 1: Project management and coordination

The WP pursues the efficient and effective management of the project, aiming to obtain high quality results, with resources and balanced energy consumption involved. This WP aims to develop all the tools and strategies that will lead to the achievement of the objectives and the fulfillment of the assumed indicators.

- WP 2: Incubator Public Debates Platform

This WP aims to create a community oriented to the interaction between young people and European decision-makers and empowering the participation of young people in the entire

process of implementing specific actions for the development of the youth sector in accordance with their needs

- WP 3: Transnational peer led initiatives

This WP aims to foster the transnational cooperation of young people in a program of mutual support and support in peer initiatives of 300 young people from 6 European communities. Within the WP, young people will experience the idea of elections and building a work agenda, as well as direct interaction with decision-makers as an accumulation of experiences prior to their actions of involvement in monitoring the European intervention plan for young people

- WP 4: Dissemination, Outreach and Valorisation

These WPs aim to identify and develop the dissemination activities in order to ensure a proper promotion of the results and objectives of the project

- WP 5: Evaluation and success monitoring

These WPs aim to develop the project activities in order to achieve the objectives and indicators with the highest impact and to ensure sustained use of the outcomes of the project and multiplication of the online resource platform by the target groups and additional beneficiaries after the end of the project life.

Key directions of the sustainability of the project:

- the capacity of the partners and the community of youth workers to continue and develop the entire program after its conclusion, through the community of 300 young people and the stakeholders situationally involved in different stages of the project. The partners have extensive and relevant experience in the field of youth as well as in the field of education, developing numerous cooperations at the local and transnational level and having the ability to engage stakeholders and relevant decision makers to contribute to ensuring the impact in the medium and long term.
- the potential of the partners to obtain financial capital through local or national sources, through fundraising campaigns or other forms of donations, as well as by accessing financing, all these mechanisms being previously experienced by the partners and being able to be transferred in support of ensuring the sustainability of the project.
- the transferable and replicable nature of the materials and results, which will be available on the platform to be used by end-users with the aim of replicating them in new similar initiatives and learning opportunities for young people from other national and European communities, with reference to the national elections in 6 countries represented in the project.
- All the tools and outputs of the project are based on open source software with development and configuration costs covered by the project. These characteristics can benefit the increased replication potential to other EU countries.

- by involving stakeholders and decision-makers in interaction and cooperation activities with young people, the project has the potential to engage young people associated with the peer led initiative community in the policy making process and to incorporate the conclusions of the Resolution in this process.

- the actions aimed at ensuring the dissemination with the role of impacting a wide audience, using the native languages depending on the context, will have the role of training new young people interested in the topic.

- the group of youth workers who will be specifically professionalized in the context of the project will ensure the continuation and progressive development of the efforts, incorporating new practices in the monitoring and expansion of the transnational community of young people. The validated youth workers curriculum and training course will be available at European level to be accessible by other organizations to be applied. The fact that the curricula and training program is co-jointly developed by EU partners and has common approaches related to the general aspect of civic involvement, addressing the same issue related with young Europeans, will be a strength at EU level.

Specific target groups and beneficiaries of the PeerCivic project

- 1. Young beneficiaries** - young people from 6 European local communities, aged between 18 and 25 years, coming from different cultural backgrounds as well as different social backgrounds, within the group, equality of opportunities between young people is pursued (this is how we propose that half of the group of young people come from among those with fewer opportunities).
- 2. Youth workers** involved in work at the level of partner organizations in activities and projects aimed at developing civic and social skills at the level of the young people they work with, having experience working with young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. 30 youth workers will benefit from the training course and in the establishment of the community of youth workers, acquiring professional skills to guide the young people involved and to manage and develop the peer led initiative community so that the two small communities created produce changes in the community and represent models of replicated in other communities as well as in national actions with the same goal (monitoring of social progress related to decision-makers' decisions regarding addressing the needs of young people).
- 3. Stakeholders and decision makers.** Stakeholders are relevant people from the partner communities who will provide guidance to young people in the process of approaching the decision-makers as well as a useful set of information from valid sources regarding the way of cooperation with them in support of improving their needs. They will be representatives of the local public authority, representatives of public educational institutions, journalists and media persons, representatives of the European organizational environment, etc. The decision makers involved are candidates or European parliamentarians elected in the regions of affiliation of the partners involved in the project and who will undertake to maintain long-term

cooperation with them in taking over their needs from the grassroots and addressing them through legislative means in accordance with European priorities.

4. **The partner organizations** being entities of which only 2 had a tangent with the financing program, will experience new opportunities for civic action through the directions of the European Youth Together program, acquiring new management skills and new experiences of transnational cooperation. Through their commitment within the peer led community, the principle of peer learning and exchanges of opinions and good practices between young people will be internalized, transposed into a continuation of the long-term approach thanks to the result of the created online platform and the community of youth workers who will lead cooperation at a higher level of depth.
5. **The local communities** being made up of young people interested in the theme of the project and informed participation in the vote, from members of some local entities interested in stimulating the civic engagement of young people, having a tangent with the project thanks to its promotion and dissemination actions.

Why exploitate the project's results after the end of the project?

- To ensure the sustainability of the project and its results after the end of the funding period
- To provide recommendations and guidelines for the continuous use of the project's results also after the end of the project
- To promote the outputs to a large public
- To increase the impact of the project by extending it to multipliers
- To support and enhance the image of the own organization

Who will do it?

The whole project partnership is responsible for their national sustainability plans including the involvement of stakeholders. The partner organizations have at their disposal excellent networks and contacts and have rich experiences in the field of the project. The Work Package leader, *Association WalkTogether*, is responsible for the overall sustainability and will guide and coordinate the sustainability activities.

When will it be done?

The sustainability strategy ensures the sustainability of the project and its results after the end of the funding period and will provide recommendations and guidelines for the continuous use of the project's results also after the end of the project. It is crucially important to say that the activities for fostering exploitation of results started as early as possible, even before first results were available.

How will it be done?

The project delivers specific outputs which can be used for exploitation activities after the end of the project such as : Incubator Public Debates Platform. Additional dissemination instruments like: person-to person, through created materials, website of partners, social

media accounts, European Results Platform, media channels, and newsletters will also be available 2 years after the end of the project.

How will sustainability be evaluated?

A very useful way of evaluating the sustainability activities is the documentation of all activities by each partner. This documentation can be in form of:

- lists of participants,
- presentations,
- agendas,
- meeting minutes,
- pictures,
- copies of documents such as emails, articles or newsletters.

The documentation should be based on the use of quantitative and qualitative indicators. Reporting system - The sustainability and exploitation strategy of the project is based on the project's dissemination strategy which was developed by the *Community Foundation of Agrigento and Trapani*. Exploitation and dissemination cannot be separated strictly; therefore, the basics of this exploitation strategy are included also in the dissemination strategy. Documentation for dissemination can be used also for report exploitation activities. In case there are exploitation activities other than dissemination, the partners can report directly to *Association WalkTogether* by email.

Project Indicators

Creation and development of a peer-led initiative community Civic skills increased by 30% (certificates).

- Young people's interest in cooperation with decision-makers increased by 50% (evaluation forms).

Consolidation of transnational cooperation Transnational network developed, attracting at least 1 European stakeholder.

- Continuation of steps validated by signed partnership agreements for at least 2 years.

Increase young people's interest in politics:

- 300 new application forms for young people.
- New informational materials created with at least 1000 accesses on the platform.
- New research realized and analyzed compared to the needs analysis.

Capacity of Partners and Youth Workers:

- Continuation and development of the program through the community of 300 young people.
- Stakeholders involved at different stages contributing to impact in the medium and long term.

Financial Capital Potential:

- Obtain capital through local or national sources, fundraising campaigns, or donations, if necessary.
- Transfer mechanisms from partners' previous experiences to support sustainability.

Transferable and Replicable Materials:

- Materials and results available on the platform for replication in new initiatives.
- Reference for national elections in 6 represented countries.

Stakeholder Involvement in Policy-Making:

- Engage young people associated with the peer-led initiative community in the policy-making process.
- Incorporate the conclusions of the Resolution in the policy-making process.

Youth Workers Professionalization:

- Group of youth workers professionalized in the context of the project.
- Validated youth workers curriculum and training course available at the European level.

Plans for the future

The ambitious main aim of the sustainability phase is :

- Consolidation of a transnational cooperation between young people, youth workers, organizations with the role of increasing indicators of civic commitment and the development of public-private dialogue, in a way of good practices easily replicable in several European communities.
- The existence of an online platform as a valid source of information and documentation for young people who will exercise their right to vote, which will act as a resource bank for the community.
- The socio-professional development of youth workers in a supportive structure with the role of supporting new initiatives of young people based on the principles of citizenship.
- Facilitating the involvement of young people with fewer opportunities in mechanisms that were otherwise inaccessible to them, contributing to the development of skills among them but also encouraging the expression of needs from their own experience.

Networking / Lobby

Influencing high-level changes in policy and systems is a real possibility if project managers co-operate effectively and at the right levels. Networking with all relevant stakeholders, building contacts and attending meetings is hard work, but it's vital and the only way of a successful exploitation and sustainability of a European project. The European Commission, European and National Agencies, National Committees and Programme Committees organize events to facilitate such co-operations. The partnership agreed on attending events, such as conferences, seminars and discussions, round tables, etc. to disseminate the PeerCivic results and also lead to fruitful contacts to enhance the networking and lobbying.



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Monitoring Strategy

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Introduction

The monitoring plan for Association WalkTogether's Work Package aims to ensure comprehensive oversight and evaluation throughout the project lifecycle. This document outlines the methodologies, tools, and reporting mechanisms to track progress, assess performance, and optimize outcomes.

As part of the Work Package 5 – Evaluation and Monitoring, *Association WalkTogether* will monitor the explanation of the results and the impact by following the:

Objectives: The primary objectives of the monitoring plan include:

- To assess progress towards project goals and objectives.
- To identify and mitigate risks and challenges.
- To optimize resource utilization and efficiency.
- To ensure transparency and accountability to stakeholders.
- To facilitate continuous improvement and adaptation.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Association WalkTogether will define a set of key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with project objectives. Examples of KPIs include:

- Budget variance: Deviation from planned budget allocations.
- Schedule adherence: Progress against project timeline and milestones.
- Quality metrics: Adherence to quality standards and benchmarks.
- Stakeholder satisfaction: Feedback from stakeholders on project performance.

As part of the Work Package 5 – Evaluation and Monitoring, *Association WalkTogether* will monitor the explanation of the results and the impact by following the:

- Results monitoring** - if the project/program is on target towards its intended results (outputs, outcomes, impact) and whether there may be any unintended impact (positive or negative).
- Process (activity) monitoring** - the use of inputs and resources, the progress of activities and the delivery of outputs. Association WalkTogether will examine how activities are delivered – the efficiency in time and resources.
- Context (situation) monitoring** - the setting in which the project/programme operates, especially as it affects identified risks and assumptions, but also any unexpected considerations that may arise. It includes the field as well as the larger political, institutional, funding, and policy context that affect the project/programme.

- d. **Beneficiary monitoring** - it includes beneficiary satisfaction or complaints with the project/programme, including their participation, treatment, access to resources and their overall experience of change.
- e. **Financial monitoring** - accounts for costs by input and activity within predefined categories of expenditure.

Roles and Responsibilities

Clear roles and responsibilities will be assigned for monitoring activities, including:

- **Project manager:** Overall responsibility for monitoring project progress, coordinating monitoring activities, and reporting to stakeholders.
- **Team members:** Providing input on progress, identifying risks, and implementing corrective actions.
- **Stakeholders:** Participating in feedback mechanisms, providing input on project direction and priorities.

Reporting Monitoring

The partners are responsible to send periodic progress reports to the Work Package leader, who then will compile them into a single document to be sent to the Coordinator.

All partners will provide WalkTogether with any information and documents required for the preparation of Quarterly Progress Reports and, where appropriate, with a copies of all the necessary supporting documents (e.g. participant evaluation forms, partner's evaluation forms, partners individual reports, etc.) completed and signed by the legal representative.

Activities and Tools for Assessment

- A. Evaluation Questionnaires:** For each W.P, meeting and multiplier event evaluation questionnaires will be distributed to the partners, staff target group members and stakeholders that had direct involvement in PeerCivic activities and events, in order to assess its design, development and implementation (where applicable).
- B. Participation Lists:** For all meetings and multiplier events applied in the context of a project, a participation list will be used to collect the contact details of the participants.
- C. Google Analytics:** Google Analytics tools will be deployed to measure the traffic of users and their preferences at the online environment of the PeerCivic project.
- D. Dissemination Logs:** Each partner will use the admin tool to document their dissemination activities where we have promoted the project. This will display a brief description of the activity, location, participants, links, outcomes and supporting documents where applicable. At the end of each term the Project Coordinator will use this information in the interim reports.

I.O.s Quality Assurance and Evaluation Reports: Lead partner in collaboration with the external evaluator will draft every 12 months the project Quality Assurance and Evaluation Reports where it will assess the project's outcomes and results agreed.

Documentation

Comprehensive documentation will be maintained throughout the project lifecycle, including:

- *Meeting minutes:* Records of progress meetings, decisions made, and action items assigned.
- *Progress reports:* Detailed reports on project progress, achievements, challenges, and proposed actions.
- *Supporting documentation:* Any additional information or materials necessary to support progress reports and monitoring activities.

Evaluation Type	Aspect / Target	Period	Evaluation Tool/Link
Meeting Assessment questionnaire	Adherence to schedule and quality of the meetings	after each TPM	https://forms.gle/y1gSpvtBstbkbs9M6
Interim Evaluation Questionnaire	Product/Service quality by partners	Month 12th	https://forms.gle/zvGMjk7qHvBF5zJN7
Final Evaluation Questionnaire	Product/Service quality by partners	Month 24th	https://forms.gle/XCyhdFBEVYRbSS5V8

Stakeholder Satisfaction	Stakeholder feedback	Month 17th	https://forms.gle/RbRvtzwZYwMv6PzH7
Quality Control of WPs	Identification and mitigation by partners	after the end of each W.P.	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GCnFDS-VNGMEXsTnsQjBytGIWAdF9Th4b2Y8KhMXW3I/edit
Training Evaluation in Romania	Training performance evaluation by participants	Month 9th	https://forms.gle/zP9meVUx7R2pWyGV6
Local Training Evaluations	Participants' performance	Month 9th	https://forms.gle/EpH7KoJ22VgBgGrY7
Online Election Event	Participants feedback	Month 10th	https://forms.gle/o2wxg5D4aSKuBHxL9

Risk Management

Association WalkTogether will implement a robust risk management process, including:

- *Risk identification:* Regular assessment of potential risks and challenges that may impact project objectives.

- *Risk analysis*: Evaluation of the likelihood and impact of identified risks, prioritizing mitigation efforts accordingly.
- *Risk mitigation*: Implementation of strategies to minimize or eliminate identified risks, including contingency planning and proactive risk management measures.

Communication Plan

A comprehensive communication plan will be developed by *Fondazione Comunitaria di Agrigento e Trapani* to ensure effective communication with stakeholders, including:

- *Stakeholder engagement*: Regular communication with stakeholders to provide updates on project progress, solicit feedback, and address concerns.
- *Communication channels*: Utilization of various communication channels, including email, meetings, newsletters, and project management platforms.
- *Transparency*: Open and transparent communication regarding project status, challenges, and decision-making processes.

Review and Evaluation

Regular reviews and evaluations will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the monitoring plan, identify areas for improvement, and make necessary adjustments. This will include:

Ongoing monitoring and feedback mechanisms to capture real-time insights and adapt to changing circumstances.

Formal evaluations at key milestones to assess progress against objectives, identify lessons learned, and implement corrective actions as needed.

Amendments and Updates

The monitoring plan will be flexible and adaptable to accommodate changes in project scope, objectives, or external factors. Amendments and updates will be communicated to stakeholders in a timely manner, with clear explanations of the rationale and implications for project delivery.